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Country reels under powerful serial blasts and ghastly terror strikes

How to extirpate this growing menace

Once again, insane cowardice is at its diabolic worst. On 26 November night, a group of criminals launched a well-synchronized lethal attack on important landmarks including hospitals, hotels and railway stations of Mumbai. As per report received so far, 195 people have been killed and around 400 injured though there is apprehension of such figures chillingly going up. The pattern of this attack has been fundamentally different from previous terror strikes in India as in place of crude explosive devices tacked on to bicycles or motorcars

left in public places in order to carry out wanton killing of innocent, unarmed people by way of serial blasts, the latest massacre has been in the form of near-simultaneous multi-pronged strikes at the targeted spots. Small groups of terror-setters with guns slung around them, with hand grenades and explosives stormed into landmark Oberoi Trident and Taj hotels, adjacent residential buildings and railway stations, sprayed bullets from automatic weapons and hurled grenades at anything they could set eye on. Bombs went off in certain places whereas explosive blast

occurred inside a cab. Those who had switched on to their TV sets to have glimpse of this diabolic act shuddered in horror. Though some inmates of the hotels and buildings were held hostages, ready, were set to precipitate fear, panic, chaos and mayhem. After 60 hour of battle, the most sophisticated wings of Indian military could come to term with a handful of the terror-strikers, neutralize them and sanitize the places of occupation but lost in the process 14 of their men including three top-ranking officers. This only showed how fragile is our internal security system being sustained

paying crores from public exchequer. There is huge groundswell of public outrage over the fact that while the inept and corrupt political leaders and ministers either live in tightly capped security flasks or cower in their lairs, the citizenry lies open to predators. Under siege in this process had been no one else but the common civilians wondering whether in view of the abject failure on the part of the government administration to protect their life and property, they now need to reconcile with the inevitability of living with this tribulation and perpetual threat.

SUCI condemns dastardly act of indiscriminate firing and explosions in Mumbai and indicts government for abject failure in protecting life and property of people

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 27 November 2008 vehemently condemned the diabolic act of near-simultaneous indiscriminate grenade and bullet attack at seven landmark spots including hospitals and busy thoroughfares of Mumbai on 26 November 2008 in which the death toll reported so far has crossed 100 and the number of injured has touched 400. Whosoever has indulged in such a brutal strike resulting in death of innocent unarmed people for whatsoever a cause must bear in mind that it is bound to have dire consequences and boomerang effect, reminded Comrade Mukherjee. Continuing further, Comrade Mukherjee urged upon all concerned to realize that even ventilation of a just cause is circumscribed by adoption of right and appropriate course of action which precludes mindless violence and killing of common people. He, therefore, called upon all concerned to shun inappropriate, unjust and self-defeating means to achieve their ends. Strongly indicting the central and state governments, Comrade Mukherjee added that this wanton killing of people in the very heartland of the commercial capital of the country which has already been victim of at least twenty five such dastardly violence shows how criminally callous and irresponsible they are towards protecting the life and property of the common citizens despite boasting of having a well-knit intelligence system and most sophisticated armed police and military. Strongly criticizing the governments, Comrade Mukherjee stated that while they had no clue of such a large scale operation being perpetrated by a highly organized group of people, they have now suddenly found that hundreds of suspect elements had sneaked into the country by sea. This, he said, is nothing but a lame excuse to shield its inaction and abject failure in discharging its minimal obligation to the people who are dying like cats and dogs in such serial blasts and cowardly acts. Comrade Mukherjee demanded of the government to immediately take necessary measures to stop such incidents of mindless killing and violence, use its intelligence and police-military to identify, nab and produce before the people those responsible for this heinous crime and restore confidence of the people now in a state of total helplessness and insecurity. Expressing heart-felt condolence and deep sympathy for those having lost their lives and sustained grievous injuries, he demanded adequate compensation to all the victims as well as free proper medical assistance to the injured.

Chronicle of planted blasts and killings

This orgy of mindless violence and shameless killing began in Mumbai only fifteen year back. It was on 12 March, 1993 that a series of powerful blasts rocked the city which was slowly recovering from the trauma of worst communal clashes in the aftermath of frenzied demolition of Babri Masjid by the Hindutva zealots. The single-day attacks resulted in up to 317 civilian fatalities and 1400 injuries. Since then, a spate of such blasts has been regularly claiming innocent lives. The second major incident of such blast occurred in Coimbatore in 1998. In 2005, 55 were killed in three blasts in Delhi on the eve of *Diwali*. Mumbai was target of yet another serial bomb blasts in local trains, lifeline of the city, on 11 July 2006 when the death toll was 209. Immediately thereafter, three powerful blasts ripped through Malegaon in Maharashtra killing 38 people and injuring over 100. Hyderabad, Jaipur, Bangalore,

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Divisive forces thrive in absence of tide of working class movement

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Ahmedabad—none of the major cities was spared. Six bombs in 15 minutes left at least 80 dead and over 150 injured in Jaipur on 13 May. Television pictures showed pools of blood amid heaps of mangled bicycles and rickshaws in areas that usually draw bustling evening crowds which include hundreds of tourists. As many as 14 persons were killed and over 50 others injured in a bomb blast in the historic Mecca Masjid of Hyderabad on 17 May 2007. In the current year, there have been several instances of such wanton killings. Five persons, including three women, were killed and 35 injured in a bomb blast at a weekly market in Baksa district of Assam on 29 June. 6 serial blasts rocked the calmness of Bangalore during lunch hours on July 25, 2008. A series of at least 16 bombings hit Ahmedabad on 26 July evening, with two of the explosions targeting emergency hospitals trying to deal with the first victims. The death toll from this string of coordinated bomb attacks was 49 and those having sustained splinter injury touched 160. Once again, the venue was Delhi. Low-intensity bombs placed in crowded markets killed 30 and grievously injured 90 of children, their parents, and unsuspecting shoppers, unmindful of their caste, creed or religion on 13 September last. Another twin blasts occurred in Delhi on 27 September reportedly rendering 20 dead and 100 injured. In September itself, a bomb exploded in crowded Bhikhu Chowk area of Malegaon, once again killing five on the spot. Four back-to-back terror strikes in Agartala, the capital of Tripura, in the evening of 1 October last left at least four people dead and 76 others injured, several critically. In what is being considered by far the worst attack in Assam, 66 people were killed and about 470 injured in serial blasts in Guwahati and other places on 30 October. While some Islamic fundamentalist organizations acknowledged responsibilities of most of the attacks, the recurring incidents in Assam and other North Eastern states are stated to have been engineered by secessionist-chauvinist forces active in the region for quite some time. It is also now revealed that not only these counter-communal-fundamentalist forces basking mostly under the tutelage of foreign reactionary

powers but even the *Sangh Parivar* who at every step pointedly blame the minority Muslim community for committing terrorist crimes is itself actively involved in the nasty game of orchestrating serial explosions and killing of innocent masses. Implication of leading *Sangh Parivar* activists in the Malegaon blast incident is a case in point. Involvement of top rank military officers in this blast also lends credence to the belief that such operations are planned at very high level of administration.

