

Struggling leftism can alone change the current situation—Comrade Provash Ghosh

[This is the English translation of the speech delivered by Comrade Provash Ghosh, our beloved General Secretary, in Bengali, on 5 August 2026 in Kolkata on the occasion of 50th death anniversary of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, founder of the SUCI(C) and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era. Responsibility of translation error and inadequacy of expression, if any, lies with the Editorial Team of Proletarian Era]

Comrade President, comrades and friends,

50 years back, on this day of 5 August, we lost Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary of the SUCI(C), great leader of the proletariat and an outstanding Marxist thinker of the era. After his demise, we observe his memorial day every year and assemble in a meeting to recall his revolutionary life and struggle, his invaluable teachings, and as his students renew our pledge to carry forward the revolutionary task he adjured. At one time, this 5 August would come when I shall not be there. Many of you who are aged would also not be there. But 5 August would come year after year with the clarion call of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh. It would beseech our conscience to strengthen the SUCI(C), the genuine Marxist party on the soil, organize revolutionary movement and overthrow the oppressive capitalist system and establish socialism.



People's power is irresistible

Comrade President has referred to the recent students' and youths' movement in Delhi and its massive impact all over the country. Cockroach Janata Party initiated the movement. But this party has no existence in any province or district. It exists only in the media. The movement surged forth against leakage of the question papers of NEET, the medical entrance examination.

Repeatedly, question papers are being leaked. 20 students have committed suicide because of leakage of question papers. A few more committed suicide in earlier years for the same reason. The movement erupted in protest against this. The movement was continuing for days. But there was no response on the part of the government. No one from the government side cared to contact the agitating students and youths. In such a situation, the protesters gave a call for a march to Parliament. In waves after waves people streamed on to the streets of Delhi. This huge protesting masses were not acquainted with each other, were not aware from which state the others had come from, which language they spoke, which

religion they professed. But they had all assembled spontaneously based on a single demand. The wraths and grievances accumulated over various unbearable crises in life burst out in the form of a volcanic eruption. The government used nail-fitted batons, tear gas shells, pellet guns to disperse the agitators. Even barricades with electric current were put up. The police even attacked women protesters at their private parts. All such brutal methods were adopted to break the movement. But as I have said earlier, when the people's power manifest itself in the form of movement, it cannot be overpowered. Delhi movement proved that once again. The Union education minister was forced to resign. The fascist government was compelled to bow down.

From this, if one assumes that there would be no further question leaks, no more corruption, then that would be wrong. In 2011, a similar movement had taken place against corruption of the then Congress government. Capitalizing on that, the BJP and AAP had captured governmental power promising to abolish corruption. And now both of them have surpassed the Congress in corruption. Five years back, a historic peasants' movement in Delhi had rocked the country. 713 peasants courted martyrdom in course of the movement. The BJP government was forced to accept the demand of repealing the four anti-peasant laws under pressure of the movement. But now the BJP government is trying to bring back the same anti-peasant policies under a different cloak. So again, the peasants are gearing up for a fresh movement. It is therefore clear that even if the government is compelled to yield to the demands under pressure of movement, it would again look for an opportunity to reintroduce the anti-people policies if the movement loses steam.

Present capitalist system is steeped neck-deep in corruption

The present capitalist system, its politics, its state structure, government, judiciary, bureaucracy, edifice of law and order—all are mired in corruption. The bourgeois parties, their leaders are all corrupt. Corruption has become deeply entrenched in every sphere of this decaying society. Before an election, the opposition party or parties cry hoarse about the corruption of the ruling party and give a slew of promises. But once they win election, they undergo a *volte face*. All these parties and their leaders are hypocrites, liars, cheats. So, the corruption of any government surpasses its predecessor. This is the common feature of all bourgeois parties, irrespective of hues.

PM Modi himself had said that he would “*neither be corrupt nor let others be corrupt*”. (Na khaunga na khane dunga) What is his position now? Only I will only have everything and not allow you people to have anything. (Hum khayenge, tumko kuchh nehi denge). See corruption has gone to what extent. The RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar had bestirred the country with the name of Rama, orchestrated communal riots, demolished Babri Masjid, a historical monument, to build Ram Mandir on that land, spent thousands of crores of rupees amassed through people's donations and installed an idol of Rama in that temple. And now it has come to light that thousands of crores of rupees and jewellery contributed by the devotees have been plundered. The temple committee consisted of RSS-BJP- Sangh Parivar people. These self-proclaimed disciples of Rama have embezzled the treasury of the Rama temple. Similar speculation has taken place in other temples also. A poacher has turned gamekeeper! The idol cannot protect its property. This bears eloquent testimony to what height corruption has ascended.

