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Remembering Comrade Mao Zedong



26 September, 1893 – 9 September, 1976

“Sooner or later, the people of all countries, masses comprising more than 90 per cent of the world’s population, will want revolution and support Marxism-Leninism. They won’t support revisionism; though some people may support it for a while, they will eventually cast it aside. They are bound to oppose imperialism and reaction, and they are bound to oppose revisionism.”

— Mao Zedong

SUCI condemns communal clashes at Kandhmal, Orissa and appeals to people to preserve unity as apple of eye

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 27 August, 2008 strongly condemned the communal clashes that broke out in Barakhama and other places like Tikabali, Sarangada, Raikia etc. of Kandhmal district of Orissa in which several innocent people including women and children have been savagely hacked to death, one woman burnt alive and houses and places of worship mainly belonging to the minority Christian community vandalized. It is reported that the Vishwa Hindu Parishad (VHP) and BJP, said Comrade Mukherjee, having an eye on the ensuing assembly and parliamentary elections and hence hell bent on dividing the people on communal line by rousing communal passion have played a key role behind such ghastly acts.

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Dangerous portend of Georgian issue

Russian militarism provokes mistrust, adds dividend to US design

Late on August 1, 2008 intense fighting broke out in the province of South Ossetia in northern parts of Georgia, a Transcaucasian country of the erstwhile USSR. In fact, violent ethnic clashes, even war had taken place in South Ossetia as well as in another province Abkhazia in western Georgia since the late eighties, particularly since the collapse of the USSR and formation of the recent capitalist Georgian state in 1991. The two provinces ultimately seceded from Georgia and have been existing, since 1992, virtually as pro-Russian independent republics, while the Georgian rulers have tried to bring them back into their domination. This August, after some initial clashes between Georgian troops and the forces of South Ossetia, the Georgian army, trained and largely and lethally equipped by the US imperialist rulers as also Israel and other imperialist-capitalist countries, launched an aerial bombardment and ground attack on August 7 and finally took control of Tskhinvali, the capital of South Ossetia, with the Georgian President Mikheil Saakashvili announcing that the government troops have ‘liberated’ South Ossetia. In course of that, however, the Georgian army destroyed the city with bombs hitting the university, parliament, hospital and many other buildings. More than 1,400 people died and thousands were wounded and traumatized. Tens of thousands of South Ossetians, nearly 30-40% of the overall population, fled to North Ossetia in Russia. Russia reacted immediately and issued warning to Georgia. It announced that it would intervene to protect its citizens, as majority of South Ossetians were Russian passport-holders. It did not stop there, rather poured thousands of troops into South Ossetia, and launched bombing raids both over the province and elsewhere in Georgia. In fact, the Russian forces pounded Georgia’s military machine; ports, airfields, military bases, ships including a missile boat in the Black Sea, aircrafts, tanks all were shattered and pulverized. Even the Georgian forces and Georgian civilians in the Kodori Valley of Abkhazia were driven out to Georgia proper. All this clearly indicates that Russia launched an undeclared war against

Georgia which was an act of aggression on the part of Russia. Clearly it undertook this act with the singular motive of destroying the striking power of Georgia for the near future.

However, battered in fierce battle for three days, President Saakashvili ordered Georgian troops to ceasefire and retreat. The President-in-Office of the European Union, French President Nicolas Sarkozy, brokered a preliminary ceasefire on a six-point peace plan, that was subsequently signed by Russia and Georgia, with Saakashvili signing it in Tbilisi, the capital of Georgia, in presence of the specially visiting United States Secretary of State, Condoleezza Rice. But even after that, the USA in the name of sending aids to war-ravaged Georgia, is sending them in military ships. Russia, too, after withdrawing its troops, kept the posts still operative not only within South Ossetia, but even in Georgia. It has also granted formal recognition to the breakaway provinces, South Ossetia and Abkhazia, going against its former stand where it had recognized territorial integrity of Georgia.

Naturally the war, with its nature, intensity and effect including loss of human life and livelihood, ethnic cleansing, devastation of civilian and military infrastructure, stoking of perpetual mistrust, enmity and tension among the peoples involved, caused concern and attention of the peace-loving people of the world. The question that haunted were: can militarism put any restraint to Georgian rulers and the war-monger US imperialists at their back which dragged the situation into this calamitous magnitude, as also is not what Russia did equally condemnable, even if it is done in the name of protecting South Ossetians or such other pleas. The war also stirred up the US-led military alliance of NATO as also of the European Union. Starting as a localized war, an internal affair of Georgia, the war thus threatened to escalate into a critical international issue of greater implication, in which military involvement of big powers could not be ruled out. It thus demanded that right-thinking

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Soviet policies on nationalities thwarted by revisionism and counter revolution

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democratic-minded people of the world should take some critical note of it to understand why and how the situation could suddenly deteriorate to the present extent. For that, we may require to look at the background.

Soviet handling of nationality issue initiated the correct process of democratization

After the great November revolution transforming the Tsarist Russia into the erstwhile Soviet Union, Ossetia, which had been annexed to the Tsarist Russian empire in the late eighteenth century, was divided into two parts, North and South, respectively to the north and south of the Caucasus Mountains. In April 1922, South Ossetia was incorporated as an Autonomous Region in Georgia which, then, belonged to the Federation of Transcaucasia (alongwith Armenia and Azerbaijan). It was and is inhabited mostly by ethnic Ossetians who speak a language remotely related to Farsi; the Georgians, speaking the Kartvelian (or South Caucasian) language account for less than one-third of the population of South Ossetia. North Ossetia (the Autonomous Russian Republic of North Ossetia, which added 'Alania' to its official denomination since 1994), with greater links with the Russians, was included within the Russian Federation in July 1924.

