

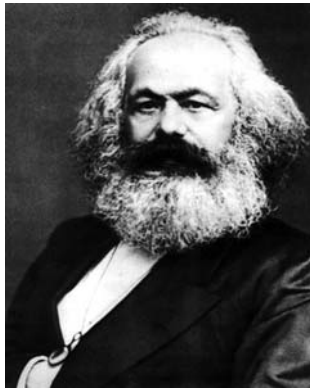
# Proletarian Era

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## LONG LIVE KARL MARX



5 May, 1818      14 March, 1883

“... In all countries of Europe it has now become a truth demonstrable to every unprejudiced mind, and only denied by those whose interest it is to hedge other people in a fool's paradise, that no improvement of machinery, no appliance of science to production, no contrivances of communication, no new colonies, no emigration, no opening of markets, no free trade, nor all these things put together, will do away with the miseries of the industrious masses; but that, on the present false base, every fresh development of the productive powers of labour must tend to deepen social contrasts and point social antagonism ...

...To conquer political power has therefore become the great duty of the working class ...

One element of success they possess — numbers; but numbers weigh only in the balance, if united by combination and led by knowledge....

— Karl Marx

(Address and provisional rules of the Working Men's International Association September 28, 1864)

### Observing some dangerous aspects of the present political situation in West Bengal

## SUCI takes a few new decisions for the sake of broad united mass movement

In a Press conference in Calcutta held on February 12, Comrade Provash Ghosh, the West Bengal State Secretary of SUCI said:

Observing some dangerous aspects of the present political situation of West Bengal, the West Bengal State Committee of our party has taken a few new decisions on the question of alignment of political forces in the mass movement against the misrule of CPI(M) government of the state. We have decided that on the basis of seventeen-point demand, we would try, on the one hand, to build up a leftist combination at the state level forging unity of leftist parties and forces, while, on the other hand, for the sake of developing united movement right from the lowest level, we would take initiative to build a platform for united movement in the model of the one formed in case of Singur, and more particularly of Nandigram, combining different left as well as non-left political parties other than Congress and BJP, like Trinamul Congress, and various organizations and eminent citizens.

In the 20 years between 1977 and 1997, whatever movement had surged forth against the anti-people policies of CPI(M) government, was steered in the main by SUCI alone. During this period, at one stage in 1990, we formed a 10 party combination with different Naxalite groups including CPI(ML-Liberation) and a few other left parties. On account of some sad experiences, we think the movement was frustrated even when it had reached the point of wresting victory. Later, there was no such united movement of our party and these other leftist parties and forces. Except that brief span of united movement, it was not, as many people erroneously think, that only the movement for introducing English at the Primary level of school education was spearheaded by us since 1997. We had launched a number of movements against the rabid anti-people policies of the then central governments run in succession

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### SUCI flays union railway budget as superlative attempt to conceal massive privatization under bagful of gimmicks

Reacting on the union Railway Budget 2008, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued today (27-02-2008) said that on the eve of election, the UPA government and its Railway Minister have demonstrated what could be a height of deception and cunning they have mastered in covering up reality and bypassing necessities under plethora of stunts as well as gimmicks. Cleverly suppressed under the claim of booking operational profit of Rs 25,000 crores is, observed Comrade Mukherjee, massive privatization of essential services bypassing the parliament in tune with the rabid anti-people prescriptions of capitalist globalization which on paper is no doubt indicating lowered operational cost for the Railways but proving dear to the passengers on every count as existing infrastructure of passenger amenities are getting dismantled to pave way for private operators

minting super-profit by selling the various services like catering services at exorbitant price notwithstanding rapid fall in the standard and quality. Boasting of reduction in passenger fares with continued imposition of cess, realization of hefty surcharge by upgrading more number of trains to superfast category without of course reducing the journey time, extracting increased sum on return ticket booking, augmenting the quota of costlier 'tatkal' seats at the cost of reduction in general reservation and so forth is akin to steal a goose and give the gliblets in alms, added Comrade Mukherjee. Comrade Mukherjee also mentioned that instead of addressing the all important issues of replacing forthwith all broken dilapidated coaches or undertaking due repair of the worn out tracks causing frequent accidents as well as mitigating the increasing hardship of the passengers due to overcrowding, severe lack of

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## SUCI takes a few new decisions for the sake of broad united mass movement

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by two major bourgeois parties, namely Congress and BJP. These movements were against the hike in fuel prices effected by them and such others, as well as against the increase in bus and other conveyance fares, load shedding, hike in power tariff, privatization of education and health etc., by the various state governments. These movements were blood-curdled; 8 of our comrades courted martyrs' death falling victim to firing by the police of CPI(M) government. As many as 151 leaders and cadres of our party were murdered by the CPI(M) goons. 29 leaders and cadres, including our former MLA Comrade Probodh Purkait were served life sentence being implicated in false cases clamped on them through conspiracy of the ruling party. False cases of murder are still pending against 108 comrades; court cases on different kinds of framed charges are still continuing against 1100 comrades. No other party than ours was attacked to such an extent in the state of West Bengal. The only reason has been that we have continuously remained with people and developed mass movements one after another firmly holding aloft the noble banner of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh thought and the fighting leftist politics. Comrade Provash Ghosh said : Through maligning leftist politics in its bid to appease the monopolists of the country, the foreign capital and the imperialists with a view to remaining in power, CPI (M) has reached a very dangerous position today, where there is hardly any difference between a CPI(M) government and that run by Congress or BJP. We have declared that there is neither any leftism in the ruling Left Front nor there is any Left Front. It runs only by the dictates of CPI (M). Ashok Ghosh, the Forward Bloc leader has also said that in the name of Left Front, it is one-party rule that is going on. We have said this long back. That is why, we no longer use the term 'Left Front government', we call it a CPI (M) government.

