

Proletarian Era

Volume 44 No. 7

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)

November 15, 2010

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Price : Rs. 2.00

Obama's India visit

One further step towards entangling India in the grand world imperialist design

Two sprawling metropolis, the nation's capital and financial hub, were virtually under siege. Roads deserted, shutters downed at the shops, residents forced to stay indoors, platoons of armed military personnel and specially trained commandos kept on high alert. It appeared as if a civil war had broken out or a natural calamity was in the

offing. But there was nothing of that sort. The rulers of India were readying the country to welcome one of their most distinguished guests — the President of USA. The visit cost US\$ 200 million a day (Rs 900 crore approx). The entourage consisted of around 3,000 people, including Secret Service agents, US government officials and journalists,

several officials from the White House and US security agencies with helicopters, a ship and high-end security instruments. The countrymen have for the first time been witness to how safe and secure the Head of the State of the world's "greatest democracy" which has announced itself as the self-appointed guardian of the globe and

international gendarme based on its brute military might, feel while stepping on the soil of the world's "largest democracy" on a mission aimed at "deepening and broadening" their mutual relationship, understanding and above all, alliance. There had been a concerted effort on the part of

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SUCI(C) boycotts Joint Parliamentary Meet addressed by Barack Obama

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist) has issued the following statement today, the 4 November, 2010 :

The Government of India is giving a red-carpet welcome to the President of USA — the chieftain of world imperialism and fascism, at a time when the freedom seeking people of occupied Iraq and Afghanistan are being daily tortured, maimed, killed and their womenfolk outraged and raped by US soldiers at the point of guns, tanks and bombs. The Zionist Israeli ruling clique is being openly and regularly backed by USA in its murderous attack on the Palestinian people. Their naked belligerent posture against Iran is indicative of their intolerance towards any country not ready to take their dictates bowing down. Imperialist USA stands for everything evil on this earth. It is the worst enemy of freedom, democracy,

liberty, sovereignty and the chief patron of terrorism in the world. The source of its wealth is the present-day neo-colonial plundering of the world.

The US imperialists are daily hatching newer and newer conspiracies to somehow extend the theatre of war without which their existence itself is at stake. The nefarious games they are playing against Socialist Cuba and North Korea, including the prolonged sanctions and embargos, are with a view to completely destroying those social systems and its governments.

It is only to serve the interest of the Indian corporate capital and the emerging expansionist aspiration of the Indian capitalist state that the Manmohan Singh government is according such a grandiose welcome to Barak Obama. It is obvious that the USA also regards India as a

reliable partner in its global imperialist strategy and wants to further strengthen the tie through this official tour of the US president. This whole exercise of the Government of India is highly disgraceful, anti-people and a design against world peace itself. It is an insult to the long and glorious tradition of anti-imperialist struggle of the people of India.

This cannot go unprotested. To register the protest on behalf of the people of India, our Party has decided that on 8 November the SUCI(C) MP would boycott the meeting of Parliament where the US President is invited to address. Our decision will be communicated to the Minister of Parliamentary Affairs in writing.

Our Party has also given a call to the people to organize protest demonstrations in all the states of India on 8 November — a Black Day for the freedom-loving people of India.



United protest of various political, trade union and mass organizations in Delhi on 8 November. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Polit Bureau, SUCI(C) (left) and Comrade Tarun Mandal, MP, SUCI(C) (centre) addressing the rally.

US imperialism poses biggest threat to mankind in the current unipolar world

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bourgeois media to create hype that Obama's visit would be a "defining moment" slated to open up new vistas of bilateral relations between US and India, boost the economies of both and most importantly, facilitate India's international recognition as a major superpower. After the visit, there have been mixed reactions even in the ruling bourgeois quarters with some calling it a success and others striking a sceptic note. Various questions are doing the round — whether there was more style than substance in the visit or something material could be achieved out of that. But one thing ought not to escape one's mind that the visit was not just a simple trip and its purpose cannot be understood estranged from the policies and class motives pursued by both the US and Indian rulers, and the fallout of the same.

US imperialism—number one enemy of mankind

Notwithstanding repeated avowals of all US presidents, Bush or Obama, Clinton or Nixon, of democracy and world peace, pretentious though all of them are, people of the world are aware that US imperialism poses the biggest threat to mankind in the current unipolar world marked by sudden disappearance of the mighty socialist camp. Even earlier, the world had witnessed the nefarious war-monger character of US imperialism through the series of events like their war in Korea, intervention in Greece-Cyprus issue, two-decade long imperialist bloodbath in Indo-China, particularly Vietnam, to mention a few among many. In fact, assassination of political leaders, conspiracy, blackmail, money power in elections, military coup, installation of puppet regimes by toppling popular governments, all hatched, sponsored and engineered by the much-hated CIA and the US imperialist rulers became the order of the day in countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America. There are definite political and strategic factors working behind these interventions, which continue and escalate regardless of the episodic internal disputes within the US political establishment, or the transitions from administration to administration, from Democratic to

Republican and back. US imperialist rulers backed contra terrorists against Nicaragua, invaded Grenada, and propped up death squad regimes in El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras. US supported Israel's bloody invasion of Lebanon. Mercenary wars were waged against Angola and Mozambique as US sought to save South Africa's reactionary apartheid regime. What are involved are not merely the decisions of various individuals who occupy the top positions in the White House, Pentagon and State Department, but sinister class design of the ruling US imperialists.

