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On West Bengal situation

West Bengal is at crossroads. Concomitant to the 31 year long uninterrupted misrule of the government of the CPI(M), an all-out degeneration has gulped the state. The veneer is coming off. It is already clear before the people that wearing a cloak of Marxism-Leftism, the CPI(M) is proved to be a grisly embodiment of a political force brazening it out to articulate the sinister class design of the ruling capitalist class weaving plots and machinations every hour to squeeze out the last drop of blood of the toiling people in order to extend its exploitative class rule from which is stemming all plight and penury, malaise and misery. From their terrifying experience the people have realized that this CPI(M) government is no different, if not worse than other muscle-and-brawn bourgeois governments. As bootlicker of utterly corrupt,

despotic and autocratic capitalism out to wipe out even the last vestige of democracy, CPI(M) has with the backing of the ruling monopolists unleashed a reign of terror and a totally capitulated administration that stands identified with the party. Party satraps and a cesspool of self-seekers under party shelter are now ruling the roost. Anybody refusing to be thrown in the towel is immediately bracketed as 'anti-development' and meted out any treatment the party zealots deem fit. Nandigram and Singur have been witness to this fascistic savagery. Other places are also no exceptions. The ongoing panchayat election has indeed been a documentary of how despotic maniacs flaunt their brutal might to make people either genuflect before them or perish. Knowing that verdict is destined to go against them, the CPI(M) leaders with the help of subservient

administration, obedient police and hired killers have made it a point that not even slightest of scope remains for the people to exercise their franchise. Right from flagrant violation of election codes, abduction of opposition candidates, forcibly debar opposition nominees to file nomination to scaring voters brandishing firearms and daggers, booth capturing, mass stamping and rampant violence including murders — everything has been featuring in the CPI(M)'s bid to occupy the panchayets. In fact, the CPI(M) has made criminalization of politics as its main plank to grab or cling to power.

Naturally right-thinking people of the state have been righteously craving for dislodging the CPI(M) from power. But that in this absolutely truncated parliamentary democracy governed by money, muscle and media power where the

CPI(M) has completely appropriated the administrative machinery by planting party apparatchiks at every point and making nepotism, lure of lucre, corruption, and bribery firmly entrenched in every orb, it is not that easy a task today. It is only by powerful assertion of their right through organizing massive united protracted democratic movement that people can hope to fulfill their legitimate aspiration. And that is why the ruling class and its political agents are in a devious game of making people spurn democratic movement and gallivant around futile ballot arithmetic only. As order-carrier of the class, the CPI(M) is also hemmed to this bourgeois conspiracy. By every possible means, it is disorienting people from the path of genuine movement and trapping them in an anti-struggle mentality. Despite this,

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Country observes 24 April with solemnity and resolve

April 24 2008, marked the 61st foundation of our party SUCI. It was observed with deep solemnity and resolve all over the country. We have already included in the last issue of Proletarian Era the few reports that reached us before publication. In this issue we include the rest of the reports.

On all the occasions the observance was marked by enthusiast, yet determined participation of huge number of comrades and supporters-sympathisers- well wishers of the party as well as common people from all sections of life and activities. The occasion was inaugurated everywhere with the song on the great leader of the proletariat, Com. Shibdas Ghosh, and the 24 April —the foundation

day of the party. Everywhere, the observance was ended with the rendering of 'Internationale', the tune of fraternity and solidarity of communists, the world over.

Sixtieth anniversary of SUCI was observed in a huge mass meeting organized by the Assam State Committee of the party on April 24 at the Lakshmiram Barua Auditorium in **Guwahati in Assam**. In spite of there being a bandh call covering a part of the state, the gathering of party workers, supporters and common people from different districts of the state, spilled over around the hall and witnessed the proceedings on a huge video screen. Comrade Azhar Hussain, member, Assam State Committee presided over the meeting, while Comrade Asit

Bhattacharyya, Central Committee member of the party addressed the meeting as the main speaker.

While explaining the historic significance and importance of observing the foundation day of SUCI, Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya elaborated the historical background of party formation. He highlighted how Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, an eminent Marxist thinker and philosopher and a great leader of the proletariat founded SUCI as the genuine communist party of India on 24 April 1948, from the necessity of emancipating people from all sorts of exploitation. He could clearly visualize that even if the British imperialists were being compelled to leave India under the pressure of intense valiant struggle of Indian people from all over the

country, the power was going to the hands of the Indian national capitalists. As a result, the rulers would change, but exploitation would not end. Instead of achieving liberation, people of the country would be trapped into the national exploitation at the hands of the national capitalists. It was thus necessary for the sake of emancipation from all kinds of exploitation to accomplish the anti-capitalist socialist revolution and for that, to form a genuine communist revolutionary party. Through his brilliant analysis, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had shown even at that time, that the undivided Communist Party of India, which had been founded as long back as in the twenties of the century, could never

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Valiant struggle of Singur and Nandigram sprouted new hope

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wherever just movements of the people are surging forth at our initiative or sometimes spontaneously under the aegis of other anti-CPI(M) forces, those are being crushed with unprecedented bestiality.

Singur-Nandigram movement

When large dose of brinkmanship takes the country to the brink, mayhem degenerates into yet more blood-curdled anarchy, the common citizen cranes his back and strains his eyes in a futile effort to pierce the haze that perceptibly hangs on the screen, deep-rooted frustration swats at everything in sight, sprouting of a new hope can only illumine the path. There lies the historical significance of first Singur and then Nandigram struggles.

When the CPI(M) government on the plea of industrialization in the capitalist way — a myth in the present stage of decadent moribund crisis-ridden chaos-discredited capitalism — embarked upon forcible acquisition of 1000 acres of multi-crop extremely fertile farmland with the help of police-administration to dole out to the Tatas, one of the top monopoly houses of the country now featuring among the top ten rich in the world, the peasants of Singur did not yield. Realizing that this land is being seized to enable Tatas to set up a most modern technology-driven automobile plant having 'zero' employment potential as well as to swell coffer through sprawling real estate business while the land losers are slated to receive nothing but derision and destitution, the Singur peasants organized in a people's committee in which we played a major role fought back with grit and determination. The CPI(M) and its government retaliated with frenzied fury. Savagery perpetrated on the agitating peasants including women by armed police stirred the whole nation. Tapasi Malik, a girl in her late teens was brutally raped and murdered by CPI(M)-sponsored goons for taking part in the resistance movement.

