

# Proletarian Era

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26 December 1893  
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*"The correctness or incorrectness of the ideological and political line decides everything. If one's line is incorrect, one's downfall is inevitable even with the control of the central, local and army leadership.*

*If one's line is correct and even if one has not a single soldier at first, there will be soldiers, and even if there is no political power, political power will be gained. This is borne out by the historical experience of our party and by that of the international communist movement since the time of Marx.... The crux of the matter is this. This is an irrefutable truth."*

(Report of the Tenth Congress of the CPC)

## Diabolic incident of rape and murder at R G Kar Hospital in Kolkata

## Revolutionary greetings to all who burst forth in historic protest rising above all differences

A single spark has indeed caused a prairie fire! The whole of West Bengal as well as the entire country is vibrant in protest. The protest has transgressed the boundary of the country and spread in neighboring Bangladesh, Pakistan as also in Europe, USA, Australia and other countries. There is only one demand—"We want justice". Justice for the second year PGT doctor who has been diabolically raped and murdered inside the hospital premises while on duty. The guilty must be meted out stringent punishment. The perpetrators of this fiendish crime should not be shielded by quarters of vested interest. In the name of investigation, evidences should not be destroyed or hushed up. Not only the doctors, nurses and health workers, thousands of students of almost all academic institutions, teachers, lawyers, intellectuals, artistes, all other professionals, workers and peasants and front-ranking football players and other sports personalities and sports-lovers have joined the movement. This united voice seeking justice gives hope and is font of inspiration. After a long long time, the state of West Bengal seems to be back on its erstwhile fervour of fighting against injustice.

Most remarkable had been the night of 14 August. An unprecedented gathering at around midnight of lakhs of protesting women, from early teenager to octogenarian, came out in the streets of cities and villages with the slogan, "Reclaim the night". This was a fervent protestation of the subjugated,

persecuted and assaulted womenfolk against the patriarchal society where females are viewed as subordinate to males and mere objects of consumption. Such a dazzling display of valour and determination of the aggrieved mothers, sisters and housewives has not been witnessed hereinbefore even during freedom movement. It was splendiferous a spectacle that will be enshrined in the pages of history of women's movement. Actually it bore a living demonstration of the lines of Kazi Nazrul Islam, the revolutionary poet, "Rise O Women, the Flame of Fire". Notwithstanding chill having been rolled down the spines of the rulers, whether in Delhi, West Bengal or other states, they might still feign to have not taken any cognizance of this. But this unflinching resolve to take on injustice will invigorate democratic movements that would surge forth in the days to come. Our



Intellectuals and persons of eminence in protest in Kolkata

revolutionary greetings to all who have participated in the movement.

What have the state government, its police-administration and the hospital authorities not done to suppress the truth? The Hospital authorities first called it a case of suicide and conspired to abolish all

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## Bangladesh in ferment—a fact sheet

[A write-up by Comrades Dr. Joydeep Bhattacharya and Rashed Shahriar, members of the Central Executive Forum of the Socialist Party of Bangladesh (Marxist) is published to acquaint our readers with the actual happenings in Bangladesh.]

By the time thousands of people entered Ganabhawan at noon on 5 August last, Sheikh Hasina had resigned. She fled the country. Facebook has become flooded with the word 'freedom'.

'Freedom' is the most cherished word of any person. Nothing can be greater than this in the life of a subjugated people or nation. We became independent in 1971. It was a fight to end the tyranny, injustice, and discrimination of the rulers of West Pakistan. But it was seen that after independence, we got a country; though we did not become independent in the truest sense of the term. 'To save a flower', 'for a smiling face'—the people of our country took part in the liberation war. The country became independent and we got a territory named Bangladesh. But in independent Bangladesh, hundreds of blooming flowers fell to the ground, so many smiling faces were lost. A new struggle had begun. A struggle against the tyrannical government. General Ershad was removed from power. But real freedom remained elusive. In place of one party making false promises to the people, another party of the same genre came to power. The common people were repeatedly cheated and deceived as they, in absence of correct political consciousness, failed to understand the real character of the ruling parties.

We did not have any freedom even during

alternate rule of the two parties. But the autocratic rule of the the Awami League's for the last 16 years, had dwarfed all the preceding oppressive regimes. Repeatedly the Awami League rule has reminded us of the black days of Pakistani regime. In 1971, there used to be knocks at the door of the opposition leaders and activists late at night. They were then taken into custody and forced to be in the prison vans. Similar had been the situation during Hasina's government. The families of those so picked up approached the police the next day. But it was of no avail. No arrest was shown by the police. The family members had no clue as to where were they. Some of them could later be traced, while some were found lying on the street half-dead. Such incidents were frequent. Several of the missing persons had been rescued from a secret hideout known as the 'mirror house'. There was no light there; the rooms were dark. The prisoners were brutally tortured with no relent and the food they were served was uneatable even by animals. Some were imprisoned for eight years, some for 10 years.

One didn't have to be a big leader to be black-listed. A teenager was arrested for drawing a cartoon against the government. Mushtaq, who was arrested for posting anti-government material on Facebook, died in jail. These examples are not exceptions. Anti-government cartoons,

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Bangladesh

## Awami League government sought to brutally suppress the legitimate mass movement

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writings, and criticisms were almost banned in the country. The country was akin to a death-valley. This paramount wrath turned into a historic mass uprising of the students. And that is why after the fall of Awami League, everyone is saying 'We are independent'.

### From anti-quota movement to mass uprising

It started with the protest against reinstatement of the 30% reservation in government jobs for the descendants of the freedom fighters. The freedom fighters do hold a place of respect in the hearts of the people of the country because of their immense sacrifice and laying down lives. But the question that has been raised is why, even after so many years of independence, there should be privilege of quota not only for their children but also for their grandchildren of the freedom fighters? What is the cogent reason for this? Including 30 percent freedom fighter quota, 56 percent of the appointments were hitherto made on the basis of reservation. There is an acute unemployment problem in the country. About 3 crore people are jobless. According to government estimates, there are 8 lakh unemployed youths in the country but according to the experts, the number is much higher. As per a study by BIDS, 48% students who have completed their graduation or post-graduation from national universities, are unemployed. Every year a large number of students enter the labour market after completing their studies. But the job market is limited. Filling up vacancies in government jobs has been stalled. No new jobs are being created. Many university students have been committing suicide every year being unable to bear with the frustration due to being unemployed. Huge amount of hard-earned money of the parents is spent. Dependence on meagre earning from tuition is prolonged. Nights are somehow spent in the balcony of a hall or on the stairs of a mosque. Examinations are passed. Yet jobs are unavailable and the spectre of uncertainty continues to haunt the young brigade. Bribery, corruption, nepotism, and leakage of question-papers further worsen the situation. So, this prolonged oppression, along with undue discrimination and mounting unemployment, has inevitably made the students burst in protest.