Fall of socialism in erstwhile Soviet Union followed by dismantling of the socialist camp due to worst revisionist conspiracy aided and abetted by the world imperialism-capitalism, gave a new and dangerous impetus to US intervention in the Middle East and Central Asia. Washington now saw the possibility of gaining strategic positions and access to resources in considerable parts of the region that had been effectively outside the orbit of imperialism since the Russian Revolution. Since then, US imperialists as the chieftain of the imperialist-capitalist bloc has become totally unbridled in carrying out felonious acts round the globe. Using their brute military force, US imperialism also set in for limitless aggression on weaker and smaller countries of the world. For three decades, under Democratic and Republican administrations — under Carter, Reagan, Bush, Clinton, Bush the second, and now Obama — American imperialism has penetrated ever more deeply into the Middle East and the region west, south and east of the Caspian Sea. In the long list came Palestine, Somalia, Kosovo-Yugoslavia, Afghanistan and finally Iraq, as mark of blood-thirst, power-craze, cruelty and inhuman barbarism of US imperialism. It is with the active support and backing of the Pentagon regime that Zionist Israeli rulers are murderously stifling the freedom-loving Palestinian Arabs and their friendly nations. Every hour, the US imperialists are issuing arrogant threats to Iran and Syria. Afghanistan, for instance, is of special interest to US policy and war-makers because of geo-political and oil-related considerations. Afghanistan can serve as the home

of US military bases which can keep better watch and exert pressure on next-door Iran and the rest of Eurasia. Since long, US was trying to gain control of that country, and to counter Soviet influence had instigated insurgency by propping up the Taliban rebels. And after the 9/11 episode, on the pretext of destroying the same Taliban and Al-Qaeda camps, US rulers embarked on war of invasion in Afghanistan using latest sophisticated weaponry and mercilessly killing and torturing civilians.

And from the same very hegemonistic objective, US and its lackeys, defying all canons of international law, invaded Iraq and slaughtering thousands of innocent people, including women, children, and hospital patients with limitless brutality, brought the country under the control of an army of occupation, foisted a puppet regime to work at its bidding and help the imperialists plunder the country's resources, and arranged a tutored and monitored mockery of trial of a President of a sovereign country, Saddam Hussein. It is US imperialism which presented to the human civilization the heinous doctrine of pre-emptive strike, thus assuming unrestrained power to attack, overrun and smash any country it thinks inimical to its vested class interest.

Of late, the African country of Sudan is targeted for not submitting to the dictates of US rulers who are guilty of precipitating bloody ethnic clashes there to discredit the incumbent anti-US government. Apart from neo-colonial exploitation of the countries across the globe, particularly the newly resurgent yet small and weak national states, US imperialism is nakedly meddling into the internal affairs of other countries, trying to promote and nourish forces and groups which would work as its protégés and making every effort to foist its puppet regimes, wherever possible. Abductions of elected heads of the state by CIA and US military as was seen in Haiti are also quite common. Most significantly, the US rulers are weaving all possible plots starting from economic sanction to possible military attack to crush socialism in Cuba and North Korea.

War crimes of US imperialism

War crimes of US have

surpassed all records. Earlier, one had a measure of such ghastly crimes and blatant violation of human rights in US's Vietnam war that made humanists like Bertrand Russell, Jean Paul Satre and others call the Pentagon rulers worst criminals of the time. Of late, the 400,000 second batch of U.S. military documents released by *Wikileaks*, a whistleblower organization provide clinching evidence that the U.S. administration has been aware of the widespread killings of innocent civilians in Iraq, despite official claims to the contrary. They also reveal that thousands of Iraqis were routinely tortured in full view of the US occupation forces. It shows that besides lakhs of innocent Iraqi citizens including women and children killed by incessant bombing by US military during aggression of that country on fraudulent pretext, trampling underfoot even the barest precepts of democratic norms and international law, 1,22,000 more have been killed during the period of illegal occupation. The World Health Organization (WHO) had stated that 1,51,000 people had been killed in Iraq until 2008 as a result of the violence triggered by US occupation. Reporters, who had covered that barbaric assault to pummel the city of Samarra into submission in 2004, recall that among the hundreds of casualties, many were women and children. Thousands of Iraqi citizens perished when Iraqi towns like Falluja were reduced to rubble. *Washington Post* has also reported that US soldiers are now killing innocent Iraqis just for fun. The whole world is aware of the brutal torture of prisoners in Guantanamo Bay and other US jails. As recently as December 2009, the Americans were given a video showing Iraqi troops loyal to US occupation army executing a blindfolded prisoner. Violating the U.N. Convention against Torture which forbids the transfer of detainees to other countries "where there are substantial grounds for believing that they would be in danger of being subjected to torture," the US rulers who themselves ratified this convention in 1994, have transferred thousands of prisoners to Abu Ghraib, Guantanamo and other jails where they are subjected to inhuman physical and mental assault

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Obama continues the same set of imperialist policies of his predecessor butcher Bush

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Iran of dire consequences if they do not obey US dictates. Sudan continues to be shown red eyes for refusing US rulers to have an access to its oil reserves. The con game of toppling legitimate governments in many a Central or South American countries through coups or internecine wars engineered by the CIA to set up puppet regimes of the USA, meting out all sorts of harassments to recalcitrant countries, war machinations, fomenting of sedition, attack by proxy, embargo and sanctions—all are going on as before.

