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Alarming rise in rape and other sexual crimes

Women turned into object of bestial pleasure in decadent capitalism

Raving Romans cheered over torn bodies in their coliseums. The French aristocracy kept their eyes fixed upon the chopping of the guillotine. Pixelated visuals of wars of aggression on Iraq showed battered faces of half-torn babies, broken limbs of the fleeing villagers and oozing blood from the mutilated faces of aerial bombing victims. But the diabolism witnessed in the increasing crime on women in this 21st century, particularly in our country, has perhaps no parallel in history. The scream of hapless victims of rape, sexual assaults, dowry deaths, honour killings, molestations, eve teasing and human trafficking is rending the air. Anytime anywhere women of any age are falling prey to gratification of bestial appetite of perverts. Over the last couple of decades, reported incidents of rape have increased at a far steeper rate than other serious crimes. More than 19 cases of child rape are reported in India every day. On an average, 18 women are raped every hour. The impious vultures often are not content with mere satiation of licentious lust but derive barbaric pleasure in brutally killing their victims. Charred or mutilated bodies of rape victims are often discovered on the roadside, in ponds or bushes. On many occasions, the victims of ignominy are committing suicide. Those who survive also are so traumatized and afflicted by a sense of humiliation that they either turn into psychic patients or lead an absolutely secluded cursed life of wrenching pain. Added to this spree of diabolism are the rising cases of female foeticide, infanticide and child abuse. Festering sores all around unfold the stench of a rotting society.

A few incidents

Could it be imagined even in the primordial society when human beings were almost like animals that a six-month old baby would be raped and killed or a one-year old child would be thrown in the dustbin after bestial assault, four-year-old street urchin would be targeted by a 21-year old lecherous and then abandoned on the pavement in a pool of blood or a father would not hesitate to rape his own daughter? But, civilized India is a witness to such carnal savagery raving wild and sparing none. A teenaged boy pounced upon a lady of his grandmother's age to bare his bestial instinct. School girls are abducted, raped and then strangulated or chopped to death. Wife and daughter of a pavement-dweller are picked up at gunpoint by a group of drunken young men, gangraped in a car and then abandoned at a roadside. A minor domestic maid is regularly raped by a pervert house owner taking advantage of her haplessness. A 16-year-old deaf and dumb is kidnapped, blindfolded, gagged, sexually assaulted and then threatened by the rape-culprits that

if she dares to make it public, everyone in her family would be killed. A pregnant woman forcibly lifted and raped by two youths commits suicide by consuming poison. After being gang-raped, a teenaged *dalit* girl immolates herself. A first-year college student is drugged, stripped, filmed and gangraped in the students' union room on the college campus by fellow students. Chased by a group of people and beaten black and blue on a busy thoroughfare of a sprawling metropolis, a 21-year-old woman somehow manages to get into a moving bus only to be pulled out and then sexually assaulted in full public glare. She cries for help but no one comes to her rescue. A random mob of men strips a minor schoolgirl, beats her by turns and then molests her in the middle of a busy downtown street near a state secretariat as if they are enjoying a 'fast food'. It appears that to these, women are perceived to be just an assembly of flesh and blood in a particular anatomy only to be enjoyed and consumed by the debauches. A man is licenced to take any woman he sets his eyes upon.

Besides rape, there are

innumerable incidents of other kinds of sexual assaults and inhuman killings of women. Every day, a substantial number of dowry deaths and honour killings are coming to the fore. These are taking place not only in the poor households but also in the conventionally educated, well-to-do families. A newly-wed bride unable to meet the increasing demand of money by her husband and in-laws is burnt alive. Father is shooting daughter point blank for falling in love with a boy of different caste or religion. Brother is hacking sister for inter-caste marriage. A housewife unable to deliver a male child is tortured and even murdered by her husband or in-laws. Female infanticide is receiving a virtual sanction in many communities. The groping, pinching and leeching that happens in the boulevards and public transport is beyond a civilised person's imagination. At workplaces, women often come across indecent remarks, lewd comments, intentional body contacts and greedy looks. But such incidents are rarely reported because of obvious reasons. This is the grim, if not harrowing, spectacle of modern India which is boasted of as being the country of *Sati* and *Savitri*, where most of the deities worshipped in dominant Hindu religion are women. West Bengal and Andhra Pradesh have earned the dubious distinction of leading the list of states in crimes against women while Delhi holds on to its reputation of being the most unsafe city in India and is dubbed now as the rape capital of India. Mumbai is a close follower. Kolkata has turned into a den of assaults on and trafficking of women. It is glaring that a malodorous disease has gripped the entire Indian society where humanity is giving way to bestiality, human faculty is replaced by animality.

Increasing slide to animality

Obvious question that agitates the mind of those who have not yet

bartered their conscience is, why is the society turning out to be a fiefdom of such horrendous crimes? What makes today's man, literate or illiterate alike, slave of pervert impulses? How is that a woman is only viewed as an object of pleasure just like a commodity freely available for consumption? Is it civilized to think that a woman is just a possessor of a female body to be feasted upon like vultures? Even an animal does not treat its mating partner so cruelly and mercilessly. No rational mind would accept such a depravity to be a divine endowment or planted from outside. Nor can the root of any problem be searched in estrangement from the obtaining social set up and for that matter the economic system which is the base.

It is pertinent to recall that when our country was in ferment of freedom movement, such malformed thinking or ghastly acts were hardly found. One or two stray incidents of crime on women were viewed as aberrations. That position continued even upto a decade of post-independence period so long as there was some trace of the fervour of freedom movement. But, thereafter, things began to slide down and gradually the aberrations have become the order of the day. All finer human senses, sensibilities, tender feelings, ethics, moral values everything is being systematically butchered and all kinds of debased, deformed, violent and distasteful thoughts are fuelled with alacrity. The morality governing marriage, sex, family, social relations, personal conduct, attitude towards others is being trampled in the mud. Not even an iota of scruple is to be found anywhere. The prescription is to 'go any way one prefers', 'do anything one likes', 'think only of the self and care a fib for the others'. It is human essence which is the biggest casualty in every sphere. The entire focus is on dehumanizing and robotizing mankind so that nothing

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Galloping rise in the number of crimes on women bringing disgrace to civilized society

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remains of the moral backbone from which is derived the spirit of fighting against evil and injustice, malice and maladies, oppression and repression. Increasing crime on women is the fallout of that planned dehumanization of the power that be. And not only India, this is the general feature of all capitalist-imperialist countries.