As a result of the quota reform movement in 2018, the Awami League government issued a

directive to abolish it. But that directive was negated by the High Court on 5 June last. On the same day, students of many universities including Dhaka University and Jahangirnagar University lodged protest. Protests have been going on the demand of revocation of the order. The protesting students called for accepting their demands by June. However, no action had been taken by the government. So protests resumed on 1 July as soon as the universities opened after the Eid holidays. Students from almost all the top universities of the country began to gather on the streets. Virtually, the entire student community joined the protest in no time. When the Appellate Division heard the petition on 4 July, it did not stay the High Court verdict. The aggrieved students blocked the Shahbagh Road in Dhaka. Similar programmes were held across the country. Roads were blocked in several parts of the country. On 5 July the day students gave a call for strike. Observance of 'Bangla Blockade' programme commenced from 6 July.

On 10 July, the Appellate Division placed a four-week stay on the direct recruitment (9th to 13th) quota in government jobs and fixed 7 August as the date for the next hearing. But, the students demanded quota reform in all grades of government jobs, saying that the decision in this regard should be taken by the executive department of the government, not the court. They said the agitation would continue till quota system was revoked altogether.

The government had remained silent on the issue. They pressured the students to stop the movement without taking the initiative to negotiate with them. Ruling party General Secretary Obaidul Quader said the quota agitators are demonstrating their strength against the Supreme Court. Home Minister Asaduzzaman Khan said the students were "crossing the limit."

Ignoring the threats of the ruling party leaders and ministers, the students took a firm stand in favour of their demands and continued to block the highway and railway tracks. On 14 July, a memorandum was submitted to the President highlighting the same demands. On 14 July, they submitted a memorandum on these demands to the President. On the very same day, in a press conference at Ganabawan, Sheikh Hasina said, "I can't do anything about the quota

issue... The executive body has no say over the verdict of the court. The matter has to be settled in the court itself." At one point of the press conference, she further commented, "If not the grandchildren of the Muktiyoddhas (freedom fighters), then do we expect the grandchildren of the razakars to get jobs?" Through such a comment, she actually demeaned the protesting students.

The present generation who carries the true spirit of the Liberation War in their hearts, didn't take it easy when they were compared with the 'razakars', much hated treacherous forces with their hands stained in the blood of millions of people and hence utterly hated. It was a question of self-respect for the protesting students.

To give a befitting reply to such an insulting ridicule, that night, the students of Dhaka University took to the streets of the capital city with slogans of "Ami ke tumi ke, razakar, razaka / ke bolechhe ke bolechhe, shoirachar, shoirachar" (Who are you, who am I, razakar, razakar/ Who are saying so, the autocrats, the autocrats) and "cheyechhilam odhikar, hoye gelam razakar" (Wanted my rights, but painted a traitor). These slogans rent the midnight sky. Girls, too, broke the gates of halls and hit the streets.

The movement that started to give a fitting reply to the prime minister's taunt was no longer restricted to the demands of quota reform. It was now an outburst of long brewing anger against the despotic rule of Hasina. On the very same night, the fire of the movement also spread to other universities. In many places, the Chhatra League, the student wing of Awami League, attacked the protesters. Next day, in the afternoon, Obaidul Quader, the General Secretary of Awami League, said, "Chhatra League is ready to give a fitting reply to this." A few hours after this comment, it was seen that Chhatra League brought in hired goons to unleash barbaric attacks on the protest demonstration of the students in Dhaka University. Even the female students were not spared. More than 300 students were injured that day. When the wounded were taken to Dhaka Medical College for treatment, they were attacked there also. The fanatics of Chhatra League set a rare example of monstrosity by attacking under-treatment injured students inside hospitals.

On 15 July, during

demonstration in Rangpur, Abu Sayeed, a student of Rokeya University, fell to the bullets of the police there. On the very same day, six more people were killed in different places. Following that, the entire country exploded in protest. People from all strata of the society flooded the streets. After the call of "Complete Blockade", the call of "Complete Shutdown" brought the entire country to a standstill.

The fascist Awami League government is on the path of suppressing the people's movement with brutal attacks. The government had let loose the entire coercive state machinery and its party forces on the students and the people. Police-RAB-BGB and the terror army of Chhatra League-Yuva League-Awami League have already murdered more than 200 students and people till then. According to the reports in newspapers, this figure was more than 500, however, actual facts were yet to be known. More than 50 people had lost their vision due to bullet injury. More than 6,000 were injured. More than 11,000 protesters had been arrested. The Awami League regime had launched arrest drives through block raids in the areas of Dhaka and the outer districts. When the government failed to contain the movement with Police-RAB-BGB and the terror brigade of the party, it imposed curfew and stationed the military on the streets. Internet was blocked and mobile service was made dysfunctional. Shutting down the social media platforms like WhatsApp and Facebook, the government started telecasting one-sided government narratives on the television. But some news about the objective situation could not be prevented from reaching out to people who were shocked and dumbstruck after seeing the circulated videos which showed how the police surpassed all limits in killing people with indiscriminate shooting. Bullets struck many victims at the chest, and many others in the head. The innocent children, on the balcony and on the rooftops, were also not spared from being shot at. Till date, as per the news received, 32 children had been victims to this killing spree. Since the liberation war, this was the first time that the country witnessed a bloodbath of this nature. Both during the liberation from Pakistani rule or in post-independence Bangladesh—people have been amidst intense movements and struggle. The language movement, the mass uprisings of 1969 and 1990 and many such other movements had stirred this land. Torture and exploitation were no less even back then. However, the people

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# Glimpses of invaluable teachings and exemplary life struggle of Great Mao Zedong

48 years have rolled by since Great Mao Zedong, a giant authority of Marxism-Leninism and architect of Chinese Revolution had departed. After his demise, just like what happened in Soviet Union after Great Stalin had departed, revisionists, renegades and capitalist-roaders had connived to initiate the process of counter-revolution by deviating from his teachings, cunningly undermining his authority, and coining a catchy slogan of "Chinese model of Socialism". Following that, counter-revolution in China was complete in 2004 and the country which was freed from the yoke of repressive warlords, foreign imperialists and feudal aristocracy through a protracted arduous struggle under the leadership of Mao Zedong and transformed into a vibrant socialist state, took a back turn to be under the rule of the aspirant Chinese capitalists and has now become a formidable imperialist power. But despite all attempts by the quarters of reaction, people of China still hold Comrade Mao in high esteem and do not tolerate any attempt to denigrate him. His mausoleum is still visited daily by lakhs of people with deep respect and remember him with profound regard, much to the dislike of the present ruling Chinese bourgeoisie. So are the genuine revolutionaries throughout the world including our Party, founded, reared and steered by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era and a worthy continuer of Marx-Engels-Lenin-Stalin-Mao Zedong. Mao Zedong's exemplary life struggle and invaluable teachings provide illuminating guidelines to the posterity involved in the battle for revolutionary transformation of the society and free the masses from ruthless imperialist-capitalist oppression becoming more and more unbearable with every passing day.

