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Central Budget Going to be another Attack on the Masses

The central budget, the presentation of which is delayed by two weeks due to UP elections, is going to be another severe attack on the masses who are already gruelling under unprecedented price rise, rampant corruption and unemployment. Along with another price hike for petrol, the diesel also may be de-controlled with another hike in its price. Not only 100% of the FDI in retail sector, there is pressure from the corporate houses for allowing 100% FDI for the infrastructural projects also. Provisions for further commercialization of education are going to be implemented with the adoption of many bills presented already in parliament. There are plans to hike the railway passenger fares, which people are increasingly depending on, in spite of overcrowding and other difficulties, due to the continuous hike in the fares of other means of transport. All these proposals which are claimed to check intensifying stagnation are not only going to hike the growth of GDP, as the UPA government is speeding up the very policies causing it. Meanwhile the inflation rate artificially brought down to serve Congress' fortunes in the UP elections is going to shoot up after the presentation of the budget. As a result, *Stagflation* is bound to intensify. As the crisis confronting the international finance system is further escalating, its burden including cutting down of outsourcing will be transferred to neo-colonially dependent countries like India, further intensifying the deceleration of Indian economy and pauperization of the masses.

In short, the annual exercise of budget in these neo-liberal days is going to be another occasion for transferring the crisis faced by the international finance system and the Indian economy which is integrated to it, to the masses of the people. They have no other way out but to intensify their resistance to the heinous neo-liberal regime.

US Agent Manmohan Singh Blames US Based NGOs for Anti-Kudankulam Struggle

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh was hoping that once the AIADMK leaders and other political leaders including DMK are won over the Anti-Kudankulam struggle can be put down and this nuclear power plant can be commissioned. But contrary to his wishes not only at Kudankulam, but also at all old and newly proposed nuclear plant site anti-nuclear power struggles are intensifying. On 11th March countrywide resistance struggles against nuclear power is going to take place. In this situation, Manmohan Singh has come out with a new accusation that the US-based NGOs are behind the Anti-Kudankulam struggle, whipping up a campaign against the Russian aided project.

If it is so he has to answer many questions: Does he think that the NGOs are anti-system? If it is so, why he and his government are lauding for everything and incorporate them in everything? As he knows very well that the NGOs are part of the ruling system internationally and nationally, and if he has any proof that they are behind the agitation at Kudankulam, why can't he take the help of Obama to discipline them? Again, if the US based NGOs are opposing Russian aided Kudankulam project, who are behind the Jaitapur struggle against the proposed nuclear plant there using French equipments and knowhow?

The whole world knows that Manmohan Singh is nothing but an agent of US imperialism who was deputed from the international financial institutions to come to India in 1991 'to become next finance minister whichever party comes to power in order to introduce the imperialist globalization-liberalization-privatization regime. He is presiding over a cabinet which includes many like the commerce minister who take direct orders from the Yankees. So it is surprising how such a lackey and running dog of the US imperialists can accuse that all the fisher people and peasants and the democratic forces involved in the Anti-Kudankulam struggle are influenced by the US-backed NGOs.

Today the anti-nuclear power movement is an international movement spearheaded by the left and democratic forces. NGOs also may be involving in them. But the central slogans of the movement: No to Nuclear Plants; For Universal Nuclear Disarmament shows its radical nature. This struggle is linked to the struggle against the ecological catastrophe created by the devastating policies of imperialists and their lackeys. Only an imperialist agent like Manmohan can have the audacity to denounce a people's movement in this manner. People have to learn more to and intensify their hatred against the ruling system and the comprador rulers.

Should Kingfisher be Bailed Out?

Kingfisher airways is owned by Vijay Mallya, the liquor baron. If it is in red it is not due to any service done by corporate like him to the people or the country. The comprador rulers at Delhi and the top bureaucrats have so much time to discuss about how to bail him out. The corporate media also wrote editorials to help him. They are not asking why Kingfisher went in to red even when the domestic airfare was hiked by 18% in 2011? Now at the winking from the finance ministry the State Bank of India has agreed to provide R5,14,000 crores to bail him out.

Due to the reluctance of the consecutive governments at centre and in the states to write off the small loans of the poor and marginal peasants, hundreds of thousands of them are continuing to commit suicide every year. But Vijay Mallya like barons are bailed out taking lessons from what Bush-Obama rulers do in US. It should be condemned and opposed ruthlessly

Crony Capitalist System of a banana republic? Whom does the Supreme Court Serve?

