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Red Salute Frederick Engels



5 December 1820 — 5 August 1895

“Only the abolition of the capitalist character of modern industry can bring us out of this new vicious circle, can resolve this contradiction in modern industry, which is constantly reproducing itself. Only a society which makes it possible for its productive forces to dovetail harmoniously into each other on the basis of one single vast plan can allow industry to be distributed over the whole country in the way best adapted to its own development, and to the maintenance and development of the other elements of production.” (Anti-Duhring)

Rigged Presidential election in Iran

Gives way to mass struggle of Iranian people, robbed of their rights, yet bold and firm

10th presidential election in Iran was held on June 12, 2009. Even as the tail-enders were still voting, Mir Hossein Mousavi, a strong contender for the Presidency who was also an ex-premier in the early eighties, declared in a news conference: “In line with the information we have received, I am the winner of this election by a substantial margin”. But when immediately after the close of polls, the result was hastily announced by the state news agency IRNA, it stated that Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, the present President, “had won” with about 63% of a record turnout of 85% (only next to 88% in 1997 polls) in a 46.2 million electorate as against 32.6%, votes polled for Mousavi, that is, almost half of Ahmadinejad’s votes. The result came as a rude shock to the other contestants, particularly Mousavi and people in general, who immediately burst out with allegations of massive rigging and blatant ‘irregularities’, which went to the extent that votes polled exceeded the number of electorates in cases. There was also resentment at the fact that the result had been declared with only some 20 per cent of the vote counted. The next Monday a million-strong rally was held in Teheran, the capital in support of Mousavi, rather against the result of the polls. Subsequently the anti-rigging movement harped on the fact that Iranian

people’s democratic right to vote had been pathetically and shamelessly infringed upon. In a few days, the movement, spread out across the country, even outside it. Supporters of Mousavi came out on streets, held demonstrations, fought pitched battle with the security forces, pelting stones, while the forces, reportedly along with the much-feared fundamentalist Basig militants resorted to tear-gassing and baton charge. Seven men killed by the Basig at the end of Monday’s march were secretly buried by police in Cemetery 257. The pro-government newspapers in Teheran did report their deaths. The security forces and the Basig intruded into the campus of Teheran University and a civilian residential complex on Sunday dead at night, smashed and looted the university students’ dormitories and even killed a few young men, wounded several others. The outrageous attack gave way to condemnation by the University’s Chancellor as well as Iran’s parliament speaker. The government warned Mousavi of holding any rally, gagged media, blocked text messaging in mobiles and internet, came down upon known rally sites of Mousavi supporters, made targeted arrests of their activists. 70 university professors have also been arrested after they met Mousavi. Even Mousavi’s wife, who had demanded immediate release of those arrested, is suspected to have been arrested. Iran’s all-powerful religious fundamentalist head Ayatollah Ali Khomeini hailed Ahmadinejad’s victory as a ‘definitive victory’ and warned the protesters of consequences.

SUCI strongly denounces a pro-capitalist pro-globalization budget camouflaged under so-called *aam aadmi* plank

Strongly denouncing the union budget 2009-10, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 8 July, 2009, said that while the common people have been reeling under unprecedented price rise, mounting unemployment, massive job loss, rapid decline in real income and wrenching poverty, the Congress-led UPA government, instead of addressing the basic problems of people’s life, has, true to its bourgeois class character, formulated a budget which has showered bounties of concessions and

exemptions to the corporate houses in the name of boosting exports and stimulating internal growth by encouraging private investment believed to be the ‘principal driver of growth’ by the Finance Minister. The Finance Minister stated emphatically that his government is “committed to creating a facilitating environment in which a competitive private sector can thrive and play its rightful role in nation’s economic development.” The unabated pursuit of brazenly anti-people agenda of capitalist globalization wreaking havoc

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People show firmness in demanding probe

But this time, people of Iran, particularly its enlightened educated section and women seemed to be in no mood to bow down meekly to the red eyes of the tyrannical fundamentalist clerics. It is true that in these days of decadent capitalism bourgeois parliamentary election in one and all capitalist countries has become infested with the malady of rigging through various ways and means. It has become an instrument for the ruling capitalist classes of those countries who use every means, of administrative power, money- media and mafia, corruption-coercion and false pledges,

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Presidential election in Iran

Who leads and to what end, are what matter vitally to fighting Iranians

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to rig the election only to ensure return of candidates of their choice to the seat of power with a view to keeping alive their exploitative system. Obviously it generates strong resentment in people everywhere. It is also true that the present protest movement of people of Iran started with allegations of rigging in their Presidential election. But soon it took a very different shape. The manner, courage and firmness with which Iranian people, particularly the womenfolk, teachers, students, educationists and other segments of the enlightened populace and subsequently other sections of common people came out on the streets to face the dreaded security forces and Basig militia even risking their life was simply unthinkable in this ruthless Islamic Republic which had robbed people of virtually every democratic right. Even to the people of the world, it presented a rare instance of peoples' fight for their rights. People of Iran not only dared to defy the ban on demonstrations or repeated and ominous warnings from the all powerful religious leader, to hold million-strong rally or silent march, or to square off against or fight the security forces. They even raised slogans "Death to Khomeini", something unimaginable under the present fundamentalist regime. The pressure of this mass movement rose to such a height that the religious fundamentalist head had to yield and direct Iran's powerful Guardian Council to probe into the election results. The latter tacitly admitted 'irregularities', that is rigging and announced that there will be recounting of specific ballot boxes, limited to voting sites where candidates claim irregularities had taken place. The demand for a fresh poll was summarily rejected. Naturally, it fell far short of people's demand and thus failed to satisfy the defiant, aggrieved people. Unfortunately, even such a powerful mass movement has already been showing definite signs of waning, with the leadership showing no signs of leading people into more and more militant struggle with a definite political aim and agenda. The movement thus leaves in its trail, the same question which haunts peoples' movement in so

many different countries, the question whether even the most powerful movement of people can meet the desired success without a correct and proper leadership. With these developments, the instance of Iran attains some special significance and thus requires scrutiny. But before that a few other aspects about the country need be discussed.

