

Proletarian Era

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Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH Page : 1 ■ Price : Rs. 3.00

SUCI(C) vehemently opposes once again price hike of LPG

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 07-06-26:

“At a time when the lives of the people are reeling under unbridled price rise, growing unemployment, increasing job loss, one more dose of hike in the price of cooking gas (LPG) is another serious attack on them.

In this way, the BJP-led Central Government has been showering one ‘gift’ after another on the people after the recently concluded assembly elections. We strongly condemn this move and call upon the people to build up a united mass movement in protest against it.”

SUCI(C) condemns killing of three Indian soldiers by US bombing on a tanker

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 12-06-26:

We strongly condemn killing of three Indian sailors following attack of US military on a tanker in the Gulf of Oman. This use of “lethal and deadly force” against civilian shipping by US imperialist army once again shows how US has been violating International maritime law.

We demand stringent punishment of those involved in this killing, immediate stoppage of hostility by the Pentagon rulers in the gulf waters and adequate compensation to the bereaved families.

Massive rally against hawker-eviction and anti-people policies of BJP government



(Left) A part of the massive rally held on 11 June organised by the SUCI(C);
(Right) Police attack on the protestors against hawker-eviction at Jadavpur.

Analysis of results of five assembly elections

Results of the assembly elections in four states and one Union Territory (UT) were declared on 4 May last. Of these five, the results in Assam, Kerala and Puducherry were largely predictable. But the verdicts in West Bengal, where the BJP recorded a landslide victory against the three-term TMC government, and the emergence of Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK), a new force led by filmstar Chandrasekaran Joseph Vijay, in Tamil Nadu have surprised many. The poll outcome in West Bengal and Tamil Nadu have been a blow to the established regional parties and signalled further consolidation of a single party rule in both the Centre and the states. With Assam, Tripura, Bihar, Odisha and now West Bengal under command, the BJP, apart from the Hindi heartland, has firmed up its grip over the eastern India as well. It warrants mentioning that free and fair election in all imperialist-capitalist countries today is nothing but a myth today and an outright deception to the people.

Elections are not fought on people's issues but money-media-administrative powers

One more feature glaringly manifested in these elections is that no party, whether national or regional, contested by highlighting the burning issues of people's life like phenomenal price rise, spurt in retail tariff of petrol-diesel-LPG, growing unemployment, closure of one after another industries throwing lakhs out of job, spike in the prices of agricultural inputs and non-availability of remunerative prices of crops to the pauperizing peasants, unabated increase of crimes against women, crumbling healthcare system, virtual abolition of government education

system, more and more curtailment of the hard-earned rights of the workers, permeation of corruption in every sphere of administration and governance and so forth. Instead, what dominated the electoral scenario was fomenting communal-casteist-ethnic-chauvinist divides to maximum extent, hurling invectives often in filthiest of languages by the contesting parties against each other and vituperative utterances, and how widely money-media-mafia-administrative powers could be harnessed to ride to power. Money does not merely influence electoral politics anymore; it increasingly shapes who can enter it, survive within it and return victorious from it. Elections are no more fought based on ideology and democratic approach. Instead, communal polarization, hate campaigns, lure of freebies, distribution of doles rule the roost.

Beneath these visible aspects, lie another contest, one that is measured through assets, access and financial endurance. Parliamentary Democracy during the days of its advent formally promised equal political participation. It stipulated that an individual should be able to enter politics through ideas, organizational ability or public trust. But in present decadent moribund capitalist order, electoral competition increasingly demands enormous financial resources. Campaign management, media visibility, social media outreach, party mobilization, constituency travel and election staffing—all require huge money. The candidate who lacks resources enters the field already disadvantaged. When access to electoral politics becomes expensive, leadership gradually shifts away from those rooted in local social histories towards those with financial

networks and economic capital. Representation becomes thinner because the representatives no longer emerge organically from the community's everyday struggles. Instead, politics starts rewarding those capable of sustaining the escalating costs of competition. Reminded of an observation of Shakespeare in 'Timon of Athens', a dark, experimental tragedy co-authored by him with Thomas Middleton: "Gold? Yellow, glittering, precious gold ...wealth can 'make black white, foul fair, wrong right'". Naturally, when electoral politics consistently favours wealthier entrants, the democratic field narrows over time.

Apart from money and mafia powers, the bourgeois media also play a crucial role by, speaking candidly, brainwashing the electorates to either vote in favour of one chosen party or keep their choice limited between two contesting parties or alliances, both fielded by the ruling monopoly houses. And then the ruling parties make an all-out attempt to use administrative machinery to clinch electoral victory.

So, grassroots activism alone rarely decides electoral viability anymore, even in a state that has a glorious tradition of class and mass struggles against injustice and oppression. Candidates now require extensive financial backing, personal wealth or access to funding networks. This has altered the social composition of political leadership in bourgeois vote politics. Needless to say, this is not a surprise but inevitable in the rotten capitalist system which has destroyed the very vitals of bourgeois parliamentary democracy and now only maintains a facade of it to befool common

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people. In India particularly, people have not been able to vote enthusiastically since the ruling class, and its servitor parties have been manipulating vote in the like manner.

Of late, the BJP has made election more farcical by turning the Election Commission of India (ECI) into an appendage to it by modifying selection process of the election commissioners. Hitherto a panel comprising the Prime Minister, Chief Justice of India and the leader of the opposition used to appoint the election commissioners. Now the Chief Justice has been replaced by a cabinet minister through a new enactment in 2023 which means by majority vote, the ruling party can appoint its own pick-ups to the coveted posts. Even questions have been raised about the security features of Electronic Voting Machines (EVMs). In most countries, paper ballot is used in election. Ahead of the last assembly elections, the BJP government had rolled out, what it called, Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of the voter list with clear objective of deleting names of lakhs of eligible voters presumed to be opposed to it.

In this backdrop, let us proceed to analyze in brief the poll verdicts of four states and one UT.

Assam

Another tenure of the BJP was very much on the cards in Assam strewn with extreme communal-chauvinist rancour aided and abated by the government as well as the ruling party. This was the first state election held after the redrawing of geographical boundaries of assembly constituencies there. The election mandate mirrors the delimitation exercise of 2023, which created 104 Hindu-majority seats and 22 Muslim-majority ones. In the process, the number of seats where Muslim voters who are being continuously demonized by the RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar, could play a decisive role was reduced from 29 to 22.

Assam chief minister, Himant Biswa Sharma is considered to be ahead of many in not just spreading anti-Muslim hatred and inflammatory rhetorics targeting Bengali-speaking Muslims as 'Miyas' but persecuting, harassing, threatening and isolating Muslim community as anti-nationals, illegal infiltrators and what not. In February last, the BJP Assam unit posted an AI-generated video (later deleted) depicting chief minister Sharma aiming a gun at men wearing skullcaps, sparking national outrage. In a press conference, Biswa Sharma reiterated the BJP's commitment to carrying on with evictions against "Bangladeshi" encroachers. His campaign promise had been to "reclaim" five lakh bighas of land from "Bangladeshi encroachers" and roll out bulldozers against "Bangladeshis" occupying even one katha (267 square

metres) of land. Biswa Sharma has repeatedly called for social and economic boycott of the Bengali-speaking (Muslims in the state. He framed these exclusionary calls as a "non-cooperation movement" and urged citizens to deny them land, transport, and jobs "*India has always been a Hindu Rashtra and will forever remain a Hindu Rashtra*," he had said during the campaign, indicating that the saffron party would intensify its religious polarization drive in the coming days.

