

Proletarian Era

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Communism is the historical destiny of mankind and human civilization

Karl Marx passed away on 14th March, 1883, leaving behind his invaluable revolutionary teaching and the unforgettable example of his indomitable revolutionary character, insatiable quest for truth, encyclopaedic knowledge, profound wisdom and complete identification with the interest of the international proletarian movement. These remarkable personal qualities of Marx were embodiments of the moral values of the incipient world proletarian revolution whose thinker, leader and teacher he was. Naturally, the teachings of Marx throwing light on the course of this revolution have been named after him as Marxism, although this thinking throws light on much else. "Marx was before all else a revolutionist. His real mission in life was to contribute, in one way or another, to the overthrow of capitalist society and of the state institutions which it had brought into being, to contribute to the liberation

NIHAR MUKHERJEE
General Secretary, SUCI

of the modern proletariat" said Engels. "Fighting was his element. And he fought with a passion, a tenacity and a success such as few could rival." Marx was the first to discover and explain coherently the yet obscure and confused stirring for emancipation of the industrial proletariat within the capitalist social order and the impending proletarian revolution dealing the death blow to the capitalist society. Marx charted out scientifically the course of this revolution. Until Marx's scientific discovery and exposition, the proletariat's urge for emancipation had been felt and expressed only half-heartedly, at best as in the ideas of Utopian Socialism, lacking precise scientific and historical definition and practical solution.

Marxism showed the correct path of its solution — theoretically, since publication of *The Communist Manifesto* in

1848 ; and practically, since the 1917 Russian socialist revolution, in the socialist systems of Russia and China to Cuba and Vietnam — thus clearing historical ground, in both victories and defeats, rather more in the defeats, and for the final abolition of the world capitalist order. And though the flunkies of capitalism gloat over the reverse now being suffered by the Marxists, will they dare deny this unparalleled advance of Marxism and the communist movement ? If Marxism is a spent ideology, why do these gentlemen so tirelessly exorcise its ghost even today, in season and out of season ? Why do they have to employ the full power of propaganda to, so laboriously persuade people, aware by themselves of the collapse of the Socialist camp, that 'Marxism has become outdated'? It is so because the capitalist class is well aware that this temporary reverse has not diminished the theoretical and moral supremacy of Marxism nor undermined its

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MAY 5, 1818 — MARCH 14, 1883

"Modern bourgeois society ... is like the sorcerer who is no longer able to control the powers ... whom he has called up by his spells. For many a decade past the history of industry and commerce is but the history of the revolt of modern productive forces against modern conditions of production, against the property relations that are the conditions for the existence of the bourgeoisie and of its rule. It is enough to mention the commercial crises that by their periodical return put on its trial, each time more threateningly, the existence of the entire bourgeois society."

— KARL MARX

CENTRAL BUDGET

A Deadly Blow to People

It has been adulation all the way for Finance Minister Jashwant Singh and his budget from the media to all the apex bodies of the corporate houses, barring a few discordant notes. This is natural as the Finance Minister has given the corporate tycoons and MNCs enough reasons to make merry. Though he tried to give the budget a populist colour with the impending elections in view, it has in fact been

a powerful blow to the common man with an iron fist in kid's glove. This anti-people, pro-rich budget is in line with the ongoing "reform" process to suit WTO regime in accordance with the policy of globalization initiated by Narasimha Rao led Congress government, continued by the UF government supported by the Left Front and now more vigorously pursued by the

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Medical Bulletin Concerning Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta

Comrade Sukomal Dasgupta, member and office secretary, Central Committee, SUCI, was admitted in Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital on 5-3-2003 with respiratory distress due to Community Acquired Pneumonia which aggravated to a respiratory failure within 3 days and was put on artificial ventilation on 8-3-2003 at late night. For next few days he went through many ups and downs. At present he is still in ventilation and passing acute critical phase.

Patient is under close observation of the doctors of Calcutta Heart Clinic & Hospital and is being treated by a panel of specialists, namely,

Prof. N. K. Majumder (Physician)

Prof. S. C. Dey (Physician)

Dr. K. B. Bakshi (Cardiologist)

Dr. Dhiman Ganguly (Pulmonologist)

Dr. P. S. Bhattacharjee (Pulmonologist)

Dr. Sushrut Bandopadhyay (Critical Care Specialist)

Central Budget : A Deadly Blow to People

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BJP-led government.

Though in the beginning of his budget speech Mr Singh spoke of "poverty eradication and addressing the life time concerns of our citizens covering health, housing, education and employment," yet after the end of his budget speech it is seen that he has not taken a single step to address these burning issues in the life of the people and left these issues at the mercy of the market forces controlled by the capitalists who have been showered with huge sops in the form of tax cuts, subsidies and subventions and even virtual amnesty in tax evasion. To revive the capitalist market, Mr Singh tried to promote consumerism by drastic reduction in taxes on luxury goods like cars, air-conditioners, refrigerators, foreign liquors, etc. This is an attempt to boost consumer industries suffering from demand recession by solely relying on the purchasing power of the small elitist section of the society.

But while the rich have been so pampered the common people have been subjected to severe fiscal onslaught. As a matter of fact, the entire burden of the crisis of the capitalist economy has been shifted on to the shoulders of the common people. While the capitalists have been given a bonanza of tax cut, the people have got a raw deal from Mr Singh not only in the matter of imposition of taxes but also in the virtual withdrawal of whatever little social welfare measures have been existing till now. The imposition of cess on diesel and motor spirit will lead to further price hike, including price of essential commodities. Even according to official admission the price index is rising. So after the imposition of cess on diesel and motor spirit the inflation will gallop. Whatever little relief Mr Singh has proposed in the matter of standard deduction and withdrawal of surcharge on income-tax for low salaried

people will be of no avail and the savings will vanish in no time because of accelerating inflation. As the government has totally shirked its responsibility in the matter of health care, education, etc., the people will be completely at the mercy of private owners.