A brief socio-political background

An oil-rich Middle East country of the Arab world, Iran is marked by complex twists and turns in its twentieth century history that has ultimately ended into a complicated political system of governance. A tyrannical monarchical system, the Shah regime ruled Iran in the earlier parts of the century. Reza Shah, a prominent member of it, was an army general who seized power in the 1920s and was deposed by British and Soviet troops in 1941, that is, by the Allied forces in the Second World War. His son was forced to flee in 1953 when Mohammed Mossadeq, the nationalist leader was elected Prime Minister. However, Shah regime was soon restored by a coup engineered by the notorious CIA of the USA. The oppressive rule of the Shah regime was finally brought to an end through the massive movement in 1978-9. It was participated by different forces ranging from religious conservatives at one end to leftists and Marxists at the other, each fighting in its own way. However, cashing upon the strong anti-Shah, anti-US imperialist sentiment of the Iranian people, and raising religious fundamentalist slogan, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, posed himself as and emerged as the supreme religious leader, assumed power to establish the Islamic Republic based upon total dictatorship of a rabid fundamentalist clique.

Against oppressive rules, freedom-loving Arab people of this country had a tradition of democratic movements which were even influenced by the leftist and Marxist thoughts and outlook. They had also developed their strong feelings against the US-imperialists on account of the constant intervention by the latter in matters

of Iran, including backing oppressive Shah regime and the CIA engineering the coup that reinstated the Shah regime. In this era of imperialism, the prevailing capitalist system of Iran had already been tottering from crisis and suffering from the acute fear-complex of socialist revolution under the leadership of genuine Marxist revolutionaries. Instances of the erstwhile Soviet Union and Peoples' Republic of China were only next door. Hence lest any genuine revolutionary should emerge in the leadership of the 1978-79 movement, the ruling capitalist class made compromise with the religious fundamentalists and handed over the leadership of movement and subsequently the power of governance to the clerics. Brave Iranians were suddenly shackled by the extremely oppressive religious fundamentalist power, over and above the on-going ruthless capitalist exploitation.

The so-called republic ultimately turned out to be nothing but a totalitarian fascist state, under a force, much akin to what the world sees in the Taliban of Afghanistan. Total and absolute power was concentrated in the hands of senior clerics, who became the ultimate guardians and arbiters of the state. This fundamentalist totalitarianism imposed virtually a dark-age rule in Iran; democratic rights, right to freedom of thought and expression and particularly the right of women were absolutely compromised and crushed. In place of modern education particularly for women and people at large, it began promoting bigotry, obscurantist thoughts and blind faith. All progressive, scientific thoughts were curbed. In the name of freeing culture from western influence, the government, at the dictates of the clerics, shut down several universities and other educational institutions. Strong resentment and protest generated with the usurpation of power by the tyrannical fundamentalist forces and from the different grossly anti-people, undemocratic measures they went on taking. The autocratic rulers simply bulldozed those with the help of the security force and the dreaded Basig militia and various other repressive forces. People were

brutally killed in thousands, communists and leftists were butchered, the communist party was banned. But even in the face of such repressions and torture, Iranian people were unbending and undaunted. There were spontaneous movements now and then. Though these were crushed brutally, the spirit did not die down. Under pressure of such opposition and resistance, the fundamentalist rulers had to bow down in the long run. A semblance of bourgeois parliamentary system with an elected Parliament and a President was allowed to run for normal governance of the country. But the ultimate power rested with the senior clerics, headed by the supreme leader with different powerful arbitrating appendages, like the Guardian Council, Expediency Council etc., under him and assisting him.

But the Islamic Republic could not help the ruling capitalist class to get over their crises, nor could it ameliorate the sufferings and destitution of common people from capitalist exploitation. Rather, immediately after assuming power, the Shiaite fundamentalist leadership locked the country in a bitter and prolonged war between 1980 and 1998 with Iraq, a Sunni-dominated arch-rival in the then Arab world. Though imperialist machinations particularly those masterminded by the US imperialists and the Zionist Israel, their accomplice in the Middle East, behind the war were obvious, it was also a ploy in the hands of the ruling capitalists of the two countries whereby the war cry and accompanying national jingoism were used to divert people's attention from their respective crisis-ridden exploitative capitalist systems. The war only added to the miseries of people of Iran. The country was in shambles; but it also added to the genuine strong anti-US imperialist, anti-Israel sentiments among people. At the same time, the urge for winning back the democratic and human rights robbed off by the fundamentalist regime mounted every day among people, particularly taking shape in the enlightened educated section of the Iranian society as well as among

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What for and against whom is the joint military operation in Lalgarh?

After Singur-Nandigram, it is now the Lalgarh in West Medinipur district of West Bengal which has hit the headlines. Drawing inspiration from the historic Singur and Nandigram movements, the utterly deprived destitute oppressed tribal people of this vast forest area have launched a legitimate democratic movement under the banner of *The Polici Santras Birodhi Public Committee* (PSBPC) demanding immediate end of barbarous police atrocities, exemplary punishment of police personnel perpetrating terror and tortures, and availability of basic minimums to eke out a living. But the CPI (M) government of West Bengal instead of accepting their most reasonable democratic demands preferred to suppress the movement by conducting a large-scale para-military operation with the help of the Centre. To justify the move and distract people's attention from the genuine demands and legitimacy of the movement of the agitating tribal populace, it accused that the movement has been spearheaded by 'Maoist' groups. And then the events have been of inhuman torture, repression and brutal physical assault of the Lalgarh people so as to force them to bend and abandon the movement.

Fraudulent pretext unmasked

Even after conducting operation in Lalgarh since 18 June last, the combined police and para-military forces of the CPI(M)-led West Bengal state government and the Congress-led central government have not found out even a single 'Maoist' there. But it is in the name of apprehending the 'Maoists' who could not be found, they have been perpetrating merciless oppression on the innocent villagers of Lalgarh area day after day. The police and paramilitary forces are indiscriminately beating up with batons and rifle butts whomsoever they find. Children, women, old people – nobody is spared. Where the people got scared at the sight of the forces and closed the doors of their houses, the doors were broken open, even the dwellings with earthen walls were razed to the ground and the panicky inhabitants were dragged out, mercilessly beaten up, their limbs broken and

arrested indiscriminately. Villages after villages are being deserted by the people in panic, and they lie desolate like graveyards. Thus the combined forces in the name of quelling 'Maoist' terrorism, have been carrying on this operation "to establish peace" during the past one month.