We never considered the undivided CPI a Marxist party. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great Proletarian leader and the founder of SUCI reached this conclusion observing its role in the independence movement and its non-Marxist approach and stand on

different national and international questions, and particularly analyzing its non-Marxist methodology in party formation. It was for the same reasons that in 1964 after CPI(M) was formed, we presented the analysis that CPI(M) too was not a Marxist party; it was just a social democratic leftist party. But whatsoever leftism either the undivided party or the CPI(M) after split had practiced in the fifties, sixties or at the beginning of the seventies, was, we noted, left out by the CPI(M) since 1977 through the policies and measures they adopted against people's interests and mass movements in one instance after another and thereby trampling upon the flag of leftist politics itself. I would like to recall an incident of 1977. In his second radio speech during the campaign for the Assembly election that year, Jyoti Basu said: There were 'movements and troubles' during the days of the United Front governments of 1967 and 1969; it was because SUCI was there in the Front. This time such things will not be repeated if the Left Front comes to power in West Bengal, because there is no SUCI in the Left Front. Whom did Jyoti Babu try to assure ? It was the industrialists, the monopolists and the imperialists only. CPI(M) has been keeping every word of its assurance during the last 30 years and we have to fight against none other than this.

In this connection, we must mention another significant aspect. Many people think that the policy 'Police will not interfere into democratic movements' is a policy of the Left Front. It is not at all true. The fact is, in 1967 at the time of formation of the first United Front government, it was the Great Leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh who said that only on one condition could a Marxist party like ours join a state government which is nothing but a part of a capitalist state. And the condition was that, with a view to giving fillip to class struggle and mass movements, the government must announce it on principle that the police would not interfere in legitimate movements of the people. CPI-CPI(M) and other constituents of the Front raised objection to this opinion of ours and said that if police were not used, what would be the fate of 'law and order'? In answer, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said: For whose interest the law and order is? Is it for the interest of the exploiter

classes or for the exploited ones? He also added: In the present social system, anything legal may not necessarily be legitimate. What is legal, may often be found to be illegitimate/unjust, irrational and inhuman. Also, what may appear illegal in the eyes of the laws, may often be just, rational and humane. In face of objection from other parties, we also said that if the United Front did not accept this principle, we would support the government from outside, but would not join the ministry. Put on the wrong foot, CPI(M) and others did accept our demand. Perhaps they had thought, that since SUCI was a small party, they could do away with including it in the declaration, without giving it any effect. We took it as a challenge and at the guidance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Comrade Subodh Banerjee entrusted with the portfolio of the Labour Ministry announced the policy of non-interference of police in workers' movement and also gave effect to it. As a result of this only, in 1969, that portfolio was snatched away from us at the pressure of the Tatas-Birlas. Even then, we were in the government in 1969 with a view to implementing this policy. In sequel to this, CPI(M) broke unity with us in 1974 and then on the eve of the 1977 election Jyoti Basu made the comment stated above.

Comrade Provash Ghosh added : Trinamul Congress was born in 1997 fragmented from the Congress. It is a regional bourgeois party, which, since its formation, has staged demonstration, squatting, hunger-strike, procession and such others against CPI(M) government much in its own fashion. We, from our revolutionary goal, have relentlessly continued our movements in our own way. Sometimes when we called for a bandh, Trinamul called the bandh separately or have extended moral support to our call. At other times, we lent our support to their call for a bandh. On occasions, may be on some issues we stood at different positions. We worked from our position as a genuine Marxist party and the Trinamul worked from their own position as a regional bourgeois party. We and the TMC, both the parties are involved in the movement that developed under people's committee against forcible grabbing of farm lands by the CPI(M) government first in Singur and then in Nandigram. At Singur, we have a relatively smaller party unit and our

cadres are also quite young. But even then, to the best of their effort and capacity, they started to organize people and to hold processions and meetings in one village and another. Trinamul controlled the Panchayat in Singur, the local MLA also hailed from that party. Subsequently the Trinamul leadership expressed their willingness to join the movement and locally had talks with us. We instructed our cadres to go ahead with forming people's committee and developing united people's movement under its leadership. It was in this process, how the *Krishni Jami Raksha Committee* (Save Farm Land Committee) came up. One of the convenors of this committee comes from Trinamul, another from SUCI.

Right from 2004 when the conspiracy was mooted to include Nandigram in the Haldia Development Board, we started organising movement in Nandigram under the leadership of our party. Later on, when the conspiracy to form a SEZ there in the name of a chemical hub came to light, we started movement against that too, formed people's committees and started enrolling volunteers. In 2006, the Trinamul Congress (TMC) came into the movement and formed a committee on their own. Afterwards, Siddique Ullah Chowdhury's organization too formed another committee. In such a situation, we, on behalf of our party, sent instructions to our workers there that there could be no real resistance movement if the people were divided and so the people had to be united. So, we placed a proposal to form a united people's committee combining all – our committee, the two other committees as well as many workers and supporters of CPI(M)-CPI who were in the movement. The Bhoomi Uched Pratirodh Committee developed on this basis with Abu Taher of TMC as one secretary and Nanda Patra of our party as the other secretary. While this movement was on, during its different phases, we did not have any contacts with the TMC leadership at the state level, nor any talks with them. All talks and discussions about the united movement were at the local level. Now we desire to take up this initiative at the state level.

Explaining the concept of people's committee, Comrade

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## MNS sponsors violence in Mumbai

# Rising regional-parochial-chauvinist frenzy poses serious threat to fighting unity of oppressed poor

In the first week of February, Mumbai, the commercial capital and the most cosmopolitan city of the country seemed to be threatened with a repeat of the post-Babri 1992-93 communal riots. The reason: Maharashtra Navnirman Sena (MNS), an offshoot of Marathi chauvinist Shiv Sena, led by Raj Thackeray, nephew of Shiv Sena supremo Bal Thackeray, decided to make the headlines a year ahead of the next elections by seeking to revive regional jingoism. Borrowing a leaf out of the book of his uncle who way back in the sixties carved out a space in the parliamentary vote-politics fanning up parochial 'son of the soil slogan' and launching a vituperative campaign against the south Indians, Raj nurturing political ambitions and desperate to hijack the agenda of Shiv Sena with whom he parted with two years back following personal conflict and ego-clash over leadership issue with Uddhav, his cousin, fuelled a well-calculated violence in Mumbai by targeting people from north India. Foot soldiers of the MNS, however obscure and spurious could be the organization went berserk. North Indian taxi drivers who depend on their vehicles for their livelihood were dragged out of their cars and beaten badly. Their taxis were also damaged. The MNS activists spotted north Indians travelling in local trains, abused them and assaulted them physically. North Indian bus passengers were thrown out by the fanatics for not being able to provide precise change to the Marathi-speaking bus conductor. Properties belonging to the north Indians were looted and ransacked. A theatre in adjacent Thane district showing a Bhojpuri movie was vandalized. Soon the violence spread in Nashik, Nagpur and other parts of the state as well. Raj's storm-troopers were seen in media footage overseeing all the attacks. So panicky became the north Indian people most of whom are poor labourers, small shop owners or daily wagers are fleeing Mumbai and other areas of the state in large number. It is not much in Mumbai as much it is in other cities like Nashik where people are leaving the city with all their belongings. The fear psychosis was writ large on

their faces. It is an unprecedented situation as ordinary people having nothing to do with the so-called allegation by the perpetrators of escalated violence are the most scared lot.