For different historical reasons these different ethnic communities or nationalities of the region had varied relations among themselves. Since the days of the Tsarist occupation of these areas under the Russian empire, there were also the Greater Russian chauvinism, as well as strong feelings against Russian domination prevalent in these regions. Relation between the Ossetians and the Georgians was particularly strained; the latter held the former as pro-Russians. It was in recognition of these historically determined factors and with a view to neutralizing the long-standing nationality conflicts between the Georgian and the non-Georgian communities as also the Greater Russian chauvinism, that the then Soviet leadership under Joseph Stalin, created three administrative entities within Georgia for giving regional autonomy to the ethnic minority communities: the

Autonomous Republics of Azaria and Abkhazia, as well as the Autonomous Region of South Ossetia. It meant that different communities or nationalities which were becoming assimilated, but were as yet by no means wholly assimilated and integrated with the common stream of a more developed community of a higher culture, were placed by the Soviet leadership in the process of integration and assimilation, at the same time retaining their regional autonomy, all on the sound foundation of the socialist base. Based on elaborate and unique analysis of Stalin, the great proletarian leader, on the nationality problem in the light of Marxism-Leninism, it was thus the initiation of the correct process of complete democratization of society in all its aspects, social-political-economic-cultural, which only could have successfully dealt with the community- nationality conflicts prevailing through the historical days. This was the background on which Georgia, when it broke away from the USSR on 9 April 1991, had its ethnic minorities constituting some 30% of its 5.4 million population, primarily concentrated in those three provinces of the country.

However, the process that was set in the socialist USSR and that was gradually bringing about the integration of the minorities with the common stream suffered a jolt soon after the advent of the modern revisionism starting with Khrushchev. As the revisionist leadership consolidated itself in the USSR, there began the process of doing away with all these correct Marxist-Leninist fundamental outlook, propositions and policies. It can be easily visualized that to the extent Stalin's thoughts and guidelines based upon correct understanding of Marxism-Leninism were shunned by the revisionist leadership, to that extent instead of thoughts and culture guided by proletarian internationalism, vicious bourgeois thoughts and culture, ethnic and linguistic conflicts, community-nationality fanaticism gradually popped up afresh in the USSR, even the Great Russian chauvinism gradually resurfaced and as against it, anti-Russian sentiments increased amidst sense of fear and mistrust. Finally, with the counter-

revolution giving way to collapse of socialism and breakdown and disintegration of the former USSR, the capitalist rulers that usurped power in these former socialist states, started fanning up divisive traits and regional or community feelings between states or within them among different communities with increased venom. This was motivated with the single aim of disuniting people against their common enemy, capitalism, of their respective soils, so as to ensure longer life to the exploitative capitalist regimes that were set up in these countries.

Advent of capitalism fomented divisive traits

For example, even before the USSR was finally dissolved, Georgia, under the leadership of President Zviad Gamsakhurdia, sought to establish its control in South Ossetia and Abkhazia. It ruled out dialogue with the domestic ethnic minority communities there and thus fuelled apprehension and strife in those provinces. Repeated violent clashes took place between the Georgians and the minorities. Collapse of the USSR and formation of the new Georgian state in 1991 did nothing to dampen this trend. Rather, ethnic clashes led to civil wars in those two provinces accompanied by ethnic cleansing. Ultimately South Ossetia and Abkhazia seceded from Georgia in 1992. A cease-fire agreement was brokered by the then Moscow leadership. Moscow formally recognized the Territorial integrity of Georgia and a security zone under the supervision of tripartite 'peacekeeping forces' (Russia, Georgia, South Ossetia) and a quadripartite Joint Control Commission (including North Ossetia-Alania) were established. Also the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) set up a long-term mission (OSCE Mission) which worked between 1992 and 2004, fostering dialogue on the issue and monitoring the so-called peace-keeping forces. However all attempts to solve the South Ossetian and Abkhazian problem failed with constant fomentation of divisive tendencies by the respective capitalist rulers of Georgia or its two breakaway provinces. Added to it, were also the anti-Russian sentiments at different levels, that were latent and rising,

with Russian interventions and interferences adding fuel to the fire.

In sum and substance, all this created the very fertile ground for the US imperialists and other major imperialist powers of Europe to play upon it. Ever since the collapse and break-up of the USSR, not to speak of the days of the 'Cold War', the US imperialism, in particular, has hardly taken any respite from hatching intrigues and conspiracies to further weaken the former Soviet socialist, now independent capitalist, states. It has installed reactionary pro-western regimes wherever possible in many of them and teathed them with arms-ammunitions with a view to building up its sphere of influence and military strength around Russia. In the post world-war days, the USA set up NATO as a defensive transatlantic alliance with the so-called aim of containing the socialist Soviet Union. But particularly since the break-up of the USSR, the USA has transformed NATO into a multinational military force as an instrument of intervention, the offensive arm of the US imperialists to ensure U.S. corporate domination of the globe, as well as to encircle Russia. It has more than doubled the original 12-country membership of NATO, always trying to bring the east European former socialist countries and the states of the former Soviet Union under the umbrella of NATO against Russia. Recently USA has escalated tensions further by forcing the Polish government to agree to station US 10 interceptor missiles in Poland, even in face of strong opposition from Polish people to this aggressive and dangerous military escalation.

US imperialism sets out with its nefarious design in Georgia

In regard to these US attempts to infiltrate in the region, Ukraine and Georgia seem to have proved as the softest targets. The USA has been particularly keen on bringing Ukraine and Georgia under the NATO. The U.S. government's National Endowment for Democracy and multibillionaire George Soros funded the 2003 project, termed the Rose Revolution in Georgia. It involved presidential and legislative elections that were marked with rigging and other charges of fraudulence, carried out

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Singur in ferment over demand for return of forcibly grabbed farmland