The cut in interest rate on small savings and imposition of increased service tax which will extend to newer areas, will tell upon the purchasing power of the people. Further the finance minister has not tried to rein in the fiscal deficit which is shown to be 5.6 percent of the GDP. That the fiscal deficit will not remain restricted within 5.6 per cent of GDP can be concluded by taking into consideration of the past records of the previous budgets. What effect this burgeoning fiscal deficit will have on price index can better be imagined. The purchasing power of the people will drastically fall and the people will be compelled to consume less. Thus the general demand will fall further accelerating the demand recession which in turn would further aggravate the unemployment problem.

The Economic Surveys as presented by the finance ministry show that the performance of the Indian economy during the last decade in the period of much-trumpeted economic reforms has been negligible and the growth that is claimed to have taken place is jobless growth. It is because of the fact that capital intensive industries employing a small number of highly skilled manpower are coming up and so these industries cannot generate large-scale employment. There has been no growth in employment in the organised sector since 1997-98. Again, agriculture, the largest source of employment of the majority of the workers of the country, has ceased to create new jobs. Again, millions of people engaged in the small scale and cottage industries have lost their jobs. Tens of thousands of people were

rendered jobless through retrenchment, closures, lock-outs and VRS. A government having minimum commitment to the people must try to address the vital issues. But Mr Singh has not taken a single measure to address these issues in his budget.

Plea of paucity of funds not at all tenable

The plea that the government does not have the necessary fund to finance the social welfare measures benefiting the common people, has actually no leg to stand upon. The black money is running a parallel economy. Instead of taking stringent measures for unearthing this huge black money the government declared

direct taxes alone by the year 2000-01 and arrear of Rs.42,798 crore on indirect taxes by 31 March, 2002. So the rich are allowed to retain huge arrears in taxes besides the enormous amount of black money. Again, the rich business community siphons off crores of rupees in the foreign countries through a chain of illegal transfer of money. It is estimated that in 1998-99 alone India experienced a capital flight of \$46 billion. The capitalists who played this nefarious game turned "patriotic" NRIs and our political leaders serving the ruling class cajole these "patriots" to bring in foreign investment with the offer of huge tax concessions, interest subsidy, etc.

excise duty, abolition of capitalist gains tax, etc., will cause huge revenue loss to the exchequer. Mr Singh also plans to make India international gold centre and announces substantial cut in import duty on gold, gems and jewelry, causing huge revenue loss. The finance minister also dreams of making India the global destination of health services and a host of incentives are proposed to attract more and more private players in the health service which will now run on the business principle of earning maximum profit.

However, there is no dearth of fund in military spending where staggering amount of Rs. 65,932 crore is allocated besides other hidden expenditure on military research. Militarisation of economy is being resorted to artificially stimulate the crisis ridden economy and hence such a hue and cry is raised over border tension and terrorist combating to mislead people, and adding further to the already unbearable burden on the toiling millions.

Finance minister's prescription to solve crisis in agriculture

Though Mr Singh is lamenting about the last year's drought, it is actually a boon in disguise. Crisis of over production in agriculture is causing concern to the government. Food silos are full to the brim and foodgrains are rotting. The poor peasants are not getting even the cost price by selling their produce. Reports of suicide committed by the peasants are coming from different corners of the country. In this situation, finance minister spoke of sunrise technology in agriculture and advocated diversification into horticulture, floriculture, etc., and allocated some funds for that. This is in consonance with the policy of inviting MNC and foreign capital into agriculture. If the grain producing land is converted

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Central Committee on Central Budget

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, issued the following statement to the press on 28 February, 2003 :

"The Central Budget 2003-04 in further pursuance of the policy of liberalization and globalization is completely focused on privatization and offering avalanche of benefits to the exploitative monopoly capitalists in the form of drastic reduction of excise, customs and import duties, export concessions, foreign partnership, tax-incentives and other infrastructural support, while being silent on the burning problems like massive unemployment, spiralling price-rise and unbridled corruption including swindling of public fund like UTI afflicting common people. Instead, interest on small savings including PPF is reduced by 1% and fresh tax imposed on essential commodities like diesel, paper and edible oil to add to the people's misery. Also as a part of progressive militarization of economy, allocation to military expenditure is substantially increased, while education, health, power generation and water supply are being handed over to private profit-earners. The Finance Minister rides a height of hypocrisy when prescribing such a downright anti-people and blatant pro-capitalist document as a fulfilment of his promise of eradicating poverty. This budget would thus satisfy monopolists, both Indian and foreign, at the cost of the common people. We call upon the common people to unite themselves in organizing protracted movement against such fascist economic onslaught.

repeated bouts of tax amnesty and relied on schemes like voluntary disclosures, etc., favouring the rich. This state of affair is possible because of unholy nexus between ruling parties and the holders of black money. Apart from this huge black money, it is officially estimated that there is an arrear of Rs.59,425 crore on

No tangible action has been taken to recover the NPA of the banks running a staggering amount of more than Rs.1,20,000 crore. No action has been taken to trace the money siphoned off from UTI and stock exchanges by the capitalists in nexus with the politicians. Moreover tax concessions to the capitalists in the form of reduction in customs duty,

Comrade Stalin Remembered on 5th March, the 50th Death Anniversary

Kolkata

At the call of the West Bengal State Committee, an impressive meeting was held at Rani Rashmoni Road, Kolkata, presided over by Comrade Sanat Datta, member, West Bengal State Secretariat. In his address as the main speaker, Comrade Provash Ghosh, member, Central Committee, and West Bengal State Secretary, showed how Stalin hailing from a poor cobbler family, came in contact with Marxism and Lenin's thoughts and since then never wavered in shouldering the arduous task of organizing the revolutionary struggle of the proletariat, and in the process emerged as the worthy successor of Lenin and a giant communist leader. To him nothing was above the revolutionary necessity. This grit and firmness of character in carrying forward the revolutionary task earned him the name of Stalin — man of steel. Comrade Provash Ghosh also recalled how Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, a worthy disciple of Stalin and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era, warned the international communist movement of the perilous consequence of de-

Stalinization, the mechanical understanding of the concept of authority and rapidly falling ideological standard. Had the mighty USSR been in existence, the imperialist-capitalist war-mongers could not have been so unrestrained in their bellicose overtures and escalating tension.

Chennai

Tamil Nadu State Organizing Committee convened a public meeting at the LLA Hall in Chennai which was presided over by Comrade S. Narayansamy, Secretary, Chennai-Chinglepet District Organizing Committee. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee, and the main speaker contrasted the history of the Stalin era with that of the post Stalin period to show the worth and genius of the

giant communist leader in furthering revolutionary and progressive movements, ideas and thoughts, establishing the superiority of the socialist Soviet Union in every field of human endeavour and bringing USSR on to the verge where every citizen would have free access to food, shelter, clothing, education, health, transport and all other basic necessities of life. By abandoning the revolutionary line of Lenin - Stalin, the Khrushchovite revisionists not only led to dismantling of the socialist state but actuated the sinister design of the US led world imperialism advocating a unipolar world, and bringing the whole world under its domination through brutal military assaults and economics of globalization. Comrade Chakraborty called upon everybody to deeply go through the unique comprehensive evaluation of Stalin by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, so that his great qualities would be cultivated and a dedicated struggle

truly impersonal to be identified with proletarian revolution, class and the

hall where a meeting was held. Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Secretary

Anti-war demonstration on Stalin-Day at Patna

party, could be conducted to accomplish the task of socialist revolution.

Bihar State Committee presided over the meeting. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Central Staff, delivered the main speech emphasizing the great importance and significance of Stalin's invaluable teachings in the present day world, threatened with war and devastation in every sphere of life by the exploitative imperialist-capitalist class. When fascist Hitler was out

Assam

Assam State Committee of SUCI organized a mass meeting at Guwahati presided over by Comrade Bhupendra Nath Kakoti, member of the State Committee. Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya, member, Central Committee and the

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, main speaker in Chennai

Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya addressing at Guwahati

main speaker pointed out that Stalin's understanding of Marxism-Leninism was proved to be correct as distinguished from the distortions by the revisionists and Trotskyites distractors. He also paid glowing tribute to the outstanding revolutionary features of Stalin's character.

to destroy human civilization in the Second World War, it was the Red Army and the heroic Soviet people guided by the noble ideology of Marxism-Leninism and under the stewardship of Stalin who inflicted a crushing defeat on Nazi Germany.

Patna

A big anti-war rally, organized by Bihar State Committee at Patna passed through the main thoroughfares to reach IMA

Bhubaneswar

Venue of the meeting organized by Orissa State Committee with Comrade Binapani Das, member,

Audience in rapt attention to Comrade Provash Ghosh's address in Kolkata meeting

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power to rouse the working class and lead them in battle, and so it will have to nevertheless reckon with the impending proletarian revolution ultimately, as Marx had envisaged. Hence its vain effort to lull the exploited and oppressed masses with the refrain in which it does not itself believe: 'Marxism has become obsolete'. It is the hopeless defence of a defenseless class sentenced by history!

Marxism — historical root

The talk of Marxism becoming obsolete is ridiculous. It grows out of ignorance of the historical conditions of its emergence. Marxism grew in the mid-nineteenth century when knowledge accumulated during the eighteenth century and the first half of the nineteenth, by the individual disciplines of science like Chemistry, Physics, Biology, etc. had become so immense that the separate disciplines could no longer handle them systematically. Experiments had further established that researches started in one discipline often passed into another. In short, development of scientific knowledge through research by separate scientific disciplines had reached such a higher stage when it outgrew the limits of isolated disciplines and called for a systematic coordination and generalization of this knowledge.

However, making this theoretical generalization was beyond the capacity of the scientists themselves. It was the special faculty of philosophical thinking. But, as scientific research was intrinsically materialist in character, just so, philosophical thinking was then predominantly idealistic. The crisis in the realm of theoretical thinking cast its dark shadow on development of both science and philosophy. It was in reality a struggle between materialism and idealism. The problem was finally resolved by Marx, who had a profound grasp over the philosophy of antiquity as also over the then European philosophies, above all of classical German philosophy, especially of Hegel and Feurbach. A student of idealist Hegelian philosophy first, Marx subsequently accepted Feurbach's materialism although Marx's materialism overcame Feurbach's inadequacies. But he took from Hegel the "rational kernel" of his philosophy — dialectics. Briefly speaking, Marx liberated dialectics, which was "turned upside down" with Hegel, and put it rightside up again on the

basis of materialist thinking, as developed by the great scientific achievements made uptill then. The greatest revolution in man's philosophical thought was accomplished!

Dialectical materialism

Marx showed that material existence is the only form of existence, and matter exists dialectically. But dialectics is the most general law of motion of matter. Its concrete manifestation in concrete phenomena are different and are, therefore, studied by appropriate and different branches of science. Dialectical materialism, or Marxism, grew by coordinating and generalizing the truths discovered by them, as a system of thought which can explain and investigate all phenomena of nature, society and thought. That is why it is the science of all sciences. As the world of matter will never disappear but only change forms, so Marxism will not become obsolete but grow and develop ceaselessly.

So, Marx studied things materialistically, in their interconnections, that is, in the manner in which they exist objectively. Besides, he studied them in movement and not as static objects — i.e., dialectically. Moreover, he observed the contradiction and unity of the opposite forces which exist in all phenomena without exception — i.e., in the forces of reproduction and extinction in all living beings and in the mutually opposite classes in class society. Such unity of opposite forces is a general law of dialectics residing in all things. It is precisely the contradiction between the opposites and their continuous intensification which propels a phenomenon forward, causes its progress. In feudal society, contradiction between the feudal and the capitalist class pushes society ahead. Man's struggle for knowing newer and newer truths develops his intellectual faculty, but this development also always presupposes a contradiction and conflict of his correct ideas with his incorrect ideas. The change which phenomena undergo due to this internal contradiction, gradually intensifies more and more, quantitatively, and finally reaches the extreme when the old contradiction and the old phenomenon is radically and qualitatively changed. Similarly, when social conflict reaches the extreme point, revolution becomes imminent. But although the old

phenomenon is negated, it is not a simple negation, but the negation of negation. Every new phenomenon, or material process, comes into being by negating its preceding one in the womb of which it grew itself; it is negated in its turn by the new force grown within itself and which now comes to life. In every domain of material world including the world of man's idea, everything is in constant motion and nothing is at rest. And in this flux everything, every social system and every idea is coming into being and going out of being. Birth of the new is impossible without the passing away of the old. The new only arises from the womb of the old and decaying, as nature shows abundantly. But what happens in nature as a matter of course occurs differently in society, because the ruling class wants to protect its old privileges stubbornly. And so, destruction of the old and moribund capitalist society, and the complete exposure and uprooting of all its hallowed traditions and sentiments and cultural, moral and aesthetic trappings — the complete shattering of these — is not merely destructive but a profoundly positive and revolutionary necessity for the new society to arise.

Materialist interpretation of history

The hatred and fear of Marxism in the bourgeoisie is due to the fact that no other theory has so completely exposed it and raised the proletariat's political consciousness, helping it overthrow capitalism. It could not be possible if Marxism had not possessed a profoundly scientific understanding of economic and historical process with which to explain the modern day social and political struggles. This is what distinguished Marxism from all other narrow and speculative doctrines.

So, instead of condemning capitalism merely with articles, speeches and agitations or inventing a higher communist society 'speculatively', as had been done till then by Utopian Socialists and others, Marx set to meticulously studying the history of development of earlier societies, the form of their legal structures and their economic relationships, in order to understand social history and in its light to comprehend the laws of capitalist society.

Marx's consequent great contribution to human knowledge was his discovery of the fundamental laws of development of society, in

other words, the basic laws of development of human history. They showed that the system of economic production of the means of subsistence and the social structure arising from it, at every historical epoch, form the material basis upon which develop the political and cultural history of that epoch. He said: "The mode of production of material life conditions the social, political and intellectual life process in general." This is the materialist interpretation of history. Marx showed accordingly, that the primitive clan society based on communal ownership of land was classless. It was private ownership of the socially produced wealth which divided society into antagonistic classes. After the dissolution of the primitive communistic society, the history of all hitherto existing society has been the history of class struggles. It is true for slave society, feudal society and capitalist society. But Marx discovered at the same time, as Engels explained, that "this struggle, however, has now reached a stage where the proletariat can no longer emancipate itself from the bourgeoisie, without at the same time for ever freeing the whole of society from exploitation, oppression and class struggles."

This discovery that — according to the level of advancement of the production of the economic necessities of society, its political, cultural and intellectual developments do take place, in reciprocal connection, was a great step forward in finally understanding the capitalist society. Exposition of the laws of capitalist economic development, as explained and elaborated in Marx's Capital, was not a mere economic analysis but a thorough exposure of the capitalist society as a whole. It revealed the "special law of motion governing the present day capitalist mode of production" and most importantly, solved the puzzle of 'surplus value' which is the key to grasping the operation of capitalist economy and the accumulation of 'capital'. The most basic social and economic questions related with the proletariat's emancipation, which needed the most thorough scientific and historic examination, were in this way finally settled by Marx.

The proletarian revolution

In the Communist Manifesto, Marx and Engels said, "The bourgeoisie ... has created more massive and more colossal productive forces than have all preceding generations together. Subjection of Nature's forces to man, machinery, ... steam-navigation,

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Comrade Stalin Remembered on 50th Death Anniversary

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State Committee as President, was Kasturba Narimahal hall at Bhubaneswar. It was preceded by a colourful anti-war procession that marched through the city and converged at the venue. At the beginning a message from Comrade Tapas Dutta, member, Central Committee and Secretary, Orissa State Committee was read out. Addressing the gathering that constituted people from

various walks of life, Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Central Staff, recalled how Stalin faced with obstacles both from within and outside stood like a rock to carry forward the socialist construction and enriched the treasure-house of Marxism-Leninism through correct and creative application of the philosophy in the post-Lenin period.

Bhopal (MP)

The memorial day was

observed by Madhya Pradesh State Organizing Committee through a week-long programme of propagating the life and works of Stalin that culminated in a public meeting at Bhopal where Comrade Rabin Samajpati, member Jharkhand State Organizing Committee, was present as the main speaker.

Jaunpur (UP)

UP State Committee organized a meeting at District Collectorate

Comrade Manik Mukherjee speaking at Bhubaneswar

A section of the gathering of Stalin Day meeting at Bangalore addressed by Comrade C. K. Lukose, Kerala State Secretary

Prekhhagriha, Jaunpur. Comrade V. N. Singh, State Secretary presided. Comrade

Achintya Sinha, an All India Secretary of UTUC-LS delivered the main speech.

Anti-war rally on Stalin Day at Kozaiikode, Kerala. Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Karnataka State Secretary addressed the rally.

US Ambassador dangles carrot before India

Prime Minister Vajpayee, as understood from Sushma Swaraj, Minister of Parliamentary Affairs, has been told of the concern the honourable members of Parliament have on the government of India's ambiguous standing in respect of US-UK war preparations against Iraq. BJP's spokesman, V.K. Malhotra, visibly uncomfortable in the face of mounting criticism of such an ambivalence, made a futile attempt of self-defence banking on the dangerously myopic religious world view, when he insinuated the opposition to the war having been confined to "Christian" rather than "Muslim countries". Then Yashwant Sinha, External Affairs Minister, soft-pedalled the issue by saying that it would be too pre-emptive to take a definite stand in such a changing scenario. But they could hardly obfuscate the real reason behind the government's trotting out different vocabularies in

justification.

After lot of pressure and persuasion the Prime Minister has made a very careful statement avoiding the name of USA and hoping that there will be no unilateral action against Iraq. Earlier also, he has spoken of a middle path. The question is why this middle path. When even the British Prime Minister under the pressure of world opinion against war and confronted with the mounting discontent and rebellion from within his own country, is now forced to shift his position, the so-called midway trotting of Vajpayee, has created a lot of confusions. But why this apparent ambivalence? In reality, it is not an ambiguity but a very calculated step. Neither does he want to invite the wrath of Bush administration nor desires to be branded as pro-American before the world opinion, the Arab people and the NAM countries. There was a time when the Indian government was pursuing its aspirations

to become a regional superpower in South-East Asia with the aid and assistance of the revisionist leadership of USSR. But with the dismantling of the USSR that advantage is lost. Hence the alternate route of increased closeness to US is being treaded along by India to increase its own sphere of influence as a junior partner. And the US government also finds in India a dependable ally in the Middle East and South-East Asia. That is why the USA too, in modification of its earlier pro-Pakistan stand during the period of cold war, has vastly improved its ties with India in economic, political and military fronts, much to the chagrin of Pakistani rulers. Even at the instance of US India has bettered its relation with Zionist Israel who are crushing the Palestine people. This policy started during Congress regime and BJP, in compliance with the wishes of the Indian bourgeoisie, is continuing the same. Moreover the

Sangh Parivar paints Iraq as an Islamic country though in reality the secular credential of the Iraqi people is very much established. So, the US action against Iraq is sought to be justified by them as an attack on the Muslims. It is not accidental that Praveen Togadia, a Sangh Parivar leader has spoken on these lines.

And this politics of the BJP-led government notwithstanding every attempt to keep it shrouded from public eye, is now laid bare following an interview of the US ambassador in India.

The US administration has long been promising economic aid to impoverished swing-votes states. But for India, they have something different up their sleeves. To allay any apprehension whatsoever that the planned US invasion of Iraq would be in detriment to the economic and political interest of the Indian government, Robert Blackwill, US ambassador to India, has conveyed in no uncertain terms that India with its "very well developed successful norms in civil society" has to play a

definite role in the "construction of civil society" and "economic reconstruction" in post-war Iraq, because India has a "comparative advantage" over others on account of its "vital civil society" and "long-term ties with Iraq" and hence would most likely be "welcomed in that situation". "So for all these reasons," said Blackwill, "we hope you have a major part to play and we have conveyed it at very high level". So US has a "very clear perception of India's substantive and serious equities in the region." Not only this, Blackwill also recalled how obliging US government had been to India's request before September when "India was urging the Bush administration to take the UN route and try to deal with Saddam peacefully... And it was one of the nations in the world that the US listened to." (Source: *The Times of India*, 12.3.2003) Though US embassy denied such linkage the following day, they did not deny the quotes of Blackwill, which were reported to be excerpts from

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Salute to the heroic Iraqi people

Comrade Manik Mukherjee at Baghdad Conference

"US imperialism is preparing all-out war against Iraq for several reasons. One of these is its interest in oil. It wants to establish control over the oil fields so as to be in a position to maintain exclusive domination over the world-capitalist-imperialist camp. On the other hand, the US imperialists want to provide artificial stimulation to their crisis-ridden economy and come out of the severe recession by boosting military industry through such a war. And by raising the bogey of conflict in culture and religion they are trying to divert American people's attention from their actual problems," said Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Vice-President of All India Anti-imperialist Forum, and Central Staff, SUCI, while addressing the International

Iraq, said: "On behalf of the struggling people of India I congratulate you, the valiant people of Iraq for the way you have stood firm with heroic determination against imperialist aggression. This relentless drive towards war clearly shows that it is imperialism, mired in deep crisis, as is US imperialism that generates war. So long as imperialism remains, the danger of war remains." He said: "The Indian government's verbal opposition to war on Iraq is driven by capitalist-imperialist interest with an eye on Iraqi oil and for getting an edge in the Middle-East market. The Indian government has also started selling arms. As a junior partner of the imperialist bloc, and steadily cosying up to US imperialism, despite some contradictions here and

will it be possible to coordinate the anti-imperialist movements in different countries on an international level.' He appealed to the different anti-imperialist forces active in different countries to take the initiative for this.

Copies of the original, written speech of Comrade Manik Mukherjee were circulated among the delegates. After the Conference Iraqi Television Channel and Print Media held two interviews with Comrade Manik Mukherjee.

Before the Conference an inaugural meeting was held on 19 February, in the People's Palace, Baghdad. Dr. Huda Salih Mahdi Ammash, member of Iraq Regional Command and Polit-Bureau of Arab Baath Socialist Party, addressed the huge gathering of delegates and people there. Afterwards, on being asked by a delegate why Iraq did not try to strengthen the unity of Islamic states against this US war intimidation, she parried the question, saying: the very concept of a religious state is erroneous and un-historic. Nation and nationality — these form the basis on which to constitute a state and not religion. Religion is the private affair of every individual, and the state, governance and polity should be completely free from religion. At present there are two camps in the world — the pro- and the anti-war camp, she said.

On 18 February a Peace March had been organized in Baghdad. Evident everywhere was the high morale with which the valiant Iraqi people confront US threats and military might, heartened also by the overwhelming support they receive from millions and millions of well-meaning people worldwide, including the USA itself. The people in Baghdad share in the conviction, down to the common man on the street, that with aerial bombing the USA might devastate their country but cannot capture it. To do so, it will have to invade the

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in this way the country will, one day, surely face problem of shortage of foodgrain in no time.

The problem of so-called over production despite large-scale hunger and starvation cannot be addressed unless the purchasing power of the masses is raised. But the measures taken in the budget will have just the opposite effect.

Restrictions on free flow of capital across border relaxed

The move by Mr Singh to relax restrictions on capital account mobility confirms the steady move on the line of globalization. Mr Singh says that the government has taken a number of steps to ease restrictions on capital account mobility. He suggests additional steps permitting overseas investment under automatic route to some corporates and the ceiling has been raised. Again, Mr Singh has announced several steps for easy entry of foreign institutional investments (FII) in the stock markets. Foreign direct investment (FDI) in banking companies will now be allowed upto 74 percent from the present cap of 49 percent. All these steps are taken to unmistakably move towards full convertibility of the Rupee, thus exposing our country to dangerous consequences as experienced by Mexico, Argentina, the countries of the South-East Asia and Russia.

country, where it will encounter such kind of people's resistance that its loss and debacle will be even greater than in Vietnam. When asked how are they so confident, they said: all the menfolk and 10 to 15 percent of the women have undergone extensive military training and are capable of using any arms. Also the government has supplied them with 6 months ration in advance to enable them to continue their resistance.

Towards a global role as an imperialist power

Mr Yashwant Singh announces in this budget a debt relief package to heavily indebted poor countries of the world and assures that there will no more be "tied" aid any longer. This statement of Mr Singh is very significant. It shows the imperialist features of Indian economy. That India has emerged as an imperialist power through consolidation of its capitalist economy has been concluded by our party by following correct and scientific process of analysis in the light of Marxism-Leninism and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought. Will the advocates of People's Democratic Revolution or National Democratic Revolution note what Mr Singh announces in the budget speech for "providing grants and project assistance to developing countries in Africa, South East Asia and other parts of the developing world" through "India Development Initiative"?

"Removing economic inequalities just cannot be postponed", said Mr Singh. But with a budget that blatantly advocates privatisation and commoditisation of even essential services, offering hosts of incentives to the capitalists and big business, inside and outside the country, while subjecting the common people to a new dose of severe fiscal onslaughts, dwindling interest on time deposits, inevitable galloping price rise and further pauperisation through plummeting purchasing power the inequalities will only accentuate.

CORRIGENDUM

In our issue dated 15 February, 03, in 6th line of 4th para in 1st column at page 8, in the news item of the W.Bengal State Committee's press conference held on 11 February, 'section 30' crept in inadvertently which should be read as 'section 39'.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee addressing at the Conference

Conference on No War and Aggression on Iraq. The Conference, called by the Non-Aligned Students and Youth Organization (NASYO), was held in Baghdad, the capital of Iraq, from 19 - 21 February at the Palestine Hotel Hall. Delegates from 36 countries, numbering 352, participated. At the Conference, apart from the main Resolution against war on Iraq, another Resolution, condemning the US war against environment in Iraq that caused damage for generations to come, was passed.

In his brief extempore address on February 20, Comrade Manik Mukherjee, saluting the heroic people of

there, the Indian government wants to extend the sphere of influence of Indian monopoly capital from South-East Asia to Middle East. Besides, the government is occasionally pronouncing verbal support to Iraq with a view to capturing the minority vote."

He said: "We are conducting movements to create pressure and force the Indian government to play a firm and effective role to stop the war." Emphasizing the urgent need for setting up a common platform in every country to build up well organized movements against imperialism in every nook and corner of the world, he said: "on its basis

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railways, electric telegraphs, clearing of whole continents for cultivation, canalization of rivers ... — what earlier century had even a presentiment that such productive forces slumbered in the lap of social labour?"