It warrants mentioning that the ruling Indian bourgeoisie committed to operationalize its heinous policy of dividing the toiling masses directed the communal-chauvinist forces allegiant to it to undertake a campaign that the huge influx from other states and foreign countries, and the Bengali-speaking community particularly the Muslims are responsible for all distress of the Assamese-speaking populace. In the absence of a powerful united democratic movement of the toiling people of Assam rising above all divides and sharing a common cause against ruling capitalism, the common enemy and root of all evils, as well as a conducive ideological campaign, the common Assamese-speaking people were swayed by the sectarian chauvinist slogans and the atmosphere was further surcharged with communal-parochial-chauvinist tensions. Tracing that route, Himant Biswa Sharma, raised anti-Muslim hatred to a further height, cunningly dropped the names of a sizeable number of *bona fide* Indian citizens professing Islam from the voters' list and thus exacerbated communal polarization to a zenith. Alongside, he announced several social welfare and financial assistance schemes like Orunodoi, Lakhpatri Baideo, Nijut Moina and Nijut Babu etc. in the run-up to the recent elections, targeting women, students, and low-income families. These schemes have gained visible traction among the voters who are assailed by deeper malaises like stagnant incomes, skyrocketing price line, widening rural-urban gaps, and a labour market increasingly defined by informal, low-quality work. The saffron sweep is, therefore, attributed to a sharp religious polarization and the lure of doles. On the other hand, finding no other force to fall back upon, the minority Muslim community in the main voted for the Congress.

But the inhabitants are not aware where the money of such freebies is coming from. Fact is it is coming from loans. Assam's outstanding debt is estimated to be over Rs 2.06 lakh crore. The State's budget draws

around 60-65 per cent of revenue from Central transfers—through Finance Commission devolution and Centrally Sponsored Schemes—about 12-15 per cent from public debt, and the remainder from its own revenue sources. So, the doles are distributed by drawing into public exchequer which comprises a huge amount of external borrowings.

It is recalled that PM Modi in July 2022 had once ridiculed this practice of promising freebies or handouts as 'revadi' (a popular North Indian sweet) culture and warned that this practice is dangerous for India's long-term economic development and fiscal health. But now the same PM Modi and his party colleagues are seeking to arrogate to themselves the exclusive advantage of making pre-poll announcements about the launch of new schemes and projects or distributing some relief in the form of token transfers of so-called monetary benefits. So, such mandates though technically held out as people's choice is a shrewdly manipulated one based on non-issues, concocted stuffs, limitless deceptions, propagation of abject falsehoods. In the days to come, suffering people of Assam would realize from life's experience how have they been duped by the forces of reaction.

In fact, there have been a few powerful mass movements in Assam at the instance of our Party. In Nalbari, the BJP-led state government was out to permanently shut down the 235 bed Saheed Mukund Kakati Osamarik (civil) Chikitsalaya, The Assam government pleaded that a new hospital was being established 18 kilometers away. Against this highhandedness of the government, "Shaheed Mukund Kakati Osamarik Chikitsalay Suraksha Samity" was set up at the initiative of our Party and a sustained movement launched for long eight months. Under pressure of movement, the government was compelled to sustain the civil hospital and conceded that the existing hospital would have 110 beds. The Samity is still fighting for 235 beds.

Similarly, a massive movement has been organized against renaming of Karimganj district as Sribhumi. While the CPI (M), CPI are not been seen in the vortex of mass struggles, our comrades are active in that movement as well.

Tamil Nadu

This southern state has been in the grip of Dravidian politics for long. The Congress independently was last in power in Tamil Nadu till 1 March 1967. From then onwards, the state entered a long era of dominance by Dravidian parties like Dravida

Munnetra Kazhagam (DMK), formed on 17 September 1949 as a breakaway faction of the Dravida Kazhagam (DK) due to differences with the founder of DK, E.V. Ramasamy (Periyar) and C N Annadurai over the issue of participation in election politics. Side by side, Tamil Nadu has long been attuned to political theatrics, where cinema and power often blur into one continuum. From M G Ramachandran (MGR) to his successor J Jayalalithaa, film stars have entered politics and gone on to lead the state. Departed leader and former chief minister M Karunanidhi was also associated with the film world. In 1972, MGR broke out from DMK and formed AIADMK. From then onwards, the power in the state altered between the two with other national parties like the Congress or the BJP as well as pseudo-Marxists like the CPI (M), CPI have aligned with either this or that faction to stay afloat in the corridor of power.

But this time, another iconic South Indian matinee idol and former superstar Thalapathy (Commander) Vijay, born C. Joseph Vijay, who transitioned into vote politics after a wildly successful 33-year cinematic career, spined a surprise. His political party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam (TVK) defied all naysayers to almost sweep the state election, marking a break in the established political order. There is little precedent for a fledgling political outfit, floated by someone who was an outsider to formal politics, to form the government in its very first election. It is reported that Vijay way back in 2009, converted his fan club into a welfare network that worked at the neighbourhood level, offering relief, education support and local assistance. By 2011, he was already testing its political reach by backing an AIADMK alliance, checking whether fandom could translate into votes.

This time, when the electoral battle was envisaged to be a usual saga between the DMK and a bit fragile AIADMK, Vijay surfaced as a third entrant who, many experts predicted, might capture at best 20 to 25 seats. Vijay has cast India's ruling BJP as his ideological adversary, and the incumbent DMK as his immediate political rival - a positioning that reflects Tamil Nadu's long resistance to the BJP's expansion, rooted in language politics (read imposition of Hindi) and a strong regional identity, as well as a promise of freshness. He offered a sense of fun, confidence and an aura of competence rooted in individuality which has been found to be giving him a different kind of power with support base among the young generation (age group 18-39) who constitutes roughly 42% of Tamil Nadu's electorates. So, when

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In November 2022, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change (MoEFCC) granted environmental clearance to the massive infrastructure project officially titled *Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island*. With cost estimates between Rs 81,000 crore and Rs 92,000 crore and spread over three decades, the project proposes to transform one of India's most ecologically pristine and culturally unique regions into a major transshipment hub, international airport, power-generation centre, and urban township.

Environmentalists and rights groups warned that the project could irreversibly damage tropical rainforests, coral reefs and key turtle nesting sites, while also threatening the survival of indigenous tribes, the Shompen tribe being a *Particularly Vulnerable Tribal Group* (PVTG). Critics also pointed to the island's high seismic risk and its history of devastation during the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

On 16 February 2026, a six-member special bench of the National Green Tribunal again cleared this controversial mega infrastructure project, overriding all objections, saying it found "no good ground to interfere" as adequate safeguards had been built into the project's environmental clearance. The project, formally called the Holistic Development of Great Nicobar Island, is being projected by the government as a strategic, economic and defence imperative for India.