All this only proves how severe economic exploitation US imperialism is bringing down upon people, how shamelessly imperialists carry on uncivilized onslaught on innocent people, entirely on false pretexts and caring the least for international law, sovereignty of nations and over and above, for worldwide indignation and protest from peace-loving people, including a vast section of people in US itself.

Obama proved no different from butcher Bush

When Barack Obama assumed office in January 2009, the US citizens disenchanted with the establishment in general and Bush in particular after war of occupation in Iraq and escalated military operation in Afghanistan and other places expected that the new President would turn the table and adopt a different line of governance. But to the surprise of many, Obama, from the opening words of his address after winning election, indicated that he would continue the policies of his Republican predecessor that had been repudiated by the US people. Obama has been found to explicitly uphold the Bush doctrine of pre-emptive war, by which the US arrogates to itself the right to wage war against any target it deems a present or potential danger to its interests. In 2009, Obama sanctioned a military budget of over \$700 billion. The erstwhile critic of the Iraq war maintains an army of occupation in that country, still numbering over 140,000 soldiers. The supposed advocate of dialogue with Iran has set an effective deadline of December for economic sanctions that would be the equivalent of a blockade (an act of war), or outright military assault. And his administration after a much-publicized internal review of US policy in Afghanistan has already escalated the war there by sending an additional 21,000 troops which is expected to increase to 40,000. Every day, the Pentagon warmongers are threatening socialist Cuba, North Korea and sovereign

Iran of dire consequences if they do not obey US dictates. Sudan continues to be shown red eyes for refusing US rulers to have an access to its oil reserves. The con game of toppling legitimate governments in many a Central or South American countries through coups or internecine wars engineered by the CIA to set up puppet regimes of the USA, meting out all sorts of harassments to recalcitrant countries, war machinations, fomenting of sedition, attack by proxy, embargo and sanctions—all are going on as before.

Curiously enough, when US imperialists have virtually turned UNO into a rubber stamp of their atrocities, international gangsterism and subversion of democracy, Obama, one of their principal political faces, is now talking of revising the role of UNO. It is obvious that this proposed revision is a camouflage of finalizing arrangements for converting UNO an official appendage to US imperialist rule. Only those who have bartered away their conscience and common sense to the vendors of 'dollar-democracy' would say that no one other than the US imperialists, the self-appointed guardians of the unipolar world, have the sole propriety of all such patented acts of sustaining 'peace processes,' and view US imperialism as promoter of peace, crusader against terrorism, champion of democracy and protector of human rights. Bush or Obama, only the custodian of imperialist rule, changes, but not the rule itself—never should this fact be forgotten.

Vested economic interest of US imperialist rulers

It is, thus, clear that Obama was not on a peace or philanthropic mission to India. He had a definite purpose. Everyone is aware that the US economy stated to be the locomotive of global capitalist economy has plunged into a acute insoluble market crisis much greater in magnitude than the great depression of the 1930s following unfolding of sub-prime crisis in the realty sector in 2007 when George Bush was at the helm of the administration. At one stroke, several banks and financial behemoths were declared bankrupt,

a horrific recession ensued, many factories and establishments were closed down throwing millions out of job. Struck by rapidly dwindling income coupled with mounting job loss and spiralling unemployment, salary slash, rising prices, foreclosure of home loans and reduced availability of credit because of the banks shrinking in fear of default, the common US citizens found life turning nightmarish with every passing hour. Rapidly falling purchasing power of US citizens has given rise to severe recession. Despite tall talks of revival, the economic slide endemic of decadent, moribund capitalist system has not abated but intensified. So the US rulers are desperately scouting for a market to somehow stave off the situation.

Things did not change by an iota even after Obama took over. Rather it became worse. Defence budget was increased, public money continued to be spent for nourishing war economy, feckless corporates, banks, insurance companies and financial institutions were rescued by huge debit to public exchequer whereas government funding for education, health care, parks and recreation, food stamps, senior centers, environmental protection, permanent remunerative job creation and all the other vital services provided by federal, state and local governments was being drastically cut. The whole system continued to be fraught with discrimination, deprivation, deception and oppression and wrought with corruption as before. So there is mounting discontent among the disillusioned US citizens. They are taking to the streets in large number protesting against job loss, outsourcing of jobs, salary cut as well as demanding immediate pull out of troops from Iraq, Afghanistan and other countries and dismantling of military bases the world over. The disapproval of US citizens who feel betrayed and let down because of Obama's renegeing on promises is manifest in the electoral reverses Obama has suffered consecutively after assuming power—the last one being the routing in the recently concluded polls to the Senate and the House of Representatives. Hammered by the loss of the House of Representatives to the opposition Republicans and considerable

plummeting of strength in the Senate, Obama was under pressing need to pacify the outraged home citizens with some kind of show of redress.

That is why, before the visit, it was made amply clear from the US side that business was at the top of President Obama's agenda for his India trip. So, the first thing the US President ensured was achievement of that objective by inking more than a dozen export deals worth about \$10 billion, mainly in the military hardware and purchase of commercial aircrafts which, he claimed, would create 50,000 jobs back in his country. He then diplomatically indicated that he was barely scratching the potential and dubbed India as the market of the future where Washington was willing to step up investments, provided uncertainties relating to tariffs and other barriers were taken care of. It was indicated by the top US businessmen that they see deals worth at least \$1 trillion, spread over sectors like education, health, energy and infrastructure, in the coming years. Moving a step ahead, the US President and his entourage strongly pleaded for removal of barriers and restrictions on US's entry into agriculture, retail, education, healthcare and other areas and abandon "old stereotype that American companies and products are threats to small shopkeepers and to India's ancient and proud culture." The aim was plain and simple—lure India of being projected as an US-backed power of reckoning and extract, in exchange, a plethora of trade related concessions to deeply penetrate into the Indian market.

