

Comrade Dhurjoti Dash Central Committee member and Odisha State Secretary Passes away

Comrade Dhurjoti Dash, Central Committee member and Odisha State Secretary of our Party breathed his last on 24 June, 2021 at 2-45 p.m. at the age of 66.

Comrade Dhurjoti Dash was admitted in Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital on 3 June 2021 with a history of severe low back pain for more than 15 days. He had recently suffered from Covid -19-induced pneumonia (mild infection) and recovered from it.



But he was suffering from multi-organ dysfunction as a consequence of very aggressive advanced malignancy. He expired today due to cardio-respiratory failure following gastrointestinal sepsis with septic shock and multi-organ dysfunction syndrome under the background of metastatic hepatocellular Carcinoma. Despite untiring efforts of the doctors, nurses and medical staff Comrade Dhurjoti Dash could not be saved.

His body was brought to the Central Office in Kolkata on the same day around 7.30 pm. Floral tribute was paid to him on behalf of Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary as well as Comrades Manik Mukherjee and Asit Bhattacharyya, veteran Polit bureau members of our Party. Other Polit Bureau and Central Committee members present there also bid him adieu by placing floral wreaths. After that, his body was taken to Bhubaneswar office the same night. There many comrades from different districts of Odisha had assembled to have a last glimpse of their beloved and respected leader and pay revolutionary tribute to him. His body was kept on a red pulpit bedecked with flower. Grief-stricken Odisha state Committee members and other leaders as well as comrades, leaders of the mass and class fronts, common people and many eminent intellectuals placed wreaths on his body as a mark of respect. Among those who offered him floral tribute there were Comrades Chandidas Bhattacharyya, Central Committee member and West Bengal State Secretary and Shankar Dasgupta, Central Committee member and General Secretary, AIUTUC. Komsomol members pad guard of honour. Then his pier carrying his body was taken to the crematorium amidst rendering of the song on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our leader, teacher and guide. Because of pandemic situation, thousands of more comrades, common masses and his admirers could not participate in his last journey. In his demise, the Party lost a very valuable leader.

An online memorial meeting of Comrade Dhurjoti Dash would be held on 7 July 2021. It would be addressed by our beloved General Secretary Comrade Provash Ghosh.

Red salute Comrade Dhurjoti Dash

Comrade Sankar Saha attained a very high standard of communist culture and character through exemplary struggle



Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), addressing Memorial Meeting of Comrade Sankar Saha, on 20 June 2021

(Speech of Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), at the Memorial Meeting of Comrade Sankar Saha on 20 June 2021)

Comrade President and Comrades,
Although Comrade Sankar Saha was junior to me, but due to his illness and indifferent attitude to health, I used to tell him that he would die earlier and I would have to address his condolence meeting. And smilingly he used to answer: "I want that." And today it has become a cruel reality for me. I had not expected it.

Comrades, entire mankind is in danger now. Crores of people are infected by Covid pandemic. More than a crore have already died. Many more will die. And our Party lost a number of valuable leaders, organizers and members. Some more comrades are now on death bed. Any day, any moment, sad news may come. But how to face this grief? Ordinary people, become mentally shattered, heartbroken and demoralized. But for us, there are teachings from our great leaders. After the demise of great Lenin, great Stalin said: "We vow to fulfill the behest of great Lenin". Again after the demise of great Stalin, Great Mao Zedong said- "Turn grief into strength." Now, I will say what our great departed leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh taught us as to how prepare our Party leaders and comrades to face any such eventuality.

Later I would quote from his speech.

In 1974, there was a 'School of Politics' in Kolkata to be conducted by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. At that time, Comrade Subodh Banerjee, another respected leader of ours, was in a dying condition in hospital. He was attacked by blood cancer. So, in West Bengal Party Secretariat meeting, there were arguments on whether to hold the School of Politics or to postpone it. There were differences. While arguments were going on, Comrade Ghosh entered the meeting place. He intervened and said: "When you are in the battle field, if you hear that I am dying; will you as a revolutionary stop the battle? No, it cannot be stopped." After the death of Comrade Subodh Banerjee, Comrade Ghosh spoke in his memorial meeting. It has been published with the heading "Tribute to a Revolutionary" in the Selected Works. I will read from it later on.

When he was placing these views in the memorial meeting, we felt that this was a great lesson and message for us. Because he knew what pain would be caused to us after his death. He was preparing our mind for that most painful eventuality. In this connection, I will mention another point also to understand how much Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was identified with revolution and Party.

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Comrade Sankar Saha

He reflected revolutionary ideology and culture in trade union movement as per guideline provided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh

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After Comrade Subodh Banerjee's demise, the procession which carried his body created a sensation in the city because of the discipline and silent grief it portrayed. But it was reported to Comrade Ghosh that in the procession, there was a small group of newcomers from the villages who could not maintain discipline. Next day Comrade Shibdas Ghosh told me in the office: *"When we will organize this type of funeral procession next time, you should depute some volunteers where there are newcomer peasants in the procession to maintain discipline."*

Just see - he was thinking that even his funeral procession should receive public appreciation and draw attraction towards the Party and revolution. This was and this is our great leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Now let me read out what from his speech at the memorial meeting of Comrade Subodh Banerjee. This is known to most of the comrades. His original speech was in Bengali, Now I am reading out the English translation.

"Politics calls for noble feelings of heart - nobler still is the feeling that spurs on to revolutionary politics. Tender as it is, in one way--inherent in it are stern reality, strict discipline and steadfast sense of duty. Our work cannot suffer because of our grief. Outwardly, the conduct of this politics appears so heartless. But it is here, in what appears so heartless, that the significance of true realization of grief lies ... The pain and sorrow of the entire society together with the revolutionary transformation they underwent in the realm of values, made such a penetrating impact on the revolutionaries, that they have been steeled in their resolve to make revolution a concrete reality ... Even death of the most beloved, a profound loss or an event leading to deep emotional upsurge cannot make oblivious of their duty ... mere expression of grief and emotion has just no meaning for revolutionaries if they fail to realize the significance of the pain in them and what that enjoins them to do."

This appeal of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh at that time, made the entire Party to stand up just like one man, under the leadership of our

departed leader respected Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. We faced in that way. We have to face in that way today and in future too.

Now Comrades, regarding Comrade Sankar Saha, I fully agree with what has been discussed by the President, Comrade K. Radhakrishna. Although he spoke in brief, it has been a proper evaluation of Comrade Sankar Saha.

As I know, Comrade Saha joined the Party in 1963. At that time, Comrade Swapan Roy Choudhury, elder brother of Comrade Tapan Roy Choudhury, along with Comrade Krishna Chakraborty was working in Dumdum with the help of Comrade Tapan Roy Chowdhury. They organized clubs, coaching classes, cultural programmes and students & youth festivals. Comrade Sankar

Hindustan Iron and Steel Company. At that time, at Dumdum, under his leadership and initiative, many trade unions were formed. The CPI(M) created obstructions and attacked them with the help of police. Congress also attacked them with the help of police. There were many such attacks. Comrade Sankar Saha bravely faced it. In this way, he developed as a trade union organizer. He started work from the grass root level. Then he shifted himself to the central trade union office to devote himself more in trade union activities. At that time, another senior comrade used to stay in the trade union office. His name was Comrade Ganesh Dasgupta. He is mostly unknown to the present generation of the comrades. Comrades Ganesh Dasgupta and Sankar Saha stayed together in the trade union office. They themselves



Comrade K Radhakrishna, Polit Bureau Member, SUCI(C), and President of Comrade Sankar Saha Memorial Meeting, reading out the Homage.

Saha also associated himself with those programmes and Comrade Swapan Roy Chowdhury introduced him to the Party. At that time, Comrade Saha was an employee of Jessop & Company, probably in an important post. When he was engaged in all these activities, he came to know that workers of Sudson factory were mercilessly beaten by hooligans engaged by the employer. It touched his mind. He came forward to resist it, organized resistance and stopped it. And in this way a union was formed in that factory. Here you note one thing--he was not deputed by the Party to organize trade unions or workers' unions. He himself initiated it out of feeling for the workers and spirit to fight injustice. In this way, he started his trade union activities. With the help of other comrades, he developed a powerful union in a big factory in Dumdum area i.e.

cooked food there and slept on the benches of the office. Many days, months and years had passed in that way. Comrade Sankar Saha contributed his entire salary to the Party fund and after some time, took voluntarily retirement and contributed the entire money of his retirement benefits to the Party fund.

