



Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), offering red salute to great Mao Zedong, at Shibpur Party Centre, on 9 September during observance of his 44th Memorial Day. The Day was observed with due solemnity throughout the country by garlanding his photo and reading from passages from his works.

SUCI(C) demands immediate withdrawal of government order to arbitrarily retire a government employee

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist) issued the following statement on 14 September 2020 :

We strongly denounce the arbitrary notification of the BJP led central government directing the government employees organizations to drop the word 'Union' from the names of their organizations by amending their constitution accordingly. The notification has also debarred the office bearers of the government employees organizations from holding their offices for more than two years. Just before a few days, the Central Government had issued an Office Memorandum stating that review of the performance of government employees would be undertaken periodically. The Memorandum also vested the appropriate government with the absolute power to arbitrarily retire a government employee from service prematurely on the plea of public interest and strengthening absolute administrative power. The central government has also imposed complete ban on new recruitment in the government sectors. All these successive drastic measures taking cover of the Covid-19 pandemic are obviously politically aimed to muzzle the mounting voices of protests of the government employees and working people at large against the draconian onslaughts unleashed by the government at the behest of the corporate giants.

While vehemently protesting against these fascist measures, we strongly also demand immediate withdrawal of the notification and call upon working people, more particularly the government employees, to develop mighty movements to resolutely oppose such autocratic move of the government.

Explosive revelations by Wall Street Journal

Like everything social media is also controlled by moneybags

In February last, Kapil Mishra, a former BJP legislator gave a speech warning the police that if they did not clear the anti-NRC anti-CAA demonstrators from the sites of protest in Delhi, his supporters would do so by force. Within hours of the videotaped message, which Mr. Mishra uploaded on Facebook, rioting broke out that left dozens of people dead. Most of the victims were Muslims, and some of their killings were organized via Facebook's WhatsApp, according to court documents filed by police and published in Indian media. Not only Delhi riots, it is stated that there had been at least 30 lynching incidents in last four

years and the hate messages posted on Facebook had a contribution in all those gruesome killings. Similarly, incendiary WhatsApp posts had a role in triggering communal conflagration in Muzaffarnagar and Bangalore before 2019 parliament election. But why did not the BJP government take any action?

Facts unearthed in Wall Street Journal article

The reason is now exposed in an article published in Wall Street Journal (WSJ), a well-known international daily published

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A Startling revelation by the chieftain of global imperialism

Times of India dated 8 September 2020 carried out a report titled "Donald Trump attacks his own generals saying they are warmongers." It stated, inter alia that "True to his reputation as a political insurgent, US President Donald Trump threw a metaphorical hand grenade at the American military establishment on Monday, accusing it of waging wars to boost the profits of arms manufacturing companies. In remarks that reverberated in the political and military-industrial spectrum across the world, Trump also sought to draw a distinction between the US military

leadership and its rank and file, whose support he claimed.

"...The top people in the Pentagon ... want to do nothing but fight wars so that all of those wonderful companies that make the bombs & make the planes & make everything else stay happy," he said at another White House briefing replete with controversial claims and stances.

The comments immediately evoked comparisons with a famous 1961 farewell speech by President Dwight Eisenhower in which he warned against excessive defence

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Demonstration in Delhi led by Comrade Satyawan, Polit Bureau member, SUCI(C), against the anti-people policies of the BJP government on 14 September. Similar demonstrations have been organized throughout the country as part of the mass movement the Party and its mass organizations have been building up using various means, both offline and online

WSJ revelations

Incendiary Facebook posts found having worked behind heinous global crimes and in manipulating public opinions

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from US, on 14 August 2020 WSJ quoted a number of Facebook India employees to indicate a nexus between Facebook and the ruling Bhartiya Janata Party (BJP) and claimed that the social media platform was opposed to the idea of removing incendiary posts by the BJP leaders, since it thought it would hurt the company's "commercial interests" in a big market like India. The WSJ article also brought to the fore that top Facebook executives in India were under pressure not to take any action against any objectionable or inflammable posts—rather allow those to have wider circulation. It also alleged that Facebook, a large social networking site widely used worldwide by the Netizens, was biased in its functioning in India as it ignored its own 'hate speech policy' and allowed anti-minority offensive posts on its platform. The WSJ report has exposed that the ruling BJP in our country has been having a bonhomie with the Facebook top brass and has thereby derived huge electoral and political mileage. Coming under heat, Facebook issued a statement - "We prohibit hate speech and content that incites violence and we enforce these policies globally regardless of anyone's political position or party affiliation. While we know there is more to do, we are making progress on enforcement and conduct regular audits of our process to ensure fairness and accuracy." But this desperate face-saving attempt did neither negate its questionable activities and conduct nor contain the enormous damage caused to the people of India many of whom tend to get swayed by fake or motivated uploads on social media, inflicting immense harm to themselves. This also is another testimony of how the ruling bourgeois parties and their helmsmen collude with the social media barons to dupe people with false news just for reaping electoral advantage and winning the race for power. For that they do not care to take help even from beyond their country, to influence and dupe their own countrymen.

A Startling revelation by the chieftain of global imperialism

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spending and engendered the term military-industrial complex – but with a critical difference: Trump himself has been a votary of an ever-expanding military budget and has often talked up American weapons and their manufacturers.... Trump, however, has been a relentless salesman of US arms manufacturers, lauding and recommending them for countries ranging from Saudi Arabia to India, while excoriating NATO nations and European allies for not spending enough on their militaries. His administration also has several senior officials who have close ties with the M-I complex, notably Defence Secretary Mark Esper, who was a lobbyist for Raytheon. Eric Prince, the founder of the notorious Blackwater private security company, is the brother of his Education Secretary Betsy DeVos."