## Sparkle of abiding by truth from early life

Mao Zedong was born on 26 December 1893 in a well-off peasant family of Shashanm Hunan province of central China. Right from his early teens, a notable feature of courageously standing against injustice was noticed in him. No amount of scolding, physical assault or even coercion could not make him waver from what he would have realized as truth. If he found anytime that his understanding on a particular issue was wrong

when examined on the anvil of logic and reason, he never hesitated to discard his wrong understanding and accept the truthful understanding. So, he could not follow Confucian doctrine when his heart was deeply struck by the unbearable pains and sufferings of the peasants and he was stirred into pondering over the causes behind that. Vortex of life with series of events, many important experiences, gradually steeled him on political maturity and as a young man of twenties, he was imbued with humanist and nationalist ideology. Later, he admitted that "he was an idealist at that time". (Red Star over China-Edgar Snow)

## Formation of CPC

After Russian revolution in 1917, correctness and nobility of Marxism-Leninism spurred on many intellectuals, educated and conscientious persons to embrace it as guiding philosophy. So, in many places, initiatives were taken to form communist parties. In China, there were many groups who were attracted towards communism. Mao was associated with one such group. These groups joined hands to form the Communist Party of China (CPC). On 1 July 1921, twelve delegates elected by the communist groups held the First Party Congress in Shanghai and formalized foundation of the CPC, adopted its first constitution and decided about its central organs. Mao Zedong was one of those twelve delegates. In the third Party Congress held in 1923, Mao criticized some of the mistakes committed by the party like appraisal of the stand of Dr Sun Yat-sen, a proponent of Chinese nationalism and democracy, and founder of Kuomintang party, against imperialism and the feudal warlords, and firmly upheld the correct view. At that congress, he was elected to the Central Committee of the party. But the party was still not a uniform whole. There were wide differences over many policy and strategical issues. Great Stalin and the Executive Committee of the Third Communist International (Comintern) continually gave guidance regarding tactics the CPC should adopt to accomplish revolution. But the CPC top leadership did not pay due attention to that. There were both right and left deviations within CPC. Mao Zedong had to wage relentless ideological struggle against both deviations and was first to correctly analyze class

composition and class relationships based on correct understanding of Marxism-Leninism. In 1926 was published his important pamphlet titled 'Analysis of the classes in Chinese society'. Distinctly defining the friends and foes, he pointed out in that pamphlet: *"Our enemies are all those in league with imperialism—the warlords, the bureaucrats, the comprador class, the big Landlord class and the reactionary section of the intelligentsia attached to them. The leading force in our revolution is the industrial proletariat. Our closest friends are the entire semi-proletariat and petty bourgeoisie. As for the vacillating middle bourgeoisie, their right wing may become our enemy and their left wing may become our friend—but we must be constantly on our guard and not let them create confusion within our ranks."* Yet there was a persistent attempt on the part of the then CPC top leadership headed by the then General Secretary Chen Tu-hsiu to corner Mao. In the fifth congress of the CPC in April 1927, Mao was completely excluded from leadership and even denied right to vote.

## Formation of so called national government by Ching Kai-shek

In the meanwhile, there was an important development. In 1923, the Kuomintang joined hands with CPC at the initiative of Comintern to form a united front to take on the notorious warlords. Mao was then Secretary of the Hunan branch committee of the CPC. In 1925 began the famous Northern expedition in which many northern provinces were liberated from the rule of the warlords. The expedition ended in 1927. By that time, Dr Sun Yat-sen, had died and the leadership of Kuomintang was assumed by perfidious Chiang Kai-shek. Correctly understanding the contradictions within the Chinese bourgeoisie, Mao had timely pointed out in 1926 that Cheng's policy indicated vacillating nature of the Chinese national bourgeoisie *"The middle bourgeoisie by which is meant chiefly the national bourgeoisie is inconsistent in its attitude towards Chinese revolution...(because) revolution is threatening the hope of their class to attain the status of a big bourgeoisie...."* (SW Vol. I) That proved correct. In April 1927, Chiang unilaterally formed a so

called national government in the liberated northern areas, staining the soil with blood of thousands of Chinese working people. The sixth party congress in 1928 also failed to make a correct evaluation of the objective situation, the protracted nature of the democratic revolution, the role of the intermediate classes and the contradiction within the reactionary forces. Though Comrade Mao did not attend that congress, he was elected once again to the Central Committee.

In 1927, Chen Tu-shio was ousted and Lili Li-san became the CPC chief. As against right deviation of Chen, Lili Li-san leaned towards left adventurism, both militating against the basic postulates of Marxism-Leninism. Mao had to wage an intensive ideological struggle to free the party from left deviation. Following the advice of great Stalin that *"the Chinese communists should be in the front ranks of the agrarian-peasant revolution.. (and) they should teach the peasants...to organize in revolutionary associations and committees..."* (SW Vol. IX).

Mao had formed an armed force of the peasants between 1928 and 1930, strongly organized them and liberated a vast area in South China. In fact, these organizations virtually turned into a parallel, alternative political power of the peasantry in rural China. But this did not go well with the Lili Li-san leadership as well and Mao was expelled from the Central Committee and Polit Bureau allegedly for organizing peasants' movement without permission. In fact, Mao was expelled thrice and also suspended thrice from the Central Committee for waging ideological struggle on fundamental questions. But every time Mao accepted the party decision abiding by revolutionary code of conduct. But he never gave up ideological struggle with the party leadership to establish truth on fundamental questions base on correct understanding of Marxian science. After many twists and turn, in a meeting at Tsunyi in 1935, Mao's supremacy on both ideological and organizational spheres was acknowledged and he was elected the highest leader of the party. From then onwards, 'bolshevization', so to say, of the CPC had occurred and the party developed as a real

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Bangladesh

## Anti-quota movement turned into a mass upsurge

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didn't witness streets flooded by streams of blood, they did not have to cross heaps of dead bodies piled together. In that aspect, the fascist Awami League government had also crossed all records of brutality of all the dictators of the past. However, nothing could thwart the dauntless waves of the brave hearts—the indomitable spirit of the students and the people. The flame of rage was radiantly aglow.

### The fire spread everywhere

This flame, that had been initially a spark centred on the demand of quota reform, had been transformed into a wildfire and spread everywhere. At this juncture, the movement was no longer a movement of the students only and the demands were not restricted to that of quota annulment. The entire nation was dumbfounded and horrified by the indiscriminate firing and murder that was resorted to for containing the movement.

