

Proletarian Era

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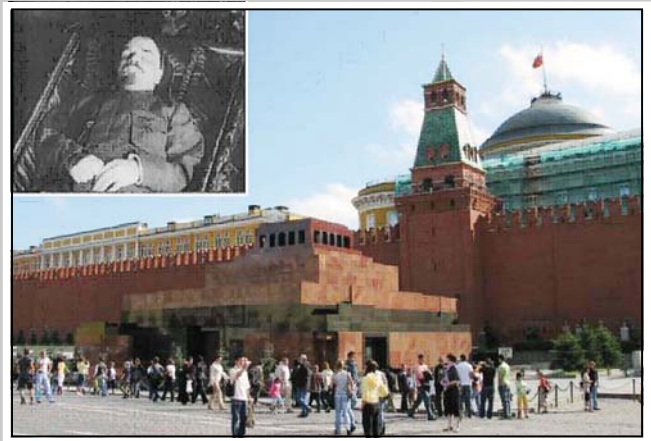
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SUCI(C) strongly denounces the heinous attempt to remove the embalmed body of great Lenin from the historic Red Square Mausoleum and calls upon the Russian and world proletariat to foil the same

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C), has issued the following statement on 27-01-11 : —

Being afraid of and desperate to contain the newly rising tide of proletarian revolutionary movement and onward march of human civilization based on the illumining thoughts of Lenin, worthy continuator of great Marx-Engels, giant leader of world communist movement and architect of first proletarian revolution of the world, the rotten bourgeois rulers of capitalist Russia with direct backing of the imperialist powers are once again making fresh efforts to destroy the embalmed mortal remains of this most revered revolutionary leader now preserved in a glass casket and bury it. It is because even these mortal remains of Lenin still evoke living inspiration to the revolutionary proletariat the world over and pose a great threat to one and all reactionaries and counter-revolutionaries of the world. Earlier also, the present Russian bourgeois rulers made several attempts to do so but did not succeed because of the growing resistance from the toiling masses of Russia as well as of the entire world.

It may be reiterated that Lenin was a great leader of the proletariat not only of Soviet Russia but of the whole world and held in high esteem by humanity at large as a great man history rarely produces. So, the reactionary bourgeois rulers of Russia, let it be asserted firmly, have no propriety to destroy the embalmed body of great Lenin and such a heinous move of theirs will be resisted and foiled by the organized conscious proletariat of Russia backed by the



world proletariat class.

We, therefore, call upon the toiling people of Russia to thwart this vile attempt of the present Russian bourgeois rulers by all possible means and appeal to the right-thinking people of the whole world to close rank with the Russian people in frustrating this bourgeois conspiracy designed to hinder the onward march of world communist movement.

Observe 4 February as Protest Day against this heinous attempt

Rise up in protest against Lalgarh carnage

Clarion call of Comrade Provash Ghosh to resist fascistic onslaught by intensifying class and mass struggles

[English translation of Comrade Provash Ghosh's statement in Bengali issued on 14 January, 2011 and published in Ganadabi, Bengali organ of the Party, dated 14 - 20, January, 2011]

Lalgarh in West Bengal has again been stained with blood — blood of innocent have-nots. This time it was at Netai, a tiny village 5 km from Lalgarh town in West Midnapur district. Nine bled to death when armed CPI(M) criminals

opened indiscriminate fire from the sandbagged terrace of local CPI(M) leader Rathin Dandapat's house, used as an armed camp of the CPI(M), on unarmed protesting villagers most of whom were women. Many more are fighting for

life in various hospitals. Most villagers were shot in the back; several had multiple bullet injuries. One was hit so badly that his left side literally exploded, spilling his intestines on the road. The fault of those who had fallen victim to this most barbaric unprovoked killing and bloodbath was that they dared to protest against oppression and repression that crossed all limits.

Like the cruel autocrat feudal lords of the medieval period who by sheer force turned poor hapless subjects into their slaves, the criminal overlords of the CPI(M) also remorselessly ill-treated the impoverished villagers of Netai, even thrashed them and forced them to cook for them, do all the washing, cleaning, attending to their

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's clarion call

Lalgarh carnage attests fascistic attitude of CPI(M) towards democratic movement, even protests

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orders and lastly to do night patrolling as unarmed guards for the armed inmates enjoying comfort. The organized armed criminal brigade of the CPI(M) knocked on the doors of each Netai home and openly threatened of dire consequences in case of defiance. At the slightest of mistakes or delay, the CPI (M) goons retaliated with abuses in filthy language or with physical assaults. The poor villagers who need to toil day and night in the fields and to attend to other domestic needs found it extremely difficult to comply with such directives of the ruling party criminals. So discontent was brewing. Over and above, there was a new diktat that a youth from every family would have to be sent to the party's arms training camp on the banks of Kansai river.

Unbearable though other diktats were, this particular order for joining arms training aroused strong protest among the villagers. They decided to try to reason with local CPI(M) leaders. On 7 January morning cutting across political lines, they marched to the CPI (M) armed camp. A sizeable fraction of the protesters were village-women most of whom were mothers pleading to spare their sons from being pushed into arms training. But, in return they received a barrage of bullets piercing their bodies. It came out from the narration of the local residents to the media and to the officials visiting them later, that during their discussions with the local leader, there were gunshots also from behind the crowd, which were fired by the CPI (M) cadres and armed criminals rushing from the neighbouring Birkar armed camp in 'rescue' of the besieged CPI (M) cadres and armed criminals of Netai.

This is how the "peace-keeping force" of the CPI (M) criminals established peace there. Both the nearby police station and the central reserve force deputed in the area for conducting the so called "Green Hunt operation" remained passive onlookers to such a savage incident. Despite having been informed, the police took too long to reach the spot.