Singur in west Bengal is again in the headlines. One would recall that two years back, the CPI (M)-led government in West Bengal creating a smokescreen of industrialization — a hoax in the current crisis-ridden capitalist economy—acquired 1,000 acres of extremely fertile multi-crop agricultural land by evicting the peasants at gunpoint. Tatas had requisitioned this plot for setting up a highly sophisticated capital-intensive automobile industry enjoying plethora of tax and other concessions rendering thousands homeless and landless. The affected peasants decided to resist the move glaringly initiated by the government to favour the Tatas, the top-notch monopolist house by organizing themselves in various people's committees which finally led to formation of Singur Krishi Jami Raksha Committee (SKJRC) (Committee for Protecting Agricultural land in Singur). Under leadership of this people's committee of which both the SUCI and Trinamool Congress (TMC) were important constituents, the peasants unleashed a heroic resistance movement. The CPI (M) led government committed to serve the class interest of the ruling monopolists did not hesitate to let loose its armed police on the agitating peasants to orchestrate one of the most brutal lethal attacks on legitimate democratic movement of the time. Raj Kumar Bhul, a protesting youth was killed; peasants were dragged out of their houses to be mercilessly beaten and maimed, Tapasi Malik, a young adolescent activist was brutally raped and burnt alive planfully by ruling party-backed criminals, modesty of the women were outraged. Many have starved to death. The whole country burst into protest. Leading intellectuals and thinking personalities called this savagery unprecedented. Singur crumbled the decade long inertia to signal a resurrection of democratic mass movement in West Bengal, the citadel of people's protest and resistance struggles. Yet the CPI(M)-led government flaunting its brute majority in the assembly and riding on the monstrous strength of its coercive police-administration as well as unstinted backing of the ruling monopolists and corporate sector went ahead with the landgrab to hand over the

same to the Tatas on a silver platter. More was the suppression, further intensified was the movement. Inspired by the courageous fight of Singur peasants that brought back the state on the struggling mood, Nandigram peasants braving all odds courageously stood up and foiled the scheme of the government to set up a Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in keeping with the prescriptions of capitalist globalization. Singur-Nandigram have become legends in the annals of democratic mass movement providing spunk and determination to the fighting people in other parts of the country to rise in protest against such forcible landgrab or any other injustice.

In the aftermath of this took place the panchayat elections and a few municipality elections. Severe wrath of the people got reflected in the results of these polls which the CPI (M) despite every effort could not manipulate to the extent it wanted with the help of its pliant administration, police and criminal brigade because of pressure of movement and people's organized vigilance. CPI(M) was inflicted a crushing defeat. This bolstered people's spirit and created fresh ground for more legitimate struggles



A part of massive gathering at Singur on 24 August

to sprout. The surge of fresh movement in Singur has been in this perspective. The Singur peasants are now voicing demand for return of 400 acres of land belonging to the unwilling owners who have refused to receive compensation cheques. It may be added that the Tatas themselves in a letter written to Mamata Banerjee, the TMC supreme said that the proposed automobile plant would needs only 600 acres of land. So there is every legitimacy in claiming back the said 400 odd acres of land. As a part of

the movement, an indefinite sit-in-demonstration of TMC, SUCI and other allied parties and forces has begun in front of the Tata Motor factory site in Singur from 24 August. It has received over-

whelming support from the people which is eloquently testified in the swelling masses thronging at the demonstration place over these days. Such huge has been the gathering that vehicular movement has come to a standstill on the Durgapur-Calcutta express highway. More the movement is gathering momentum and the agitating peasants as well as the leadership conducting the movement is remaining firm on their demand, more frightened is the CPI(M) and its government as their commitment to the ruling class about diffusing the spirit of protest in the state is under jeopardy. The CPI(M) leaders in a cunning move made Tata group chairman issue a threat of withdrawing entire investment from



Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Sm. Mamata Banerjee and Sm. Medha Patkar in the sit-in demonstration at Singur

industrialists to keep the state out of their investment. Despite availability of several alternative routes, the administration under instructions from the government is forcing loaded trucks to take Durgapur expressway and get stuck so that the stranded truck owners could be used against the movement and an impression created in the minds of Calcutta people that owing to the agitation, the markets would go high and dry pushing up prices of essential commodities. Entire propaganda machinery is now pressed to denigrate movement as disruptive of normal life flow and hence liable for being spurned. The government is also in order to play to the gallery giving call of negotiated settlement to Mamata Banerjee. But it is refusing to consider the issue of return of 400 acres of land, the demand on which this movement is being conducted. Tatas who earlier admitted requirement of 600 acres for the plant now in connivance with the CPI(M) talking of imperativeness to be in possession of balance 400 acres as well for housing ancillary industries which, any thinking person will understand, is a futile logic since such units could well be located on a different plot. In fact, this invitation of talk is nothing but a cunning ploy to diffuse the movement. In a press conference, Comrade Provash Ghosh, Central Committee member and state secretary of the party rebutted each and every false argument the CPI(M) and the ruling monopolists and called upon the people to unitedly and resolutely stand by just struggle of the Singur peasants and escalate it step by step to open a new vista of legitimate people's struggle. Our party will devote all its strength as one man to make this movement victorious.

US imperialism finds Georgia, Ukraine soft targets

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to install Georgia's current regime led by the present President Mikhail Saakashvili. Saakashvili was a New York-trained lawyer who had practiced in USA for top law firms. Incidentally, the U.S. imperialists also instigated a similar regime change called the Orange Revolution in Ukraine in 2004-2005, installing a government compliant with U.S. wishes.

During his rule, Saakashvili has reconstructed Georgian army to NATO standards with the help of US specialists and US-training. He allowed U.S. Marines to hold three weeks of military exercises with the Georgian military just before the attack on South Ossetia. As reported by the Israeli daily *Ha'aretz* (August 10), the Georgian army is trained also by the Israelis stationed at bases throughout Georgia to carry out battalion-level infantry. The defence expenditure of Georgia has been increased by Saakashvili by 30 times, with purchase of sophisticated arms from Israel, Ukraine, Bosnia, etc. According to the report of Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, the defense budget of Georgia has grown, with liberal US aids and finances, by 60 percent annually since 2004 and is currently at \$1 billion, with an average growth rate of military spending very high in the world, its military expenditures accounting for 5.6-6 per cent of GDP. Thus the US is hell bent upon militarising the economy of Georgia with a view to erecting a strong military base in Georgia to serve the purpose of targetting Russia finally. Over and above this, the United States and other imperialist countries and their organizations are forcing the Georgian government towards liberalizing their economy to create a 'functioning market' economy of capitalism through economic and military reform programmes. For that purpose, the US imperialists and their multinational corporations have given Georgia assistance in billions of dollars and stepped up goods trade between the United States and Georgia. US foreign direct investment in Georgia, too, stood at \$70 million even in 2005. Obviously a part of the imperialist agenda of neo-economic globalization and liberalization reforms, all this has dragged Georgia well into imperialist exploitation. The strategic location

of the country between the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea to the south of the Caucasus Mountains, has added special significance to it. Though itself not particularly rich in mineral or fuel resources and reserves, Georgia is an important transit route that supplies the imperialist countries oil from Baku on the Caspian Sea. A few important oil and gas pipelines like the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan or the South Caucasus pipelines run through the country. The multinational corporations, the oil sharks of imperialist countries, thus have immense stakes here in the Caspian-Caucasian oil. Georgia is thus now viewed to be playing a central, key role, 'something of a Western bridgehead', in favour of the US imperialists in the politically sensitive-economically viable Caucasus-Central Asia, where the USA has still to make a formidable inroad.