Getting over the first lash of overwhelming shock, bewilderment and grief, a spontaneous mass uprising began over the demand for justice against the mass—murderers. With every day, the movement grew in strength. On the other hand, under pressure of movement, the government was compelled to call an urgent court session to release a notification reforming the quota system. At the same time, the government went on continuing with their evil trickery they took the tactics of misguiding the people by secretly murdering many, detaining the movement coordinators, arresting them from the hospital and taking them to the DB office, tortured them and forced them to give false statements to confuse people.

It is true that people from all walks of life took to the streets in solidarity with the students' demands. However, the accumulated rage and frustration amongst people over the years also played a crucial role in involving them in the movement. The torture, victimization, kidnappings and arrests in the 15 year long fascist rule of the Awami League had blocked all the means of voicing protest. In the last three national elections of 2014, 2018 and 2024, people were not able to cast their votes. The entire election process was stage-managed and the Awami League had retained power through rigging. Thus Awami League had concentrated all powers by wielding money, muscle and administrative powers. As a result of being in the government for a very long period, they were using the

coercive machinery in whatever way they chose to. And they were backed by the big businessmen-capitalists of the country. They have looted thousands of crores of rupees in various development projects. Using their influence, they had in a planned way taken away millions and millions of taka from the banks, and smuggled them out of the country. People were grovelling under the burden of skyrocketing inflation of necessary commodities due to syndicate rule, plunder and extortion. And a tiny group went on becoming richer and richer. Therefore, the anger that had accrued for days after days exploded like volcano after the massacre. This was not the first time that the students came out on the streets. In 2021, they had organized large scale protests when two of their friends were run over by a bus. They demanded due road safety. That movement marked the augury of awakening the sleeping conscience of the masses.

### Government's ploy to detract students' movement using 'politics of tagging'

During their 15 year long rule, whenever Awami League had faced a crisis, it had tagged the protesters as Jammatis and terrorists. Thus they endeavoured to overcome the crises by playing on communal-fundamentalist card. They had wanted to sustain its rule by instilling fear in the minds of the humane, liberal, democratic-minded people of the country.

In order to break the current movement as well, the government had resorted to a two-fold attack. On one side, it had pressed on the various state forces and the party's terror brigade while on the other hand, they had tried to tag the protesters as anti-independence negative force. The government also propagated that the movement was no longer in the hands of the students and that the BNP-Jammat had infiltrated into the movement. The government tried its best to isolate the democratic-minded people from this movement. By citing the instances of attacking, vandalizing and setting on fire some government buildings, the ruling quarters wanted to curry sympathy of the people by painting these acts as works of sabotage by the Jammat-BNP combine and thereby soliciting public support in favour of its rule of suppression and oppression. But according to media report, the bus owners set fire to the metro rail, a Shramik League (affiliated to Awami League) leader in Chittagong hired

hoodlums to burn the BRTC bus. He was later identified and arrested also.

Students, both Hindus and Muslims, took part in the protest. They fought unitedly and died together. As Sheikh Hasina was forced to flee, the people of the ousted Awami League and vested interests cunningly attacked some religious places of the minorities to malign the movement. However, the students immediately foiled the heinous conspiracy. All the misdeeds of the government had been exposed to the people and the country. So, the movement could not be deviated from the goal. The support and participation of the people was increasing day by day. Eminent writers, poets, actors, singers, musicians and litterateurs had also lent their support to the movement. Their participation with creative initiatives in their respective fields of work, had provided momentum to the movement.

### One-point demand—killer Hasina must resign

Six protesters, including Abu Sayeed, were martyred on 15 July. On 16 July, the Left Democratic Alliance, the Anti-Fascist Left Front and Bangladesh JASAD, in a joint statement, demanded resignation of Sheikh Hasina and not just an apology. As already said, a brutal attack on the people of the country was brought down by shutting down the internet from 17 July and declaring a curfew from 19 July. The police began to arrest anyone they wanted from the residential areas through 'block raids'. On 26 July, at 11am, cultural activists organized a rally of music or "gaaner michhil" by defying the imposed ban. In the evening, Left Democratic Alliance, Anti-fascist Left Forum and Bangladesh JASAD collectively organised a condolence meeting in memory of the martyrs of the movement.

On the morning of 27 July, a protest rally was held at the initiative of women. The *Anti-Discrimination Student Movement* held a nationwide protest rally on 29 July. They gave a call of wearing red cloths around their faces and eyes on 30 July as a mark of protest and appealed to colour their respective social media profiles in red. A large number of people from all over the country, including well-known celebrities joined the programme. The 'March for Justice' was organized by the *Anti-Discrimination Student Movement* on 31 July. On that day, the lawyers of the High Court prevented the police from arresting the protesters in the High Court premises. Martyrs across the country were remembered on 1 August through a programme titled 'Remembering the

Heroes'. A call was given for nationwide protest demonstration on 2 August.

Professor Anu Muhammad raised a clear demand for the resignation of Sheikh Hasina at the National Press Club on 2 August before the huge rally of students and common people had commenced journey. More than ten thousand people were present on the occasion. Through this, the desire for freedom from the fascist rule of Sheikh Hasina, which was tormenting in the hearts of the people, was voiced loudly. The next day, the *Anti-Discrimination Student Movement* demanded Sheikh Hasina's resignation from the gathering of millions of people at the Shaheed Minar. People across the country had been demanding this.

A non-cooperation movement was announced from 4 August with a solitary demand—Hasina Government must resign. The 'Long March to Dhaka' programme from 6 August was announced. The 'March' date was preponed by a day i.e. from 5 August in the wake of the brutal killings by the police and Awami League criminals across the country on the first day of the non-cooperation movement on 4 August.

On Monday, 5 August 2024, as the day progressed, hundreds of thousands of people started marching towards the Shaheed Minar and Ganabawan from different points of Dhaka. There was no way the government could have prevented it. The state machinery was helpless and had no means to stop this tide. In the afternoon, Sheikh Hasina was forced to resign and secretly fled the country from Ganabawan.

### Commendable role of common people

People coming from diverse sections and professional backgrounds had joined the movement—some openly, some indirectly. The university teachers had played a pivotal role. "University Teachers' Network", a university teachers' organization had been engaged in a continuous struggle against the fascist regime since long. They played a dauntless role in this movement. On 17 July, they managed to free two protesters from Shahbagh Prison. Similar incidents also happened in Jahangirnagar University, Rajshahi University and Islami University. In different universities, teachers joined the students in the rallies. This was indeed unprecedented.