All servitors of capitalist system are squarely involved

What is worth observing is that all the servitors and defenders of ruling capitalism are squarely involved in either perpetrating or abetting murderous assault on the life and dignity of women. One would find that in many of the rape and other cases of atrocities on women, the accused are either political figures, village touts, mafia dons enjoying political backing or army personnel, police officials, close relatives of industrialists and persons in the proximity of the power-wielders. To be precise, in an overwhelming majority of these cases the culprits owe their allegiance to the ruling parties. A sizeable number of the legislatures who have won on the tickets of this or that bourgeois party in power or in opposition, has long criminal record including atrocities on women. Involvement of the leaders and workers of the government parties in perpetration of ghastly crimes on women including rape and gang rape has become a common feature. Not that only the bourgeois or petty-bourgeois parties, even the pseudo-Marxists, playing the most despicable role of compromising social democracy, are tangled in the acts of criminal assault on women. So, these culprits are either not nabbed or released after a farce of trial. Of late, it has become customary on the part of the governments whether led by the Congress, or the BJP or the CPI (M) or any other regional outfit to downplay, if not deny any incident of rape or ghastly crime on women by branding the same as either commonplace or planted, deliberately orchestrated to vilify the government.

A few citations may be of help. Of late, rape and murder, honour killing have been spiralling in the state of Haryana. Naturally, the finger is pointed at the Congress-led state government for failure in curbing the crimes. But the defence offered by the Congress leaders is simply outrageous. According to them, "90 per cent of rape cases

were consensual. The girl gets into an affair with a boy and she goes with him without knowing that he is of criminal mindset...It's not the state government which is responsible for rapes. Projection of rape statistics is a conspiracy against the state government." When Anita Dewan, a government health worker, was raped and murdered, allegedly by CPI (M)-backed lumpen, near Kolkata in 1994, the then CPI (M) chief minister late Jyoti Basu nonchalantly brushed it aside saying "Such things happen." In 1990, the CPI(M)'s response to a gang rape case of three Bangladeshi refugee women was that the victims were 'residents of un-authorized hutments', engaged in 'foul professions' and were 'mistresses' of and had 'honeymoons with' men they were not married to, as if such credentials sanctify criminal assaults on them. Similarly, when the charred remains of Tapasi Malik, a teenaged activist of Singur movement — raped and then burnt alive by miscreants basking under the protection of the CPI(M), the then ruling party — were recovered from the "Tata Nano factory site" in December, 2006, Biman Basu, the CPI (M) state secretary first held that the girl was a loose character and the murder was on account of a failed love affair. Later when two prominent local CPI(M) leaders were arrested for having engineered the murder but then released on bail in 2009, the same Biman Basu held that the entire allegation was fabricated to malign their government. No less preposterous has been the TMC chief minister of West Bengal when she brushes aside each and every incident of rape and killing, now climbing in numbers in the state, as all fabricated stories, contrived incidents to malign the government. Not only that. A lady police officer of joint commissioner rank who in course of discharging her normal duties went ahead with investigation of a rape case that occurred in the posh Park Street area of Kolkata and found out the culprits with necessary evidences, was promptly transferred to a non-significant position obviously as punishment for disproving the 'fabrication' story of the government. Mulayam Singh Yadav, the Samajwadi Party head commented a few months back that women who made it to Parliament were "the kind who get whistled at on the streets." It only smacks of the patriarchal culture that derides

women and preaches a second-grade citizen status to them. In tandem with such acts and utterances of the political mandarins vying with each other for pelf and power, the bureaucracy and police-military are also playing the role of a passive bystander, if not providing indulgence to the offenders and even being rewarded for that. A Chhattisgarh cadre police officer, accused of sexually torturing a woman, was recently awarded the Police Medal for Gallantry. Fingers are pointed at many senior military officers for indecency, to the extent of making sexual advances towards fellow lady officers. There are several allegations of rape against the military and para-military personnel in Kashmir, border districts of West Bengal and the North-eastern states. In Manipur, women including elderly ladies paraded naked to register protest against growing incidents of rape by army men. Allegations of rape in police custody are also reported in large numbers. Just a week back, a division bench of Karnataka High Court during proceedings of a recent rape case in Bangalore commented, "...never understand why the police always take the side of villains. Whether it is Haryana or Karnataka, it is the same. No sympathy over the plight of women... Until it happens to their families, they can't understand." Though some of the conscientious jurists are showing courage of saying this, experience shows that the judiciary also, instead of providing justice to tortured or persecuted women and stringently punishing the culprits more often than not, acquits them on questionable grounds. Judicial pronouncements in the cases of crime against women during the infamous Gujarat pogrom engineered by the arch Hindu communalists with the active backing of Narendra Modi, the BJP chief minister of Gujarat, bear eloquent testimony to that. It is also worth noting that women are being made soft targets not only for deriving animal-like sensual pleasure but even settling political scores or vendetta. We have seen that during the Gujarat carnage. And we have seen more of that when the CPI(M) leaders used rape as a weapon for crushing legitimate democratic movement in Nandigram. "We have broken the backbone of the inhabitants of Nandigram...they have been paid back in their own coin... There will be no further resistance there",

bragged the CPI (M) top brass then. Naturally, the so called concern for women expressed in media glare by all these parties thriving on the direct or indirect backing of the class is nothing but playing to the gallery for deriving electoral mileage. However, that veneer is coming off as more and more such incidents of rape and other criminalities are coming to the fore and proving beyond doubt that whatever pretentious opposition, occasional snipping and customary mud singling at each other all these parties may resort to, they all see eye to eye over such incidents of criminal assault on women. And this cannot be otherwise if bourgeois class interest is to be served.

Attempts to deflect the issue

Some confusion, if not deliberate attempt to deflect the issue, is also noticed in certain quarters over the possible mitigation of this increasing crime on women. There is an open advocacy to do away with the marriageable age limit claiming it will check such crimes. If that would have been the case, how come married men are committing rapes and other crimes on women? A group of columnists and self-styled intellectuals have held that wearing of provocative dresses by the girls is luring the boys to rape them. It is true that developing fancy for indecent clothing cannot be supported. Women ought to be aware of their dignity and must understand that beauty lies not in so called 'exposure' or 'bizarreness' but in sobriety, aesthetic presentation of the self which draws appreciation and does not incite provocation in any form. 'Ultra-modernism' is a vice of the degraded society where women are reduced to mere objects of pleasure and in the ultimate analysis, a timid surrender to patriarchal domination or male chauvinism. But all these withstanding, can wearing western or short clothes provide any justification for rape or making sexual advances? Those who argue like this merely try to shift the blame onto the victim. Instances are galore where pervert males are found to harass or molest women who are 'decently' dressed. Does branding the women targets as sexually loose; as lacking in 'feminine' attributes; as puppets of male mentors; or as displaying stereotypically 'feminine' weaknesses licence a male to abuse them, exploit them sexually? The

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Deliberate design of ruling capitalist class to view woman as an object of pleasure