The people stood spell bound, terrorized and the whole nation shocked, stupefied. But this stupor was what to be got rid of. And Nandigram showed the way drawing inspiration from Singur movement. As everyone knows, our

party has been for several years trying to develop peasants' movements on various burning issues in Nandigram. Later when it came to light that a grave conspiracy is being hatched to acquire 10, 000 acres of land consisting of huge fertile agricultural stretches, habitats of local people, ponds, gardens, schools, places of religious worship to set up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) with the Salims, the infamous Indonesian monopoly house, as the promoter for housing a chemical hub desired by the notorious US multinationals, we concentrated our entire strength to initiate an effective resistance movement by forming people's committees and enrolling volunteers. At a later stage, sensing people's mood Trinamool Congress, Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Hind and others also tried to build up movements at their respective initiatives. When the government formally rolled out the process through a notice, necessity was felt to combine all forces to thwart the devious move. So was born the 'Bhumi Uchhed Protirodh Committee' (Committee for resisting eviction from land) or BUPC, a joint platform for conducting the struggle, determined to resist such a hostile takeover of land drawing inspiration from the valiant struggle of the Singur peasants. In order to protect the very survival against the impending demonic attack, a huge chunk of the rank of CPI(M) and CPI who dominated in this region in terms of panchayet, assembly and parliament seats broke away to join BUPC.

What happened thereafter is known to all. First on 7th January and then on the black day of 14th March 2007, Nandigram was consigned to a horrible fate. Police accompanied by armed party criminals and anti-socials collected from outside pounced upon the protesting villagers with all bestiality, killing, raping, and marauding with gusto. Shielded behind armed police and paramilitary forces, the CPI(M) criminals, brandishing arms and arsenals used by the police and clad in police uniform ran amuck to enact a dastardly operation transgressing all norms of civility and humanity to engineer one of the worst carnages the country has ever witnessed. During British rule and even after independence there had

been many instances of brutal attack of police-military-CRP-RAF on the legitimate movements. But for the first time ever, one saw Party-controlled mafias under police protection deployed to carry out such bestial assault on the struggling masses and rape being used as a means to terrorize. But the struggling peasants stood to their ground defying all beastly savagery, economic blockade and other odds stacked against them by the CPI(M)-administration combine. The women despite being mass-raped, molested, tortured and bullet-struck remained unbending, placed themselves in the altar of high esteem, set up a high standard of fighting morality and dignity and exhorted upon all to project heroic characters as embodiment of true human essence. Organized under the banner of BUPC, having already emerged as the instrument of this valiant resistance against setting up of SEZ, an agenda of imperialist globalization, the brave Nandigram peasants forced the CPI(M) and its government to abandon the proposal. Even it made Congress-led CPI(M)-backed central government to pause and think of modifying the SEZ act. Nowhere in the world could the struggling masses wrest such an important victory against imperialist machination. It was a people's movement. People decided, acted and ended on a winning note much to the discomfiture of the government. Obviously it became an eye-opener for those who thought that the politics of capitulation had so unremittently plagued the whole scenario that resurgence of mighty democratic movement remained only a pious wish of a selected few. Once again, the state of West Bengal true to its struggling spirit and protesting character was in ferment. While Singur wrote the opening lines of the first paragraph of the glorious peasants' struggle against sinister imperialist-capitalist machination to forcibly grab fertile agricultural land in the name of so-called industrialization, Nandigram added in letters of blood an epoch-making chapter of determined resistance and resolve.

Fascistic attack of November

But the CPI(M) leaders obligated to serve the ruling monopolists at any cost did not give

up weaving new plots to smash this potent weapon called Nandigram in the armoury of the fighting people bleeding white under ruthless capitalist exploitation. They imagined that doses of subterfuge and atrocities would break the mass resistance. But when despite a barrage of raucous propaganda, slanderous campaign, spread of fabricated stories centring around 'return of those having fled home', attempt to drive a wedge between Hindus and Muslims by playing communal card, implicating the movement activists in false cases as well as covert threat of a rerun of the blood-curdled episode by arms-brandishing party criminals did not yield any result in bending the brave peasants waging a just struggle, they did not hesitate to unleash a diabolic assault with the full backing of ruling monopolists to 'capture' Nandigram and re-establish their dominating position. Planfully, they withdrew police, immobilized administration and practically handed over Nandigram to mercenary killers from 5 to 12 November 2007 when indiscriminate murder, rape, torture, torching of house and property, loot and arson went on at an unprecedented scale. The hired criminals and anti-socials decided the plot, came in numbers with arms, smashed the skulls of their opponents into pieces and left with a rapturous roar after the CPI(M) leaders thought they had 'regained the lost territory'. This was fascistic bedlam and butchery at its peak and a dangerous portent loomed large over the horizon. It became obvious that unless these arrogant blusters and uncouth predatory of the CPI(M) leaders that verge on sanctimonious humbug are put to an end, an all out darkness will enshroud the future and polity will finally turn into a fiefdom of fascist wolves. The path of democratic movement — the only course available to people to build up resistance against mounting capitalist onslaught—might be closed forever and clamping of total fascism will only remain a formality.

Imperative necessity to contain CPI(M)

So the urgent task befalling the revolutionaries is to protect

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CPI(M) bares its fascistic tooth and claw

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democratic movement from the ruling class-backed lethal attack of the CPI(M). The people at large, too, are eager to remove the CPI(M) from power and weaken it on the floor of legislature through elections and thereby curb its political dominance and brigandage though the task is tough. However, as a revolutionary party we can not but take due cognizance of this legitimate aspiration of the people. To the people, our party is the only ray of hope. They sincerely want us to play leading role in fulfilling their aspiration. If we fail to honour their just sentiment and do not rise up to the occasion, they will be crestfallen allowing elbowroom to other non-revolutionary forces.