In addition to these military and economic penetrations, the USA has not hesitated to play upon the situation created by nationality-community conflicts in this multinationality dominated Euro-Asiatic region, as well as upon the anti-Russian sentiments among people being fanned up by capitalists of the country. Working through the pro-US regime they set up, the USA seized every opportunity to incite and instigate communities or nationalities into mutual strife or to foment ethnic-nationality-linguistic conflicts, by overt or covert means. The pro-western regimes have also acted to this end with all blessings and supports from the US imperialists. Without Washington's nod and backing, the Georgian military would hardly have dared to launch the present brute attack on South Ossetia with US-supplied equipments and arsenals. And in reality, the war came at a time of record profits and sales in the military industries, wrote the well-known Wall Street Journal (August 16) of USA. It has boosted the expected profits of the giant US military corporations, ensuring also easy long-term funding for big US weapons programmes costing billions of dollars, like the F-22 Raptor fighter jet and high-tech destroyers. Hence the history of Georgia for the last more than a decade, has been the history of US imperialists implementing their treacherous and expansionist schemes and intrigues, as a part of

their goal to establish supremacy in eastern Europe and states of the former Soviet Union and thereby encircling and targeting Russia. It is the war merchants and multinational corporations, who reaped the immediate greatest harvests from these US designs. Naturally this generated intense reaction in Russian people, even to the extent of stoking up the Great Russian chauvinism. On the other hand, the Russian capitalist-imperialist rulers took it upon themselves to use this situation to fulfill their expansionist goal and desire.

But what could have been the correct way to prevent these heinous moves of the US imperialists and their corporations, which the words fail to condemn? How could this war-monger brigand be dealt with effectively to save people of the weaker countries from inevitable doom from the grip of its tentacles it extends even from thousand of miles away? The only surest way would have been an indomitable surge of militant anti-imperialist movement involving people of Georgia, including South Ossetia and Abkhazia as also of Russia, forging their iron-strong unity. It must be recognized that the ground for such an anti-US imperialist movement to generate, has already developed in the region. Major demonstrations in Ukraine last spring opposing NATO membership and opinion polls reflecting 70 percent of people of Poland and the Czech Republic opposing the US bases in their country, these are glaring evidences of mounting anti-US imperialist sentiments in the region. And it must be admitted that such a surge of struggles could be developed successfully only under a genuine revolutionary leadership. No such leadership appearing in a perceptible and effective way to people of these countries, the US imperialism, in its turn, has not failed to grasp this opportunity. It has made its devastating inroad into the social-economic-political-military life of people of this region as far as possible.

Russian militarism stokes up anti-Russian trends for USA to reap harvest

Russia, in its turn, finds in dismay that the mighty and vast USSR has broken into pieces; the east European former socialist countries have followed the same course the USSR have gone. The

entire region of the former Soviet Union and east Europe has become the hunting ground of the US imperialists and other major imperialist powers of the Europe. NATO is extending its tentacles to bring newer and newer members from this region into its fold. Thus, the capitalist rulers of Russia which arose to power through the counter-revolution and which are also imperialist in their character, find themselves set in a particularly hostile, difficult situation. The Russian imperialism belongs to the imperialist combinations and alliances, such as the G8, with their own aspirations and demands, though virtually accepting the US hegemony. However, as an imperialist power, the Russian imperialism inevitably faces the necessity of securing and expanding its own markets, and for that, the compulsion for its own sphere of influence. In fact, even in Georgia for instance, the Russian gas giant Gazprom is building new gas pipelines and infrastructure worth hundreds of millions of dollars.

For obvious reasons, the US machinations in Georgia and, at its beckoning and support, flexing of muscles by the Georgian rulers over the ethnic minorities of their land incurred wrath of the capitalist-imperialist regime of Russia. As for the people, the situation became such that strong reaction and indignation were growing in the Russian people against the increasing infiltration and influence of the US imperialism in the countries of former Soviet Union. For instance, they could hardly digest that Georgia, a country immediately across the Russian border, was being transformed into a US military base. In the Georgian people, on the other hand, fear and apprehension of Russian domination and expansionism were fast taking roots. Apparently mutually in contradiction and conflict, the feelings and sentiments of the two people, Russian and Georgian have sufficient ground of finding the common cause of developing their anti-imperialist movement. And that was against any form of military intervention and aggression into a sovereign country like Georgia endangering its integrity, security and peace, by big imperialist powers like USA or Russia or for that matter any other such country.

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Comrade Manik Mukherjee attends International Conference of Workers in Sudan

Comrade Manik Mukherjee, Central Staff of SUCI and General Secretary of International Anti-imperialist and People's Solidarity Coordinating Committee (IAPSCC) attended the massive programme on National Workers' Day Celebration on invitation from the Sudan Workers' Trade Union Front (SWTUF). On that occasion, a massive anti-imperialist conference at the initiative of SWTUF and Sudanese government was held at the Friendship Hall, Khartoum, on 3 August.

This conference was viewed as 'Protest of Africa' against the conspiracy being hatched by the US imperialists against Sudan, particularly against the warrant issued against Sudanese President by the so-called 'International Criminal Court' constituted at the US initiative. The conference was attended by nearly 3000 delegates from 20 countries. Thousands of people gathered outside the venue in support of the cause. Comrade Mukherjee was invited on the main dais from where he delivered the speech.