Freedom is only for the capitalists

You know that 15 August is in the offing. In Kolkata, preparations are going on at Red Road for a gala celebration. Starting from Presidential palace in Delhi to the governor houses in different provinces all will be luminous with splendour. The leaders would deliver speeches on patriotism. Then there will be grand feasts in five-star hotels. Many hungry children in different states and cities will throng the dustbins to feed themselves on the remains of the meals. This would be the food of these rickety malnutrition-stricken children. These children are born on the footpath and live on the footpath. Lakhs of such hapless children staying on footpaths and railway stations in various cities somehow survive by consuming wastes from the dustbins. They do not know which state or village they belong to, who their parents are. And they die on the footpath only. Every day, several thousands of people are dying of starvation and in absence of medical treatment. Modesty of several thousands of women are outraged every day. Many are raped and gang-raped. Did the revered freedom fighters and revolutionaries like Kshudiram, Masterda Surya Sen, Binoy-Badal-Dinesh, Pritilata Waddadar, Bhagat Singh, Chandrasekhar Azad, Asfaqullah Khan and Udham Singh embrace martyrdom to see such a country after independence? Is it for such a kind of freedom that Netaji Subhashchandra fought for with his Azad Hind Fouz and gave his life?

Why has the country come to be in such a sordid condition? For whom has been this independence? This independence is for the Indian national bourgeoisie. It is the freedom for their unbridled loot, plunder and oppression. Highlighting this truth, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had pointed out to the countrymen on 15 August 1948 that there were two distinct trends in our freedom movement. One was a comprising trend under the leadership of Gandhiji. This trend of earnest entreaties and repeated requests was supported and patronized by the aspirant Indian national bourgeoisie. The other uncompromising trend was in favour of armed struggle to free the motherland from the shackles of the alien rulers. The majority of the oppressed countrymen had backed this uncompromising trend. Netaji Subhas was the living embodiment of this trend. Before being elected President of the Congress in Haripura session, Netaji said that the workers and peasants must be involved in the freedom movement. He emphasized on fighting against oppression and repression of the bourgeoisie and the landlords. He declared *“Against this background of imperialist conspiracy throughout the world there stands Soviet Russia, whose very existence strikes terror into the heart of the ruling classes in every imperialist state.”* This statement of his had sent shivers down the spine of the British imperialists and the Indian national bourgeoisie. So, in the next presidential election, the Gandhites with the backing of the Indian bourgeoisie fielded Pattabhi Sitaramayya against Subhash Chandra. But Subhash Chandra defeated Pattabhi Sitaramayya with the support of the leftists and revolutionaries and was reelected as the Congress President. But the Gandhites did not allow him to function properly. They created hindrance at every step. So, Subhashchandra was compelled to resign as Congress President at the session in Wellington Square in 1939. But there were thousands of supporters of Subhash Chandra around the venue. The conspirator Gandhite leaders were unable to leave the venue. Subhashchandra then persuaded the people to remove the blockade and helped the Gandhite leaders to leave the place safely. Rajendra Prasad, who then became the Congress President was invited by Subhashchandra at his residence. Enamoured by Netaji's sense of decency, vigour and valour, Rabindranath conferred the title Deshanayak (Protagonist of the Nation) on him. These are all history.

Recently, one BJP leader, without naming Subhashchandra directly, accused him of encouraging his followers to pelt stones at Shyama Prasad Mukherjee in a public meeting. The courtesy Subhashchandra had shown to the Gandhite leaders even after being humiliated by them does not by any stretch of imagination corroborate the allegation of the BJP leader. It is totally unbelievable and a tryst with utter falsehood.

But what prompts the BJP leaders to say such things now? Because Subhashchandra had stood against Hindu Mahasabha. He only alerted the Indian people of the danger Hindu Mahasabha posed before them. His opposition to Hindu Mahasabha was from the ideological point of view. He said a few reactionary persons have been maligning Hinduism by establishing Hindu Mahasabha and defaming politics. Those who pitch Hindus against the Muslims, like the British imperialists, they should also be considered as enemies of the country. His observation on Hindu Mahasabha was then accepted by the Indian people. They rejected Hindu Mahasabha, the mentor of the BJP. The BJP has not forgotten that even today. So, they have ushered in a false and slanderous propaganda against Subhashchandra. Will the people of West Bengal as well as the entire country accept such calumny against Netaji Subhash? You all know that RSS-BJP had opposed the Indian Freedom movement from the very inception. They called the freedom fighters traitors and enemies of the country. Savarkar, the founder of Hindu Mahasabha had first mooted the proposal of division of the country in 1937. His contention was the Hindus and the Muslims represent two nations. Muslim League gladly endorsed such proposition in 1939. As a consequence to this, the country was vivisected.

Friends, how could the Gandhites succeed in removing Subhashchandra from Presidentship of the Congress? Because most of the people of the country nurtured a mindset that they would accept whatever the leaders would say. Because they were in no mood to understand politics. Gandhiji was viewed as a saint. How could a saint commit a mistake? The countrymen did not understand that the Indian bourgeoisie as well as the British imperialists were backing Gandhiji's policies. That is why they did not reject Gandhiji's views and stand by Subhashchandra. Many of our people do not know that Subhashchandra was suspended from the Congress because he gave a call to develop movement against the British imperialist rulers. Netaji said that he was virtually expelled from the Congress. As a last attempt, Netaji gave a call for left consolidation by uniting all the left forces. Regrettably, the undivided CPI and Congress Socialist party did not respond to his call. Having no other option, Netaji had to leave the country, and taking advantage of the Second World War, tried to spearhead an armed struggle to achieve freedom by forming Azad Hind Fouz outside the country. Had the people then sought to understand politics, spot the difference between the political lines of Gandhiji and Subhashchandra, would then the spectacle of post-independent India have been so horrific?