Instances of wanton killing on the rise

From what has been recounted above, it is clear that with passage of time, such incidents of serial blasts using powerful explosives are on a rise and spreading to every nook and corner of the country. It is also very clear that such incidents of blasts and killing are not sporadic or the handiwork of some novices. These are meticulously planned actions steered by highly organized forces having good network, huge financial resources and close connection with military operators. The nature of explosives used and techniques adopted bear eloquent testimony to that. It is queer that the government intelligence as well as military intelligence which are so active in suppressing or crushing people's legitimate movements, keeping the political activists, particularly those upholding people's cause, constantly on the radar, muffling voice of dissent and thus carrying out espionage on toiling masses and have-nots fail to detect ploys or movements of such groups or gangs masterminding powerful blasts and orchestrated killings. By no stretch of the imagination, it could be attributed as their inability or incompetence. If they had been vigilant enough and serious about pre-empting such strikes by acting promptly on the intelligence inputs and clues from other sources, things would not have worsened so much. So it might not be incorrect to say that it lacks the desired will or intent to contain such activities.

It goes without saying that for obvious reasons, the common people particularly those belonging to the poorer strata are most vulnerable to such sudden terror-strikes and hence are the worst casualties. The situation is such that any time anywhere, people can fall prey to such merciless killing spree.

On the one hand, their life and livelihood are on a perilous course under ruthless capitalist exploitation while, on the other, they find grave threat to their life from such brutal strikes. It is diabolic and bestial on all counts. There is no feeling, no concern about precious human life as if that can be taken away without any qualm, any remorse or compunction. As if everyone is licensed to play with the life of other people and eliminate anyone he likes.

Backdrop of spurt of terrorism

If we turn to the global scenario, it will be observed that the situation is no different but gravely concerning. Every day, reports of such bomb blasts, serial explosions and wanton killings are pouring in. Many extremist organizations like LTTE, Al Qaeda and others have been regularly carrying out such operations with alacrity. Previously, the target used to be the government. But now the target has been shifted to common people. As is known to all, the bourgeois media and rulers are labeling all this as terrorist acts. Undoubtedly, such calamitous death-dealing activities are intended to spread intimidation, panic, and destruction in a population and hence devilish in every respect. Whatever may be the argument advanced by the perpetrators of such ghastly acts in support of their action, there cannot be any legitimacy whatsoever of killing innocent people. Even in war, killing of civilians is not permissible and viewed as war crime. Anyone with an iota of human essence in him cannot even dream of indulging in such fiendish slaying of civilians. No ideology or religion worth the name can approve such demonic course. Rather, a kind of communal or sectarian overtone is manifest in such ghastly operations which in effect are assuming the character of a clash between two segments of toiling people. Hence, what the perpetrators of serial blasts and indiscriminate shootout are doing is not only inhuman but outright criminal and hence to be condemned in no uncertain term. But at the same time, it has to be borne in mind that branding them as terrorists without any rider might give a handle to the bourgeois conspiracy to malign the valiant soldiers of class and mass struggles as terrorists. It is true that a section of our freedom fighters who did not

believe in non-violent means to achieve their objective did resort to violence at the initial phase of their struggle. But their target was never innocent civilians but identified representatives of despotic rulers. They did undertake individual killing of notorious executives and police officers of tyrannical British regime with the aim of sending chill down the spine of these repressive administrators and rouse people's hatred against them. One would recall that after hurling bomb within the legislature, Bhagat Singh clearly said that their aim was to create a high pitch sound so as to 'make the deaf hear' ensuring that no harm is caused to any innocent or civilian. Once the necessary awareness, they felt, had dawned on the people, they also embraced the course of mass movement to lead the struggle for independence. That is why they are so venerated among the masses despite all attempts of the imperial rulers to paint them as terror-merchants. Surely, what these esteemed freedom fighters did to free the motherland from the tentacles of colonial rule has nothing in common with what is being done at present by the groups spearheading serial blasts and orchestrated killing of innocent people to assert themselves. Hence, when we use the terms 'terrorist' or 'terrorism', it should be clearly understood that such are meant to point at those undertaking mindless violence and heartless killing of innocents to settle score with whomever they consider as opponents. Throughout the world, people are being pressed under the grinding wheel of capitalist oppression. Naturally, there is accumulation of wrath and indignation among the people. But as correct leadership and ideology to channelise these grievances and ire along right track have not appeared everywhere, various divisive forces are taking full advantage of the void and misguiding a section of the youth in particular from the persecuted community to adopt terrorism, as defined above, as means of self-defence. As a result, while the real exploiters are remaining unscathed, poor hapless people, innocent and unarmed civilians are getting killed in large numbers. With vision clouded by frenzied obsession and conscience overpowered by mad quest for retaliation, this stark reality eludes most of those who fall

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Raging mass movement across *Jangal Mahal* of West Bengal