But here I would like to mention something which is mostly unknown to the comrades. At that time, Fatik Ghosh was the Secretary of the West Bengal trade union organization. You know Fatik Ghosh was expelled from the Party due to his degraded, immoral and anti-party activities. After his expulsion, our departed leader Comrade Nihar Mukherjee while addressing a meeting with tears said that Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had asked him not to involve Fatik Ghosh in the Party because Fatik Ghosh had many bad traits. But Comrade Nihar

Mukherjee appealed to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to give him a chance to rectify Fatik Ghosh. Comrade Nihar Mukherjee told in the meeting with tears: "I have failed." And taking advantage of the relative independence of the trade union front, he tried to practically create a distance between the Party and the front and virtually transformed the trade union front into an exclusive domain of his. Comrade Sankar Saha used to work under him. But Comrade Saha without being influenced by him struggled hard to implement the Party tasks, to carry the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in the trade union organization, in the trade union movement. Practically there were two lines in the trade union at that time. One line advocated by Fatik Ghosh, which was contrary to Party line. Another line pursued by Comrade Sankar Saha as per Party guidelines. Comrade Saha did it very carefully and cautiously, because Fatik Ghosh was the Secretary of the organization. Comrade Sankar Saha implemented the correct line and saved the other comrades from the bad influence of Fatik Ghosh. Although this contradiction was antagonistic, he did not allow it to come in surface lest it should demoralize the junior comrades in the front. This was a very difficult struggle. And no leader assigned him this task. I tell you he did it out of his own conviction and understanding. My respect to him started from this point. How patiently, intelligently and with firm conviction he did it, and saved the trade union from the pernicious influence of Fatik Ghosh.

I will tell you another aspect also in this connection. Of course, it is not related with trade union movement. Fatik Ghosh had done a very unethical thing. Another lady comrade, in her college days, was the General Secretary of Students Union, led by our organization, AIDS. Later on, she joined service in the State Food Department and involved herself in trade union activities. But she was not a whole timer. Fatik Ghosh assured her that he would marry her. But he betrayed her and accepted another woman. All these happened, without the knowledge of the Party leadership. When Fatik Ghosh refused her, she became almost mad. She rushed to Comrade Nihar Mukherjee. By observing her position, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee requested Comrade Sankar Saha to accept and save her. Comrade Saha agreed and accepted her. She was sick, a bit ill tempered, erratic,

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Fighting Myanmar people express solidarity with persecuted and evicted Rohingyas

The people of Myanmar are waging a heroic sustained militant protest struggle for last four months against the fascist military junta force Tatmadaw who has once again taken control of the governmental power of the country in a coup on 1 February 2021, ousting the democratically elected government led by State Counsellor Aung San Suu Kyi. Disdaining all intimidation and coercive action of the military, people's protests are swelling throughout the country. Thousands of Myanmar citizens comprising all sections of suffering people - students, teachers, youth, women, workers, peasants - are taking to the streets every day. So far, around 750 civilians have been killed by security forces and over 3300 people detained. Some of those who died had taken part in anti-coup protests, while others - including children - were simply sitting in their homes when they were killed. Such has been the extent of brutality on the part of the junta against their own countrymen demanding restoration of democratic rule and release of all those taken into custody. But undaunted and fearless, the Myanmar people are continuing their just struggle and the oppressed people throughout the world are in solidarity with them.

In this connection, a notable feature cannot be overlooked, rather ought to be taken lessons from. Everyone is aware how nearly 1.1 million population of the Rohingyas belonged to an ethnic minority group, mainly Muslims, of Myanmar hitherto staying in the Rakhine province in western part of the country had been facing torture, humiliation, persecution and even murderous attacks from the power that be. These hapless people were mercilessly discriminated against and tormented in the country dominated by the Buddhists. These wretched victims of severe onslaughts, still shudder at the nightmare of how the army or the masked men- allegedly Buddhist nationalists, armed with guns and machetes shot at or beheaded male members of the village even without sparing a single of them. With the horrible pain of seeing their near and dears being brutally murdered, fired upon or hacked before their eyes, the survivors ran for life looking back at their villages being looted, ravaged and lastly burnt to ashes. Finally they were forcibly evicted from their own country and scattered here and there as stateless persons frantically trying to hold onto their lives. The assault on the Rohingyas is a shame of the civilized

world.

But now the common Myanmar people fighting for a just cause against an armed autocratic regime have been feeling concerned about the Rohingyas, their own fellow countrymen, now in dire straits. Myanmar people wearing black and flashing three- finger salute of resistance, with tags of "# Black for Rohingya". In response, a rightist activist Thinjar Shunlei posted thus: "Justice must be served to each of you (meaning Rohingyas)and for each of us in Myanmar." There was a protest in Yangon, with demonstrators dressed in black holding aloft signs declaring " protesting for the oppressed Rohingyas". As Rohingya activist Ro Nay San Lwin, pointed out, while the post was a part of an online yearly campaign for raising awareness about Rohingya issue, it was the first time it has gone viral in Myanmar- with 180,000 from the country sharing the post. Reportedly, even undercover National Unity Government, that comprises lawmakers aiming to topple the junta, has expressed solidarity with the Rohingyas, inviting them to "join hands...to participate in this Spring Revolution".

Earlier, many of these Myanmar citizens having been

swayed by ethnic-religious fanaticism supported exodus of the Rohingyas by the ruling dispensation. However, while carrying on a protracted, legitimate, anti- autocracy blood-bathed battle, they have realised the plight of the hapless Rohingyas. This is how political consciousness is dawned upon the oppressed people engaged in a united battle against a common enemy for a just cause and they feel fraternity with their exploited and repressed brethren, in the country or abroad. The cultural milieu of a legitimate movement removes all divisive thoughts whatsoever. This is the teaching of history. So when the imperialist-capitalist rulers of different countries, mortally afraid of historically ordained anti-capitalist proletarian revolution, foment and nurture all kinds of divisiveness among the ruthlessly exploited toiling masses and try to embroil various sections of the people in internecine fraternal feuds and bloodbaths to drive a wedge into their unity, it is only a united organized powerful movement of the people which can stem the rot and if led by a correct revolutionary force, can work as a bulwark against the oppression and repression of the bourgeois rulers. The fact that the bonding or solidarity that develops among people that are oppressed and persecuted is best manifest in hours of crisis, is being amply vindicated through the sequence of events taking place in Myanmar.

Covid test scam in BJP-run Uttarakhand

Around 4,00,000 Covid-19 test results issued during the Kumbh Mela at Haridwar in April this year were fake, independent investigations carried out by media outlets have also revealed. This data obfuscated the real picture of the outbreak during the religious gathering which has proved to be a super-spreader of the pandemic during the second wave. The issue of fake reports emerged when the ICMR flagged the case of a Punjab resident who had not visited Haridwar but received a Corona negative report on his mobile phone from the Haridwar health department. He then lodged a complaint with the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) which, in turn, had asked the Uttarakhand state health department to conduct a probe. Investigation revealed that a private laboratory conducted about 1,00,000 rapid antigen tests of which

at least 50,000 were fake. It collected the samples in a fraudulent way and issued fake test reports of which most were negative. It is believed that most likely the culprit laboratory authorities did this to siphon off money from the government because for a single rapid antigen test, it was to receive Rs 354 from the state government during Kumbh Mela. It is also learnt that the Mela authorities signed a contact with the said laboratory for undertaking such tests. Another report has claimed that the preliminary investigation by the Uttarakhand health department found around 4,00,000 Covid -19 test results issued during Kumbh were fake. Such forged test results contributed to showing a positivity rate of only 0.18% during the festival, against the overall positivity rate of 10% in Haridwar in April last. As per officials, this reported

scam is just the "tip of the iceberg". The testing agency was paid Rs 350 per RAT and higher for RT-PCR tests and the scam could possibly run into crores and test results by other agencies will also be brought under the scanner now.