This report which also appeared in CNN on

Cambridge Analytica episode

It bears recall the Cambridge Analytica episode that came to light in 2016. *Channel 4 of UK* recorded in a secret tape the boastful claim of Alexander Nix, CEO of Cambridge Analytica, a marketing consultancy firm, stated to have been hired by Donald Trump for strategizing his electoral campaign. Nix was heard saying that by using limited data from Facebook, his company was able to influence the Brexit (exit of Britain from European Union) and 2016 US presidential elections in which Donald Trump clinched a surprise victory. In fact, Trump tweeted, somewhat cryptically, in 2017: "Soon you will be calling me Mr. Brexit." Political observers had indeed noticed some striking similarities between Trump's agenda and that of the apologists of Brexit. But few had then any inkling of Trump's Cambridge Analytica link nor did they know that Facebook had an important role to play in the 2016 election of Donald Trump, by boosting false news reports and Russian disinformation campaign while allowing the president's campaign to deliver targeted messages to voters.

Obviously, there was a commotion around the world about data breach, allegedly orchestrated by Facebook. Facebook has long been taking refuge under the pretext that it is an "intermediary" and not media itself. Yet it has emerged as a paramount source of information that no newspaper or television channel can even dream of, and that too in the preferred language of the user. Cambridge Analytica was accused of turning democratic election into a farce, by undertaking psychological profiles of the voters based on "likes" and "dislikes" of an advertisement or post on Facebook by a user.

Every purchase one made with credit cards, every search one typed into Google, every movement one made when a mobile phone was in one's pocket and every "like" to uploads were stored. For a long time, it was not entirely clear what use this data could have. But later it became clear that psycho-analysis of such data

the same day confirms what our Party guided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought had been saying for last seven decades. We have shown that now an "industrial-military complex" dominates governance of USA and other imperialist countries. With continuous shrinkage of global capitalist market, the ruling bourgeoisie in all imperialist-capitalist countries including India are going aggressively on 'militarization of economy' to artificially stimulate the sagging economy. And in order to release the stockpile of arms, the imperialist sharks are always busy generating local and partial wars, keep the atmosphere surcharged with a war-psychosis and aggressively going for sale of armaments. So long as imperialism exists, war maniacs are there, military regimes exist and the capitalist-imperialist states are run on the basis of militarization of economy — war is a reality and the possibility of war does exist.

collected from US using various mathematical models could determine with around 80-90 % accuracy many details like the skin colour, intelligence level, religious affiliation, extent of alcohol, cigarette and drug use as well as their affiliation to the Democratic or Republican party of US. It was found later that a company called Strategic Communication Laboratories (SCL) once showed interest in obtaining such models from *Michal Kosinska*, a young assistant professor of psychology department of Stanford University in US, against hefty payment. SCL introduced itself as an 'election management company' which markets a political party or any candidate based on psychological modelling and its core focus was influencing elections. The same SCL, in 2013, spun off a new company, Cambridge Analytica, to assess public mind in US by infringing on their privacy in the form of securing various data of their economic and social practices and behaviours from digital and social media sources. Some of the offshoots of SCL were later revealed to have been involved in elections from Ukraine to Nigeria, in helping the Nepalese monarch against the rebels, as well as influencing Eastern European and Afghan citizens to favour NATO (North Atlantic Treaty Organization, an imperialist political and military alliance). Thus, it was evident from then onwards that interfaces with Facebook and other networks could enable the operators to collect and store many informations which the vested interest can use not only for electoral gains in favour of its nominees but for many ulterior purposes as well.

Questionable acts of Facebook and its associate e-platforms

Facebook audits' associates Instagram and WhatsApp platforms, as all available reports and indications point out, allow interested quarters to collate multi-level data to manipulate public opinion, utilize it to muzzle voice of protest or haul up political opponents or precipitate communal-racial conflagration to disunite toiling people and exacerbate political polarization in the lead-up to elections. These platforms are also reported to have facilitated the growth of violent extremist groups like the 'boogaloo' movement in the US. On 29 May, when the 'Black Lives Matter' protests against brutal killing of George Floyd by racist police were sweeping across US, ignoring rapid spread of Covid 19, US President twitted: "When looting starts, the shooting starts". Twitter, after 2 hours, acknowledged that such a post was violative of the code of the company because it 'glorified violence'. Though the post was 'hidden', it was not deleted.

It is also reported that Facebook posts had a facilitating role in the anti-Rohingya genocide by Myanmar Military junta. An UNO-sponsored investigative mission observed that Facebook did not delete the pages provoking anti-Rohingya violence. In March 2019, a white supremacist gunman fired on the Muslims attending Friday prayers in a mosque in Christchurch in New Zealand, killing 51 and grievously injuring 48. That barbaric incident was covered live by

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Railway Privatization

Privatization spree shows Indian state is fully subservient to monopoly class interest

The people in our country are passing through an agonizing time in the wake of the Covid-19 pandemic. Loss of earnings, job loss, health problems, lock down trauma of migrant labour and a host of ordeals are haunting them. In the midst of this, the central government is taking several policy measures in the service sectors, industry, education, agriculture etc. Devaluation, downsizing and disintegration of public sector being aggressively pursued by the government through the policy of privatization and outsourcing of various activities resulting in a virtual ban on recruitment and unabated abolition of posts. All these anti-people measures are carried out without any transparency and overruling any discussion in the parliament. One of such major measures being all out privatization of Indian Railways, the largest public sector undertaking and the biggest employer in the country with a total employee strength of nearly 14 lakhs. It is also the eighth biggest employer of the world. This is also a part of the larger agenda of selling out several other public sector undertakings, the national assets, to private players within the country and abroad. The list includes the *Maharatna* and *Navaratna* undertakings like BPCL, BSNL, etc.