The question that comes next is how to carry out the task in the given situation. With the CPI(M) having completely arrogated to itself the entire administration and commandeering all means to rig and manipulate poll verdict in their favour, it is tough to dislocate it from the hot seat of power through conventional electoral process. There lies the imperative necessity of exerting pressure of people's united organized movement. The need of the hour is to bestir the people, spur them to break open the shackles, and unchain them from decade-long inertia by unleashing a massive statewide movement on the Singur-Nandigram model. As a revolutionary party, we have in the formulation of our base political line clearly indicated the class composition of this united struggle. It is absolutely essential to understand as to who would be the constituents of this united movement at this particular juncture of the course of events. The strategy is two-fold. Not only the genuine lefts but even the non-left forces having some role in the anti-CPI(M) struggle are to be brought within the fold of this united movement. Secondly, in order to ensure that this movement does develop and get steered along the right track with the direction being entirely under the control of the struggling people, it is essential that a genuine left core develops in this new alignment of forces. In this connection, assimilation of the essence of the teachings of great Marxist authorities like Lenin-Stalin-Mao-Shibdas Ghosh is of paramount importance. Stressing the need of United Front politics as

essential precondition of revolution, they all said that in a class divided society, there exist vast masses of exploited people under the influence of various political parties representing the intermediate classes in between the ruling class and the revolutionary proletariat. Unless these masses are transformed through political and ideological campaign into active supporters or at least benevolent neutral forces, revolution can not attain victory. In course of united struggle, the parties and forces having parliamentary ambition and demonstrating a compromising attitude towards the ruling bourgeoisie from the standpoint of their vacillating class position get exposed and thus exhaust their limited role in the arena of democratic movement. In the process, they automatically get isolated from the toiling masses and leadership of genuine revolutionary party becomes firmly established. Thus it is as clear as daylight that there is a pressing need for united struggle to stall the impending danger. While discharging this historic responsibility, it ought to be ensured that in conceiving or giving concrete shape to the proposal by involving various forces, there remains no scope for any confusion or erroneous understanding in anyone's mind. Rather it is to be guaranteed that there is unanimity and uniform understanding among the fighting masses and cadres about the process and purpose of the united struggle.

The concept and significance of united front politics in Marxist revolutionary movement has been well explained in the teachings of great Lenin. While discussing 'An essential condition of Bolshevik success' in his celebrated work 'Left-wing communism—an infantile disorder', Lenin said that one of the tests of discipline in the revolutionary party is "its (Bolshevism's) ability to link up, maintain the closest contact, and—if you wish—merge, in certain measure, with the broadest masses of the working people—primarily the proletariat, *but also with the non-proletariat masses* of working people." He ridiculed the reluctance of the 'Left' deviants within working class movement to work in reactionary trade unions and called this an "egregious folly" as "it would mean fearing that function of

the proletarian vanguard which consists in training, educating, enlightening and drawing into the new life the most backward strata and masses of the working class and peasantry." He further added emphatically: "If you want to help the 'masses' and win the sympathy and support of the 'masses', you should not fear difficulties, or pinpricks, chicanery, insults and persecution...but must absolutely work wherever the masses are to be found. You must be capable of any sacrifice, of overcoming the greatest obstacles, in order to carry on agitation and propaganda systematically, preservingly, persistently and patiently in those institutions, societies and associations—even the most reactionary—in which proletarian or semi-proletarian masses are to be found." (SW Vol. III, p340, 364-65) He then illustrated that "In 1901-02, even prior to the appearance of Bolshevism, the old editorial board of *Iskra* ...concluded (not for long, it is true) a formal political alliance with Strove, the political leader of bourgeois liberalism, while at the same time being able to wage an unremitting and most merciless ideological and political struggle against bourgeois liberalism and against the slightest manifestation of its influence in the working-class movement. The Bolsheviks have always adhered to this policy. Since 1905 they have systematically advocated an alliance between the working class and the peasantry, against the liberal bourgeoisie and tsarism, never, however, refusing to support the bourgeoisie against tsarism (for instance, during second rounds of elections, or during second ballots) and never ceasing their relentless ideological and political struggle against the Socialist-Revolutionaries, the bourgeois-revolutionary peasant party, exposing them as petty-bourgeois democrats who have falsely described themselves as socialists. During the Duma elections of 1907, the Bolsheviks entered briefly into a formal political bloc with the Socialist-Revolutionaries. Between 1903 and 1912, there were periods of several years in which we were formally united with the Mensheviks in a single Social-Democratic Party, but we never stopped our ideological and political struggle against them as opportunists and vehicles of bourgeois influence on the

proletariat. During the war, we concluded certain compromises with the Kautskyites, with the Left Mensheviks (Martov), and with a section of the Socialist-Revolutionaries (Chernov and Natanson); we were together with them at Zimmerwald and Kienthal, and issued joint manifestos. However, we never ceased and never relaxed our ideological and political struggle against the Kautskyites, Martov and Chernov." (ibid p363, 380-81) Pointing at the inevitable vacillation of the 'petty-bourgeois democrats', Lenin said that "Communists' proper tactics should consist in utilizing these vacillations, not ignoring them; utilizing them calls for concessions to elements that are turning towards the proletariat—whenever and in the measure that they are turning towards the proletariat". (ibid p383)

Great Stalin too strongly stood by this united front politics as and when it so become necessary to further world revolution. During the Spanish civil war Stalin supported the united front policy and a broad-based coalition against the fascist rebellion. He approved of discouraging the Spanish communists from taking too prominent a role in government for fear of alienating other more conservative elements of the Republican movement. In China too, he urged co-operation between the Chinese Communist Party and the Kuomintang of Chiang Kai-shek against the Japanese invasion. The coming to power of Nazism in 1933 created a situation where the immediate object of the communist movement in the advanced capitalist countries was no longer socialist revolution but the defence of the entire democratic movement from the expansion of fascism. The danger of world war loomed large. These were circumstances which led Stalin, Georgi Dimitrov and the Communist International to re-orient the tactics of the international communist movement towards creating the broadest possible united and popular fronts against fascism. This was at the back of the popular fronts established in France, Spain and other countries where successful defensive fronts, it was hoped, would form the basis for later socialist offensives. Stalin showed exemplary revolutionary acumen in handling of the contradictions

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Observance of Party Foundation Day round the country

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become a communist party at all, because of their not following the Leninist method of party formation. Arriving at this historic conclusion, Comrade Ghosh founded SUCI through an unprecedented struggle.

Comrade Asit Bhattacharyya added that in the sixty years after independence, under the rule and exploitation of the profit-hungry capitalists, 80% of common people are suffering from poverty, unemployment that have crossed all limits of tolerance. Love, sympathy and such finer emotions of life have virtually been wiped out from the society. There are only cries of agony and frustration. Father kills his son; the husband takes his own life after killing his wife. On the other hand, fratricidal killings are going on unabated among the different communities, based on caste-creed-religion- language and such others. It is the capitalism that drives man to act like beasts. Under the yoke of capitalist rule and exploitation, people are being dehumanized, over and above their only losing security and direction of life.