All these clearly bring out

certain facts. The Netai killing was an undeniable confirmation of the existence of armed camps of the CPI(M) created by taking advantage of and having been helped by the Operation Lalgarh or Green Hunt by the Joint Security forces. This was repeatedly alleged by our Party, the SUCI(C), along with local people right from the day the Joint forces had begun their operations. Later, other parties including the TMC also supported this view. Though aware of everything, the central government did not say anything about that during the last one year and half. Only when things could no more be kept hidden under public pressure, the Union Home Minister dramatically announced that CPI(M) criminals are running armed camps.

It was also clear that the Netai murderers did not shoot to stop the villagers or disperse them. They fired to kill the protesting villagers, shooting from two sides with a view to teaching them a lesson for daring to disobey their orders. It not only attested to their barbaric behaviour, but also spoke of the highly arrogant, fascistic attitude of the CPI(M) not only towards democratic movement but even any kind of public protest as well.

This is no new a thing in the state. After being saddled in the government, the CPI(M) has merrily used both the police and armed storm-troopers to crush democratic movement, establish party hegemonism, bring about armed assault on the opposition and unleash terror and capture booths during election. For that, the CPI(M) has created a regular trained criminal brigade under party control. In other states of India, use of hired 'muscle power' by the bourgeois parties like the Congress, BJP or regional bourgeois parties in elections, or by the industrial houses to use it along with the police in crushing workers' movements, or by the political parties like the BJP or Congress or other vested interests in communal riots, is rather a common practice in this country since long. But the CPI(M) has overtaken all these bourgeois forces in their methods of maintaining and using armed criminally motivated regulars. Coming to power, in 1977 the CPI(M) let loose this dangerous

armed criminal bands first upon our Party, the SUCI(C) in districts of West Bengal like South 24 Parganas, Nadia, Burdwan, Purulia and elsewhere. It is with the help of this armed criminal force that they have murdered 158 leaders and cadres of our Party, have repeatedly covered the roads, fields and rivers of the Sunderbans and adjacent areas of southern parts of West Bengal with the blood of our comrades, have thrown away and drowned some of the corpses of the martyrs stuffed in jute bags into the rivers to erase all traces of their butchery. Our only offence was that since 1977 it was our Party which, in the noble tradition of struggling leftism of the soil of West Bengal, has all through tried to generate organized relentless waves of mass movements armed with the noble ideology of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. In several cases, as in the case of reintroducing English teaching at the Primary level of education, we have been able to wrest the demands from the government. The capitalists of the land and abroad as also the parties like CPI(M) subserving them became gravely apprehensive. So, they had been after our blood, mounting time and again lethal attacks on our comrades by letting loose the police and the armed criminal gangs, trying to crush and exterminate us. Though bourgeois media had all information about this organized brutal attack on us, they held the same back from the common people, as even today, the bourgeois media practically do not cover any news of ours. The beastly savagery of the CPI(M) crossed all limits in crushing democratic movements in Singur and Nandigram. Particularly, Nandigram was delinked from the outer world, besieged from all sides and then was thrown under a few thousand of armed police, para-military forces and shielded behind them specifically selected notorious CPI(M) goons hired from outside the locality even the state, brandishing arms and arsenals used by the police. The way they carried out this dastardly operation transgressing all norms of civilized society and humanity and engineered one of the worst carnages, was something the

country has never witnessed. Many were killed, hundreds inflicted grievous injuries and maimed, small children were butchered. In addition and over and above this mass killing, countless women were mercilessly gang-raped. This barbarism has no parallel in the history of the country. In defence of this barbarity, the CPI(M) chief minister said on 14 March, 2007 that "they have been paid back in their own coin". In the same year, after carrying out second round of inhuman torture, merciless killing and mass rape in Nandigram on 10 November, the CPI(M) leaders proclaimed a new 'sunrise' in the area. How cruel one needs to be to utter such words! Out of the imperative necessity to save Singur and Nandigram struggles as well as democratic movements as a whole from this fascistic attack of the CPI(M), we at that time combined with the Trinamool Congress (TMC) notwithstanding our fundamental ideological differences with them.

If Nandigram portrayed the vehemence of atrocities the CPI (M) could take resort to, Netai carnage marked another climax depicting the same ferocious face of that party. At Lalgarh, the local tribals and other poor toiling people had developed mass movement on various democratic demands in the same pattern as the Nandigram instance, forming a peoples' committee under the leadership of Chhatradhar Mahato. Since its inception, our Party was associated with that Committee. Comrade Bibekanada Sahu, one of the local organizers of the party and Vice-President of that Committee, was imprisoned for long for playing a leading role in organizing the movement. Quite a number of our workers and sympathizers are still behind bars and false cases have been lodged against many of them. Those who call themselves as 'Maoists' had no role whatsoever in this movement. Only some of the 'Maoists' from adjacent Jharkhand state used to take shelter in the forests of this area. Moreover, the 'Maoists' practise politics of individual assassination. Nowhere do they build up democratic movement by organizing people under the banner

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's clarion call

‘Maoists’ are working against teachings of great Mao Zedong

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of people's committees. The Lalgarh People's Committee (PCPA) was conducting movements against oppressive police-administration and utterly corrupt CPI(M) leaders, government officials and the panchayets. As a part of the movement, the PCPA had long been continuing with rallies and demonstrations, squatting, gherao, bandhs or strikes, boycotting of police stations and administration etc. The sustained movement was paralyzing police and administration in the area. Panic-stricken CPI (M) leaders were fleeing the area. The hold of the CPI (M) was fast eroding. It is worth noting that during this period, there was no theft, dacoity or murder in that area. Under pressure of the movement, the administration met with the leadership of the movement including Chhatradhar Mahato on 13 June 2009. Mahato and the government officials jointly announced that the discussion was satisfactory and the next round of talks would be held on 14 July. But, suddenly the state and central governments jointly announced that to combat the ongoing 'Maoist terror' in the area, they would deploy a Joint Security force. Accordingly, raising the bogey of 'Maoist terror' and thus creating confusion among the masses, the Joint Force deployed on 18 June started brutal oppression including loot and plunder, indiscriminate arrest, torture, rape and molestation of women and all such other barbaric acts to muzzle the voice of protest, break the morale of the agitators and crush the people's movement.