By changing government through vote, basic problems of life cannot be solved

Just think, how the countrymen have been repeatedly committing the same mistake. People have been changing the government by casting vote in favour of this or that power-monger party. West Bengal had a Congress government uninterruptedly from 1947 to 1966. For a few years, there was a united front government. Thereafter, the Janata Party formed the government at the Centre. Both RSS and Jana Sngh

(immediate predecessor of the BJP) were constituents of the Janata conglomerate. The CPI(M) was saddled in power in 1977 with the help of the Janata party and by raising slogan of ushering in a change. It ruled the state for 34 long years. When people were disgusted with the misrule of the CPI(M) government, the bourgeois media posed Mamata Banerjee as the alternative. The media even spruced up her image by calling her 'Agni kanya' (lady of fire). TMC of Mamata Banerjee knocked out the CPI(M)-led government and formed the government. Again, aggrieved with the TMC, a section of the people, being carried away by the mischievous propaganda of the BJP – the apostle of Hinduism – voted it to power. Have these changes brought any relief to the people, any change in their sufferings? Has the unemployment problem waned or been growing rapidly with every passing day? Have the prices of essential commodities, retrenchment, rape, gang-rape, corruption decreased or increased?

Common people need to understand politics

This is what Comrade Shibdas Ghosh had urged upon one and all 52 years back. Pointing out what has been the outcome of the movements that have surged forth so far, he said when there is a wave of movement, the atmosphere is surcharged with the fervour of the movement, people do not wrack their brain on whether the leadership is correct or whether the path of the movement is correct. There is no attempt to make them deeply ponder over these questions. People of this country have fought in the past. They will fight in the future as well. But they need to understand: what is the nature of the existing socio-political system? How to change this exploitative order? What are the obstacles before bringing about that change? Who is the main enemy? What is the character of the state? What is the character of the economic system? Who is to be overthrown? In order to lead the mass movements as conducive to revolutionary movement purported to change the society, what should be the nature of revolutionary politics to guide it? What should be the strategies, tactics and codes of the movements? Unless we have a correct understanding of all these aspects, we shall conduct struggles after struggles centring on economic and political demands, sacrifice our lives but the movements will not yield the desired result as has been the case so far. Based on immense sacrifice of the struggling people, an anti-government sentiment would crop up. And exploiting that sentiment, the parliamentary parties who are contenders for the seat of power would reap electoral benefits.

Recently, a massive movement of students and youths swept across Delhi. The participants braved all odds, faced baton-pellet-tear gas of the police, and were physically assaulted as well. But what would be the consequence? The BJP would stick to power by giving false promises and using its pliant Election Commission. Who select the members of the Election Commission? A committee comprising the Prime Minister, another a Cabinet Minister and the leader of the Opposition. Two of the three belong to the BJP. So, this Election Commission works according to the dictates of the BJP. Just like how the CBI and ED earlier used to function as per orders of the Congress. Now they act according to the commands of the BJP. The entire system is running like this. So, election would take place as per the convention that has been witnessed of late. Besides, there is SIR (Special Intensive Revision) which would deprive many genuine Indian citizens of voting right. Moreover, there would be tampering of the EVMs or ballot boxes and manipulations during counting. In spite of all these, even if the Congress and its allies win the majority at the hustings, will there be any difference? The Congress was in power for so many years. In 2014, the

BJP won the election using mounting discontent of the people against the Congress. Has that lessened the sufferings of the toiling millions?

People's hardship is growing in capitalist rule

Has there been any change in the condition of the oppressed people in West Bengal either? The BJP promised to build 'Sonar Bangla' (Golden Bengal). But, right after being saddled in power, the BJP government evicted several lakhs of hawkers and bulldozed the slums to turn the slum-dwellers into beggars overnight. Do people take up hawking of volition or compulsion? There is no scope for getting jobs. Unemployment is spiralling. 20 or 30 years back, no one was acquainted with the word 'migrant labourer'. Today, thousands of migrant labourers are coming from the villages to the towns in search for jobs. Even they are migrating to other states where some jobs are available. Thousands of labourers are going abroad to work virtually as slaves. Many labourers are trafficked to other countries. It is learnt that the Indian labourers who migrated to Russia in search for jobs have been used as hired soldiers in the ongoing war against Ukraine. Quite a number of them have lost their life. Indian labourers, both men and women, work in the privately owned oilfields of Saudia Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Jordan and other West Asian counties under harsh working conditions. A few months back, a good number of illegal Indian infiltrators were sent back by USA. They were all chained like ancient slaves. It shows that in desperate search for jobs, Indian citizens are also entering other countries illegally. The BJP raises hue and cry over illegal intruders from neighbouring Bangladesh. I am not ruling out such illegal infiltration altogether. But are all such intruders 'jihadis' (Carrying out extremist activities in the name of religion)? It has come to be known of late that 60,000 abjectly poor people from Morocco swam through the sea to reach the shores of Spain. They have been debarred from entering that country by using iron fencing. In the process, a few hundreds of the Moroccans lost their lives. All such things are happening round the world. India is now full of gig and migrant labourers. There are only very few permanent employees in the government offices, banks, railways or private sector companies. Most of the workers there are hired on contract and appointed through contractors. These lakhs and lakhs of contract labourers have no fixed working hours, no fixed wage.