Could a scam of such a magnitude and that too concerning health of people take place unless there was a connivance of the mischief-mongers with the officials and Mela authorities? Was it because the BJP government wanted to prove that Kumbh Mela, a Hindu religious festival, was insulated from Covid 19 attack and the pilgrims were divinely blessed not to be infected by the deadly disease? Time would bring truth to light but the apprehension does remain.

(source: The Wire 06-05-21, 15-06-21, CNBC TV 18 15-06-21, NDTV 17-06-21)

AIUTUC strongly condemned decision of BJP led Central Government to allow 100% FDI in Petroleum Sector

AIUTUC in a statement dated 21 June 2021 strongly opposed the arbitrary decision of the Central Government to allow 100% FDI in Petroleum Sector which would definitely aggravate the misery of the common people manifold.

While protesting this anti-people, anti-worker and pro-corporate decision of the Central Government, AIUTUC called upon all the employees of this sector in particular and the common people in general to come forward and build up country-wide sustained movement on the demand of repealing this said decision in order to save the country from the aggression of the profit-monger foreign and domestic monopoly houses.

Comrade Sankar Saha

He upheld the revolutionary line firmly and convincingly which created sensations in national and international meets

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having some psychic problems too, probably due to the earlier incident. But she loved the Party and Comrade Sankar Saha. However, what is called happiness in married life, I feel, Comrade Saha did not get it. But he never complained about it. He bore the brunt of the entire trouble silently. This is also an example before the comrades.

Now, I tell you that in our country there are trade unions led by the Congress, the BJP as well as led by the CPI(M), CPI. And our organization, AIUTUC is led by our Party, SUCI (Communist), armed with the teachings of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Trade unions led by the Congress and the BJP practically work as the agents of the bourgeoisie. The bourgeoisie also needs trade union to deceive the workers. Common workers are mostly illiterate, politically unconscious and disunited. They are laden with many threads of bourgeois ideology, politics, culture and morals. The bourgeoisie hires agents or lackeys who can work among the workers as trade union leaders to mislead them, to confuse them, to bind them in the tentacles of legalism, economism and to depict in a glowing colour, the 'charms' of bourgeois reformism with the ultimate aim of diverting them from revolution to bourgeois parliamentarism. As a result, what is the real picture of the common workers now? They are crushed and suppressed under the grinding wheel of capitalist exploitative machine. But, the bourgeoisie, using religious blindness, always propagates that division between rich and poor, exploiter and exploited, employees and employers is eternal, God-given. Everything is decided by the almighty God. The workers are further divided by religion, language, nationality, caste and creed. To educate them, to organize them, to unite them is a very difficult and tough struggle. And if the bourgeois owners find a powerful trade union leader, they try to bribe him or they purchase him very cleverly. The bourgeois trade unionists serve the bourgeoisie overtly. But the social-democrat trade unionists serve the bourgeoisie covertly by duping the workers with leftist vocabularies. So the role of social-democrat trade unionists is more harmful as they are disguised. And it is the task, an unbound duty

of the revolutionary working class leadership to fight and unmask all these bourgeois and social democratic camouflage, to free the workers from their influence, and to organize them along the revolutionary line. Here I will refer to some education which is a guiding line for all revolutionaries and which was followed by Comrade Sankar Saha also. First I am reading from Comrade Lenin and then Comrade Shibdas Ghosh regarding trade union movement:

Lenin said: *"The consciousness could only be brought to the workers from without".* The expression "from without" means "not from within". Not from within the trade union movement. But it is to be brought from outside to the trade union. So he used the expression "from without". He further said: *"The history of all countries shows that the working class, exclusively by its own efforts is able to develop only trade union consciousness. That is, it may itself realize the necessity for combining in unions, for fighting against the employers and for striving to compel the government to pass necessary labour legislation etc. The theory of Socialism, however, grew out of the philosophic, historical, economic theories that were elaborated by the educated representatives of the propertied classes, the intellectuals. According to their social status, the founders of modern scientific socialism Marx and Engels themselves belonged to the bourgeois intelligentsia."* In fact they became declassed intelligentsia. That means, according to Lenin, socialist consciousness did not arise from within trade union movements. It had been introduced from outside by the declassed intelligentsia.

Next, I quote from Comrade Shibdas Ghosh: *"Marx had posed the question right from the beginning, why should workers join trade union movements? They should join because trade union is the School of Communism. While fighting collectively against injustice and oppression, from this platform, these workers get the opportunity to analyze events and search out truth. While conducting their day to day struggles consciousness dawns on them, as to why there can be no emancipation without*

revolution, The revolutionaries alone and none else want to educate workers thus ... only those workers can change the world who have been able to give birth to the quality of revolutionary leadership, not in political battle alone, or in slogans, but in behaviour and life style, in ethical and moral standard, culture, tone and taste by freeing themselves from the narrow confines of vile bourgeois culture ... Economism in working class movement which in a word is called opportunism, is a blessing of the capitalist class and banes for the working class." These are the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

These teachings of great Lenin and great Shibdas Ghosh guided Comrade Sankar Saha in the trade union movement. It was a very difficult struggle. There are other Fronts of the Party. But in the trade union front, workers always come to the office, with copies of charge sheets, police cases or closure notices to seek advice regarding course of action. Every day workers come with these problems. Union leaders come with these problems. And the leader is to guide them. Generally, these workers are apolitical, apathetic to political discussion. To politicize them is a difficult task. But Comrade Sankar Saha did it continuously remembering those teachings. Other Fronts do not face these types of problems. While being engaged with all these tasks, he found time to study. We have heard from Comrade Radhakrishna and other trade union leaders also told me that he had vast knowledge of Labour laws. He had to study those laws. And during conciliation in the Tribunal, he had referred to the clauses of Labour laws in such a masterly way that even very bureaucratic managers, employers, or labour officers, failed to defend themselves legally. While studying labour laws so assiduously, he studied Party literature also.

Many comrades do not know, Comrade Sankar Saha was very theoretically matured comrade. Frequently he had discussion with me. He had profound knowledge in Marxian philosophy, revolutionary politics, national and international questions. Regularly he studied them. But, in meetings, in classes,

generally he did not open his mouth. That was his nature. He used to let others speak. If necessity arose, he spoke very briefly but touching upon the salient points. Many trade union leaders became degenerated, polluted. It is a field where the employers, in many ways, influence the trade union leaders by flattery, bribery, appeasement, admiration, by involving them in luxurious life style. In this way, they corrupt the trade union leaders. Comrade Sankar Saha was in that environment. But the employers could not influence him at all. He maintained his revolutionary proletarian character being guided by the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrades, I collected opinions from some trade union comrades who were closely associated with him, and I found, what a high emotion, impression and respect they had for Comrade Sankar Saha. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said: 'there are two types of leaders- Constitutionally, one is elected as Secretary of this committee or that committee, and hence, constitutionally he is the leader. They are accepted mechanically. But there is another type of comrades, who, whether elected or not, enjoy respect, confidence from the core of the heart of the comrades and workers, because of their character, behaviour and profound knowledge of revolutionary teachings. They are real leaders.' I have found, Comrade Sankar Saha emerged as a real leader in that way. With deep respect, emotion and grief, our trade union leaders told me that they have lost their father, their beloved guardian. He was not merely a leader. He reflected some exemplary features based on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teachings. Trade Union comrades told me that whenever he went to any meeting, in the country or abroad, after drafting a resolution, he used to place before others and sought their opinion. And if necessary, he accepted other's suggestions. In meetings, he, in the beginning, allowed others to speak and place their suggestions and opinions. They used to take much time in discussions. He used to listen to others attentively and concluded the discussion within 15 to maximum 30 minutes. And that used to be a brilliant conclusion. They told me that if any of them committed any mistake, even a serious mistake, seldom he became angry. He never injured or hurt anyone by harsh talks. He discussed with that comrade, very calmly and sympathetically only to educate him

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Ram Mandir opens avenue for benefactors to make fortunes by land trading