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moot question is why should a human being assault another human being without any rhyme or reason? What kind of pleasure can a person derive from giving pain to another person? One cannot escape by calling sexual harassment a prank, hoax or flirting. It is an entirely one-sided interaction of a person, where one feels in jeopardy by the other. Some religious fanatics and fundamentalists have seized the opportunity to demand imposition of stricter restrictions on the girls in dresses, social conduct, use of mobile phones, open mixing with boys and so forth, not in the sense of desired decency or sobriety or banishment of animalistic males from the society of saner citizens but from the view of religious backwardness and intention to keep women fettered in the subjugation and domination of men. The very plea of introducing sex education at school level on the ostensible plea of checking sexual promiscuity, sex-perversion and sex-crimes among the teenagers and adolescent youths is another hoax. If that was the solution, how is that in the western world where sex education is provided in the school, sexual aberrations among the school going children is spiralling so much so as to necessitate distribution of condoms and such other birth-control devices? It goes without saying that plethora of such trashes dished out in the name of mitigating steps are only confounding confusions, providing indirect justification to both commitment to and abatement of the proliferating crimes on women and a vile attempt to deflect the issue. The cause of this utter degeneration and deformed mentality must, therefore, be rummaged, based on correct scientific outlook, in the given socio-economic structure.

History of enslavement of women

Scientific knowledge about the history of social evolution as well as the history of enslavement of women would reveal that in the primitive clan communist society, there was no subjugation of women to men, no discrimination between men and women. They were equal, however primitive, they worked together equally and shared the fruits of their labour equally. The society then was matriarchal. As long as there was no private property, there was no division in the society between the exploiters and the exploited, the society was an

not class-divided, there was no exploitation and exploited and hence no subjugation by one section to others.

Private property based on which the society was divided into classes, into haves and have-nots was yet to emerge in the then society. In that primitive hunter-gatherer society agriculture was unknown. So there was no stable property. What was hunted or gathered could not be stored. So the mentality to deprive others and store for oneself did not appear. Naturally the thought of exploitation and appropriation of others' labour could not arise. In the field of sex relations monogamous family was yet to emerge. In that society, as the children were known by their mothers and not by their fathers, lineage was recognized from the woman's side and women were at the helm. However, there was no domination of women over the men since the very material condition for appearance of any thought of suppressing or oppressing others was absent.

Gradually when agriculture was discovered, stable property emerged and over time when the then quantum of production could not meet the growing necessity of the society, insecurity started haunting men. This led to class division following forcible transformation of stable social wealth into the private property of a few. It was at this juncture of history that, among other developments, women too were transformed from free individuals into slaves, private properties of men only to give birth to and rear up heirs to the property of men. The social mind was gradually moulded to accept the restrictions imposed on the slaves and the women as traditional practices. With the passage of time, this came to be accepted as a settled fact and the injustices were legitimized by the propertied classes through social customs, laws and such other thousands of injunctions and bindings. Thus the position of woman in slavery, the first form of the class divided society had been reduced to mere property of man, her master. As in a slave-master society, disobedience to the master was considered immoral, so was the connotation that women were born to please men and hence morally bound to be subjugated under the latter.

Following inexorable course of history, society was elevated from slave-master society to serf society, feudalism and then to capitalism. Every stage, no doubt, was an

advancement of human civilization, not occurring *suo motto*, but through a definite historical process and as culmination of determined struggles by the oppressed against the oppressors. But, it had been a saga of change of exploiters but not exploitation. Only, during the rising period of capitalism, the bourgeoisie as surrogate of modern democratic society based on capitalist relations of production, raised the slogan of equality of men and women so that tearing apart the shackles of age-old bondage, women too could establish their unique identity in the society and take part in production shoulder to shoulder with men. Yet, the cherished emancipation of women did not come by. Besides the gruelling economic-political-social oppression of the obtaining exploitative systems, women have been subject to an additional oppression of the patriarchal society which, as we have shown above, came with the division of the society into two classes, the oppressed and the oppressors. Naturally, liberty of women presupposes abolition of exploitation of man by man, abolition of all sorts of private property and private-property mental complex. What has come in the process of history has to go in the process of history only. But, such is not possible in capitalism. Though the bourgeoisie during its rising period and the exponents of renaissance espoused for equality of women, it could not be realized because capitalism also is an exploitative system and has given birth to a society divided into a handful of rich, the owners, exploiters and the rest myriads of impoverished wretched exploited. So, inequality has not only stayed but is widening with every passing day. Moreover, continuation of private ownership on the means of production did not allow the society to be free from private property mental complex. As a result, the bourgeois society also remained patriarchal and the discrimination between male and female persisted. So, the cherished emancipation of women remained a dream only.

Situation has worsened in crisis-ridden moribund capitalism

Not only that. What is worse is that as capitalism in course of history became crisis-ridden, entered the stage of decadence, turned reactionary and posed stumbling block before progress of civilization, the bourgeoisie,

mortally afraid of anti-capitalist revolution and frantically trying to provide extra lease of life to its moribund existence, began to pander to all kinds of degraded degenerated thoughts, trample underfoot all the lofty ideas of democracy and democratic values it itself highlighted one day and compromise with age-old obsolete feudal thoughts. In fact, there is a meticulously crafted design to wipe out whatever little of human elements are remaining in the society and dispossessed of the ethical-moral power to burst into protest and rebellion against the oppressive system, human beings turn into ferocious animals sustaining on bestial instincts. So is promoted the vulgar materialistic culture of 'eat, drink and be merry' or rabid consumerism vigorously through a flood of obscene advertisements, erotic films, ugly TV programmes, pornographic literature. Of late, internet and mobile telephones have emerged as more effective media to rapidly spread lewd messages and photographs. The whole attempt is to make prurient sex the sole and whole entertainment and thereby turn human beings into slaves of base instinct. It is, therefore, not difficult at all to understand that this is a deliberate design of the ruling capitalist class to pollute the mind in such a way as to view woman just as a sex object meant for satiating lasciviousness and to swoop on any woman anywhere just like the way a jungle beast jumps on its prey. Pointing out this sinister class design of the reactionary bourgeoisie to dehumanize the people, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of the SUCI(C) and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era had observed: "The true essence, the kernel of an ideology is ingrained in its higher cultural, moral-ethical standard.... a nation can stand erect even if it goes hungry, can conduct struggle even without food, if it possess as higher human attributes... however acute a form oppression and penury may assume, the people of a country, a nation can still stand up firm and erect raising its head high even amidst severest of torture if its moral strength is not decimated." It is also to be noted that in the current phase of dying capitalism, wriggling worms of menacing individualism in infected mind are inciting ugly self-centredness, greed, vile self-consumptive urges and perverse

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Gujarat on the eve of Assembly poll