Yet behind the language of development, national security, and maritime power lies a proposal that threatens irreplaceable rainforests, endangered wildlife, indigenous communities, and one of the most fragile ecosystems in the Indian Ocean. Equally troubling are the serious questions surrounding the legal, environmental, and democratic processes through which the project received approval.

A pristine island under threat

Great Nicobar Island is the southernmost island of the Andaman and Nicobar archipelago. Covering approximately 900 square kilometers, it is home to one of India's last remaining intact tropical rainforest ecosystems. The island is recognized as a part of the UNESCO World Network of Biosphere Reserves and supports extraordinary biodiversity, including many endemic species found nowhere else on Earth.

The island is also the traditional homeland of the Shompen and Nicobarese communities. For millennia these communities have

Great Nicobar Island Project: A monumental ecological gamble

lived in close relationship with the forests and coastal ecosystems that sustain them.

The scale of the proposed transformation is staggering. The government plans envision increasing the island's population from roughly 8,000 inhabitants to nearly 350,000 over the next thirty years—a demographic expansion of more than 4,000 percent. To facilitate this growth, a greenfield township, eco-tourism resorts, international airport, power plant, and a massive trans-shipment terminal are proposed across more than 130 square kilometres of largely untouched forest.

Nearly one million trees are expected to be felled. Vast stretches of rainforest will be fragmented. Coastal ecosystems will be altered. Water resources, wildlife habitats, and indigenous territories will come under unprecedented pressure.

The project is being promoted as development. Yet for many scientists, conservationists, and social activists, it represents one of the largest ecological risks undertaken in independent India.

Forests are not just trees

The controversy surrounding Great Nicobar is not merely about environmental conservation. It is fundamentally about rights, law, and the meaning of development itself.

The landmark observations of the N C Saxena Committee during the Niyamgiri mining controversy in Odisha against the mining giant, Vedanta, remain highly relevant today. The committee emphasised that forest dwellers are not separate from forests but are integral to their survival and sustainability. The Forest Rights Act recognises this relationship and extends protection not only to forests but also to the communities that inhabit and preserve them.

The committee noted that forest ecosystems cannot be understood merely as collections of trees and wildlife. They include people, cultures, livelihoods, and traditional knowledge systems. The Forest Rights Act therefore requires meaningful consultation with affected communities and recognition of their rights before forest land can be diverted for commercial purposes.

The Great Nicobar project violates both the spirit and the letter of these protections. Questions have been raised regarding compliance, or rather non-compliance, with the

Forest Rights Act, tribal consent procedures, and the provisions of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands (Protection of Aboriginal Tribes) Regulation. If indigenous rights have not been properly recognised or secured, the legitimacy of the entire project becomes questionable.

Culture of environmental clearance

The Great Nicobar project is not an isolated case. It reflects a broader development philosophy that increasingly treats environmental safeguards as obstacles rather than essential protections.

A revealing anecdote from three decades ago illustrates this mindset. At a meeting of senior government officials discussing hydroelectric projects in the Himalayas, one secretary privately admitted that although he personally opposed many such projects, his official responsibility required him to justify them. Another senior official explained that his role was not to defend the environment but to ensure that environmental concerns did not impede economic development.

Philosophy that continues to shape policy today

Across India, environmental regulations are increasingly being diluted. Amendments to the Forest Conservation Act make it easier to divert forest land for commercial projects. The composition of biodiversity institutions has been altered to increase bureaucratic control. Traditional forest communities have seen their rights weakened, while large corporations receive regulatory exemptions and concessions.

The controversial Char Dham Project in the fragile Himalayan region, involving extensive deforestation and ecological disruption, is one example. Proposals to hand degraded forest lands to private companies and large-scale infrastructure projects cutting through protected areas demonstrate a recurring pattern in which ecological concerns are subordinated to commercial interests.

Flawed environmental and forest clearances

The process that led to the approval of the Great Nicobar project has been marked by extraordinary haste.

The initiative began with a request for proposals issued by NITI Aayog in September 2020. A pre-

feasibility report followed in 2021, and environmental impact assessments were subsequently prepared.

Researchers, independent experts, and civil society organisations identified hundreds of concerns relating to biodiversity, indigenous rights, disaster vulnerability, and ecological sustainability. Yet many of these concerns appear to have received little or no consideration before environmental clearance was granted by the NGT in November 2022.

Stage-I Forest Clearance was also approved despite allegations of procedural irregularities, lack of transparency, and violations of due process. Note that a Stage I Forest Clearance (or "In-Principle" approval) is the initial permission required in India under the **Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980** to divert forest land for non-forest purposes (like mining or infrastructure). It lays out conditions like Compensatory Afforestation (CA) and Net Present Value (NPV) payments that must be fulfilled before final approval is granted.

Challenges to these clearances were brought before the National Green Tribunal. Critics argue that the tribunal failed to adequately appreciate the scale of ecological and social risks involved. A review committee established to examine certain issues included representatives of agencies that had already approved the project, raising concerns about independence and impartiality.

Meanwhile, major corporate entities including Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone, JSW Infrastructure, and other large firms expressed interest in participating in the port development.

Ecological risks in a disaster-prone region

The environmental dangers extend far beyond deforestation.

Great Nicobar lies in one of the world's most active seismic zones. The island sits close to major tectonic fault lines and was very severely affected by the catastrophic 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. Large portions of the island experienced uplift and subsidence. Coastlines were permanently altered.

Despite this history, planners propose billions of rupees worth of permanent infrastructure, large-scale urbanization, and a population increase of several hundred thousand people.

Geologists have repeatedly warned that such intensive development in a highly unstable

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seismic region carries enormous long-term risks. Future earthquakes, tsunamis, and sea-level rise could threaten both infrastructure and human settlements.

The project therefore raises a fundamental question: is it prudent to concentrate massive investments and populations in one of the most disaster-prone regions of the country?

National Security Narrative

Proponents of the project argue that Great Nicobar's location gives it immense strategic significance. Much of China's trade passes through the Strait of Malacca in South-East Asia. The position of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands at the crossroads of the Indian and Pacific Oceans could provide opportunities for maritime surveillance, naval logistics, and monitoring regional sea lanes. The proponents claim that the Great Nicobar project would enable India to "choke" China by controlling the Strait of Malacca.

A look at the geography of the region reveals that the Great Nicobar is situated too far from the Strait of Malacca to exercise any meaningful chokehold over China's economy. Moreover, because of two decades of strategic planning, China has opened alternative trade routes and is no longer hopelessly dependent of this strait. Therefore, the claim is exaggerated and geographically misleading.

Development for Whom?

The crucial question therefore remains: if the strategic gains are limited and the ecological costs immense, who truly benefits from the project?