We had stated earlier also that there is no connection between the thoughts of great Mao Zedong and the activities of the self-styled Maoists of this country. Comrade Mao roused his countrymen based on revolutionary consciousness, organized them and as per the concrete situation obtaining in the then China, conducted prolonged revolutionary battle combining both frontal war and guerilla tactics and thus accomplished historic Chinese proletarian revolution. He never believed in isolated individual assassination. By working against the thoughts of Mao, these 'Maoists' of this country are causing

great harm to democratic movement and revolutionary struggle. That is exactly what the ruling class and its parties want. Not only that. These so-called Maoists are indulging in scores of unethical activities and are also being used by the ruling parties in return of monetary benefits and other favours. For example, the 'Maoists' themselves admitted to have helped the CPI (M) against the TMC in Keshpur and Garbeta in West Midnapur district. Same is the case with Lalgarh. The CPI (M) leaders first put a 'Maoist' tag on some of its own cadres. Then these sham 'Maoists' along with some of the 'Maoists' from adjacent Jharkhand state were engaged by them to break the Lalgarh mass movement and kill the organizers of the movement as well as the CPI (M) dissidents. And the Congress-led central government became an accomplice to this heinous conspiracy.

Whatever crocodile tears are shed by the Congress and the central government over the latest incident of killing at Netai, can they deny that they are no less responsible for this carnage? It is they who in league with the CPI(M) government of the state are, creating a smokescreen of 'Maoist' terror, launching barbaric attack on the poor have-nots in Lalgarh with the joint forces to crush democratic movement. It is with their direct backing that the CPI(M) criminal brigade is on a spree of regaining control of Lalgarh and running armed camps for oppression. In order to please the TMC, the Union Home Minister tried to create a chilly flutter by using the word 'harmad' in his communication to the state chief minister. Were the details of the dastardly acts being undertaken by the 'harmads' or CPI(M) criminals unknown to the Union Home Minister or the Congress leaders before TMC pointed it out to them? Were their secret information wings or paramilitary forces in so deep a sleep that they were not aware of that? How many times our Party and the common people have made allegations about that which even appeared repeatedly in the media? The fact is that Congress has entered into a clandestine understanding with CPI (M). The outward show of opposition

notwithstanding, the Congress harbours the ulterior motive of keeping pressure on the TMC. Although the Congress might forge an alliance with the TMC purely from electoral interest, it will covertly back the CPI(M) so that the TMC does not get absolute majority. The objective of the Congress is to ensure that even if the TMC forms the government in the state after the elections, the latter remains dependent on it as it is dependent on the TMC's support at the centre. In that event, the Congress will be able to strike a good bargain with the TMC and at the same time, if so needed, join hands with the CPI (M) to put pressure upon any TMC government that is likely to come to power in near future. With this ulterior motive, Congress making a show of opposition to the CPI (M) for public consumption, is tacitly offering every help to the CPI (M) in many respects. It is for this that the Congress has chosen to break Lalgarh movement with the joint forces raising the bogey of 'Maoist' terror and allowing the CPI(M) to create 'liberated zones' so that in the coming elections, the CPI(M) could capture all the seats of this area. In fact, this friendship between the Congress and the CPI(M) has been continuing since the days of Indira Gandhi. Only there had been temporary breaks once in 1977 and then in 2008.

It may be mentioned that the Congress tried this trick at Singur and Nandigram also. In its dastardly operation to contain Singur-Nandigram movements, the CPI(M), as a friendly party of the Congress, received all help and assistance from the then Congress-led government at the centre. But the immense sacrifice and determined fight of people there, the firmly organized plans and sustained movement undertaken by our Party and augmented with the greater strength and support of the TMC, the wider coverage in the media because of involvement of the TMC, and above all the emotional as well as stirring support of all sections of people including the leading intellectuals of the country and even abroad — all together made Singur-Nandigram movements gain success and foil the evil design. It was these movements

that created in the state an irresistible urge for a change of the CPI(M) rule and caused routing of the CPI(M) in the last parliamentary poll. Despite giving all support to the CPI(M) during the Singur-Nandigram movement, Congress on the eve of the last parliamentary elections floated a view through the bourgeois media that unless there was a unity between the Congress and the TMC, the CPI(M) would not be defeated. In spite of our strong objection, the TMC agreed to the same, though its result could have been far better if it had no truck with the Congress. The same is true for the ensuing assembly polls also. The anti-CPI(M) feeling among the people is so strong and a suitable alternative is so desperately sought for that the TMC, if it so desires, can, very well come out with better results without having any tie-up with the Congress. However, as a Gandhite parliamentary party, it is entirely up to the TMC to decide its own course of action.