Wretched condition of people sought to be doused under malafide claim of development under communal Modi

The Assembly election of Gujarat is going to be held in next December. Already there is a hype created centring round this election because Narendra Modi, the BJP chief minister of the state, is being projected by a section of the ruling circle as the next prime ministerial candidate. It is contended that under Modi's stewardship, Gujarat has developed at a very fast pace so much so as to be one of the model states in the country. The criteria of development are, of course, the customary GDP growth, speed of industrialization because of creation of an investor-friendly environment. There is a concerted effort to douse all allegations against Modi of fomenting worst Hindu communalism and engineering the frenzied anti-Muslim pogrom under the flimflam of claimed development and branding any criticism of his genocide as motivated propaganda by anti-Gujarat forces. Modi has ensured that the industrialists and corporate houses, both domestic and foreign, find a fiefdom in Gujarat with all concessions, waivers and facilities showered on them at the cost of the toiling millions. The entire state is a 'Special Economic Zone' where the industrialists enjoy enormous tax reliefs, free land, free water, free electricity and privilege of hiring and firing workers at their sweet will. It is also assured that no workers' movements would be allowed to sprout in the state. This became more evident when Tatas were offered red carpet in Sanand area to set up their 'Nano' plant after the land-losing peasants offered a glorious resistance to such project at Singur in West Bengal. Since then, Modi became the darling of the class.

Giant monopolists of US, UK, Japan and China are effusive in admiration for Modi. Of late, the Indian ruling class and its pliant administration has resorted to every possible trick to manipulate the report of the 'Special Investigation Team' constituted for probing into the horrific Gujarat carnage so that Modi remains unscathed and his spruced up image of an architect of development is firmly established. In the aggregate class interest, ruling monopolists are giving 'clean chit' to Modi in every respect. But while the ruling class and its lackeys are busy in singing Modi's praise, the common people of the state are languishing in abject poverty, misery and deprivation inevitable in a capitalist set up. A few facts presented *seriatim* would reveal the reality.

Statistics of 'growth' (!)

—Poverty and suicide

According to Human Development Index Report-2011, Gujarat stands 11th in the country. Similarly it ranks at the bottom of all Indian states in the Environmental Sustainability Index. Public debt of Gujarat Government has crossed Rs 1,24,580 Crore meaning that there is a debt burden of Rs. 24, 704 on each resident of the state. In the last ten years, 37,248 people have committed suicide in the "vibrant" Gujarat of Modi. Out of this, 21,783 were males and 15,423 females to prove that both are equally distressed. Of these 7,062 were farmers 80 per cent of whom were below 40 years of age. As per official compilation which is normally manipulated to

obfuscate the reality, 23% of the state population are poor compared to all India average of 29.8%. But, we all know that as per Arjun Sengupta Committee constituted by the Indian government, 77% of the Indians i.e. over 2.5 times of the official figure of 29.8% is below poverty line. Going by that estimation, one can well understand the actual level of poverty in Gujarat. A scan into the latest data also suggests that the decline in rural poverty in Gujarat is lower than six other major Indian states.

Statistics of 'growth' (!)

—Women and children

As per figures given in the book titled 'Economy and society in Globalizing Gujarat', 23.3% children below 5 years are suffering from malnutrition. 44.7% of children below 5 years are underweight. 55.3% women are anemic. The figure goes to 74% in tribal women. 55.6% of student belonging to 5th Standard cannot read books of 3rd Standard. 75.4% students do not know elementary arithmetic. 60% women in Gujarat have iron deficiency. Mothers' mortality rate is 148 in Gujarat higher than the states of Kerala, Tamil Nadu, Maharashtra, Andhra Pradesh and West Bengal. As high as 3,776 is the number of cases of rapes reported officially.

Statistics of 'growth' (!)

—Health and Education

There is acute shortage of potable water. Out of 19 districts, ground water of 14 Districts and out of 184 Talukas, ground water of 174 Talukas have been so polluted that

the same is ruled out for drinking. Because of drinking impure contaminated water, gastroenteritis cases are on the rise. As high as 7, 29,039 cases of water-borne diseases have been reported in 2012. In absence of proper sewerage system and civic maintenance, many places have become breeding grounds of mosquitoes. Between June and October, 2012, 7, 29,039 cases of Malaria, 2,314 cases of Falciparum and 1234 cases of dengue have been registered. 44% villages are suffering from Jaundice, 30% villages from the epidemic of malaria and 25% villages from acute problem of kidney stone. There is hardly any healthcare for the rural and urban poor though sophisticated hospitals with modern treatment facilities are set up for the rich and affluent in the principal cities.

Picture is equally dismal in education. Cost of education has gone up exorbitantly to be out of reach of common people. Prices of textbooks of Standard VI, VII and VIII have been hiked two and a half times. Introduction of semester system has imposed huge economic burden on the parents (Gujarat Samachar 29 October 2012). The number of drop out students in primary education is reportedly around 82 lakhs. While there were 39,500 primary schools in 2002-03, the number has dipped to 32,470 in 2011-12. Over 47 lakh people are illiterate. Posts of 1205 principals, 3032 secondary teachers and 1950 higher secondary teachers are lying vacant in Government-aided schools.

Statistics of 'growth' (!)

—Crime rate

There have been 12,544 murders, 5,550 cases of attempt to murder, 13526 cases of kidnapping and 20,717 cases of loots during Modi's tenure. In short, there have been three murders and a rape daily while seven kidnappings every alternate day. It may be mentioned that since the horrific carnage in 2002, there is virtually no rule of law. Interference in the functioning of police-administration and even judiciary on the part of the government and ruling BJP is too pronounced. The entire state machinery-Police administration has been communalized and criminalized and has become caste oriented. Human Rights violation has become a regular feature.

Recently, a factory of production of illegal arms has been unearthed at Patan. Police has become trigger-happy. A few days back, three persons belonging to dalit community were killed in police firing at Thangadh. Police went on a rampage in Junagadh the other day. Everywhere, common impoverished people have been the targets of police atrocities. Custodial deaths are increasing. So far, 184 persons died in police and judicial custody. Right activists are targeted for repression and harassment. Protesting against the government's flagrant violation of human rights and refusal to provide information under much-trumpeted RTI act, Jabbar dan Gadhvi, committed suicide by immolating self in front of Kutch district administrative office. Another activist, Amit Jethva was murdered in broad day light in front of Gujarat High court. 23 police officials have been accused of fake encounters.