In contrast to this, rich is becoming richer. The entire economy has gone into the grip of a handful of families, only 53 families owning the lion's share of the nation's wealth as per the latest statistics. Many of them find their place in the list of the richest people of the world. The entire administration, the judiciary are being shaped and steered in such a way as to ensure this process of rich getting richer. Such a suffocating condition of people's life must be changed; but how can that change be brought about? Comrade Bhattacharyya emphasized that for bringing about that change, we must present to the people and equip them with the correct guideline for emancipation from exploitation on the basis of the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. People must be freed from their illusion about elections that still works in them. To perform this historic task of freeing people from the clutches of parliamentary politics, there is no party other than SUCI. Those parties bearing the signboards of communist parties have now nakedly turned subservient to the capitalists. They are trying their level best to confuse people in ways whatsoever possible, saying that 'there is no alternative to

capitalism', or 'for development, growth of capitalism must be ensured'. Behind their pseudo-leftist slogans, they have even stepped ahead of the rightist parties in serving the interests of the capitalist class. The capitalists, the owners are totally and liberally extending their help and assistance to these social democrats on account of their ability to create confusion among the working class cunningly from within. These agents of capitalists, the social democrats must be thoroughly exposed to the people, as they are creating the hardest impediment to the left and democratic movements to grow. Everywhere they are giving birth to a mentality against movement and are thus putting up obstacles to the movements themselves.

Comrade Bhattacharyya recalled that even when SUCI was formed in 1948, the social democrats were not of the same character as they are today. They used to build up some movement, their cadres braved attacks of police. Even then, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh could diagnose their social democratic nature. Today, everything stands crystal clear. Not only they stand mute in face of this sky-high price rise; they are curbing legitimate democratic movement of people with the help of police and goons. No revolution can be accomplished without giving thorough exposure to this role of theirs. And this is a task that is to be performed by none other than us, the SUCI. Again, it is through building up legitimate movements of people everyday, following the guidelines of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, that this task may be accomplished.

Comrade Bhattacharyya then brought attention to the grave international situation prevailing today. The acute market crisis has even surpassed the great depression of the thirties. Such a suffocating situation is proving beyond doubt that there is no alternative to Marxism- Leninism. Moreover, he further added, the impact of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts at the international level is increasing. Many-a-leftist of the world are now realizing that to fight against modern revisionism there is no alternative to Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts.

Referring with deep anxiety to the agonizing situation in Assam arising out of narrow sectarian and

regional parochialist movements in the state, Comrade Bhattacharyya showed that these negative factors are helping the parties and forces subservient to the exploitative capitalists system to push people further into still graver situation. On further elaborate analysis of the issue and the situation arising, he added that it is possible to wrest some demands from the ruling class and their political agents through building up powerful united conscious democratic mass movement under the leadership of genuine leftists parties. But the divisive mentality spread among the toiling people by the reactionary forces are creating impediments to such much-desired movements of toiling people. Comrade Bhattacharyya called upon the right minded people of Assam to realize this truth and unite under the banner of a united democratic movement.

Comrade Kalyan Chowdhury, the State Secretary of Assam also called upon toiling people of the state to help develop united mass movement imbued with leftist ideology.

The Delhi State Organizing Committee of the SUCI observed the 61st foundation day of the party by holding a public meeting on the 24th April, 2008 at Gandhi Peace Foundation, **Delhi**. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Pran Sharma, a senior member of the Delhi State Organizing Committee. Comrade Krishna Chakraborty, member, Central Committee, SUCI, was the main speaker on the occasion. The meeting was also addressed by Comrade Pratap Samal, Secretary, Delhi State Organizing Committee of the party. Coming from different areas of Delhi, the party cadres, workers and people from different walks of life filled the hall to its capacity and listened to the speeches with rapt attention.

Comrade Krishna Chakraborty also addressed the Foundation Day observances as the main speaker at Netaji Subhash Park at **Rewari** in **Haryana** on April 25 and at **Basavanagudi** in **Karnataka** on April 30 last. The meetings there were presided over by Comrade Satyavan, Secretary, Haryana State Committee and Comrade K Radhakrishna, Secretary, Karnataka State Committee of SUCI, respectively.

In his addresses, Comrade Krishna Chakraborty explained the

significance of 24th April, the Foundation Day of SUCI, when the leaders, cadres and supporters-sympathisers undertake thorough analysis, afresh, of the prevailing situation and thereupon determine the tasks ahead, on the basis of Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh thought.

Referring to the recent steep rise in the price of essential commodities, Comrade Chakraborty laid stress upon the importance and need for developing countrywide powerful movement with a view to pressurizing the central and state governments to take immediate measures towards curbing hoarding-blackmarketing and price manipulating by private traders and, in stead, towards introducing all-out state trading of both the wholesale and retail trades of all essential commodities for people's life, including foodgrains and distribute them to people at fair prices through the Public Distribution System (PDS). Comrade Chakraborty raised caution that pseudo-Marxist parties like CPI(M)- CPI may talk of, even pose for, launching movement, which will really end in their using and cashing upon people's discontent towards fulfilling their parliamentary ends. He called upon people to give defeat to the politics of, and thus isolate, CPI(M)-CPI, the social democratic forces.

Elaborating on the policy of SEZ Comrade Chakraborty showed that it has no relevance to industrialization. Rather SEZ is a scheme of accumulating huge profit in the hands of corporate houses. It exposes the ugly dimensions of the globalization policy. SEZs will rob the exchequer of the country of Rs 1,70,000 crore by 2010, all of which will be collected mercilessly from the middle class and poorer sections by increasing taxes. To implement such a criminal policy of SEZ, the CPI(M) goons have even assaulted women and slaughtered children in West Bengal. All this they do in the name of industrialization, but in West Bengal alone more than 56000 industries lie closed down.

Capitalism today, having become moribund and thus reactionary, can no more undertake industrialization. It is possible only after the overthrow of capitalism through revolution. He emphasized the need for creating an atmosphere that will ultimately make way for

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Call of 24 April : Defeat social-democracy, strengthen SUCI

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revolution. For that, Comrade Chakraborty urged upon developing new ethics and morality with Marxist-Leninist outlook and proletarian culture. It was also necessary to build up united movement of all sections of oppressed toiling people. To that extent, Comrade Chakraborty hailed efforts being made in West Bengal towards forging unity of political parties other than Congress and BJP, who were ready to fight and were already fighting against the fascist attack of CPI(M)-led government on people of the state, particularly the peasants, for implementing the SEZ.

Comrade Chakraborty drew instances from the Chinese revolutionary struggles, when Mao Zedong even in face of attacks from the Kuomintang forces of Chiang Kaishek, forged unity with them when Japanese imperialism invaded China. But that did not prevent him from fighting the same Kuomintang forces soon after the defeat of the Japanese imperialism and thus accomplishing the revolution there in China.