The ordinary North Indian living in the city has no one to turn to for protection. The police did not come for their rescue. The Congress-led state government dithered in arresting and charging Raj Thackeray, publicly wondering, incredibly indeed, if they at all had a case for arrest. He dared them to arrest him and declared that he would not even apply for bail. Eventually, faced with the risk of alienating north Indian votes, not just in Mumbai, but all over India, the government ultimately staged a token arrest. His bravado of staying behind bars too was quickly history — he simply chose to post bail and to go home to sleep on his comfortable mattress instead of staying the night in custody for championing the 'Maharashtrian' cause.

### **Ominous rise of chauvinism-parochialism**

In the past we had seen a number of clashes in the name of religion in which innocent countrymen lost their lives. The horrific reminiscences of post-Babri fratricidal bloodbaths and ghastly Gujarat pogrom still haunt us. It is now clear to the probing minds that such gory parades were handiwork of noxious communal-fundamentalist outfits out to serve their vested interest riding on disunity of the common people. A year back, Rajasthan and its adjoining areas witnessed a sudden flare up on the demand of including Gujjar community people in the OBC list that entailed casteist clashes between the Gujjars and Meenas. For decades, the people of Assam find their life under constant threat because of ominous rise and blustering of parochial-chauvinist-communal forces. Just a couple of years ago seeds of discord were sown between the people of Assam and Bihar and it still exists. Time and again poor people from Bihar are killed mercilessly by anti-social elements in Assam. On the other hand, people from the North-East region travelling in trains are

### **Central Committee deploras MNS-sponsored parochial violence in Mumbai and demands immediate restoration of normalcy**

Strongly deploring the Maharashtra Navnirman Samity (MNS) sponsored violence in Mumbai which shows no sign of abating and forcing fear-stricken North-Indian habitants to flee the cosmopolitan city for saving their life and property, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in a statement issued on 14 February, 2008 said that such lethally reckless vandalism on the part of self-serving vote-based politicians fanning up chauvinist-parochial sentiment to reap electoral benefits is nothing new but a part of the heinous conspiracy being hatched by the ruling capitalist class throughout the country to keep the toiling people groaning under the yoke of ruthless capitalist exploitation divided over caste, creed, language, ethnicity and religion and pit them against each other so as to frustrate the process of development of united democratic movement of the oppressed millions against repressive bourgeois rule. The governments irrespective of hues serving bourgeois class interest have been indulgent onlookers of such parochial-chauvinist-communal frenzies masterminded by different forces and outfits seeking to benefit by precipitating disharmony and disaffection among people and the Congress-led government of Maharashtra has been no exception to that as has not been the Congress-led CPI (M)-backed central government either. Comrade Mukherjee called upon the people particularly the peace-loving citizens of Maharashtra not to fall prey to such provocations and incitement of sectarian passions by the forces and elements representing vested interest and instead come forward to foil all such sinister moves by building up united organized democratic mass movements over the burning problems of life stemming from the crisis-ridden moribund decaying corrupt capitalism bestriding the country like a dead weight and weaving ploys to disrupt the solidarity of the oppressed masses through its lackeys and bootlickers. Comrade Mukherjee also demanded immediate stringent measures on the part of both central and state governments to end these wrecking acts by Raj Thackeray's MNS or such other anti-people forces.

harassed by anti-social elements in Bihar. Not only in Assam but in Maharashtra as well, people from Bihar and northeast India were targeted by regional-parochial groups. Last year students from Bihar reached Mumbai to sit for their railway examinations and were badly beaten by Shiv Sena cadres. The country thus stands on the precipice of disintegration because of ceaseless rumbling of the divisive forces of different hues. More accentuated is the plight and misery of the common people groaning under the yoke of ruthless capitalist exploitation, more these disruptive forces are found to shot to notoriety, swaggering and flexing muscles to inflame the already tenuous sociopolitical atmosphere.

Whose India is this? Is it what the freedom fighters, the stalwart nationalist leaders dreamt of? Is it for this ever-growing fragmentation, disaffection and disunity of the citizens of free Indian nationalist

state that the brave martyrs embraced gallows? Would the leaders like Bal Thackeray or Raj Thackeray define the meaning of nationality today? Shall a responsible Indian carrying the glorious heritage of national liberation struggle against all kinds of divisive ploys of the alien rulers be in tow with such merchants of self-destruction? Are we so backboneless, blind and bigoted to fall prey to these motivated vendors of disunity and hostility? Would they be our destiny-makers? Every conscious Indian whether he is a Maharashtrian, Assamese, Dravidian, Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, dalit or upper caste must seriously ponder over this question. India belongs to the people living in various parts of the country and it cannot be divided in the name of region or dialect. Any Indian has the full right to venture in any part of the country for education,

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# Parochialism shatters people's unity helps ruling monopolists

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employment or other purpose. No one can stop him, especially irresponsible self-proclaimed political leaders and their hired goons.

## Who are the beneficiaries?

And who has been gaining out of it? Have the poor downtrodden people belonging to any caste, creed, religion, region, language or ethnicity seen an iota of improvement in their lot by locking horns with their brethren of other community under provocation of the communal-parochial-casteist elements? Or they find the situation drifting further into abyss of deterioration, deprivation and destitution? Only they discover that while their hands are stained with fratricidal blood and some precious lives taken away, certain political parties, leaders and groups who incite them on communal-parochial-chauvinist line to unleash violence on other communities make fortunes both in terms of power and wealth. Right from the BJP to AGP, AASU, ULFA of Assam, Mayawati-Mulayam, Shiv Sena-MNS or DMK-AIADMK as well as their likes and associates belong to this category of fortune makers. Once succeeding in satiating their lust for pelf and power, they pay no heed to the cry of the people of their community whom they use as

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pawns in buttressing their personal agenda. What benefits or relief did the Hindus receive by persecuting the Muslims and being swayed by the crass communal slogans of the protagonists of Hindutva after the BJP came to power? In what way they found the regime different from that of the Congress? Atal Behari Vajpayee promised job to 2 crore people. Where have those jobs gone? How comfortable are the poor dalit masses under Mayawati claiming to be their messiah? Are they getting two square meals a day or continuing to languish in abject poverty while Mayawati is reportedly amassing huge personal property? Could the hapless impoverished Assamese people get any succour when the AGP government ruled the state? Or they became beholders to the naked infight of the AGP leaders scrambling for lucre and self-aggrandizement? If these separatist-communal doctrines were so binding then how such outfits are getting split into so many splinter groups each accusing the other as traitors, detractors and claiming self as the correct one?