The CPI(M) workers must also take serious note of how low their leaders have stooped by being plunged into the dungeon of vote-based power politics. Imbued by the noble ideology of Marxism-Leninism, lakhs of communists sacrificed their lives to accomplish historic revolutions in Russia, China and Vietnam, saved the human race from doom by defeating fascism under the leadership of great Stalin and helped the national liberation movements to succeed in the erstwhile colonies. Consequent to that, Marxism earned a place of high esteem in history. Usurping this credibility of Marxism, first the undivided CPI and then the CPI (M) once attracted many honest persons. However, none of these parties was ever a communist party but grew with the characteristics of social-democratic parties of the Second International who masqueraded themselves as communists and were denounced by great Lenin as agents of the capitalists-imperialists in the working class movement. Whatever shred of leftist politics they used to practice till mid 1960s have been abandoned by the CPI (M) leaders afterwards. Instead, for the sake of pelf and power to serve the capitalists, both domestic and

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Comrade Provash Ghosh's clarion call

Keep unwavering faith in Marxism and leftism and build up and intensify class and mass struggles

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foreign, they are unleashing fascistic attacks on democratic mass movement. They are not just deploying police but also hardcore armed criminals to crush people's movement.

During this more than three decade long rule of the CPI (M) in West Bengal, people of the state have found from their life's experience that the CPI(M) as a typical social democratic party, has proved itself as one of the worthy servants of the ruling capitalist class. Without any compunction, in the name of development the CPI(M) leaders are cordially welcoming monopolists of the country and abroad, only at the cost of life and livelihood of common poor people, snatching away their land or means of livelihood. They have reduced the entire administration to a 'paradise' of rampant organized corruption. Institutions of social activities, be it schools or colleges, hospitals or associations of government and even commercial institutions, local bodies or committees for residential areas, all these have been filled with incompetent, self-seeking characters to ensure support for the CPI(M) and thus serve to maintain their party rule. Common people are sought to be impressed upon that no work can be done without the help of CPI(M) party people, without bribe, cut-money, levies without receipts or such others. Local, even family feuds are vitiated by interference of the CPI(M) party cadres and leaders, often accompanied by extortion of money. Naturally, this has left administration or governance in shambles at one and all levels. Along with this, the CPI(M) has blatantly wiped out even the relative minimum neutrality that the police is found to maintain even in a capitalist country. This rule of the CPI(M) has attempted to brand honesty, sincerity and neutral attitude as disqualifications for people in administration and governance.

As a result, the rightist forces are gaining in strength. How long will the CPI (M) workers allow this to continue? After the debacle in the last parliamentary election, the CPI (M) leaders declared that they would undertake 'purification' of their party. Their subsequent

activities and this latest Netaji carnage bear ample testimony to the kind of 'purification' they have been carrying out. It has brought only one skeleton tumbling from the cupboard; there are so many stinking ones still lying inside and underneath. It has to be remembered that in this difficult crisis-ridden situation, it is only the SUCI (C) basing on Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought is holding aloft the banner of struggling leftism.

Today, on the one hand, people are petrified at the ongoing revelation of scams and scandals of the Congress, BJP, CPI(M) and other vote-based political parties sunk in corruption upto the neck. On the other hand, skyrocketing of prices of essential commodities, mounting unemployment, widespread retrenchment, unbearable tax burden, steep hike in education cost and healthcare charges, rapid rise in human trafficking particularly of women and children, increasing atrocities on and rape of women, abject cultural degeneration, severe crisis in the realm of ethics and morality — all these are shattering people's life. Bewildered, people are frantically looking for redress. It ought to be understood that the remedy does not lie in mere change of government. But oppressive CPI(M) must be defeated in the coming elections. At the same time, it is to be remembered that those who will be saddled in the governmental power in place of the CPI(M), if they are honest and make sincere efforts, can at best give some relief to the people. Nothing more can be done in this capitalist system. Many leaders of the Congress in the yester years like Gandhiji, Nehru and others did not lack in honesty. But in the process of defending and serving capitalism, not only has the country been led to the brink of disaster but even the degeneration of the Congress has been markedly severe. So, in order to bring about permanent remedy to all burning problems of life and end exploitation and oppression forever, it is imperative to overthrow capitalism by revolution. It is for this reason that the SUCI(C), the genuine communist party on the

soil, founded, reared and steered by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, great leader of the proletariat and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the time, is organizing the working class and common people on the basis of higher proletarian culture and ideology, helping them acquire revolutionary consciousness and moral courage and is relentlessly conducting class and mass struggles. Though the immediate aim of these struggles is to achieve some pressing demands, the ultimate objective is to gradually prepare for revolutionary upsurge in the days to come.

It must be borne in mind that turning away from Marxism and leftism out of disgust by observing the activities of the CPI (M), will be akin to committing suicide. Marxism is no fancy of any individual. It is a comprehensive life philosophy based on modern science which has emerged at a definite phase of history to meet a definite historical need. Like any other science, its application is universal—not limited by the geographical boundary of any country. As there are correct and incorrect applications as well as misuse of scientific discoveries and theories, so is happening in the name of Marxism as well. For that, one should not develop aversion towards Marxism. The struggle for even religious movements spanned over thousands of years to score victory. The battle for establishment of bourgeois parliamentary democracy has also taken hundreds of years through a course of defeat, then victory, again defeat, again victory. But, none of these struggles was intended to end class exploitation. Rather, these struggles led to replacement of one form of class exploitation by another. It was only Soviet socialism which put an end to class exploitation for the first time in the annals of history and existed merely for a few decades. Afterwards, it was destroyed by counter-revolution. This defeat of socialism should not be taken as final and hence ought not to cause any frustration. After reinstatement of capitalism, Russia whose socialist system once was saluted by Netaji Subhas, described by Rabindranath as the greatest pilgrimage of humanity and adored by all great

men of the 20th century, has now returned to capitalist slavery, extreme oppression and appalling poverty, starvation, death due to non availability of medical care, unemployment, job-loss, prostitution and such other aberrations and maladies. Similar is the situation in capitalist China after counter revolution. So, there is resurgence of demand for establishment of scientific socialism in these countries. The entire capitalist world including big imperialist powers like USA and other developed countries of Europe are now mired in acute insoluble crisis. In all these countries, waves after waves of agitations by students-youth-working people and other sections of toiling masses are surging forth. There is a cry for changing the social order. In such a backdrop, what else the ruling Indian capitalism can offer other than inhuman exploitation, limitless corruption and unbound misery? Apart from that, through periodic elections, the various rightist parties of different hues are running the governments at the centre and in the states by turn. What difference the pseudo-Marxists of West Bengal have with them?