At the outset, Comrade Mukherjee on behalf of the fighting people of India expressed solidarity with the people of Sudan in their just struggle against imperialist domination. He said: After bringing devastation to Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan, the imperialists headed by US imperialism are now turning to other countries like Sudan, Iran, Palestine, Lebanon, etc.. Sudan has become a victim of the age-old intrigues and conspiracies of imperialists because of its richness in natural resources, like oil, natural gas, uranium, copper etc., coveted by the imperialist sharks. The surge of anti-colonial movements in the post-Second-World-War period freed people from foreign rule in one country after another throughout the world, and in Africa too national governments were established in such countries. But the imperialist powers loathed letting the huge natural resources of the African countries go out of their control. So whenever the governmental policies showed any proclivity towards an independent course of development, or if the people's movements took the slightest anti-capitalist stance, the imperialists pounced on them. Independent Sudan tried to follow a policy of development of its economic resources not guided by the imperialist dictates. It has not

granted US access to its oil resources, nor did it support the US-led war against Iraq and its subsequent occupation. So US imperialists under fraudulent pretext launched a missile attack on a pharmaceutical plant in Sudan in 1998. The cornerstone of imperialist policy is to foment national and regional antagonisms, to instigate one group against the other and prop up one group in the conflict through financial and military aid. In Sudan this policy is very effectively implemented to create the civil war situation extending for nearly half a century in which the country is devastated. The Western right wing organizations, the spokespersons of the capitalists, and even some confused liberal groups are raising the demands for external intervention to 'save' Darfur, torn apart by engineered racial conflicts. Leaders and reactionary quarters of US and UK have advocated intervention, if not military intervention in Sudan under the plea of stopping 'genocide'. This is a typical modus operandi of the imperialists. After instigating the civil wars and allowing them to continue through direct intervention and supporting one group against the other, they start talking about 'war crimes' and 'crimes against humanity', and demand that the perpetrators be tried and punished.

In 2006 at the initiative of the African Union, the Darfur Peace Agreement was signed by the Sudanese Government and the largest group of Darfur militants as a step to promote the process of healing and reconciliation. But imperialist interference is blocking the resolution of the conflict, and other groups enjoying the support of imperialist powers are keeping the conflict alive. At such a juncture the International Criminal Court (ICC), at the behest of the imperialist powers, started criminal proceedings against Sudanese leaders. Recently on 14 July, ICC indicted President Omar Hassan al-Bashir for 'war crimes' and 'crimes against humanity'. We voice our strongest protest against this heinous move. We are happy that the African Union and the Arab League have opposed this ICC manoeuvre and we endorse the statement of the African Union that this prosecution threat would jeopardize the peace efforts in the Darfur region. All right thinking people must view this action as an



On dais Comrade Manik Mukherjee (extreme left), Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir (4th from left) and Prof. Ghandour, respected TU leader of Africa (extreme right). Inset: Comrade Manik Mukherjee addressing

assault on the sovereignty of Sudan, and the Sudanese Government and the Sudanese people are justifiably firm in their resolve not to succumb to any political blackmail. The IAPSCC calls upon all the anti-imperialist people of the world to

come out in solidarity with the Sudanese people in their fight against imperialism and help them to protect their sovereignty.

Comrade Shankar Saha, General Secretary, AIUTUC, also attended the conference.

All India UTUC congratulates workers for making all-India strike a grand success

Comrade Sankar Saha, General Secretary, All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC), in a statement issued on August 20, 2008, congratulated the lacs of working people round the country for making the all-India strike called by the Sponsoring Committee of central trade unions a grand success. This strike was called against the anti-labour policies of both central and all state governments irrespective of the hues of the parties saddled in power. All of them are implementing the policies of capitalist globalization. As a result, inflation is spiralling, the severely exploited toiling masses

are increasingly pauperized; neither minimum wage nor duty hours or social security is protected. A section of the leadership of the Sponsoring Committee tried to misdirect the workers by not voicing protest against the three "Left" governments who are also articulating prescription of globalization and are ranked at number one in violation of labour laws. But the move did not succeed. Comrade Saha called upon the working class to firmly maintain the pro-movement attitude and build up sustained organized movement against the central and state governments.

All India UTUC exposes deception behind much hyped wage-hike of central government employees

In a statement issued on August 15, 2008, Comrade Sankar Saha, expressed strong indignation over the Prime Minister's drum-beating announcement of hike of pay and allowances of Central Government Employees meant to hide the deception behind.

Group D post has been abolished rendering sizeable number of employees as surplus. The number of gazetted holidays has been drastically reduced. The gap between minimum and maximum scales has been widened

from 1 : 8 to 1 : 16. By introducing performance-linked incentive scheme, an attempt has been made to create a band of 'yes men' of the bureaucracy. Replacement of CGHS by medical insurance is another retrograde step. And above all, though the revised scale is stated to be effective from 01-01-2006, the allowance will be paid only from 01-09-2008.

Comrade Saha urged upon the employees to compel the government to repeal the negative aspects under pressure of movement.

United militant anti-imperialist movement of people the only way

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People of Russia and Georgia, or for that matter of one and all states of the former USSR, must also realize that they shared a rich common history of several decades when they lived together in a common socio-economic-political system of socialism with a common high proletarian culture based on proletarian internationalism. Today, without exception, they are subject to ruthless exploitation of capitalism, from which they will have to free themselves. In this fight of theirs to be made conducive to reestablishment of socialism they again face a common task, thus demanding their mutual help and cooperation. Over and above that when their sovereignty and security are endangered by the aggression, of war-monger imperialists, particularly the US imperialists, they face the task of putting up a resolute fight armed with revolutionary class-consciousness against that enemy with that common legacy of socialism existing like a beacon to them. For, there cannot be any doubt that the only surest way to thwart imperialist designs and wars of one and every kind, be it the heinous US design of dominating over the whole world or equally reprehensible Russian domination and expansionist militarism would require building up of strong people's opinion and movement against them.