What about Shiv Sena in Maharashtra? It came to power by fanning up sectarian Maharashtrian sentiment and giving plethora of promises. But then it was a saga of breaking promises with impunity. The fate of the *zunka bhakar* scheme which was meant to bring cheap, nutritious, traditional food to the masses and also help small entrepreneurs was given a decent burial. How many of these *zunka bhakar* stalls still benefit Maharashtrian entrepreneurs and how many have been sold or are in a partnership with non-Maharashtrian entrepreneurs? What happened to the money collected for the Michael Jackson concert of 1996? This was stated to be a fundraiser to bolster Raj Thackeray's plans to give employment to Maharashtrian youth. How many were given jobs and if this was a successful campaign why does it still not continue? And now MNS, the splinter of Shiv Sena is lethally reckless to establish its credential as the true representative of Marathi-parochialism.

It thus obviates to say that feigning as empathizers of toiling masses, these rabid communal-parochial forces taking advantage of lowered political consciousness of the people merrily pit one section against the other by raising

provocative slogans and incessantly pandering to narrow sectarian sentiments. They take every care to see that at no point solidarity among the various segments of downtrodden oppressed populace grows and develops. Who is the beneficiary of this perpetual divide? Obviously those who intend to prolong this exploitative system. The exploited millions irrespective of class, creed, religion or ethnicity can surely be no advocate of granting an extended lease of life to the order that is dooming them to utter ruination. So the string-pullers are the ruling monopolists, the benefactors as well as beneficiaries of this exploitative regime who are bent upon to see that desired enlightenment does not dawn on the toiling people. Let them remain ever obfuscated from the fact that it is the crisis-ridden moribund decadent capitalist system which is the root of all evils. On the contrary, based on the false presumption that other community people are responsible for their penury and misery, let them be perpetually divided over caste, religion, language, ethnicity and possess inimical mentality against each other. So is the attempt on the part of the ruling bourgeoisie to get the job done through its subservient political forces of different hues. While this is the general class design of the ruling class, sometimes inner-contradiction among the individual capitalists or group of capitalists over market exacerbates the situation. For example, in India, there is a manifest contradiction between the large monopoly groups and regional capitalists. In order to protect their hold over the regional markets to the extent possible through hard bargaining with the business tycoons, regional capitalists often gang up and float or patronize certain regional-parochial outfits with the mandate to foment local sentiments even to the extent of orchestrating terror and violence. While the common masses get carried by such chauvinist-parochial slogans and engage in internecine clashes, the regional capitalists settle issues with the large houses behind the scene and a temporary lull returns under the garb of restoration of normalcy. But tension persists, so persists distance among various sections of suffering people. The current outburst of Raj Thackeray's MNS and palpable dilly dally on the part of the Congress-led Maharashtra government in firmly stemming the rot is to be understood

in this backdrop.

## The Maharashtra scenario

It may be added that the diatribe of the MNS against migrant north Indians has no basis either. The migrant population in Mumbai hails from UP and Bihar and do not threaten the Marathi culture in any way. Nor do they snatch jobs that Maharashtrians aspire for. They live in pathetic conditions, economically weak and helpless so far as power is concerned. They can hardly pose a cultural or economic threat to Marathi populace. The proportion of migrants in the population of India's financial capital has actually dropped to 43 per cent in 2001 from 64 per cent 40 years earlier, a study said. Data from census conducted between 1961 and 2001 has been used as part of the study. "Natural increase, like the balance of births over deaths, added to the population more than migration," says D P Singh, from the Institutes Centre of Research Methodology. On the contrary, the proportion of migrants to Mumbai from within Maharashtra is the highest at 37 per cent. Moreover, North Indians do not hold plum jobs either in private sector or in public sector. Quite to the contrary; they all are self-employed being petty hawkers or milk vendors or workers in various private small-scale industries.

But what then provided handle to the MNS or its parentage, the Shiv Sena to revive this anti-migrant frenzy with such virulence particularly in Mumbai? Among other things, one of the main reasons has been the accumulated grievances of poor inhabitants being displaced from their hearth because of so-called 'development' boom. Till the 70s, Mumbai was a very livable city for all sections of society. The planners did see the possible choking of the city with further developments. A committee of planners suggested the development of a twin city across the creek. Thus, in 1979, Maharashtra government sanctioned a plan for New Bombay (Navi Mumbai). The specific purpose of investing thousands of crores of taxpayers' money was to 'decongest Bombay and act as a counter magnet'. The money was overspent but decongestion was not to be! The government offices did not move to the new city. Against all logic, the powerful builder lobby went on further reclaiming the sea towards

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## India Launches Israeli Spy Satellite

The Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) has launched an Israeli spy-satellite Tecsar in the polar orbit, on January 21, 2008 from the south Indian launch site at Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh. The event once again brings out the unholy alliance the Congress-led CPI(M)-supported UPA government of India is trying to enter into with the war-monger US-Israel imperialist combinations hated over the world.