It is quite natural that people are longing eagerly and frantically for a change, for an ouster of this monstrous force from power, for enjoying at least a minimum scope for free breathing and relief. But, as we have said earlier, people must realize that in this decadent system tottering with crisis in every walk of life, they would never get desired permanent relief by just changing a government. Whatever may be the change, whoever may come to power, the ruling capitalist system will always try to suck them into the dungeons of decadence and degeneration. Though the CPI(M) must be dislodged from the government, people's task would not merely end with bringing about that change. So is our appeal to all to keep unwavering faith in Marxism and leftism and build up and intensify class and mass struggles in an organized way, forming their own instruments of struggle and based upon a revolutionary political-ideological-cultural line.

Bihar people launch sustained movement against deadly asbestos factory

Bihar is changing; after a long drought development is ushering in Bihar — this is a slogan being hyped from different circles. But what is the reality? How is that spate of development helping common people? Whom is this so-called development standing for, people or a handful of owners, the capitalists, aided and abetted by the government and their administration? The answers come out in bold relief from the sustained movement of villagers of Chainpur-Bishunpur village of Marwan area of Muzaffarpur district and more particularly from the recent incident of indiscriminate lathi-charge and firing by the police and by the company executives of the upcoming asbestos factory there upon a peaceful demonstration of villagers.

Chainpur-Bishunpur is a densely populated village on a fertile agricultural land in Muzaffarpur district of North Bihar. Common people of this village, under the leadership of *Khet Bachao Jivan Bachao Jan Sangharsh Committee* formed by them, are struggling since August 2010 against setting up of a disastrous asbestos factory of Balmukund Cement and Roofing Limited Company in that locality. They were holding a sit-in demonstration in front of the factory gate since 18 January last. On 22 January morning, the police suddenly resorted to desperate lathi-charge upon the villagers severely injuring many. At the news of the police lathi-charge, thousands of villagers rushed to the spot in protest. Police as well as the owners then opened fire upon them, the latter from inside the premise.

On the day next, 23 January, the SUCI(C) observed state-wide protest and as a part of it, staged a massive rally against this barbarous act, followed by a meeting at the Station Island of Patna. Addressing the meeting Comrade Dipak Kumar, Member, Bihar State Committee, Comrade Sadhna Mishra, Patna District Secretary and other leaders demanded of the state government immediate medical treatment of those seriously injured by lathi-charge and firing, high level enquiry of the firing and lathi-charge, punishment of guilty police officers and company executives, and stalling of setting up of the deadly asbestos factory.

It may be recalled that land was acquired for the asbestos factory deceiving the villagers. The land there is highly fertile; and the area has 4 primary and secondary schools, several government and private schools and Anganwadi centres in the immediate vicinity, madrasas, government hospitals and health centres within a radius of 5

kilometres. The villagers were told that the land would be used for an industry related to agriculture. Only later could the villagers come to know that there would be a deadly asbestos factory on the land grabbed from them. In their application for environment assessment, the company made false claim that the land in question was a barren one. The warnings and suggestions in the Environment Impact Assessment Report were neglected. Villagers also came to know that asbestos factory is banned in the developed countries on account of severe pollution it causes. Air pollution from asbestos dust causes deadly disease of lung cancer and asbestosis over a large surrounding area, particularly the workers of the factory are affected by another deadly disease of mesothelioma. Already there have been several million victims of asbestos pollution and a few lakh deaths from it in different countries of the world. On this appraisal of the hazards of asbestos industry, the villagers submitted a memorandum to the district collectorate in August 2010 and in September 2010 formed the *Khet Bachao Jivan Bachao Jan Sangharsh (KJBJS) Committee*. On 4 September 2010 under the leadership of the *KJBJS Committee* thousands of peasants staged sit-in dharna at the District Collectorate office and submitted a memorandum. With no result, an equally massive rally of peasants squatted in front of the factory gate, which led to stoppage of construction work. Under pressure of the movement SDO called a meeting of the representatives of the company and the committee. It was decided there that there would not be any construction till the assembly election of Bihar was held and the committee would hold up their movement too. But the company restarted construction in the last week of October. As neither police



Protest in Patna against firing on struggling Chainpur-Bishunpur villagers

nor the administration took any steps, the *KJBJS Committee* announced a programme of *Mahadharna* (massive sit-in) on 15 November. Hatching a heinous conspiracy, the company in connivance with the local police station and its IC, set a vehicle of theirs on fire and thrust the blame on the struggling peasants. A delegation of the *Committee* met higher official of the Police on 7 November, when he told the delegation that the police was aware of the incident and local chowkidar was present during the incident as eye witness. In the meantime Dr. Tarun Mandal, the SUCI(C) MP, visited the place and shared his concern with the struggling peasants. He raised the matter to Jayram Ramesh, the Union Environment Minister who assured to take proper steps. But the situation remained the same. On 15 November, as announced, the massive *Mahadharna* was held in front of the factory gate which was attended by many eminent personalities including among others well known Gandhite leader Sachchidananda Sinha, Anil Prakash, Ramesh Pankaj, and Bihar State Secretary of SUCI(C) Comrade Shivshankar. In their presence the Regional Development Officer ordered stoppage of construction. However, only two days later, the work resumed.