The Russian capitalist rulers, however, never cared for this and rather have tried various measures to combat the US designs. On the plea of protecting people of South Ossetia, they have issued Russian passports to them. They have trained up militia of the two breakaway provinces; they have stationed Russian troops there in the name of peace-keeping. And finally, as in the present case, they have unleashed punitive, yet devastating military aggression on Georgia, which has not just destroyed the striking power of the Georgian army; it has grievously affected Georgian and South Ossetian people at the same time. The more the Russian rulers have taken to such measures, the greater and deeper have become the anti-Russian sentiments in people of these areas, which, in turn, has been successfully played upon by the capitalist rulers of Georgia and particularly the US imperialists.

European imperialist powers lock horns with US imperialism

Beside these two major powers, there is also a third player in the Georgian scene, that take interest not for any people's cause, but from their own motive. It is the capitalist-imperialist combination of the European Union which the major European countries, like Germany, France and others, formed in the post world war days. It was because even accepting the hegemony of the USA, they did not like the US attempt to extend its influence and domination over the erstwhile socialist countries of east Europe and the states of the former USSR in the name of containing them. Though generally and commonly lining up with the US imperialism, themselves being capitalist-imperialist, they too had their imperialist aspirations for the markets of these countries and wanted to handle Russia in their own way. So they formed their own combination, as well as came in contradiction with the US imperialism on several issues. This continues even today. Thus while the US attitude rests on keeping the wire hot against Russia, these European countries apparently want to soft paddle the Russian question. It is for the same reason, that Germany, France and Italy publicly opposed the US anti-missile base in Poland, which could make a US nuclear first strike against Russia feasible. Again themselves NATO members who had come into this US-led alliance with the apparent aim of containing socialist Soviet Union. But they went ahead to ignore the USA to consider NATO outlived its necessity with break-up of the Soviet Union. These countries have even tried to build up their own security and defence alliance within the European Union free of US influence. For example, they raised a 60,000 member-strong European Rapid Reaction Force, erected an EU satellite centre for intelligence activities, besides formulating a common security policy.

In the NATO and European Union, the European capitalist-imperialist countries are also divided on the question of including east European former socialist and now capitalist countries in their combination, a move favoured by the USA and supported by its close European allies like the UK. It is also seriously split on the Russian

question and also on the relationship with the US. The division is apparent in the Georgian case too. For instance, the OSCE (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe) Mission worked in Georgia for long twelve years between 1992 and 2004, that is since the two provinces broke away from Georgia. In the present event of Georgian attack on South Ossetia and the Russian counter-attack on Georgia, too, the EU President-in-Office the French President brokered the peace deal and France and Germany preferred to 'douse the flames as soon as possible'. On the contrary, the 'new Europe' countries apparently parroting the USA view wanted total condemnation of Moscow. As it appears from this complex relationship among the imperialist countries, particularly between the US imperialists on one hand and the major European powers like Germany, France and others on the other, it represents the growing bitter contradiction among the imperialists apparently to secure their control of markets, which is already severely affected by recession all over the world in this phase of acute market crisis of capitalism-imperialism. This rivalry, nevertheless, is further heating up the socio-political scenario of Europe endangering peace and increasing danger of war.

This is the background upon which and the course by which the present crisis has come to the boil. And this is also the way, the Russian counter attack on Georgia, contrary to its immediate aim, has paid ultimate dividend to the US imperialists. In conclusion then, we must reiterate that the US imperialism with its proclaimed goal of finding the world as a whole for unbridled capitalist-imperialist exploitation poses the greatest danger to the people of the world. Through all twists and turns of events, it is inching towards making its ominous entry into the Caucasian countries. Georgia and Ukraine are becoming the two gateways for that. This dangerous penetration and expansion of the greatest enemy of mankind in the world, the proven war-monger blood-thirsty brigand of the US imperialism and their heartless corporations must be condemned unequivocally and stopped at all costs. At the same time, it must be recognized that Russian imperialism stands equally reprehensible for

their wanton militarism and expansionism. Such militarism can never work for the avowed Russian aim of thwarting the growing US penetration into the region, nor can it intimidate any prospective EU attempt to step into this region.

On the contrary, as we have already indicated, what is needed, is the mighty surge of united peoples' movement, leading ultimately to militant anti-imperialist struggles. Russian people must realize that rise of Russian militarism-expansionism will only foment the anti-Russian sentiment among the people of this region, that has kept itself alive, as undercurrent or explicit howsoever it may be. It will be the US imperialists only, who will benefit from this growth of anti-Russian trends in the region. They must also realize that this militarism and expansionism of their capitalist-imperialist rulers and their government stand completely against the interests of people of even their own country, that is, Russia. So, they must stand resolutely against expansionist-intervening move of their rulers into affairs of other states formerly belonging to the USSR. On the contrary, true to the glorious legacy of several decades of long association and interaction of Soviet peoples under socialism, people of Russia must fight against their rulers against their militarism and expansionism and for socialism, just as people of other former states of USSR will have to fight in their own land. Georgian people, in their turn must see through the US machinations, or for that matter, also the aspirations of EU countries. They must realize that the Georgian capitalist rulers are treading the path of making Georgia a fertile ground for neocolonial exploitation, with an out-and-out pro-US government placed in power. Secondly, with such a government installed and working for US machinations in that country, the danger of war will be ever-increasing threatening peace and security of people. It thus remains with the people of Georgia, in fact, all these former Soviet countries to rise with all their strength to foil the expansionist designs of the capitalists-imperialists, be it from the USA, the Russian Federation or the EU. They will have to wage intense, sustained struggles in their own way for their own sovereignty, security and peace.

Incidents of Georgia leave these lessons as their fall-out.

Countrywide Observance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day

In the previous issue of Proletarian Era, we covered a part of the news of countrywide observance of the 32nd memorial day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, founder General Secretary of the SUCI, one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era. We cover here reports received later.

Orissa

A state level memorial meeting of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was held at Kalavikash Kendra, Cuttack, Orissa on 9 August. Comrade Dhurjati Das, Secretary, Orissa State Organizing Committee presided over the meeting and Comrade Provash Ghosh, member Central Committee, SUCI addressed as the main speaker.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade Provash Ghosh recalled the painstaking and arduous struggle released by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and his handful revolutionary compatriots to build up SUCI as the genuine communist party on Indian soil. Comrade Shibdas Ghosh on the basis of his penetrating Marxist analysis could understand that in spite of unquestionable honesty, dedication and self-sacrifice of its leaders CPI could never develop as a communist party. This understanding impelled Comrade Ghosh to build up a genuine communist party in India capable of leading the working

people of the country to accomplish anti-capitalist revolution.