On 29 July, six coordinators of the *Anti-Discrimination Student Movement* were detained at the DB office. They were not allowed to speak. They were forced to give

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## AIUTUC opposes Unified Pension Scheme

Comrade Shankar Dasgupta, General Secretary, AIUTUC, in a statement issued on 26-08-24 said that instead of reintroducing the 'Old Pension Scheme' (OPS) as was demanded by the Government Employees, the BJP led present dispensation at the Centre has utterly betrayed the cause of the said employees by announcing 'Unified Pension Scheme' (UPS).

The UPS, is obviously opposed to OPS and is basically contributory in nature like NPS. The hot haste with which the BJP led government at the Centre has announced UPS seems to be designed keeping in view the upcoming assembly elections in four states. He called upon the Government Employees in general and the Central Government Employees in particular to develop mighty movement throughout the country to compel the BJP led central government to reintroduce the OPS".

### Bangladesh

## Movement forced PM Hasina to resign and flee

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statements as drafted by the authorities. The university teachers were not allowed to meet them. High Court lawyers Ainunnahar Lipi and Manzoor Al Matin filed a writ petition "challenging the legality of the detention of the six coordinators and ordering them not to shoot at the movement." The police was forced to release the six coordinators; though the writ "asking for orders not to shoot" was dismissed. However, the issue had sparked massive outrage across the country. In the 'March for Justice' programme, numerous lawyers from all over the country stood up for the agitating students. A public inquiry committee has been formed to investigate the mass-murders. As mentioned, actors, directors and artistes working in different mediums actively participated in the movement. They are still active on this platform under the name of 'Visual Media Artistes'. The rickshaw pullers of Dhaka city played an almost organized role in this movement. They not only organized rickshaw rallies, but also managed to reach the destination of the protesters by avoiding the eyes of the police during the curfew and other times. Each of them communicated through gestures and understood whether there was any danger ahead. When this movement was uplifted from a students movement to a mass uprising, many people from the shop workers, small businessmen to the lower middle class and the peasants were involved in this movement, took bullets to their chests and embraced martyrdom.

### Post-upsurge period: 'There will be political talks'

A particular wall writing might have captured the attention of many on Facebook. In it, the statement "Here political discussion is prohibited" is changed by replacing the phrase "is prohibited" by "will go on". Before the uprising, it was common to find display of the message "political speech is forbidden" in almost all tea shops or various institutions. No one

was allowed to discuss politics. Because there was a big risk in expressing any dissent. But the mass uprising has brought a new dawn in Bangladesh. Today, everyone is looking for a way out and want that the freedom of expression is not forbidden again, that the autocratic rule is not brought back. Everyone wants to get a direction in this respect. It has been further observed that the public's choice was not tilted towards any established political force in the opposition. The forces that have ruled over the people at different points of time, no longer hold a place of trust in the hearts of the people. This is a very important point. The public has rejected the so called big parties and their politics. As a result, now discussions about what can be done to reform the various structures of the state at this time are becoming prominent.

### Fall of fascist regime of Awami League, Step up fight to overthrow fascist state

With the resignation of Sheikh Hasina, the fascist government of Awami League has just collapsed. This is undoubtedly the first victory of the revolution. But we should not forget, in the past too, there have been big movements in this country, there have been mass uprisings, we have liberated the country by waging a war of liberation, people have sacrificed their lives. But the dream of establishing a democratic state has not been fulfilled. We have to remember that the socio-economic system from which all kinds of discrimination and unemployment are born, did not end with the mass uprising of the students, did not collapse the fascist state structure. The capitalist economic system gives birth to the fascist regime. The strength of the people's movement led by the left democratic forces has to be increased. A politically conscious, organized and morally strong people's movement is the only guarantee for the earning and protection of democratic rights.

## Beyond the Medal: Unyielding fighting spirit of a true sportsperson

Vinesh Phogat, the Indian wrestling icon, has proven that true champions are not just made in the ring—they are forged in the fires of injustice. As she returned from the Paris Olympics, her head held high despite a heartbreaking disqualification, Phogat was greeted by throngs of supporters who recognized her for what she truly is: a hero. But her story is not just one of athletic prowess; it is a defiant stand against the powerful forces that sought to silence her and other female wrestlers.

When Vinesh Phogat, alongside Olympians Sakshi Malik and Bajrang Punia, took to the streets of New Delhi in January 2023, it was not just a protest—it was augury of an unyielding fighting spirit befitting a true sportsperson. These athletes, who had brought glory to India, were now fighting a battle far graver than any they had faced in their careers. They were up against Brij Bhushan Sharan Singh, the then-President of the Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) and a five-time MP of the ruling BJP. The allegations against him were as disturbing as they were damning: a decade-long pattern of sexual harassment, spanning from 2012 to 2022, involving female wrestlers who had trusted him as their mentor. Despite the severity of the accusations, the government remained silent. It was not until the wrestlers reignited their protests in April 2023, rightly demanding Brij Bhushan's arrest and the Supreme Court had intervened. Only then did the Delhi Police file two FIRs against the accused one under the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act for the abuse of a minor and another on behalf of six adult wrestlers. The details that emerged were harrowing—allegations of inappropriate touching, demands for sexual favours, and a culture of fear and intimidation perpetuated by Brij Bhushan Singh.

Vinesh Phogat was one of the most vocal critics of Brij Bhushan. She not only exposed the sexual abuses of the female wrestlers but also revealed the psychological torture she endured after missing a medal at the Tokyo Olympics in 2021. Brij Bhushan, she claimed, had harassed and threatened her, trying to crush her spirit. But Vinesh refused to bow down. Her

protest was a clarion call, not just for herself but for all women athletes in India who have faced similar exploitation and abuse.

As the protests gained momentum, the silence from the highest echelons of power grew deafening. PM Modi, who never leaves any opportunity to arrogate to himself the credit laudable performance of the athletes and sportspersons, remained conspicuously silent when his own MP was put on the dock. The government's inaction sent a chilling message: that even the most celebrated sportswomen in the country could be ignored when they speak out against the authorities who abuse their seats of power to outrage modesty of women, indulge in nepotism and pollute the arena of sports.

But Vinesh Phogat's story did not end with the protests. She went on to compete in the Paris Olympics, where she showed the world what true resilience looks like. Although she narrowly missed a medal due to a controversial disqualification over a mere 100 grams of overweight, her performance was nothing short of heroic. When she returned to India, she was given a hero's welcome by ordinary Indians who recognized that her true victory was not just in her athletic achievements, but in her unwavering fight against power.

Phogat's journey is a testament of the indomitable spirit of women who refuse to be silenced, even in the face of overwhelming odds. Her courage has made her a symbol of resistance, a role model for athletes and young women across India and the world. She has shown that the true measure of a champion is not just in the medals they win, but in the battles, they fight for justice.