The proposal includes not only strategic infrastructure but also extensive commercial development, tourism facilities, urban settlements, and associated economic ventures. The project primarily is designed to serve large corporate interests while passing on the environmental and social costs onto local communities, ecosystems, and future generations. This pattern is not unfamiliar. Across India, forests, rivers, mountains, and tribal territories are increasingly being opened to extraction and infrastructure projects under the banner of development. The beneficiaries are often large corporations, while the costs are borne by indigenous peoples, rural communities, and the natural environment.

At the heart of the debate lies a larger question confronting modern societies: how should economic development be balanced against environmental protection and indigenous rights?

Supporters view the project as

Proposal threatens rainforests, wildlife and indigenous communities, and endangers the fragile ecosystems in the Indian Ocean

essential infrastructure that can strengthen India's economic and strategic position in the Indo-Pacific region. Opponents argue that development should not come at the cost of irreplaceable ecosystems, endangered species, and vulnerable indigenous communities.

Many environmentalists are not opposed to national security infrastructure itself. Rather, they argue that military facilities, if genuinely required, could be designed in ways that minimise ecological damage. Their strongest objections are directed toward large-scale commercial urbanisation, tourism complexes, casinos, resorts, and other developments that would permanently transform one of India's most ecologically sensitive regions. It is foolhardiness to dream of building another Dubai, Hong Kong or Singapore cannot be built on seismic foundations.

It must be noted that when the government does not have convincing answers to the legitimate questions raised by concerned citizens, or is unwilling to answer them, then it often resorts to citing national security reasons, under which it assumes it has no obligation to give answers, paralysing legal mechanisms like the RTI for that very purpose.

It is also to be noted that the Great Nicobar project is being handled not by the Ministry of Shipping or of Commerce but by the Home Ministry. This is another ploy to forestall further criticism of the project. One outcome is that it has become increasingly difficult for journalists to now visit the island.

A Monumental mistake in the making Great Nicobar stands today at a critical crossroads

The island's rainforests, wildlife, indigenous communities, and ecological systems constitute a national and world treasure of immeasurable value. Its strategic importance is undeniable, and carefully designed infrastructure that strengthens national security while respecting ecological limits may well be justified.

But the current proposal goes far beyond strategic necessity. It seeks to convert one of India's last great wildernesses into a massive commercial and urban hub despite serious environmental, legal, social, and geological concerns. The island's ecological wealth has evolved over

millions of years and cannot be recreated once destroyed.

Development need not mean destruction. National security need not call for ecological devastation. Economic progress need not come at the expense of indigenous peoples and irreplaceable ecosystems.

The real challenge before India is not whether Great Nicobar should remain untouched forever. It is whether development can be guided by science, ecological wisdom, democratic participation, and respect for future generations rather than by short-term commercial interests and exaggerated geopolitical claims.

If these principles are ignored, the Great Nicobar project may one day be remembered not as a triumph of national development, but as one of the greatest environmental and social mistakes in modern India's history.

The Great Nicobar project must also be viewed in the broader context of what world imperialism and capitalism practise today—cronyism and what has come to be known as disaster capitalism—a system in which crises, conflicts, and social upheavals are transformed into opportunities for profit. Across the world today, wars continue to rage, entire cities are reduced to rubble, thousands of civilians are killed, millions are displaced, and even glaring instances of genocide, as was witnessed in Gaza, often fail to evoke meaningful international action.

Arms manufacturers, construction giants, infrastructure corporations, and financial interests continue to profit from destruction and subsequent reconstruction. For such powerful corporate interests, forests, coral reefs, indigenous communities, endangered species, and even human lives are often treated as expendable obstacles standing in the way of investment opportunities and profit margins.

In this worldview, the

destruction of a pristine island ecosystem such as Great Nicobar, the displacement of vulnerable tribal communities, or the extinction of unique species become insignificant collateral damage when weighed against the prospect of billions of rupees in contracts, ports, airports, townships, tourism projects, and real-estate development. The tragedy of Great Nicobar is therefore not an isolated environmental issue but part of a larger global pattern in which nature, communities, and even human suffering are subordinated to the relentless pursuit of profit. When economic gain becomes the supreme measure of public policy, the loss of ancient forests, the destruction of fragile ecosystems, and the erosion of indigenous cultures are dismissed as acceptable costs of "development", however irreversible the damage may be.

However, all is not lost. History and global experience show that the ruling classes never act in the interest of the environment or of the common people. It is people's movements that have always forced governments to do so. Thus, it is imperative that environmentalists, scientists, and people from all walks of life, who have real and serious questions about the devastating impact this ill-advised project will have on the Great Nicobar Island's fragile ecosystem, indigenous tribes, and biodiversity, not remain quiet. They should not remain bystanders, watching the disaster unfolding from afar. They should raise their voices, come together and act to do everything possible to try avert this catastrophic assault on man and nature. Look around the country, and the truth is that what is unfolding is not an exception but a new and dangerous normal.

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Observe the Death Centenary of Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das in befitting manner



Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das
05.11.1870 - 16.06.1925

Deshbandhu Chittaranjan Das, a great humanist, patriot and freedom fighter and a renowned barrister passed away on 16 June, 1925. This year is being observed as his death centenary. We will publish an article in the next issue upholding his outstanding role in Indian freedom movement.

commentators and political observers were viewing return of DMK, Vijay upset all calculations. The ascent of Vijay as the 'Jana Nayakan', in the top spot, has blazed a trail like departed N.T. Rama Rao (NTR), who swept to power in undivided Andhra Pradesh within months of forming a political party.

But Vijay could not secure an absolute majority. He fell short of the magic figure of 118 seats in 234-member Tamil Nadu assembly by 10 seats. And then the usual turncoat politics in the ring of power surfaced. The Congress, who in alliance with the DMK, won 5 seats took no time in deserting its alliance partner and rally behind Vijay. The CPI (M) and CPI who also managed to bag two seats each with the backing of the DMK, followed the suit. And then Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK), another regional party and Indian Union Muslim League (IUML), both alliance partners of DMK, shifted to Vijay. So, Vijay was set to form the government. And then a faction of roughly 30 rebel AIADMK MLAs spilt from the parent organization to support Vijay. This sealed smooth ascent of Vijay to the post chief minister. As a reward, Congress, VCK and IUML have got ministerial berths in Vijay's cabinet. It once again proved that power is the sole objective of these vote-oriented parties irrespective

Elections are not fought based on ideology but riding on communal polarization, hate campaigns, lure of freebies and doles

of hues. They have no principle, no accountability, no hesitation to floor, no qualms in quitting alliances. Only what matters is power. This election result and the political realignment thereafter with an eye on power ought to be an eyeopener for the electorates of the state.

Puducherry

Likewise, result of Puducherry was virtually a foregone conclusion. While Vijay's TVK pushed the two established Dravidian political parties in Tamil Nadu out of power after 59 years, there was no such development in Puducherry, the Tamil-speaking Union Territory, that is surrounded by Tamil Nadu on all sides but one. N. Rangasamy of the All India NR Congress (AINRC) has made it to the Chief Minister's chair twice in a row in his long career, guiding the National Democratic Alliance (NDA) to a decisive victory by bagging 18 of the 30 seats despite its ally BJP's lackluster show of winning only 4 seats.