Not even Ram Mandir, the 'holy project' of the RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar is spared from the all-pervading corruption in capitalist India. It is reported that the 'Shri Ram Janmabhoomi Teerth Kshetra Trust' had purchased 12,080 square metres of land at Ayodhya in Uttar Pradesh at an inflated price of Rs18.5 crore on 18 March. The land was purchased by the temple's trust at Rs 18.5 crore on 18 March. According to land deeds, only a few minutes earlier on the same day one Kusum Phatak had sold the same land for Rs 2 crore to Ravi Tiwari and Sultan Ansari from whom the Trust bought the land. Trust members Anil Mishra, who is a BJP leader, and Hrishikesh Upadhyay, a former BJP mayor of Ayodhya, are signatories to the Rs18.5 crore land deal. Once this piece of information was leaked, the saints and ascetics who form core support group of the RSS-BJP are stated to be furious as it raises question about misuse of Rs 3,200 crore odd fund collected for construction of the temple. To handle the situation, Krishna Gopal, assistant General Secretary of the RSS, rushed to Ayodhya and as per media report, was closeted with RSS activists Chmapat Rai, Anil Sharma, Secretary and member of the Trust, respectively as well as other Trust people. Champat Rai is also the vice-president of Vishwa Hindu Parishad, a constituent of Sangh Parivar. It is learnt that he left Ayodhya with copies of all deeds and documents related to the land deal. Notably, 12 of the 15 members of the Trust are nominated by the central BJP government. Nripen Mishra, former principal secretary of the Prime Minister is the Chairman of the Committee for construction of the temple. It is alleged that Mishra alongwith Hrishikesh Upadhyaya, BJP mayor of Ayodhya, were witnesses to the controversial deal. It is further alleged that Deep Narayan, nephew of Upadhyaya also bought many pieces of land around the construction site at cheaper rate and then sold those to the Trust at an exorbitant price. Swatantra dev, BJP State President, remained tight-lipped over the allegation. Suspicion is also

brewing over another deal. As per the Government Grant Act, 'nazul' land is owned by the federal government and cannot be offered for sale. However, one Devendra Prasadacharya, offered this 890 square metre 'nazul' land to Deep Narayan for Rs 20 lakh in February last. Deep Narayan offered the identical land to the Ram temple belief for Rs 2.5 crore in May meaning a jump of 1200% in 79 days. The worth of this land as per the DM circle price is roughly Rs 35 lakh. The sale deed registered between Prasadacharya and Deep Narayan on 20 February 2021, additional mentions that land was "not for public purpose use" and was "out of the ambit of acquisition process by any government department". It is also reported that Narayan obtained all of the information associated to the land "properly checked" and "was satisfied with the ownership of the land" earlier than the deal. Devendra also claimed that he was the 'proprietor' of the stated property and had the 'full right to promote the land'.

Incidentally, Vineet Narain, who is currently involved working with an NGO engaged in environmental protection alleged in a social media post on 18 June last that Champat Rai had a role to play in a land grab case (a cowshed belonging to one Alka Lahoti).

Immediately, UP police have booked Narain, his aide Rajneesh and Lahoti under 14 sections of the IPC and two sections of the IT Act. Narain is known for pursuing the legal case in the hawala scam of the early 90s, in which several politicians and bureaucrats were charge-sheeted. It was his Public Interest Litigation (PIL) that led to crucial Supreme Court rulings concerning the appointment of the CBI director.

Now veneer is coming out of the Hindutva party "with a difference" as well as its mentors and associates. (source: The Hindu 14-06-21, ABP 20-06-21, 21-06-21, Indian Express 21-06-21 and Times of India 22-06-21) corporate profits have skyrocketed?

(Source-Business Standard 31-05-21, Business Today, 28-06-21)

Black Money stashed in Swiss Bank highest in pandemic period

It is not unknown to any Indian that during 2014 parliament election campaign, BJP Prime Minister Narendra Modi publicly promised to bring back the entire unaccounted money from Switzerland and credit everyone account with Rs 15 lakhs. Modiji had even accused the erstwhile Congress government for not recovering black money from Swiss banks. So, it was expected that Modiji would take effective step in his tenure to unearth that black money lying in Swiss bank. So far, such has not taken place. Though the Union Home Minister Amit Shah publicly admitted that the promise of giving Rs 15 lakh to each Indian's account was an electoral gimmick, he has not said till date that the assurance of recovering black deposits in Swiss Bank was also a stunt. However, in 2018, the BJP government admitted in the parliament that it did not know how much black money was illegally stashed away in foreign banks nor did it have any knowledge about how much is black money generated as a percentage of GDP. (ABP-07-04-18)

However, ten year back, late Kuldip Nayyar, a renowned journalist, informed that black money from India in Swiss banks, according to the Swiss Banking Association report in 2006, amounted to as much as \$1,456 billion (approximately Rs 10.9 lakh crores). The amount was reportedly more than the deposits of all other countries put together. And it is 13 times the country's total foreign debt. With this amount, it is estimated, some 450 million people in India could get Rs 100,000 each. (The Express Tribune, 19 July 2011). According to noted economist Arun Kumar, India's black economy was estimated in 2017 to be 62% of GDP - generating about Rs 93 lakh crore of revenue (or USD 14 trillion). It is larger than the income generated by agriculture and industry put together, which is about 39% of GDP. It is larger than the size of the government (Centre plus states) spending, which is about 27% of GDP. (The Wire-05-05-17). Notably, in its response to a Central Information Commission (CIC) order asking the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) to provide details of black money brought back from abroad within 15 days, the PMO Sunday refused to share the details citing a provision of the RTI Act that bars disclosure of information that may impede investigation and prosecution of offenders. (Indian Express-25-11-18) The Finance Ministry has declined to share Swiss bank accounts details of Indians saying it is covered under "confidentiality provisions" of a tax treaty signed between India and Switzerland. In reply to another RTI query, the ministry also refused to disclose the details of black money

received from other foreign countries. Also the BJP Finance Ministry had declined to share Swiss bank accounts details of Indians saying it is covered under "confidentiality provisions" of a tax treaty signed between India and Switzerland. (Business Today 29-12-19) Thus it is obvious that the BJP government is in no mood to reveal either the figures of black money or the names of black money holders since black wealth is held mostly by 'influential' people in the fields of business, commerce and bourgeois vote politics.

Now when millions of Indians are devastated by successive waves of deadly covid 19 and utter failure on the part of the BJP-led central government in every sphere-healthcare, vaccine to economy-has caused countless unemployed to go hungry, income of the toing millions plummeting steadily and over 22 crore pushed to poverty, most of the corporate sharks and monopolist giants have doubled their wealth. Not only that. As high as Rs 20,700 crores have flown to Swiss Bank accounts in 2020. It's highest in thirteen years. And most surprisingly, the BJP government is arguing that the money transported from India to Swiss bank is not black money. (ABP 20-06-21) If that money is really not black money then why the concerned people do not keep them in Indian banks? Why they take the trouble to stash it at Swiss banks? Are not the government aware of the illicit routes of shifting black money accumulated through tax evasion, tax frauds, under-invoicing of goods shipped abroad and hawala transactions (money transfer which takes place outside the traditional banking system between two or more Hawala dealers in two countries)? If the government is serious about cracking down on black money, why does it not focus on such illicit financial flows and frustrate the process of black accumulation? Why is it hesitant to divulge the names who are holding black money?

The answer is plain and simple. Neither the BJP, nor the Congress, the two most trusted parties of the ruling monopolists, is inclined to recover black money from Swiss banks. Why? Because black money is generated by capitalism. The bourgeois governments whether run by the BJP or the Congress or any other servitor of the ruling class cannot go against their masters. Rather these parties are appointed by and indicted tin power by the ruling monopolists to serve their vested class interest. Even a part of this black money is channelized to fund the parties. So, to dupe people with a view to winning elections, these parties often raise voice against black money. So suffering people need to understand this trickery and treachery of the political managers of ruling capitalism.