Agenda of privatization of Railways

On July 1, 2020, the Railway Ministry announced that 151 trains in 109 pairs of routes will be operated by private sector and that the private sector will invest Rs 30,000 crores. The private companies will be allowed to procure train and locomotives from any source of its choice in a nomenclature of "THEJUS". The fares will be fixed by the investor, the government or railways will have no role in it. Following this, on July 2 the Railway Board issued a letter to its zones to slash 50 per cent of vacancies and freeze creation of new posts. Since 2018, the Railways has 72,274 vacancies in safety category and 68,366 in non-safety category, taking the total number of vacancies notified to 1,40,640 as reported in the press. Instead of filling up the posts necessary for the safety and efficient running of the trains, the government is planning to downsize the staff strength. These measures are part of Modi govt's plan of privatizing the Indian railways,

The dismantling of the whole railway structure is proceeding in tune with the recommendations of Bibek Debroy panel, a blue print for all out Privatization of Indian Railways in favour of the Corporates. It affects the entire economic system which in turn adversely affects the common people and railway employees as well. The situation is alarming. The concession on railway fares to different categories of people will be severely curtailed for the maximization of profit for the capitalists. By these measures the public welfare outlook of government institutions will be reduced to a minimum. The IRCTC came into existence during the regime of Vajpayee Government in 1999. It delinked booking of tickets, maintenance of pantry car, parcel van, stations, platforms etc. The Congress government followed suit and the present Modi Government aggressively continues to privatize various functions of the Indian railways,

Railways under British Regime

The Indian Railways (IR) with a history of more than 160 years is one of the largest and busiest rail networks in the world. IR transports on the average 3 crores of passengers and 30 lakh tons of freight daily across the length and breadth of the country. The Indian Railways began its journey in the 1850s under the British rule. The East India Company and the British Government were interested in developing railways mainly for two reasons, one to transport raw materials, particularly cotton from the countryside to the harbours and the other for troop movement. Initially, the British government encouraged private investors under a scheme that would guarantee an annual return of five percent during the initial years of operation. Thus the railway was totally operating to fulfil the interest of British capitalists to boost their trade and productivity. But later the Prince of Britain made a decision to make it a state affair to suit the imperialist aspirations. More attention was paid to passenger's amenities and more comfortable seating accommodation in railway compartments was provided. In the 1920s Railway was nationalized with the state management and new jobs for the Indians were created. The railways also played a significant role in the freedom movement by helping the

people across the length and breadth of the country to unite as one nation. That virtually helped in the growth of public mobility and the development of the Indian freedom struggle side by side.

Post-independence scenario

In post independent India, taking inspiration from the erstwhile USSR, the five year plans put much emphasis on development of railways which accelerated the process to build up the huge assets and the massive national network the railways possess today using public exchequer alone. The railways had become the main means of transport for the common man. The government of India also initiated the complete nationalization of the railways. In 1951, a total of forty-two separate railway systems, including thirty-two lines owned by the former Indian princely states, were amalgamated as a single unit which was christened as the *Indian Railways*. The Railway Board regrouped the Indian Railways into six zonal systems, namely, the Northern, the North Eastern, the Southern, the Central, the Eastern and the Western Railways.

Through the ambitious five year plans, the Indian Railways started its onward journey in independent India. The first five year plan of the Indian Railways was started in April 1951. The thrust given in the plan was mainly on rehabilitation of assets and indigenous development of railway equipment through the establishment of various production units by railways themselves. The other objective of this plan was to provide better amenities to the travelling public and better housing and welfare for the staff. At the end of this plan about 40,000 quarters were built for the Railway employees; 500 locomotives, 4350 coaches, 41,200 wagons were manufactured; 380 miles of new lines were laid. Through subsequent five year plans, spanning more than 6 decades, with people's money and labour, the Indian Railways has built a vast network, the fourth largest railway network in the world by size with a route length of 68,155 km as of March 2019. In the fiscal year ending March 2019, Indian Railways carried 844 crore passengers and transported 123 crore tons of freight. Indian Railways runs 13,523 passenger trains daily, on both long-distance and suburban routes, covering 7,321 stations across India. In the freight segment, Indian

Railways runs more than 9,146 trains daily. As of March 2019, Indian Railways' rolling stock consisted of 289,185 freight wagons, 74,003 passenger coaches and 12,147 locomotives.

The Indian Railways has huge assets. As on 2019, the Railways possess 4.78 lakh hectares of land (Ref.1). A considerable portion of this is prime lands located in cities and towns and the cost is huge. There are around 6.5 lakh staff quarters as on 2005. (Ref.2). The Indian Railways have grown to a separate autonomous entity and the practice of a separate railway budget had begun in 1925. This practice continued after independence as well. The railway budget used to be presented a few days before the general budget. It was in 2017 that the BJP government put an end to this age old practice and merged the rail budget with the general budget. The railways have been running always on profit as seen from the operating ratio per cent given in IRS Annual Report 2018-19 (Ref 3). Perhaps to hide this fact from public view this merger of rail and general budgets was made so as to justify the plan of privatization. It may be also noted that the operating ratio was highest 98.44% (what it means is spending 98.44 paise to earn 1 rupee) in 2017-18 after the merger of railway and general budgets. It is this huge assets built with people's money and labour that the Narendra Modi-led BJP government is targeting.