The movement was gathering momentum and was spreading from the arena of villages to the district headquarters and further. On 10 December, on behalf of eminent personalities, social activists, professors, medical professionals and people's representatives, the Citizens' Forum, Muzaffarpur,

issued an open letter to the Chief Minister. On the same date a few thousands of students under the leadership of the AIDS O staged a demonstration before the office of the Development Officer and submitted a memorandum demanding stoppage of setting up the factory. In the meantime, Medha Patkar, the well-known social and human rights activist, wrote a letter to the Bihar Chief Minister, expressing her concern at the firing on peaceful demonstration and seeking for the CM's personal intervention.

On 13 December on an already notified peaceful dharna at the factory gate, company Managers BK Tewari and Sanjib Mishra along with a band of hoodlums came down upon the demonstrators and Tewari and Mishra themselves opened fire. Committee members Harendra Mahato, Santosh Ram, Golu Kumar, Harishankar Singh, Dharmendra Paswan and others were severely injured. Such heinous attack by the hoodlums, directly aided and abetted by the company executives upon peaceful demonstrators, drew unqualified condemnation from far and wide. On that very day six leftist parties, SUCI(C), CPI(ML) MCPI(U), Communist Centre of India, RSP and Forward Bloc issued a joint statement demanding that the Chief Minister intervene immediately and that the construction of the deadly asbestos factory be stopped.

On 14 December SUCI(C) observed protest day in the state against this barbarous attack. Rallies, squattings and demonstrations were held at different places of the state

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Massive state level camp of ASHA workers held in Karnataka

"All through history there have been two main classes, exploiter and exploited, whose interests were opposed to each other. There was constant class struggle which held the key to all social change. In this process of change women, who comprise half the section in society, had very important role to play in social movements and social transformation. No society can change unless its women change," said Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, President of All India UTUC and member Polit Bureau, SUCI(C) at the state level camp of Accredited Social Health Activist (ASHA) organisers at Janapada Loka near Bangalore held between 13 and 14 December. Over 400 ASHA workers representing 25 districts in the state participated. It may be recalled that highly deprived and oppressed ASHA workers launched a number of massive movements in the state under the leadership of our party and All India UTUC. The purpose of the present camp was to raise further the ideological consciousness of ASHA workers who were involved in building the organisation. The camp was inaugurated by Comrade K. Radhakrishna, All India Vice President and President of Karnataka State Committee of All India UTUC and member, Central Committee, SUCI(C). It was

divided into different sessions dealing with different issues.

In his address, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, the main speaker, urged the ASHA workers to understand 'who your main enemy is and what your struggle is'. He pointed out that in the case of the ASHA workers the government itself was playing the role of the exploiting master. It is serving the ruling capitalist class and all policies are being brought in their favour. ASHA workers throughout the country would have to unitedly raise their voice in an organised manner so that the government would be compelled to yield. They would have to develop their movement and make it a part of the working class movement as a whole. All problems in our society can be solved only through an anti capitalist socialist revolution. He concluded by giving a call to deeply understand these things and realise the same. Comrade Somashekar Yadgir, the President of the ASHA workers' Union presided over the session.

While inaugurating the camp, Comrade K. Radhakrishna, elaborated on how the ASHA workers would have to conduct their struggle both as workers and as women. He recalled the plight of women through the ages in history and how they — the ASHA workers were now exploited by having to

IAPSCC hails the victory of the People of Tunisia

Manik Mukherjee, General Secretary of International Anti-imperialist and Peoples' Solidarity Coordinating Committee (IAPSCC), issued the following statement on 17 January, 2011 :

IAPSCC salutes the people of Tunisia for their victory over the dictatorial rulers, backed by the imperialist powers. The Tunisians were oppressed for many years with denial of civil liberties, rigged elections and soaring prices of food and all essential commodities. Being driven to the end of their tether they rose up in rebellion against the imperialist-backed rulers by organizing sustained and militant protest movements and forced the President to step down and leave the country in ignominy. We wish success to the effort of the Tunisian people to bring about a people-friendly Government which would look after their interest. Their struggle once more brings home the truth that if the people are united in an organized militant movement based on just and legitimate demands, they can bring down an oppressive dictatorial regime. This is a lesson not just for the downtrodden Arab people, but for all the freedom loving democratic people all over the world who are fighting against imperialism and for justice, dignity and legitimate rights. Let the inspiring example of the courage and perseverance of the people of Tunisia strengthen the solidarity of the oppressed, exploited people all over the globe.

work on minimal wages. He concluded by saying "you should become the ray of hope for social change. You have achieved so many things through struggles and you should help your brothers and sisters in other sectors to conduct similar struggles". Comrade D. Nagalakshmi, State Secretary of ASHA workers union presided over this inaugural session.

Dr. H. G. Jayalakshmi, All India General Secretary of All India MSS, Comrade K.Uma, member, State Committee of SUCI (Communist), Dr.T.S.Suneeth Kumar, Vice

President of Karnataka State Committee of All India UTUC, Comrade K.Somashekar, State Secretary of All India UTUC, Karnataka, Dr.Sudha Kamath, President, All India MSS, Comrade Somashekar Yadgir and Comrade Nagalakshmi, President & Secretary of ASHA Workers Union respectively, addressed the different sessions and Comrade Sandhya Patanadka, Comrade K.V.Bhat, Comrade M.Shashidhar, Comrade Devadas, Comrade M.Umadevi, Comrade Mallikarjun presided over the respective sessions.