Kerala

Common refrain of the vote commentators is that power in Kerala alters between the CPI (M) and the Congress periodically. But is that

enough to analyze the poll results of the state this time? After two consecutive terms in governance, the CPI (M)-led LDF has been decisively defeated by the Congress-led UDF. The CPI(M) acknowledged the result as a major blow, attributing the loss partly to anti-incumbency and the financial constraints imposed by the BJP-led Union Government, despite what they highlighted as 'commendable public welfare efforts'. But does that reflect objective reality? A deeper insight into the state of affairs says, NO. Cause of the CPI (M)'s defeat lies elsewhere.

It is true that Kerala has been a left-leaning state for long. But the question is did the undivided CPI or later its split faction the CPI (M) ever practised genuine leftism which calls for, among other things, intensifying class and mass struggles, based on higher proletarian ethics-culture-morality, as conducive to anti-capitalist socialist revolution and freeing people's mind from parliamentary illusion? History will not vouch for that.

Kerala bears a testimony to that. One would recall that the undivided CPI way back in 1957, formed a government in Kerala. But it stressed on only reforms and not encouraging

people's movements. In fact, it opened fire on the striking workers at a cashew-processing factory in Chandanathope. The shooting resulted in casualties, severely damaging the government's pro-labour image and drawing protests from national trade union leaders. At that time, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder of the SUCI (C), and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era, had pointed out that the CPI (M) government was running the government just like a bourgeois party abandoning leftist line and so had not hesitated to suppress working class movement with bullets. The CPI (M) also did not fight casteism-communalism-religionism ideologically. Instead, it like the Congress then had practised casteist-religionist politics with the sole objective of reaping benefits in the polls. In fact, Indian Union Muslim League which allied with the Congress and the then existing Praja Socialist Party (PSP) in the late 1950s, shifted to and accepted by the CPI (M) as a coalition partner and fought jointly and won election in 1967. It was under this ministry that the infamous decision was taken to carve parts of Palakkad and Kozhikode districts to create a Muslim-majority

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People's Victory after a prolonged movement against merger of 40,000 odd schools in Karnataka

For six months, under the aegis of AIDS0 and the Save Public Education People's Committee, thousands of guardians, students, and common people throughout the state have been protesting against the merger of over 40,000 government schools in the state in the name of the KPS Magnet Policy.

Under pressure of this prolonged movement involving the guardians and education-loving people, the government authorities were forced to announce that the order to merge the schools would be withdrawn and none of the guardians would henceforth be pressured to send their children to KPS Magnet School Complex. He also assured that teachers wouldn't be transferred forcefully. This once again proved that legitimate demands of the people can be achieved only through united powerful sustained movement under correct leadership.

AIDS0 strongly condemns flawed CBSE paper evaluation

Comrade Shibasis Praharaj, General Secretary, AIDS0, in a statement issued on 03.06.2026 vehemently condemns the utter inefficiency, massive result tampering, and unholy nexus of the authorities with the private coaching centres in the recently declared Class 12 CBSE examination. The reckless and unscientific implementation of the newly introduced On-Screen Marking (OSM) digital evaluation system has not just been a mere technical glitch, but smacks of a

deeper conspiracy to jeopardize the academic career of the student community, he observed. Students who have consistently performed excellently have been awarded single-digit marks. Upon applying for verification, students were horrified to find blurred scanned answer scripts, missing pages, and in several highly alarming cases, completely mismatched handwriting on their evaluated sheets. This clearly points to a structural breakdown and deep-seated corruption in the evaluation

process. CBSE has reduced the hard work of students to a digital gamble. AIDS0, he said, has placed four concrete proposals to free the CBSE examination process from malpractices and nepotism. He also declared that AIDS0 firmly with the traumatized students and parents and calls upon students, teachers, and citizens nationwide to build a powerful democratic movement against this systemic injustice. There shall be no rest until every student gets fair justice.

Rally against petro-price hike in AP



Protest Rally in Anantapur, Andhra Pradesh, on 31 May 31 demanding rollback of increased Prices of Petrol, Diesel, LPG, and essential commodities.

Protest against smart meter in Tripura



Protest in Agartala, by Tripura Electric Consumers' Association on 05-06-26 against installation of smart meter

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Malappuram district.

Thereafter, the undivided CPI and thereafter the CPI (M) and its allies had seven terms in the government between 1980 and 2026. But everyone saw them running the government just like any other bourgeois government never skirting any effort to either encourage mass movements from the seat of governance or make people realize the futility of parliamentary democracy in dying capitalism. Rather, the CPI (M) leadership sought to give an impression that people's problems can be resolved in the parliamentary way—a view which counterposes basics of Marxism-Leninism. Since people of Kerala finds no difference between the Congress and the CPI (M), they voted them to power alternatively.

The factors which caused downfall of the CPI (M) in the last election reaffirm what has been stated in the aforesaid paragraph. By continuing to traverse a reformist line for long, the CPI (M) has drifted polls apart from leftism, abandoned the path of movement, and made parliamentary vote politics its bread and butter. Its attitude towards people's movement has been just like the bourgeois rulers. For example, the ASHA workers with active involvement of and guided by our Party activists conducted a sustained movement for 266 days and nights in front of the Secretariat, enduring extreme hardships, in demand for a livable salary of at least Rs 15,000 per month, Rs 5,00,000 as a one-time pension benefit and dignified work conditions. But the CPI (M) government was unmoved. Rather it arrayed its entire coercive machinery to break the strike. Police used water cannons, confiscated the protesters' microphones, and took leaders and workers into custody. Early in the agitations, the state National Health Mission (NHM) director issued ultimatums to the striking workers, threatening them of dismissal if they did not immediately return to work. Top CPI(M) leaders publicly called the ASHA movement as politically motivated and orchestrated by "anarchist groups". They argued that the workers were volunteers—not entitled to state salaries—and accused the opposition of manipulating them. Finally, under pressure of movement, the salary was raised by only Rs 3000 per month and no other benefit was granted.

The CPI (M) -led government came forward with a controversial K-Rail project, which would have shattered the entire socio-economic-ecological structure of the state. To implement the central BJP government's fixed-term employment in India, the CPI (M) government, for the first time in the country, formed a company named K-Swift within the public sector undertaking, KSRTC.

Pseudo-Marxists have also joined the bandwagon of bourgeois vote politics

The government decided to formulate draft rules for labour codes which are thoroughly anti-worker. So, there was a powerful movement against it and our Party was a leading force in that movement. Then, without even the cabinet knowing, the government signed up for the PM SHRI scheme, which is part of the ruinous National Education Policy 2020. The CPI(M) government turned into the executors of PM Modi's declared objective of paving the way for large scale privatization. National highways managed and supervised by the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), collect exorbitant tolls by operating the toll plazas through private concessionaires via electronic toll collection methods. The CPI (M) government hailed this as model of toll collection as evidence of development. During the inauguration of the Vizhinjam Port, the CPI (M) Minister of Ports conferred upon monopolist Gautam Adani, whose phenomenal growth in terms of wealth is attributed to his closeness to PM Modi, the status of the government's partner. The CPI (M) chief minister and his associates kept repeating that development would take place if there is increased capital investment by private operators. The ruling CPI(M) even joined hands with the BJP to crush the popular movement that arose against awarding Vizhinjam Port to Adani group. All these acted as factors for the workers to vote against the CPI(M). The approach of the CPI (M) government towards people's movements had fostered immense rage among the cadres of the CPI(M) as well.