Deceitful Arguments in favour of privatization

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has conveniently forgotten his previous commitment of non-Privatization of Indian Railways as he said during inauguration of expansion of Diesel Locomotive Works (DLW) in Varanasi, Uttar Pradesh on 25th December 2014. The same commitment was made by the Union BJP railway minister against privatization in the Parliament on 12-07-2019, 22-11-2019 and 16-03-2020 respectively. In gross violation of these commitments, the Government of India has announced these anti-people reforms in the Railways in the Press Information Bureau (PIB) on 08-07-20.

Coming back to the July 2020 order for the introduction of private trains, the Railway board said that the objective is "to introduce modern

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Railway Privatization

Process of Privatizing railways was rolled out for quite some time back

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technology rolling stock with reduced maintenance, reduced transit time, boost job creation, provide enhanced safety, provide world class travel experience to passengers, and also reduce demand supply deficit in the passenger transportation sector.” The usual trick that the bourgeois governments follow to privatize a public enterprise is to make it inefficient and eventually bankrupt by policy decisions and by encouraging corrupt practices. Then branding it as loss making, hand it over to the private players. It is like the old saying “Give the dog a bad name and kill it”. But in the case of the railways such arguments may not hold water since it is still robust and making profits. It is still the affordable means of transportation of crores of common masses. So the justifications quoted above such as “to introduce

modern technology rolling stock with reduced maintenance” are untenable. Is it not possible for the Indian Railways that has run the enterprise for more than a century to do the modernization that is required? Is it required to invite some small time businessmen with little experience in running of railways to introduce modernization?

Will the proposed step be able to achieve the objectives mentioned? As per the memorandum, the 151 trains in 109 routes will be driven by Indian Railway drivers and crew. The track maintenance, signalling, security, stations and all other infrastructure will be the responsibility of Indian Railways. The private investor only has to procure the coaches and maintain them. The gross revenues will be shared with the railways as per the bidding agreement. What sort of

modernization is this? The only result expected is that train travel will cost more and may approach air fare. Already the railways has introduced schemes like premium *Tatkal*, *Suvidha* etc. to fleece the people. Now it will be extended to whole trains and in a bigger way.

There are also serious safety concerns, since the coaches are under the control of the private operator and other infrastructure like track maintenance, signalling system etc. are under the railways. Who will be held responsible in case of an accident? How does this arrangement enhance safety as said in the memorandum? When the government is ready to spend 1 lakh crore for the so called bullet train, where is the shortage of funds for modernization and improvement of safety? Again what is the need for this type of nonsense projects like the bullet train? The Indian Railways is forced to make these types of useless investments to cripple the railways and make it economically unviable. The aim is clear - it is only to hand over the railways piece by piece to the corporate houses close to the ruling establishment to make quick profits.

Coming to the employment question, on 3 July 2020, the railway board issued a letter to its zones to slash 50 per cent of vacancies and freeze creation of new posts in a bid to cut costs, the Director General (HR), Railway Board, Anand S Khatri told reporters that the Railways will be “rightsizing and not downsizing”. Not much explanation is required on this; anyone with some common sense can understand the meaning of what the Director General said. The message is clear that as in the case of other public sector enterprises in the country, the government has put its axe on the biggest employer of the country, the Indian Railways which was owned by the public.

Further the government has tried to back its decision by introducing a totally ludicrous logic. They say that prices will be competitive and quality will improve through competition. We have seen the hollowness of this logic in the case of the telecom industry. There too, in the name of increasing competition, various discounts were given to private companies and the government company BSNL was completely destroyed. If privatization was the panacea, how is that industries after industries in private sector are closing down? How dearly the common people of India

are paying price of large scale privatization of healthcare in transmission of Covid 19?

Why the move for privatization in this hour?

Railways have become an integral part of India even before the independence. After independence, there emerged a need for setting up of this sector to meet needs of common people and also to address the need for increased transportation for rapid industrialization. The Indian capitalists wanted a strong network of railways in the country. For them, there was the necessity for augmenting railway services and setting up tracks and routes so that raw materials and finished goods could reach their destinations at low costs. Roadways and airways were expensive and waterways were not available everywhere. A good network of railways would lower the cost of production for capitalists, assisting in increase of profit and wealth. But at that time, the capitalists of India did not show any interest in the direction of capital investment in railways, because investment to build the infrastructure of the railway sector was huge and there was no immediate and direct profit, other than lowering of transportation costs. For this reason, the then Government of India took upon itself the responsibility of raising the railway sector in the interest of the capitalist class. That is, the hard-earned money of the common man collected by the government in the form of taxes were utilized for the construction and production of infrastructure and equipment required for laying out a large network of railway tracks, for setting up locomotive workshops, coach factories and other things.

However, in the last few decades, globalization has been the reigning policy due to stupendous wealth concentrated in the hands of the Indian capitalist class and their aspirations to go global. Having exploited the working class for years together, they had become very powerful. The capitalist class now had the required strength and intent to draw profits from public sector projects. This was also largely assisted by the readymade infrastructure available at the expense of public money. Hence, there was increasing pressure on the government to disinvest public sector units - banks, telecom, oil and

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Both SUCI (C) workers and AIUTUC activists organized countryside protest demonstration against anti-people policies of the government like Privatization of Railways. (Photos from top Gulbarga, Karnataka and Siliguri and Kolkata, West Bengal)

WSJ revelations

FaceBook-BJP connivance in circulation hate posts or fake news laid bare

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Facebook. Before that, when a migrant Muslim worker from West Bengal was burnt alive in Rajasthan by an arch communal Hindutvawadi man in 2017, a live video of that was circulated in WhatsApp. When questioned who had uploaded such an inhuman video, the WhatsApp authorities said that an 'end to end inscription was working' and hence they were unaware as to who took the video and who circulated the same among whom.

