



C-141, Sainik Nagar, New Delhi – 110059, Phone – (011) 25332343

Email: [info@cpiml.in](mailto:info@cpiml.in), [redstarenglish@yahoo.co.in](mailto:redstarenglish@yahoo.co.in) Website: [www.cpiml.in](http://www.cpiml.in)

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## **Red Salute to the Indian Working Class Who Made the 28<sup>th</sup> February General Strike a Great Success**

The all India general strike on 28<sup>th</sup> February in which tens of millions of workers of all sectors participated was a great success. Though participation of the workers in railways, civil aviation, IT like sectors and massive participation of the unorganized workers was not there, it was for the first time after 1947 that such a strike call was given by all central trade union centres and other trade unions to the working class appealing them to come out on the streets against the anti-working class policies of the India state. The CPI (ML) extends red salute to all those who made this successful strike possible, which has given a stern warning to the ruling class and their political representatives.

After the general strike many leaders of these main trade union centres had expressed the hope that the central and state governments will notice the feelings of the workers and desist from anti-worker policies. But contrary to what they preach, the ruling system is highly arrogant and reactionary. Since the BMS is loyal to BJP, INTUC to Congress, and HMS to the various hues of socialist, Janata Dal leaderships who implement the neo-liberal policies faithfully, and are submitting to neo-colonial domination of the imperialist forces, except preaching about workers cause to keep under control, all of them refuse to oppose the ruling system. So, though these leaderships joined hands for the strike no follow up can be expected until the workers start rebelling. The case of AITUC and CITU leaderships are also basically not different. As they have no concept about an alternative to ruling class policies, they implement the neoliberal policies with left jargons whenever they come to power in Bengal or Kerala.

In this situation, the central and state governments have become so arrogant and reactionary that the petroleum minister declared on the very day workers waging general strike demanding reversal of privatization-disinvestment policies, 5% disinvestment of the shares of the ONGC. In the central budget more such anti-working class policies are going to be announced. The price rise, contract system, 'hire and fire', and curtailment of more basic rights are going to make life more miserable for the workers and the masses of the people.

It shows that such token one-day strikes are not sufficient. Protracted struggles to compel the central and state governments to reverse the neo-liberal policies and to implement pro-working class policies are required. The leadership of the trade union centres should not be allowed to fall back to their compromising ways. The revolutionary left and democratic forces should join hands to launch a powerful working class offensive for a basic transformation of the present condition of the working class movement, to make it capable of leading struggles to change the society itself.

## **Ten Years of Shame to the People and Horror to the Victims**

A massive mobilization of the secular democratic took place at Godhra on 28<sup>th</sup> February, the tenth anniversary of the incident there which was utilized by the RSS Parivar to let loose a reign of orgy, lootings, attack on women and massacres against the Muslim minorities. Ten years have elapsed after the horror and pogrom, a shame to the country and continuing agony for the victims. Today a planned campaign is going on for 'reconciliation', to forget about the massacre of more than 2000, torture and rape of many more and the loot and demolition of the houses of tens of thousands. One can only recollect those days with horror. How can there be reconciliation till those responsible for the conspiracy behind Godhra, the perpetration of the large scale pogrom that followed in a well-planned manner are punished and the victims are rehabilitated? In spite of Narendra Modi's organization of *Sadbhavana* programs and other gimmicks including the marketing of his 'development image' have not done anything so far to

exonerate him from the pogrom. Instead, he and the Hindutva Parivar have succeeded to extend the politics of hatred and communalization to national level, with the state governments under BJP rule or where it shares power with its NDA partners initiating continuous campaigns and launching programmes like mass 'Surya Namaskar' in MP etc. So a situation is created when nobody can say that 'it will not happen again'. On the contrary, the heinous acts of the Hindutva Parivar have taken the communalization of the country to unprecedented levels, continuously destroying whatever secular values the country had, and threatening the outbreak of communal riots anywhere. The role of the minority fundamentalists of all hues, including the terrorist acts of the so-called 'jihadists' in the name of combating the majority fundamentalism is only further strengthening the Hindutva Parivar and intensifying the communalization.

The role of the Congress and other parties serving the ruling class policies and playing 'vote bank' politics is also not different. All of them have perverted from the Nehruvian days the meaning of secularism which calls for a separation of the religion and politics, to compromising with or appeasing all religious leaderships in the name of 'sarva dharma hitaya'. Like caste institutions, the religious institutions are allowed to go for communalization and to divide the people to perpetuate the existing ruling system. The line of demarcation between secular principles and communalization has started disappearing. All religious chiefs are openly interfering in the political process. Even the so-called Left Parties led by CPI (M) visit the religious heads during elections like other parties. In this situation, the only way in which this dangerous communalization can be combated only by a concerted and intensive campaign and mass movements by the revolutionary left and secular-democratic forces.

In this context the decision taken by the Democratic People's Forum (DPF) in its 5<sup>th</sup> February meeting to launch a secular-democratic campaign against all communal-religious fundamentalist forces is of great importance. The 8<sup>th</sup> April meeting of the DPF shall give a concrete shape to this campaign including a massive rally in October in Ahmadabad.

## **Gulberg Memorial 2002-2012**

### **(Statement of Justice Hosbet Suresh in Ahmedabad on February 27, 2012)**

How does one live with the recurring memories of a gruesome past? Of the hideous acts of mass murder, rape and destruction of properties and livelihood? We have recorded all such stories, as each one, the victims, and all kith and kin of the dead, narrated with tears in their eyes and with no hope of any future, in our report, *Crime Against Humanity*.

The dead cannot be resurrected but the living should hope to have a dignified future while their struggle seems to be eternal for justice and survival. We are here to express our solidarity with them and in that to make the government accountable.

Some people say that it is time for reconciliation. Does reconcile mean letting off the perpetrators? While those who committed mass murder, mass rape and mass destruction are free, and with no sense of remorse or regret, will there be any reconciliation?

Some people say that Gujarat has grown in forms of development and administration and therefore we forget what happened ten years ago. Who will say this? Women who were raped, would they say this? How does the so-called development of Gujarat mean anything to them when the rapists are free? Children who have seen their mothers, sisters, being raped and killed, would they say that? What about the large numbers of people who have lost their dear and near ones, would they say that?

Would they not ask what has happened to those who were responsible for the acts they committed? What did the administration do when such horrible crimes were being committed? Who gave the orders? What did the police do? What did the ministers do? Above all, what did the chief minister do? None of these questions have been satisfactorily answered.

People may think of the South African experience of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission. I agree. Truth must come. In Desmond Tutu's words: "They must make a clean breast of what they did." Yes, it may amount to reopening of old wounds. But what he said is important. Our justification was that these wounds were actually festering and that reopening was crucial in so much as it meant you would be able to cleanse the wounds and pour a balm on them. There is no way you can deal with the past without opening wounds.

So you have to clean up the wounds; you have to tell the truth, and the truth becomes the basis for justice. One of the components of justice is proper reparation for all the victims of the 2002 carnage. “*Sadhbhavana*” without truth and justice is only a farce and has no meaning.

### **Boycott London Olympics if Dow Chemicals Continues to Sponsor It**

After countrywide protests the government of India has woken up and has written to the ICC to cancel the sponsorship of Dow Chemicals to the London Olympics. It is not sufficient. Pressure should be mounted on the government to boycott the London Olympics and IOC, if the sponsorship of it is not cancelled forthwith, and to appeal to all the governments internationally to demand the ending of sponsorship of Dow Chemicals to the London Olympics.

Dow which bought the Union Carbide in 2001 insists that it has no responsibility to compensate the victims or to clean up the contaminated site of the 1984 disaster. But the latest Wikileaks exposures show that it had spent lot of money to fund intelligence research agencies to monitor the activists engaged in organizing the campaign for the cause of the victims of this gravest industrial massacre. A Texas based intelligence agency, Stratfor, has revealed that it was regularly monitoring anti-Dow campaigns and reporting to the MNC. These leaks show that the Corporate Powers are most afraid of whatever reveals ‘the larger whole’ and the ‘broader issues’, ie., whatever brings systemic criminal behaviour of theirs to light. The question of how the MNCs behave towards public cause is further proved by these leaks. There should be no compromise with these MNCs. The campaign to boycott the London Olympics, if the sponsorship of Dow Chemicals is not cancelled, should be further intensified by all progressive forces. The CPI (ML) has appealed to all progressive forces at international level to join the campaign to boycott if its sponsorship by Dow Chemicals is not cancelled.

### **Central Government and its Nuclear Establishment Intensify mudslinging against Anti-Kudankulam Stir**

Managing Director of NPCIL, the Chairman of Atomic Energy Commission and the Chairman of Nuclear Fuel Complex of India in a press conference at Hyderabad on 27<sup>th</sup> Feb. have attacked the anti-Kudankulam nuclear power plant stir as a conspiracy to scuttle nuclear program in India. The same allegation was raised against the agitation opposing the setting up of a new nuclear plant at Jaitapur. The same rhyme could be heard from the 1980s when the anti-nuclear power campaign was started in this country by CPI (ML) and many other progressive forces. As some NGOs also have launched anti-nuclear power struggle in some places as a part of their tactics of snatching away the initiatives launched by the revolutionary left and democratic forces, which is the purpose for which they are created and funded by the imperialist agencies and comprador regimes, in order to malign the movement, they are targeted as the main motive forces of these movements to confuse the people. Manmohan Singh, concealing the fact that he himself is an imperialist sponsored prime minister, and his office is repeatedly alleging that the US funded NGOs are spear heading the campaign against Kudankulam plant as Russians have provided the technology and equipments there.

Today ICOR-ILPS have issued the call at international level: No to all Nuclear Plants and No to Nuclear Armament. The CPI (ML) has given the same call at national level and is part of the Anti-Nuclear Power campaign all over the country. Similarly some of the left and democratic forces taking this stand have issued the same call. As a result, masses of the people affected directly and immediately by the nuclear plants are also joining the movement in ever larger numbers. As a result, in spite of his continuous boastful statements Manmohan Singh has not succeeded to impose the Jaitapur or other projects or to commission the Kudankulam plant. It is in this situation, the central government has come out with the new tactic of dubbing the whole movement as US-funded NGOs led one and to suppress it. It is similar to the tactics deployed by it to suppress the movements against the projects in Kalinga Nagar, Posco and numerous other places dubbing them as Maoist-led, when the Maoists have no role in them.

Some token actions are also taken against a few foreign individuals and certain NGOs to malign the whole movement against nuclear power. Irrespective of who are the suppliers of the technology and plants, Russian, US, French or German, our slogan is to end all nuclear plants and for universal nuclear disarmament. Nuclear disasters in Four Mile Island, Chernobyl and now Fukushima have proved that whichever may be the technology and plants, they have not developed to the level of preventing disastrous meltdowns, overcoming radiation hazards and their consequences, providing energy at comparable prices or to provide means of safe waste disposal. Besides, the nuclear plants are invariably linked to nuclear armament also. Against these, there are possibilities for developing renewable safe

energy sources if a part of the money spent so far on the nuclear establishment was utilized. The central government, Manmohan Singh like imperialist agents and the nuclear establishment are trying to fool the people and to divide the anti-nuclear power movement. We should guard against it. Intensify efforts to mobilize the masses in a big way to observe the 11<sup>th</sup> March Fukushima Day and the international signature campaign against nuclear plants and for universal nuclear disarmament up to 6<sup>th</sup> August, Hiroshima Day.

### **Scientist Community Becomes Comprador Technocrats**

Former ISRO chief Madhavan Nair may be guilty in Anthrax-Devas case or innocent. But that deal if it had gone through would have caused much more than loss than what happened in the 2G Spectrum case is a fact nobody can ignore. Irrespective of this, the so-called scientific community linked to the Space sector have come out in support of Madhavan Nair without waiting for an enquiry over it. Some of them have threatened to quit the services also.

But on so many things that seriously affect the vital interests of the people and on which the scientists should have come forward with their opinions, did not see any of them opening their mouths. For example when the government went for signing the GATT Treaty and later joined in spite of the imposition of the Intellectual Property Rights to the patent holders who are overwhelmingly from the imperialist countries affecting the vital interests of the country, except very few patriots like Richaria no one else opposed it. Similarly, as lakhs of peasants were committing suicide after cultivating Bt Cotton, none of these scientists have come forward to oppose the GM seeds sold by the Monsanto like MNCs. When the government went for nuclear power plants or for nuclear arms which are creating a catastrophe for the people, again these scientists were supporting the comprador government. Their contributions are only helping the US led imperialist camp and the MNCs along with the comprador ruling system. Like the bureaucrats they have turned in to technocrats serving the comprador ruling system. Their latest performance in support of the reactionary nuclear establishment fully reveals their comprador character. So they protest only one among them is affected.

### **On Interlinking the Rivers**

The order of the Supreme Court to take up the interlinking of the rivers in the country in a time bound manner is a positive one. When the comprador bureaucratic state does not give attention to such projects which were mooted from the colonial days and actively discussed in the 1960s, it is good that at least the SC has found it necessary to take note of it.

But the project should be well studied and the plans prepared in the 1960s should be developed according to present conditions to link the main rivers like Ganges, Brahmaputra, Mahanadi, Godavari, Krishna and Kaveri first, creating a waterway which will help to provide water to the dry areas and create a navigation system. Such projects will create large scale employment and change the face of the country, promoting indigenous development in all fields. Will the government drop its nuclear projects, bio fuel cultivation, fantasy for the GM seeds and the neo-liberal policies and go for such self-reliant and people oriented projects after proper political consultations at all India level involving all state governments? Only under popular pressure such things can happen, irrespective of the urgent nature of the SC's orders.

### **Bailout for Vijay Mallya – a shame for the nation and no solution for the crisis**

On 21<sup>st</sup> February we finally found out the size of the bailout package that the Government had vehemently asserted it was *not* going to give to Kingfisher. Finally a bailout of Rs. 1650 crores was given to the airlines. Kingfisher airlines has been functioning for just over 6 years and has never posted a profit. It has an outstanding loan of Rs. 7057 crores and posted a loss of over 450 crores in the last quarter (Almost 3 crores per day!). Yet the Government thinks that it must be bailed out. The Corporate affairs minister Veerappa Moily has also come out in support of the airline, saying the carrier “has to be saved”. “Of course he (Vijay Mallya) has met me because he hails from Karnataka... That (Kingfisher) has to be saved. He has to work out a strategy that will be acceptable to the finance minister and his ministry. He has a vibrant airline. And it has given excellent service... I wish him well," Moily said.

So the formula is clear enough. If you cheat people in hundreds, thousands or even lakhs, the chances are that you will spend long years in jail. What you have to do is cheat people in crores. Do it legally (unlike D. Raja or Kanhimozhi) and you will never lose.



The airline had not only not paid taxes. It had not even deposited the tax it had deducted from the salaries it paid to its workers and from the amounts it paid to its vendors for well nigh two years. The tax authorities had attached the bank accounts. Rs. 160 crores to Rs. 200 crores of the bailout package is to be used precisely to give bank guarantees to the tax authorities so that the bank accounts of Kingfisher are unfrozen.

This reeks of the bailout given by Obama (and earlier by George W. Bush) to the big financial institutions of Wall Street. Both were equally undeserving claimants.

A common man could well walk up to the Finance Ministry and whine about how he had defaulted upon his latest installment on his home loan. We are certain that Veerappa Moily would not "...wish him well".

The latest method used by imperialism - world over - is this method of direct bailout for crisis management. At least Veerappa Moily did not pretend to say (or did not have the presence of mind to say) that the bailout was being made to help the thousands of workers of Kingfisher as otherwise they would have to sacrifice their jobs. Obama did make that allusion. However the reality is that they want to save the imperialist system!

A country which is not able to spend upon the education of its children, where the education budget undergoes a cut in every successive budget, where most of the population have no medical security - or indeed - sources to medical aid! Where we are ranked around 130 (out of around 179 countries) in human development and 144 in education, the Government has such a lot of extra money lying around that, not knowing what else to do with it, it advances it to those who have lost in crores - each day. There are laws to govern how the common workers and peasants spend their hard earned money but, obviously, no such laws for the Government, since they have not earned it at all. It is the hard earned money of the workers and peasants and other exploited peoples all over India that is being advanced to Mallya to bail out Kingfisher.

The silver lining is that such bailout packages have served no useful purpose in Europe. When European powers tried to organise the crisis management, they only ended up creating a newer and more "dangerous" crisis. The national budgets themselves started to fail as in Greece (are Italy and Portugal going to follow this route?). The same will be the fate in India. The bailout of Mallya will not necessarily lead to the collapse of Mallya - he may escape by using the bailout - but it will certainly put such a strain upon the economy that the budget itself will be in a crisis. We will see this soon enough - by 7<sup>th</sup> March when the budget will be presented this year.

### **AIRWO Calls for Observing 8<sup>th</sup> March, International Women's Day**

The two day activists camp of the AIRWO at Raipur, Chhattisgarh, has called for observing the International Women's Day on 8<sup>th</sup> March in a militant form opposing the increasing attacks on women in all fields. The government promoted patriarchy and heinous attacks based on neo-liberal policies should be opposed.

### **Intensify Efforts to Successfully Observe the Fukushima Day**

The 11<sup>th</sup> March is the first anniversary of the Fukushima disaster in Japan following a tsunami. Observe 11<sup>th</sup> March as Anti-Nuclear Power Day joining hands with progressive forces at international level with the slogans: No to Nuclear Power, For Universal Nuclear Disarmament. Start the signature campaign to be completed on 6<sup>th</sup> August, Hiroshima Day, involving millions in this struggle.

### **Join 27<sup>th</sup> March Parliament March - Scrap AFSPA, End Policing by Military**

Join the Parliament March on 27<sup>th</sup> March. The CPI (ML) appeals to all progressive democratic forces to join the rally and express solidarity with the people of Northeast and J&K. We appeal to all the struggling democratic forces in Northeast and J&K to join the rally.