Movement against deadly asbestos factory

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including the state capital Patna and district headquarter Muzaffarpur. Thus the movement spread out through length and breadth of the state.

Under the growing pressure of the movement, it was decided in presence of the SDO Muzaffarpur West and the DSP (Headquarters) that on 29 December there would be a thorough discussion of the matters between the experts of the two contending parties. Till then there would be no construction and proper steps would be taken against the managers who had fired upon the demonstrators. But then there was another deep conspiracy. On 23 December, the company authority suddenly informed the Committee Co-ordinator Ramchandra Roy that the scheduled meeting of 29 December was postponed. Instead both the parties should submit their

views in writing by 28 December. On 24 December night leaders of the Committee, including Tarakeswar Giri, Assistant Coordinator and Kumod Ram, an important member, were arrested. Once more the SUCI(C) had to call for a statewide protest day on 26 December. In a press statement, Comrade Shivsankar, Bihar State Secretary of our Party strongly condemned this arrest and pointed out how the government was openly taking the side of the owners against common people.

On 28 December at the B R Ambedkar University Senate Hall at Muzaffarpur, a seminar was organized on "How far the industries on cultivable lands are in the interest of people". This seminar discussed the hazards of asbestos, particularly the diseases it causes and was participated by Dr. Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay,

formerly of Dhanbad School of Mines, Gopal Ji Trivedi, former Vice-chancellor of Rajendra Agricultural University, Gopal Krishna from the Ban Asbestos Network of India and others. This seminar organized by the Breakthrough Science Society was presided over by Dr. Ram Kishore Prasad, former Head of the Chemistry Department of LS College and was conducted by Comrade Arun Kumar Singh, a leading member of the Bihar State Committee, SUCI(C). Dr Rabindrakumar Rabi, Dr Nandakishore Nandan, Dr Bikashnarayan Upadhyay, Dr Naolkishore Singha, Anil Prakash and others also took part in the seminar. Famous environmentalist and expert on the hazards of asbestos, Dr. Berry Kaiselman called for attention of the Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Union Minister Jairam Ramesh

on this issue and praised the struggling peasants for continuing their movement.

On 29 December, at the IMA Hall in Patna, Dr. Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay and Gopal Krishna apprised the residents of Patna of the hazards of an asbestos factory. On 6 January, a delegate of 'Citizens' Platform against asbestos' visited the site of the company and listened to the views of the struggling people there. On their return to Patna, the representatives of the Citizen's Platform held a press conference and demanded immediate closure of this highly dangerous industry detrimental to people. And then came the incidents of 22 and 23 January.

With such developments, the *Khet Bachao Jivan Bachao Jan Sangharsh Committee* has decided to continue and further step up their struggle till the victory is achieved.

Gujarat State Youth Conference

All India Democratic Youth organization (AIDYO)'s two-day long Gujarat State Conference began on 23 January with observance of 114th Anniversary of Netaji Subhashchandra Bose. A huge procession of youths from various parts of Surat as well as Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Ahwa-Dang, Bhiloda, Savarkundala and other parts of the state marched from Udhana through the Surat city.

The conference was inaugurated by Comrade Dwarikanath Rath, Secretary, Gujarat State Organising Committee of the SUCI(C). Speaking on the occasion, Shri Prakashbhai N. Shah, well known journalist and the leading citizen of Gujarat, expressed hope that inspired by the ideals of Netaji youths will rise up against the present rule of exploitation, corruption and divisive policies, both at the centre and the state. Among the other speakers were Dr Bharat Mehta, Reader, M. S. University, Shri Meenakshi Joshi, Convenor, AIMSS, Gujarat, Shri Lokesh Sharma, youth leader from Madhya Pradesh, Comrade Mukesh Semval, President, Gujarat State, All India DSO and others. The Chief Guest of the Conference, Dr Tarun Mandal, MP, SUCI(C) expressed his deep concern about the plight of working class of Gujarat. Shri Vipool Kalyani, an

eminent citizen, who had come from London said that Netaji is respected by the masses not only in India, but in all countries of the world. Among others who attended the conference were Comrade Moiyuddin Mannan, All India Vice-President, AIDYO. Comrade Satyendra Singh, joint convenor, AIDYO, gave a welcome speech, while Prof. Kanubhai Khadadiya, convenor, AIDYO presided over the Open Session.

On 24 January the delegate session was held in Shramjeevi Hall near Surat Railway Station. 269 delegates attended the conference and took active part in the discussion. A 20-member Gujarat State level AIDYO committee was elected with Prof. Kanu Khadadiya as President, Comrade Satyendra Singh as Vice President, Comrade Jayesh Patel as Secretary and Comrade Rammurat Maurya as office secretary cum treasurer. The session was addressed by Comrade Dr. Tarun Mandal, Comrade Dwarika Nath Rath, secretary of Gujarat SUCI(C) and AIDYO leaders, Comrade Lokesh Sharma, member of the Secretariat and Comrade Moiyuddin Mannan, the Vice President pledged and appealed to the delegates to strengthen AIDYO on the strength of the teachings of Comrade Shybdas Ghosh, one of the eminent Marxist thinkers of the era.

Netaji Birth Anniversary observed in Jaipur, Rajasthan

Netaji Birth Anniversary was observed at Jaipur jointly by the AIDYO, AIDSO and AIMSS at Samagrah Seva Samiti, Jaipur. Comrade Girijeshwar Singh was the main speaker, while Comrade Ram Dayal anchored the programme. The meeting was chaired by Comrade Viren Lobo. Dr Manjit Kaur, Comrade Anjith, Rajender Kumbaj,

Comrade Shailender Shakun, Comrade Net Ram, Dr Dheeraj and Comrade Tapasya were among others who spoke on the occasion.