Of late, Sophie Zhang, a former Facebook scientist who worked for Facebook's Site Integrity fake management team, has come forth with shocking revelations backed with evidence and examples that show how Facebook authorities allowed and ignored certain red flags that went against its Community Standards. According to her, countries including India, Ukraine, Spain, Brazil, and Ecuador utilized the social media platform to perform coordinated campaigns to promote and malign political outcomes, changing the course of the elections.

After a meeting with Mark Zuckerberg, the Facebook chief and one of the richest persons in the world, the 'Stop Hate for Profit Coalition' a civil rights group, said at a press meet on 7 July last that Facebook had not met any of the Coalition's 10 outstanding demands, which include having Facebook install a C-suite-level executive with civil rights expertise to make key decisions about discrimination; to conduct regular third-party audits of misinformation and hate speech on the platform; and to remove Facebook groups promoting things like white nationalism and anti-Semitism." It was abundantly clear in our meeting today that Mark Zuckerberg and the Facebook

team are not yet ready to address the vitriolic hate on their platform...and instead "offered the same old defence of white supremacist, anti-Semitic, Islamophobic, and other hateful groups" that was "heard too many times before." Ashok Chandwaney, a software engineer working in Facebook quit the company on 8 September last, saying that he no longer wanted to work for an organization that was "profiting off hate". "Violent hate groups and far-right militias are out there, and they're using Facebook to recruit and radicalize people who will go on to commit violent hate crimes. So where's the metric about this?" he asked.

Revelations of Facebook-BJP nexus in India

We now come to the scandal of Facebook in India. By 2010, India was among Facebook's top five lucrative markets, with the number of subscribers having shot up from 8 million to 15.5 million within six months. This prompted the choice of India as the site for Facebook's first offices in Asia. For the same reason, Facebook acquired WhatsApp four years later by spending \$19 billion.

In Germany, Singapore, Vietnam and other countries, Facebook had to agree to abide by stricter hate-speech rules and append a "correction notice" to news stories deemed false by the government. But in India, the situation is different. Hate and bigotry run deep in Indian society because of definite socio-historic reasons, and with the ruling BJP, its mentor RSS and other arch Hindu communal associates continuously fanning up anti-minority sentiment to cling on to power by riding an artificially created divide

between two religious communities, fake news or a video clip targeting minorities generates lakhs of views and shares on Facebook and Twitter. Even the notorious IT cell of the BJP also plays a key role in circulation and share of such posts. These large scale circulation and share of uploads mean more money for the networking companies like Facebook and WhatsApp. At the same time, fact-checking reports debunking them find fewer audiences in a communally polarized religiously fanatic bigoted society. Since India has more Facebook and WhatsApp users than any other country, and Facebook has chosen it as the market in which to introduce payments, encryption and initiatives to tie its products together in new ways have started. In April, Facebook announced that it would invest \$5.7 billion on a new partnership with Reliance Jio, a cut-price Indian telecom operator owned by Mukesh Ambani, the richest Indian monopolist and very close to PM Modi, to expand operations in the country. This would be Facebook's biggest foreign investment. "Our excitement is with connecting the dots between WhatsApp and Jio with the objective of helping millions of kirana owners to digitise their product catalogues," said Ajit Mohan, vice-president and managing director, Facebook India, at an event organised by Internet and Mobile Association of India (IAMAI). Pertinent to recall that in 2017, Mark Zuckerberg, the Facebook chief said in a post, "Beyond voting, the greatest opportunity is helping people stay engaged with the issues that matter to them every day, not just every few years at the ballot box. We can help establish direct dialogue and accountability between people and our

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Railway Privatization

People must resist this heinous bourgeois agenda of handing over PSUs to monopolists

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natural gas, power industry, and others. This paved the road to privatization and led to increasing disinvestment in the railway sector as well. There is no telling about the super profits that a readymade railway network can provide for them, backed by so many forms of guarantees provided by the government. Notwithstanding, the government had acted in the interests of the capitalist class when it had taken up the responsibility of setting up the railways, and it has done the same while handing it over to them now when it has become convenient to do so. This is what can be expected from them, given that we exist in a capitalist system and the governments are nothing but subservient to the interest of the

ruling capitalist class.

Treacherous plot must be resisted

Since the initiation of the privatization, liberalization and globalization agenda two decades back, the attack on the public funded institutions in the social welfare sectors such as health care, education, transport etc. had begun. In the recent past it has become all the more aggressive. Faced with severe market crisis in the manufacturing sector, the profit hungry capitalists-imperialists are targeting the service sectors in a big way. It is part of this agenda that the Indian railways, the largest public sector undertaking in the country, built up over a century with people's labour and money is targeted. The

present government, claiming to be the champion of nationalism no qualms in selling out the national assets one by one to the local and foreign multinationals. The people of India along with the rail workers should rise up united to resist this heinous attempt before it is too late.