Plight of the working people

The cries of the workers are buried under the so-called juggernaut of development. There is no scope for receiving any human treatment for the working class in Modi's Gujarat. The lakhs of workers in the power loom sector of Surat are compelled to work minimum 12 hours. There is no minimum wage act for the workers in power loom sector, diamond sector, new industries in Kutch, Alang Shipyard, Kandla port, Salt Pan, Veraval sea food packing industry, watch making and readymade garment industry, rug picking (where women workers are in majority) and in many other unorganized sectors. Even identity cards are not issued to the workers so that there is no claim of any social security or repeat employment. Contract labour system, hire and fire policy, denial of minimum wage, unhygienic working condition—accumulated effect of all these is making life nightmarish for the working class. The workers are always in fear of losing jobs and being exploited brutally. With virtually all rights denied to the workers much to the glee of the exploiting corporate houses and monopolist sharks, Gujarat could well be called the hell of exploitation. It is for this avidly anti-worker stand of the government coupled with the absence of any powerful working class movement

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Gujarat on the eve of Assembly poll

Absence of people's movement allowing vote-based bourgeois parties to take people for granted

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that Gujarat is becoming sought-after destination of the domestic and foreign monopolists.

Corruption

When corruption has become of hallmark of any bourgeois rule, can Gujarat be behind? It is virtually on the edifice of corruption that Modi is running his government. According to Comptroller and Auditor General (CAG) report, there have been 105 cases of gross irregularities on the part of the State Government involving as high as Rs 26,611.90 Crore rupees. Just like Congress Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, Modi is also ridiculing CAG for finding fault with the government or overstepping its jurisdiction to defame the executives. The post of *Lokayukta* (head of the local judicial machinery to probe into corruption cases) is lying vacant for 9 years because Modi government has been delaying appointment of the Lokayukta-designate Hon'ble Justice R. A. Mehta for his being secular. It means that there is no place for any secular person in communally surcharged Gujarat of Modi. It is also reported that there is a scam involving Rs 800 crores in the Sujalam – Sufalam – irrigation scheme. Investigations into the allegation of huge misappropriation of funds in the Earthquake Debris Removal case are going on for 11 years.

Condition of minority population

One is still reminded of the grisly pogrom of 2002 perpetrated, carried out and, in one word, led by the incensed arch Hindu communal *Sangh Parivar* with its principal outfit, RashtriyaSayansevak Sangh (RSS) and all other constituents like the Vishwa Hindu Parisad (VHP), Bajrang Dal and as also the political party BJP, active in the process. And to lead them from the front in the perpetration of heinous acts like merciless killing, arson, rape on the innocent citizens belonging to the minority community was none other than Narendra Modi, the BJP Chief Minister. But neither was Modi or any of the chief organizers of such a horrendous crime on humanity has been brought to book nor any of the victims or victim's family has got justice. Many of the arch criminals involved in the killing and rape are boastfully moving around. Rather, the police officials, bureaucrats and

political figures who showed courage to expose Modi's complicity in the carnage have all been implicated in false cases, sent behind the bar or harassed in many other cases. Every possible step is taken by Narendra Modi Government to obstruct normal judicial process started after many civil rights movements to book the culprits. Even after one decade of Communal Carnage one thousand families are still to be rehabilitated. The minorities are still haunted by a fear of being attacked any time anywhere. Absence of any safety to their life and property is vividly manifest. But Modi and his cohorts fraudulently claim to have healed the wound. This is hypocrisy par excellence! Gujarat, in fact, has become an example of planned ethnic cleansing, absence of rule of law, open fomenting of communalism-fundamentalism, spewing venom of all kinds of parochial, regional and casteist thoughts. There is systemic attempt to regiment the thought process and keep people divided over religion, region, caste and ethnicity.

Modi's propaganda machinery

Aware of the fact that truth must be suppressed to rule, Modi has now floated a highly digitized TV Channel named NaMo channel, which is being aired around the clock. One would recall that Modi himself once accused the 24 hour telecast through the channels. But, now, he himself has been doing the same thing. This new channel is dedicatedly undertaking an orchestrated campaign to project Modi as designer of a dazzling colourful Gujarat by resorting to all sorts of concoctions, fabrications, manipulations and falsehood. There is no coverage of the condition of the common people, their misery and privation, insecurity of the women, panic-stricken minorities or starving retrenched workers. The focus is to hoodwink one and all by a coined 'vande Gujarat' slogan and derive electoral mileage for Modi and BJP.

Modi has also become expert in deflecting any issue of inconvenience, any allegation against him or his government by pointing fingers towards the central government. The game is to arrogate to himself all the imaginary fictitious credits while squarely blaming the Centre for all the miseries, sufferings, destitutions of the common masses. Sometimes, Modi's belligerence sounds like

declaring war against the Centre in the name of Gujarat's *Asmita*. While the Congress at the Centre is shamelessly defending its anti-people policies of stimulating price rise, cut in subsidy, allowing FDI in retail, hiking fuel and power tariffs and so forth, Modi is out to shield his own government's reluctance, if not definite unwillingness, to take any measure to give relief to the people of the state by his mock fight against the Centre. In fact both the Congress and the BJP sail on the same boat of subserving the ruling capitalists and waging war against the impoverished and wretched millions. All their spats against each other in the media glare and public meetings are parliamentary gimmicks to grab power by defrauding the people.

Role of the political parties

While the common people are at the receiving end, the despicable role of the so called opposition has made the situation further worse. For a long period, Gujarat under Congress rule was equally oppressive and full of deceptions, denials. There have been allegations also that personal rivalry of the Congress leaders for occupying chief ministerial posts was instrumental behind occasional communal strifes, even bloody clashes in the state. Currently also, factional feuds and such other vices typical of a bourgeois outfit are glaring. Congress, the most trusted political party of the ruling monopolists, is also thoroughly discredited for the plethora of anti-people measures its government at the centre has adopted in recent period. Modi has also capitalized on that to fire salvo against Congress and keep it at bay in the state. The Congress which has not been able to regain its lost position in the state is only making personal attacks against Modi in manifestation of typical bourgeois vote politics when mud singling among the bourgeois parties overshadows people's issues. Knowing full well that Modi has successfully perpetrated a communal divide in the state to corner majority vote and intimidating the minorities to supine submission, the Congress leaders also are peddling in soft-Hindutva thereby allowing the warped mindsets to sustain. This is also indirectly helping Modi who is the face of Hindu communalism. What else bankrupt Congress has to offer to the people!

Another development in the

state is the launch of Parivartan Party by Keshubhai Patel, former BJP chief minister and a *bête noir* of Modi. He is joined by another former CM Shri Sureshbhai Mehta and Shri Gordhan Zadafia, one of the ministers involved in the 2002 carnage, now a pivot of this Parivartan Party. This party is anti-Modi but not anti-BJP. Rather this party bosses like to project themselves as true BJP followers and enjoy backing of the RSS and Sangh Parivar as well. The object is to bag the anti-Modi votes and be in the corridors of power. It is a very clever manoeuvre of the RSS to keep discontent of the people against Modi within the ambit of RSS only.