As India hails Vinesh Phogat for her remarkable return from Paris, her legacy will be remembered not just as an Olympian, but as a warrior who stood up to power and refused to back down. Kudos to Vinesh Phogat for becoming a symbol of hope and unwavering fight against corruption, manipulation and systematic rot afflicting the arena of sports. Her story will inspire generations of athletes to come-proving that the most powerful victories are those win off the field.

## Mao Zedong

## Mao's exemplary life struggle and invaluable teachings provide illuminating guidelines to the posterity

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communist party. In the meanwhile, Mao, even being amidst movements, provided theoretical answers to many burning questions like main content of Chinese revolutionary struggle, sustainability of bases freed by the Red Army from the stronghold of warlords etc, in the articles, 'Why Can China's Red Political Power Exist' and 'A Single Spark Can Start a Prairie Fire', written in 1928 and 1930 respectively. His pamphlets like 'On Contradiction', 'Dialectical Materialism', 'On Practice', 'On Liberalism' and 'Rectify the style of work', written very lucidly, are important contributions to the treasure-house of Marxism-Leninism.

### Historic Long March

The Long March under stewardship of Comrade Mao Zedong is unparalleled in history and a milestone in proletarian revolutionary movement. On 16 October 1934, the Red Army broke through reactionary enemy lines and began an epic flight from their encircled headquarters in southwest China. The March lasted 368 days and covered on foot 8,000 miles (12,500 kms), from Kiangsi in south China to Shensi in the difficult mountainous region of northern China. They crossed 24 rivers and 18 mountain ranges, mostly snow-capped, weapons and supplies were borne on men's backs or on horse-drawn carts, and the line of marchers stretched for 50 miles.

On its way, the revolutionary marchers defeated attacking Kuomintang military, the armies of the warlords and liberated 62 towns and a host of villages. In this fight, the surviving revolutionaries had to bid farewell to over 50,000 comrades, the immortal martyrs, with profoundest of grief and deepest respect. One incident is worth mentioning. When the marchers reached the bank of a mighty river Tau, they found the other bank well-fortified by Kuomintang forces and at the same time, being chased by another battalion of the enemy army from the back. To overcome such a formidable obstacle, the Red Army soldiers, without caring for life, crawled down the swinging chains across the river and surprised the enemy forces who were more vanquished morally rather than militarily. Many of them joined the Red Army. After enduring starvation, aerial bombardment, and almost daily skirmishes with reactionary forces,

Mao halted his columns at the foot of the Great Wall of China on 20 October 1935.

Despite enormous casualties and loss of valuable comrades, it strengthened the CPC and its organization, spread the message of revolution throughout the length and breadth of the country, weakened the enemy and thereby ensured the victory of Chinese Revolution after 14 years. It also unequivocally established Mao Zedong as leader of the leaders. In Mao's own words: "...the Long March is the first of its kind in the annals of history, that it is a manifesto, a propaganda force, a seeding-machine...has history ever witnessed a long march such as ours? For twelve months we were under daily reconnaissance and bombing from the skies by scores of planes, while on land we were encircled and pursued, obstructed and intercepted by a huge force of several hundred thousand men, and we encountered untold difficulties and dangers on the way; yet by using our two legs we swept across a distance of more than twenty thousand li through the length and breadth of eleven provinces....The Long March is also a propaganda force. It has announced to some 200 million people in eleven provinces that the road of the Red Army is their only road to liberation. Without the Long March, how could the broad masses have learned so quickly about the existence of the great truth which the Red Army embodies?...Who brought the Long March to victory? The Communist Party. ..." (On Tactics against Japanese imperialism, SW-Vol. I)

What a revolutionary audacity Mao demonstrated in organizing and leading the Long March to success. Worth mentioning is a fact that Mao's first child, a girl, was given to a peasant woman when Mao and his wife had to flee their guerrilla base. Next came Little Mao, a son, who when two years old during Long March, was left in the care of Mao's brother's wife. Mao knew that six months later, his brother might be killed in battle, taking with him the secret of the location to which he had moved the boy for safety. So he had not even told his wife about their son's whereabouts. Such was his commitment to revolution and impersonal outlook. After the victory of revolution in 1949, when Mao stood on the podium to address the

vast gathering at Tien An Men square, tears rolled down his cheeks in remembrance of thousands of his comrades martyred during the Long March and other revolutionary struggles. This bore eloquent testimony of his tenderness of mind and deep emotional bond with the comrades that any great revolutionary leader possesses.

### Japanese invasion

It was on 18 September 1931, that Japanese imperialism began its large scale invasion of north-east China after noticing that Chiang Kaishek's government had completely capitulated to the Western imperialist powers in order to receive help from them for continuing civil war against Red Army. Chiang persisted with the policy of no resistance to Japanese aggression which enabled Japan to quickly occupy whole of north-east China and some parts of the northern provinces.

But, Japanese invasion brought about a total change in the political scenario of China. Mao in 1935 provided guideline of facing the situation in his article 'On tactics against Japanese imperialism' wherein he said: "...for nearly a hundred years China has been a semi-colonial country jointly dominated by several imperialist powers. Owing to the Chinese people's struggle against imperialism and to conflicts among the imperialist powers, China has been able to retain a semi-independent status....(now) Japanese imperialism wants to turn China into a colony....The workers and the peasants are all demanding resistance....

The petty bourgeoisie is also demanding resistance...The national bourgeoisie presents a complicated problem. This class took part in the revolution of 1924-27, but terrified by the flames of revolution, it later deserted to the enemy of the people, the Chiang Kai-shek clique. The question is whether there is any possibility that this class will undergo a change in the present circumstances. We think there is. For the national bourgeoisie is not the same as either the landlord or the comprador class; there is a difference between them. The national bourgeoisie is less feudal than the landlord class and not so comprador as the comprador class. ...We believe that in the new situation in which China is

threatened with being reduced to a colony these sections may change their attitude. The change will be marked by vacillation. On the one hand they dislike imperialism, and on the other they fear thorough revolution, and they vacillate between the two. ...Summing up the question of class relations, we may say that the basic change in the situation,... has changed the relationship among the various classes in China, strengthening the camp of national revolution and weakening that of counter-revolution.... What is the basic tactical task of the Party? It is none other than to form a broad revolutionary national united front. When the revolutionary situation changes, revolutionary tactics and methods of leadership must change accordingly. ....As yet the domestic counter-revolutionary forces of the big landlord and comprador classes are stronger than the people's revolutionary forces. The overthrow of Japanese imperialism and the counter-revolutionary forces in China cannot be accomplished ...by small forces, and we must therefore accumulate great forces.