But, the overriding necessity of US imperialism has been to expand its market and use political manoeuvres as well as military might to vigorously pursue its noxious policy of overlordism and brigandage to thereby dominate the world. It is from this class need that the US imperialists have been keen to bind India, as far as possible, now emerging as a formidable regional superpower, in a firmer alliance, economically, politically as well as militarily, through both lure and veiled threat so as to strengthen US position in the South East Asia region and take on the challenges of

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Root of India's pro-US tilt lies in the vested class interest of ruling Indian monopolists

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capitalist China, Russia as well as Japan in grabbing market. Recent planned undervaluation of Yuan by capitalist China that obviously boosts Chinese export has been to the detriment of US interest in international business and hence the Obama administration has been making every effort to corner China and force her reverse the policy. As against this, China has brought a countercharge that by increasing supply of US dollar in the market in the name of fighting domestic recession, the US rulers, too, are artificially keeping the value of dollar at a very low level. This allegation is not unfounded. Massive amount of dollar is being pumped into the Indian market also which is destined to raise value of Indian rupee compared to US\$ and thereby affect Indian export. Germany, another imperialist superpower, has also joined China in discarding US proposal to keep the trade deficit (Import minus Export) or trade surplus (Export minus Import) of each country at 4% of gross national income. China and Germany have argued that this proposal is a ploy to put a fetter on Chinese and Japanese exports (China is having a trade surplus of 10%) since US is having a huge trade deficit because a large portion of demand in US market is being met by imported Chinese and Japanese goods. So, in the forums like G-8, G-20 or WTO, the US imperialists are now immensely cornered. Hence, the US rulers are making frantic attempt to rope in India in this tussle with China and weaken BRIC, a recent alliance of four formidable imperialist-

capitalist powers, Brazil, Russia, India and China, by dangling the carrot of better prospect and stronger international position before the ruling aspirant Indian monopolists. The friendly overtures and gestures of Obama have been manifestation of that hidden agenda of creating a dependable ally in India by blowing hot and cold.

Economic interest of ruling Indian monopolists

There is another side of this increasing leaning of India towards US imperialism. The ruling Indian monopolists who have already acquired imperialist character through widespread export of finance capital and seeking to expand their sphere of influence in the relatively weaker countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America, have been for long cherishing the dream of being recognized as a formidable global power almost on a par with other imperialist superpowers. This, the ruling Indian monopolists know, can best materialize if they could befriend US imperialists more closely by yielding to some of their demands and strengthening economic, political and military tie-ups with them. By giving concessions and indulgences to US imperialism, the Indian monopolists also seek to get, in return, stronger footholds in other markets either in alliance with or with backing of US. Precisely for that reason, the CII (Confederation of Indian Industries) reciprocated by saying that sourcing of infrastructure equipment, nuclear hardware and military aircraft from the USA by India could create over seven lakh jobs in America in the

next ten years. This was concretized in the joint communiqué issued after Obama's rounds of talks with Indian monopolists, prominent ruling as well as opposition bourgeois politicians and address at the joint session of Parliament when the two governments resolved to promote bilateral trade more aggressively.

Political interests of both the rulers

Once having sensed the Indian counterpart's half-willingness to concede to the proposals of further opening up Indian market to US imperialism, Obama, as political manager of US imperialist rulers, cunningly brought political pressure into play by diplomatic endorsement of India's permanent membership in the UN Security Council in years ahead, asking Pakistan to punish Mumbai terror attack culprits and indicating the potential India has to become America's largest and closest trading partner. Immediately, the Indian Houses, bourgeois political circles and bourgeois propaganda machine turned their apparent agony expressed earlier into boisterous ecstasy and hailed it as a "win win" situation. US side brooked no delay in proudly announcing that they have "achieved everything" what they had hoped for. Vested interest of US is clearly manifest in Obama's own words. The Indo-US partnership "is based on both our shared values and our shared interests, and for these reasons, I welcome and support India's rise as a global power", he said. He also added that India's rise "is in the best interests of both the countries (India and the US), of the region and the world", he said while admitting that "treating India in such a manner ... is consistent with our strategic partnership."

It may be recalled that a step towards strengthening this intended partnership was in the signing of the Indo-US Civil Nuclear Deal three years back. The Deal, as apprehended by many and not without any cogent reason either, was, besides serving commercial interest of US corporates in selling nuclear technology to India, reflective of the attempt of the US rulers with their most condemned policy of nuclear blackmailing to add India in the list on their side. The US rulers now want all kinds of barriers or conditions removed in

implementing the Deal and hence had been insisting on immediate steps in that regard. Moreover, for quite some time, India and US have been conducting joint military exercises including the joint air exercises in the Indian subcontinent as demonstration of their cooperation in the military arena. Indian rulers also allowed the US army to use its bases, refuel warplanes from Indian ports during illegal war of aggression against Iraq knowing fully well that all this cannot but help increase the scope for US interference in the political affairs of the country. During Obama's current trip also, defence cooperation was sought to be strengthened through more security dialogue, and cooperation in terms of intelligence sharing and between the US's department of homeland security and India's ministry of Home Affairs.