Comrade Chakraborty called upon the comrades to learn and relearn the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and develop SUCI, the genuine revolutionary party of India. To observe 24th April solemnly with due emotions and resolve, was an essential part of these tasks, Comrade Chakraborty concluded.

In **Mumbai, Maharashtra** Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Central Staff of the party, graced the occasion of Foundation Day observance as the main speaker at the meeting held on April 28 at Mahatma Phule Hall, with Comrade Kumar Kulashrestha presiding over and Comrades AK Tyagi, Jayram Viswakarmal also addressing the meeting.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar said that, there being no correct working class party during the independence movement, the state power passed into the clutches of the capitalist class with independence. It was out of the historical necessity of leading the masses to emancipation, that SUCI, the genuine Communist party was formed under the leadership of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on April 24 in the year 1948. The then undivided CPI was later to be split into different parties or forces, like CPI(M), CPI(ML) etc. Today installed in power in West

Bengal, CPI(M) is suppressing mass movements resorting to fascistic measures. Comrade Dhar pointed out that mighty mass movements should be developed forming peoples' committees on the model of Nandigram.

At **Nagpur**, the Foundation Day was observed through a public meeting held at Rashtrabhasha Prachar Samity Hall with Comrade Ranjit Dhar as the main speaker. In his speech, he asserted that crisis-ridden capitalism is destroying culture and moral values along with perpetrating economic exploitation. Peoples' emancipation is not possible in any way, other than through accomplishing socialist revolution. Comrade Madhab Bhande, Secretary, Nagpur District Committee of the party presiding over the meeting, said that social problems can be redressed only through mighty movements based on Marxism-Leninism-Comrade Shibdas Ghosh thoughts.

Jharkhand Organizing Committee observed the 60th anniversary of foundation of the party in a central gathering at Sreekrishna Singh Park in **Ranchi, Jharkhand**. Jharkhand State Secretary Comrade Hem Chakraborty presided over the meeting. Comrade Arun Singh, Member, Bihar State Committee recalled in his address as the main speaker that when Manmohan Singh started implementing policies of globalization and liberalization, he promised flourish of industries, extensive employment facilities and lowering of prices all following investment of capital. Now industries face recession, unemployment is roaring and Manmohan himself admits price rise to be beyond control. The capitalist system lies at the root of all these. Comrade Arun Singh added that a separate Jharkhand land did not fulfill the dreams of people. It is required that intense mass movement be built up on burning problems of peoples' life under the correct revolutionary leadership, and based on Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh thoughts. Comrade Hem Chakraborty urged upon that the party workers, equipped with higher ethics and culture, must carry Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh thoughts to people, to realize the dream of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Arun Singh also addressed the Party Foundation Day observance at **Durg, Chhattisgarh**,

which was presided over by the veteran leader and Chhattisgarh State-in-charge of party Comrade Badsah Khan and was conducted by Comrade Viswajit Harode.

In **Madhya Pradesh**, 24 April was observed at different places. At **Bhopal** observance of Party Foundation Day was held on 27 April. It was addressed by Comrade Satyavan, Secretary SUCI State Organizing Committee Hariyana as the main speaker. He also addressed the observance at **Sagar**, on 28 April. In his addresses Comrade Satyavan, dealt on national-international situations. In regard to tremendous price rise he said that our party has been demanding for decades state trading of essential commodities, both at the wholesale and retail levels. But different governments of different shades at central and state levels in their shameless desire for allowing capitalists maximum concessions to help them reap maximum profits, did never accept that demand, on the contrary curtailing state subsidies and opening up rampant privatization of essential commodities, even foodgrains. Now even the retail trade is being handed over to multinational corporates, as a result of which around 10 lakh small traders including 4 crore people of their families will lose their means of subsistence. It is true that so long as capitalism exists in the country there will be no respite from price rise and black-marketing. But if the common toiling people are organized and develop militant struggle, the power of that mass movement may force the rulers to implement some measures that will help bring some relief to people and also may help prepare the struggle for overthrowing this exploitative system in the long run. He urged upon the revolutionary workers of the country to go to people and organize them in peoples' committees in order to build up waves of movements and ultimately pave the way for anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

At Bhopal U.P.Biswas, M.P State co-ordinator of the party also spoke, while Comrade J.C.Barai, Bhopal unit-in-charge of the party presided over the meeting. At Sagar Comrade Umapasrad, State Convenor of the party and Comrade Gangavatar Sharma, the president of the meeting also addressed.

A well attended public meeting

was organized by **Guna** district unit of the Party at Jiwaji Pustakalay Hall on 29th April. A large number of students, women, and many eminent persons of the town were present in the meeting. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Lokesh Sharma and Comrade Pratap Samal was the main speaker. Comrade Pradeep R.B, District In-Charge of the Party also spoke.

A public meeting was organized at Community Hall, Laxmibai colony, **Gwalior** on 30th April to observe 61st foundation day of our Party. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Sunil Gopal, District In-Charge of Gwalior and Comrade Pratap Samal was the main speaker. Comrades Rupesh Jain, Preeti.R.B., Nidhi Batham and Shranglesh also spoke on the occasion.

61st Party Foundation Day was observed at **Patna in Bihar** on April 24. The meeting held on this occasion was presided over by Comrade Shivshankar, Secretary, Bihar State Committee and was addressed by Comrade Robin Samajpati, member, Jharkhand State Committee as the main speaker. Comrade Samajpati brought attention to the plight people are facing. Purchasing power of people is fast eroding, rising rapidly are price of all commodities essential for life, as also unemployment, retrenchment and such other maladies. In the name of industrialization fertile lands are being snatched away from peasants. Ethical-cultural standard is falling apart at break-neck speed. He emphasized that to come out of this suffocating situation, it was necessary to accomplish the anti-capitalist socialist revolution. Comrade Shivshankar also called upon people to build up mass movements under correct leadership.

A state level meeting of **Rajasthan** unit of the Party was organized at Sarvodaya Bhavan in **Jaipur** on 27 April to observe 61st Party Foundation Day. The meeting was presided over by Comrade Maha Singh and the main speaker was Comrade Pratap Samal. Comrade Girijeswar Singh, State In-Charge of Rajasthan, Comrade Rajmal Sharma, Comrade Chhajuram Rawat and Comrade Feroz Khan also were among other speakers.