People's massive outburst against terror and misrule of CPI(M) government

In sequel to a land-mine blast on a convoy of Union ministers for steel, the Chief minister of West Bengal, Sajjan Jindal, the industrialist-monopolist and others, that took place on November 2 last while the convoy was on return from the foundation-stone laying ceremony for the Steel factory of Jindal at Shalboni, the vast forest-covered western part of the state of West Bengal, known as Jangal Mahal (Forest area) has plunged into a serious turbulence and mass resentment. The incident occurred in a region that is supposed to be a stronghold of CPI(M), the major party in the state government. A more than two kilometre long detonation wire, used for the blast, was found laid on the fields of an area which was near the district headquarters and which was supposedly under the surveillance of ever-active local CPI(M) cadres and supporters. Yet there was the blast on a VIP target, which, though a failed one in its ultimate target, evoked strong criticism and condemnation of the utterly inept, totally lackadaisical performance of the state police, more so of the intelligence branch of it. Instead of launching a thorough and proper probe, the red-faced CPI(M)-led government preferred to dish out the single-solution theory of 'Maoist' hand behind the blast, to bring down axe on a few police officials and lower rung police employees, and along with that to unleash a reign of terror on the local population, overwhelmingly dominated by the tribals. In the name of apprehending 'Maoists', a huge contingent of district, even state, police and administration accompanied by armed CPI(M) goons, drew up elaborate plans and accordingly pounced upon innocent villagers. In villages one after another, starting in the tract between Salboni police station to Lalgaharh police station and extending far beyond that, they demolished houses, indiscriminately thrashed villagers including children, women and old with batons and even rifle butts, arrested them without warrant. They kicked pregnant girl at her belly; hit an old woman with the rifle butt in a way that damaged one eye of hers, they arrested aged teachers or school

students, the latter on their way home from a 'jatra' (indigenous variety of open air theatre popular in villages) performance they had gone to see, all under the chanting of arresting 'Maoists'. The attack mounted with days; villages were rounded up; inhuman torture accompanied by indiscriminate arrests were let loose. It became too much for even the naïve, patient and peace-loving tribals to digest and tolerate. Beating their traditional drums they came out in tens, hundreds and thousands, even at that dead of night. Carrying in arms their traditional weapons the bows and arrows, the sickles and such others, they put up a massive surge of resistance in self-defence by a people cornered to the last. The sight was enough for the police and their accomplice, the CPI(M) goons to beat retreat for the while. To prevent them from attacking again, the angry villagers made road blockades felling trunks or cutting trenches, severed telephone and electric connections. From the very outset, the CPI(M) government shunned discussions and negotiations, and stepped out to crush the movement based on just, legitimate and democratic demands, by brute force and by slanderous campaign against it. Each day passed by with the police, including the armed police and RAF, in connivance with CPI(M) making new plans for attack. But all the designs fell flat in face of stubborn resistance of the villagers. As repression mounted, the movement mustered more strength with not just tribals, also the Mahatos and other communities joining them, with villagers of far and near villages of the forest-covered, hilly tract of West Medinipur, Bankura and Purulia districts of this western part of the state closing ranks with the fighters of Lalgaharh- Salboni areas and spreading the movement to newer and newer areas. Local police, even high-ranking officials like SDO were gheraoed and kept confined to police station premises. The high pitch of the movement, its vastness and intensity rising fast and still higher, forced the government to a back foot. After an aborted all party meeting that had fizzled out as the main demands of people were

unheeded to, the district administration and the Police Super found no other way but to call for an all party meeting at Jhargram SDO office only on November 11. It was attended by representatives of different parties, Pradip Ojha, a local organizer being present on behalf of our party SUCI. The DM and SP assured that the guilty police persons would be punished, there would be no police raid in villages under any pretext whatsoever after 4 PM in the evening, the tortured and injured will be provided with treatment and compensation, and the children, teen-agers and students will be outright released from the FIR. People, however, were not to be content with mere words of mouth or pledges. They made it clear that the struggle would go on till the punishment orders for the guilty police is given effect to, the contingents of police and CPI(M) goons are totally withdrawn from the area and the police camps in school, government offices and such other premises must be withdrawn. In fact, the movement has spread like a prairie fire and remains so with virtually the whole of Jhargram subdivision seething with anger and resentment of the tribals and other sections of common people.

Two prime questions crop out from this incident of massive resistance of a largely tribal people against police atrocities. The first, what made these peace-loving, simple-minded people stand up with such a resolute stand? And the second, what makes this massive surge of people distinct? We answer in brief.

Not to speak of the days of the British imperialists, ever since independence the vast population of different tribes of the hilly forest areas of this part of the state, found no choice but to live in utter penury, deprivation, illiteracy, joblessness, lack of proper, rather any medical or other facilities for a living better than what they lived and what could be termed subhuman. There has not been any dearth of promises and, in a sense, nor of allotments, from the governments, be it of Congress or BJP or any coalition at the Centre or state. But the promises were too

volatile; the allotments at the most created a handful of privileged self-seeking tribal leaders. The tribals, just as other sections of common poor people slid down into more and more desperation and deprivation. During the three decade long rule of CPI(M)-led state government, the picture has worsened manifold. A nexus of contractors-businessmen-mafia-CPI(M) leaders and a majority of forest officials and employees and police is now ruling the forests of the area, is controlling the illegal trade of timbers and other forest resources to the tune of crores of rupees, and at the same time, is bringing down all sorts of repressive measures on the tribals and other common people who depend on the forests for their meagre livelihood. With this has been added, the rampant corruption and nepotism by the same nexus that take hold of and slice off any and every amount of the not-enough allocations under the much-trumpeted Panchayyat system. Any resentment, any protest is treated with severe punitive measures. Over and above these, in the last decade the repression and torture have stepped up unthinkably on the pretext of rounding up or apprehending so-called 'Maoists'. Even, the known political workers or student activists, such as AIDSO cadres, organizers of science-movement, teachers and such others are stamped upon as 'Maoist' and put under severe physical and mental torture, that often turns fatal. In any police raid, molestation of tribal women is almost invariably there. In summary, the situation had become appalling and unbearable for the poor tribals, when the present police-CPI(M) joint onslaught occurred as aftermath of the mine-blast. It was a point of no return, as it stood. And the inevitable outcome found its expression in the massive resistance that snow-balled from one police station to three districts or more, drawing in compassionate fraternal populace from amongst the tribals as well as other sections of common people.

Now, this resistance of the tribals, Mahatos and others has not only come after the struggle of the

Wanton killing of innocent people has no legitimacy

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prey to the instigation of the vendors of terrorism.