The coincidence of economic interests, mutual bartering of the interests of the ruling capitalist classes of the two countries and a convergence of political interests are thus amply clear. The root of India's pro-US tilt lies in this vested class interest of the ruling Indian monopolists.

Has India's prestige gone up or nosedived

Keeping this entire spectacle shielded before the people, some bourgeois columnists are clamouring that Obama has taken India to the Mars. Adulation apart, such flatteries obfuscate deliberate distortion of reality and hence are utterly shameful. US imperialist rulers are now being looked at by more and more countries with grave suspicion and indignation because of their heinous war crimes and machinations, flagrant violation of democratic norms, arrogance and hegemonism, indulgence in palpable falsehood and doublespeak, politics of orchestrating intrigues and conspiracies, casting espionage ring round the world, naked interference in the internal affairs of other countries, loot and plunder of others' resources under this or that mechanism, unfair trade practices and all kinds of crime on humanity. In whichever country the US imperialists are unable to achieve their ends through military

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Ahmedabad, Gujrat

Task imperative is to thwart this swerve of India towards Pentagon rule by adopting all possible measures

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engagement, they are covertly and silently making attempts to set up their own network to make inroad into the polity thereby influencing the political parties through massive funding and facilitating subservience to their class interest and silent interference in the administration. In order to nip in the bud any surge of people's movement against their noxious machinations, US imperialists also cleverly weave plots to foment various divisive mentalities, incite ethnic strife and thus pit people against people. Under the garb of rotten cooked up theories like 'clash of civilization', Pentagon rulers are now precipitating divide among global toiling masses centring on religion or to be exact, religious blindness.

For all these criminal acts, they are most hated today and facing more and more isolation in the field of international politics. The rulers of the countries which had in the past aligned with the US imperialists like Israel, Pakistan, Taiwan, Philippines, Thailand, Turkey and even UK and Australia are also looked down upon as servile order-takers of the most despotic inhuman oppressive regime of the world. One would recall that

and opposed NAM had invited their downfall and widespread condemnation as accomplices of the largest criminal regime. The way the Indian monopolists are pursuing steps to make India a pliant state of US imperialism points at the same fate only—plunging into the dungeon of disgrace and dishonour. Yet, the Indian bourgeois media and circle is peddling in sickening sycophancy of Obama which often is exceeding all limits.

Danger of tying knot with US imperialism

A careful observation will reveal that India's economic or trade-related gains have been insignificant compared to what the US side extracted through the bargain. Far from agreeing to free India from the rigours of such trade curbs, the US has merely committed itself to a continued step-by-step liberalization of its export controls in sync with Indian actions and concessions. The consequence will be ominous. It will seriously hamper self-sufficient economic development of the country as any future economic or trade related planning will be subject to viability check in the context of this bilateral agreement with US.

Bourgeois media and quarters of



Patna, Bihar

would be happy to see their country occupying a seat of respect at international level. But, when US imperialism becomes instrumental to that, the whole episode assumes a different dimension. It no more remains in consonance with the cherished anti-imperialist past of toiling Indians. Moreover, words of Obama cannot be relied upon either. The US long ago acknowledged Japan's right to UNSC permanent membership, but that hasn't brought Tokyo closer to that goal. In truth, Washington has yet to endorse any proposal for UNSC enlargement that can be put to vote. More importantly, no self-respecting Indian can accept entering UNSC by playing second fiddle to US imperialists. Likewise, there is no reason to believe that Obama was anyway serious in his remark about Pakistan. Everyone knows that the Pakistan rulers enjoy total backing of US imperialism. In order to bring Afghanistan under its command as well as keeping other countries of the Indian sub-continent on tenterhook, US imperialism needs Pakistan in its global network. It may be recalled that George Bush declared to sell F-16 fighter planes to Pakistan on the same day his administration patronizingly offered to help make India a 'major world power in the 21st century'. It has thus been a policy of US imperialism to set upon one against the other. So, all such utterances of US President are on a hypocritical note and nothing but playing to the gallery.

Pitting India against China

One cannot but take serious note of another very pertaining aspect in

this regard. We know that there are many unresolved issues including boundary disputes between India and China, two neighbouring countries. They need to be immediately settled through bilateral dialogues for the sake of the people of both the countries as well as the world peace. There is growing urge for that among the citizens of both the countries. But, the US rulers from their imperialist interests are now out to contain China and, as we have indicated above, are making all out efforts to use India for that. Hence, they are pitting India against China, trying to precipitate bad blood between the two countries that in course of time will drive a wedge between the toiling masses of India and China. Surely, this is totally against the interest of India and Indian people. Hence, it is essential to foil this conspiracy of US imperialism and create pressure on the Indian ruling class for withdrawing themselves from this heinous process.