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Need for broadest possible unity against savage fascist attack

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between two warring imperialist camps during Second World War by forming an alliance with the Anglo-American bloc to contain and defeat Hitlerite fascism and thereby saving human civilization from definite catastrophe. This has been a unique example of correct understanding and application of united front politics. His relevant comment on the issue is worth recollecting in the context. "It is said that the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition has every chance of winning, and would certainly win if it did not suffer from an organic defect which might weaken and disintegrate it. This defect, in the opinion of these people, is that this coalition consists of heterogeneous elements having different ideologies, and that this circumstance will prevent them from organizing joint action against the common enemy. I think that this assertion is wrong. It would be ridiculous to deny the difference in the ideologies and social systems of the various countries that constitute the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition. But does this preclude the possibility, and the expediency, of joint action on the part of the members of this coalition against the common enemy who threatens to enslave them? Certainly not. More than that. The very existence of this threat imperatively dictates the necessity of joint action among the members of the coalition in order to save mankind from reversion to savagery and mediaeval brutality. Is not the programme of action of the Anglo-Soviet-American coalition a sufficient basis upon which to organize a joint struggle against Hitler tyranny and to vanquish it? I think it is quite sufficient." (On the great Patriotic War of the Soviet Union p 75) Great Mao Zedong who correctly assimilated the essence of this Leninist principle applied it successfully in the given condition of China. But for this correct application of this united front politics based on the concrete analysis of the concrete situation prevailing in the then China, Chinese revolution could never be accomplished. "Communists must never separate themselves from the majority of the people or neglect them by leading only a few progressive contingents in an isolated and rash advance, but must forge close links between the

progressive elements and the broad masses... Communists should set an example in being practical as well as far-sighted. For only by being practical can they fulfil the appointed tasks, and only far-sightedness can prevent them from losing their bearings in the march forward" observed Mao during discourse on the importance of united front politics. Elaborating further he said that, "In leading the masses in struggle against the enemy, Communists must consider the situation as a whole, think in terms of the majority of the people and work together with their allies..... Communists should work in harmony with all progressives outside the Party and endeavour to unite the entire people to do away with whatever is undesirable. ...". Turning to how this united struggle is to be conducted, he explained that "At the same time, every party and group in the united front must preserve its ideological, political and organizational independence this holds good for the Kuomintang, the Communist Party or any other party or group. In inter-party relations, the Principle of Democracy in the Three People's Principles permits both the union of all parties and groups and the independent existence of each. To speak of unity alone while denying independence is to abandon the Principle of Democracy, and to this neither the Communist Party nor any other party would agree. There is no doubt that independence within the united front is relative and not absolute, and that to regard it as absolute would undermine the general policy of unity against the enemy. But this relative independence must not be denied; ideologically, politically and organizationally, each party must have its relative independence, that is, relative freedom. Also, the general policy of unity against the enemy would be undermined if this relative freedom were denied or voluntarily abandoned. This should be clearly understood by all members of the Communist Party as well as of the friendly parties..." He also clarified that in "meeting the demands of solidarity against the enemy" through united struggle with other parties, "the policy of mutual help and mutual concessions" must be followed." (SW Vol. II p197-200)

It is based on this understanding that Chinese Communist Party under Mao in order to defeat Japanese aggression forged unity with Chiang Kai-shek-led Kuomintang who betrayed revolution in 1924, led not only political but armed attack against communists butchering thousand of communists. Mao himself branded Chiang as the "chieftain of the camp of traitors". Yet when China was aggressed by Japan militarily, Mao could correctly analyze that in the background of the major antagonistic contradiction now arising out of Japanese aggression, other antagonistic contradictions so long acting as major ones, would become secondary. All sections of the people were unanimous on the question of resisting Japan's move to turn China into a colony. But no one not even the communists could face this attack single-handedly. Hence was the need for a broader United Front of all forces who intended to thwart Japanese aggression for one reason or the other. "Comrades, which is right, the united front or closed-doorism? Which indeed is approved by Marxism-Leninism? I answer without the slightest hesitation — the united front and not closed-doorism", was Mao's categorical assertion. (SW Vol. I p164) There were also some rifts within the enemies of revolution within the country over the Japanese threat. "We must turn to good account all such fights, rifts and contradictions in the enemy camp and turn them against our present main enemy", declared Mao (SW Vol. I p159). It was at the initiative of Mao that Chiang despite his class position and long anti-communist hatred was compelled to unite with the Communists against Japanese attack. He made no secret of the fact that one "cannot expect every section of the broad national united front against Japan to be as firm as the Communist Party and the Red Army. In the course of their activities some bad elements may withdraw from the united front under the influence of the enemy. However, we need not fear the loss of such people. While bad elements may drop out under the enemy's influence good people will come in under ours... The Communists are no longer political infants and are able to take care of themselves and

to handle relations with their allies." (SW Vol. I p167) Under people's pressure, there was marked change in the compromising attitude of the Kuomintang pressure and it was impelled to respond to the call of unity and accept "Three People's Principles" enunciated by Dr. Sun Yat-sen as the minimum common agreed programme. History has proved how correct Mao was. After victory of the resistance war, the strength of the CPC increased many fold and a large number of Chiang's followers in his party and army switched towards the communists. The prestige of CPC was greatly heightened before the masses.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, founder General Secretary of our party and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, in course of concretizing Marxism-Leninism on Indian soil further elaborated this UF politics as an imperative strategy for accomplishing proletarian revolution. "On the question of United Front politics, and in that sense on the question of directing a United Front ...the objective and outlook of a true Marxist-Leninist party is fundamentally different from those of petty bourgeois social democratic parties...A true Marxist-Leninist party views the United Front as an indispensable tool to further the cause of the revolutionary struggle of the masses at a given stage of democratic movement. On the other hand, for the petty bourgeois social democratic parties of all shades, United Front is a mere exigency, a tool for serving their petty parliamentary interest and fulfilling their ambition.... In view of the inadequate strength of every opposition party, not to speak of the strength of the revolutionary party, to provide single-handedly organizational and political leadership to the people in their struggle against reactionary parties and forces, a United Front of all the left and democratic parties and forces is the only alternative. In other words, so long as the present stage of democratic movement continues, that is, in the course of conducting democratic mass movements, till a revolutionary party along with its mass fronts gains enough strength to co-ordinate and lead all the mass movements

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United movement must be conducted on 'unity-struggle-unity' principle

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single-handedly towards their historical goal of anti-capitalist socialist revolution, the United Front is not an exigency, it is an indispensable instrument of struggle in democratic movement." (SW. Vol. III, p142, 144)