Under these circumstances girls in lakhs are trafficked from the villages. According to government data, over 4 lakh women have been trafficked out of the country in last five years. The actual number is much higher. They lure the girls in the name of jobs or marriage and then rape them. Thereafter, the girls are sold at Rs 20,000 or 30, 000. Many are sold abroad at higher price. For a good number of touts, women trafficking is a roaring business. Are not the government, the ministers and the police aware of the credentials of these traffickers? But are they intervening in any way to stop such a criminal offence? This is the nature of freedom in our country.

No one is outside politics

Had Kshudiram, Surya Sen, Pritilata, Udham Singh, Bhagat Singh or Asfaquallah Khan been witness to such repugnant things, how would they have reacted? Did they struggle for such freedom? Why has such rot engulfed the country? Because, people at large stay aloof from politics. They think that politics is not

for them to understand. They believe they only live from hand to mouth and have to somehow eke out a living. But they are not aware that politics governs every aspect of their life. Whether it is the price of salt or edible oil or a utensil, is determined by politics. Politics decides whether there would be scope for education in the schools or availability of any job. Politics regulates life. Again, it is politics that determines who should form the government, whom you should vote for. No one is outside politics. Yet people are averse to understanding politics. People need to be educated about the fact that this society is divided between two classes—the oppressor and the oppressed, the rich and the poor, labour and capital, the exploiters and the exploited. Politics itself is also class divided. The politics of the ruling oppressor class, the capitalists, run the Indian country. And the governments are their political managers. In earlier days, the landlords used to have estate managers. Today, the governments are such stewards of the ruling capitalist class. And the ministers are its paid servants.

The Congress, BJP, Samajwadi party and their ilk who contest and win elections, often form governments, they are all political managers of the ruling capitalists. The capitalists finance them, they ask the media houses owned by them to give these parties wide coverage. The capitalists only decide which party is to be brought to power. Accordingly, they manipulate the campaign to ensure that the party of their choice is brought into the limelight and made acceptable to the people as the right choice. People are carried away by this campaign trail. And people are deceived by being trapped in this well-knit bourgeois ploy. They will again be cheated if they do not understand politics. The constitution, judicial system, police-military are all wedded to the task of sustaining this exploitative capitalist system. Suffering countrymen must be able to make out who are struggling to uphold the cause of the people by saying that bourgeois election system will bring no succour to the misery and penury of the masses, and giving call of anti-capitalist socialist revolution. On the other hand, which parties are trying to prolong this ruthlessly exploitative capitalist order holding brief for vote-based politics. While at home, or in the workplace, people need to cultivate politics. Otherwise, they will continue to be deceived. This or that party will ascend the throne promising creation of Sonar Bangla. And in no time, the vulgar face of Sonar Bangla will be unfolded. Then after 5 to 10 years, another party will come to power in the name of bringing change. As one can see, the CPI(M) is now preparing itself to recapture power once the BJP becomes discredited.

Not vote-mongering, struggling leftism is required to develop genuine people's struggle

You are aware that in 2019 the CPI(M) abandoned leftism and voted in favour of the BJP, raising the slogan of 'Aage Ram Pore Bam' (first Rama, and later the lefts). Had not the CPI(M) voted for the BJP then, it would not have been possible for the BJP to surface so strongly. If you enquire, you would find that in the bygone assembly election also, except for a few constituencies, the CPI (M) voted for the BJP. The CPI (M) leaders convinced their cadres that let the TMC go now and the BJP assume power. Then will come the chance for the CPI (M). We have no objection to the CPI (M)'s forming the government. But one question needs to be answered. The CPI (M) was in power for 34 years. Neither the Congress nor the TMC ruled for so many years. Then why did the people of West Bengal go against them in 2011? If electoral victory of the CPI(M) means strengthening of leftism, then why did the people of West Bengal

shift preference towards arch rightist BJP? Leftism was supposed to be much stronger in 34 years. But why then has the reverse happened?

What is leftism? During the freedom movement, Bhagat Singh, Netaji Subhash had referred to leftism. At that time, there were a few parties and forces who believed in Marxism. The parties which carried the name 'Marxist' or 'Communist' were not formed as genuine Marxist parties. That is why Comrade Shibdas Ghosh took upon himself the historic task of developing SUCI(C) as a genuine Marxist party on this soil. Despite the difference between the SUCI(C) and other left parties, united left movement surged forth in the country and created history.