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WSJ revelations

Facebook employees admitted having asked to go easy on hate speech by BJP leaders and favour BJP to win elections

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elected leaders. In India, Prime Minister Modi has asked his ministers to share their meetings and information on Facebook so they can hear direct feedback from citizens.” According to Facebook’s own data, from 7 April 2014, the day the general election was announced in India, to 12 May – the final day of the nine-phased process – 29 million people in India had put out 227 million posts, comments, shares and likes on Facebook, with an additional 13 million making 75 million interactions involving Shri Modi. Once he was ensconced in power, the synergy between the two only deepened, cemented further by strategic visits by Narendra Modi and Mark Zuckerberg to each other’s headquarters. For Facebook, the constant endeavour was to embed itself ever-deeper into Indian politics. In 2017, Bloomberg published a report which said that in India, Facebook employees had become “de facto campaign workers”. Facebook “helped develop the online presence of Prime Minister Narendra Modi”, it claimed. “As Modi’s social media reach grew, his followers increasingly turned to Facebook and WhatsApp to target harassment campaigns against his political rivals. Hindu extremists who back Modi’s party have used social media to issue death threats against Muslims or critics of the government”, the report added. Indian journalists Cyril Sam and Paranjay Guha Thakurta wrote a series of articles in 2018 about the social media platform’s “dominant position in India with more than a little help from friends of Prime Minister Narendra Modi and the BJP”, among other things. In another book released in 2019, they stated that along with Facebook’s other arm WhatsApp, a systematic web of fake and potentially dangerous news was spread, in the run-up to the elections and on a regular basis. Through Facebook and WhatsApp, huge volumes of data were “scraped from public sources, including electoral rolls and polling booth forms” to “geo-fence” areas and map vote-swings in preparation for the 2014 election, they wrote further in that book. Caravan magazine of India published a report in 2018 on how an investigation which it had done on allegations of corruption against Joy Shah, son of Amit Shah, Union home minister and the second man of PM Modi, had been throttled by Facebook. Later that year, the Newslick published a five-part investigation showing how “senior employees of Facebook in India have in the past worked, and continue to work, very closely with the country’s ruling Bhartiya Janata Party and Narendra Modi since 2011”. It is further reported that four months before the Lok Sabha elections in May 2019, the BJP had sent to Facebook India a list of 44 pages which had posted content against the party. But the BJP leaders flagged the pages claiming they were “in violation of expected standards” and carried posts that were “not in line with facts.” Fourteen of those pages, including sites in support of Magsaysay award winning journalist Ravish Kumar are no longer available on the social media platform. In a media interview, Vinit Goenka, once the national co-convenor of the BJP’s IT cell, was asked: ‘Who

helped whom more, Facebook or the BJP?’ He is reported to have smiled and said: ‘That’s a difficult question. I wonder whether the BJP helped Facebook more than Facebook helped the BJP. You could say, we helped each other.’

Perhaps it is due to such close ties with czars of social media and telecom industry and huge interest in serving their business interest in India, that PM Modi has been talking of ‘digital India’. And with the ruling monopolists and their pliant government virtually acting as facilitators, these networking companies owned by global business tycoons find India a free land for reckless loot and plunder.

Revelations in the WSJ Report

In such a backdrop, WSJ reported, based on interviews with current and former Facebook employees, that Facebook has been going easy on hate speech by the ruling BJP leaders and legislators. It is also providing the BJP with favourable treatment on election-related issues. Hence, it warrants an investigation into the matter immediately. But Facebook held that such is being done to protect its interests in its biggest market in India. It is learnt 40 crore Indians surf Facebook while 35 crore use WhatsApp for digital communication. That glaringly unravels an arrangement in which the monopolists and their trusted RSS-BJP derive a huge political mileage whereas the Facebook-WhatsApp-Instagram swell their coffers. This is the face and workings of parliamentary democracy in decadent moribund capitalism today.

According to the WSJ report, T. Raja Singh, a BJP legislator, had once said that Rohingya Muslim immigrants should be shot. He also called the Muslims traitors and threatened to raze the mosques. By March of this year, the Facebook employees in India concluded that allowing such a communally motivated post to circulate in Facebook had not only violated the company’s hate-speech rules but were liable to be qualified as dangerous, a designation that takes into account a person’s off-platform activities. WSJ authorities said that only after they had asked the Facebook to delete the hateful anti-Muslim posts by T Raja Singh, a few of those were taken off. Another BJP Member of Parliament, Anant Kumar Hegde, had posted essays and cartoons to his Facebook page alleging that Muslims were spreading Covid-19 in the country in a conspiracy to wage “Corona Jihad.” Human-rights groups vehemently objected to such unfounded allegations, which violated Facebook’s hate speech rules. Facebook took no action until WSJ sought comment from the company about Hegde’s “Corona Jihad” and then removed only some of the objectionable posts. Had there been a self-regulatory mechanism in Facebook, Ravi Pujar, a 31-year-old engineering student from Chhattisgarh could not run a fake Facebook accounts posing as Nisha Jindal, a woman and posting bigoted comments. It is the same with Facebook-owned WhatsApp, which also do not crack down on hate videos, including those related to mob lynching, many of which are

edited and even supported by morphed pictures to disturb peace.

It is also learnt from WSJ report that the Facebook employees assigned the responsibility of keeping a watch on Facebook posts in India wanted to remove an upload by a BJP leader giving threat of killing members of one community and burning their prayer centre. But the firm’s top public policy executive in India, Ankhi Das, opposed applying “hate speech rules to Mr Singh and at least three other Hindu nationalist individuals and groups flagged internally for promoting or participating in the violence”. Ms Das, WSJ has reported, told the employees that “punishing violations by politicians from Mr Modi’s party would damage the company’s business prospects in the country”. It was further reported that according to the current and former Facebook employees, Ms. Das’s intervention on behalf of T. Raja Singh is part of a broader pattern of favouritism by Facebook towards Narendra Modi, the BJP and the Hindutva brigade. A year before, the Guardian had published a report that highlighted just how good Ankhi Das’ connections were in the Modi government. “We used to joke that it was like she was Modi’s granddaughter,” one Facebook executive told the paper. A photograph of Ankhi Das with PM Modi surfaced in the media in 2014.