Before starting this operation, as mentioned above, the state government, with the help of a section of the mass media, tried to whip up a propaganda as if the whole forest belt in West Medinipore district had passed under the control of the 'Maoists'. By showing some persons said to be 'Maoist' leaders always with their back to the lens in the media and by televising telephone interviews of such persons on some TV channels, day and night propaganda was carried on to create a public opinion in favour of launching this military operation. Just as the US army under President Bush attacked Iraq on the plea that weapons of mass destruction had been stockpiled by the late Iraqi President Saddam Hussain, the CPI(M) and Congress governments have plunged into Lalgarh operation on the pretext that the area is infested with 'Maoists', in order to crush the movement of the exploited, deprived, innocent people of the area under military boots. In reality, this "widespread presence" of 'Maoists' is there nowhere beyond the reports and pictures in newspapers, reports and speeches on TV channels and statements handed out by government ministers and bureaucrats. Although the 'Maoists', against whom there is so much preparation and about whom so much fuss, could not be discovered during the entire operation, still there are thrilling reports in the newsmedia daily about "landmine explosion", "gun battle", apprehension of a 'Maoist' "strike back", etc. No 'Maoist' was killed or arrested during the whole operation, nor anyone of the police-military force received even a scratch. Some 'Maoists' who had come from Jharkhand have vanished into the thin air, although the whole operation has been on the pretext of apprehending them. What have actually been found are empty tiffin boxes with wires wound round

them. Although there have been exciting reports about gun battles, nobody has yet been able to provide any clue as to wherefrom the bullets came, who fired them and why not even a single policeman was injured, if and when the 'Maoists' are in possession of such sophisticated weapons as AK-47 rifles, rocket launchers, etc. The journalists who accompanied the forces in this operation through the jungles braving many a difficulty have become disappointed and reported thus: We could see no warfare, as if the whole thing is a game of mockfight"; and further: "What happened during these days is virtually a road-show put up by the joint forces dressed up and armed for battle. In reality, as a pretext for crushing this movement of the Adivasi people, determined and with their backs to the wall, it was necessary for the CPI(M) and Congress leaderships to convince the people of the country that it is not the people but the 'Maoists' who were behind this movement. And the 'Maoists' too if any at all, from the temptation of gaining publicity, have been instrumental in the hands of the state in this manner. So, this joint military operation by the central and the state governments is really directed against whom? Herein lies the deep conspiracy by these two governments.

Backdrop of Lalgarh movement

It is known to all that there is a long history of deprivation, cheating and oppression perpetrated on the simple, innocent Adivasis (tribal populace). During the nearly 200 years of British rule of India, they were reduced to pauperised have-nots through the exploitation and looting by the zamindars, moneylenders, recruiters of plantation labourers and government officials. Modesty of their mothers and sisters was outraged. Reaching the last limit of their tolerance, the Adivasi people again and again burst out into agitations and rebellions. Through the merciless government oppression and suppression, the forest belts were soaked with the blood of thousands of Adivasis. Even in independent India, this deprivation-oppression was not mitigated, rather it was

more intensified. During the past three decades of CPI(M)-rule in West Bengal despite many sympathetic utterances about them, the situation has not changed a bit. Rather, there was oppression by the police all the time on various pretexts. The poverty of the people in the forest belt knows no bound. Most of them possess no land. Even for those who possess some land, cultivation is uncertain because there is no irrigation facility. The axe has fallen upon the minimum means of livelihood that they used to procure for so long depending upon the produces of the jungle. The nexus of the leaders of the ruling party, forest officers, police-administration and contractors of wood and leaves has deprived them even of that. This clique has snatched away even the opportunity the Adivasis used to have to somehow keep themselves alive in a semi-starved condition by selling at markets at nominal prices the ropes they used to make by twisting the babui grass fibres, the sal and kendu leaves and the firewood they collected from the jungles. Whatever money that was allocated by the government in the name of their development, was misappropriated at various levels and never reached them. Widespread corruption is there regarding the BPL list. Even the stipends allocated for the Adivasi students, the sums allocated as hostel grants, or for different welfare projects like Indira Abasan, Annapurna Yojna for the helpless women, old age allowance and widow allowance – all have vanished. The area does not have any roads even now, no schools, no hospitals, no adequate arrangement for drinking water. People are still steeped in the darkness of ignorance because of lack of education, dying due to lack of medical treatment. The news of such heart-rending distress of their life hardly ever reach the outside world. Side by side with this, prosperity of the workers-leaders of the CPI(M) has leapt up spectacularly. They own palatial houses and two-wheeler or four wheeler vehicles. Some, by advocating upliftment of the Adivasis, has become minister only to loot the funds allocated for

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Lalgarh**Joint operation exposes CPI(M)- Congress both eager to patch up between themselves***Contd. from page 3*

development of these hapless people.

The discontent of the Adivasi people plagued with theft, corruption and oppression of the CPI(M) leaders for the past three decades has been continuously intensifying and bursting out occasionally. The CPI(M) state government, branding this spontaneous agitation-protests of the people as 'Maoist', started crushing it with the police. Police camps were set up from village to village. The job of the police was to brand as 'Maoists' whosoever aired grievance against the police and the CPI(M) leaders and then beat them up, arrest them, throw them in lock-up without trial, arrest them on false non-bailable charges and to enter villages to molest women and loot the poultry and foodstuff. So, grievance against the CPI(M) and the police atrocity was already smouldering in the minds of the people. It exploded when, the police brutality surpassed all past records following a land mine explosion on the route along which the state chief minister was returning after laying the foundation stone for a factory of the Jindals at Salboni on 2nd November last year. The police did not spare anyone – not even school students, innocent women and retired school teachers. They kicked a pregnant woman on the belly killing the child in the womb. They blinded another woman hitting her on the eye. Arrests were made indiscriminately. It is strange that the mystery of who caused the explosion remained unravelling, but using this as a pretext, the police brutality multiplied.