Both the CPI(M) and the CPI were once stayed within the vortex of mass struggle. They were partners of united left movement from 1952 to 1966. Even today, the CPI(M) has a veteran leader named Biman Basu. If you ask him, you would be able to know that during that period, both he and I had faced baton-bullet of the police. We fought together. That was struggling leftism. But after tasting power in 1967, the CPI(M) has changed completely. Our Party had said that if the leftists form a government – to crush the legitimate movements of the peasants and workers with the help of the police, would not be allowed. On this issue, the CPI(M) differed with us. I want to recollect that before the assembly election of 1977, Jyoti Basu, the CPI(M) leader in his radio speech had clearly said— 'If the CPI(M) is voted to power this time, then there will be no law and order problem, no movement or unrest as had happened during the United Front period because the SUCI(C) was a constituent of that government. But now the SUCI(C) is no more with us.' Whom did he try to assure? The people of West Bengal? No, his message was to the capitalist class. During its 34 year-long rule, the CPI(M) government only served the class interest of the capitalists. During that period, we had to organize movements against price rise and transport fare hike. The CPI(M) government had eliminated English from primary education and abolished the pass-fail system. Against that, we built up powerful education movement involving front-ranking educationists and intellectuals. After 19 years of sustained movement, the CPI(M) government was compelled to bring back English at primary level. At Shantipur of Nadia district, the CPI(M) government opened fire on agitating peasants and killed some of them. Similarly, jute mill workers of Titagarh also fell to the bullet of the CPI(M) government. The CPI (M) government also killed dock labourers of Khidderpore area of Kolkata and unleashed lethal attack on the peasants opposing forcible land grab in Singur. It also sought to forcibly seize huge stretch of fertile land in Nandigram for handing over to the infamous Salem group of Indonesia. The peasants resisted that by developing a historic movement. During that movement, the CPI(M) government had opened fire on two occasions killing 14 peasants and grievously injuring many more. It assembled notorious anti-socials from various parts of the state and let them loose on the women. So many women were raped and gang-raped there. That batch of anti-socials later switched sides and turned into a TMC force. Now they might once again change camp and join the BJP. After this criminal incident of Nandigram, we said, 'the CPI (M) government must go'. Because if it remained in power after all this, it would intensify oppression and repression on the people and perpetrate even more brutal attacks on democratic movement. Before that, we had never supported any no confidence proposal against the CPI(M) government in the assembly, had never given a call to dislodge the government. But that time we supported the TMC in the election. We did so mainly for three reasons. We duly kept the people informed of the same. First of all, as I have

already said, we wanted electoral defeat of the CPI(M). Secondly we knew that whether we extended our support to the TMC, or not, it would win the election and launch a campaign against Marxism-leftism. So, we made it a condition for the TMC that it could speak against the CPI(M) but would not attack Marxism-Leftism. The TMC agreed to that. Thirdly, movements in both Singur and Nandigram were initiated by our Party only. Having been organized under the banner of 'Krishi Jami Raksha Committee' (Committee for protecting agricultural land), the peasants were developing powerful resistance movement at our initiative in Singur. When the movement was at its peak, the TMC supremo disturbed the movement by sitting in a hunger strike in Kolkata as if it would solve the problem. And seizing that opportunity, the CPI(M) government had grabbed the multi-crop land in Singur. The TMC supremo had practically no role in Nandigram movement. You will be surprised to know the name of the then TMC leader who played some role in the Nandigram movement. It is really surprising how one changes one's political colour just for the sake of trivial political interest. We had conducted the struggle involving common people. But the media credited the TMC for the Singur-Nandigram movements. There was total blackout for our Party in the mainstream media. So, we wanted to ensure that the TMC was not in a position to arrogate to itself the entire credit during the election. We wanted people to know that our Party was in the forefront of those movements. With these three objectives, we at that time supported the TMC in the election. Alongside, we also made it clear that once the TMC would form the government, we would organize movements on the demands of the people. And we did so. People are aware of it. During the TMC rule, our workers were physically assaulted on a number of occasions. Some of our comrades were murdered as well. Those of the CPI(M) who propagate that it is due to the support of our Party that the TMC could come to power, deliberately spread a lie. How many votes do we control that we can defeat or make a party victorious? The TMC would have won anyway. We supported them for the three aforesaid reasons, not being lured of getting MPs or MLAs.

In 2002, the CPI(M) leaders had invited me to their regional headquarters at Alimuddin street, Kolkata, and made a proposal of having an electoral alliance with them. Biman Basu was present there. Had we agreed to their proposal, we might have got a good number of MLAs and MPs, even ministerial berths. But we said, no. We made it emphatically clear that let them first come back to the path of struggling leftism. Then only there could be talk about forging an electoral alliance. Fact is that like the misrule of the Congress, TMC and BJP, the CPI(M) rule is also deeply entrenched in the minds of the people as out and out anti-people.