Perfidy of the pseudo-Marxists

While the mainstream political parties in order to curry favour with the US imperialist rulers have been engaged in an appalling flattery of Obama, no less perfidious has been the role of the pseudo-Marxists. Face to face with the need to rescue the people of the country against US imperialism, keep it at bay from having any foothold in India, develop a mighty anti-imperialist movement against the US imperialist design of gaining world

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Trivandrum, Kerala

when India as one of the founding nations of the Non-aligned Movement (NAM) took initiative to keep distance from the imperialist bloc of course from the necessity of unhindered speediest development of its capitalist economy and voiced opposition against fresh outbreak of a large scale war, it earned lot of prestige and admiration in the international sphere. On the contrary, the countries which chose to tie knots with the imperialist camp particularly US imperialists

vested interest are exclaiming that Obama has endorsed India's bid for permanent seat in UNSC. He has also warned Pakistan of using terror against India by saying that terrorist safe havens within the Indo-Pak borders are unacceptable and asking Islamabad rulers to bring to justice the culprits of 26/11 Mumbai terror attacks. This is also far from truth. Talks are in the air about reorganizing UNO. In that event, patriotic Indian people carrying a glorious anti-imperialist tradition

SUCI (C) spreading out in districts of Karnataka

In the last issue of *Proletarian Era* (November 1, 2010), we published the speech of Comrade CK. Lukose, member Central Committee SUCI (C) and Kerala State Secretary, delivered in the meeting of West Bengal party comrades and leaders, held in Calcutta on 29 August 2010, in presence of the General Secretary, Comrade Provash Ghosh, and all the other members of the Polit Bureau, in which he narrated the history of the development of the party in Kerala and the major mass movements launched by the party in that state. Here we publish the speech of Comrade K Radhakrishna, member Central Committee SUCI (C) and Karnataka State Secretary, delivered in the same meeting on the same subject. The speech of Comrade Satyawan, member Central Committee SUCI (C) and Haryana State Secretary, which could not be included in this issue for want of space, will be covered later.



In Karnataka, party building and movements under the leadership of our party began as late as in the late nineteen seventies, from Bangalore itself. Karnataka is not like West Bengal or Kerala, or even like Tamil Nadu or Andhra Pradesh. And we were also guided by respected leader Comrade Krishna Chakraborty that the field was open for us. In the sense there were no two bulls fighting each other. In Tamil Nadu there were DMK and ADMK, in Andhra Pradesh Telugu Desham and Congress, in Kerala CPI(M) led Front and Congress-led Front. In Karnataka it was Congress in power. An alternative was tried with the Janta Party, a loose conglomeration of various groups. In 1983 for the first time an alternate government was formed and that also could not last long. Since then various experiments have been going on and recently the BJP has come to power and they also did not get majority. With the help of the Reddy brothers, the mining barons from Bellary, they purchased MLAs from Congress, made them resign, contest again and made them victorious as BJP MLAs to get majority. That is the kind of politics going on in Karnataka. These parties do not have any deep roots. At the beginning, whatever activities CPI-CPI(M) conducted,

they too did it in the field of trade union activities. And there too, in all the public sectors and major private sectors you would find AITUC or INTUC and but not CITU.

There is a background for it. In the Mysore part of Karnataka there was no political movement during the freedom struggle. It was a princely state under the kings. And Congress had taken a decision that they would not go for any freedom movement in the princely states. Even after independence the apolitical atmosphere continued in the state. Of course there were some movements in the Bombay-Karnataka region or the Hyderabad-Karnataka region.

In the seventies we had few comrades and under the guidance of Comrade Krishna Chakraborty they decided to take up the whole time activity for party building. There were some comrades who objected it as a premature step. That was countered by Comrade Chakraborty. He told: if to give up job, if to build up the party, that is the right time. Any way it was a valiant fight. We started party activity in Bangalore, selling of Proletarian Era. Those comrades objected, actually they were earlier under the earlier influence of CPI-CPM. Their yardstick of party formation was how CPI-CPM had been formed. We used to hold open meetings in parks, and not halls; the attendance was poor. Those comrades would say: why are we holding meetings in big parks, not in the halls; even CPI-CPM hold meetings in the halls. Comrade Chakraborty used to say: if they hold them in halls they will die there. Even if there is one man attending the meeting, we will hold it in the parks. Tomorrow we will grow. Later, CPI-CPM also started all their frontal activities and party activities entering into some sort of

competition; but they could not stay in the competition for long.

Comrades what I want to tell you is that it was a completely barren land, lying to be organized. And I say the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh struck the barren land and really it has penetrated. From Bangalore we started. At the start we laid emphasis on three frontal organizations: AIDSO, AIDYO and AIMSS. Trade union activities were started towards the end of the 1970s. Gradually work spread in other districts. There are 30 districts now in Karnataka; we have our organizations in 12 of them mainly concentrated in the western part, in 5 we have definite contacts and supporters, in the rest we have connections. From Bangalore our organizations developed in Gulbarga and then Bellary. Thereafter gradually, we spread to Raichur, Dharwar, Bijapur, Mysore, Dhawangiri, Tumkur, Belgaon and Uttar Kannada. DSO has organized four state conferences; it is going to organize its fifth state conference, then MSS too held four state conferences; DYO is going to hold its 2nd state conference in October in Bijapur; AIUTUC too organized its first state conference. This is about the organization.

About movements, initially we started student movement, against donation, against capitation fee. In fact, we took up the movement against the capitation fee under the banner of AIDSO, which became a national issue and went upto the Supreme Court, you know. And then there were the movements of MSS against dowry killing, acid-throwing, atrocities on women, of DYO against unemployment, etc. Massive movements were conducted in the 1980s, spread out in the 90s.