Intensification of the movement

The terrible oppression by the police burst the limit of patience of even the gentle people of the forest belt. In protest, the whole forest belt rose up in resistance. In the early stages, the leadership of the movement was in the hands of the age-old Majhi Marwa organization. But the CPI(M) leaders adopted the tactics of taking some self-seeking leaders of this organization into their grip, influencing them into withdrawing the movement.

Thousands of common people involved in the movement resented this betrayal by a section of their leadership. It is then that the people themselves, and not any political party, formed their own instrument of struggle, The *Polici Santras Birodhi Public Committee* (PSBPC). Along with rising up in resistance against the attacks by the police, the Committee declared that the government must accede to the people's demands for a living, everybody detained without trial or arrested on false charges must be set free and the police must apologise for the horrible oppression and torture on innocent people and for outraging the modesty of the women; otherwise, the people would boycott the police. In this situation, although the so-called big parties and the parties in government remained silent, the SUCI joined this struggle of the poor people for living. In order to spread the message of the movement throughout the state and to organize public support behind it, the SUCI gave the call for a bandh in the Jhargram subdivision (within which Lalgarh is situated) and the adjoining areas on 15 November last year. The bandh, the first one called in support of the movement, was an unprecedented success. The SUCI then took up the programme of building up public support for the movement through demonstrations before the offices of district magistrates all over West Bengal and widespread propaganda campaign. The SUCI supported the bandh called on 4 January last by the PSBPC. The West Bengal bandh called for 22 January, 2009, by the SUCI was on various demands of the people which included the demand for a solution of the Lalgarh problem. The SUCI gave the call for a bandh on 4 February last in the districts of West Medinipur, Purulia and Bankura which was also a total success. Our state secretary Comrade Provash Ghosh submitted a charter of demand asking for intervention by the Governor. The AIKKMS, the peasant organization of the SUCI, took up a programme of sustained massive stay-in demonstration in Calcutta from 9 March onwards on numerous burning demands including the solution of the Lalgarh problem. But

owing to sudden cancellation of police permission, in protest AIKKMS held a procession of thousands upon thousands of people in Calcutta on 9 March, 2009. State leadership of the party participated in the procession and rally organized by the PSBPC in Calcutta on 24 April last. Overall, the SUCI's participation in these programmes of movements and the success of these bandhs helped the movement in the forest belt to become stronger and widespread. But it is also a fact that the level of organisational strength that our party have at Singur and Nandigram, which played a vital role in achieving historic victory there, is not there at Lalgarh.

Bourgeois conspiracy to malign people's movement

The movement spread in all areas of the forest belt of West Medinipur district including Jhargram, Gopiballavpur, Binpur, Sankrail, Keshiari, Kharagpur (Local), Medinipur, Salboni, Goaltore, Garbeta and even to the districts of Bankura, Purulia and Birbhum. Formation of branches of the people's committee was on everywhere, and also enrollment of volunteer forces. The local SUCI workers joined in this effort. Throughout this whole phase of the movement, it is the Committee (PSBPC) that conducted the movement. Although there were some scattered 'Maoist' groups in the areas, they had no connection with the movement. Besides, as everybody knows, the 'Maoists' do not conduct this type of movements on the basis of democratic demands by forming people's committees openly with the participation of thousands of people anywhere in the country. They resort to isolated killing of individuals through explosions, etc., which have no relation with the Thoughts of Mao Zedong, the great leader of the world communist movement. Mao inspired tens of millions of people of China, the country with the largest population in the world, with Marxist revolutionary ideology, formed the liberation army with millions of revolutionary soldiers and created history by defeating formidable foes – at first Japanese imperialism and then the US imperialism-feudalism-Chiang

clique and made revolution victorious. We do not support the present activities of those who call themselves 'Maoists' in this country. We are against banning the Maoist party and also against the imprisonment of the workers of the 'Maoist' and other political parties without trial implicating them in false cases. But still we regret to say that those who were known as Naxalites and now as 'Maoists' in our country could never grasp the Mao Zedong Thought, although there have been some honest, emotional persons among them. They have deviated from the correct path and the fact is that they unknowingly are being instrumental in the hands of the exploiting class and the bourgeois state as tools for destroying mass movement and revolutionary struggle.

It is known to the people that in our country the bourgeois state, government and news media give wide publicity to them. The ruling class in no country does this favour to the true revolutionaries. The liberation struggle in China led by Mao Zedong did not get it. Here, the ruling class is providing this publicity with a nefarious motive so that some immature youth with mere emotion for revolution are attracted towards adventurism and meet untimely death, creating despondency among the rest. At the same time, the rulers, pointing at the senseless sporadic instances of explosion and killing of individuals, try to malign the image of great leader Mao Zedong. Sometimes, to create confusion in the mass mind, the ruling class, bourgeois state and government themselves organize explosion and killing and publicize these as 'Maoist' activities. It is also reported that even the CPI(M) leadership provided arms to a group of 'Maoists' and used it in the operation to drive the Trinamool Congress out of Keshpur and Garbeta of West Medinipur district earlier.

It is to be particularly mentioned that the PSBPC has all along sought to secure the demands of the Lalgarh movement through discussions and parleys. The Committee leader Chhatradhar Mahato has had many sittings with the administration. There was even a meeting between

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Presidential election in Iran

People of Iran need develop their own correct revolutionary leadership

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women, one of the worst victims of cruel, dark age diktats of the religious fundamentalists.