The income department had charged Rs. 11,000 crores from Vodafone Co. The Maharashtra High Court rejected an appeal against it. Bu last month a three member Supreme Court bench chaired by Kapadia has exempted the corporate company from paying the income tax in the name of a Double Taxation Exemption Treaty signed by Indian government with tax havens like Mauritius. In this case, the Vodafone claimed that since the transfer of its Indian Telecom firm's shares and assets was achieved in Cayman Island (a name probably not known to most) with which India has signed the DTET, it is not liable to pay tax in India.

UPA Government Intensifies Infringement on Constitutional Provisions in the name of Tightening Security Arrangements. Earlier in similar cases the Supreme Court had decisively frowned upon tax avoidance schemes. So Maharashtra High Court had rejected Vodafone contention that its Cayman island transaction was not liable to tax. But now going against earlier orders of the full bench of the Supreme Court, the 3 member bench has accepted the Vodafone claim and exempted it from paying the huge tax which was to be recovered immediately. The media created an atmosphere favourable for this, repeating that stringent tax measures will frighten away the FIIs and the FDIs. When the recent SC order on the 2G Spectrum deal cancelling 122 licenses came, again the proponents of the FDI are groaning that this will stem the flow of the FDI to the country.

These decisions of the UPA government and orders of the 3 member bench of the SC convey the message that India is nothing but a Banana Republic at the phase of crony capitalism under the comprador ruling system.

Emergency like Situation Being Created in the name of fighting Terrorism

As the move to impose the National Counter Terrorism Centre (NCTC) from 1st March is facing increasing resistance from the opposition parties and chief ministers of a number of states for its intervention in the powers of the states including authority to seize, search and arrest anywhere, this move has raised questions about the earlier decisions regarding other security arrangements also. For example, in the National Investigation Agency (NIA) Act hurriedly created by parliament after the 26/11 Mumbai attacks in 2008, the Agency is given powers to arrest and prosecute suspects anywhere in the country even without the concurrence of the state government concerned. Similarly in the atmosphere of panic created in the days following the Mumbai attack amendments were made to the UAPA empowering the designate officer of the centre to make arrests anywhere. In all these the centre has utilized the general panic created using the terrorist attacks to get draconian laws empowering investigating agencies to violate Constitutional provisions. If the opposition is serious they should raise opposition to all these measures. Otherwise any government can make infringement on the existing Constitutional provisions and resort to dictatorial powers as happened in the 1975 Declaration of internal emergency by Indira Gandhi government.

Only US Representative Will Head World Bank

As the World Bank initiated the process to elect a new president, the US president Obama has declared that only an American can occupy the post. For those who are aware of the fact the World Bank was built up as a part of the Brettenwood Agreement along with the IMF as part of the neo-colonization initiated by US led imperialist powers, this statement of Obama will not be a surprise.

Struggling Unions in Kolkata Vow to Lend Support to Loomtex Workers

In a meeting called by the Loomtex Sangrami Mazdoor Union on February 23, leaders of various struggling unions as well as fighting workers from different organizations came together and declared their resolve to support the ongoing struggle at the jute mill and unleash a concerted campaign against the virulently anti-labour policies of the Trinamool-Congress state government. The workers of Loomtex jute mill, under the leadership of the Loomtex Sangrami Mazdoor Union, have been carrying on a long and sustained struggle for their rights for the last five years. In the course of this valiant struggle, some rights were wrested from the mill owner, the notorious jute baron Govind Sardar, but several of the union leaders had to face reprisal. Criminal cases were instituted against them; they were jailed and in many cases summarily dismissed from their jobs. It was against the summary dismissal of the enormously popular General Secretary of the union that the workers rose in fierce rebellion and struck work for 10 days. Finally the Labour Minister of the state intervened and called a tripartite meeting only to display his shameful allegiance to Govind Sardar. At the tripartite meeting on February 9, the Labour Minister openly advised the mill owner to take recourse to force if the workers disrupted the smooth running of the mill. He also stated that PF/gratuity dues would not be paid unless the workers doubled production. The Labour Minister's stance left the workers seething with resentment and determined to launch a mighty struggle against the unholy nexus of the mill owner and the state government. It is in this context that the Sangrami Mazdoor Union had called a meeting of the struggling unions to decide on a possible joint course of action. The meeting attended by leaders of central unions like AICCTU, IFTU and NTUI, other unions like AWBSRU and GRSESU and veteran trade union leaders ended with a decision to work out a course of joint action in solidarity with the struggle of the Loomtex workers.