Our Party runs on people's donations

We conduct class and mass movements. We do not beg the capitalists for funds to meet election expenses. All other parties are patronized by the capitalists. In this meeting, there are so many comrades, supporters, sympathizers as well as common people. Our comrades have collected donations from the common masses in the streets, at the railway stations and through door to door approach. All the expenses of this meeting—pandal, light, and amplifiers—have been met from public collection. We have never bent ourselves before the capitalists and big business. This Party is of the proletariat, the have-nots and the oppressed millions. We are conducting our revolutionary activities with their support. I call upon the CPI(M) leaders to return to the path of struggling leftism. We do not nurture any hatred against you. Come back to the path of

movement. Please do not confer the title 'secular' on a Muslim saint just for the sake of garnering Muslim votes. Similarly, you have made the Congress, which engineered many communal riots, a secular party. The very word secularism has a definite meaning. Secularism stipulates that religion should not have any place in politics, in governance, in administration, education or social relations. Religion would be entirely a personal affair. Some may believe in religion, some may not. I appeal to the CPI (M) workers to shun vote-based politics and return to the path of movement, uphold the banner of struggling leftism. We shall once again fight together. During the CPI(M) rule, over 200 of our leaders and cadres have been murdered. There is a martyrs' column even here of Comrade Madhai Halder. He fell to the bullet of the police of the CPI(M) government and embraced martyrdom at this very place in 1990. In spite of all these, we do not harbour any hatred against you. If the workers and supporters of the CPI(M) join united movement spearheaded by struggling leftism, the movement will gather strength.

BJP is destroying both education and culture

Friends, today the BJP, the most trusted party of the ruling monopolists, is in power. If you respect Raja Rammohan Roy who was first to spread the thoughts of Renaissance on this soil then encumbered in feudal orthodoxy and obscurantism, you must remember that he totally opposed Sanskrit education. He said that Sanskrit education would take the country to the abyss of darkness. For two thousand years, Sanskrit education had caused immense harm to the country. He held that the Vedanta disregards the objective reality. The Vedanta-based education cannot create modern men. So, he advocated introduction of Physics, Chemistry, Natural science and Natural philosophy in the syllabus. After Rammohan came Vidyasagar. Rabindranath said that *'the crowning glory of Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar's character is not mere compassion or learning but invincible manhood and imperishable humanness'*. Vidyasagar boldly preached to free the students from the influence of the Sankhya-Vedanta. He had contemplated that the student community in India, by learning English language would come in contact with the science and knowledge of the West, as a result of which they would free themselves from the influence of spiritualism of *Vedas-Vedanta-Sankhya* and based on this only, they would advance with modern scientific ideas. Vidyasagar did not believe in God. He never performed *puja*. Ramkrishna had come to his house to pay respect to him. Without naming the Kali temple situated there, Ramkrishna invited him to come to Dakshineswar to visit the garden of Rani Rashmoni. But Vidyasagar did not go. The BJP is totally opposed to these thoughts of Renaissance upheld by Rammohan-Vidyasagar. It is also opposed to the thoughts of Jyotiba Phule as well as Rabindranath, Saratchandra, Premchand, Nazrul. In the name of reviving 'Sanatan dharma', the RSS-BJP are bringing to the fore the ancient Veda-Vedanta-Monu Samhita. Will you all accept this? Will the countrymen allow this? They are including bizarre fables in the text books. Ten thousand years back, India had television as well as internet. The sages used to fly in aeroplane. The elephant head of Lord Ganesha proves that plastic surgery was in practice in those days. Gandhari, the mythical character of the Mahabharata, is stated to have one hundred children. The RSS-BJP claim that this bears testimony of test tube baby and stem cell treatment in ancient Indian soil. All such ridiculous narrations are emanating from the RSS-BJP leadership. Had Vidyasagar been alive today, what would have been his reaction? Perhaps he would have advocated that better abolish that education system. They are proscribing the teaching of Darwin's theory of evolution. The entire Mughal period has been dropped

from the curriculum. So, the students will be in the dark about 300 years of Mughal rule. Who constructed the Red Fort from which the BJP leaders are delivering speeches or the Taj Mahal, Qutub Minar and such other wonderful monuments? Was it the sages of the ancient period or the flag-bearers of Sanatan Dharma? The RSS-BJP proclaim themselves as champions of Hinduism. But if you look at the preachings of Chaitanya, Ramkrishna or Vivekananda about Hindu religion, you will find that they were totally opposed to what the RSS-BJP are advocating. Which one will you accept?

Now serious attacks have been brought down in two spheres. One is on education. There is to be 'no detention' upto class XII. Only there are semesters. The importance of the teachers has been curtailed. They are re-designated as facilitators. Teaching will be mainly online. Not only in our country but all over the world, the children get their first lesson from the parents. Then it is the teachers from whom they learn. The face to face interaction between the teachers and the students, which cement the bond between the two is being given a decent burial as education will be largely online. The importance of in depth teaching of basic subjects like literature, philosophy, science, economics, is being reduced. Instead, the emphasis is now on vocational education. Stress is now on specialization about which Einstein had sounded the caution that this would turn human beings into machines and robots rather than well-rounded individuals. The scope for development of mental faculties, the sense of right and wrong, the ability to distinguish between what is logical and what is illogical can take place by studying different aspects of knowledge, science, and through the study of literature, will cease to exist. They are taking education to the precipice of such ruination. If the students remain ignorant, they will not question anything and remain blindfolded. Rabindranath believed that true education happens when a living soul is inspired by another living soul through direct human interaction rather than lifeless mechanical instruction, just as only water fills a water vessel, only a flame kindles another flame, only from a living body springs another living body. Only a complementary spiritual bond between a teacher and a student can ensure education to flow like blood in a living body. But the RSS-BJP are trying to discard such valuable advice of the luminaries. Throughout the country, they are trying to create a world of ignorance where people will not raise any question, not seek to know the truth, not be able to analyze anything on the anvil of logic and reason and will be bereft of any sense of right and wrong.