Recalling the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Comrade Provash Ghosh said that one can not be a Marxist by blindly obeying the teachings of the Marxist authorities. In order to be a Marxist, one has to understand and follow the process that is followed by the Marxist authorities in a given condition to reach at such conclusions. So Marxism is not a dogma, but a guide to action, a scientific process of life. He called upon the comrades to struggle hard to understand and follow this Marxist process as elaborated and concretized by Comrade Ghosh in all their activities.

Comrade Provash Ghosh mentioned how the illuminating thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh are inspiring a renewed surge of revolutionary working class movement round the globe.

Elaborating on the national scenario Comrade Provash Ghosh said that not only the bourgeoisie

and petty bourgeoisie political parties but also the so called Marxist parties like CPI (M) and CPI in their bid to win the patronage and confidence of the ruling monopolists of our country have turned out and out anti-people. In this situation SUCI reared and steered by the thoughts of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh is single handedly carrying forward class and mass struggle and is increasingly winning over the confidence of the people.

In conclusion, Comrade Provash Ghosh called upon the party comrades to successfully carry forward the revitalization and consolidation struggle to develop themselves as better communist workers .

Tamilnadu

Memorial Day was observed in Tamilnadu at different party offices in the districts. A state level programme was organised by the Tamilnadu State Organising Committee in Chennai at the Ananthabushanam Kalyana Mandapam in Egmore on the evening of 9 August. Comrade Krishna Chakraborti, Central Committee member, SUCI, in his address as the main speaker, showed how Comrade Shibdas Ghosh alongwith a handful of his revolutionary compatriots conducted a tortuous, uncompromising and painstaking socialist struggle covering all aspects of life to build up the SUCI as a genuine communist party on the soil.

Comrade Chakraborti showed how bourgeois individualism had become so polluted today, and the intense, conscious struggle the Party, its cadres, had to discharge if they were to acquire that quality to lead the masses to emancipation and acquire a communist character needed of the time. He showed how the ruling Indian capitalist class, which has been ruling India since Independence, is bringing down one attack after another. Under such attacks, it is imperative that a countrywide movement be built up. He said the SUCI, wherever it is working, is taking all steps to do so. He criticized the so-called Marxists for nakedly subserving bourgeois class interest and called upon the party members to gear themselves to take up the higher responsibility that history has adjured them, always being careful to maintain the high

cultural-ethical standards of the party, by which process alone the party can realize the objective of anti-capitalist socialist revolution.

Comrades A Rengasamy presided over and R Jeyapaul translated Comrade Chakraborti's speech into Tamil for the audience who came from various districts of the state.

Andhra Pradesh

On 5 August morning, Comrade K. Sridhar, party state-in-charge hoisted red flag and garlanded Comrade Ghosh's portrait at the party office in Hyderabad. On 7 August, a public meeting was held at Basheer Bagh Press Club in Hyderabad presided over by Comrade Ch. Murahari, Hyderabad district secretary. In his speech as the main speaker, Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Karnataka State Secretary of the party said: In our country 83.6 crore of people are living with an earning of meagre Rs.20 per day. They are unable to get two square meals a day. While this is the level of pauperization and abject poverty of the majority populace, just a handful of rich are becoming richer everyday and amassing fabulous wealth. This widening gap between the rich and poor is typical of the exploitative capitalist system. And the ruling bourgeoisie and its servitors are ever alert to ensure that at no point of time people's wrath gets organized against the exploiting discriminatory capitalist system and remains arrested within the confines of bourgeois vote politics. That is why a 2-party system is being sought to be operative in the country in the class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie. Recalling Comrade Ghosh's penetrating analysis and invaluable teaching, Comrade Radhakrishna mentioned that now crisis-ridden bourgeoisie in order to prolong its moribund class rule is increasingly resorting to fascism, which does not come always in a naked and violent way as during Hitler's time. It comes with a radical posture and may take a firm root even keeping the façade of parliamentary democracy. He called upon all to strengthen the party to fight against all such bourgeois machinations.. Comrade Sridhar, in his brief address explained how the question of eradication of all problems is inseparably linked to the task of

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Great Frederick Engels and Shibdas Ghosh remembered in Bangladesh

Commemorating the 113th death anniversary of Frederick Engels, the great leader of the world proletariat and the 32nd death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the founder General Secretary of SUCI and an eminent Marxist thinker and philosopher of the era, the Dhaka chapter of the BASAD (Bangladesher Samajtantrik Dal) organized a seminar on 5 August at the BASAD Central Office at Topkhana Road. The seminar was presided over by BASAD's Dhaka City Chapter Coordinator Comrade Bajlur Rashid Firoze. Comrade Julfiker Ali conducted the seminar.

Comrade Khalequjjaman, central leader of the Democratic Alliance and Convenor of BASAD in his speech as the main speaker stressed upon the need for imbibing the working class with the teachings of these great leaders

like Frederick Engels and Shibdas Ghosh. He said that autocracy and misrule and the ever accentuating crisis of capitalism will bring forth deeper crisis in the life of people, the workers and toiling people in particular. Shattered by it, people will desperately seek a way out. But unless and until correct class consciousness develops and correct revolutionary party emerges with adequate strength to provide leadership to people and guide class struggle in the right course, people will be repeatedly trapped in the clutches of the bourgeoisie and be deceived. The working class should be imbibed with teachings of the great leaders like Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrade Mobinul Haider Chowdhury, Central Committee member of BASAD also addressed.

Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day

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overthrow of capitalism.

Karnataka

The 32nd Memorial day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was held at Gandhi Sahitya Sangha, Malleswaram, Bangalore, on 5 August 2008. Addressing the gathering, Comrade K. Radhakrishna, SUCI state secretary and main speaker said that only an impersonal mind with clear scientific outlook as contained in Comrade Shibdas Ghosh thought can help us grasp the objective condition obtaining today and decide appropriate course of action.