But people are fuming in discontent and wrath. There have been certain spontaneous outbursts of their accumulated grievances and resentments against the misuse of Modi. But in absence of correct direction and proper leadership, all these occasional sparks have all fizzled out. Had there been a surge of organized powerful people's movement on the burning problems of life and the communal-divisive pro-rich policies of Modi government, the various wrongdoings of the police-administration, this electoral scenario could have been different. In the milieu of growing people's movement it would have been possible to launch a fierce ideological-political struggle against communalism-divisiveness holding the state in ransom and at the same time to give thorough exposure to both Modi's BJP and Congress, two principal political parties of the oppressive bourgeoisie. Also, all secular democratic minded people could be united on this platform of movement and alternative political trend could take roots in the state. The muffled voice of the people could have found a channel of ventilation and even the panic-stricken cornered persecuted minorities could have been involved in correct path of struggle. But this could not materialize because of the treacherous role of the self-styled Marxists-leftists like the CPI (M), CPI who have long abandoned the path of movement and are now busy in currying favour of the ruling class for pelf and power. They have now become part and parcel of the bourgeois vote brigade. One would remember that in earlier polls, the CPI (M) instead of taking any initiative to build up a left-

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Ruling class destroying moral backbone of people to blunt fighting spirit

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proclivities of relishing commoditization of women. A new dimension has been added to this planned emasculation of the people after introduction of the vile doctrine of capitalist globalization. It is also important to note that more is the uncertainty and anarchy in production, inevitable in crisis-ridden capitalism, more is the uncertainty gripping life, forcing people in absence of correct ideological mooring to resort to unethical means of livelihood which also contributes to indulgence in animal-like behaviour.

One has to take serious note of this aspect. Development of character or in other words, making of a man depends on what object of life one pursues. All ideologies in their respective periods of progressiveness, all great men have preached fulfilment of social obligation, engaging the self in propelling the progress of human civilization overcoming all obstacles and disdaining all personal discomfort, inconvenience or even apparent harm, as the cherished purpose of life. The concept of self-dignity is also derived from that sense of purposiveness. All great ideologies, all great men have upheld this very perception of self-dignity and purposiveness of life. During our freedom movement also, the social objective of freeing the motherland from the clutches of foreign imperialist rule was the guiding motivation in achieving excellence and gaining fulfilment of life. So, there emerged great characters and the urge for emulating those characters by cultivating lofty ideals, higher culture and human essence. But, in the decaying capitalist societies today, this very base of culture and ideology, very realization of self-honour and self-respect, are under attack. The objective of life has been reduced to anyhow make money and satiate self pleasure by adopting any course, any route or any conduct which, obviously, permits deriving sensual pleasure in any manner. The more accentuated is the economic crisis in the form of depleting income coupled with rising price-line, escalating unemployment and closure of all avenues of legitimate earning, the more is this mad craze towards money-making at any cost. This is also giving rise to unethical livelihood, diseased thoughts, warped mindsets and self-seeking, self-serving mode of life. Dispossessed of nourishing

ingredients, the mind gets dried up, ceases to be living and becomes sterile. A sterile mind allows base instincts to be the guide and turns human beings into beast. That is why, Marx in his historic *Communist Manifesto*, the charter of salvation of human civilization from exploitation of man by man, had said 160 years back that with the development of capitalism reaching its saturation the role of money will be omni-powerful and omni-present. In his words, "The bourgeoisie has ... left remaining no other nexus between man and man than naked self-interest, than callous "cash payment." ... It has resolved personal worth into exchange value, and in place of the numberless infeasible chartered freedoms, has set up that single, unconscionable freedom — Free Trade" (*Communist Manifesto*). How prophetically his prediction has come true in the present moribund capitalist system where every relation is stripped of its worth and reduced to money relation. And in the social sphere, relation between man and woman has been brought down to only sex and nothing else.

This is the backdrop, the objective reality in which galloping rise in the number of rapes, besides other forms of crimes on women ranging from womb to tomb is bringing disgrace to any civilized society and putting the entire capitalist-imperialist world to shame. This would also explain why the governments, civil administration, police and even judiciary more often than not reflect patriarchal bias and insensitivity in their handling of the issues concerning women. It would further clarify why anybody engaged in defending or subserving the decrepit capitalist society and system, cannot remain free from the vices bred by the system itself. That is why, one would find that in many of the rape and other cases of atrocities on women, the accused are either privilege-seeking political figures, village touts, mafia dons enjoying political backing or army personnel, police officials, close relatives of industrialists and persons in proximity of the power-wielders.

Emancipation of women inseparably linked with overthrow of capitalism

So it is clear that degeneration, depravity, unscrupulousness, corruption, unethical livelihood, polluted thoughts, hot pursuit of money, bestial proclivities—these are what mark bourgeois civilization

today. Hence, eradication of all these ruinous traits inimical to life is, therefore, inseparably linked with the question of overthrowing the bourgeois system. Liberation of women is also inextricably related to that. It ought to be recognized that haunted by the fear complex of anti-capitalist revolution, the ruling capitalist class with the help of its servitors and pliant circles are, as we mentioned above, bent upon breaking the moral and cultural backbone of the society so as to emasculate them from within and incapacitate them to build up desired revolutionary movement. It ought to be realized that anti-capitalist revolution is not just a political necessity but imperative for emancipation from all kinds of mental bondages, rotten thoughts, cultural degradation, ethical and moral deceptitude. It is in the absence of conscious organized people's movement against oppressive capitalism under correct revolutionary leadership that evils, filths and aberrations of the capitalist system, the injustices it metes out to the people, and the repressions it perpetrates on the womenfolk are galloping. Once the class and mass struggles conducive to anti-capitalist revolutionary movement, as an anti-thesis of the decadent moribund historically obsolete capitalist system, would gain momentum, thenew revolutionary ideology based on higher moral and culture would appear in the society to provide the suffering enthralled humanity the correct direction towards emancipation. Once more the higher ideology of the era would dawn upon one; one would be initiated into the struggle for acquiring higher cultural standard and moral courage to take part in revolutionary transformation of the society. It is the milieu of this surging movement based on higher culture that necessary ideological struggle would be fostered to defeat bourgeois machination for dehumanization. Surge and propelling of this counter-current of cultural movement would help inspire men in understanding that enslavement of women would in turn keep them all imprisoned within the precincts of outdated, outmoded, degenerated thoughts and ultimately make life purposeless, burdened and bereft of true joy, flourishing and accomplishment. At the same time, it is imperative that the women are brought into the vortex of real struggle for emancipation based on

the correct revolutionary ideology conducive to anti-capitalist revolutionary movement. Without this active participation of the women, anti-capitalist revolution as a logical culmination of a definite scientific historically-determined course of developing and intensifying class and mass struggles under correct revolutionary leadership and in the process imbuing the working class and other sections of the toiling masses with correct revolutionary ideology would also not be accomplished.