There is another serious onslaught on humanity. That is of destroying the character, dispossessing one of humanness and killing the conscience. Ruling capitalism and its servitor parties are spoiling the youths by encouraging alcohol consumption, heroin and drug addiction, vulgar discussion over female physique, viewing pornographic films and so forth. Just a few days ago, on 29 July, the 136th death anniversary of Vidyasagar had passed. How many people were aware of that? Such a gigantic personality of the Indian Renaissance he was. But there was not a single line about him in the print media. Hardly was there any cultivation of his life struggle and contributions. 11 August, the Martyrdom Day of Kshudiram, is in the offing. How many of the countrymen remember that? The print media covers only the stories about cricketers, gossips about the lives of the film stars, who is dating whom, whose marriage is on the verge of breaking, who has how many palatial buildings, how many luxurious cars and so forth. What kind of character will be developed if such "celebrities" become the idols? If the youths of the country are ignorant about the life and struggle of the illustrious characters like Rammohan-Vidyasagar-Phule-Rabindranath-

Saratchandra-Nazrul-Subhashchandra-Bhagat Singh-Pritilata-Chandrasekhar Azad-Asfaquallah Khan, how will their own characters be built along the right track? Do you find any concern anywhere about it?

Guided by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh Thought, we cultivate the life and struggle of the past luminaries. He taught us to first learn from these great men, acquire the qualities they possessed. After assimilating and exhausting their qualities can we step on the higher rung, i.e. communist ideology and character. Today, the common masses acknowledge that the boys and girls of the SUCI(C) are very decent, courteous, unassuming and honest. In this milieu enshrouded in darkness, wherefrom our boys and girls acquire such higher qualities, such modesty, such politeness? This is the endowment of Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought. In our Party, we do not practice to become humbugs but struggle to build higher characters.

So, we must be careful about these two attacks. You all come to know from the electronic and print media that every day so many rapes are taking place. A two year old baby girl is raped and killed. Octogenarian women are becoming rape victims. Father is raping daughter. Teacher is raping student. Could the great sons of the soil ever think of such things ever happening even in their dreams? Why are such crimes taking place? Because ruling capitalism and its servitors are destroying the moral backbone of the country, robbing the people of human essence. Alcohol shops are mushrooming. Channels of procuring drugs are abounding. When the CPI(M) was in power, it argued that more alcohol shops means more revenue. The TMC also gave the same reason. Now the BJP is also following suit. This rot has spread throughout the country. In most of the rape and murder cases, the culprits are found to be in an inebriated condition. Alcohol and drug addiction are creating such inhuman brutes. But the governments are unfazed. Can you think that students of Class V or VI are not just discussing sex but even getting involved in sex? To what depth of degeneration is the country sinking!

Imperialism is engineering wars in the interest of profit maximization

Turn your eyes to the entire world. US imperialism has launched a war of aggression on Iran. Israel, a relatively small country, has unleashed a war of occupation against Palestine with the backing of US imperialists. Tens of thousands of children, women, youths, aged persons have been mercilessly killed by Zionist Israeli regime. They have not spared expecting mothers also so that the Palestinian race is obliterated. This is the kind of brutality the imperialist-capitalist forces are perpetrating round the world. President Trump is a modern incarnation of Genghis Khan. He needs to establish exclusive dominance over the entire Middle-East. So, he has attacked Iran militarily. Earlier, US imperialists had occupied Iraq on a false pretext that Saddam Hussein, the President of Iraq, possessed weapons of mass destruction. Saddam was later assassinated by them, and Iraq was virtually razed to the ground. Now, their eye is on Iran. In order to occupy the oil fields of Venezuela, Trump administration abducted Venezuelan President from his residence by undertaking a covert overnight military action. US imperialism is trampling underfoot all canons of international law, diplomatic codes and principles. It even is not abiding by the prescripts of UNO which was once formed by it itself. This is the devilish face of imperialism-capitalism, the arch enemy of mankind. Had the Soviet Union formed, reared and steered by great Lenin and Stalin

been in existence, Chinese socialist state founded by great Mao Zedong been in vogue, would the US imperialists dare to carry out such overlordism and brigandage?