In China, ...the counter-revolutionary forces are weaker than before and the revolutionary forces stronger. ...if we are to make a proper estimate of the possibility of forming a broad revolutionary national united front, a proper estimate must be made of the changes that may occur in the alignment of revolutionary and counter-revolutionary forces ...Without a proper estimate of the strong and weak points of the Japanese and Chinese counter-revolutionary forces and of the Chinese revolutionary forces, we shall be unable fully to understand the necessity of organizing a broad revolutionary national united front, or to take firm measures to break down closed-doorism, or to use the united front as a means of organizing and rallying millions of people and all the armies that are potentially friendly to the revolution for the purpose of advancing to strike at our main target, namely, Japanese imperialism and its running dogs, the Chinese traitors, or to use this tactical weapon of ours to strike at the main target ...". (On Tactics against Japanese imperialism, SW-Vol. I) On 7 July 1937, the Japanese

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Observance of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Memorial Day on 5 August



Delhi



Srinagar, Uttarakhand



Mumbai



Chandigarh



Nagpur, Maharashtra

Mao correctly applied Marxism-Leninism in the concrete situation of China to deduce stage and strategy of revolution

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invading forces attacked the Chinese garrison at Lukouchiao, some ten kilometres southwest of Beijing. On 8 July 1937, CPC led by Chairman Mao issued a manifesto which, inter alia, exhorted to the countrymen to repel the aggression: "Fellow-countrymen! ... Northern China is in peril! The Chinese nation is in peril! A war of resistance by the whole nation is the only way out."

We demand immediate and resolute resistance to the invading Japanese armies and immediate preparations to meet all emergencies. From top to bottom the whole nation must at once abandon any idea of being able to live in submissive peace with the Japanese aggressors. ... we resolutely support Mr. Chiang Kai-shek's declaration; together with the members of the Kuomintang and all our fellow-countrymen, we are ready to defend the homeland to the last drop of our blood; we oppose any hesitation..."

It bears recall that Chiang initially was not inclined to join hands with Red Army. But a section of army and other leaders forced him, to be exact virtually lifted him physically to Mao Zedong, to give consent to forming alliance with Red Army to thwart Japanese aggression. Under the influence of the ardent nation-wide anti-Japanese movement, the Chinese troops put up resistance. Though Mao even allowed Chiang to head combined army, his intelligent handling of various contradictions and correct appraisal of the changing situation established the command of the Red Army. This incident marked the beginning of the Chinese people's heroic War of Resistance against Japan which lasted for eight years.

Thus combating various confusions and propensities, Mao in 1940 presented a correct concept about necessity of united front at the time of need and functioning of the united front: "In the period of the anti-Japanese united front, struggle is the means to unity and

unity is the aim of struggle. If unity is sought through struggle, it will live; if unity is sought through yielding, it will perish. This truth is gradually being grasped by Party comrades. However, there are still many who do not understand it; some think that struggle will split the united front or that struggle can be employed without restraint, .... All this must be corrected." (Current problems of tactics in the anti-Japanese United Front, SW Vol. II)

Correct analysis of socio-economic-political situation of China

Applying the science of Marxism-Leninism in the concrete situation of China, Mao Zedong showed: "The characteristics of China are that she is not independent and democratic but semi-colonial and semi-feudal, that internally she has no democracy but is under feudal oppression and in her external relations she has no national independence, but is oppressed by imperialists. (SW: Vol. II)

He was aware of the basic formulation of Leninism which explained that in the era of imperialism, even the bourgeois nationalist freedom struggles could not advance through to total success when led by the respective national bourgeoisie having reached a decadent moribund stage, assumed a compromising and reformist character and haunted by the fear complex of anti-capitalist socialist revolution. It is the proletariat who is to provide leadership to social revolutions whose character would depend upon the peculiar and specific objective condition of a given country. Mao explained: "...The Chinese bourgeois democratic ...has come within a new category of bourgeois democratic revolutions and, as far as the alignment of the revolutionary forces is concerned, forms part of the proletarian-socialist world revolution.... Although such a revolution in a colonial and semi-colonial country is still fundamentally bourgeois-democratic in its social

character during its first stage....it is no longer revolution of the old type led by the bourgeoisie...but a new type of revolution led by the proletariat ..." (SW Vol. II) The correctness of Lenin's proposition and its due recognition by Comrade Mao was only vindicated in the so called national independence struggle attempted by Chiang and thus "national interest" was butchered by the national bourgeoisie itself. And in keeping with this correct analysis, Mao deduced the stage, strategy and tactics of revolution.

He explained that China had "...no parliament to make use of and no legal right to organize the workers to strike. Basically, the task of the Communist Party here is not to go through a long period of legal struggles before launching insurrection and war, and not to seize big cities first and then occupy the countryside but the reverse. ... All this shows the difference between China and the capitalist countries." (SW: Vol. II)

To prevent anyone from blindly copying Chinese model, he forewarned: "The experience of the Chinese revolution, that is, building rural base areas, encircling the cities from the countryside and finally seizing the cities, may not be wholly applicable to many of your countries, though it can serve for your reference. I beg to advise you not to transplant Chinese experience mechanically. The experience of any foreign country can serve only for reference and must not be regarded as dogma..." (SW. Vol. V). He also stressed on guerrilla warfare and creating free zones as tactics of armed struggle which was the only

means to liberate China where condition for legal battle (i.e. democratic movement) was absent. But he cautioned that "These guerrilla operations must not be considered as an independent form of warfare. They are but one step in the total war, one aspect of the revolutionary struggle..." (SW Vol. IV) and clearly said: "In the present age of advanced communications and technology, it will be all the more groundless to imagine that one can win victory by fighting in the manner of roving rebels" (SW, Vol. II).

Similarly he once commented "Political power grows out of the barrel of a gun...because of the feudal division of the country, those which have more guns, have more power. Placed in such an environment the party of the proletariat should clearly see to the heart of the matter..." (SW. Vol. II) "...without armed struggle the proletariat and the communist party would have no standing at all in China, and it would be impossible to accomplish any revolutionary task." (SW. Vol. II)

Lest his words should be misinterpreted, Mao himself provided the clarification: "...the so-called theory that 'weapons decide everything'...constitutes a mechanical approach... weapons are important factor in war, but not the decisive factor, it is the people, not things, that are decisive. The contest of strength is not only of a military and economic power, but also of a contest of human power and moral." (SW.Vol. II) The victory of the Chinese revolution in subsequent twenty years fully bore out correctness of Mao's analysis.

(To be continued)



AIKKMS conference at Sambhal, UP. Left Comrade Shankar Ghosh, General Secretary, AIKKMS, addressing

## Remembering Great Engels on his 129th death anniversary



■ Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), paying revolutionary tribute to great Friedrich Engels at Shibpur Party Centre (left).