Road to remedy

So no conscientious mind can afford to sit idle and helplessly tolerate this demonic attack on the women and allow barbarity of jungle to dominate the society. Might be today it is someone else's daughter, sister or wife who is raped or tortured. Who knows tomorrow it might be the turn of one of my near and dear ones. If society becomes completely rotten, no one would escape unscathed. Time is running out fast to stem the rot. Right-thinking people throughout the country must unite with firm determination to take every necessary step to combat this brazen barbarity on womenfolk if survival as human beings is to be secured. Realizing that need, the women must come out to boldly resist this heinous crime by all possible means and regard this as a life and death struggle. They need to close their rank and build up powerful counter current of socio-cultural movement based on higher ethics and morality to ensure respect, equal rights and safety for women. They need to take up nudgels against each and every incident of assault and torture with thundering roar. For this purpose all forms of agitation and propaganda are to be employed. At every stage lawful mass mobilization has to be resorted to achieve concrete demands. Developing broad-based unity associating all well-meaning women's organizations, women's struggle committees are to be formed in every nook and corner of the country to steer the movements. Thus, real women's power needs to be released as gushing current throughout the country which would take in its sweep all mortifying shackles of enslaved womanhood and crumble the prevailing inertia, apathy and hesitancy in embracing the path of movement. The pressure of the movement must shake the government-administration and

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Students take to the Streets in Rajasthan to Protest Rape

Banasthali Vidyapith University in Rajasthan turned turbulent following the rape of two girl students on October 5 at the Girls' Hostel located at Neoitahsil of Tonk district – 72 KM away from Jaipur. The girl boarders vented their grievance and took to the streets against the criminal callousness of the authorities and demanded the arrest of the culprits. However, the authority was not to be ruffled. Instead Vice-Chancellor brushed aside the allegations as baseless. Severely aggrieved at the comments of the V.C., the students went on demonstrating all through the night

at the University gate. Students of Maharani College of Jaipur joined them. Under pressure of the movement, both the National Women's Commission and the State Human Rights Commission announced to launch investigation. Then only was the administration moved to action. The police was subsequently compelled to file three cases against the suspects and accomplices which included the driver of the University ambulance and the warden of the girls' hostel. AIDS0 has strongly protested against this incident and demanded that the culprits be given exemplary punishment.

Gherao of Medical Officer at Goalpokhar —demands achieved

That gherao is a powerful weapon of democratic mass movement and if applied correctly, is very effective in getting a static administration act, has been proved again this time at Goalpokhar Block in North Dinajpur District of West Bengal. The day of October 12 last, witnessed the authorities of the health department, so far turning a deaf ear to the problems of the Goagaon Health Centre, attending to the same as a result of the gherao staged by hundreds of villagers under the leadership of the *Janasasthya Raksha Committee* (Committee for the protection of public health). The health centre had been running on complete absence of health care arrangement for a long time.

After a protracted movement of the villagers of the adjacent villages in various forms failed to elicit response from the authorities, the

Committee took up the programme of gheraoing the BMOH on October 12. After one hour of the gherao, the administrative officials appeared in the scene accompanied by a huge police contingent from four police stations. However, perceiving the spirit of the protest and instant support it received from the surrounding village people, the administration beat a retreat and was forced to negotiate. The gherao was lifted after it was assured that the outdoor section of the health centre would remain open from 9 AM to 3 PM and the authority would try to improve other facilities. The Committee pledged to continue the movement for better health facilities, as success of the movement caused immense enthusiasm among the villagers who understood that only by pressure of organized sustained militant movement, they could realize their just demands.

United struggle of conscientious men and women—only deterrent

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force them to haul up and punish perpetrators of crimes against women. Intensification of this kind of movement in the form of a women's uprising would also exert pressure on administration and judiciary to refrain from functioning in a warped manner. Side by side, determined efforts need to be taken for imparting necessary physical training to the women so as to equip them to ably defend themselves against any criminal attack. Government must be prevailed upon to extend all necessary help in this regard. Last but not the least, firm unity between well-meaning men and women of the country ought to be the pivot on which this movement should stand upon. It is

historically imperative that all right thinking men join this historic struggle and act as rear.

This is the only way that an effective deterrent could be created against the growing atrocities on them. Great Marx wrote in his 'Holy Family' quoting Fourier: "The change in a historical epoch can always be determined by the progress of women toward freedom, because in the relation of woman to man, of the weak to the strong, the victory of human nature over brutality is most evident. The degree of emancipation of woman is the natural measure of general emancipation." Crime against womenfolk is a curse on humanity and hence human race ought to stamp-out this evil with due expediency.

School of Politics in Tripura



Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, Member, Polit Bureau, SUCI (C) conducting the School of Politics organized jointly by the Tripura State Organizing Committee and Barak Valley SUCI (C) held at Agartala, Tripura on 3-5 November

Demonstration in Ranchi against price rise, corruption, forced eviction and corruption

On 7 November last, on the November Revolution Day, a massive demonstration was organized by SUCI(C) Jharkhand State Committee in front of the Governor's House, Ranchi against harrowing price rise of essential commodities and petro-products, mounting corruption, forcible eviction of slum-dwellers, non-availability of healthcare facilities and such other burning problems of life. The rally started from the Jaypal Singh Munda stadium with placards and photograph of the great proletarian leader Lenin. Comrade Rabin Samajpati, State Secretary, said in his address that people are going through a unprecedented crisis

in every walk of life because of the gruelling capitalist exploitation and oppression and are ready to develop a powerful nationwide movement. But the vote-based political parties subserving bourgeois class interest are in no mood to build up any such people's movement. Guided by the illumining thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our Party has, therefore, taken up the challenge of developing such movement in response to people's need. He called upon all party workers to rise to the occasion in right earnest. Comrades K.P. Singh, Sumit Roy and R.S. Sharma, all members of the State Committee also addressed the gathering.