Reflecting on operating this United Front on the principle of unity-struggle-unity, Comrade Ghosh observed: "A United Front acts as an instrument of struggle to organize and mobilize in the united movement that section of the people who suffer from illusion about the petty bourgeois social democratic parties and are still under their spell; as a result, on the one hand, the movement gains strength, and at the same time it offers an opportunity to the vast masses drawn in the vortex of movement to get more and more acquainted with the revolutionary politics, and be imbued with it....This is the only objective way to make people free from this pernicious bourgeois influence and to attract them to the noble ideology of communism...It is for this reason that a revolutionary party attaches so much importance to protecting the unity of the United Front as the apple of one's eye, while conducting at the same time a fierce and intense ideological battle against the non-revolutionary politics of the other constituents of the United Front. Conducting united struggle against the common and the main enemy on the basis of an agreed common minimum programme and with a code of conduct, while unleashing at the same time within this unity an uncompromising ideological struggle to resolve the ideological differences between the different parties that are reflected in the adoption of the programme of movements and its implementation, and thereby strengthening the unity of the Front more and more — this is what is called the principle of unity-struggle-unity." (ibid p 145-46) Comrade Ghosh also stressed upon the overriding importance of this ceaseless struggle during conduction of united movement.

As worthy continuator of Lenin-Stalin-Mao, he also criticized those who being unable to comprehend the revolutionary significance of this United Front concept display, according to Comrade Ghosh "the over-sensitiveness" from the fear

that "if they have any association or work together with the non-revolutionaries, they would lose their revolutionary character." Explaining further, Comrade Ghosh said, "Marxists, particularly Comrade Lenin had sounded a note of caution time and again against this tendency. He once said that those who cannot work together with their enemies, with foes and non-revolutionaries, if need be, having failed to recognize the need of revolution, the necessity of unity that has arisen in the course of revolution, are in fact haunted by their own shadow. They are frightened having seen their own spectre within themselves. Actually they lack firmness of character. They are no revolutionaries. They must know how to work with all, even with difficult people. Revolutionaries must have the ability and strong base of character to work with anyone. But the wish or capability to work with anyone does not mean, *ipso facto*, that working with anybody will be possible. The question of working with one and all depends on many a factor. These constitute the main reason why splits occurred time and again in the unity of the trade union movement in India." (From 'On Preserving Unity In and Establishing Revolutionary Leadership on Workers' Movement' — speech at the delegate session of the Conference of Steel Workers' Co-ordination Committee, Durgapur on 18 March, 1974)

Task imperative in the given West Bengal context

From the above discussion, it is clear that in the phase of organizing long-drawn class and mass struggles before situation so ripens as to make possible emergence of class front of the proletariat for final revolutionary takeover, there is absolute necessity for sustained united democratic movement involving all forces having a role in this movement based on the principle of unity-struggle-unity and a minimum common agreed programme against the common enemy. In course of this movement, it becomes possible to make people understand from their experience as to what limitations the non-revolutionary forces and parties suffer from in elevating the movement to the height desired for safeguarding the

fundamental interest of the toiling masses. Once this political consciousness dawns upon the people, the non-revolutionary forces get automatically isolated and leadership of the revolutionary gets firmly established.

With this outlook, we had to think of developing appropriate instrument of struggle in West Bengal for stemming the fascistic upsurge triggered by the CPI(M).

Correctly sensing that an anti-CPI(M) mentality is sweeping across the state and the oppressed people are keen to remove the party from power, the ruling bourgeoisie, cunning as it is, floated a theory of 'one against one' in the electoral battle meaning formation of a grand alliance including Congress and BJP, two of its most trusted representatives, against the CPI(M). With its pliant media pitching full blast, this catchphrase did carry with a section of the people sincerely desiring a change of regime. Danger inheres here. One would recollect the ruling class played the same trick when it replaced thoroughly discredited Indira Congress by Janata party, another reactionary right combination, in 1977. In pursuit of the same deceptive game, the class is manipulating to alternate governmental power at the centre between Congress and BJP. Both these parties, as everyone knows, are wedded to the same task of serving class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie with utmost dedication and are equally inimical to democratic movement. It was BJP who rolled out ruinous SEZ concept that Congress, owing the existence of its government at the Centre to CPI(M)'s support, has put into effect. If a grand alliance replaces CPI(M), it will be akin to be from frying pan to fire.

To frustrate this reactionary move to create a grand alliance and thereby try to divert the entire attention to only elections, we found it incumbent on us to take initiative for forming on the Singur-Nandigram model a broad based combination of all genuine left parties and groups as well as non-left forces who are strongly opposed to the glaring anti-people deeds and policies of Congress, BJP and the CPI(M) and have a definite role in stimulating the extra-parliamentary struggle against the misrule of both the central and state governments.

This combination with a genuine left core in course of intensifying the extra-parliamentary movement could also participate in the electoral battle coming in its stride. Accordingly we engaged ourselves in talks with various left parties and groups outside the CPI(M)-controlled front who are connected with democratic movement and are ardent in this regard. Since RSP and Forward Bloc, two major partners of the CPI(M) front, were found to be extremely critical of the CPI(M)'s pro-capitalist pro-globalization policies and dissociated themselves from the Singur atrocity and Nandigram carnage, we also went to them to come out of the CPI(M)'s fold and join mainstream of democratic movement. So far they have not done that though being unanimous with us on many questions. Till the time they do so, they can not be constituents of the broad combination envisaged to spearhead people's movement against the fascistic posture of the CPI(M).

Of the non-left forces, the party needed reckoning was Trinamool Congress (TMC), a splinter group of Congress which moved out of its parentage a decade back when majority within Congress adopted the policy of playing second fiddle to the CPI(M). While we, in pursuit of our revolutionary objective have been trying to develop the class and mass struggles against the anti-people pro-capitalist policies of the CPI(M), TMC from its parliamentary agenda has also been agitating against the same set of policies in its own way. TMC also made an open declaration that it would have no truck with both BJP and Congress in the state. From this perspective, it can be said to be playing a discernible part in the anti-CPI(M) movement in the state. And because of this role, it also has a substantial following among the anti-CPI(M) floating masses. Both at Singur and Nandigram, our party and TMC have been working together inside the two people's committees spearheading the movements there. Particularly in Nandigram, the movement gained such momentum and repulsed the move to set up SEZ because of better co-ordination and understanding between us and TMC at the grass root level operation that

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Comrade Manik Mukherjee in Bahrain

On behalf of *Democratic Progressive Tribune* of Bahrain, Comrade Amir attended the International Anti-Imperialist Conference held in November last in Calcutta. He invited Comrade Manik Mukherjee, elected General Secretary of International Anti-Imperialist and Peoples' Solidarity Co-ordinating Committee formed in the Conference to visit Bahrain. Honouring that, Comrade Mukherjee visited Bahrain between 23 and 28 April.