Then is the case of corruption. Our Party has repeatedly been saying, anyone who opts for serving the worn out capitalist system cannot but plunge in corruption. Mismanagement, raging corruption, and loan-based development projects landed Kerala in a debt trap. In last 10 years, Kerala's public debt rose to Rs 6 lakh crores. Crores of rupees were siphoned off by creating new positions to accommodate leaders, beautifying and constructing ministerial bungalows, purchasing helicopters and buying luxury vehicles, employing personal staff of the ministers, conducting mega-events including 'Keraleeyam,' (annual festival) in a grandiose manner and splurging on foreign trips of ministers and officials. In a state where farmers commit suicide because they do not receive the price for the paddy produced through their hard work, the leaders felt no qualms in carrying out this extravagance.

To exploit religious sentiments in elections, beyond merely appeasing a particular religious group, the strategy tested and successfully implemented

by the BJP for electoral victory involves fostering hatred and hostility against one religious community to consolidate vote from the other. In an attempt to copy this model verbatim, the propaganda carried out by integrating anti-Muslim sentiment and Islamophobia was a grand design formulated at the highest levels of the CPI(M) after the last parliamentary election. The chief minister himself is reported to have told the media that if the UDF would come to power, Marad (disease) would be repeated, and the Muslim League would govern the Home Department. Even when all Indian citizens living in Malappuram district (a Muslim majority district) were branded as extremists and anti-nationals and thereby sought to be isolated by the Hindutva group, the CPI (M) leaders remained silent. The most controversial aspect of this strategy was CM Vijayan's public closeness to Vellappally Natesan, leader of the SNDP Yogam, widely perceived as stridently anti-Muslim. The anti-minority campaign unleashed by the CPI(M) with the objective of wooing the Hindu majority actually ended up giving the upper hand to the BJP who managed to bag 3 seats.

This skirting of leftist line to embrace customary bourgeois vote politics made left-minded Kerala voters so irked that a sizeable section of theirs backed the Congress-led UDF. So, victory of the UDF and entrance of the BJP in the state are squarely attributed to the anti-left policies of the CPI (M)-led government.

West Bengal

Results West Bengal might have surprised many but if analyzed deeply, perhaps such an outcome was very much on the cards. On the one hand, people were visibly aggrieved with the ruling TMC for limitless corruption, scams, extortion, cut money collection, pilferage of public fund, overlordism of the leaders even at grassroot level, illegal occupation of lands, operation of realty syndicates, construction of buildings by filling up marsh lands and what not. Even street hawkers, rickshaw pullers and small shop owners had to regularly pay money to the ruling party satraps to operate. The insolence of the MLAs, panchayat office-bearers, municipality officials and even government personnel reached such a height that even for getting a residential certificate, character certificate or trade licence, obtaining a job card for rural employment scheme or procurement of a ration card were not possible without bribes. The police-administration virtually became subservient to the dictates of not only ministers but even small fries of the TMC.

The most damaging for the TMC has been the school recruitment scam,

where more than 25,000 teaching and non-teaching jobs were cancelled following court intervention. It was found that several thousand ineligible candidates were appointed through manipulation (deleting the names of *bona fide* candidates) in exchange for huge sum of money. From the ministers to the education department officials and even the ruling party leaders, everyone was involved in the scam. It was exposed so glaring that education minister Partha Chatterjee, once second in command in the TMC, was jailed after large sums of unaccounted cash and jewellery were recovered from properties linked to his associate. Three more ministers including the food minister had been arrested on various corruption charges during the TMC regime. A slew of key functionaries in different government departments as well as the TMC 'strongmen' were also taken into custody for illegal smuggling or cross-border trafficking of cattle, illegal coal and sand smuggling. The school job scam, in particular, hit a sensitive nerve, directly affecting thousands of aspirants and their families, turning corruption from an abstract charge into a lived grievance. Welfare-linked allegations, such as those tied to ration distribution, further sharpened concerns among poorer sections. Moreover, virtual collapse of the government-run school education, closure of over 11,000 government schools, permeation of corruption in every sphere of healthcare, reckless privatization of education and health sectors also contributed to growing rage of people against the TMC rule. The TMC sought to double down on welfare delivery and direct voter outreach, seeking to shift attention from allegations to distribution of freebies. The continued emphasis on schemes such as 'Lakshmi Bhandar' and 'Kanyashree' reflected this approach. But all such attempts went in vain.

The brutal rape and murder of a female doctor (PGT) inside the building that houses the emergency department (where patients come and go 24 hours a day) of R G Kar Medical College and Hospital in Kolkata on 8 August 2024 night and the over-activism on the part of the college authorities particularly the then principal, his nexus members and the police to hush up all evidences to shield the culprits had awakened the conscience of everyone not only in this state but throughout the country, even overseas. This gruesome rape and murder case also brought to the fore how the rampant corruption, nepotism, were rampant in the *government health department*. Most reprehensible was the attempt by the TMC leadership to shield the culprits of this horrendous crime and instead demonize the junior doctors who rose in vehement protest against such a

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ghastly act. This too contributed to the accumulated grievance of the people against the TMC regime. So, the people hell bound to dethrone TMC voted for the BJP in a binary polling scenario carefully orchestrated by the ruling bourgeoisie. It was not out of any ideological support to the BJP. It was, what is called, negative voting. Most importantly, elections across India have become increasingly a two-party democracy in style with focusing on two principal contending sides, in terms of visibility, branding, continuous finetuning of campaigning and organizational machinery.

The BJP on the other hand had long been weaving strategy to outsmart the TMC in poll battle. The ground level network of the RSS was extensively activated to elicit support in favour of the BJP. All top BJP leaders starting from PM Modi to Defence Minister, Education Minister as well as BJP chief ministers of UP, Assam and Maharashtra and 40 odd so called “star” campaigners of the BJP including its national president frequented the state at regular intervals. Union Home Minister Amit Shah had camped in the state for over 15 days at a stretch to conduct the election. The entire police-administration were reshuffled to depute pro-BJP personnel in every key position. More than 2 lakh central forces which were deployed across the on the pretext of tightening oversight and curbing allegations of rigging and electoral malpractice, virtually worked as the foot soldiers of the BJP. In many counting centres including Bhowanipur from where the TMC supremo contested, counting was stopped by force, counting agents were asked to leave and then the counting officers were ordered to record the numbers dictated by the BJP representatives on the result sheet instead of compiling votes recorded in the EVM machine. What was this other than blatant administrative rigging?