Comrade Sankar Saha

When he was present in front of a factory gate or in a slum area, workers felt he was their own man

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or her. He never rebuked the junior comrades as he understood the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that, *"In case of ordinary comrades, if the language of criticism is harsh, then it takes them time to realize that this harshness does not entail a ill-feeling; on the contrary, it has comradely affection and compassion behind it. It takes them time to realize that despite ... rebukes and reproaches there has been not the slightest dearth in feelings, emotion, love and sense of duty towards them in the core of heart. From words alone one cannot get the feel of it. From outward conduct it cannot be understood. It has to be realized by fighting together shoulder to shoulder for long."* Any comrade, even any worker, not belonging to our trade union, could easily come to him, talk with him, place his problems before him. They did not feel any reservation at all. Comrades told me that not only he accepted criticism from the seniors, he accepted criticism from the juniors also and that too smilingly. This is his normal face very calm and composed. [Comrade Provash Ghosh pointed at the portrait of Comrade Sankar Saha] He remembered Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's teachings. *"If you suddenly come face to face with difficulties that never cropped up earlier, or you are in danger which you never faced before, or you fall in trouble you never before had to handle - if you face all these and go ahead with your task, enduring it and bringing it under control unitedly in a disciplined manner ... Then necessity is to maintain calm and have boundless patience."*

He faced all problem and hurdles with this smiling face. He always noted the positive sides and qualities of other comrades, as Comrade Ghosh had taught us. Not the negative sides, not the defects of other comrades but their positive qualities. Comrades told me that when some of them placed before him some complaints about any comrade, he first listened patiently. Then, he discussed with them by first pointing out the qualities of that comrade. And it was in such a way that there was a happy conclusion of the issue for them. He had no habit of taking personal impression and discuss anything here and there. Whenever some questions came in his mind, he sought opinion of the leadership. He was very caring about all comrades. Comrades felt ease and happy in his presence. Some even have said that only to become free from agony and mental disturbance, they used to go to him and just by sitting before him, without any talk and only by his association, they came out from those mental agonies. Such was the effect of his association. While fighting for any worker in the Labour Tribunals, in conciliation, it appeared as if it was a case of Comrade Sankar Saha himself and not the case of any worker. When asked about it, he answered "I don't act as leader. I

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Homage to Comrade Sankar Saha

Central Committee of SUCI (Communist)

Comrade Sankar Saha, member of the Polit Bureau of the Central Committee of Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) and President, AIUTUC breathed his last on 31 May 2021 at 8.10 am at Calcutta Heart Clinic and Hospital after prolonged illness. He was 81.

Born in the year 1940 at Nagarpur of Mymensingh district of the then undivided Bengal, Comrade Sankar Saha graduated from the University of Calcutta, both in arts and commerce. He came in touch with Marxism - Leninism- Shibdas Ghosh Thought and in contact with the SUCI (Communist), the genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat in our country in the early 1960s through Comrade Swapan Roy Chowdhury and decided to dedicate himself to the cause of working class revolution. Within a short period of time he got associated with the working class movements and the AIUTUC, the only revolutionary trade union organization in our country.

Comrade Sankar Saha was elected as the member of the Central Committee of SUCI (Communist) in 2009 at the Second Congress of our Party in Delhi and became member of the Politburo of the Central Committee in the year 2018 after the Third Party Congress held at Ghatsila. He was looking after the Party organizations of Delhi, Madhya Pradesh and some other states from the Central Committee of the Party.

In the year 1991, Comrade Saha was elected as the West Bengal State Secretary of AIUTUC in the state Conference held at Santaldih. Thereafter, he became the General Secretary of the organization in the year 2006. Subsequently he was elected as the All India General Secretary of AIUTUC successively in the All India Conferences of 2008 and 2013 held in Delhi and Bangalore, respectively. He was then elected as the President of AIUTUC in the year 2020 in the All India Conference of AIUTUC held at Dhanbad, Jharkhand. During this long period, Guided by the revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrade Sankar Saha reared and steered the trade union organisation AIUTUC as an instrument of class struggle for the emancipation of the working people from the yoke of exploitative capitalist system. He fought relentlessly to free the working class movements and the trade union organization from the vile influences of economism - reformism - legalism and all sorts of petty bourgeois opportunism.

Because of his vast and immensely enriched experiences in the trade union movements in course of prolonged period of struggles, Comrade Saha represented AIUTUC in many important labour committees. He was a member of the National Social Security Board, member of the Central Advisory Board (CAB) of the Minimum Wages Act 1948, member of the Board of Governors of National Safety Council, and member of the National Productivity Council. He was also a member of the ESI Corporation and for a long period he was an important member of Central Board of Trustees (CBT) of Employee's Provident Fund Organization. He also represented AIUTUC in different such committees at different times.

Comrade Sankar Saha also played a distinguished role in carrying abroad the revolutionary thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as part of his unflinching obligation to Proletarian Internationalism. He represented AIUTUC in the 16th International Congress of World Federations of Trade Unions (WFTU) in Athens of Greece in April 2011 and also the 17th International Congress of WFTU in Durban of South Africa in October 2016. He was a member of the ILO Convention Committee and was nominated from AIUTUC as a member of the Workers Delegation in the International Labour Conference of ILO for 15 years in its annual sessions at Geneva of Switzerland. He attended the Conference of Bangladesh Workers and Employees Federation in October 2019.

Following the great teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that revolutionary politics calls for nobler feelings of heart, Comrade Saha could develop himself as a beloved leader close to the hearts of the downtrodden working people and also of the comrades of different ranks within the organization. He possessed a pleasing personality and a character blended with many qualities. People of different walks of life, leaders of other organizations of our country including those of international repute and even well placed men in the administration where he had a definite weight to bear also held him in highest esteem because of his characteristic honesty to the core and reflecting firm ideological commitment in his life struggle. This created a penetrating impact on all sections and all strata of the people.

Though he was a highly popular leader by virtue of his qualities accepted by all and sundry, he was free from any sort of populism. He fought within the organization relentlessly to eradicate trends of populism, self-styled projections, self-advertisement to earn cheap popularity, in howsoever subtle and sophisticated manner that may manifest and one may fall victim of it. He was well-versed with the labour laws and guided the organization in the legal battles of the working people against the employers and the government but at the same time fought the trends and vices of bourgeois legalism which confines the working class consciousness and their movements within the ambit of the existing bourgeois framework.

Comrade Sankar Saha was the epitome of unity within the organization and guided the comrades with unimaginable patience, prudence and revolutionary purposiveness to build up the working class movements on the edifice of higher culture.

The sad demise of Comrade Sankar Saha is a big loss to our Party and the working class of our country lost a front ranking beloved revolutionary leader.

The Central Committee of the Party pays heartfelt tribute to the decades long illustrious struggle of Comrade Sankar Saha and observes solemnly one minute silence as a mark of respect to him.

**Red Salute to Comrade Sankar Saha!
Long Live SUCI (Communist)!
Red Salute to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh!**

Comrade Sankar Saha

He assimilated the essence of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought to emerge as a highly respected revolutionary trade union leader

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identify myself with that worker and his family, their sufferings. Without identifying with the sufferings of that labourer and his family, we cannot fight for him. This is not merely a legalistic battle." This is also a very important lesson. Workers also felt he was their own man. Some even said to me that when he was present in front of a factory gate or in a slum area, nobody felt that he was a leader. They felt he was just like their own man. That was his nature. It was not something that he consciously did in that way. His nature was like that. I feel he joined the Party with humanistic values, and he was further enriched by proletarian values taught by our departed leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

I fully agree with Comrade Radhakrishna that he had no populist approach. He attended many international meetings, many meetings within the country. Everywhere, he attended as the only representative of revolutionary proletarian movement armed with Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Today, internationally there is no trade union organization which reflects this revolutionary thought. Nationally also, it is absent. Only our organization, AIUTUC, is an exception. On behalf of our Party, on behalf of our trade union, Comrade Sankar Saha upheld this revolutionary line which created sensations in those gatherings. He got appreciation, he got respect and regard from many quarters. But there was not even a slightest expression of ego, conceit, smugness or self-glorification. Nobody heard from him saying -- I did this thing, I did that thing; they appreciated me in this language etc., -- nothing of that sort. I used to get reports from him which were all simple reports humbly presented without any of the aforesaid bad traits.

In our trade union office also, nobody ever heard of any such thing. Rather, he always felt that he was lagging behind in performing the tasks entrusted to him by the Party leadership and hence, he was to advance further. That was his feeling.