Focussing on the Indo-US nuclear deal, he elaborated as to how in absence of safe waste disposal mechanism, it is fraught with immense danger threatening both life and environment. The Congress-led central government which is a representative of the ruling Indian capitalist class wants the nuclear deal with US because the ruling Indian bourgeoisie has acquired imperialist character and is keen to emerge as a regional superpower and then graduate as a world superpower with the backing of the US imperialists, while the US imperialist regime in return intends to find in India a dependable ally in their pursuit of creating sphere of influence in south east Asia. The CPI (M) and its allies who are now feigning opposition to the deal have all these years gave pass to all anti-people policies of the Congress-led UPA government including preparation for striking the nuke deal. Now from electoral exigency of fighting the Congress in the ensuing parliamentary elections in the three states they are in power, they have pulled out the plug of support. He also added how Comrade Shibdas Ghosh's thoughts are inspiring the communists and other anti-imperialist fighters throughout the world. At the end, he exhorted upon all to renew pledge to fulfil the task of accomplishing anti-capitalist revolution.

Comrade Jayalakshmi, state committee member, presided over. Comrades B R Manjunath and M N Sriram, both state committee members, were also present on the dais.

Kerala

32nd memorial day of the great leader of the proletariat Comrade Shibdas Ghosh was observed in a befitting manner in various district headquarters and towns throughout the state. In different districts, study circles were held to collectively and meticulously study Comrade Ghosh's works.

Alleppey District Committee of our party organized a memorial meeting in Cherthala Town on 5 August. Comrade C.K.Lukose, State Secretary, was the main speaker. The meeting was presided over by Comrade S. Seethilal, district committee member. In his speech, Comrade Lukose drew attention to the fact that rotten and decadent culture of crisis-ridden capitalism is discernable among all parties serving the class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie. It is not only the known bourgeois parties, but even the parties like CPI(M) and CPI going by the name 'communist' are also infected with this decadent and vile bourgeois culture as they, due to their out and out opportunist social democratic politics have become most obedient servitors of the ruling class. Comrade V.Venugopal, state secretariat member, in his speech called upon all to imbibe the invaluable teachings of Comrade Ghosh, apply them in all spheres of our life struggle and thus advance the cause of anti-capitalist proletarian revolution.

On the same day, a memorial meeting was held at Y.M.C.A Hall, Tiruvanthapuram presided over by Comrade R.Kumar, district secretary. Comrade Jaison Joseph, state committee member, was the main speaker.

Maharashtra

A public meeting was held at Mahatma Phule Hall, Chinchpokali, N.M. Joshi Road, Mumbai on 7 August 2008, in observance of Memorial Day of Comrade Frederick Engels and Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrade A.K.Tyagi, in-charge of Mumbai unit was the main speaker. Comrade Dattu Govind Kajle presided over the meeting. Comrade Kumar Kulashreshtha conducted it. Comrades Umashankar Maurya and Jairam Vishwakarma also spoke.

SUCI condemns communal clashes at Kandhmal, Orissa

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Comrade Mukherjee also condemned the brutal killing of Swami Laxmanananda Saraswati and his four disciples at Jelaspetta on the 23 August and demanded immediate arrest as well as stringent punishment of the culprits.

Comrade Mukherjee also charged the Orissa government of betraying partisan attitude in handling of the communal tension raging Kandhmal for a long period and accused it not only of criminal failure in stopping the fratricidal clashes with a firm hand but indirectly allowing such mayhem to be perpetrated by keeping the police inactive.

Comrade Mukherjee appealed to the well-meaning people of Kandhmal to ignore all provocations and incitement from arch communal forces and value preservation of unity among different sections of the toiling masses as apple of the eye. He also urged upon the Orissa government to take immediate steps and if situation so warrants, deploy military to prevent any further killing and quell the communal flare up forthwith.

At Nagpur, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial meeting was held on 5 August at the Rastra Bhasa Prasar Samity Hall under the presidentship of Comrade Madhab Bhonde, Secretary, Nagpur unit of SUCI. Comrade Dipankar Roy, member, West Bengal State Committee while addressing the meeting as the main speaker, said : We have to convey to the common mass frustrated with dirty parliamentary politics of the bourgeois petty bourgeois parties, the lofty thoughts and ideas and noble politics held high by the great leader and teacher Comrade Shibdas Ghosh and thus toenable them find correct road to emancipation.

Madhya Pradesh

State level Memorial meeting was organised on 8 August at Rajdhani Sadi Hall, Pul Bogda, Bhopal.

Comrade Satyawan, Secretary, Hariyana State Committee, SUCI in his address as the main speaker said that concrete study of the concrete situation being the essence of Marxism as taught by great Lenin, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh as his true disciple showed us that CPI had miserably failed to concretely study the Indian situation during freedom movement and hence the fruits of the movement were usurped by the Indian bourgeois class and that is why to free the Indian toiling people from the capitalist exploitation and oppression no other alternative was left with ComradeShibdas Ghosh but to form SUCI as the genuine communist party of India to accomplish anti-capitalist

revolution.

At present, when imperialism-capitalism is unleashing ruthless exploitation through globalization, the only course left with vast masses of India is to continuously build up people's movements throughout the country on burning issues of their life on the basis of higher proletarian culture and ethics and forming people's committees, the alternative political power of the people. Comrade Umaprosad, the State Coordinator, SUCI, M.P. also spoke in the meeting, presided over by Comrade Ramavtar Sharma and conducted by Comrade J.C. Barai, both members of party's State Coordination Committee.

Sikkim

Braving torrential rain and landslides, Memorial meeting was held for the first time in Sikkim on 7 August at Gangtok Press Club with an impressive gathering. Comrade Sankar Ganguly, West Bengal State Committee member, was the main speaker.

Alipur Central Jail, Kolkata

Memorial meeting was organized with due solemnity by the SUCI leaders and workers incarcerated in Alipur Jail. Comrade Prafulla Mandal, district committee member, South 24 Paraganas, West Bengal presided over the meeting. Comrade Probodh Purkait, nine time MLA of WB Assembly and also district committee member, South 24 Paraganas was the main speaker. Comrade Pranab Chatterjee, member Burdwan district committee also spoke..

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