That is why; it is found that many terrorist groups have emerged in the context of local or regional violent conflicts. Prolonged unresolved conflicts, in particular, often create conditions conducive to exploitation by terrorists. Terrorism is also found thriving in environments in which human rights are violated and where political and civil rights are curtailed. Persecution and violent government crackdowns often trigger retaliation in the form of terrorist violence. Exclusion or discrimination on the basis of ethnic origin or religious belief, and the failure of many countries to integrate minorities or immigrants inducing feelings of alienation and marginalization create grievances that often, in absence of proper guidance and democratic channels to express discontent and pursue alternate policies, leads some groups to resort to violent means and terrorism. This seems to be particularly true of young people, especially second-generation immigrants, in some developed countries, who see themselves as outsiders lacking equal opportunities. It has been seen that governments that resort to excessive use of force and indiscriminate repression when countering terrorism risk strengthening the support base for terrorists among the general population. Such measures generally invite counter-violence, undermine the legitimacy of measures adopted to counter terrorist strikes and play into the hands of terrorists. In addition, suicide terrorism campaigns often occur in the context of foreign occupation or perceived foreign occupation. It is also noticed that various groups and forces inimical to each other for various reasons are resorting to such ghastly means to shoot into prominence and elicit recognition as formidable powers capable of causing disasters and disruptions if they are not heeded or their requirements are not met. The outfits admitting responsibilities of having carried out such blasts claim that these are being done to take revenge for or in retaliation against the increasing injustice, economic marginalization, discrimination and deprivation of one or the other section of poor people. They argue that by such acts, they are rattling

the coercive administration and unnerving those saddled in power. In other words, 'terror' which in real terms is meant indiscriminate brutal elimination of innocent lives is being used by them as a tool to settle score with the contending or opposing force. Though most of these forces are anti-people and are only concerned about their narrow sectarian interest, it cannot be denied that a section of militant elements mired in confusion is also adopting this course presuming it would shake the oppressing rulers. To be more precise, the latter groups as indicated above are of the understanding that orchestrating such occasional blasts is a part of the struggle released against the exploiting rulers and hence a kind of boisterous expression of the angst and discontent of the oppressed populace. In fine, terrorism is growing and thriving in the context of increasing oppression, suppression, deprivation, plight and penury of the common people.

But the fact is that it is the innocent common people who are falling victims to such indiscriminate killings and lethal attacks. Hence, the people in general irrespective of caste, creed or religion, torn apart by the mounting onslaught in every walk of life are in the tentacles of dread and terror, constantly haunted by the fear of such explosions occurring anytime, anywhere. The scourge of terror they are facing is compounded by what seems to have become a persistent policy of 'error', lame excuses and 'becoming wiser on the hindsight' on the part of the law enforcement agencies, from the home ministry down to the policeman on the beat. It is also being discussed that government or the ruling dispensation or even the bourgeois parties in opposition themselves are plotting such blasts and then passing on the blame to others in pursuit of electoral gains in a perpetuated environment of threat and constant fear of terrorist attack among different sections of people nurturing mutual distrust and suspicion. This is what every thinking mind is concerned about. They are seriously pondering over the matter, trying to reach at the root of the problem and finding out the remedy.

Dismantling of socialist camp has significant bearing

While seeking to arrive at the genesis of the problem of sprawling

terrorism and evolve correct way to resolve the same, it is extremely important to take cognizance of a very pertinent aspect. As everyone is aware, such terrorist activities did not break out on such large a scale in the previous century. Particularly when the Soviet revolution ushered in a new era in the history of mankind, inspired the toiling millions round the globe to rise up against all kinds of oppression and repression by closing their ranks, anti-colonial national liberation struggles got a new impetus, left-democratic movements conducive to revolutionary movement based on the illumining ideology of Marxism-Leninism surged forth in greater numbers, no one heard of such cowardly terrorist acts sniffing out innocent lives. It is united movement of the oppressed people rising above all differences in religion, ethnicity, language, caste or any other segmentation that provided necessary bulwark against any kind of terrorist thoughts to creep in. The more enlightened thoughts of Marxism-Leninism dawned upon the people, more cemented became their struggling unity, solidarity and fraternity. People realized that united conscious struggle was the only course to take on the exploiting rulers and frustrate their machinations. Anything that came a cropper in this struggle along the right track was to be spurned. Hence, attempts on the part of the vested interest to bring about a cleavage in the fighting unity of the people mostly fell through.

But after the modern revisionists assumed power in Soviet Russia following the death of great Stalin and the process of counter-revolution set in motion, this tide of people's struggle for emancipation received a serious jolt. In fact, the ruling bourgeoisie in different countries not only became elated but began to think of newer methods to squeeze the people to the hilt. Gradually, as the revisionists, backed by world imperialist-capitalist forces, inched forward in their mission to dismantle socialism and restore capitalism, the revolutionary movement throughout the globe suffered a tremendous setback. Seizing this opportunity, the pro-capitalist forces became hyperactive in breaking people's unity by adopting various foul means and fomenting a plethora of divisive

thoughts. This further weakened the ideological mooring of the fighting people and a kind of despair and bewilderment overwhelmed them. The accumulated effect of all this considerably enfeebled them in countering this fresh onslaught of reaction. Obviously, there have been cracks in people's unity, and counterrevolutionary forces and servitors of reactionary capitalism-imperialism scored a few brownie points in this regard. This significant change in the world situation needs to be taken into account while searching for the cause behind the spurt in terrorist activities, including incidents of serial blasts.

All problems are stemming from capitalism

At the outset, it is worth mentioning that cause of any problem, menace or peril lies within. Unless there is enough ingredient of any problem to sprout in the soil, no external factor howsoever strong it is, can not cause its occurrence. External influence can only hasten the process or help ripening the situation. Hence, those who try to seek cause outside ignoring the internal situation or condition do not follow the proven scientific methodology and hence grope in the darkness or arrive at unfounded or contrived conclusion. It is equally true when we set out to find wherefrom is spawning the menacing phenomenon of terrorism. To any rational probing mind, it will be clear that all problems, miseries and catastrophes, unfairness and injustice in people's life are stemming from the capitalist system that protects the class interest of a handful of ruling capitalists out to seek maximum profit by denying the workers and the masses their dues. So swelling profit, spiralling prosperity and aggrandizement of the ruling class and its servitors means increasing pauperization and destitution of the toiling masses. This is the economic root of utter discrimination and ruthless exploitation in capitalism. And the ruling capitalists by virtue of their control over economy also control politics and social system in such a way that their rule is prolonged and protected.

But in a natural process, there is accumulation of grievance and ire among the people against this

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Ruling capitalism foments communal-separatist forces to keep people disunited

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oppressive capitalist system. Historical necessity is to make people aware of the cause of their growing penury and misery and direct this piled up anger and dissent along the right channel so that the same get articulated in united organized democratic mass movement on the edifice of higher ethics and culture conducive to anti-capitalist revolutionary movement. Because, there is no escape from this all-out escalated distress and indigence unless capitalism is overthrown.