Another point I want to mention here. He was very firm in his fight against the government and the employers. But there was no bitterness in relation or personal

enmity with them. They respected him. Here also I quote Comrade Shibdas Ghosh: *"To one imbued with proletarian class consciousness, the fight against the bourgeoisie is impersonal and a class fight. The consciousness of this struggle against the bourgeois system is not born out of jealousy that he is not rich himself, nor is his struggle on economic and political demands, personal in character. These are impersonal. His hatred is against the class, not personally against an individual. If the hatred is personal and not born of class consciousness, even a worker can be reduced to a bourgeois, under favourable circumstances and conditions."* This culture, Sankar Saha reflected in his behaviour with managements, employers, everywhere. And that is why he enjoyed their respect.

Here, I cite one instance. In a factory, there was a spontaneous outburst of workers' wrath that turned violent. In that tussle, one manager lost his life. The owners lodged case against the trade union leaders. One of them belonged to our trade union. In fact at the time of that incident, our trade union leader was not present there. He was not involved at all. But the case given was of 'attempt to murder' - a serious one. Comrade Sankar Saha met the owner and told him- 'I have not come here for mercy or any concession. You know me. If you know that our trade union leader is guilty, let the law punish him. But I know that he was not involved in this. What will you do?' That employer answered: 'Sankar Babu, I know you are our staunch opponent. But I respect you and your trade union leader as honest persons. I know he was not involved. I assure you he will not be prosecuted.' And he was not prosecuted. Just see, out of respect, what was done.

Now, I refer to another incident. A comrade from Asansol informed me that his friend was a General Manager of East Indian Electricity Company. He was posted in Shillong. Comrade Sankar Saha was on his way back from Delhi after attending some governmental body meeting. That General Manager too had boarded the same plane. Next day, in the early morning that person informed our comrades that 'in the plane I met a person. His talk, his behaviour reflected both

profound knowledge and high culture. I have never met such a person. I will always remember him. Later on, I knew from him that he was your trade union leader- Sankar Saha'. Note this point. During a plane journey, you know you get a little scope to talk, Still then, what an impression was made by Comrade Sankar Saha on a common man. Whoever came in his contact, they had felt in this way. This is called character, culture. In a dark room, you cannot find piece of gold without light. But without light, you can find a piece of diamond. Culture and character are like that. Quite unequivocally, I can say this that he attained a very high culture. In the process of identification with the revolutionary Party, he reached a very high stage. It is not only an example before the trade union comrades, it is an example before all our leaders and comrades also, to me also. I do not hesitate to speak in that way. Most of his life, he spent in trade union office and then in a small room with wife. He did not receive the required care or attention.

I took the opportunity to bring him here at Shibpur centre after the demise of his wife. Initially he hesitated but then accepted Party decision. Another point also I have missed to place. His lifestyle was very simple. In food, in dress, and in staying, his was a very ordinary simple life. Even before spending a single rupee for himself, he used to think whether it was a wastage. Because it was public money. Many comrades do not know that when he went to attend ILO Conference, he took with him, rice, potatoes, other things, and cooked his own food there to save the money allotted to him by ILO. He did not spend that money for his own food only to contribute to the Party fund. Party did not ask him for this. It was his own decision.

Later he fell sick. After a heart surgery, he faced difficulties in walking. Once he fell down on the pavements. I told him "You take a car or taxi." But he refused. I told him "You take a bit of proteins." His health required eggs, bananas and so forth. But he did not take. Then I rebuked him saying that "If you don't arrange it, I will send it from the Party office- do you want it?" Then, he began to take prescribed diet. When he was brought to this Shibpur Centre, members of the

Center probably do not know how much happy he was, because for the first time, he got a chance to stay in the Centre. While mentioning my name, he told one renowned lawyer of Calcutta High Court, a friend of our Party, with happiness and pride that he was staying at the Centre. He stayed here for about a year probably. And this was the only part of his life that he got some care, I tell you.

And here, all the members of the Centre placed in an internal meeting, what they felt about him. All of them said with tears that how impersonal he was. He never asked for this food or that food. He never bothered for that food or this food. Whatever was served, he took happily. He did not ask for other's service. Others did it voluntarily. Whenever he required any service from anyone, here or in his office, first he asked the concerned comrade: "Are you free, is there any assignment of yours?" If that comrade was free, then only he said: "Please help me in this way." He was comradely and friendly with all - elders, youngsters, even with children also. He was not in the Center earlier. But in one year he proved himself as a worthy member of the Centre as a very impersonal person set an example before other members of the Center. Many had told in the Centre meeting that he educated and inspired them. They have also written in that way about his patience, perseverance, his firmness, indomitable spirit, and impersonal approach in life. Whenever he discussed anything with any comrade, he used to refer the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

I should say, Comrade Pritish Chanda, Comrade Tapas Dutta, Comrade Ashutosh Banerjee-- they were also Presidents of our trade union organization. In early days, Comrade Pritish Chanda and Comrade Tapas Dutta developed trade union movements also. But they were more known as Party leaders. So I cannot compare them with him. Comrade Sankar Saha was fully involved in trade union movement. As a trade union leader, Comrade Saha is incomparable. He was fully involved in trade union movement. He was a real representative, the best representative reflecting the ideology and culture propounded by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in the trade union movement. Comrade Sankar Saha is a glaring example before us. Remember, qualities reflected by Comrade Sankar Saha had been the

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Conference in solidarity with Palestinian people by 'Arab International Forum for justice to Palestine'

'Arab International Forum for justice to Palestine' invited All India Anti-imperialist Forum (AIAIF) to join a preparatory committee meeting on 7 June last to discuss the agenda of an international conference for Justice to Palestine planned to be held on 17 June and 18 2021. Comrade K Sridhar, Central Committee member, SUCI(C) and important activist of AIAIF attended it.

In the meeting Mann Bashour, the leader of the Forum said that the proposed conference should discuss on support to Palestine especially the help required for reconstruction of Gaza and rehabilitation of the evicted Palestinians. On behalf of AIAIF, Comrade Sridhar suggested that political analysis should also be included and a concrete demand for statehood of Palestine should be raised. This was accepted by all and finally it was decided to have six sessions on i) Political support, ii) Economic support, iii) Legal support, iv) Publicity and cultural level support, v) Rebuilding and health support and vi) Educational and psychological level support.

In the conference titled "Ways to support the resilience of the Palestinian people and their resistance to occupation and aggression", speakers were from Egypt, Morocco, Algeria, Syria, Lebanon, Tunisia, U.S.A., Greece, South Africa, Venezuela etc. while India was represented by Comrade Sridhar. In the conference speeches all the speakers expressed anti-imperialism as expected and most of them showed left leanings. Though every speaker said "Justice for Palestine" no one categorically raised the demand for sovereign independent statehood for Palestine other than Comrade Sridhar.

In his brief speech, Comrade



Comrade K Sridhar

Sridhar said, inter alia, that an imperialist conspiracy was hatched to oust the Palestinian people from the land where they had been living for generations. Zionist Israel was created as an outpost of the imperialist powers led by USA to consolidate their hegemony in the resource-rich Middle East.

Israel could launch one after another savage attacks on Gaza and West Bank demolishing civil installations, schools, hospitals, residences and killing thousands of innocent civilians including infants and children and blockaded even humanitarian supplies so that the Palestinian inhabitants are terrorized and flee from their own mother land which then could be illegally occupied by the Zionist aggressors. These heinous attacks by Israel have been possible because of weakness of global anti-imperialist movement and absence of the mighty socialist camp, hitherto existing as a bulwark against imperialist machinations. Hailing the valiant uncompromising struggle of the Palestine people on the just demand for creation of an independent sovereign Palestine state where they can live with peace, dignity and harmony, Comrade Sridhar pointed out that a victory of the fighting Palestinians would put a leash on the ongoing imperialist tyranny throughout the world. Hence the freedom-loving democratic minded people in all countries need to organize militant movements in support of the Palestine people and coordinate all these movements to build up a mighty global anti-imperialist movement which alone can compel the imperialist powers to reverse their pro-Israel stance and force Israel to retreat from its policy of aggression and genocide on the Palestinians.