Besides, anti-Muslim hate campaign was raised to the peak and unsubstantiated propaganda that over 2 crore illegal Bangladeshi Muslims and Rohingyas had infiltrated the state was used as intensifiers to that campaign. Pertinent to mention that while the BJP banked on its crass communal Hindutva agenda to corner polarized Hindu vote, the TMC too peddled, what is called, soft-Hindutva by building a huge Jagannath temple at Digsha spending Rs 250 crores from public exchequer, announced constructing a massive temple complex called “Mahakal Mahatirtha” in the Matigara area of Siliguri and a major Durga temple complex in Kolkata named “Durga Angan”, obviously to woo Hindu sentiment.

Next one was the motivated exercise of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) with the obvious objective of

deleting a sizeable number of genuine voters mostly belonging to the minority community. The months long contentious SIR process culminated in deleting 91 lakh names shrinking the state’s voter rolls by 12%. And as we had earlier discussed in details in the Proletarian Era, names were deleted even after the so called hearing process on ticklish as well as bogus issues. Even after furnishing all requisite documents, names were struck out for reasons better known to the Election Commission which acted like a wing of the ruling BJP and completely manoeuvred the SIR process.

Thus, SIR quietly reshaped the voter landscape across the state. By the time the final rolls were published in February, 27.16 lakh electors – whose names the Election Commission had placed under adjudication – using a coinage logical discrepancy, were deleted. The election went ahead even as lakhs of appeals from those deleted remain pending before 19 appellate tribunals, appointed on the Supreme Court’s directions. Thus, many *bona fide* electorates were debarred from casting votes. This was totally unconstitutional.

The BJP’s sweep might have many explanations – such as mounting discontent among the people against raging corruption of the TMC, a fractured opposition vote, consolidation of Hindu vote through communal polarization etc. But all of them were subordinated to the SIR exercise. Notably, in 82 constituencies where the BJP emerged victorious, deletions exceeded the victory margin. Of these, 70 were seats that flipped from the TMC to the BJP. Institutional connivance with the BJP, now the most trusted political manager of the ruling monopolists, is a factor that has been most pronounced in this election.

But the question that overrides everything else is how could West Bengal, a citadel of left-democratic movement, has now an extremely right-wing communal fascist autocratic government? The CPI (M) leadership is claiming that the TMC paved the way for the BJP to capture West Bengal. It even propagated a theory of the TMC-BJP ‘setting’. But is that the fact? Unfortunately, not.

At the time of freedom movement, the undivided CPI did not fight the Hindu religion-oriented nationalism fostered by the Gandhiji leadership of the National Congress. Rather it virtually abetted it. Secondly, the CPI (M), CPI did not join the JP movement in the 1970s on the pretext of communal Jan Sangh being in it. But when the Janta conglomerate with Jan Sangh (predecessor of the BJP) as one of its constituents formed

central government in 1977, the CPI (M) called it a ‘friendly government’. It was with the covert support of Janata Party that the CPI (M) won the 1977 election in West Bengal. Thereafter, in 1989, it along with the BJP supported V P Singh government at the centre. In fact, the then CPI (M) chief minister Jyoti Basu and former BJP prime minister Atal Behari Bajpayee held joint meeting in Kolkata maidan. This also helped the RSS-BJP to have a foothold in West Bengal.

During its 34 years of uninterrupted rule, the CPI (M) avidly pursued non-left pro-capitalist policies. Many legitimate democratic movements like the historic education movement against jettisoning English from the primary stage and abolition of pass-fail system upto class VIII, anti-transport fare increase movement, anti-price and tax hike movements and so forth spearheaded by our Party. It ruthlessly suppressed all these movements with the coercive machinery at its disposal as well as using storm-troopers. In 1990, the police gunned down Madhai Halder, a teenager activist of our Party, during anti-price rise movement. Jyoti Basu called this killing as a ‘measure to turn a vegetarian movement into a non-vegetarian one’. Around 200 of our leaders and cadres have been murdered by the CPI (M). Even the anti-socials were pressed into action to break the movements. This was raised to a peak when multi-crop fertile land was sought to be forcibly acquired from the peasants and handed over to the monopoly houses, both domestic and foreign, first in Singur and then Nandigram, in the name of boosting industrialization. Besides opening fire on the resisting peasants, rape and gangrape were used as weapons to crush the movements—a phenomenon unheard of in the history of the country. Our Party was in the forefront of all such movements.

In course of following anti-left policies and surge of one after another mass movement against the misrule of the CPI (M)-led government, the CPI (M) as a party became extremely unpopular. The people of the state found no difference between the Congress and the CPI (M) rules. Particularly, extortion, nepotism, planting party nominees in various committees, schools, colleges, universities and state apparatus caused immense discontent among the masses. It was during the CPI (M) rule that realty syndicates sprouted, the police - administration was stripped of its relative neutrality and made subservient to the government dictates. This way, the CPI (M) considerably tarnished the image of leftism in the state. It bears recall that

observing the symptoms of the CPI (M) leadership’s fast deviation from whatever little leftism was practised by them hereinbefore, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had warned way back in 1969 that “...religious fundamentalists like the Jana Sangh (predecessor of the BJP) are waiting in the wings. As soon as whatever attraction the people still have towards left movement evaporates, they would come out in the open. The ruling CPI(M) leaders are not conscious of this danger. Throwing to the wind the communist ideology and its quintessence, they are going on misleading the people with tall talks and sweet words, just as the Congress did. They are thus pulling down the prestige of communism and maligning it.” (SW Vol III)

Secondly, will a genuine Marxist-Leninist party, if getting chance to run government in a bourgeois order, function like any other bourgeois party? Will it encourage development of class and mass struggles or crush people’s movements using coercive state machinery on the pretext of maintaining law and order? Let it be reminded once again that a guideline in this regard was not provided by great Lenin, as no such situation had arisen in his time. When the first United Front (UF) government of the left and democratic parties took office in West Bengal in 1967 based on popular verdict, a question came up in sharp relief: what shall be the guideline for a pro-people government to run the administration in a capitalist setup. It was Comrade Shibdas Ghosh who, based on Marxist methodology of analysis, provided that guideline. He said let the UF government declare as policy that ‘police shall not interfere in legitimate democratic mass movements’. Explaining the revolutionary significance of this pro-working class policy, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said that this would advance mass and class struggles towards the goal of final overthrow of capitalism — thereby providing the left democratic forces of the entire world with the basic governing outlook of a genuinely pro-people government, formed in a capitalist setup. The government instead of crushing democratic movements in the interest of the ruling class would provide all encouragement and widest scope for the growth and development of people’s legitimate movements. He also said that the government should work based on the people’s advice and not depending on the bureaucracy.

The CPI (M) and its allies did not agree to this policy. Then our Party said that in that event, it would not take up any ministry but support the UF government from outside. Caught napping, the CPI (M) ultimately agreed to the proposal presuming that our Party being not that powerful, would not be able to do anything tangible. So, they awarded crucial labour ministry

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Not vote politics, intensification of class and mass struggles can beget desired emancipation

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to us thinking it would help discrediting our Party. The CPI (M) and others did not implement this policy from their respective ministerial portfolios. Only Comrade Subodh Banerjee, the departed member of the first Polit Bureau of the SUCI(C), has declared that policy as the labour minister.