But as the revolutionary movement throughout the world is at low ebb and some ideological confusion is still persisting among the left-minded intellectuals, there are no appropriate forces or leadership in many countries who can really provide the necessary consciousness to the people and organize them on the platform of correct struggle on the aforesaid line. It is in this ideological and organizational vacuum that the protagonists of bourgeois thoughts as well as agents of the ruling class are tossing about. The ruling bourgeoisie mortally afraid of anti-capitalist revolution is keen to ensure that in no case real people's struggle that might endanger its class rule could crystallize. So it backs all those forces who by propagating various divisive thoughts and warped mindset can keep people away from the truth. Exploiting people's wrath against mounting assault on life and livelihood, these vendors of divisive doctrines are engaged in polluting people's minds with communal, parochial, secessionist, chauvinist thoughts so that instead of identifying ruling capitalism as the root of all evils, the various sections of the toiling people are provoked to turn against each other presuming that such would beget them desired succour. In other words, when all sections of people irrespective of religion, ethnicity, region or language are suffering from capitalist exploitation, they are incited to discover enemy in each other and be engaged in internecine feuds and precipitation of bad blood. It is no more that one section is simply pitted against the other. They all are now in, so to say, a belligerent mode eager to spill blood of each other. In absence of the tide of progressive left-democratic movement, this trend is

becoming more pronounced day by day. Ignorance of the people is proving to be bliss for the exploiting bourgeois class, allowing it to work its stratagem to consolidate its oppressive rule on the fringe of divisive espousals of various hues. One has to trace the root of terrorism in this nefarious gameplan of the bourgeois class and its servitor political forces in a situation marked by absence of desired tide of left-democratic movement.

Indian context

The Indian context is no different. If one observes carefully, it will be revealed that such terrorist attacks and killings are more in number at places where menace of communalism has assumed serious proportion and secessionist-separatist forces are thumping around. It is pertinent to note that when the people of this land were in the midst of freedom movement against the British imperialist rule, parochial communal forces could not make any dent into the society. A patriotic fervour, a sense of commonness that prevailed among all sections of the people, yearning for freedom, provided necessary check against infiltration of the divisive trends and preachings. Impact of the worldwide working class movements and national liberation struggles also kept all such disruptive forces at bay. But for definite historical reasons, the leadership of our freedom movement could not, in the main, accomplish the tasks of social and cultural revolutions for democratization of the society against feudalism, feudal disunity and religious bondage. So though we achieved political independence, we the Indian people remained socially and culturally divided into different communities disunited by religion, caste, language, race, etc. After assuming political power, the Indian national bourgeoisie, as inseparable part of world imperialism-capitalism, began to be haunted by the fear of anti-capitalist revolution. Lest the accretion of people's ire against the exploitative rule should burst forth along the correct political line, it arrayed its entire arsenal to inject all kinds of disruptive disorienting thoughts among the people. In absence of democratization of the society, the ground was fertile for fanning up

religious, racial, regional and casteist fanaticism. So the ruling class in a systematic way encouraged the rabid communal-fundamentalist-chauvinist-parochial forces to raise their ugly head and precipitate disharmony and disaffection among various segments of multi-religious, multi-linguistic, multi-ethnic Indian people. It is with this backing that arch Hindu-fundamentalist RSS and its associates, who in the pre-independence days were totally subdued, bounced back on the scene with its sinister agenda of releasing a hate campaign against minority Muslims. Flaunting vile doctrine of Hindutva, RSS and its associates, now known as *Sangh Parivar*, indulged in all kinds of activities to persecute the Muslim community, spewed communal venom, unleashed hate campaign, organized killings and thus wreaked havoc in their life and livelihood. There has not been a single year when planned attacks including killings were not perpetrated on the religious minorities under this or that pretext. The Hindutva fanatics are in fact issuing death warrants to religious minorities with alacrity. Of late, the *Sangh Parivar* has targeted the Christian-minorities as well as is being seen in various parts of Orissa, Karnataka and Jharkhand. None of the communal conflagrations, including anti-Muslim pogrom of Gujarat, was an isolated or sporadic incident but was carefully planned and executed by the Hindutva brigade. Thus, the chasm between the Hindus and Muslims, two principal religious communities, has been artificially widened so much so as to have a communal polarization around the country. It not only served the ruling bourgeoisie in keeping the people divided but also paid dividend to the *Sangh Parivar*, as riding on this Hindutva wave BJP and Shiv Sena, two of its main political outfits, could assume governmental power in a few states as well as at the centre.

The governments are remaining silent spectators because not only BJP-RSS but every ruling party is inclined to brighten its electoral prospect at the expense of this lurking divide. Congress, the other main trusted political party of the ruling bourgeoisie, who ran governments in India almost uninterruptedly for over four

decades after independence, did not take any effective step to contain this upsurge of the Hindu fundamentalists since it too wanted to take advantage of this communal divide, overtly or covertly, to gain in elections. In Hindu majority regions, Congress peddled soft-Hindutva to compete with BJP-Shiv Sena whereas in Muslim dominated constituencies, it sought to woo the minorities wearing a pseudo-secular cloak. Even the pseudo-Marxists like the CPI (M), CPI too, in order to net gains in parliamentary vote politics by appeasing the ruling bourgeoisie have also taken no effective step to fight all these rabid anti-people assertions and proclamations. Rather, they also, albeit under camouflage of leftism, have been taking all advantage of these divisions, hobnobbing with such divisive elements to increase tally of seats.