Medical College had been giving on their perusal for documents of students which they suspect have used fake domiciles. First they said the documents have been seized by CBI, then they said the clerk who was handling it has been arrested by CBI, and then they said the clerk who was handling in committed suicide inside the room where the documents were kept and it's now haunted by his ghost and they are scared of opening the locks. Finally, the activists approach the State Information Commission where four hearings in this matter have taken place. However, the college is yet to provide the sought information. It is not known if the state government has yet assumed the role of a ghost buster. (source: Times of India 23-06-21)

Ghost Story

It come to the notice that the Gajra Raja Medical College (Gwalior) has lost all records of several batches of students who graduated with MBBS and MS degrees. Another person had sought admission records for the 1994 MBBS batch at the college through RTI, while he was investigating irregularities in MBBS admission during the period. That time several persons from outside Madhya Pradesh were alleged to have gained admission in the MPPMT quota. A group of RTI activists who had been investigating anomalies in MBBS admissions in the BJP-run Madhya Pradesh are baffled over replies and excuses that authorities at Gwalior's Gajra Raja

Comrade Sankar Saha

He had been product of a correct revolutionary process

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product of a continuous life struggle conducted by him to overcome his defects and shortcomings, to elevate himself to higher standard by following the process enunciated by great Marxist philosopher Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Today we are passing through a very critical hour. Working class is facing severe attacks from the capitalist - imperialists world over and in our country also. There is absence of powerful mighty Socialist camp. There is absence of a very powerful world communist movement. There is absence of powerful working class movement too. And we find problems after problems are mounting with every passing hour. In our country, billions of people are unemployed. Billions are retrenched. They are reduced to street beggars. Every hour, every moment, thousands and thousands of people are dying out of starvation and being denied medical treatment. There is no workers' right.

Labour law has been reframed. Better, it should be called as Employers' Law, not Labour Law. Permanent posts are being abolished. Most of the workers are casual or contractual. For them, there is no fixed wage, no fixed working hours. They work just like slaves. And a new genre has come into existence - the migrant labourers. Earlier there was no such migrant labourer. So, under these circumstances, situation demands powerful revolutionary workers' movement. That situation demands more leaders like Comrade Sankar Saha. It is a demand of the working class movement. It is a demand of the revolutionary movement. It is the cry of the hour.

Red Salute to our Great Leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh!

Long live Revolution!

Long live Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thoughts!

Workers of the world unite!

Long Live SUCI (Communist)!

AIDSO writes to CJI seeking justice to Covid 19 victims

AIDSO wrote a letter to the hon'ble Chief Justice of India on 24 June 2021 requesting him to pronounce the judgement in favour of common people and direct the central government to provide Rs. 4 lakh compensations to the families of those who succumbed to Covid-19 and ensure jobs to the nearest kin of theirs.

I call upon the comrades-- we are losing so many leaders and comrades. You will have to fill up the gap. Study Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Develop yourself further. Don't compromise with bourgeois vices, habit sand culture. Heighten your initiative, enrich your revolutionary knowledge. That is the need of the hour. There was a call of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to the workers. We need leaders, cadres, who will convey that call to the workers. What was that call?

"You are the workers, creators of this civilization. This civilization is in the throes of deliverance. It begs of you, its deliverance. Not only your own emancipation, on you depends the liberation and emancipation of the entire mankind." This was the call of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh to the workers. And we need leaders, comrades like Comrade Sankar Saha who will carry this call to the workers, to the peasants, to the people. And by that, as Comrade Ghosh taught us, you need to ask yourself what is the lesson derived at the hour of grief. You must understand it.

If you can develop us fast in this way, by conducting relentless struggle, only then, by carrying the banner of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought, by carrying the banner of higher proletarian culture, we can fulfil the mission of bringing about emancipation of the exploited people-- emancipation of the entire mankind. That should be our firm determination.

With this, I pay my homage to the memory of Comrade Sankar Saha, a lifelong revolutionary, a lifelong fighter for the cause of revolutionary working class revolution.

Squandering of public money in banks by giving law a slip

While introducing the National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) in 2017, BJP-led central government held that henceforth the banking industry would get advantage to recover the loans granted to the business houses quickly. According to the government, the cases of companies unable to pay back their debt would be brought to the aforesaid Tribunal by the bank authorities. They would be declared bankrupt and dues would be recovered by selling the companies' properties. But now it is seen that such an assurance was far from truth.

SBI, IDBI Bank and some other financial institutions had advanced substantial loans to Videocon a known multi-brand corporate house, owned by industrialist Venugopal Dhoot. But now Videocon is a big defaulter of that loan. The total defaulted loan of Videocon is stated to be approximately Rs. 46,000 crores to this consortium of lenders. So, the Bank authorities went to the Tribunal to declare the corporate house bankrupt and wanted to recover the dues by selling its movable and immovable properties of Videocon. But now it is reported that Anil Agarwal, the owner of Vedanta Group, who hogged the headlines because of operating copper smelter plant at Sterlite's Thoothukudi unit in Tamil Nadu causing severe pollution in the surrounding areas and posing serious health problems to the local inhabitants whose prolonged agitation ultimately led to closure of the plant, has expressed his desire to purchase Videocon at a price of Rs. 2,900 crores. Surprisingly, the lending banks and financial institutions have agreed to the proposal knowing fully well that the proposed takeover would cost them

a loss of around Rs. 42,000. Another company, Shiva Industry took loan from IDBI Bank and some other financial institutions and is now a defaulter of around Rs 4863 crores of that loan. Shiva Industry now offers to repay just Rs 319 crore if the lending institutions agree to waive the balance amount. In this case also, the lending banks and financial institutions have given their consent to such an importunate wish incurring a loss of 93% of the dues.

This is how the banks are becoming weak as the corporate defaulters are escaping unscathed despite so called promises of confiscating the properties of theirs and paying back the dues of the lenders by selling those seized assets. Since introduction of NCLT in 2017, only 20% of the dues are stated to have been recovered. What a fuss and how the government is not only tight-lipped over such gross irregularities and glaring embezzlement of public money by the corporate sharks but is an indulgent onlooker to such 'benevolence' to the plunderers. It is due to these anti-people pro-corporate monetary and fiscal policies as well keeping the so called redressal mechanism only in books that the banking industry is in peril today and riding on the pretext of the banks becoming enfeebled, the government is going full throttle with privatization agenda.

Strongly condemning the entire episode, All India Bank Employees' Unity Forum in a statement dated 22 June 2021 has called upon the bank employees and all section of the working people to come forward to resist this wanton squandering of public money by developing a powerful united movement. (source; Financial Express 09-06-21, Economic Times 09-06-21, ABP 21-06-21, Business Today-28-06-21)

Increased privatization in healthcare in Covid situation pushing up poverty

The first wave of the Covid-19 crisis pushed nearly 23 crore Indians into poverty, estimates a study by the Azim Premji University. No one knows how many times the number has gone up in the second wave. Now it has been revealed that medical bills have pushed crores of Indians into poverty during the pandemic. The government's shrinking share in healthcare is stated to have pushed up medical costs, leaving many Indians teetering on the edge of a debt trap. The second wave has amplified the crisis. For all of India, 'out of pocket' expenses make up 63% or almost 2/3rd of the total expenditure. In Bihar, 99.9% of medical expenditure is private or 'out of pocket'. That means, for every Rs 100 of medical expenses, only 10 paise comes from the government. Experts everywhere agree that government support in healthcare can be a safety net that catches people whose medical bills would push them into poverty. Economic Survey tabled this year before budget also estimated that an increase in government spending on healthcare from 1% to 2.5-3% of GDP can reduce private expenditure from 65% to 30%.

With detected Covid cases touching 3 crore, it is entirely possible that many lakh citizens needed hospitalisation over the last year. Last month, the General Insurance Council revealed that insurers had received over 15 lakh claims. But this could just be a fraction of total claims that come in. And lakhs more would have availed treatment without the benefit of

insurance. The 2017-18 NSO survey on healthcare had pointed out that more than 80% of Indians had no health insurance cover. The same report also revealed that just 42% of patients sought in-patient treatment at government hospitals, pointing to the extent of private care dependence for low-income Indians.