Real import of anti-imperialist stand of Iranian rulers

The present Presidential election in Iran need be judged upon this socio-economic-political background of the country. The economic crisis also brought about political crisis that was reflected in divisions within the ruling class and even the clerics subserving them. The contestants represented the ruling bourgeoisie, their different groups and interests. None of them, neither Ahmadinejad nor Mousavi had any words or views against the prevailing capitalist system. Ahmadinejad was closer to the religious chieftain evident from the favour he earned in the immediate certificate of 'definite victory' in an election, only to be amended by the Guardian Council as fraught with 'irregularities'. His strong anti-US imperialist, anti-Zionist Israel stand and advocacy of self-sufficiency of Iran in the nuclear power programmes, are also driven really by the class motive of the ruling capitalist class of the country. Like Arab peoples of many other countries of the region, the anti-US imperialist, anti-Zionist Israel feelings are deeply entrenched in the mind of the Iranians cutting across all sections of society. Ahmadinejad's anti-US imperialist, anti-Zionist Israel stand is more to exploit these genuine nationalist feelings of people against war-monger US imperialism and Israel, as well as to promote national jingoism on the strength of it, with a view to garnering people's support behind him. At the same time, as a subservient representative of the Iranian bourgeoisie, this kind of anti-imperialist stand of Ahmadinejad is to gain some bargaining power in favour of the Iranian capitalists, who are in constant contradiction with the other capitalist-imperialism forces and are always in the look-out to gain some advantage or concessions for the sake of staving off the crises they have been ridden with in their capitalist order. So the anti-imperialist posture of Ahmadinejad is bereft of any genuine anti-

imperialist essence and has little ideological commitment for persistent anti-imperialist struggle. It is sure to expose itself, if and when in any different situation the Iranian capitalists may be found to come to an understanding with imperialism, even US imperialism for the sake of protecting their own profit-hungry exploitative capitalist rule. As to Ahmadinejad's stand on nuclear programmes, it must be taken into account that today the ruling capitalists of one and all capitalist countries tend to adopt independent nuclear programmes, if and when they can afford to do so. Here too, they work from the exigency, from their drive to enhance their political-military bargaining power in the intensely competitive global market with a view to getting over their socio-economic crisis in these days of acute crisis of world capitalism. Talking of people's interest is something meant to cover up this design.

Mousavi, who was once the Premier of the country during the Iran-Iraq war, thus headed a government formed with the blessings of the religious leaders and gave shape to their design of war-maneuvres. He was also the architect of closing down universities in the name of 'cultural revolution'. Even in the present election campaign, he agreed with the slogan 'Down with the deceitful government', but strongly opposed the peoples' chanting of the slogan 'Down with the deceitful order'. Hence just like his major contestant in the present election, the present President Ahmadinejad, Mousavi belonged to the same fundamentalist regime that crushed all human and women's rights, helped to inject people with war-psychois only to the benefit of the ruling capitalist class. He took a turn in this election to become a champion of freedom and women's causes and made 'pledges to ease restrictions particularly on women and fix Iran's ailing economy'. Obviously, he took up his thread from the intense genuine aspiration of Iranian people for freedom and democracy, particularly prevalent in the democratic-minded educated intelligentsia and women. The aspiration was always there,

dormant and simmering, which Mousavi cleverly gave shape to in his campaign against Ahmadinejad. His slogans on Iran's economy also were directed to make use of people's sufferings from the intense capitalist exploitation.

Exploiting people's discontent for pelf and power

Such contradictions and conflicts between Ahmadinejad and Mousavi were not the lone instance of differences among the Iranian leaders. There exist contradictions among other leaders and personalities in the corridor of power in Iran. Thus former President Rafsanjani who heads the Assembly of Experts and the Expediency Council is bitterly at loggerhead with Ahmadinejad, to the extent that his eldest daughter and four other members of the family were arrested during the present unrest, though later released. The speaker of the Iran's parliament Ali Larijani blamed the interior minister's crackdown on civilians and university students in Teheran during the recent post-poll protests. He was also among the 185 members of the parliament, out of 290 members, who did not attend the victory celebration of Ahmadinejad.

In this respect, it should be noted that in these days of moribund capitalism, the rulers of crisis-ridden capitalism of different capitalist-imperialist countries generally prefer to maintain a façade of parliamentary democracy as the system of governance. This does not reflect any love for democracy on the part of the capitalists. Rather, this is a frantic bid perpetrated by the rulers to save their exploitative system, befooling and thus preventing people from organizing themselves to develop anti-capitalist revolutionary struggle. In Iran too, the ruling capitalists have, on one hand, placed religious fundamentalist forces as all-powerful in-charge of the country's governance. On the other hand, to quench and lead astray the ever-mounting people's discontent against this extremely reactionary oppressive regime, they are keeping alive a semblance of parliamentary democratic system. However, even within the ambit of this

arrangement, there develop contradictions and conflicts among different forces vying for governmental power, mostly centring round personal aspirations and ambitions for power and pelf. However, the naked dark age oppression of the fundamentalist forces, ruthless bulldozing of all democratic fundamental rights of people, may also act as an eye-opener to even some bourgeois-petit bourgeois forces and they may come out to stand for people's cause for their rights. The contradictions between the different present leaders of Iran may be viewed in these perspectives.

All important question of correct leadership over movement

In such a situation, the struggling people of Iran must take note of some bitter facts. They must realize from the instance of their present election and from scores of others from different countries, that in these days of decadent capitalism, there cannot be absolutely free and fair election in any capitalist country with prevalent bourgeois parliamentary system. So they have two implied objectives to immediately fix before them. They must fight for a free and fair election, so that their choice is respected and given effect to. They must demand immediate stoppage of all repressions, withdrawal of repressive forces like security, police, Intelligence, Basij or Pasdaran and such others, release of all political prisoners or activists of movements. At the same time, they must be ready for sustained militant movements for restoration of their democratic and human rights, for recognition of equal rights of men and women, freedom of expression, assembly and organization and for ending with the present fundamentalist autocracy. Such movements will also ensure to keep alive the genuine and strong anti-imperialist, particularly anti-US imperialist and anti-Zionist Israel feelings prevalent among the Iranians and will prevent any imperialist intervention into the affairs and infringement upon the sovereignty of Iran.

But even to achieve these

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SUCI denounces pro-capitalist Union budget

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in the life of the toiling masses round the world is glaringly manifest in the proposals of disinvestment of public sector units, withdrawal of fertilizer subsidy and privatization of fertilizer manufacturing, deregulation of petrol-diesel prices, increasing credit support to the impoverished through most deceptive microfinance mechanism and financing of private initiatives through cheap by government agencies. However, in order to shield all these vile moves, the Finance Minister has cunningly coined some camouflaging expressions like "people's participation in our disinvestment programme", "moving towards a nutrient based subsidy in fertilizer industry", "unshackling of the fertilizer manufacturing sector", "setting up an expert group to advise on a viable and sustainable system of pricing petroleum products", "empowering the weak through Self-Help groups", "refinancing 60 per cent of commercial bank loans for public private partnerships (PPP) projects" and "initiating institutional reform measures to encompass all aspects of the budget such as subsidies, taxes, expenditure and disinvestment and maintaining moderate interest rates". The huge increase in most unproductive defence budget by over Rs 41, 000 crores has been inserted in the paragraph of non-plan expenditure by an apparent insignificant mention that "outlay on Defence has gone up from Rs.1,05,600 crore in BE 2008-09 to Rs.1,41,703 crore in BE 2009-

10." Even fiscal deficit has been renamed as 'fiscal stimulation' to hide the fact that quantum of fiscal deficit is projected at 6.8% of GDP in 2009-10. Government has also opened newer avenues for deployment of black money without attracting tax, let alone penalty, by exempting election funding and anonymous donations in charitable trusts from taxation. And above all, when the countrymen are bleeding white because of unprecedented price spiral, the Finance Minister had no qualms to mention in his budget speech that there has been a "sharp fall close to 0% in the wholesale price index in March 2009" which speaks volume as to how truthful he and his government are in their avowed promise of 'caring for the "aam aadmi", observed Comrade Mukherjee. Bringing transport of goods under the purview of service tax will entail further rise in price as all such burden of indirect taxation is squarely passed on the end-users. But any reduction in indirect tax rate like lowering of excise or customs duty never gets reflected in retail prices thereby bringing no relief to the consumers, Comrade Mukherjee added. He also drew attention to the fact that while countrywide peasants are among other things suffering from acute shortage of proper irrigation facilities, the budget has remained conspicuously silent on the matter. An impression has been sought to be given as if grant of an increased quantum of loan at 7% interest to the farmers with a provision for waiver of 1% interest in case of timely repayment is the

sole driver of agricultural development which, when viewed in the context of large scale suicide of farmers unable to get out of huge debt burden because of non-receipt of remunerative prices of their produces, appears to be a cruel joke. The budget has no mention as to what the government is thinking about over 3 million retrenched workers or if it has any plan to reopen thousands of closed factories. On one hand, people are being turned into beggars through savage economic exploitation, while on the other, the government is taking credit for throwing alms to them under this or that schemes with mouthful names, BPL doles and so forth, observed Comrade Mukherjee.

Comrade Mukherjee also pointed out that alongside distribution of largesse to the corporates, big business and black money holders, there has been no dearth of customary announcements of increased allocations and projects of public welfare benefits of which, people know by experience, never

reach the targeted segments. On the contrary, an utter corrupt nexus of administration-police-businessman-hoarders-contractors-satraps of vote-based parliamentary parties corner all the benefits and become aggrandized with government remaining an indulgent onlooker. While it is necessary that the government comes forward with some concrete proposal of job creation by setting up labour-intensive industries in the public sector, the ruling dispensation instead has concentrated all their favours on the profit-greedy private industrialists and shamelessly announced a plan for modernizing the employment exchanges adding insult to the injury of the millions of unemployed youths.

Comrade Mukherjee, therefore, called upon all sections of the toiling masses not to accept such frauds and deceptions of the political agents of the exploitative ruling bourgeoisie by lying low and rise up against such a manoeuvred budget to serve the rich at the cost of the poor.

Presidential election in Iran

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objectives, people of Iran must not gloss over the question of leadership, which they should have to lead these movements. The one they appear to have before them really belongs to the same ruling camp of the fundamentalists. Such leaderships have their own parliamentary goals, which prompt them to pose as champions of people's cause. When a people's movement is on the rise, such a leadership may appear unbending in its rebellious stand. But, it always remains prone to succumb, to make compromise with the rulers and thus to lead astray people's struggle from reaching their desired goal. The Iranian people may be already finding themselves in such a condition even in the present case.

History of mass struggles in different countries has proved certain important points beyond any doubt. Those who look ahead for a massive people's movement to come up against the tyrannical capitalist rulers and reach successfully the goal of ending with oppression and exploitation, should give due importance to questions concerning the base political line and leadership of the movement. Mere

numerical massiveness of people taking part in the movement is not enough for the desired success, nor does mere organizational strength serve the purpose. If the base political line before the movement is not correctly determined, then, like the innumerable massive struggles in the past, in the future, too, powerful struggles for emancipation of exploited people will inevitably end in a fiasco time and again. Secondly, it requires that on the basis of a correct revolutionary theory, ideology and base political line, a genuine revolutionary party emerges with adequate organizational strength to provide leadership over the movement. People's movements in different countries have ended in painful failures, as these important questions of correct line and leadership were not given due importance. People of the world will eagerly look ahead to see the fighting Iranian people to recognize this hard reality and march resolutely ahead to overcome the gaps and failures to fulfill these conditions and thus, ultimately be rewarded with the long-awaited victory over the reaction, for which they have already shed an immense lot of blood.

SUCI Delhi protests Petrol and Diesel price hike

Under the banner of SUCI Delhi State Committee, hundreds of people from all walks of life on 3 June 2009 demonstrated before the Parliament to protest against the recent price hike of Petrol and Diesel and demanded immediate withdrawal of the same. A public meeting was organized on the spot which was addressed by Comrades Pratap Samal, Delhi State Secretary, Pran Sharma, R.K. Sharma and Harish Tyagi, Dr. Narendra Sharma from Zakir Hussain College, Subodh Sharma, and Bhaskarananda. The speakers said that this price hike will have a

cascading effect on the price of essential commodities and thereby further add to the unbearable misery of the common people who are already reeling under the unprecedented price rise of essential commodities. They appealed to the people to get organized and strengthen the movement against the price hike of the petroleum products, which can be the only course to force the government to roll back the price rise. A Memorandum was also submitted to the Prime Minister demanding immediate withdrawal of the price hike.

Lalgarh

Stand by the legitimate movements of Adivasis

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the Committee members and the state home secretary Ardhendu Sen at the Medinipur Circuit House on 13 June last, at which Chhatradhar Mahato placed four conditions on which the PSBPC was ready to lift the blockade at Lalgarh. Both the sides expressed satisfaction with the discussion and the date for the next discussion-meet was fixed to be 14 July. Until then, the administration had never called Mahato a 'Maoist' or accused him of abetting the 'Maoists'. But after 13 June, they suddenly discovered that he was a 'Maoist' and it was the 'Maoists' 'who had taken possession of the Lalgarh area'. What happened so suddenly that the situation totally changed, the government and the mass media obliged to it started to howl in unison about "Maoist terrorism" and "Maoist capture" of Lalgarh area and the state government, too, declared that this forest belt could not be freed from 'Maoist' terrorism without an army operation!

Such sudden declarations about 'Maoist' infestations and arbitrary putting of all discussions after the date of the next discussion-meet had been fixed, and the joint military operation that was launched immediately thereafter, may apparently seem to be surprising and unexpected. But in reality a deep conspiracy of the CPI(M) state government and the Congress government at the Centre has worked behind it. They must have thought that if the issue is settled by accepting the demands of the Lalgarh movement, then in future, being inspired by the success of this movement, the Adivasi inhabitants of the forest and the poor people of this and other regions of the country would step on to the path of more widespread movements for securing their just demands. But it is these forest and hilly regions that abound in huge mineral and other natural wealth which these governments are handing over one after another to Indian and foreign monopoly capitalists for loot and exploitation. And in this, they are now facing resistance movement everywhere. So, they have to defeat this movement anyhow by labelling it 'Maoist' so that the Adivasis and the poor people, here or elsewhere, do not dare to raise their heads now or in the future. It is also noticed that

the central and the state governments are taking the course of suppressing and crushing different mass organization or movement in many states of the country by branding it as 'Maoist'. Intense propaganda is being whipped up in the news media to raise the bogey of 'Maoist' danger and, on that pretext, utterly undemocratic acts and ordinances are being clamped down one after another to gag the voice of protest and obstruct mass movements. The West Bengal government could not succeed even after trying to brand the Nandigram movement as 'Maoist'. That is why, in the case of Lalgarh, they arranged beforehand widespread propaganda in the news media through reports and pictures in an attempt to mislead the public opinion.

Secondly, the people of Khejuri, adjoining Nandigram, under East Medinipur district have stood up and seized huge quantities of arms and ammunitions from the CPI(M) party offices and houses of CPI(M) leaders of the locality. The people of the state have been horrified at this and have burst out in hatred and condemned the CPI(M) leaders. In this situation, the plan to bring the operation against the so-called 'Maoists' in Lalgarh to the headlines has also served the nefarious purpose of diverting the people's attention away from the Khejuri affair and the widespread terrorisation resorted to by the CPI(M) in other areas of the state.

Thirdly, another object of this military operation was to "prove" how seriously the CPI(M) is "under attack" by spreading at the state and the national levels canards like "the Maoists had a role" not only in Lalgarh but also in the Singur-Nandigram movement and that these movements developed as a "deep conspiracy" against the CPI(M). This propaganda is also an attempt for face-saving after the disgraceful debacle in the recent Lok Sabha polls.

Fourthly, through conducting this military operation and showing off its huge success, the CPI(M) is trying to invigorate to some extent its workers who are despondent following the drubbing received at the Lok Sabha polls. Above all, another object of the CPI(M) leadership was to "recapture", the lost area and rehabilitate those leaders who were compelled to leave

those areas due to the impact of mass movement for their oppressive corrupt anti-people activities.

Fifthly, a fissure had appeared in the long-standing understanding and closeness between the CPI(M) and the Congress on the eve of the Lok Sabha election and just after it. In the review of poll results the CPI(M) expressed repentance for withdrawing support to Congress ministry at the same time. So they needed to mend it. On the other hand the Congress also needs restoration of relationship with the CPI(M) in the class interest of the national bourgeoisie and the foreign imperialists as well as to use it as a pressure in bargaining with Trinamool Congress. Joint operation at Lalgarh is helping both the parties to fulfill these objectives.

This joint military operation has, once more, demonstrated that whatever temporary contradictions-conflicts may be there between the Congress and the CPI(M) in election politics, they do not have any difficulty in joining hands and conduct joint operation if need be, for mercilessly crushing democratic movement, even by deploying the armed forces. That is, both these parties can and do take up an united role at any moment from the necessity of safeguarding the interest of Indian and foreign capital.

Stand by Lalgarh movement

It is known to all, many eminent intellectuals, artistes, educationists and distinguished litterateurs of West Bengal came forward in the mass movements of Singur and Nandigram. The state and central governments were perturbed at this role of theirs. This time, too, such people who have come forward in the interest of the Lalgarh movement and went to Lalgarh with

prior intimation to the administration, are being threatened in various ways including the threat of being arrested so that they do not stand by the side of any democratic movement in future.

Today, thousands of Adivasis and poor people in and around Lalgarh, being attacked, oppressed and tortured, with their life and livelihood at stake, have been forced to leave the area. And it is in this way that the Central and the state governments are going to "establish peace" by crushing a legitimate democratic movement. Democratic-minded people at all levels in West Bengal and as well as the country would have to stand by the side of these oppressed people of Lalgarh and the forest belt. Demands have to be raised for withdrawal of the operation by the police and paramilitary forces, for release of all arrested persons and for acceptance and implementation of the legitimate democratic demands of the PSBPC after discussions with it.

Earlier, the CPI(M) failed to crush the Singur-Nandigram movement despite its fascist attacks because the people of the whole state had boldly stood by the fighting people their. Today also, everybody would have to stand resolutely and unwaveringly by the side of the legitimate democratic movement of Lalgarh. The Singur and Nandigram movements proved that united resistance struggle of the people is much more powerful than the police and military of the government. The Lalgarh movement will again prove this in the coming days. Coercion and oppression do not win anywhere ultimately, it is the sustained organized legitimate mass movement imbued with higher ideology and moral strength that comes out victorious at the end.

Delhi AIDS O protests anti-education moves

The Delhi State Committee of All India Democratic Students' Organization (AIDS O) staged a protest demonstration on 30 June 2009 at the Parliament against the moves of the Government to implement Yashpal Committee recommendations and against a slew of measures and policies like the recommendations of the National Knowledge Commission and GATS adopted recently by the government to destroy the democratic and man-making essence of education. The dummy of Yashpal Committee Report was burnt amidst slogans to save education from privatization and commercialization. On the occasion a memorandum by All India Committee of All India DSO was also submitted to the HRD Minister. Speaking on the occasion, the AIDS O leaders opposed scrapping of UGC, AICTE, MCI and the policy of making class X exam optional and introduction of grade system at the school level.

SUCI on Railway budget 2009-10

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary of SUCI in course of statement issued on 4 July, 2009, on Railway Budget, said :

While changes in the basic policies can not be expected in the present political-social-economic system, some pro-people relief measures can be undertaken if good intensions are there. The proposals and promises, except the PPP scheme, made in the Railway Budget, 2009-10 by the Railway Minister, if could be implemented overcoming the bureaucratic hurdles and various other obstacles of different vested interest groups, can meet the expectations of the people. Before preparing the budget Ms. Mamata Banerjee sought suggestions and proposals from various quarters including our party.

It is noted that along with others' she has also accepted most of our proposals. It may be recalled that on many previous occasions when the government in order to

raise passenger fares, took the plea of shortage of funds we had demanded that the vast tracks of unutilized land under railway be made economically viable. The present Railway Minister has taken a step to that direction also.

As to the public-private partnership scheme, though privatization of the state enterprises was opposed in the TMC party's election manifesto, but now being a partner of the Congress-led UPA government she is following the anti-people privatization policy of the Congress.

We like to add further that in the interest of the people the new Railway Minister should look into the long standing problems of maintenance of railway bogies and tracks, pilferage of money and properties, should accept the just demands of the railway employees, fill up the vacant posts and should do her best to make railway a truly employment generating service sector.

SUCI strongly disapproves Delhi High Court verdict legalizing homosexuality which would pollute the youth by encouraging pervert promiscuity and calls upon the right thinking people to demand immediate rescinding of the same

Strongly disapproving the judgment of Delhi High Court declaring section 377 of Indian Penal Code to be violative of the fundamental rights granted in Indian Constitution and thereby legalizing homosexuality, Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 3 July, 2009, said that this ruling is a transgression on the part of the judiciary to extend to a sphere which is always governed and guided by social opinion, social interest and socio-cultural ethical necessities. This judgment, Comrade Mukherjee observed, will simply open the floodgate of degraded degenerated imperialist culture that among other things instigates perversion and sexual promiscuity with the vile objective of destroying the very moral backbone of the

people particularly the youth. This nefarious design of crippling the youth from within is being assiduously pursued by the ruling capitalist class with the sinister motive to disturb growth and development of revolutionary movement based on the edifice of higher ethics and culture in the country, pointed out Comrade Mukherjee.

Comrade Mukherjee urged the countrymen particularly the youth not to fall prey to this heinous conspiracy of the ruling class and boldly come out to foil the same. He also called upon all right-thinking people to develop powerful social cultural movement throughout the country demanding immediate revoking of this High Court verdict fraught with disastrous consequences.

SUCI opposes hike in petrol-diesel prices and calls upon the people to resist it by movement

Comrade Nihar Mukherjee, General Secretary, SUCI, in course of a statement issued on 2 July, 2009, said that as apprehended, Congress, the most trusted representative of ruling exploiting capitalist class which clinched an electoral victory riding on a surfeit of false promises and deceptions and exploiting to the hilt the absence of the desired surge of left-democratic movement caused by desertion of the path of democratic movement by the CPI (M), CPI has started rolling out its sinister agenda of taking anti-people steps one after another. The steep hike in the retail prices of petrol-diesel marks beginning of that, said Comrade Mukherjee. It is worth noting, Comrade Mukherjee added, that this price hike has been effected by means of issue of an administrative fiat just on the eve of the budget session of the parliament. This clearly shows that this Congress-led government does not have even a scant regard for minimum democratic norms and would continue to bring such anti-people measures bypassing the parliament and thereby making a mockery of parliamentary democracy. Needless to say that this escalated fuel price will further push up the already spiralling price line of essential commodities that the capitalists-imperialists round the world gasping under an unprecedented insoluble market crisis have been engineering to sustain maximization of their profits and make life yet more devastating for the common people bearing the entire brunt of the crisis. The Congress-led government is advancing the same customary plea of spurt in international oil price to justify the increase of retail fuel tariff. But those having sole objective of profit maximization by resorting to any foul means, will never be in short supply of such excuses in justifying continuous jacking up of prices of essential items making life yet more unbearable for the toiling millions, pointed out Comrade Mukherjee.

So the pauperized misery-stricken and exploited people, emphasized Comrade Mukherjee, have no alternative but to resist this most unjustified and ill-motivated increase in fuel price with all their might by releasing a powerful movement throughout the length and breadth of country. Otherwise, there will be no respite from this strangulating situation but only aggravation of destitution and ruination, warned Comrade Mukherjee.

International Anti-imperialist Committee denounces coup d'etat at Honduras

Comrade Manik Mukherjee, General Secretary, IAPSCC has issued on 29 June, 2009, the following statement on the Coup d'etat at Honduras:

The International Anti-imperialist and People's Solidarity Coordinating Committee (IAPSCC) strongly condemns and denounces the military coup d'etat at Honduras in which the legitimately elected President of the country, H.E. Manuel Zelaya and the Minister of the Foreign Affairs of the Republic H.E. Patricia Rodas have been kidnapped. The President has been expelled from the country and the whereabouts of the Foreign Minister is still unknown. Defying all norms of International Law and Vienna Convention the Ambassadors of Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua have been kidnapped and beaten. This brutal coup has been carried out to subvert the realization of the democratic referendum on Constitutional Reforms which was to be held at Honduras on June 28. The IAPSCC also condemns the non-action of the Obama Government of USA in forthrightly condemning the coup against the legitimate Government and showing a soft attitude and support to the military coup leaders. The IAPSCC calls upon the people of all the countries to condemn this coup d'etat and organize movements for urging their own Governments to mount international pressure for reestablishment of the Rule of Law and the reinstatement of the legitimately elected government at Honduras.

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