And how much more massive and colossal productive forces can the bourgeoisie can then release today with the help of modern technology ! But today capitalism is producing inflation, unemployment and poverty, increasingly and on a globalized scale. Because, "... Modern bourgeois society ... is like the sorcerer, who is no longer able to control the powers ... whom he has called up by his spells."

Capitalists produce for profit which leads to intense competition for market but also lowering of purchasing power of the people resulting in production of more goods than there are customers ; there is over production of commodities but slump in market and inflation in economy. Factories are shut down, workers are fired. Entire society bears the shocks. Globalization is no better than tariff wall, and the latter is as vulnerable as militarized economy or old and tattered welfare economy. The uselessness of all capitalist devices increasingly only confirms Marx : "The essential condition for the existence and for the sway of the bourgeois class, is the formation and augmentation of capital; the condition for capital is wage labour. Wage labour rests exclusively on competition between the labourers. The advance of industry, whose involuntary promoter is the bourgeoisie, replaced the isolation of the labourers, due to competition, by their revolutionary combination (Trades' Union) due to association ... What the bourgeoisie, therefore, produces, above all, is its own grave diggers. Its fall and the victory of the proletariat are equally inevitable."

This prophecy of Marx became nearly a reality in 1871, in the heroic proletarian battle of Paris Commune. Marx observed keenly that, "...the proletariat increasingly organized itself around revolutionary Socialism, around Communism... This Socialism is the declaration of the class dictatorship if the proletariat as the necessary transit point to the abolition of class distinctions generally." Showing that : ... "the class struggle necessarily leads to the dictatorship of the proletariat" Marx elaborated profoundly that "this dictatorship

itself only constitutes the transition to the abolition of all classes and to a classless society ..." Speaking about this classless communist society, Engels showed that "Society, which will reorganize production on the basis of a free and equal association of the producers, will put the whole machinery of state where it will then belong : into the museum of antiquities, by the side of the spinning-wheel and the bronze axe."

The dictatorship of proletariat which negates bourgeois rule, prepared the preconditions for the negation of its own class rule and therefore of its own class state too, forever. It thus stands apart from all preceding forms of state as the most democratic one.

Marx — the organizer and leader of the proletariat

Marx was not only the theorist of the proletarian revolution, but also its most competent organizer. The Communist Manifesto awakened the proletariat with the revolutionary message. However, the 1850s was a reactionary time and the working class movement grew only gradually. Trade Unions, workers' cooperatives were being built. In 1864, the celebrated International Working Men's Association was founded by Marx and Engels for welding into one body the whole militant proletariat of Europe and America. Marx intended to channelize the different trends within the workers' struggles, including the Prudhonites, Lassalleans, Blanquists, Bakuninists while exposing their erroneous views. He did not want the International to become a platform of mere economic struggles of the workers, but their "intellectual development" to result finally "from combined action and mutual discussion." The International quickly grew all over Europe and America, especially in Germany, France, England, Poland, Italy, Belgium, Holland and also Russia. It led workers in many historical struggles, the Paris Commune of 1871 being one of them, in which the International played a great role. Marx's authority was firmly established over this first ever international proletarian association, until it was dissolved in 1874.

Historical characteristics of proletarian revolution

All the revolutions of the last century, led by the proletariat were organized by its own class party, the Communist Party. What is notable is,

these revolutions took place in different countries at different stages of historical development, varying from industrially developed Czechoslovakia and East Germany to semi-feudal and semi-colonial China, forging alliance with different intermediate classes and strata including even the patriotic national bourgeoisie. What can be a more decisive proof that Marxism is the most scientific theory of social revolution and that if applied really scientifically, meaning creatively and concretely, it can successfully lead revolution in any country of the world ?

Marx's theory of revolution was further concretized, elaborated and enriched by Lenin in the context of the capitalist system becoming moribund, or imperialist, by the end of the nineteenth century. "Leninism was the Marxism of the era of Imperialism and Proletarian Revolution" as Stalin summed up. The revolutions led by the proletariat and its communist party were all creative and concrete application of Marxism-Leninism in the particular conditions of each country. In this way, Marx's theory of world proletarian revolution assumed concrete and different historical forms. All of them grew into socialist social systems, constituting the world socialist camp.

Marxism is invincible

The genius of Marx as a great thinker and the unchallengeable truth of Marxism are now facts of history which none can efface. The revolutions in Europe, Asia and Latin America following Marx's thoughts are not imaginations, after all. And the transformation and unbelievable flourishing of the most miserably backward nations on different continents into powerful, prosperous, cultured and happy socialist societies, inspite of their disappearance now, can not be kept in the dark eternally by any length of anti-communist propaganda. Because, history cannot be reversed ! The "modern slaves" whom socialism emancipated and whom capitalism has snared again for the time being shall break loose of all fetters finally. There is no reason for the capitalist and imperialist slave-drivers, the momentary victors, to gloat and grimace ! The very same historical laws discovered by Marx, which brought socialist societies into existence, will again bring them into being despite all capitalist efforts.