Comrades, since the fall of the Soviet Union and introduction of the policies of globalization-liberalization-privatization, there was a period of lull for a long time; I think, that was the condition everywhere in the entire country. But after 2000, there is growth of organization, by leaps and bounds. Earlier we were confined to 4 or 5 districts, after 2000, we have spread to 15 districts. In the decade after 2000, there has been many glorious and victorious movements. One of them was against the online lottery. As far as I remember, it started in 2004. Dharam Singh was then the

Chief Minister of a Congress- JDS combination government headed by the Congress. There was a massive rally at Bangalore, a protest rally. Suddenly the CM came and announced from the dais of our meeting that he was going to order to stop online lottery. There were umpteen number of movements against withdrawal of bus pass or for water, against road authority, infrastructural facilities, etc., in Bellary, Gulbarga and other districts. Party is well known for these movements.

There was again a massive movement in 2005-06, by DSO, DYO and MSS lasting for four months. The D. Ed (Diploma in Education) training course for primary teachers was increased by six months from 1 and a half to two years. Actually it was a conspiracy on behalf of the DFERD who wanted to curtail the number of teachers by using these trainees as teachers. Trainees from the poorer families were already finding it hard; additional six months told further upon them. Finally the authorities, the Chief Minister and the Education Minister held many meetings and the attempt was stopped. It was a great victory for our party. Later in 2006 some 350 teachers, including those who were involved as trainees in this movement attended the convention organized by us against the new Pension Scheme introduced by the state government. They all have become DYO members, party sympathizers and are likely to continue their fight.

There were also movements against land grabbing. I mention only a few. Nearly at the time of Singur-Nandigram movement of West Bengal, hardly 50 kms from Bangalore, at Nandakuri, the government hatched a plan to develop a SEZ over around 14000 acre of land, they being hell bent upon handing over this land to private enterprises. There at our initiative Nandakuri Committee against eviction was formed and they raised the slogan of movement against land grabbing in the same way as in Nandigram. As Comrade Satyawan of Haryana and Comrade Lukose from Kerala told you, Singur- Nandigram movement has left deep influence upon, has acted as a source of inspiration for developing resistance movement

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A force of movement SUCI (C) earns great prestige among common people

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against land grabbing wherever it has been tried upon; it is the same in Karnataka too. In the initial stages, we did not have much influence at Nandakuri which was a Bangalore outskirts area; CPIM had some activities in it. But people questioned them about what they had been doing in West Bengal. There was a massive rally from Nandakuri to Bangalore. It ended in a meeting which was attended also by a CPM leader. In his speech, he said that if the government had to take land let them have the forest land. But people, the Nandakuri peasants then and there protested that they won't give forest land too. It came to such a pass that CPM was completely ousted from the Nandakuri committee. They could not set foot in Nandakuri any more.

Medha Patkar attended a meeting in connection with that movement, there somebody introduced me to her, when she said "You had been playing great role at Nandigram; here also we find you". Finally, the government without announcing it, had to shelve the project; it signified a great victory for peasants of the country itself.

Another movement near Bellary town, against grabbing of huge land for an international airport by the notorious Reddy brothers in spite of there being already two airports there, one government and the second of the Jindals, met with success, as the government has still not been able to grab the land, though they have not abandoned the plan. All this was before our Second Party Congress.

After the Second Party

Congress there has been a further boost in the party activity. On 22 December at Bangalore, we organized a massive rally and meeting of the ASHAs (Accredited Social Health Activists), about 30,000 women in Karnataka, who were looked down upon everywhere, starting from the District Health Directorate, Hospitals to Primary Health Centres. Under pressure of the movement, the Health Minister, who belonged to the Reddy gang, had to come to the meeting and oblige with assurances on certain demands like timely and regular payment of salaries, demands for uniforms, mobile phones etc. Not all demands were met with; but the situation has changed with the ASHAs after the Bangalore rally. They are being looked at with due attention and respect. In fact, the truth that they constitute an organized force which cannot be neglected, has been established after the movement. It created a statewide stir. There are about 1 lakh Anganwari workers in Karnataka, the majority of whom are associated with the CITU, AITUC and HMS. They have been raising their just demands for the last 35 years, but have never been able to wrest any of them, nor have been able to organize such a big rally, as that of the ASHAs. In last April, Yedurappa government of the state introduced a contributory pension scheme for these workers, which needed that each worker will have to contribute rupees 150 per month. CITU leaders claimed it as great victory and demanded rupees 500 per head for the CITU fund. Our party cadres explained to the Anganwari workers that since it was a contributory scheme, the money will be deducted each month from the salary itself. It would not serve any interest of the workers. Knowing the truth, the latter were enraged. When we organized a convention in Bangalore, some 400 workers from 5 or 6 districts attended the meeting. The Director of the Health and Family Welfare came to the convention and submitted that this contributory pension scheme has been introduced at the consent of the union leaders, particularly the CITU leaders. As the workers refused the scheme, the Director assured to consider it again and accepted a few other demands.

With the shameless treachery of the CITU leaders being thus exposed, the Anganwari workers decided to quit the CITU.

We also conducted a movement, and on face of serious adversities could realize a few demands for the ambulance drivers and nurses (EMT or Emergency Medical Technicians) associated with a mobile rural ambulance project introduced by the Karnataka government. With KKMS in the lead, we organized a movement against land grabbing in a region near Mysore, when the Industrial Development Board of Karnataka tried to grab lands from the peasants there. The government had to put it on hold.