The launch operation was marked with a significant lack of transparency. In its press release on 21st January the Antrix Corporation Limited (ACL) — the marketing agency of India's Department of Space, announced the success of the launch conspicuously without mentioning the ISRO. Obviously, it was an attempt to show that the launch was but a business transaction between the ACL and Tecsar Aerospace Industries Corporation of Israel. The launch was, however, the first of its kind under the joint cooperation of the governments of Israel and India. There was no prior announcement nor any press release from the ISRO. Moreover, media persons were denied access to the site where they had converged on the day for press coverage of the launch operation. During its press conference following the launch, the ISRO did not acknowledge Tecsar to be a spy satellite. Rather its chairman, G. Madhavan Nair stated, "I don't think there is a view that there is a class of satellites called spy satellites. ..It (the satellite) is only a tool", he said. (Frontline: February 15) However, leading Israeli daily, Haaretz, in its January 21 edition, called Tecsar "a sophisticated new spy satellite," which would bolster Israel's ability "to spy on Iran", providing it with "photographic angles and receptions of Iranian communications (The Hindu, January 22, 2008). In fact, Tecsar is a rader-imaging remote-sensing satellite that uses advanced radar technology to take pictures of small targets on the earth round the clock and through all sorts of weather conditions. Thus it is a satellite that Israel can use in intelligence-gathering operations to track down advancements in other countries in regard to installations like nuclear power plants etc., as an AP report from Jerusalem said quoting Defence officials. As reported in the Indian Express, 22-01-08, "It is expected to give a boost to Israel's

intelligence gathering capabilities and help keep an eye on its hostile neighbours." It follows then that Tecsar has been launched with the very objective of espionage on military and civil affairs of countries like Iran. It thus does not leave any doubt that the India Government is acting hand in glove with Israel facilitating the US designs against Iran. The launch of Tecsar also proves that the India Government is sharing the US-Israeli 'concerns' at assumed advancement in the Iranian nuclear programmes, too. Thus, despite the attempts to pass it on as a business transaction, in reality the launch has been a full-fledged political and diplomatic move. All this, when the vile imperialist character of Israel beggars description. So far, the Israeli rulers have left a horrendous precedence of crushing the Palestinian people's cravings for independence. Also, it has been Israel, which, playing the role of America's trusted

confederate, has been attempting to terrorize the people of Middle East by beating down any anti-imperialist move on the part of any Arab state. How many people the Israeli military intelligence MOSAD has assassinated, how many of the leaders of the Palestinian liberation movement they have killed is beyond all reckoning! Also, it was the same imperialist Israel, which did not even refrain from setting the army on to the Palestinian refugee camps and unleashing a bloodbath taking a toll of hundreds of thousands of innocent Palestinian refugees. The blood-thirsty and plundering spoils of US's intimate ally Israel has incurred the hatred and wrath of all democratic and freedom loving people of the entire world. Hence, launch of Tecsar by ISRO not just exposes the India Government's sinister move of planfully getting into military alliance with the US and Israel. It transgresses upon the glorious

tradition of anti-imperialist struggle of Indian people. This and only this, explains the secrecy behind the launch, lest the anti-imperialist people in India raise their voice in protest against the government.

It is no secret now that India is a major purchaser of Israeli war equipments – reports revealing that between 2002 and 2005, India imported war equipments from Israel to the value of 276 crores of dollars (2.76 billion dollars). Considering that Israeli economy to be highly militarized and its income from military industries being 350 crores of dollars, India thus contributes to more than half the amount.

Striking also is the duplicity, of CPI(M), the friend-philosopher of the Congress-led UPA government and the self-proclaimed champion of anti-imperialist cause. At the press conference, it has alleged the launch to be a decisive step in Indo-Israeli relations, and not just a business deal. However, their leaders are yet to answer how the

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## A few new decisions for united mass movement

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Provash Ghosh said: On the basis of the teachings of the Great Leader Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, we have been saying all along that the leaders, the parties impose from the top the programme of action upon the people keeping them divided and unorganized and the people would follow that blindly. No mass movement in the true interest of the people can develop in this way. It is because of this that the freedom movement in our country was immensely harmed as has been the leftist mass movement later on. It is in the interest of organized mass movement that our party tries to conduct all movements through people's committees. Even when we organise any movement solely at our initiative, we form people's committees to draw the wider masses into the unsited movement, enrol volunteers for the movement from among the fighting students and youths. Renowned intellectuals like Dr. Sukumar Sen, Dr. Pratul Gupta, Dr. Nihar Ranjan Roy, Dr. Sushil Kumar Mukherjee, Premendra Mitra and Santosh Kumar Ghosh provided leadership to the movement on the demand of re-introduction of English at the primary level of education in West Bengal. It is by forming public committee that we organised that movement. None of them ever said that the SUCI had imposed any

decision on them. Hundreds of thousands of students are appearing each year at the Britti Pariksha (Scholarship examination) at the primary level, for conducting which we formed the Primary Education Development Board. The movement on electricity in this state is being conducted by the All Bengal Electricity Consumers' Association (ABECA), a public committee formed by us. Our principle about people's committee is: Our party would place its viewpoint and stand, and so would do the other parties; the people would listen to, consider and examine all this and give their opinions and the people's committee would take decisions on that basis. It is only in this way that the people can play an active role.

This is exactly what we desired in Singur and Nandigram. At Singur, we have had many a difference with the stand of TMC within the Krishi Jami Raksha Committee, about the method and tactics of conducting the movement. But we never allowed that to impair the unity. We have opposed them on some issues including their programme of fasting and the TMC participation in the "peace meeting" convened by the Forward Bloc. We have openly informed the people about such differences of opinion and our opposition through our writings, hand bills, speeches and press statements even while

maintaining the unity. At Nandigram, it was possible to achieve unanimity with them on many issues and it was possible to build up the movement powerfully. Ultimately, the movement became victorious in Nandigram. The people there have created a glorious history of mass movement suffering much losses and this is acting as an inspiration to the people's struggle not only in this state, but all over India as well as overseas.

The CPI(M)'s role in crushing the movement, in Singur and particularly in Nandigram, has revealed a dangerous aspect of the degeneration of this party. The mass killing on March 14, 2007 at Nandigram and the ghastly happenings there between 5<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup> November last have brought about an important change in the essence of our criticism of CPI(M). We have openly called it a fascistic attack. This was the first time that we had demanded the resignation of the chief minister and have said that the CPI(M) government has no moral right to continue in power. We have never put forward this demand in any previous movement. During British rule, the military-police opened fire and killed people to quell the freedom movement. After independence, the Congress governments suppressed many a movement with lathis and bullets,

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# IPL bears ominous signs of degraded commoditization of sports