But why did the communists fail

to apply Marxism consistently and carry the dictatorship of the proletariat to its very logical end of establishment of the classless world communist society ? At which point did we slip and move away from the Marxist dialectical understanding of our historical task ? Communists fell behind, without realizing, in the task of continuously advancing Marxism theoretically by coordinating and generalizing the newer advancements of science, the newer complexities of life thrown up by decaying world capitalism, the latest bourgeois ideological trends and above all the newer problems of communist movement itself. The unprecedented achievements of post second world war communist movement made them oblivious of what Engels had said : "In particular, it will be duty of the leaders to gain an even clearer insight into all theoretical questions, and constantly to keep in mind that socialism, since it has become a science, demands that it be pursued as a science..." We have not come across such comprehensive theoretical developments of Marxism since Lenin's time, despite the appearance in the mean time of a plethora of questions which demand dialectical generalization. Obviously, therefore, the theoretical level of communists had fallen short of being adequate and fully dialectical. In other words, communists were largely influenced by mechanical process of thinking. This explains the uncritical acceptance of the Soviet communist party practiced for long by most communist parties.

So, although the different communist parties leading the proletarian struggles in the socialist and imperialist and capitalist countries were, more or less despite shortcomings and weaknesses, moving along the correct Marxist-Leninist path, they were too easily confused by revisionist distortion of Marxism at the 20th Congress of the CPSU. It is the prevalence of the mechanical process of thinking instead of the dialectical one, leading to the lowering of ideological level inside the great party of Lenin and Stalin which made it vulnerable to this revisionist deviation. In 1948, the year our party was founded, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, leader and teacher of our party and an eminent Marxist thinker said in his work 'Self-criticism of the Communist Camp' : "While acknowledging with just pride and reverence the very many achievements and successes and glorious sacrifices of the world communist movement, we have not failed, even for a moment, to point out the serious shortcomings in it. ... These ... are largely due to the fact

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AIMSS Observes 8th March International Women's Day as Anti-War Day

(Above) Calcutta (Below) Bangalore

Carrot before India

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a taped interview. Indian spokesperson of External Affairs Ministry is also quoted to have not denied that US has conveyed such hopes to India.

It is obvious that the Vajpayee government subservient to the ruling capitalist class, is hoping to augment its business prospect in Iraq oil if US succeeds to annexe the country and that is why despite a fervent anti-US stand round the globe including India, Vajpayee and his colleagues are out to walk the other way. So their apparent 'mid-way' stand is a camouflage to hang on to the apron string of the imperialist superpower to further the Indian bourgeoisie's hegemonist

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that the present leadership of the world communist camp is, to a very large extent, influenced by mechanical process of thinking." But as this weakness could not be fought out ideologically, it played a great part in further lowering the ideological standard. This helped revisionist ideas to grow. But, of course, communists will learn from their reverses. If revisionism could destroy Marxism and the communist movement, it

[This article is in commemoration of Karl Marx on his 120th memorial day]

aspirations in the region. And the Congress and the BJP could traverse this course unhindered because of absence of a mighty anti-imperialist movement in the country in the finest tradition of its glorious past. The so-

could also abolish the proletariat and the class struggle in capitalism! On the contrary, the laws of history will reassert themselves and communists will conduct their world-historical struggle with higher consciousness and greater energy and vigour along the path shown by Marx.

**Long Live Marxism !
Long Live Proletarian
Internationalism !
Long Live Revolution !**

called big lefts like CPI(M) and CPI, apart from some lip service, have not taken any serious initiative to build such a movement that could thwart the ruling parties' hobnob with the worst enemy of mankind.

Comrade Dhiren Sarkar passes away

Comrade Dhiren Sarkar, a veteran organizer of SUCI and member of the State Committee of UTUC-Lenin Sarani breathed his last on 27th February following a massive cerebral attack. His demise cast a gloom over all the party workers, supporters, sympathizers and admirers particularly those from the Jadavpur-Chittaranjan locality of Calcutta to whom he was most respected and endeared.

Comrade Sarkar was attracted towards the revolutionary ideology of the SUCI in late-sixties and since then, he engaged himself in organizing the workers-employees in progressive trade union movements. His leading roles in the struggles of the Krishna Silicate & Glass Works Mazdoor Union and the movements of the West Bengal Government employees was commendable. He was accepted as a respected leader by all cross sections of State Government employees. Till the last day of his life, he discharged all the responsibilities that the party had given to him. Comrade Provash Ghosh, West Bengal State Secretary and Comrade Ranjit Dhar, member, West Bengal State Secretariat along with others placed floral wreaths on his body at the party's central office.

Red Salute Comrade Dhiren Sarkar !

SUCI Protests Incidents of Rape

In a statement released to the press on 13.3.2003, Comrade Provash Ghosh, West Bengal State Secretary, SUCI, said :

Incidents of rape of women are continually on the increase in this state. It is seen that in almost all cases, CPI(M) workers or anti-socials sheltered by the CPI(M) are involved in this heinous crime and the police are shielding them. Charges of raping have even been levelled in connection with the infighting within the CPI(M) and clashes between constituent parties of the ruling Left Front.

Yesterday, yet one more young man lost his life in trying to protect the honour of woman at Dunlop Bridge. Lack of security of women has reached an extreme level in West Bengal, state described by its CPI(M) Chief Minister as an "oasis of law and order" in the country. It is the out and out election-oriented politics of the CPI(M) devoid of any principle and based on muscle power that is mainly responsible for this crisis. The way in which the CPI(M) State Secretary, instead of expressing regret and showing repentance, has indulged in character assassination of the woman raped in Ghoksadanga, cannot but boost the morale of the culprit criminals.

We demand :

1. All culprits must be arrested and given severe punishment irrespective of their party affiliation.
2. The police are to be freed from the dictates of the ruling party and allowed to function impartially.

Massive rally of the central trade unions against anti-labour policies of central government at Delhi on 26th February, 2003

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