Observe March 8 as a Day of Militant Struggle against State-Sponsored Patriarchy

The Indian state, rather than fight against patriarchy, perpetuates the subjugation of women in every sphere in a variety of ways. Under neo-colonialism, the commoditization of women has reached untold heights. Added to this, the steady pauperization of the masses, with women bearing the brunt, state terror and violence, and caste and religious atrocities, have all resulted in worsening the lot of women as never before. Despite having celebrated the 65th year of its so-called independence, the Indian state has not even been successful in guaranteeing employment to all women or securing to all women the basic right to life with dignity. Women in India can never attain emancipation without uprooting this patriarchal state. On the occasion of March 8, the International Working Women's Day, AIRWO calls upon all women of the country to intensify the struggle against all forms of patriarchy and its greatest and most notorious patron, the Indian state.

Release com. Bhagavati Sahu

Com. Bhagavati Sahu, leader of the Pragatisheel Cement Shramik Sangh of Ravaan, Bhatapara, Chhattisgarh, is detained for last nine months in the name of cooked up charges that he and associates attacked workers of the Ambuja-Helcin cement factory. The MNCs are cutting jobs in the west where they have to pay \$ 8 an hour and are hiring contract workers in Chhattisgarh for \$2 a day. One of the demands of the union was to at least make the payment of present minimum wages of Rs.169 direct to the workers, without the contractors taking away a major part of it. Another point raised by the union was that the management vacate the land between the factory boundary and the Bhadrappalli village which was used by the village as grazing land. When Bhagavati organized the contract workers with the demand for implementing at least existing laws and asking the company to vacate the illegal occupation of the grazing land, the management hoisted 18 false charges against him and is now detained without bail. The Kangaroo courts of Chhattisgarh have denied bail to him twice already.

The union has raised the question before International Federation of Chemical, Energy, Mine and General Workers Union (ICEM) and before the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) as the powerful MNCs are influencing the local administration, courts and government to violate even all existing laws and plunder the workers, most notably the contract workers. The TUCI,

Chhattisgarh state committee has extended full support to the struggle of the contract workers and has demanded the unconditional release of com. Bhagavati Sahu.

Observe First Anniversary of Fukushima Disaster as Anti-Nuclear Power Day Extend Support to Anti-Kodankulam Nuclear Power Plant Struggle

As called by the ICOR and ILPS and the Anti-Nuclear Power Movement in India please come forward to observe the first anniversary of Fukushima disaster as an international action against nuclear power and arms. Make the signature campaign from 11th March to 8th August, the Hiroshima Day, a great success involving millions of people in it.

Join the Parliament March on 27th March Against AFSPA and Military Policing in Northeast and J&K

From Sharmila's indefinite fast for repealing the draconian AFSPA has entered the 12th year. In spite of the struggle by the people of Northeast and J&K and of the democratic and revolutionary left forces, the central government is not ready to accede to these demands. On the contrary initial steps are taken to deploy army in Chhattisgarh also. It is in this context, CPI(ML) joining hands with Sarmila Kanba Lup of Imphal and many other organizations of the Northeast and J&K is organizing the Parliament March. We appeal to all who are opposed to draconian AFSPA and deployment of Military for policing to join the March and make it a real people's march.

Make 28th February General Strike Success

The CPI(ML) calls upon working class of India to come together and make the 28th February general strike a great success. The workers in various countries all over the world have already shown that the strength of the working class is a mighty weapon. It is time to launch a powerful movement of the working class in the country against the anti-people development strategy.

Protest against State and Corporate Violence before Odisha Assembly

[We are publishing following statement issued by *Corporate Himsha Virodhi Samanawaya Samiti* on 22nd February - *Red Star Weekly*.]

EVER SINCE the frontiers of the country were nakedly made open to the global economic and market forces for ruthless exploitation of the rich natural resources and for launching of an unethical, unreasonable and unjust market with growing potential to expand itself to meet the artificially engineered needs of an expanding middle class, the pillars of democracy started crumbling down. Centuries old history, which keeps us reminding every now and then that India is land of unique and ugly social inequalities and which do overlap with economic boundaries quite often, was conveniently ignored. The dominance of market over everything else- social, political and economic was designed without giving any thought to the possibility that the gaps only will widen and the bridge may not be a reality in future history. The 1990s not only marked the rise of big capital and corporate raj, it did also witness the beginning of the death of democracy which could not be revived again without hardships and sacrifices. The 10th year of reforms began with bloody tribute to the corporate raj when three tribals Abhilash, Raghunath and Damodar laid down their lives in the altar of Utkal Alumina led by the Birlas while defending their right to life, livelihood and democracy on 16th December, 2000.