Other findings of Facebook—Hindutva brigade tie-up

A team of 20 international researchers – that included Dalits, Muslims, Christians, Buddhists, and others – systematically recorded 1,000 Facebook posts that they found to be in violation of the platform’s community standards. This research commissioned by ‘Equality Labs’, an advocacy group, has concluded that the social networking giant has done little to effectively moderate speeches which violate the company’s own guidelines. The report which published snapshot of what is going on with their (Facebook’s) content moderation. When investigated as to how so much hate speech has become normalised, they found that over 40% of all the posts that were removed after being pointed out were restored after a period of 90 days on average. An overwhelming majority of the posts that were restored were Islamophobic in nature. One Ram Singh calling himself a Hindu is reported to have shared a post on Facebook on 24 November 2018 in which he quoted Yogi Adityanath, the UP chief minister to have said: ‘Those illegitimate children whose mothers took their salwars off (salwar is a ladies’ garment) after seeing swords in the hands of Mughals today proudly claim to be Muslim’. We do not know wherefrom he secured the lines and whether such was a *bona fide* quote or a fake one. But it surely had done the damage it was intended for. Such hate speeches abound in Facebook and WhatsApp. There have also been posts targeting Christian minorities in India, the report notes. Not only religion-oriented hate speeches or contents, even

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WSJ revelations

Marx's prognosis proved once more that hitherto honoured every occupation has been stripped of its halo by the bourgeoisie

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the rate of removal of objectionable posts on casteism has been lowest. Misogyny and posts that promote online violence against women continue to plague the platform, as do transphobic and homophobic posts.

BJP leaders admit in private their expertise in circulating hate or fake news

What is most astonishing is that the BJP top brass do not mince matter to admit using fake news or hate posts to achieve their ends. Dainik Bhaskar, a leading Hindi daily, had published a part of an address by Amit Shah in Kota, Rajasthan, to its IT cell members in 2018 where he said that the party's social media volunteer had the power to make any message go viral, whether real or fake. The portion reproduced in that paper was as follows:

"In the elections that took place in Uttar Pradesh a year ago, BJP's social media workers made two big WhatsApp groups. One had 15 lakh members, the other 17 lakhs. This means a total of 32 lakhs. And every day at 8 am they would send 'Know the Truth'. In which the truth about all the false stories printed in the newspapers about the BJP was given via WhatsApp, and it would go viral. And whichever paper had carried these stories, ordinary people, and social media, would get after them, that why have you printed lies, you should print the truth. And by doing this, slowly, the media became neutral....But we had a volunteer who was smart. As I said, messages go from bottom to top and top to bottom. He put a message in the group – that Akhilesh Yadav had slapped Mulayam Singh. No such thing had happened. Mulayam and Akhilesh were 600 km apart. But he put this message. And the social media team spread it. It spread everywhere. By 10 that day my phone started ringing, bhai sahab, did you know Akhilesh slapped Mulayam.... So the message went viral. One should not do such things. But in a way he created a certain mahaul (perception). This is something worth doing but don't do it! (Crowd laughs) Do you understand what I am saying? This is something worth doing but don't do it! We can do good things too. We are capable of delivering any message we want to the public, whether sweet or sour, true or fake. We can do this work only because we have 32 lakh people in our WhatsApp groups. That is how we were able to make this viral."

Perhaps there is no need to elaborate the message conveyed in that speech. Amit Shah, it can be remembered, had no problem to say in media glare that the pre-electoral promise of giving Rs 15 lakhs to the bank account of each citizen jobs by the BJP was a chunavi jumla (electoral gimmick)

Foul class design of ruling capitalism is unfolded with all virulence

If anyone commits a fraud or forgery, it is viewed as a cognizable offence. If anyone sets one section of the people against another, persecute anyone or a group of people with a

mala fide intention, it is viewed as an uncivilized and undemocratic act which is punishable as per existing lawbook. If one deliberately misleads others with false information or provocative utterances, that too also invokes penal action. In the sphere of Information Technology, cybercrime is a criminal activity that either targets or uses a computer, a computer network or a networked device. Most of the cybercrimes are committed by cyber criminals or hackers who want to make money. This too is a crime which is liable for stringent punishment. So, if a networking outfit advances undue favour to someone for buttressing commercial interest without caring for the detrimental outcome of such an action, it ought to be considered as a serious crime. In India, the term "cyber-crimes" is not defined in any statute or rulebook. The Information Technology Act, 2000 ("IT Act") and the Indian Penal Code, 1860 ("IPC") penalise a number of cyber-crimes and unsurprisingly, there are many provisions in the IPC and the IT Act that overlap with each other. Section 66E of the IT Act prescribes punishment for violation of privacy and provides that any person who intentionally or knowingly captures, publishes or transmits the image of a private area of any person without his or her consent, under circumstances violating the privacy of that person, shall be punished. Contrarily, Section 79 of the IT Act exempts intermediaries like Google, Facebook, YouTube and Twitter from liability in most circumstances, including if the intermediary did not put out the content and had observed due diligence while discharging duties under the Act. This way, the tech giants are allowed to get away without even a rap on the knuckles, notwithstanding the fact that the material posted on their platform may have resulted in communal riots or deaths. The BJP government announced in 2018 that it was planning to amend Section 79 and make it mandatory for internet companies to take down content deemed inappropriate by authorities and also trace and report within 72 hours of the origin of that content. But, later, on the pretext of concerns over privacy, the plan was dropped. A former National Cyber Security Coordinator in the Prime Minister's Office had reportedly suggested to the tech giants and senior government functionaries a few years ago that weeding out anonymous users could check offending circulations and communally sensitive material, on social media. But his suggestion went unheeded. It could not be otherwise as the ruling BJP has been the biggest beneficiary of the wrongdoings of the Facebook and its associates. It is worth mentioning here that as shown by great Marx in the "Communist Manifesto", the bourgeoisie in its rising period had "torn asunder the motley feudal ties that bound man to his "natural superiors," and has left remaining no other nexus between man and man than naked self-interest". But now in its decadence, "the bourgeoisie has stripped of its halo every occupation hitherto honoured and looked up to with reverent awe. It has converted the physician, the lawyer, the priest,

the poet, the man of science, into its paid wage-labourers."