Sports and games emerged in human history as means of pleasure as well as means for all-out development of body and mind. They were meant to cultivate human values, spirit of amity, unity, solidarity, cooperation among the people and not to earn money alone, as it came about later. As recreation they were to cater to enjoyment of fun, unalloyed joy, satisfaction and content both for the spectators and the players themselves. Further, when in keeping with the desires and demands of people there emerged welfare states, they took certain programmes. As a part of these, they not only took charge of education and health for people, it also sponsored and monitored sports activities to help nation grow with healthy body and mind. Sports and games were also considered as symbol of struggle for dignity. The idea of Olympics in Greece emerged with this concept, that stipulated not only an amusement but as a mark of desire of freedom from bondage. In our freedom movement also, such spirit was present. One can recall what jubilation was there, when for the first time, bare-footed team of Mohun Bagan defeated the Yorkshire to win the IFA Shield in Calcutta in 1911. Sports was not thought of as a mine to reap money and material benefit but to ensure supremacy over the alien rulers and their underling sports community as national pride. Not even an iota of such values is seen today. Earlier if there was some laudable performance by anyone even of an opponent team, it was appreciated by all in the field and outside. Players used to show their due respect and express concern, even would jump into service of the players in danger or distress, no matter which team they would belong to. Frank Worrel, the celebrated captain of the formidable West Indies cricket team, donated his blood and spent sleepless night by the bed-side of Nari Contractor of India, injured in his head in a match between the two teams in the sixties of the last century. Instead, sports as it now, are infested with quarrelling, sledging, using abusive words even with racist bends. They have now turned into sources of profit for the monopoly capitalist class. The proposed IPL is a naked example.

For long, the Indian monopoly houses have been trying to invade the Indian sports world; through the recent event of launching Indian Premier League (IPL) in the cricket

arena the invasion appears to have reached a height with millions of rupees being poured into it. In this investment spree some leading Indian film personalities also are found as active partners. This profuse money flows from the idle capital of the capitalists on the one hand, and from the underworld purses, which the film world is smeared with.

These financiers have auctioned the cricket players of India and abroad to form teams which will play cricket under the banner of Indian Premier League (IPL). Following the market principle of 'sale' and 'purchase', the player-commodities have been purchased, thus making sports a sad victim of ugly commoditisation. Even renowned players of the stature of Sachin Tendulkar, Saurav Ganguly, MS Dhoni (all of India), Sanath Jayasuriya (Sri Lanka), Brett Lee (Australia) and others have been dragged into the net, to be sold out to these tycoons in the market. This is not, however, unique in country like India or the sports as cricket alone. This commoditisation has already been the characteristic in many sports like football etc., in the Western world, for quite a long time. It is known to all how the corporate and monopoly houses in the Western world invest billions of dollars for the players in football game. This is an established trend there. The sole object is to extract fabulous profit by pressing these player-components into service as means of production by these capitalists. What a tragic consequence of the sports indeed! Sports and games have become the source of minting money – no joy, pleasure exist now. Why the sports and games have tuned into crass money making event? The reason lies in the crisis of capitalism. In the beginning years of flourishing of capitalism the sports and games had their loftiness. But with the days passing by as the capitalism got consolidated, the role of money has increased so overwhelmingly that it eclipsed everything in the society. In every aspect of human activities role of money has become dominant. Far back in the nineteenth century the great teacher of the proletariat, Karl Marx, noted this. He said in his historic *Communist Manifesto*, the charter of salvation of human civilization from exploitation of man by man, that with the development of capitalism

reaching its saturation the role of money will be omni-powerful and omni-present. How prophetically his prediction has come true! This is very much true in the present moribund capitalist system. So it is quite natural that, as in other sectors of human activities, the sports and games cannot be spared from tentacles of this dominating role of money. Their sole profit-earning character, their unseemly money-laundering character, craze for minting money anyhow as pawns in the crass market, have destroyed the spirit of games and sports. These sports and games have today turned as though the events of slave trading where the players have been made victims of slavery. As was seen in the medieval society where the nice looking, healthy, strong slaves were seized against money to employ them to cater to wild amusement and onerous service for the slave masters, the players of today too have been made victim of almost the same system and service by the capitalists in fulfillment of their ugly desire of profit.

Thus sports is now a part of the market economy in the capitalist market. It is now reckoned as industry for investment just as in the stockmarket. They are now under the clutches of the monopoly business houses. Such being the position even results of any game, victory and defeat are also being decided by these business houses. The players are running at the instruction, rather beckoning of these capitalists. They have become instrumental to this capitalist conspiracy, which started first in the Western countries. This way in most sports and games corruption has become dominant as legacy of the capitalist motive. The betting in the cricket world and out of the ground adjustment in football, deciding the defeat and victory against huge bribe as also taking dope in athletics to win somehow for money are some glaring phenomena of corruption that the present world of sports is torn with. A few attempts at curbing corruption turn out to be mere eyewash, meant to divert people's attention from the real scene.

As mentioned, once sports was largely, if not wholly controlled by the state. With the introduction of globalisation-commercialisation, since beginning of the eighties of the preceding century, the governments have shirked this responsibility completely to the

benefit of the private owners. As in the case of education and healthcare, sports and games also have become privatized. Thus it is becoming privilege to a certain section of people only. Corporate monopolists have the full play here. Obviously they would like to ensure return of their investment through advertisements etc., the brunt of which would have to be sustained by the people, as additional burden to their already increasing plight. Players here are being forced to play as pawns in the hands of these corporate monopolists and festering corruption unheard of in the past, has become rampant. This is the conspiracy of the capitalist class that not only shatters every sense of values among people but runs only after crass profit. This is what is happening in the present Indian cricket episode. In this episode the role of the present UPA Government is shameful. Its Minister, Sharad Pawar, also the chairman of the BCCI, the organization that has floated and is organizing the IPL, is direct accomplice in reducing the cricket game to such money-laundering event.

At the end, we would reemphasize that in result of capitalist-imperialist globalisation-commercialisation policy, that thrives on commoditisation and privatization of every element of the society starting from education, healthcare, culture to athletics, is also affecting sports and games. It has simply reduced the once-respected activities of human being, including sports and games to feats of money-making and corruption breeding, bereft of any ethics whatsoever. If such attempts, as reflected in the recent IPL is not nipped in the bud, they will spread their tentacles to all aspects and arenas of human activities in a more virulent manner. So, sports and games must be freed from this spell of doom. They must be refreshed with their dignity fully restored. And for that, it is high time, sports-loving right-thinking people of every section of society, in schools, colleges, universities, clubs, sports centres must generate formidable opinion to thwart this move of obnoxious vulgar trend of commoditisation of sports. They must also press upon the government from to stop their shirking off responsibilities towards promotion and conduction of sports and games.