The tormented, tortured and tyrannized Muslim community found no protection from either Congress or the pseudo-Marxists. Seizing on their helplessness and panic-stricken condition, the reactionary forces within them, aided and abetted by same ruling capitalism, surfaced in a big way inciting counter-communal passion. These arch reactionary counter-communal forces know that persistent threat to life and property in absence of proper guideline does easily breed irrational rage that could be exploited to precipitate terror and orchestrate mindless killing which in turn would further widen the rift among the various religious or ethnic groups much to the glee of the forces of reaction they serve so obediently. So there is an attempt on the part of these reactionary incubators of extreme fundamentalist ideologies to impress upon the persecuted minorities particularly a section of minority youths that resorting to terror is the only way to self defence. Complicity of some international gangs backed by the capitalist rulers is also glaring. It is also sought to make the persecuted minorities believe that courting death in course of leading suicide squads would take them to heaven and thus confer on them the glory of being true bearer of religion. In other words, it is fanaticism which is being carefully nurtured to keep rational thinking, coherent thought

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Counter communalism is no antidote to communal frenzy

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process and integrated view at bay. This is what any thinking sensible mind is most worried about. They understand that if this line of thinking persists and gains ground, a section of the oppressed minority people will continue to remain hostage to warped mindset, seek reprisal through mindless killing and will not be able to appreciate that serial blasts or sniper attacks will not deliver on the basic problems of life, economic and social deprivation as well as mounting attacks from communal sharks. It can at best be a placebo for raged passion but it might well prove to be a boomerang as the forces of reaction will only be strengthened in the process.

It is in this respect that the toiling people belonging to the religious majority have a significant obligation to discharge. Unless they come forward to thwart the deadly attack that the rabid communal-fundamentalist forces are descending on the religious minorities, do not stand by these persecuted brethren of theirs and undertake the responsibility of protecting their life and livelihood, then these conspiring evil forces will get a handle to pursue their sinister agenda with more ferocity. It is all the more important because unless this task is shouldered in right earnest, it will not be possible to garner support of these severely tormented religious minorities in the legitimate class and mass struggles that are growing in the country against oppressive capitalist rule. And if that support is not received, the said people's struggles will not have the desired momentum and intensity as to shake the ruling class and its servitors. The genuine left-democratic forces within the country ought to understand that unless the rabid communal groups are not combated ideologically and thereby completely rooted out, it will not be possible to build up left-democratic movement along correct base political line. And in that event, it will also not be possible to extirpate the reactionary counter-communal elements within the religious minorities who are provoking and orchestrating indulgence in noxious terrorist attacks.

At the same time, the oppressed minority populace needs to realize that to counteract and defend themselves against the communal

vultures who are making their living a visaged nightmare, it is incumbent on them to proceed based on correct ideological guidance. There should not be any difficulty for them to understand that counter-communalism is no antidote of communal frenzy nor is feral reprisal any cure to bestial persecution. They are in fact two faces of the same coin. This will only bring devastation to all involved. So the struggle for self-defence should be developed, reared and steered in such a way based on democratic values, principles and true secular plank that toiling people belonging to other religions also come forward with their moral support and join the struggle from a spirit of commonness of purpose. In order to end the persecution, harassment, discrimination and deprivation they are facing and get rid of persistent threat on their life and livelihood in the class-divided bourgeois society, the suffering minority populace must articulate their views, urges and aspirations in such a way that they conduce to the overall objective of the legitimate struggle of the toiling millions irrespective of caste, religion or race against oppressive capitalist rule. It is only then that democratic mass movement will surge forth as surrogate of true interest of all communities irrespective of race, religion or caste. They should not forget even for a single moment that it is capitalist conspiracy, oppression and suppression that are running amuck in their life. So they must get their legitimate struggle for self-defence integrated with the genuine left democratic movement that will grow in the coming days against capitalist onslaught and communal buccaneering. It is this way that a powerful bulwark against all divisive forces and vile design to pit people against people will emerge.

The same is true for the oppressed majority community. The Hindu fundamentalists too are twisting religious testaments, bending religious precepts to fit into their scheme of things, inciting blindness and bigotry and threatening the downtrodden Hindu populace of apostate if they do not rally behind the *Sangh Parivar*. So the religious majority must also imbibe that this is nothing but a suicidal course, will bring no succour to their growing predicament, divert their attention

from the real cause of the problems, wrongly pose the persecuted, severely oppressed religious minorities as enemies, widen division between them, enable bourgeois rulers to score success in their 'divide and rule' policy and thus allow the steam roller of capitalist oppression press them yet more viciously.

At the same time, the left-democratic movement in this country must be vocal against persecution of religious minorities, must stand by their just demands and under pressure of movement force the government to ensure necessary safety and security to their life and property. Otherwise, this movement will not advance even an inch, the curse of communalism that only divides people, engages them in internecine clashes can never be rooted out, the forces of reaction will thump around impeding the very process of such people's struggles to grow and develop and the soil will only be stained in fratricidal bloodbath giving much desired reprieve to ruling conspiring capitalism.

In this connection, it needs to be added that alongside these evil fundamentalist-communal forces, the chauvinist-secessionist forces are equally active particularly in the North Eastern part of the country and indulging all sorts of subversive acts including serial blasts and planted explosions. After independence, the entire North Eastern part of the country has been victim of criminal neglect. As is common in any capitalist regime, there has been discernible regional imbalance and uneven development plaguing the North Eastern states. On the one hand, the people of this region alongwith the toiling masses of other parts of the country have been mercilessly oppressed under exploitative capitalist rule. Over and above that, there has been overdose of plight and predicament owing to utter negligence on the part of the rulers to carry out minimal developmental activities. As correct people's movement to correctly articulate the legitimate grievances of the people did not surge forth in this region, some forces with pro-capitalist leaning were to out to fish in the troubled water provoking people to agitate on separatist or secessionist line either in the name of securing autonomy or achieving freedom from the rule of "Delhi". In most of the cases, these forces are

not directing their attack against the bourgeois government but pointing at groups or communities they feel are their opponents or targets. As a result, it is turning out to be people vs. people conflict in most of the cases fanning up racist, ethnic or communal rancour to vitiate the entire social milieu. Organized killing of people belonging to different communities and subversive acts in the form of serial blasts to inflict fatal damage to innocent citizens are rising at alarming proportion traumatizing the people. In fact, a reign of terror has been let loose with the government-administration remaining deliberately inactive to stem the rot. Almost every day some innocent commoners are losing their lives in the planted violence by these separatist-secessionist groups like ULFA, NDFB, NLFT, ATTF and so forth who are not uttering a single word against exploitative capitalism. Rather by pitting people against people, they are merrily shielding ruling capitalism that is descending on the people all misery and suffering and thus becoming instrumental in implementing nefarious bourgeois class design of keeping people disunited. In this communally-parochially surcharged environment, building up genuine left-democratic movement is becoming extremely arduous.