Gujarat Assembly poll SUCI(C) alone holding aloft the banner of genuine leftism

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democratic alternative in the process of developing powerful united people's movement had joined hands with the Congress and one saw the CPI (M)'s election symbol embossed on the election symbol of the Congress along with a portrait of Congress president Sonia Gandhi in posters soliciting support for CPI (M) candidates. It is only our Party which, overcoming all difficulties and braving all odds, has been persistently trying with its limited but growing strength to build up organized sustained democratic movement on each and every people's issue involving all sections of the toiling masses along correct leftist course. Tirelessly, we are trying to expose before the people the outright anti-people communal policies of Modi and BJP and at the same time laying bare the murky face of the Congress. It is

true that Modi and BJP must be inflicted a crushing defeat in the elections so that Gujarat could be freed from the communal-fundamentalist strangulation and the suffocating political environment in which every scope for ventilating people's aspirations, urges and demands is not just scuttled but gagged. With the revolutionary political line and utmost efforts to unite all genuine left and democratic forces as well as democratic-minded right-thinking conscientious persons, SUCI(C) is contesting five seats in the coming Gujarat assembly elections and calls upon all the toiling masses to make our candidates victorious so that people's voice could reverberate inside the legislature and extra-parliamentary movements could be coordinated with parliamentary movements.

[List of candidates on page 8]

Great November Revolution Day observed



Comrade Debaprasad Sarkar, Member, Central Committee placing wreath at the portrait of Great Lenin at the Central Office, Kolkata on 7 November, on the occasion of the Great November Revolution

Surat, Gujarat

As part of observance of the 95th anniversary of Great November Revolution, a meeting was organized by Surat District Organizing Committee of SUCI (C) on 10 November. The Meeting was presided over by Comrade Satyendra Singh, Surat City Organizing Committee Secretary of the party.

The main speaker was Comrade Dwarika Nath Rath, State Secretary of SUCI (C) Gujarat State Organizing Committee, who elaborately dwelt on the various important teachings of November Revolution which are important in the context of the current world situation and the Indian revolution. Other speakers were Comrades Mukesh Semwal, Rambharat Maurya, Naval Jha and Prayagraj Maurya.

Durg, Chhattisgarh

On 9 November, a meeting was organized at the Netaji Subhas school at Durg, Chhattisgarh. Comrade Biswajit Harade presided over the meeting. Comrade Gopal Kundu, member, Central Committee, SUCI(C), in his main speaker's speech drew attention to the historical significance of November Revolution and the historic role of Comrade Lenin as the architect of this epoch-making event and highlighted the various lessons one needs to draw from that.

Joynagar, West Bengal

A huge mass meeting was held at Joynagar in West Bengal on 11 November that was addressed by Dr. Tarun Mandal, MP and other state, district and municipality leaders of the party.

Demonstration by Anganwadi workers at Jamshedpur

On September 8 a huge number of Anganwadi workers demonstrated in front of their East Singhbhum District Office, Jamshedpur, demanding recognition of Anganwadi workers as government employees, granting PF, pension, summer vacation, arrear salary of nine months, cycles and dresses to them and improvement of the ICDS scheme. The higher authorities met the deputationists and assured them that their demands will be met.

At a protest meeting held afterwards, Comrades Pushpa Mahato and Sumit Roy, General

Secretary and President of the organization respectively addressed the gathering. Comrade Mahato said that after Anganwadi workers had organized the historical Ranchi rally a few months back, the Jharkhand state government had announced to them pay enhanced salary at the central rate, but many are yet to receive the arrears. Still this movement has showed that there is only one way to achieve demands and that is through development of powerful united movement. The Anganwadi workers are firmly resolved to carry it on.

Make SUCI(C) Candidates Victorious in Gujarat Assembly Elections

Constituency	District	Candidate
Ellis Bridge	Ahmedabad	Comrade Bhavik Raja
Akota	Vadodhara	Comrade Bharati
Chourasi	Surat	Comrade Rammurat Maurya
Katargam	Surat	Comrade Lalit Solanki
Limbayat	Surat	Comrade Rambharat Maurya

Release of book by Comrade Tarun Mandal, MP, SUCI(C) on his performance in Parliament

A book titled *Sansade Dr. Tarun Mandal* (Dr. Tarun Mandal in Parliament) was formally released at the Kolkata Press Club on October 18. Present on the occasion were Shri Kabir Suman, MP and well-known singer, Shri Bibhas Chakraborty, renowned theatre personality, Smt. Miratun Nahar, eminent social activist and educationist, Dr. Ashim Roy Chowdhury, ex-principal of Kolkata Medical College and Hospital, Dr. Subhas Chakraborty, distinguished member of West Bengal Medical Council, Comrade Soumen Basu, West Bengal State Secretary, SUCI(C) and Dr. Ashok Samanta, leader of *Jana Sasthya* (Public Health) movement. Along with the representatives of different news media, many admirers of Dr. Tarun including people from his Joynagar Parliamentary Constituency also assembled there, contributing to a warm ambience.

In the preface of the book, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), has indicated that Dr. Tarun Mandal guided by the thoughts and teachings of the Party, decided it to be his bounden duty to inform his electorates as well as people at large about how he as a people's representative has fought to uphold people's cause inside the parliament. This is a rare example in the history of parliamentary politics in this country. At the gathering Miratun Nahar recalled how her apprehension that the polluted atmosphere of the Parliament might corrupt Dr. Tarun Mandal was quelled as she came to know that he was the only MP to have protested against the most unjust

hike in the pay and perks of the MPs. Shri Bibhas Chakraborty while lauding the example set by Dr. Mandal hoped that other MPs should also follow it. Shri Kabir Suman while talking of the warm relation he cherishes with Dr. Mondal, mentioned with admiration that Dr. Mandal never loses his calm in the Parliament even amidst the slurring and bantering directed against him by many of his fellow MPs; he always has his say in full, despite being allotted very little time. He went on to say that to understand Dr. Mandal, one has to understand the party he belongs to. To Shri Kabir Suman, SUCI(C) is a distinctly different party with strong ideological conviction and discipline. He expressed sincere hope that people like Dr. Mandal would be re-elected to the Parliament. Dr. Ashim Roy Chowdhury and Dr. Subhas Chakraborty, who had Dr. Mandal as one of their beloved students, expressed their gratification over his role of as the MP and wished him success and accomplishment. In conclusion, Comrade Soumen Basu said that it was indeed a matter of pride that Dr. Tarun Mandal imbued with the Party ideology, has been conducting a praiseworthy struggle, both inside and outside the parliament, and in the process has proved himself to be an able follower of the former SUCI (C) members of the State Assembly late Comrade Subodh Banerjee and Comrades Protiva Mukherjee, Debaprosad Sarkar, Probodh Purkait and former Party MP late Comrade Chitta Ray. On behalf of the Party, Comrade Bose thanked and expressed gratitude to those who graced the occasion.



Dr. Tarun Mandal, SUCI (C) MP releasing his book Dr. Tarun Mandal in Parliament (in vernacular) at the Press Club, Kolkata, in presence of eminent intellectuals; from left to right- Dr. Asim Roy Chowdhury, Miratun Nahar, Kabir Suman, Dr. Tarun Mandal, Bibhas Chakraborty, Soumen Basu, Dr. Subhas Chakraborty and Dr. Ashok Samanta

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