## Thwart communal-parochial slogans by united mass movement

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south Bombay, giving rise to new business districts of Nariman Point and Cuffe Parade. This further strained the narrow north-south corridor for commuters and all the attendant miseries of an overcrowded and polluted metro. The government said that new businesses would be housed only in New Bombay. But that was never implemented. To make matters worse, sea was further reclaimed to give rise to Bandra Kurla Complex, making the city even more vulnerable to flooding, while the newly named Navi Mumbai looked askance. For the unfortunate spin off of such activities and with the city having sold its soul to the whims of the builder, the citizens in general and the locals in particular became increasingly unhappy.

In this ruthless drive, the 'kolis', the local fisher folk who lived there, are being pushed out of their habitat and livelihood. Even the coastal regulation zone laws are being bypassed to put up high rises. Similarly, the mill workers, who were assured housing on defunct mill lands, have been slyly robbed of this possibility. The Chief Minister himself was a party to change of rules, which drastically reduced the land that the mill owners were to give for housing workers and open public spaces. Maharashtra Housing and Area Development Authority (MHADA), the agency set up for providing low cost housing to the poor, is also found trying every trick of the trade to parcel lands for accommodating the housing 'appetite' of the rich many of whom consider investing in real estate as a lucrative proposition. Similarly, the Slum Rehabilitation Schemes (SRA) is being manipulated to oust the slum dwellers and house the rich. And all this 'development' is being done without any thought to the supporting infrastructure that should actually be a precondition.

This mindless construction by displacing the poor is generating mounting discontent among the impoverished Marathi-speaking populace both original inhabitants as well as immigrants from other parts of the state. It is a known fact that crowding generates discontent and conflict, particularly when the poor are being pushed out more and more to the periphery of the city, while their services are required in the city. Assailed by continuous assault on every walk of life coupled with this

imminent threat of eviction from settlement, the poor Marathi people have been seething in rage. Had there been an environment of democratic mass movement, this wrath could be channelized along right track to be directed against the capitalist conspiracy of lopsided development both at the state level and the national level. In absence of that, anti-people forces like Raj's MNS waiting on the wings to siege every opportunity to fan up regional-communal passion are getting upper hand in turning the guns against the so-called 'outsiders' and fish in the troubled waters. Some regional capitalists are also lending covert support to this 'out outsider' bogey to strike deals with or wrest concessions from big monopolists. What is getting covered up in the process is that not only the established bourgeois parties like the Congress or BJP are interested in cashing in on the 'development' which favours the rich and the powerful while paying lip service to the 'local' and the poor, even Shiv Sena top brass like Thackeray and his friend, Manohar Joshi, the former Chief Minister and Lok Sabha speaker, are partners in construction activity right in downtown Dadar. The irony is that they also are constructing posh buildings for housing the rich and big business, on a land where the Marathi-speaking people once worked in the now defunct mill. Raj's involvement in such kinds of realty business is also not unknown. The lavish lifestyle he maintains and the amount of wealth he possesses is no secret too. Yet he gets away by whipping Marathi sentiment and shedding crocodile tears for the poor belonging to his community.

### How to combat this

This rising menace of regional-parochial-chauvinistic hauling can not be stopped by mere appeals and expressing pious wishes. Even innocuous sermon preaching like 'upholding the spirit of the constitution', seeking redressal through judicial intervention or recommending some drastic measures are needed to re-orient our elections towards secular values and people's problems rather than people's parochial identities. What is imperative is to unleash a wave of legitimate democratic mass movement over burning issues of life involving all sections of the toiling people and on the edifice of higher ethics and culture. Alongside, a ceaseless fierce ideological

struggle against all kinds of communal-parochial-divisive thoughts and preachings ought to be conducted right at the grass root level. It is only in the milieu of these movements that the divisive forces could be isolated from the masses and the influence of their vile doctrines brought down if not eliminated altogether. The cultural environment of this movement would not only erase the evil effects of these pernicious depraved thoughts from the minds of the people but also help cement their unity—something that the ruling bourgeois class suffering from the fear-complex of anti-capitalist revolution dreads most.

We know that the established bourgeois parties can not take any initiative in developing such movements. But unfortunately, the same is the case with the pseudo-Marxists like the CPI (M), CPI who instead of building up people's movements have now been a step ahead in crushing people's struggle. In place of fighting the parochial-regional forces, theirs has been a policy to tie up with such forces from electoral exigency. Even whatever little voice they used to raise earlier against such forces for public consumption has also

become considerably feeble as has been seen in the case of Maharashtra also. While they boast of their strength in the state, no effective move was noticed on their part in combating this parochial fury except organizing a social-harmony dharna on 12 February in Mumbai. They have not even exerted any effective pressure on the Congress government either in the state or the centre to stop this MNS-sponsored violence with due expediency and firmness and mete out exemplary punishment to the culprits. It is futile to expect anything tangible from them as they have also, true to their social-democratic character, become a part of the system and seeking their political identity in the corridors of power with the blessings of the class.

Our fervent appeal to the poor Marathi as well as north Indian and other community people not to fall prey to communal-parochial slogan, be proactive in acquiring necessary political consciousness to catch such forces napping every time they weave such plots to drive wedge between communities and come forward to build up democratic mass movement of all oppressed masses against capitalist onslaught on rock-like unity.

## Bellary observes successful bandh

Bellary Nagarika Horata Samithi (BNHS) of Bellary in Karnataka state observed a successful bandh in the city on February 16, 2008 with a view to pressurizing the government on a number of demands. Rampant rise in sponge factories and steel plant, mining activities, concomitant pollution and traffic hazards, all at the cost of civic facilities forced the people of Bellary, to take this stand after they had held demonstrations, dharnas, jathas, signature campaign collecting no less than 40,000

signatures and such others, that came of no avail. The bandh was supported by the broadest cross section of population, including the local bar association, IMA, chamber of commerce, trade unions and organizations, educationists, students, teachers over and above the common people of the city. The Samithi, comprising eminent educationists, professors, principals and others, took pledge in a meeting held on the day of bandh to continue their struggle till the demands are met.

## India Launches Israeli Spy Satellite

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UPA government could move closer in its alliance with Israel despite CPI(M)'s opposition.