The WSJ expose has also unfolded how the bourgeois parliamentary parties instrumental in sustaining a fascist autocracy in dying capitalism disrupt people's unity by precipitating artificial divides, trigger fratricidal bloodbath or carnage by inciting communal-casteist-chauvinist-linguistic passion or fanaticism by taking recourse to false, if not malicious, propaganda and circulation of doctored news and how the networking giants misuse modern technology to operationalize such a hidden class design of the ruling monopolists with a view to providing extra lease to utterly reactionary and corrupt obsolete capitalist rule. "Facebook will salute anybody who's in power in the country. Today, the BJP is in power ... any of these companies will let any Prime Minister of India hug them and they will do it with a big smile, irrespective of who the prime minister is because they want the Indian market. So if the Congress was in power, they will do the same thing to the Congress," observed Shekhar Gupta, a noted journalist. WSJ also showed how the elections in degenerated parliamentary democracy have been reduced into a farce with money-media-administrative power calling the shot from behind, taking advantage of low level of political consciousness of the oppressed and deceived masses. Advancement of information technology is an endowment of science. Science has been hand-maiden of civilization. But science is no personality. Whether it will act good or bad is dependent on how it is used. Nuclear power can generate electricity and facilitate lot of other utilities to make life better for mankind. But at the same time, nuclear power can be misused to create bombs and other weapons of mass destruction. Similarly, misuse and abuse of Information Technology by the imperialist-capitalist rulers and their servitors, instead of smoothening people's life is impairing it in every possible way. But, as the saying goes, 'sin does never remain shielded for long'. However cunningness and wily acumen the power-monger bourgeois leaders and parties might possess, their perceived flawless iron castle cannot but have leaks which uncover the stench of the mounting rot within. WSJ episode is a glaring testimony of that.

Source of information:

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Comrade Saumen Basu, Polit Bureau Member, SUCI(C), addressing the memorial meeting of Comrade Sudhansu Jana, who was brutally killed by TMC criminals at Moipith in Kulatali, West Bengal on 3 July. The memorial meeting was organized on 29 August. Comrade Chandidas Bhattacharjee, West Bengal State Secretary, presided over. Also present was Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar, veteran Polit Bureau member. West Bengal SUCI(C) observed a Moipith Day throughout the state on 15 September.



Comrade Satyawani, Polit Bureau member, SUCI(C) and President, AIKKMS, offering revolutionary tribute to Comrade Ashok Kumar Singh, veteran member of Bihar State Committee and vice-President, Bihar AIKKMS. Comrade Singh succumbed to a tragic road accident in Muzaffarpur on 1 September last. He was initiated into the SUCI(C) in the 1970s and thereafter took active role in organizing workers' and peasants' legitimate movements. His was a crucial role in achieving victory in the movement organized against setting up an asbestos factory by grabbing cultivable land. He also played an important role in resisting forcible grabbing of 350 acres of cultivable land in Muzaffarpur. At his sad demise, both SUCI(C) and AIKKMS lost a valuable leader

Uttar Pradesh State SUCI(C) vehemently protests state government's undemocratic order

Comrade Pushpendra, Uttar Pradesh State Secretary, SUCI(C) in a press statement issued on 14 September 2020 said that the recent order of the UP state government to constitute UPSSF (Uttar Pradesh Special Security Force) is totally undemocratic. As per the order, anyone could be arrested and searched by UPSSF without any directive from the district magistrate. Such an order defies the existing judicial process. In the name of security, even private companies would be able to use it by paying stipulated money. It proves that this government is working entirely in the interest of the industrialists. Condemning this anti-people move, we demand that the UP Government should immediately withdraw the order and also urged upon the people to build up a mighty movement against such a black order.

AIUTUC supports all India strike action of BPCL employees

Comrade Shankar Dasgupta, General Secretary, AIUTUC, issued the following statement on 6 September 2020:

AIUTUC extends its wholehearted support to and solidarity with the employees of Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL) who are to go for a united strike action in BPCL establishments throughout the country on 7 and 8 September 2020 in protest against the central government's nefarious move to outrightly privatise BPCL as well as against the brazen attack on the rights of the employees.

We strongly demand that the government should refrain from moving with its anti-employee and anti-people project of privatisation of BPCL, the second largest oil marketing company in India and one of the 'Maharatna' public sector enterprise and stop cracking down on the hard earned democratic and trade union rights of the employees.



Assam State Committee of SUCI(C) organized Statewide protest demonstrations on 10 September last against the most inhuman hike in transport fare by the BJP-led State government on the pretext of maintaining physical distancing due to Covid 19 pandemic

Build up mighty movement against reckless Privatization, NEP 2020 and other anti-people policies



Police of BJP-led Madhya Pradesh brutally lathi-charged a demonstration hundreds of youths organized by AIDYO in demand for permanent employment in vacant posts, unemployment allowance till no job is provided etc. in Bhopal on 4 September 2020. In protest against this brutality, AIDYO called for an All India Protest Day on 5 September.

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