These are some of the major movements going on in the state. For want of able organizers we are not being able to reach everywhere. But the movements are coming like waves. In Bangalore, a massive movement is going on. Here, the BJP government has taken up a scheme of widening 216 roads. Terming it a project for public good, they decided that nobody will be paid compensation, be it for residence, schools or colleges, shops and establishments or even hospitals. The whole of Bangalore stood against it. The entire middle class was vocal. We had already formed 'Save Bangalore Committee' two years back with Comrade Manjunath as the Convenor. On this issue of road widening, we held a massive convention in July. It was addressed by retired Chief Justice of the High Court, freedom fighters, eminent professionals and intellectuals. More than 400 persons from 15 localities of the city attended the convention. We formed committees everywhere, meetings were held. A dharna before the corporation was planned. The government started to play tricks; if Mayor would announce that the project will be shelved, some influential minister would say there would be no backtracking. Finally the dharna was held with more than 2000 people joining it. It was unique in Bangalore in the sense that it was believed that no movement was possible in Bangalore with the apolitical high middle class people of the city. This was proved wrong, when middle class people en masse joined the dharna. The city has been

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Honour Killing is an attack on women's independence

In a convention organised by All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan (AIMSS) on 30 October at Hindi Bhavan in Delhi, Justice Rajendra Sachar in a convention against Honour Killings called upon the women to stand up boldly and raise their voice against male chauvinism. Honour Killing is an attack on women's independence. The women

secretary of AIMSS, called upon the women and youngsters, in particular, to take lead in the cultural movement, the need of the hour, to build up people's opinion and resistance against this heinous practice of honour killing.

Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, president, All India Committee of AIMSS presided over the



Justice Rajendra Sachar addressing the AIMSS convention

should say that they would not tolerate the heinous practice of honour killings. This strong message should go to the Khap Panchayat.

Dwelling upon various related issues, Prof Janaki Rajan, Justice Ajith Singh Bains, Dr.A.K. Ramkrishnan, Smt Ila Ben Pathak, Comrade Satyawan, member, Central Committee, SUCI(C) and Dr. H. G Jayalakshmi, the general

convention. Messages from Medha Patkar, Romila Thaper were read out by Krishna Sen and Sadhana Chaudary respectively. The resolution against Honour Killings placed by B.R. Aparna was passed unanimously. Meenakshi Joshi also spoke over the resolution. The students from Gulabi Bagh presented a song before the convention.

Obama's India visit

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hegemony through war, aggression and exploitation, and force Government of India under pressure of organized sustained people's movement to back out from drawing near to such a ghastly enemy of the mankind, what role was expected from parties like CPI(M), CPI that claim themselves as leftist, even Marxist? Mere staging some customary show of movement to save their face before the left-minded people and then join the bandwagon of Obama adoration? In a joint statement released by them on the eve of Obama's arrival, they said: "Being the first Afro-American President and coming after the neo-conservative Bush regime, there were expectations of positive changes." Only they can explain what positive changes they had anticipated from one of the trusted political managers of oppressive, repressive, despotic US imperialism. CPI(M), CPI MPs shamelessly attended the joint session of the Parliament to listen to Obama's "thought-provoking" address. Sitaram Yechury, CPI(M) Polit Bureau member also attended the dinner party thrown by the Prime

Minister in honour of Obama. It has also been reported in the media that Obama had enquired about the role of these self-styled Marxists from Pranab Mukherjee, Union Finance Minister and a bigwig of the ruling Congress Party. Shri Mukherjee informed him with pleasure that these "left" leaders have fully aligned themselves with bourgeois parliamentary democracy and their extra-parliamentary activities are also in keeping with that. Bravo!! Even the imperialists are now getting a true feel of their self-declared 'Marxist' character!

Dangerous portent of Obama's visit

So, this visit of Obama cannot be viewed as a simple routine trip. The danger it portends have to be understood from every angle. It has been part of a well-knit strategy to bind India in partnership with US imperialism and the ruling Indian monopolists from their narrow sectarian vested class interest are enabling that strategy to be implemented to the detriment of the interest of the oppressed Indian people. It has become imperative a task to thwart this tilt of India,

Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee in Central Committee

At a meeting of the Central Committee held in Calcutta on November 3 last, Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee has been inducted in the Central Committee.

SUCI (C) spreading out in Karnataka

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shaken to the root, people are coming out. Right now the project has been put on hold, though not thrown out.

During its propaganda in Bangalore, a gentleman asked our comrades: Who is behind this movement? After hesitation, the comrades named the party. Somewhat angrily, the gentleman replied: You should have told this first; I wanted to hear this answer only. I can mobilize more than 100 people for the rally. Comrades, our party is earning such respect from people. Recently I was travelling in train on RAC with Comrade Aparna of the MSS. Seeing that a few berths reserved by a group of devotees

remained unoccupied, Comrade Aparna approached them for any spare berth. They gave her one berth, along with the words that it was because they knew SUCI and Aparna as SUCI activist, that they were giving the berth.

Comrades this is the level of respect and love for the party that is to be found among people of Karnataka today. When we started ideologically we had to get into debates with CPI, CPI(M), CPI (ML). Our juniors are not getting that chance, because there is nobody to counter them, leave aside ideological discussions and debates. As a result, there remains a little gap in the political-ideological standard of the comrades. We are trying to make it up. Our party has many other lapses too. We are engaged in struggle to remove them and in line with the call of the party, we are trying to build ourselves as competent for fulfilling the tasks ahead.

towards Pentagon rule by adopting all possible measures and releasing a powerful anti-imperialist, particularly anti-US imperialist movement round the country.



Calcutta, West Bengal

Make Extraordinary Party Congress of SUCI (Communist) in Calcutta on 24 and 25 November, 2010 a grand success

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