Two Netaji Birth anniversary programs were also held with school and college students at Bikaner. The participants were greatly inspired by the programme and drwan close to AIDSO.



Netaji Birth Anniversary being observed in Cuttack. Comrade Biswabasu Das addressing (top) and a section of the audience

Victory of handloom workers at Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh

A protest rally to the Collectorate with hundreds of handloom workers was organized by AIUTUC on 27 December 2010 at Anantapur demanding among others roll back of steep, nearly double price hike of raw material. Comrade Sudheer, State In-charge of AIUTUC, Comrade B.S. Amarnath, Anantapur District Secretary of SUCI(C) and Comrade B. Narasimhulu, District In-Charge of AIUTUC led the rally. The slogans raised by the workers reverberated the streets and created enthusiasm in the public.

that workers should organize movements on their burning problems conducive to the fight against anti people policies of globalization and liberalization also. A delegation comprising Comrades B. S Amarnath, K. Sudheer, B. Narasimhulu and other ten members met the collector and submitted a memorandum to him. The Collector responded positively and gave assurance to provide raw material at subsidized rates and make arrangements to give loans to the needy workers.

In his inaugurating speech Comrade B. S. Amarnath demanded that the Government should abolish all fake Societies and give loans and subsidies to real needy handloom workers. Comrade Sudheer said

The district rally was preceded by protest programmes at Hindupur, Dharmavaram, Kadiri, Syndicatenagar and C.K.Dinne and elsewhere and memorandum was submitted to the Tahasildars in each respective case.



Massive gathering and eminent speakers at Gujarat State Youth Conference

State Conferences of AIDS0

Gujarat

Two day 4th Gujarat State Conference of the AIDS0 was organised in Vadodara on 28 December, 2010, also the 56th Foundation Day of the AIDS0. The open session was held at the gates of M. S. University, attended by students of schools and colleges of rural and urban areas of different districts of Gujarat, parents, teachers as well as concerned eminent citizens of Vadodara like Shri Dankesh Oza, Shri Dhiru Mistry and others. The main speakers of the open session were Comrades M. N. Sriram, All India President, AIDS0 and Comrade Sourav Mukherjee, General Secretary, AIDS0 Both the speakers analytically explained the intensity and nature of the present attacks on education, particularly after the implementation of Globalisation policies in the field of education, pursuing the line of General Agreement on Trade in Services (GATS).

Among the other speakers were Comrades Mukesh Semval, the Vice-President, Gujarat State Committee, AIDS0, Bharat Mehta, Secretary, Gujarat Chapter, All India Save Education Committee and Member, State Organising Committee, SUCI(C), Tapan Dasgupta, Secretary, Vadodara District Organising Committee and Member, State Organising Committee, SUCI(C). Rimmi Vaghela, Secretary, Ahmedabad District Committee, AIDS0 read out the resolution which was seconded Bhavik Raja, Secretary, Gujarat State Committee. The entire open session was conducted by Comrade Jayesh Patel, then President, Gujarat State Committee, AIDS0.

Comrade Jayesh Patel presided the delegate session on 29 December. Many delegates offered their suggestions on the resolution and the organizational report. Comrade Sriram, Comrade Sourav Mukherjee and Comrade Dwarikanath Rath addressed the session.

A 17 member State Committee was elected unanimously with 7 Executive members, 7 Council members and with Comrade Mukesh Semval as President, Comrade Rimmi Vaghela as Vice-President and Comrade Bhavik Raja as Secretary.

Jharkhand

AIDS0 Jharkhand state Conference was held in Bokaro on 8-9 January 2011 with thousands of students present in it. Prof. N.K.P. Sinha, former Principal of Chas college, was the chief guest in the Open session on 8 January, and Comrade Sourav Mukherjee, General Secretary, AIDS0 was the main speaker. Comrades Sumit Roy Member, SUCI(C) Jharkhand State Organizing Committee and Zuber Rabbani, Vice President, AIDS0 also spoke in the open session. Speakers gave emphasis on student movement conducive to anti-capitalist socialist revolution. The delegate session on 9 January with more than 200 delegates present, was addressed by Comrade Rabin Samajpati, Member, SUCI(C) Jharkhand state committee. An 18 member strong state committee and a state council of 55 members were elected with Comrades Mintu Paswan as President, Kanai Barik as Secretary and Samar Mahato as Treasurer. The conference created great enthusiasm among the students.

SUCI(C) strongly condemns hike in price of petrol

Strongly condemning the hike in price of petrol by Rupees 2.54 per litre which came into effect from the midnight of 15 January 2011 Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(Communist) issued the following statement on 16 January, 2011 : —

When the common people is reeling under the pressure of soaring prices of food and essential commodities, the present hike of petrol by Rs. 2.54 per litre will add more miseries to them as this decision will push the index of inflation to a record peak. After coming to power, the UPA government had hiked petrol prices 9 times and there had been a record hike of Rupees 5.50 per litre within the last four weeks. The mockery of the government's agony and tall talks of taking stern measures against the price manipulators has once again been thoroughly exposed in this further dose of steep hike in petrol prices. This act has also sharply brought to the fore the anti-people, pro-monopoly character of the government and its criminal insensitivity to the plight of the suffering people. Projecting loss of the oil companies as the reason for petrol price hike is a lame excuse since the oil barons are registering soaring and huge profit.

We vehemently oppose this hike and urge the common people to come forward to resist these atrocious attacks and force the government to roll back the unjust hike effected so far.



Dr Tarun Mandal addresses the meeting of people's movements at Trivandrum Press Club Hall on 16 January



SUCI(C) protesting petroleum price hike on 16 January at Patna, Cuttack and Midnapur (from left)

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