Capitalism is destroying environment

There is an unabated onslaught on the environment as well. The way the seas are rising, the city of Kolkata might cease to exist after 100 to 150 years. Because, in order to maximize profit by keeping the cost of production down, the capitalists are recklessly burning fossil fuel like coal, oil, and natural gas in the industrial units emitting greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide, methane etc., in huge quantity. They are not switching to alternative environment-friendly fuels. So, global warming is increasing. The glaciers are melting in the Antarctic region. Snow and ice covers have fallen back sharply in alpine regions, the edges of the Greenland icesheet and the Antarctic Peninsula have shrunk. Arctic summer sea ice has thinned. So, sea water level is getting warmed and rising. The thermal expansion of warming oceans is gradually submerging the coastal lands. Many rivers might vanish. Because of global warming, the climate is changing. Many new diseases are threatening mankind. Yet, the imperialists-capitalists are in no mood to lower use of fossil fuel lest their profit maximization objective is hampered. In order to unearth new mines, they are destroying stretches after stretches of forest land. The vast forests of the Andamans and Nicobar islands supply oxygen to us and function like lungs. Even there, lakhs and lakhs of trees are being felled.

So, I reiterate once again that imperialism-capitalism is worst enemy of the people. Ours is also a capitalist country. To overthrow capitalism, what is required is revolution. For accomplishing anti-capitalist socialist revolution, it is imperative to have a genuine revolutionary party. That revolutionary party on this soil is the SUCI(C) founded and reared by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh.

Comrades, you see, the starvation deaths, suicides by debt-ridden peasants, birth and death of children on the footpaths—these are all crises of civilization. This crisis is all-pervading, in family life, in social life, in marital life—everywhere. Affection, compassion, tender feelings, nobler feelings of the heart are all disappearing because of socio-cultural crisis. If there is no heart, how can there be nobler feelings of the heart? If there is no conscience, how would one feel the bite of conscience? Old parents are forced to bequeath properties by their child and then driven out of the house. In Europe and America, even in our country, parents are conveniently parked in old age homes. The affectionate family life has become elusive. There is no sweet relation or trust between husband and wife. Rather, they suspect each other of extra-marital relationships. Individualism, self-centredness, selfishness, dehumanization have engulfed our life. These all are attacks of capitalism. We have to fight against all these aberrations. For that what is needed is a genuine revolutionary party.

Once again I renew my appeal to you all – you need to understand politics. Please keep it in mind that any political party is either in favour of the oppressor class or the oppressed class. Amidst torrential rain, thousands of our workers, supporters and sympathizers are listening with rapt attention in a rare show of revolutionary discipline. But you will not find any coverage of this meeting in either the print or electronic media. At best, some papers may allot a miniscule space to just mention it and you would need a magnifying glass to locate that. Who own these media houses? The capitalists. They want to give wide publicity to such left parties who do not pose any threat to them, who rather abet this capitalist system.

They consider the SUCI(C) as their enemy. Growth of the SUCI(C) spells danger for them. Sometimes, they are compelled to report our programmes or statements, but do so as briefly as possible. But mostly they distort our version and spread confusion. But by doing all such things, could they wipe out our existence or hinder the growth of our Party? Our Party is growing in this state. Many promising vibrant young boys and girls are joining our Party. Many workers and peasants are also getting organized under our leadership. In fact, our Party is growing in other states also. In 26 states and 3 Union Territories, Memorial Day of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh is being observed.

Strengthen SUCI (Communist) further to steel struggling leftism

Truth is decisive. No one can arrest that. Marxism-Leninism-Shibdas Ghosh Thought is based on truth. So it is spreading rapidly. My appeal to all of you: make the SUCI(C) more powerful. Do take the pledge to move ahead overcoming all obstacles. Also help the masses to understand politics. Once again I call upon the CPI(M) workers to discard vote-oriented politics and join the mass movements based on struggling leftism. This state of West Bengal was the citadel of left-democratic movement. During their 34 yearlong rule the CPI(M) leaders, instead of relying on logic, rationality and reasoning, they took recourse to force and wanted to thrive on muscle power. By that, they have maligned leftism. No one can repudiate that history. Taking advantage of that, the TMC reared its head. Today, the BJP has come to power. In 1968-69, the CPI(M) had not yet formed a government based on its own strength. But observing its activities within the United Front government, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh said: "*...the fissiparous groups and religious fundamentalists like the Jana Sangh 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 p. 153) Exactly that has happened.

Once again I appeal to the conscience of the workers and supporters of the CPI (M) that blindly following the leaders is not what genuine leftism espouses, let alone Marxism. Such is not the practice in our Party. If I had asked our workers to vote for the BJP as a tactics, they would have straightaway refused. Why should those of you who have emotion for genuine leftism and communism obey such directives from the leaders? Does tactics mean opportunism? Will there not be an ideology? I urge the CPI(M) workers : Please do seriously ponder over these questions and try to bring back your party to the path of struggling leftism and movement.

Our Party shall continue to struggle, organize movements and face batons-bullets of the police. Our comrades may have to pay with their lives. But we shall boldly hold aloft the banner of revolution. Recalling the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, let us take a vow to carry forward the struggle for overthrowing capitalism. One day, I shall be no more, and many of those seated on the dais will not be there. But the struggle will continue. So, strive to assimilate the essence of Marxism - Leninism -Shibdas Ghosh Thought and also strive wholeheartedly to acquire revolutionary character. With these words, I