This triggered a spurt of working class movement which shook the ruling bourgeoisie. So, pulling the strings from behind, the ruling class topped that government within 7 months. But the CPI (M), CPI did not grasp the revolutionary significance of the policy as they did not pursue a revolutionary leftist outlook. It was evident when Jyoti Basu, after taking over the rein of a CPI (M)-led government in West Bengal in 1977, clearly assured the ruling class that there would no more be any chaos or disorder as the SUCI(C) was not a part of that government. That clearly delineated the difference between revolutionary leftism based on correct understanding of Marxism-Leninism and reformist leftism chewing the cud of Marxism.

So, the CPI (M) leadership cannot deny its responsibility of maligning leftism and thereby making room for the BJP to create room in this state. Even for defeating the TMC in election, the CPI (M) leaders asked their followers to vote for the BJP in last two to three elections. "Age Ram pore Bam" (first Ram and then the left)—such was their stand meaning first the BJP would capture power and then once it is discredited, the CPI (M) would be back to the government. Times without number, we had requested the CPI (M) to admit their mistakes in public following Leninist directive and come forward to build up a united militant struggling left alternative to prevent rightist surge. But it did not pay any heed to it. Instead, just for the sake of a few seats, it joined hands with the Congress and ISF, a minority religious organization. So, when people were disgusted with the corrupt rule of the TMC, they could not view the CPI (M) as the alternative. They preferred to rally behind the BJP. Even in this election also, the CPI (M), leaving a few seats where it thought it would be in the contest, reportedly threw its weight behind the BJP to overthrow Mamata Banerjee. Thus West Bengal has been handed over to the BJP virtually on a silver platter.

Concluding words

These election results ought to be eyeopeners for all. Elections have been reduced to a farce. This cannot

beget emancipation of the toiling millions. Only a surge and intensification of the class and mass struggles under correct revolutionary leadership conducive to the revolutionary movement to overthrow capitalism can free people from the shackles of exploitation of man by man. Till the time the revolution does not come by in course of fulfilling the necessary subjective and objective conditions, what is imperative is to accentuate class and mass struggles. So long people are not positively disillusioned about futility of bourgeois politics of vote, a revolutionary party is compelled to participate in election with this definite revolutionary line to make people politically conscious, imbibe the truth and be prepared for proletarian revolution. Guided by this Leninist principle and holding aloft the banner of struggling leftism, our Party had fought in 230 seats in West Bengal, 32 in Kerala, 36 in Assam, 4 in Tamil Nadu and one in Puducherry based on our organizational strength.

Let us conclude with an invaluable teaching of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh: "...you are to remember is that a change in the present situation is bound to come. Because the bourgeoisie are powerful, because they have in their hands the mighty state power, they will remain like a millstone round our necks and reign for ever — had it been so, it would have been no doubt good for the bourgeoisie and such a thought might give them pleasure — but this never happens. But how soon will come the change — it all depends upon you. How soon will come the revolution, depends on how much time you will require to develop people's alternative political power in the concrete form of revolutionary councils and people's committees like the Soviets through unitedly conducting movements organized on the correct base political line and ideology and under the leadership of the real revolutionary party of the proletariat. But remember, you can never achieve revolution by shirking the real task, just by shouting slogans, or through tricks in the ballot boxes. You can achieve revolution only when you have been able to give birth to people's own political power on the basis of correct revolutionary base political line and ideology and under the leadership of a genuine revolutionary party of the proletariat. Electoral battles that you fight, the democratic movements on economic demands that you build up — if you can view and build up all these struggles as conducive to your main

SUCI(C) expresses deep concern at unilateral adoption of so-called Uniform Civil Code and demands withdrawal forthwith

Strongly opposing the passage of so called Uniform Civil Code (UCC) in different state legislatures at the behest of the RSS-BJP governments, in total disregard of any kind of unanimity over the issue, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (Communist), issued the following statement on 09-06-26:

We express deep concern at the decision of the RSS-BJP-led Gujarat, Uttarakhand and Assam governments to adopt the so called (UCC) on the pretext of having "One Nation, one Language, and one Law" riding on brute majority in the state legislatures. This unilateral move to pass a controversial legislation without taking into account the objective socio-political reality and in utter disregard of the imperativeness to develop any national consensus over such a crucial issue militates against the democratic code, norm and practice.

It bears recall that due to definite socio-political reasons, though India politically evolved as a nation in course of freedom movement led by compromising bourgeois leadership of the National Congress against the British colonial rule, it has remained socially and culturally disunited by religion, caste, language, race, ethnicity etc. since the task of democratization of Indian society remained unfulfilled.

As a result, social customs, marriage and inheritance laws, observance of religious ceremonies, eating habits, way of life etc. of different communities of the Indian people continued to remain diverse. Taking that into cognizance, even the framers of the constitution carefully refrained from adopting a UCC. They held that at that point of time, hurriedly including such a crucial provision in the constitution without preparing the ground for cementing national unity and cohesion, might prove to be a

boomerang and defeat the very purpose of having such a law. Later, the 21st law commission too, in a detailed constitution paper published in 2018, strongly opined that a UCC was "neither necessary nor desirable at this stage". Without developing a conducive atmosphere and development of a national consensus, UCC would only end in exacerbating existing divides, mutual hatred and distrust and evil feelings against each other. Further, this enforced UCC would jeopardize the legitimate interest and aspirations of the minority people, more specifically of the religious minorities who are already deprived, harassed, persecuted and even facing lynching by the frenzied arch communal Hindutva groups busking under the shelter of the ruling BJP.

Ignoring contention of the framers of Indian Constitution and recommendation of the 21st Law Commission published in 2018, the BJP rulers are determined to impose UCC which is a new version of old Hindu Code Bill.

What is of serious concern is that with the passage of time, the socio-cultural divides among the toiling millions, instead of being abated, are further incited and abetted by the ruling dispensations, particularly the BJP by increasingly fomenting communalism-casteist-ethnic-parochial-chauvinist-lingual-regional conflicts to disrupt class and mass struggles against capitalist rulers and strengthen 'Hindu Vote Bank'.

We therefore call upon all democratic minded well-meaning persons irrespective of caste, creed, religion, ethnicity or language to close their rank and develop a united organized powerful sustained movement involving all sections of the people to force all the BJP governments to desist from adoption of such an extremely harmful Uniform Civil Code.

revolutionary struggles, then and then only, these will be purposive. Other than this, all these are meaningless. If you can grasp this, then along with this you also have to understand that the mass movements which you develop have their ups and downs, advances and retreats, successes as also defeats and setbacks — because there are twists and turns along its path. But what is of decisive importance while developing these

democratic movements is whether you have been able, on the basis of correct ideology and principles, to correctly determine the base political line and the stage of revolution, i.e., whether you have correctly realized that the main task of this revolution is to overthrow the bourgeoisie that is now in state power in the place of the imperialists." (Under the banner of great November Revolution SW Vol III)

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