Corporate take over of rich natural resources and state complicity in the crimes made its presence felt not only in Kshipur, it started reaching out to all resource rich places across the state. On January 2, 2006, 14 anti-displacement tribals in Kalinganagra were killed by the police for the Tatas. A few more died later in the hands of private goons and also because they were not allowed to take emergency health care as the entire area had been turned in to an open house prison. No mainstream political party came to their help. All basic services were stopped to the area. Hundreds of false cases were framed against the innocent villagers. The same situation was made to repeat in anti-POSCO agitation area. POSCO inspired assault was common place and innocent villagers did not have any escape route expecting that of courting arrest or to live a prisoner's life. The story of repression by Vedanta is known all over the world. Sukru Majhi in Lanjigarh and Dula Mondal in Govindapur of POSCO agitation area are being remembered in their respective places as the ecological martyrs. The Bhusans have become more notorious than anyone else. The Mittals, Uttam Galva and RSB metals are going ahead with their criminal activities in their respective areas.

But the incident that happened in Jindal's Angul empire would shock any conscientious and right thinking citizen of a democracy. The victims of Jindal's injustice had gone to the Angul factory of JSPL on Jauray 25, 2012 (day before the Republic Day) to talk to the authorities for resolving their outstanding displacement and rehabilitation issues. Suddenly, the Jindal authority started attacking them. The women who were in the fore front were sexually assaulted and brutally attacked with sharp weapons. Even children who were in their mother's lap could not escape the wrath of the company. About 200 innocent and peaceful protestors who were victims of Jindal's land acquisition project were injured and six of them are still battling for survival. The demonstration of the Jindal displacement villages and violence affected people has entered 25th day today.

At the same time, the villagers of Rengapali near Lanjigarh Vedanta factory have been put in an open house prison by the company. All essential services to them have been stopped and people have been forced to live in atmosphere of fear and pollution. When they opposed the illegal expansion work of the company involving cutting off the only road to their village, they were brutally beaten up and 47 of them were arrested and put in judicial custody for three weeks. Now the police at the behest of the company are spreading terror in the area by threatening the Dongaria tribes of dire consequences if they dared to come to their scared spot on Niyamgiri for an annual puja in the last week of February. The Victims of Vedanta's injustice and violence are being branded as Maoists -a convenient mechanism to crush any just movement.

Starting from Kashipur to Angul and from Tatas to the Jindals, Bhusans, Vedanta, Mittals and Birlas, the untold miseries and sufferings of the democratic citizens of the state is continuing with the Odisha state joining hands with perpetrators of violence and with democratic authorities shying away from constitutional responsibilities and obligations.

The *Corporate Himsha Virodhi Samanawaya Samiti* very strongly feels that the corporate engineered violence either done through the state police or by private militia must end if there is any respect for democracy and constitution in the state. The incidences of violence have become more commonplace these days with more and more innocent victims of irresponsible industrialization facing death and fatal injuries. The **Samiti** which has been formed by people belonging to left and progressive political forces are all working closely with the common men more particularly the tribals, dalits, farmers, fishermen, daily wage earners, landless peasants and helpless share croppers. Samiti met the governor handed over a memorandum with following demands:

1. To prepare a white paper on the plight of the displaced for the last 12 years. Where are they, how are they and how many cases have been registered against them, how many are in jails, how many have died and how many injured, how many have been compensated because of violence against them need to be clearly spelt out in the white paper and submitted in the floor of the Assembly.
2. To also report what action has been taken against criminal companies and culprit officials?
3. To form a statutory commission to record and investigate violence done on the people of an area where any corporate project is coming up and resistance to them is there in any form active or passive. The so called supporters of project or Sapakhya badis are in fact corporate sponsored private goons who the state is knowingly promoting to crush any just and peaceful opposition.
4. To clearly give an order for investigation of the ruthless and brutal violence of Jindal Steel and Power Company in Angul where the women protesters have been sexually assaulted and mercilessly beaten up. No action has been taken against the company of the district police and administration who were complicity to the crimes.
5. Along with this we would also like to endorse the demands raised by Angul Jindal oustees that all the promises made to them by the company are met with which necessarily includes adequate compensation and employment for all of them. Lands forcibly taken may be returned with immediate effect.

The members of Corporate Himsha Virodhi Samanawaya Samiti addressed the mass meeting 22 February 2012. Prafulla Samantara, Radhakant Sethi, Suresh Panigrahi, Sibaram, Bhalachandra, Rabi Behera, Mahendra Parida, Pramila Behera, Jayadeb Nayak and others.