Further, on June 29, 2000, a delegation went over to Israel from West Bengal headed by no other a person than the CPI(M) Polit Bureau member Jyoti Basu. The CPI(M)-led government stated the motive was to attract investors from Israel to West Bengal and work together for the

advancement of agriculture. The hypocrisy of its anti-imperialist clamourings was thus evident. It is only a game of deception and treachery which the CPI(M) leaders play, by attempting to befool the masses and the honest cadres of their party on the one hand, at the same time getting wedded to obnoxious imperialist alliance. Their opposition of the Teccar launch bears the latest testimony of this.

## New decisions for united movement

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even the military was launched against movement in this state of West Bengal. But direct use of armed criminals to break up mass movement was never witnessed before. This has earlier happened only during communal riots. In Gujarat, Narendra Modi organised killing of the minority community by keeping the administration totally inactive. The Congress, too, did the same thing during killing of the Sikhs in Delhi. But the way in which the CPI(M) criminals, dressed in police uniforms, along with the police, attacked and killed the people at Nandigram on March 14 last year, and particularly the way in which Nandigram was totally handed over to the mercenary killers between 5 to 12 November last by totally inactivating the police-administration, by disbanding the police camps and by changing the police posting at the police station, and the participants in the movement were indiscriminately murdered in village after village by using armed criminals and mass raping of women was perpetrated — this had never happened during mass movements under Congress rule or even during the freedom movement under British rule. This is totally different in character. This is a fascistic attack. This role of CPI(M) is ominously dangerous for the democratic movement of this state.

Many people are astonished at the police atrocities on the civil disobedience movement by Forward Bloc at Dinhatia in Coochbehar district on February 5. They wonder, how could CPI(M) government open fire upon the movement of a partner party of their front and shoot down five people? We would like to pronounce clearly that CPI(M) today makes no difference between a partner of their front and anybody outside it. Even it may be that, in case CITU, the trade union of CPI(M), launches a movement and it goes beyond the control of CPI(M) leaders, it will be no surprise to find the government firing upon such a

movement. So much committed CPI(M) today is to the capitalists of the country and abroad.

It is immensely necessary to organize the broadest sections of people to thwart this fascist onslaught on mass movements. This requires forging unity not only of the leftist parties; it demands also uniting different non-left political parties including Trinamul Congress but excluding the two national bourgeois parties, Congress and BJP, as well as various mass organizations and citizens. That is why we have decided to form people's committees with the above-mentioned forces right from the lowest level as it has been in the Nandigram model, and develop mass movements under them. In course of movement, such people's committees will be extended up to the state level. If Panchayat election happens to take place in course of that movement, we will participate in it as a part of the movement itself and under the banner of the committee only. Movement will continue after the election too. We announced this view first in a mass meeting at Nandigram on May 31 last year. There we urged upon the people to maintain the unity of the Bhumi Uchchedh Pratirodh Committee, a committee that had come up at the cost of so many lives and so much of tears of hapless women; we also urged that people participated in all activities, be it a movement or a Panchayat election, united under this committee. People of Nandigram accepted our proposal. So, it is not the first time that we say that peoples' committee will contest election too. For Singur too, we placed the same proposal. Now, we would like to place the proposal for the whole of the state. We have decided to talk to every Naxalite group including CPI (ML) (Liberation) and the leadership of RSP and Forward Bloc. We will also have discussions with other parties including Trinamul Congress and mass organizations. We will wait to see how far they respond to our call.

## SUCI strongly opposes hike in petrol diesel prices

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in a statement issued on 14 February, 2008, vehemently opposed the steep rise in petrol-diesel prices with effect from 15 February 2008 on the same old plea of rise in international fuel price which will cause a further spurt in the prices of essential commodities and services causing immense hardship to the common people already back-broken by savage capitalist exploitation.

Time and again we have pointed out, said Comrade Mukherjee, that if the central and state governments withdraw the huge amount of cess and duty imposed on petrol and diesel, there is no need whatsoever for hiking domestic fuel tariff and thereby pass on the common people the burden of artificial jacking up of international oil price, whimsically and unilaterally, by a cartel of blood-sucking oil firms backed by the US imperialists. It is worth noting, mentioned Comrade Mukherjee, that this increase has been given effect by completely bypassing the Parliament whose budget session was imminent thus bringing to the fore the degree of

impotence the ruling dispensation has reduced the much trumpeted 'Sovereign Parliament' to. It has been timed, pointed out Comrade Mukherjee, just on the eve of the annual budget so that the disastrous impact could not be attributed to the fiscal policies slated to be announced in course of this annual exercise and the government gets away with some formulations which might outwardly look innocuous but would impound all catastrophic effect of this fuel price hike. Comrade Mukherjee also drew attention to the treacherous role of the CPI (M), CPI who except some pretentious opposition though for public consumption are repeatedly allowing this Congress-led government, running on their unqualified support, to get away with all its anti-people policies and thus proving themselves to be accomplices to these unpardonable crimes on the people. Comrade Mukherjee called upon the people of the country not to accept such a felony lying low but release a strong united organized movement to force the government to withdraw the hike.

## SUCI flays union railway budget

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punctuality in running and serious lapse in maintenance, the Railway Minister's has been an attempt to project as agenda of improvement certain cosmetic application of information technology in the operation, oft-repeated hollow promise of introducing modern carriages and hygienic toilets and a so-called scheme of modernization of select railway stations. While train travel is getting increasingly unsafe and insecure due to rising number of theft, burglary and incidents of rape and sexual assault on women by intruding anti-socials, the Railway Minister preferred to observe the code of silence in the matter and escaped by conveying mere intention to man the unmanned crossings — something that has been told many a times in the past as well but never translated into action. Comrade Mukherjee also drew attention to the fact that the budget is totally silent on any definite drive to check the rampant corruption that has deeply entrenched in every level

of operation causing massive drainage of public money, pilferage, wastage and palpable deprivation as well as harassment of bona fide passengers.

Comrade Mukherjee also pointed out that the CPI(M), CPI with whose consent this budget has been framed and with whose unstinted support the government is running, not only remained accomplices to this deceitful formulation but even reflected narrow sectarian regional-provincial sentiment which was expressly manifest when their MPs from West Bengal staged a walkout in protest against deprivation of their own state but those of Kerala and other states preferred to be in the house to indicate their satisfaction with what has been granted to their respective states. Comrade Mukherjee called upon the people not to be misled by the bucketful contrivances contained in the budget but rise up against such chicanery of the Congress-led CPI(M)-backed government.

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