Common people pay the price with life

This in brief is the perspective in which wanton terrorist strikes have been plaguing our country. But the government is unfazed. Except shedding some crocodile tears for the dead and injured, making some fake arrests to assuage public sentiment and parroting promise of 'taking stern action against the culprits', the echelons in the governmental hierarchy do nothing to abate the menace. Everybody including exponents of bourgeois democracy is one in stating emphatically that protecting life and property of the citizens is the first and foremost duty of the government. But today it is only in paper. The government, on the contrary, is totally callous, atrociously unfeeling at these indiscriminate termination of innocent lives. While there is a splurge from government exchequer to provide security to the ministers and so-called VIPs, not even an iota

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Surge of genuine class and mass struggle — only deterrent to menacing terror strikes

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of initiative is seen to safeguard the life and property of the common people. While the state power, armed to the teeth and supported by all modern intelligence mechanism, is employed to crush people's legitimate movements, ruthlessly suppress class and mass struggles organized by the genuine revolutionary party, quell any protest or dissent against the ruling class and its servitors, it is found almost dysfunctional in preventing such wanton killings and destruction. Rather, they are found indulgent, if not enjoying, onlookers of such indiscriminate slaughtering of the common people and that is why, hardly any of the masterminds behind the blasts could be nabbed so far. One or two token arrests made so far are glaringly for public consumption and hardly indicative of any serious offensive launched against burgeoning terrorism. All this go to corroborate that the ruling class and its subservient forces are not at all concerned at the pernicious outbreak of people vs. people conflicts that are often taking form of merciless killing and mindless violence perpetrated on each other. It will not at all be incorrect to conclude that the parties in the rendezvous of power and articulating bourgeois class design remain passive if not indulgent onlookers to such internecine feuds and fratricidal clashes flourishing and carrying out destructive missions so that riding on widened chasm among oppressed people, they make rich harvest of electoral gains. This belief is further reinforced when we find that as elections to state Assemblies or Parliament draw nearer, incidents of blasts are on the rise. RSS and other communal divisive forces are baring their tooth and claw with yet more ferocity, spitting racial-communal venom with a killing bite.

Remedial course

As is evident, terrorism as explained above to be synonym of mindless violence against and wanton killing of innocent people that has no legitimacy whatsoever in any ideology, religion or for that matter anything called civilized behaviour is a global problem today. Already people have given enough price, tolerated enough damage. This must be curbed forthwith. So

the right-thinking people of the world must not only be aware of the real cause of this menace but must organize themselves to eradicate the same. We have also shown that all these aberrations, killing spree are stemming from oppressive capitalist rule. So long capitalism will exist, this will persist. If this explosive situation is to be contained, then it is imperative that a strong public opinion be built up not only in this country but throughout the world against the pernicious gameplan of the quarters of vested interest in which common oppressed people are embroiled in internecine feuds and bloody clashes. Well-meaning democratic-minded conscious persons and forces must take all out initiative in this regard. The other aspect of this movement will be to exert immense pressure on the respective governments of various countries so that they deal with the perpetrators of such vile ghastly criminal activities with firm hand and provide necessary protection to the people.

In India also, alongside building up conscious public opinion against serious ramifications of this escalated terrorist strikes, a countrywide tide of such united left-democratic movement on the edifice of higher ethics and culture centering around the burning problems of life must be released forthwith. This movement must also raise effective voice against all vile communal-separatist-secessionist forces who are working overtime to widen the rift among various segments of this multi-religious, multi-ethnic, multi-lingual country with the sole intention to provide extra lease of life to decadent moribund corrupt capitalist rule and isolate them from the masses. At the same time, this movement should strongly oppose all kinds of oppression and cement the unity of the toiling people irrespective of caste, race or religion in such a way that it emerges as an effective deterrent to all kinds of terrorism including state terrorism. It should also demand of the government to take stern action against all communal, separatist, secessionist, parochial and chauvinist forces which are impeding development of this legitimate struggle of all sections of toiling people. 2. At the same time, it is extremely important to realize that as inevitable outcome

of prolonged capitalist rule, people living in the North Eastern states of the country are up in arms against misrule, gross neglect and worst form of discrimination perpetrated by the central government subserving bourgeois class interest. Seizing the opportunity, the separatist and secessionist forces are very intelligently exploiting the injured feeling and psyche of the masses there to buttress their nefarious agenda. It, therefore, is of prime importance that severe pressure of democratic movement be brought upon the central government to immediately undertake real comprehensive developmental activities in this region and remove the feeling of neglect and discrimination in them. In this way, as the people are drawn into the fold of democratic mass movement, the more aware they will become in course of the struggle about the real cause of their misery. This will also expose before them the real import and character of the communal-fundamental-parochial-chauvinist forces. The cultural milieu of democratic movement will

be conducive to such correct realization getting embedded in the mind. That will also pave the way for releasing a fierce ideological struggle right from the grass root level against all kinds of divisive doctrines including communalism-fundamentalism. Once toiling people irrespective of caste, creed, community and religion imbibe the true spirit of democratic movement, the futility of terrorism and allied activities will unfold before them. It is only the pressure of united democratic movement centering round the burning problems of life and conducive to anti-capitalist revolutionary movement that can compel the government to take effective measure to check and curb terrorist acts. And this movement must be built on the ennobled philosophy of Marxism-Leninism because it is the only ideology based on science that can provide right direction to the people in advancing the course of history. 3. There is no alternative way the people can combat the menace of terror strike and wanton killing of innocent citizens.

Great November Revolution remembered across the country

Under the auspices of the Bihar State Committee of SUCI, a mass meeting was held on 17 November to observe the November revolution Day at IMA Hall, Patna. Comrade Shivshankar Singh, Secretary Bihar State Committee presided over and Comrade Arun Singh, a distinguished member of the State Committee was present. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, Central Staff of the party addressed the meeting as the main speaker.

The Bangalore District Committee of the party organized a well attended public meeting at Bangalore in Karnataka to observe 91st Anniversary of great Russian November Revolution. Similar programmes were also held at Gulbarga, Bijapur and Raichur. At Bangalore, Comrade K. Radhkrishna, Ssecretary, Karnataka State Committee SUCI was the

main speaker.

Jharkhand State Organizing Committee SUCI held a mass meeting in the MLA Residence Hall of Ranchi on 16 November last on the occasion of 91st Anniversary of great November Revolution. The meeting was presided over by Jharkhand State Secretary Comrade Hem Chakraborty and was addressed by Comrade Rabin Samajpati, member, Organizing Secretariat of the State.