Democratic Progressive Tribune has an organizational framework very much like that of a communist party; it has Marxist-Leninists in its core as its main force, though there are non-communist democratic-minded people also in the organization. They accept Marx- Engels-Lenin-

Stalin and Mao Zedong as great proletarian leaders and teachers. Even if communist party is not banned in Bahrain, they are not using the banner of communist party for the present.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee had a long political discussion with Comrade Hasan, the General Secretary of the organization, Comrade Khaled Hezres, Secretary, International division and Comrade Kadel Ahlulaibi, with Comrade Amir also present during the discussion.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee placed before them the analysis of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh in which he had raised caution against the impending danger of revisionism in Soviet Union right at the time of their 20th Congress. Communist leaders of Bahrain were astonished

to know that Comrade Ghosh had made that analysis as far back as in 1956. They also listened with all intent when Comrade Mukherjee presented the Marxist analysis of Comrade Ghosh where, alongside bringing out the historic significance of the Great Cultural Revolution of China, he had elaborated the danger of 'socialist individualism' in socialism. Leaders of both the parties hoped that such discussions would bring them closer and would strengthen their relationship.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee presented to Comrade Hasan and Comrade Khaled, two CDs of the Selected Works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. On behalf of the *Democratic Progressive Tribune* they invited Comrade Manik Mukherjee in their May Day observance meeting on May 1. But on account of tight scheduled programmes, Comrade Mukherjee had to return to India on April 30. Bahrain comrades later reported that about 1500 people attended their May Day observance.

24 April Observed

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Committee observed the Party Foundation Day in a decentralized manner at different places in the state of **Orissa** on different dates. Public meetings were held at Berhampur, Ratakhandi of Kalahandi district, Jashipur (all on April 20), and Delanga in Puri district, Jagatsinghpur, Jajpur Road, Salinia of Keonjhar district, Angul town, Sonpur (all on April 24), Bhandari Pokhari of Bhadrak district and Tolagadia Udala of Mayurbhanj district, (in the two cases on April 25), Baipariguda and Rourkela (on April 26), Chandaneswar of Bhogarai (on April 27), Cuttack (on April 29), Telkoi of Keonjhar district (on April 29), Kendrapada, Khurda, Balasore and Rajkanika. The meetings were addressed by members of the Orissa State Organizing Committee like Comrades Dhurjati Das (Secretary), Deenabandhu Sahoo, Bishnu Das, Chhabi Mohanty, Raghunath Das, Binapani Das, Udhab Jena, Sankar Dasgupta, Sadasib Das, Gobinda Maharana, Jagabandhu Boral and Sambhunath Naik (MLA) as also by district committee and local committee leaders.

Party Foundation Day was observed decentralized at different places also in the state of **Uttar Pradesh**. These were namely, Badlapur (Jaunpur District) and Kanpur (at both places on April 24), Patti (Dt. Pratapgarh) and Moradabad (on April 26) and Chanda (Dt. Sultanpur) and Allahabad (on April 27). Comrade V.N. Singh, Secretary, UP State Committee was the main speaker at Badlapur and Moradabad, Comrade Swapan Chatterjee, member, UP

State Committee, at Kanpur and Allahabad, Comrade Bechan Ali, member, UP State Committee at Chanda and Comrade Jagannath Verma, Office Secretary, UP State Committee at Patti. The meetings were also addressed by other members of the UP State Committee and leaders of different district committees.

24 April observed in Alipore Central Jail in Calcutta

24 April, the party Foundation Day was observed in befitting solemnity by the SUCI leaders and cadres held imprisoned in the Alipore Central Jail in Calcutta in conjunction with other inmates there. Comrade Rajaram Roy Mondal presided over the proceedings. In his address as the main speaker, the veteran leader and nine-time Member of the Legislative Assembly of the state, Comrade Probdh Purkait, dwelt upon the historic struggle of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh for party formation. He also pointed out that election cannot bring people's emancipation from exploitation and oppression. It is only through accomplishing socialist revolution under the leadership of SUCI and establishing socialist society in its course, that emancipation can be achieved. Toiling exploited people thus face the task of strengthening SUCI in all respects and ways. Comrade Pranab Chatterjee also spoke.

Over and above the observance of the party Foundation Day in Calcutta, reported in the last issue, there were also observance in different districts of West Bengal, namely Howrah, Bankura, Hooghly, West Medinipur.

On West Bengal situation

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provided spunk and confidence to the fighting peasants. BUPC became an epitome of uncompromising struggle.

As involvement of TMC in the broad based combination stated above would in deference to the aspirations of the people, release a tremendous force in the field of mass movement sending chills down the spine of the CPI(M) and its monopolist masters, we took initiative to enter into an understanding with it for launching a statewide movement against the pro-capitalist pro-imperialist policies of both central and state governments based on a 37-point agreed charter of demands by building up people's committees right from the grass roots level on the BUPC mould and clearly stipulating equal right and honour of the constituents to conduct criticism self-criticism without in any way impairing the unity against the common enemy. We also clarified that so long as TMC sticks to its declared policy of no truck with Congress and BJP, our unity for developing joint movement will remain intact. Our further suggestion was that we take joint initiative to build up people's committees at district level and wherever possible right at the grass roots level on the Singur-Nandigram

model as instruments of struggle and contest the panchayet elections under the banner of these committees as ancillary to the developing extra-parliamentary movement. Our view was that if elections are fought as conducive to legitimate democratic movement of the people, then only the desired objective can be achieved. TMC responded positively on the question of joint movement based on the 37-point programme. Though consenting to the proposal for rolling out the movement by forming district level and preferably grass roots level people's committees on the Singur-Nandigram model as instruments of struggle, TMC leaders did not agree to fight the panchayet elections under banner of such people's committees. They said they would consider the proposal after panchayet poll. From our side, we shall make every effort to see that the broadest unity of anti-CPI(M) forces minus Congress and BJP with a left core does materialize. Once it matures, there will be a powerful viable combination to face and resist the CPI(M)'s downright fascistic overtures and in the process of providing intended fillip to the democratic mass movement people's legitimate aspiration to knock off CPI(M) from power would be realized.

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