For too long, most parts of India have underspent on public health. In 2018, just 4% of those who received in-patient medical care in Bihar government hospitals received free medicines. One of every five Below Poverty Line (BPL) households blamed medical expenditure for their plight. The latest Economic Survey also pointedly warned government of healthcare costs driving people to poverty, while suggesting a rise in public healthcare budgets to 3% of India's GDP. Given India's current unemployment crisis, such a boost in spending will also create lakhs of healthcare jobs. While Centre has rejected a PIL seeking Rs 4 lakh compensation for the Covid dead, governments must make an effort to figure out Covid hospitalisation-related indebtedness, and make special payments for most deserving cases. And if this crisis does not spur greater public health expenditure, we truly wonder what will.

But it hardly matters to the BJP government which is on a privatization spree of all sectors including health thereby laying the roadmap of further distress and debacle of the countrymen. (Source Times of India 21-06-21 and 22-06-21)

Supreme Court pulls up government departments for failing to perform duties

"There is a large number of such migrants who do not possess any card. Their above disability is due to their poverty and lack of education. The State cannot abdicate its duty towards such persons, especially in the wake of the pandemic where large numbers of migrant workers are not able to get jobs which may satisfy their basic needs," a Supreme Court Bench observed on 29 June 2021. The Bench set 31 July as the deadline for

the Centre and the States to ensure their "bounden duty" that none among the estimated 38 crore migrant workers, who form one-fourth the country's population, goes hungry during the pandemic. These workers too have made "considerable contributions" to the country's growth and economic development.

Right to food, one of the "bare necessities of life", was an intrinsic part of the right to live with dignity,

the Bench told the government.

The Bench slammed the Labour Ministry for its "unpardonable apathy" in not completing the work of the Rs 45.39-crore National Database for Unorganised Workers (NDUW) portal to register and identify migrant workers and unorganised labourers to ensure their rights, welfare and food security. The Bench further observed that observed, "The Ministry is not alive to the concerns

of the migrant workers. The non-action of the Ministry is strongly disapproved".

The Supreme Court also on 30 June 2021 pulled up the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), of which the Prime Minister is the ex officio chairperson, for "failing to perform its duty" to recommend ex gratia assistance for families of those who lost their loved ones to the Covid-19 pandemic.

(source: The Hindu 30-06-21)

Noam Chomsky hails historic ongoing Peasants' Movement

Noam Chomsky, Professor Emeritus, MIT, USA, a distinguished linguist, philosopher, cognitive scientist, historian, social critic, and an internationally renowned humanist intellectual and a strong crusader against human right violations has praised the protesting Indian farmers. He said that these farmers are beacon of hope in these dark time. In a long interview with Bedabrata Pain, noted scientist which is on circulation in Youtube, he has stood firmly in support of this just struggle. Coming this from him is obviously a source of inspiration to the 7 month old farmers' movement against Black Farm Laws.



Comrade Manish Shrivastava, Madhya Pradesh State Secretary, AIKKMS and other AIKKMS activists were arrested in Bhopal on 26 June 2021 when they were demonstrating against the three Black Farmers' Bills in front of the Rajbhawan as part of the all India programme of 'Sanjukta Kishan Morcha' providing leadership to the ongoing historic peasants' movement.

AIDSO demands withdrawal of 'Blended Mode of Teaching'

AIDSO in a statement issued on 26 June 2021 said that the Universities Grant Commission (UGC) constituted in India to monitor the standard of universities and provide them grants. But by crossing its jurisdiction, it has imposed a 'Blended Mode of Teaching' in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs).

This Mode prescribes that HEIs will teach 40% of the syllabus through online mode (other than SWAYAM course) and the rest 60% of syllabus would be covered offline i.e. classroom mode. This step of UGC is an infringement on

the autonomy of the universities. Without consulting educational experts and students, the Central government taking advantage of the ongoing corona pandemic has thus been implementing the disastrous policies of NEP-2020 one by one through the back door. AIDSO strongly opposed this sinister move, demanded to repeal NEP-2020, lock, stock and barrel and discard out and out anti-student 'Blended Mode of Teaching' as well as called upon the students, teachers and parents to raise their voice against this anti-education undemocratic move.



Comrade Pratiba Nayek, General Secretary, All India Democratic Youth Organization (AIDYO), and other AIDYO leaders and activists distributing relief to pavement-dwellers from AIDYO central office in Kolkata, on 26 June, the Foundation Day of the organization.

AIUTUC strongly denounced move to corporatize Ordnance Factories Board

Comrade Shankar Dasgupta, General Secretary, AIUTUC, in statement issued on 18 June 2021 strongly denounced the decision of the BJP led central government to corporatize Ordnance Factories Board (OFB) and subsuming 41 Ordnance Factories into 7 corporations. Obviously, this in process would pave the way to completely privatize the government-owned defence industry in pursuit of the policy of the successive central governments to totally privatize the key government-owned industries and public sector enterprises in tune with the policy of capitalist globalization.

Calling upon the working people to unleash a countrywide movement against this sinister move of the government, he also wholeheartedly extended support and solidarity with the nationwide action programme in protest on 19 June by the Federations in the defence sector.

Sorcery of Vaccine 'Magic Monday'

The TV screen was flashed with a dazzling display of a well-decorated motor van and the BJP chief minister of Madhya Pradesh in front of it with a mike in hand. He inaugurated the 'Mega vaccine drive' on 21 June, the 'Magic Monday', in his state. On 20 June, the University Grants Commission which regulates the higher education sector in India, sent a message to the vice chancellors of various universities that the Government of India was starting free vaccination for 18 years and above age group from 21 June. So, universities and colleges are requested to kindly display in their institutions the hoardings/banners as uploaded on its website. One such banner with a picture of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, read: "Vaccines for All, Free for All". It also highlighted India's vaccination drive as the world's largest free vaccination drive.

The MP chief minister was inaugurating the 'Magic Monday' drive with much fanfare. The number of vaccines given on that day was a record high at 88 lakhs round the country. In MP, the figure was reported to be 17 lakh doses. Dr NK Arora, Chairman of NTAGI (National Advisory Group on Immunisation), informed the country that "The government aims to

vaccinate 1 crore people each day. And we have the capacity of stocking 1.25 crore doses each day".

But, to the utter dismay of all, vaccination figures across the country dropped to 54.22 lakh on Tuesday, 22 June in the BJP-ruled states throwing up questions on whether such large scale vaccination was sustainable given the production and procurement capacity despite all tall claims by the government authorities? The MP government which gave 17 lakh doses on 21 June could only give less than 5,000 shots on 22 June. Same was with almost all other states. Figures dropped in Karnataka from 11.2 lakhs to 3.92 lakhs, in Haryana from 4.96 lakhs to 75, 894, in Gujarat from 5.10 lakhs to 4.26 lakhs. Only poll-bound Uttar Pradesh recorded more than 7 lakh doses on both the days. Obviously, eyebrows were raised. Was it that some states like MP had hoarded vaccine doses for days to achieve 'Magic Monday'? At least figures say so. In MP, only 692 vaccines were administered on 20 June. Likewise figures of Karnataka, Gujarat, UP, and Haryana stood at 68,172, 8,800, 1.89 lakhs and 37, 537, respectively on 20 June. Incredible indeed!

(Source: India Today 22-06-21, NDTV 23-06-21 and Times of India 23-06-21)

Incredible Paradox!

Despite outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and the subsequent lockdowns to contain its transmission profit of the corporate sector recorded a decade high jump. The combined net profit of the listed companies was up 57.6 per cent to Rs 5.31 trillion (1 trillion = 1 lakh crore) in financial year 20-21.

At the same time, Corporate tax collection fell below personal income tax collection for the first time in 12 years. The corporate tax collection

for FY21 stood at Rs 4.57 lakh crore, while total personal income tax was at Rs 4.69 lakh crore. Corporate tax is charged from corporations or companies, while personal income tax is levied on individual incomes.

What is baffling is – how come corporate tax collection is low when corporate profits have skyrocketed?

(Source : Business Standard 31-05-21, Business Today, 28-06-21)

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