On the occasion of the historic November Revolution, Anantapur District Organizing Committee SUCI, Andhra Pradesh held a meeting on 16 November. AP State Secretary Comrade K. Sridhar was the main speaker. Comrade BS Amarnath, Anantapur District Secretary also spoke. Comrade G Lalitha, member, State organizing Committee, presided over.

Just published

**On Theory of Knowledge, Dialectical Materialism,
and the Revolutionary Life**
— Shibdas Ghosh

Brave heart tribals must stand iron-fisted till demands are met

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peasants of Nandigram. It appears to have drawn vital inspiration from that struggle too. At the same time it has amply and vividly manifested further the recently swelling strong resentment of people against the thirty-one year of misrule, corruption and terror perpetrated by the CPI(M) -led government. As it was in the case of Nandigram, in the present resistance people cutting across political opinions and other differences have come to forge an iron-strong unity. There are leaders, organizers and representatives of different political parties in the movement, but they remain as one of the vast masses of common people that have come out with firm determination. And it has not remained just a congregation. They have formed people's committee against terror as the weapon for the struggle to grow and continue. As in case of Nandigram- Singur, these people of *Jangal Mahal* did not bend down to the repression of the government and its police; they fought back, organized and with calm, also proving that people of West Bengal were no longer ready to accept the falsehood, slanders and hate campaign which has become the only props of CPI(M) and its government. Even the slightest information that have trickled out in media, reflects the

high moral feelings of the fighters . They seem to take it as a struggle not just of this or that tribe, but a struggle of all oppressed people. They say that for years together they have had enough of odds and hardship to face, and stand prepared to face more that may come in course of the movement. Women in thousands have dared to come out in the front rank. There have been road blockades, disruptions; but no anarchy, no untoward incidents, even freak. Naturally their just demands included in their thirteen point demand charter for ending with the police atrocities and terror, for punishment of those responsible and apology from the official in charge, their demands for the minimum basic needs of life, have drawn sympathy and support from the democratic-minded people of the state to the fighting masses. Leading intellectuals, artistes, cultural activists of the state have expressed their solidarity with the fighting tribal people. Different political forces and parties, barring those belonging to the state government and Congress and BJP, have come out in support. With a view to mobilising opinion in favour of this movement and developing further support to it throughout the state, SUCI organized a general strike and hartal in the Jhargram subdivision

and Lalgarh-Salboni and adjacent areas on November 15, a mass – squatting in front of Medinipur district magistrate office on November 17 and mass deputation to the relevant authorities in different districts all over the state on November 20. The police of Calcutta did not allow the deputation to move, in result of which several hundreds of SUCI cadres and supporters courted arrest there.

The tribal people of *Jangal Mahal* waged heroic battles several times in history. They have again come out dauntless and united. People of West Bengal, rather of the whole country will wait to see them raise their struggle to newer heights, to sustain it till their demands are met with. To that end, they will have to extend united people's committee to every village with volunteer forces of youth and women raised to

strengthen and protect these committees as valued weapons of struggle. They have stood up firm on their feet, with a brave heart. Now they must prove they have the head to keep their calm and judge things right. On our part, we can assure our sincerest fraternity and fullest support. We demand of the government to set up proper environment and initiate talks without delay and accept the legitimate democratic demands of people of *Jangal Mahal* . People of other parts of West Bengal also have their task cut out. They need to come out in millions to assert strong effective pressure on the government to meet people's demands. They need to stand with all emotion and determination by the thousands of wretchedly oppressed and lethally terrorized tribal people, who have shown their unbending mettle once again in their history.

All India DSO represented at Sudanese Students' Conference

Comrade Sourav Mukherjee, General Secretary of All India DSO, attended the 12th General Conference of General Sudanese Students' Union (GSSU) held in Khartoum in Sudan on 11-12 November last. He was a guest delegate from India, others coming from Iraq, Turkey, Syria and Pakistan.

Comrade Sourav Mukherjee also had a discussion with Mohammed Kaze Babkar, the President of GSSU on 15 November on future cooperation between GSSU and AIDSO.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee meets international leaders in Frankfurt

In preparation for the ensuing anti-imperialist conference at Beirut in Lebanon, Comrade Manik Mukherjee, General Secretary of International Anti-imperialist and People's Solidarity Coordinating Committee and Central Staff of our party SUCI, held a discussion between 9 and 11 November at Boppart city in Germany with leaders like Bijan Kalantarian and Aroso Mori of Party of Labour of Iran, more familiar as the Toufan Party of Iran named after a publication of theirs.

The Toufan Party was formed by a group of leaders, opposed to revisionism, who dissociated from the Tudeh Party on ideological points. In their talk with Comrade Mukherjee, leaders of the Toufan

Party acknowledged Marx, Engels, Lenin and Stalin as the leaders of the world proletariat. They also acknowledged Mao Ze-Dong as a great revolutionary; Ho Chi Minh too.

Comrade Manik Mukherjee then said, as decided by the SUCI Central Committee in 1994, based on teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the party had taken initiative to develop worldwide movement against imperialism forging broadest possible unity, with communists of different countries acting as its core, also viewing that the struggle in its course would pave the way to develop a newer Communist International through exchange of experiences and ideological struggle. Accordingly,

SUCI made contacts with different parties of Europe. The first anti-imperialist convention, known as the Calcutta Initiative, was held in Calcutta in 1995. Encouraged by the response, in another Calcutta conference in 2007, the International Anti-imperialist and People's Solidarity Coordinating Committee, was proposed and subsequently formed with former US Attorney General Ramsey Clark as the President and Comrade Manik Mukherjee as the General Secretary.

The leaders of Toufan Party resolved to send two representatives to the coming International Anti-Imperialist Conference at Beirut. Later, on 12 November last, Comrade Manik

Mukherjee had a discussion at Frankfurt with leaders of EMEP (TKP) Party of Turkey, Comrades Kamil Telinsurek and Mehmet Ozer. They agreed to join the international conference at Beirut. Both the Toufan Party and EMEP Party leaders were presented with the Selected works of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. Comrade Manik Mukherjee is scheduled to set out for Syria on 20 November.

**Make SUCI candidate
Comrade Subhas Chandra
victorious from
Pilani Assembly Constituency
(Jhunjhunu District),
Rajasthan**

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