■ Comrade K. Radhakrishna, Polit Bureau member SUCI(C), offering red salute to the great leader at Bangalore (right).

### Discussion on Great Engels

A discussion on the life and teachings of great Friedrich Engels was held in Subarna Banik Samaj Hall, Kolkata, on 12 August last. Comrades Chnadidas Bhattacharjee, Polit Bureau member and West Bengal State Secretary, and Subhas Dasgupta, Central Committee member, were the speakers. Comrade Navendu Pal, West Bengal State Secretariat member presided over.

### Justice for R G Kar victim

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evidences. On 14 August night when the streets were flooded with protesting women and men, a group of miscreants vandalized R G Kar hospital, particularly the emergency ward. Shattered glass, damaged medical equipment including life-saving devices, broken beds, and destroyed medicines lay scattered across rooms on the ground floor. While doctors and nurses could be seen trying to erect their protest tents again. Earlier, they ransacked the protest tents erected in front of the hospital, physically assaulted the protesters and warned them of dire consequence if they continued their movement. They even intimidated the visibly afraid nurses on duty, made indecent postures to them and said they would come back to outrage their modesty. During the whole operation, a large contingent of police along with RAF personnel stood as mute spectators.

Now let the common people decide who could have been behind such threat, intimidation and vandalism? Who other than the ruling TMC had been benefitted by this? In protest of such hooliganism, our Party decided at midnight to give a call of 12-hour general strike on 16 August. Just by campaigning on a single day, 15 August, the strike was made a running success. We congratulate the people for having responded so quickly and overwhelmingly to our call. The state Chief Minister had cautioned that strikes would not be tolerated in this state. Let her know that our Party along with other left parties had given call of many general strikes on people's issues during the Congress regime. During the CPI(M) rule also, our Party gave call for general strikes on eleven occasions in protest against various anti-people policies and atrocities.

This time also disdaining the red eyes of the government, we gave call of General Strike because this is a democratic right achieved from the very days of freedom movement.

The horrific incident of R G Kar hospital is not the first one. Earlier also similar bestial attacks were brought down on innocent victims in Kamduni and other places but the guilty have remained unpunished till date. During the CPI (M) rule, similar incident occurred in Bantala and other places including Singur and Nandigram. Every day, news of brutal rape, gang-rape and murder of women including minor girls are reported from the states ruled by the BJP or the Congress.

The BJP-ruled UP tops the list in this regard while women-trafficking is highest in West Bengal. Even in the CPI(M)-rule Kerala, such incidents of sexual assault and rape are taking place. Why are the BJP, Congress or CPI(M) not developing any protest movements in the states ruled by them? May be that this time, under pressure of movement, those involved in the R G Kar hospital incidents might be hauled up. It might not be so also. Uniting with all others, we demand exemplary punishment to the guilty. At the same time, we would like to point out that throughout the country, eve-teasing, kidnapping, rape, gang-rape and killings are going on and increasing unabated with every passing day.

Why there is such alarming incidents of crime against women? No one is born as a rapist nor is one born with human values. Human values are acquired from the society through struggle. Likewise, one is afflicted with vices bred by this rotten society. Once the youths of this country gallantly fought against the British imperialist rulers braving

bullets and batons, embraced gallows smilingly. But in independent India, why such perverse proclivities and criminal mind are noticed among a section of the youths? The answer was provided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of the SUCI(C) and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era way back in 1974.

He said: "...however acute a form oppression and penury may assume, the people of a country, a nation can still stand up firm and erect raising its head high even amidst severest of torture if its moral strength is not decimated....The Indian bourgeoisie too knows it, they have taken this lesson from history that just through state oppression, through coercion by the state machine and brutal repression by the police and the military—ultimately they may not be able to keep the people subdued. So the bourgeoisie conspires to break the backbone of the nation; cleverly destroy the moral backbone! Foster base instincts and vile traits-greed, propensity for cowardly attacks, indecency, inferiority complex, sycophancy, flattery to satisfy personal need...They want to break the backbone of the nation, they want to make man self-centred, develop antipathy to political movement

are becoming pawns in the hands of reactionary the ruling dispensations. They are used to kill people, create terror during elections and acts of vandalism in exchange for money with the police remaining as indulgent onlookers. They are creations as well as protectors of oppressive capitalism. So long as capitalism would exist, like all other crises, there will be no abatement of murder and rape.

But then, should the suffering people remain passive? Surely not. Like the ongoing movement for justice for R G Kar hospital victim, there ought to be waves of one after another powerful mass movements. Side by side, it is imperative to inspire the adolescents and youths with the life and teachings of the aforesaid luminaries of both rural and urban areas. On Sundays and holidays, sports events, dramas, recitations, debates and discussions on the life and struggle of men of eminence need to be organized to give correct direction of life to these blooming and budding new generation. Also is necessary to build up committees and volunteer corps against atrocities on women with honest courageous men and women who will jump into action to save any endangered woman and will spearhead protest and resistance movements against all injustice.

We fervently appeal to all citizens as well as workers of other

### Successful General Strike on 16 August in West Bengal at the call of SUCI(C)

among the people, and trample in the mud and destroy all sense of values."

This warning has become a pathetic reality today. During British rule, in a society encumbered with age-old creeds of feudal orthodoxy, superstitious beliefs and obscurantism, eminent personalities like Rammohan, Vidyasagar, Rabindranath, Jotiba Phule, Saratchandra, Premchand, Nazrul, Subramaniya Bharati, Netaji Subhas, Bhagat Singh, Jyotiprosad Agarwal, Bal Gangadhar Tilak, Lala Lajpat, Masterda Surya Sen, Chandrasekhar Azad and others had tried to infuse new higher morality and ethics among the students and youths. Today, the ruling monopolists and their servitors have orchestrated a heinous design to consign these great men and their teachings to oblivion with a view to emasculating the youths from within. All efforts are made to plunge the youths in the dungeon of cultural degradation and sex-perversion by being lured towards liquor, drug, gambling, pornography, and such other toxins. A group of such conscienceless youths stripped of human essence

political parties to come forward and shoulder this responsibility in right earnest. Otherwise, whether you are associated with any party or not, there will be no guarantee to safety of women of our families nor will there be any guarantee of our male children being not spoiled.

At the end, let us recall the words of Rabindranath—

"He who does injustice and  
he who tolerates it,  
May thy divine wrath  
strike them both as a straw  
is burnt by fire!"

Also let us be reminded of Netaji Subhas's call: "In schools, colleges, at home, in the streets, wherever you will see injustice, prevent that by jumping like a hero. Then you will instantaneously be hailed as a hero....whatever little I have achieved in my small life is by following this process". Our great leader and teacher Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had said: "If you do not voice protest against injustice, you are not worthy of being called a human being." Let our task be decided based on these invaluable teachings.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH