The BJP-Led NDA's Overthrow Is A Welcome Change Sonia's Renunciation Is An Appreciable Act Yet UPA's Pro-Corporate Agenda Will Lead To Nowhere Because Historical Experience Rejects "Human-Face Theory Of Corporate Capital"

I. Our Perception

The headlines represent our perception of the three above-mentioned issues as discussed in this article. This perception views everything from the nature-human centric angle holding that the natural and human resources alone constitute the capital (i.e., the supreme thing) in human society, while money in all its forms (including investment) and at all times is only a medium of exchange.

(A) A Welcome Change

On the BJP-led NDA's overthrow, our welcome arises from the fact that it was a change of power from the hands of a fascist, militaristic, religiously fundamentalist and a pro-US corporate capitalist government to a moderate UPA government, comprising liberal corporate capitalist majority group supported by some reformist communist groups. The mandate was for a change of power and not for any party or group.

(B) An Appreciable Act

As to Sonia's renunciation matter, it was, despite its principal cause having been personal insecurity, an appreciable act, hardly ever taken by a corporate capitalist leader. Had it been a purely voluntary move, it would have happened before the process of congress leadership elections.

(C) Our Estimation Concerning The Destiny Of UPA's Agenda

Coming to the issue of our estimation about the destiny of UPA's agenda (i.e., it will lead to nowhere), it arises from two facts. The first is the one-sided and harmful sociological and developmental theories of corporate and communist models. And, the other is the historical experience of the two systems—corporate and communist.

(i) Sociological Theory Of Corporate Capital

As regards their sociological theories, (i.e., corporate and communist), both consider humankind as the central phenomenon on our planet and in some cases even in the universe. This concept projects the people as the sole builder of human society and everything therein. The understanding of being a unique phenomenon in the system of nature impels man to exploit all other natural phenomena according to his convenience. It totally disregards the environmental dimension without which man cannot survive and fully ignores the human urge for social equality without which man feels socially deprived.

(ii) Development Theory Of Corporate Capital

In regard to their development theories (i.e., corporate and communist), both consider capital, wealth or money as the principal objective of human society and regard the growth of capital, wealth or money as the basis and the main manifestation of social development, prosperity and progress.

However, the present reality and the entire history of human society show that the human and natural resources in our world constitute the two basic factors for creating everything in human

society, including money, wealth or capital. Without human and environmental factors (which constitute the very life of human society and everything in it), money, wealth or capital generation, or the progress of corporate or communist system, cannot move even an inch ahead. That is why, according to Nature-Human Centric outlook, capital comprises a two-sided phenomenon, i.e., environmental resources and human resources, while money or wealth is merely a medium of exchange and not any supreme thing in human society.

Capitalism, as known to one and all, makes money generation as its main objective. Communism too takes the same position. Marx, the founder of communist theory, has given supreme importance to the concept of capital and written Das Capital in three volumes (comprising more than 3,000 pages). He too has, while differing with the corporate concept on the source of capital, defined capital in terms of money. Whereas Marx holds that capital comes from workers surplus value which capitalist exploits by paying workers less than the due money wages, corporate capitalism considers that capital arises during the production process, involving capital investment, technology, labour and raw material, with capital owner playing the main role. While Marxian theory focuses only on one element (i.e., labour) as the source of capital, corporate theory emphasises all the main above-stated factors, giving central position to the capital owner. But both are united on one thing that capital denotes money or heaps of money or vast sums of wealth. That is why both Marxism and corporate capitalism define money generation, increasing growth rate or capital expansion as the defining feature of social development, prosperity and progress, giving secondary place to everything else, may it be an environmental or humanitarian issue.

Atal Bihari Vajpayee's concept of 'India Shining' was also based on the 8 percent budgetary growth rate, while Manmohan Singh's proposed budgetary 8 percent growth rate for 2004-05 has been made the main objective of his common minimum programme (CMP).

Corporate capitalists or corporate politicians have no other objective than to maximise money (both personal and social), because money maximisation expresses their maximum development, prosperity and progress. And this can only be done by the overuse and the misuse of human and environmental resources.

(iii) Slogan Of The 'Pro-Poor Face' Of
Corporate Capital is Only A Day Dreaming

Over 200 year historical experience of corporate plus communist samples in the world testifies to the fact that the catchy slogan of the pro-poor face of corporate capital has been only a wishful thinking and a day-dreaming, because it (i.e., the pro-poor face of corporate capital) has never appeared in any country or region in our ongoing world. For instance, the IMF and the WB, which were created in 1945 by the 2nd world war victorious powers to develop the world economy and remove poverty from the poorest countries, have failed to create even a single prosperous or poverty free model in any developing country (numbering about 120). Can our present Prime Minister claim that his pro-market reforms during 1991-96 as a finance minister in the P.V. Narsimha Rao regime were able to create even a single poverty free district in the country as a whole? In fact, the number of poor has doubled in India during the ongoing one and a half decade of the free market reforms. Further, the existing internationally accepted best corporate model of our times (i.e., the US) which takes away one-third of the total annual income of the world (i.e., about $11 trillion out of $33 trillion) represents the highest sample of inequality and injustice where one percent of the population owns more than that possessed by 95 percent of US population, with one crore subsisting below the poverty line. In our view, a corporate capitalist model may, in given circumstances, develop in to a superpower corporate capitalist model, but does not revert to a pro-poor model. This is because corporate capital allows its own law of development, i.e., the maximum exploitation and squeezing of human and environmental resources. This can easily be seen by looking at the facts provided by over 200 year corporate capitalist practice (including 70-years of communist model and 55 years of Indian brand) as given below.

II. Experience of Over l00-Year History of Capitalism
About State Of Environmental & Human Resources

Looking at over 200 year history of corporate capitalism (including 70 year rule of world communism), what type of world we find today.

(a) Resources Control

A handful of the developed countries with hardly 15 percent of the world population, today control over 80 percent of the world's material and financial resources, leaving less than 20 percent for 85 percent of world people, living in over 130 developing countries.

In 1993, the poorest 10 percent of the world people had only 1.6 percent of the income of the richest 10 percent. The income of the richest 1 percent added up to that of poorest 57 percent. The richest 10 percent of US population (around 25 million people) had a combined income greater than that the poorest 43 percent of the world people (around 2 billion people). (2001 UNHD Report)

In 2000 Brazil had nine billionaires with a collective worth of $20 billion, India had nine billionaires worth $23 billion, Malaysia had 5 worth $12 billion, Mexico had 13 worth $25 billion and Saudi Arabia had 5 worth $41 billion. (2002 UNHD Report)

The assets of the 200 richest people exceed the combined income of 41 percent of the world's total population.

Condemning a dangerous polarisation between those able to take advantage of the system and those who are forced to suffer its effects, the report stressed the need to rewrite the rules of globalisation.

86 percent of Expenditure for personal consumption is made by just 20 percent of the world people.

About $11 billion worth of ice-cream is consumed in Europe, while spending on pet foods in Europe and the USA is in the region of $17 billion. Another $12 billion is spent on perfumes in the US and Europe, while Japan spends $35 billion on business entertainment. (1996 UNHD Report)

The report disclosed that just three of the world's richest people have combined GDP of the 48 least developed countries. The world's 225 richest people have a combined wealth of over $1 trillion which is also the total income of 47 percent of poor who number 2.5 billion. The wealth of 32 of world's richest persons exceeds the GDP of South Asia (7 countries including India) plus Iran and Afghanistan. (1996 UNHD Report)

World Bank points a bleak picture of the developing world. It says the "trickle-down economics"—the practice of cutting taxes for the rich hoping it would benefit the poor in society—does not work.

The world's richest 1 percent receives as much in terms of income as poorest 75 percent. (2002 UNHD Report)

The fifth of the world's people living in the highest income countries had 86 percent of world GDP—the bottom fifth just 1 percent. (1999 UNHD Report)

(b) Income Differences

Around 1.2 billion people live on less than $1 a day (1993 PPP US $) and 2.8 billion on less than $2 a day. Such deprivation is not limited to developing countries. In OECD (organisation for economic co-operation and development) countries, more than 130 million people are income poor. (The 2001 UNIID Report)

Interestingly, the MughaI Emperor at Delhi (like Jahangir, Shahjahan) during his climax of power used to have an annual income of Rs 15,000 at the present day prices according to an expert's estimate.

The result: 89 countries, 77 percent or more than three-fourth saw their per capita rate of growth fall by at least 5 percent point from the period (1960-80) to period (1980-2000). Only 14 countries or 13 percent saw their per capita rate of growth rise by that much from 1960-1980 to 1980-2000. (The Washington, DC-based Centre for Economic and Policy Research CEPR)

The combined wealth of 200 richest persons in the world is $1.1 trillion upwards in 1999, Bill Gates wealth stood at $90 billion. Even today he ranks first among the world's rich persons with $60 billion worth. (UN joint publication with OECD, IMF and WB)

Today, 1.5 billion people live on an income of less than one dollar a day, up from 1.2 billion people in 1987. It forecasts the numbers living at that lowest of incomes would reach 1.9 billion in 2015.

It reveals that the gap between the rich and poor has also widened. Between 1970 and 1985, the average per capita income for the world's poorest countries dropped from 3.1 percent of incomes in rich countries to just 1.9 percent. (1999 World Development Report)

A well known economic historian A. Madison has stated that the gap between the richest and poorest countries in 1820 was about 3 to 1. It become 11 to 1 in 1913, 35 to 1 in 1950, 44 to l in 1973, 72 to 1 in1992, in 1997 it was roughly 74 to 1.

Earth-shaking is the disparity that today exists between a richest and a poorest person in the world. Bill Gates the richest American of our world owns a total wealth of $80 billion. In 1999, his wealth stood at $90 billion. Even today he ranks first among the world's richest persons, with $80 billion. The 2nd richest man Larry Ellison is worth $47 billion and Paul Alien worth $28 billion. There are about 482 billionaires in the world. Contrary to this, the combined income of 582 million people living in 43 least developed countries of the world is $146 billion during 1999.

Wide gap exists in the GNP of rich and poor countries. While US, Canada, Australia and Britain have GNP of $29,080, $19,640, $20,870, $20,650 respectively, Sri Lanka and India have GNP of $800 and $370 respectively (all 1997 figures.) (UN joint publication with OECD, IMF and WB)

(c) Human Deprivation

Of 4.6 billion people in the developing countries more than 850 million are illiterate, nearly a billion lack access to improved water resources and 2.4 billion lack access to basic sanitation. Nearly 325 million boys and girls are out of school. And 11 million children under age 5 die each year from preventable causes—equivalent to more than 30,000 a day.

In OECD countries more than 130 million are income poor, 34 million are unemployed and adult functional illiteracy rate average 15 percent. (2001 UNHDR Report)

Global consumption at $24 trillion this year (1997-98) is 6 times the figure of 1975. But three-fifth of 4.4 billion people in developing countries are living in communities without basic sanitation.

Almost one-third are without safe drinking water, one-fourth lack adequate housing, one-fifth live beyond the reach of modern health sources, one-fifth of the children don't get as far as grade five school. About 1.4 billion people continue to be absolute poor the world over (World Bank). Hunger or hunger-related diseases take an annual toll of 18 million people.

Malnutrition kills about 13 million children under the age of 5 every year. About 60,000 women die each year in pregnancy and child birth and 30 times the number suffer injuries. (UNICEF)

1.7 billion people go without pure water supply and 3 billion have no access to sanitary facility. In cities alone about 600 million people are either homeless or living in "life and health threatening environment" (UN centre for Human Settlement). Out of current global force of 2.6 billion, 120 million are totally unemployed and 680 million are under-employed. Crime has increased manifold.

In US alone, about 15 million criminal cases are reported to the police authority.

(d) Inequality—Regionwise

Shameful inequality exists between rich and poor in America. In fact, the US leads the world in "inequality of incomes where 1 percent population own more than that possessed by 95 percent of US population. The only difference between the US and other country's poverty is that the poorest American enjoys higher living standard than the poorest European or Asian counterparts. On an average, income per person in America is 45 percent higher than in Europe and 20 percent higher than Japan. Still in US, one crore people today live in poverty.

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In OECD countries, more than 30 million people are income poor, 34 million are unemployed and adult functional illiteracy rates average 15 percent.

In 2000, Brazil had nine billionaires with a collective worth of $20 billion, India had 9 worth $23 billion, Malaysia had 5 worth $12 billion, Mexico had 13 worth $25 billion and Saudi Arabia had five worth $41 billion. (The 2001 UN Human Development Report)

Over the last two decades, Latin America has experienced stagnant growth and African countries have seen income planned. The only developing countries that have done well in last two decades are those Asian countries that ignored the standard prescription of IMF and World Bank. (The Washington DC based Centre for Economic Policy Research CEPR)

(e) State of World Environment

The 2002-UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report warns that the expansion of cities, destruction of forests, erosion of fields and rising demand for water are likely to threaten human and ecological health in many countries.

It says the growth of agriculture is demanding landscapes, depleting aquifers, raising the level of salt in the soil and reducing habitat for wildlife.

Already, five billion acres of soil, more than the areas of the US and Canada combined, is degraded by human activity, with a sixth of that "strongly or extremely degraded". More than 80 percent of the damage has come through water and wind erosion.

It adds, most regions of the world will still see their biological diversity and coastal ecosystems badly damaged by 2032.

(f) State Of Environment Resources In South Asia

The South Asia region has witnessed an extensive erosion of its natural resources base over the last 5 decades. As a result of rapid deforestation, the forest cover of the region has declined to 17.5 percent of the land area. Some of the worst natural disasters, like floods and droughts, are directly linked to the pressure on its eco-system, global warming caused by the green house effect is found to have serious implications for all coastal regions, with the Maldives and Bangladesh being the most vulnerable.

(g) State Of Human Recourses In South Asia

The state of degeneration of human resources in South Asia is such that over 400 million South Asians go to bed hungry every night. Another 300 million live just above the poverty line. More than half of the South Asians are illiterate, one-third homeless, 40 percent under employed, one-third devoid of safe drinking water and other health care facilities and three-fourth don't have access to latrines. 53 percent of children below 5 year are under-weight. About 100 million children in 5-14 age group work as labourers. The condition of women is too highly distressing. South Asia tops in gender-based violence world over.

The average annual income of the people at $309 is even far below than $555 of Africa's Sub-Saharan region, the most deprived region of the world just two decade ago.

Country-wise also, national income is among the lowest in the world, raging from Bhutan's $180 to $360 for India.

A recent World Bank report (KT 21-05-04, P-7) says that South Asia is a region of 1.4 billion people but also home to 40 per cent of the world's poor. Over the past decade, countries have achieved sustaining levels of GDP growth and have made progress in both economic reforms and social development. However measures of human well-being in South Asia remain a profound challenge.

The region has the highest illiteracy rate at 45 percent and one-third of the world's maternal deaths occur here. Nearly half the children under the age of five are malnourished and environmental degradation, inadequate infrastructure and social exclusion are among the obstacles to human development," says the report.

(h) An Unequal & Unjust Human Social Order

Today, the human community is living under an unfair and unjust social order where the powerful dominate the weak and the lower side over the have-nots—with money, might and privilege constituting the accepted norms of justice and truth, both on the global as well the national levels.

Firstly, the theory and the functioning of all the world bodies, for instance, the UN and its agencies, are regulated by the 1945-Charter which gives veto powers and permanent membership of the security council to the militarily most powerful five states of the world—i.e., the US, China, Britain, France and Russia. Obviously, such a privilege based rule is totally discriminatory and unjust because it reduces the role of remaining 180 UN members to nullity. Morally and legally, it negates the world accepted principle of political equality, the one entity-one vote norm of the universal suffrage and the human right of every nation state. When the UN has also been interfering in the affairs of different states on the basis of human rights violations, why should not it restructure itself on a rational basis in order to make itself relevant to the new era?

Secondly, the same irrational and undemocratic style prevails in the 2 international financial institution—the IMF and the World Bank—in which economic weightage determines the voting strength of each member. Thus, these institutions are definitely governed by the financially developed countries, especially the US having 26 percent of total voting strength.

Thirdly, the newly-created unjust CTBT regime gives virtual nuclear weapons monopoly to five big nuclear powers—thus making them the invincible overlords of the world.

Fourthly, a handful of the developed countries, with hardly 15 percent of the world population, today control over 80 percent of the world material and financial resources, and the 85 percent of the world people, living in over 130 developing countries, having less than 20 percent.

Fifthly, one half of world population, constituting the female part of the human community, continues to be the victim of ill-treatment and misbehaviour the world-over.

Sixthly, the national situation in every country is not much different from the prevailing global order. Despite variation among the 190-plus countries due to their different physical setting, historical backgrounds and socio-economic condition, there is a great deal of similarity in the quality of social life, especially among the developing countries. For instance, the political process in almost every country (whether developed or developing) remains dominated by money power which, in case of developing countries, is also compounded by muscle power and primordial norms. The economic process in general operates through cut-throat competition, speculation and black money. The unscrupulous norms constitute the common behavioural form everywhere.

Seventhly, in almost every country, a few are more privileged than the overwhelming majority. Everywhere, the legislators enjoy certain immunity from common laws under the law providing special parliamentary privileges. In the developing countries, the ruling group often abuses the law with the impunity. Nowhere in the world, the judiciary is accountable to people. Instead, the universally prevailing contempt of courts law empowers the judges to silence every critic. The official secrets law, existing in nearly all countries, authorises the bureaucracy to cover up all deals and thus ride roughshod over the people. The law enforcement agencies enjoy wide-ranging powers the world over. In the third world, they behave as law unto themselves. Everywhere the law favours the rich and law briber and is biased against the poor and the deprived.

Eighthly, the US today stands as the unchallenged policeman of the world. After its single-handed military intervention in Afghanistan it has become more unilateralist and belligerent. Now, it has declared a perpetual war against its alleged terrorism, so far defined neither by the UN nor some other UN member. The first target of its offensive include its so called “rouge-states”, i.e., Iraq, Iran, North Korea, etc.—which are UN members and cannot by any logic be characterised as terrorist. There is world wide disapproval including that from China, Russia and EC of the newly declared US offensive plan. But, the US has so far not relented on the launching of its new war project.

Ninthly, the US-led world corporate sector is in a serious trouble. Corporate profits are falling. Many top corporate companies, especially, in the US have been found involved in big frauds and scandals. The corporate claims of its being a social institution of wealth creation and of prosperity and progress generation, has got exposed.

Tenthly, the corporate based global development process is facing an unheard of crisis posing a very serious challenge to mankind. Rich/poor divide is increasing at an unprinted scale. Poverty and unemployment are spreading fast, military budgets—a drain on sustainable development—are sharply rising, while spending on social development are declining. Area of corruption, crime, violence and suicides in the world is verily expanding, taking political and economic spheres and their executives in its folds. Human right violations, discrimination against minorities and other

weaker section and atrocities against women are on increase. Ethnic tensions are heightening. Various types of fundamentalist concepts, both new and old are misleading and dividing the people.

Today, we are in the world where a corrupt and criminal politician, black marketer and yes-sir unscrupulous dominate the social life.

(i) Scientific & Social Expert Opinions

The 2000-statement issued by the internationally prominent scientists has emphasised that if the human community did not stop the production of green house gases in a short span of time, the global warming would make the earth uninhabitable for bio-life by the end of the 21st Century.

The 2002-UN Johannesburg World Summit on Sustainable Development was held to consider the fatal problem of environmental degradation and human resources degeneration.

The 2002 study made by the UN worldwide fund had warned that if the human community (especially the rich nations and the rich persons) does not change its extravagant and wasteful lifestyle, our earth will become unsustainable for human life by 2050.

The 2003 Rome Conference of the world-noted scientists had cautioned that if the worsening process of environmental degradation is not reversed within a short time, the earth will become totally unsuitable for bio-living in the near future.

A January 2004-article published in the scientific magazine "Nature", says that "climate change over the next 50 years is expected to drive a quarter of land animals and plants into extinct". The other scientific experts, who have not committed themselves to any time-table, do admit that the environmental situation is highly alarming.

The January 2004-report of the World Watch Washington has remarked that the extravagant and unsustainable lifestyle of the world's rich & the upper middle classes (constituting one-fourth of the world) is pushing the human community towards a dangerous crisis.

The March 2004-UN Report says that the "smokeless industry" of Information Technology is a major global pollutant. According to it, a 24 kg computer along with 27 centimetre cathode ray tube monitor requires at least 230 kg of fossil fuel, 22 kg of chemicals, and 1,500 kg of water—a total of 1.8 tonnes.

The March 2004-Report of the Natural Environment Research Council centre for ecology and hydrology in Dorchester, UK says "a sixth massive extinction event in the history of life is upon us yet again". Such mass extinction of living species of flora and fauna has periodically occurred during the course of five gigantic pre-historic extinctions. The Dorchester, UK centre says that previous five extinctions were due to the inter-play of natural causes, while the sixth one seems to be due to human activity.

III. Two Basic Imbalances Of The Existing Human Society

The above facts demonstrate that the existing human society is marked by two serious troubles.

Firstly, the facts show that our bio-environment has got seriously disturbed. This disturbance is reflected by the disturbance of balanced relationship between the different environmental elements, i.e., air, water, land, bio-diversity (including human), forests, etc.

Each of these elements is now confronted with an existential crisis, e.g., pollution of air causing global warming, pollution and depletion of water, shrinking of green cover, land erosion, increasing threat from environmental disturbance, etc.

Secondly, the facts show that the human community is marked by a serious problem. This is reflected by daily-rising inhuman inequality in all social processes—economic, political, cultural, etc.

All other human problems—unemployment, agricultural crisis, health problems, social injustice, water scarcity, labour problems, militancy, capital crisis, liberalisation, globalisation, energy crisis, inhuman educational orientation, military-based defence, social disharmony, market-oriented and state-controlled economy, budgetary deficit, hegemonic foreign policy, unaccountable and bureaucratic administration, money-oriented science and technological development, corruption and crime-oriented politics from parliamentary to the panchayat level, violence, consumerist culture (value system), and above all hunger and poverty (communal and casteist) etc. are offshoots of the

said two imbalances. How the human community addresses to these two basic imbalances (i.e., environmental degradation and inhuman inequality)—on this depends the future of mankind.

IV. Basic Or Long-Term Causes Of Present Environmental & Humanitarian Imbalances

The first basic cause of the two imbalances facing human community today lies in the present human motivational factor which considers self-interest as the be all and end all of human life.

Today, self-interest is the only instinct that is determining man's whole way of life, i.e., his perspective, motivation, objective, priorities, norms and forms.

Since in our era, the attainment of money and power represents the maximisation of one's self interest, the whole world is chasing after these two life-extending elixirs. This money and power-hunting business (by bringing in the most unsustainable environmental order and a highly unjust and inequitable human system) has now led the world to the brink of a serious environmental and human disaster.

More, the basic cause is further substantiated by the one-sided understanding of the corporate and communist philosophical concepts that humankind is the supreme phenomenon on our planet and in some cases even in the universe. This concept projects people as the sole builders of human society and everything in it, disregarding the social truth that change and development in human society takes place due to a two-sided inter-action—that between nature and human society, on the one hand, and that within human society itself, in the other.

Secondly, it rests with the one-sided understanding of human nature. It thinks that humankind is selfish by nature (as per corporate theory) and social by nature (as per communist concept), thus both neglecting the social reality of the two-sided character of man. That is self-interest, on the one side (originating from his biological existence), and social, on the other (arising from his social entity as a member of society). This means that man is a bio-social being.

Thirdly, it resides in its one-sided understanding of social development (or social prosperity and progress). It considers social development only in terms of growth in money, wealth or capital gain, identifies profit (money, wealth or capital) as the only indicator of social development and thus makes money, wealth or capital as the sole aim of human existence.

Fourthly, it is related to its dogmatic and unrealistic understanding of the traditional political norm, holding "might is right" as an ever-lasting principle, unrelated to given social conditions. However, this ever-green norm and accordingly their theory of might being right has today become unproductive, because the existing social reality demands an all-sided co-operation between different nations and socio-ethnic communities in order to facilitate their integration into a global human unit.

Fifthly, it is connected with its one-sided ethical concept which maintains that end justifies the means. Such a concept helps its development aim of profit maximisation by the adoption of all deceitful means (i.e., corruption, black market, fraud, etc.) and indicates its double-dealing political style of saying one thing and doing another.

The foregoing sociological principles of corporate and communist systems have harmed the humanitarian and environmental cause, finally endangering the existence of all bio-life, including human community.

The first principle, characterising self-interest as the basic instinct of humankind, provides every human being a right to fulfil his interests both at the cost of human community as well as environment.

The second principle, holding mankind as the unique phenomenon in the system of nature, gives the former a licence to exploit other natural phenomena (both living and non-living) according to his convenience.

The third principle, projecting profit (making money, wealth or capital) as the sole purpose of human development, prosperity and progress, entitles the profit owner to take the maximum share of profit.

The fourth principle, highlighting might as the source of power, approves domination of the powerful over the weak.

The fifth principle, advertising double-dealing as the code of conduct, harms peoples cause and benefits cheats and swindlers.

V. Our Comment On UPA'S
Common Minimum Programme (CMP)

Coming to the question of UPA's Common Minimum Programme (CMP), we assess it on the basis of the principle whether it realistically responds to the fundamental problems of India and its people.

Thus, the first question that arises before us is the question as to what are the fundamental problems now facing India and its people. What do these problems demand? And does the CMP realistically meet these demands?

The first fundamental problem, in our view, facing the country and its people is the same as is being faced by the world human community in each country, i.e., the ever-rising inhuman inequality in all social processes—economic, political and cultural, on the one hand, and the worsening state of environment, on the other.

While UN Human Development Reports and UN Environment Reports, followed by the reports made by all other international institutions, are constantly highlighting the ever-worsening state of inhuman inequality and environmental degradation, the corporate government in each country (including India) is suppressing the real information of these two serious challenges. The CMP has also done the same.

As regards the inhuman inequality, it is totally missing in the entire text of CMP, although it openly exists in a highly brutal form in India where only nine billionaires control $23 billion wealth and 61 thousands multi-millionaires control $267 billion, i.e., 50 percent of Indian's total GDP ($560 billion). Nearly 30 percent is under the black economy, 10 percent is possessed by upper middle classes, 8 percent is shared by medium and lower classes, while only 2 percent goes to 62 percent poor and deprived (40 percent with an income below one dollar and 22 percent with an income below 2 dollars). This is the situation of inhuman inequality in India. (Hindustan Times, dated 17.06.04)

Next, it treats environment in a highly perfunctory way as an insignificant issue, neither including it in its seven basic principles of governance nor highlighting it as an issue of focus in its list of subheadings. It has brought it under the headline, "Scheduled castes & tribes problem", explaining it as an issue of no consequence (i.e., ''the UPA administration will take all measures to reconcile the objectives of economic growth and environmental conservation, particularly as far as tribal communities dependent on forests are concerned").

All the environmental challenges now confronting the human community in every country, including India, such as global warming, depletion of ozone layer, deteriorating quantity and quality of water, degradation of land, deforestation, worsening condition for bio-diversity, etc., have been left out.

It also leaves out the issue of world peace as an immediate concern of the human community living in an inter-dependent world of the 21st century. Instead it has glorified its present and past militaristic and confrontationist approach with the pledge to strengthen the teeth of its defence forces by equipping them with the latest modern weapons.

While totally ignoring the need for world peace as the first essential in resolving serious problems now confronting the human community, it also sleeps over the existing social instability and insecurity in the world created by the US Bush Administration in the name of fighting world terrorism. Instability and insecurity has given a new fillip to the trend of militarisation in the world, leading to an increase in military expenditure since the end of cold war. Militarisation has negatively affected the world economy, slowing down its global growth rate and further generating poverty and unemployment.

The CMP also ignores the problem of increasing trend of the corruptibility and criminalisation of politics in India which has now become a common talking point among the Indian people as pointed out by India's Chief Election Commissioner Lyngdo, some two years before.

In its militaristic approach of developing India into a modern military power, it has also taken a confrontationist approach in resolving internal problems.

Further, true to its military oriented approach, it seems to adopt a confrontationist line in dealing with opposition parties and groups. Two of its recent steps, i.e., a tough attitude towards Mulayam Singh Yadav group and BJP provide an instance of its said approach.

More, it daily repeats the pro-poor face of its agenda, while it totally forgets to mention the issue of poverty in its CMP, though BPL poor constitute 40 percent of India's total population.

Further, it fails to take any notice of black economy which now constitute over 30 percent of India's economic process.

It also conceals the fact that violence, crime and corruption are spreading. Mafia control over the administration is increasing. Large number of police personnel is in league with mafia groups. Corruption has also corroded judiciary. Criminal justice system is failing.

The above-said issues, considered inessential by UPA, constitute the basic problems without whose solution a country and its people remain confronted with serious dangers and sometimes even with a grave crisis. The very existence of these basic issues shows that India is the most unequal and unjust country in the world.

Now we take up those points which CMP has dealt with under various subheadings.

Starting from its first subheading, which lays down six basic principles for governance, two points (numbering 2 and 6) demand particular attention. One (No. 2) is that only 7-8 percent annual "sustained growth rate for a decade can generate employment and thus ensure a safe and viable livelihood" to each family, thus making growth rate as the only guarantee of a secure human living. The other point (No. 6) presents capital owners or generators as the engine of human development. Both points are distortions of the fact that only human and environmental resources and not money or wealth represent the capital of human society and that only technology, labour, raw materials and money play the main role, and not a money owner alone who, like a technologist, worker or a raw material owner acts as a dealer of money.

The other four basic points are inconsequential, making promises to farmers, farm labourers and workers, particularly those in the unorganised sector, particularly women, scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, OBCs and religious minorities.

The 2nd main subheading relates to employment. Here it promises the appointment of a national commission to examine the problems facing enterprises in the unorganised informal sector and to act upon its recommendations, while providing employment opportunities in agriculture, agro-industry, small and medium industry, small and village industries, textile, etc.

But, here it covers up the fact that an unprecedented fastly developing monopolisation of capital in the hands of a few thousand big Indian corporate capitalists has pushed the majority of the working people below the poverty line and a part just above the below poverty line, with lower and middle classes just making both ends meet. Only the upper middle classes have some resources to invest in new ventures. This means that the level of small-scale investment has shrunk to the maximum possible limit, raising the unemployment to the highest possible level.

The 3rd subheading deals with agriculture. While offering financial sops to various sections of farmers, it does not explain as to what is the root problem facing agriculture and how that problem has to be tackled. In fact, the problem of agriculture is a multi-dimensional problem (i.e., land-holdings, crop-pattern, investment, agricultural inputs, cheap credit, irrigation, power supply, etc.) which has become an unprofitable profession, That is, why thousands of farmers have committed suicides which are still continuing. It can be dealt with a multi-dimensional strategy.

In brief, the agricultural crisis is a systemic crisis. Former NDA government had taken the route of corporatising the agriculture, but, having been afraid of its adverse reaction on the poor, marginal and middle farmers, it did not act upon its agricultural corporatisation plan. The UPA's objective, like the NDA one, is also the corporatisation of agriculture, but it did not disclose it at the present moment, fearing the opposition from left groups and the lower sections of farmers.

The 4th subheading pertains to education and health. The problem of education is that it is oriented to self-interest alone, ignoring the social aspect altogether. It totally ignores to inculcate humanitarian and environmental outlook in the students, thus depriving them to know the basic truth of human society. Thus, the present education system produces a selfish and greedy individual, tailored to corporate values instead of a humanistic and environmentalistic rational being.

As regards health, it is a basic human problem. The present health management only serves the interests of the rich and the upper and middle class, denying the genuine health needs of the vast poor and lower middle classes. The private health services are fully commercialised and are totally beyond

the reach of lower classes. Obviously, the whole health system needs a basic change where the poor and lower sections are provided social security in matters of health.

The 5th subheading is concerned with women and children. While promising 30 percent reservation to women in Parliament and Assemblies, it also undertakes to legislate on domestic violence and gender discrimination. But the real problem in the female domain is continuous inferior status of women to men. Instead of creating a rational and fair gender equality environment, the present system has commercialised the women gender. To end the age old concept of the inferior position of female in relation to male, it is necessary to wipe off the ancient concept of patriarchy prevalent in all walks of life.

Children are the future of human community and should be treated as such at all times and places. All ILO conventions, suggesting a just solution to the issue of children, should be immediately rectified.

The 6th subheading is titled Food and nutrition security. The CMP promises to provide this security to the poorest and backward blocks of the country and to the most destitute and infirm people. In our view, a rational principle of distribution under this scheme can be the only one that undertakes to provide this security, firstly, to 40 percent below poverty line people in India. The identification of these two categories should be got done through gram sabhas and then got attested by their respective panchyat members.

The 7th subheading is named Panchyati Raj. The UPA govt promises to spend funds on poverty alleviation and rural development schemes through panchayats. People throughout India complain that the major portion of the funds is devoured by the corruption and crime oriented panchyat office-bearers in alliance with the corrupt employees. A rational way of spending these funds is that they should be spent through gram sabhas and then attested by their respective panchyat representatives.

The 8th subheading mentions scheduled caste, scheduled tribes. The task of the schemes for the betterment of scheduled castes & tribes should be entrusted to such commissions at the national, state and district levels which include three-fourth members of these classes and one-fourth of others. All the matters, e.g., land, water, employment, education, health, etc., be entrusted to them and the government should generally accept their recommendations. Those not acceptable to government should be referred to a tribunal or court for final decision.

As regards the issue of reservation it is necessary that taking, into account the past experience (as pointed out by an official expert committee report during 1980's by which the creamy layers have taken almost total advantage), this right be given on the economic basis to those only living below the poverty line. All reservations on the basis of caste and religion should be stopped altogether. This is, because reservations on caste and communal basis generate casteism and communalism which disrupts humanitarian unity and harms human cause.

The 9th subheading pertains to social harmony and welfare of minorities. The problem of social harmony and welfare of minorities has always been used by various ruling parties in their times as a vote-bank issue. In fact, it is a humanitarian issue and should be dealt with as such.

As regards the issue of reservations, all minority young people (or youth) living below the poverty line should be given the right to reservation in services. The minority creamy layers should go along with the similar majority creamy layers.

The 10th subheading takes the question of infrastructure which is principally geared to the interests of corporate classes. Here, a rational principle is that the infrastructure be oriented to peoples interests, its schemes and plans be prepared with the consultation and approval of the people engaged in this process. As regards the implementation of the schemes or plans, they should be carried out with the agreement of the people involved in that process.

The 11th subheading discusses the issue of water resources. This issue is not an issue of governance, but a life and death question for whole bio-life. Both the present UPA govt and its predecessor NDA regime have posed it as an administrative issue concerned only with the day-to-day problems of the people, That is why this govt and its predecessor have not made it a public issue at the national level and thus made it a problem to be ultimately decided by the Indian people in consultation with the Indian and the world scientists. No govt has the authority to take a final decision on such a catastrophic issue (top-most according to CMP) without getting the peoples' sanction through a referendum. The whole tribe of Indian politicians must understand that the old

rules of governance are becoming irrelevant in the newly-developing situation of a 2-sided fatal crisis--environmental, on the one hand, and the humanitarian, on the other.

The 12th subheading raises the question of regional imbalances. It is an-admitted fact that the regional imbalances do exist among the Indian states. The basic reasons of these imbalances are that the decisions of financial allotments are generally taken on the political basis and every ruling group at the centre discriminates against its rival ruling groups in the states. A political approach cannot, in the present corruption and crime-oriented conditions, take a rational decision towards its political rivals. A reasonable solution lies in establishing a constitutional financial commission to allocate finances from the centre to the various states on a rational and just basis.

The 13th subheading brings forth the problems of Jammu-Kashmir and northeast. The problem of Jammu-Kashmir is that it has been a disputed issue between India, Pakistan and Jammu-Kashmir people since the Indian partition. There had been 3 wars between India and Pakistan during the past 55 years. At the present moment, the ground reality is that, out of three contenders, none is on his own, able to win by military means. Obviously, a just and realistic solution lies in a compromising formula that reconciles the interests of the 3 parties concerned and thus do justice to each one. In our: view, the following 3-point compromising proposal that reconciles the interests of the 3-parties concerned with the problem (i.e., India, Pakistan and the people of Jammu-Kashmir). The proposal, holds: (a) that the foreign and defence matters of Jammu-Kashmir be handled jointly by India and Pakistan or by an Indo-Pak Condominium; (b) that the state of Jammu-Kashmir be an independent state, with sovereign powers in all matters, except defence and foreign affairs (to be handled by an Indo-Pak condominium) and (c) that all ethnic communities in Jammu-Kashmir be given the maximum-possible autonomy.

The problem in Northeast is that here a number of ancient traditional ethnic communities, having a record of rich culture m history, aspire to have their respective states which do represent their respective identities. For this, they have been for long waging a struggle for the establishment of their own states, first against the British rule and then against the present New Delhi rule. Earlier, their movement stood for, complete independence, but now after learning from their past experience derived from the war against a 100 time more powerful adversary, and feeling the peace-oriented temper of the 21st C, they too are in a compromising mood. Some of them are prepared to accept an autonomous status within India, but some still persist for some sort of independence. It would be highly beneficial for all if New Delhi takes a pragmatic view and offers a confederal status to them. This status denotes that a state can remain independent while being a confederal part of a confederation. New Delhi should itself see that the 21st C developments are posing such problems, which may force the big states to take a confederal route.

The 14th subheading manages administration reforms. Here, while the, UPA proposes to revamp the existing administration through some technological and administrative measures, we hold that the whole administration should thus be modified as to serve the public interests, on the one hand, and to further the environmental promotion on the other. This demands that some basic changes be made in the old laws and rules to make the administration accountable to the people. The change includes the abrogation of all such laws & rules which give unlimited powers to administration, particularly its top official layer, to do as suits their interests and thus to treat the people as beggars and charity seekers. These laws include: i) Official Secrets Act, ii) Contempt of court Act, iii) Military Court Martial law, iv) Legislature's Special Privilege Act, v) Promoters Special Rights in Company Act, vi) Police Special Powers Act.

A new law should be enacted which should declare that people and environment are the real capital of human society (with money capital as merely a medium of exchange), that people should be considered as the masters of not only the administration, but also of the executive and that their (including both women and men) empowerment alone can be a guarantee to developing a better future for mankind. Without a basic change in the whole approach and functioning of the administration, all proposed reforms will further make the administration a suppressor and oppressor of the people.

The 15th subheading attends to the question of labour. The text makes tall promises to organised and unorganised labour (93% of labour) to handle their problems. Experience shows that such high-sounding pledges have often remained either unimplemented or only formally fulfilled. The reason

behind this attitude is that it treats labour as a commodity which works for the capital owner in the process of production and value creation. Capital owner wants full freedom to use labour, but the electoral needs of the corruption and crime-oriented politicians continue to deceive labour through labour sympathetic promises, while actually go on taking pro-capitalist measures in a subtle and deceptive manner (i.e., saying one thing and doing another).

The 16th subheading refers to public sector. In our view, both the public sector and the corporate (or private) sector have done immense harm to the cause of the human community. Firstly, both have, one the one hand, damaged and harmed the environmental resources by overusing and misusing them, and, on the other, created unprecedented inequality between the haves and the have-nots in the human community, thus creating a 2-sided environmental-humanitarian crisis in our world which is posing a threat to entire bio-life, including human. Secondly, both have failed as a viable development model; the public sector has failed to compete with the corporate sector in the matter of growth rate, cost of production and product quality, while the corporate sector has pushed half the humanity into the clutches of unprecedented poverty, unemployment and hunger.

In our view, a new democratic development model quite suits the interests of the entire human community. This model is marked by the following 3 features. Firstly, it is oriented to a nature-human centric perspective. Secondly, it upholds five developmental principles (i.e., environmental promotion, fair equality, democracy, productivity and all round transparency), and, thirdly, it stands for the management of companies by the ordinary share-holders, holding 2/3rd voting power, while the remaining l/3rd representation (duly elected by the whole labour) is reserved for the concerned labour of the given company.

The 17th subheading brings up the issue of fiscal policy, i.e., govt income. Here, the problem is that the govt's excessive expenditure in relation to its income has created an imbalance in its fiscal situation which is adversely affecting the official growth rate. The fiscal balance can only be restored by cutting down the excessive expenditure. The govt, instead of curtailing its lavish expenditure on unnecessary things, like govt loan, subsidies to rich and well to do peoples welfare schemes to strengthen its vote bank areas, bloating expenditure on defence, secret services, etc, plans to make savings from essential public expenditure. While cutting public expenditure, it shrewdly pacifies the people by declaring that development outlays will not be cut.

The 18th subheading speaks of capital market. It praises the capital market as an institution that reflects the true fundamentals of the economy. In fact, the capital market is a tool of the corporate capital which goes on giving such signals (sometimes fake and sometimes true) that serve the growth of capital.

The 19th subheading makes mention of Economic Reforms. The real aim of these reforms is to bring more and more undertakings within the framework of corporate capital through the process of privatisation, liberalisation and corporatisation and thus widen the corporate capitalism's structure and increase its growth. While doing so, the reformers try to soften the people by saying that the reforms will bring tangible benefits to the people.

The 20th subheading captioned defence, internal security and 23rd subheading, titled Foreign Policy are co-related and hence we turn to them jointly. As already stated in the 4th paragraph of this chapter (V), the issue of world peace, which is the first and foremost demand of our times, is totally missing in the entire text of the CMP. Thus devoid of peace perspective, both defence and foreign policies are clearly oriented towards attaining the status of a super power and become a powerful pole in the existing multi-polar world. The stated defence-related tasks, like the ensured funds for the modernisation of armed forces, making the national defence council as an effective institution, maintaining a credible nuclear weapons programme, no compromise in the fight against terrorism, and the absence of resolving all disputed questions in South Asia and particularly Indo-Pak issues, clearly shows that the old approach of making India as the centre of South Asia, goes on unabated.

The 21st subheading touches on Science and Technology. While mentioning the strengthening of India's vast science and technology infrastructure, it refrains to state that the main purpose of the development of science and technology will, first of all, be to serve the interests of the common people of India.

The 22nd subheading underlines the issue of energy security. It forgets to mention the truth that only the development of non-traditional sources of energy, i.e. solar, wind and hydro will create conditions for a viable energy security,

To sum up all that has been stated above, we can say that the CMP highlights the main priorities, policies and programmes of the corporate capital and not those of the common people of India.

VI. Nature-Human Centric Model of Human Society

(1) Nature-Human Centric Model of Human society holds environment and humankind as the 2 most precious phenomena in human society, considers the two as its social capital (supreme thing) inhuman society , whose (i.e., environmental-human resources) growth brings development, prosperity and progress and maintains them as its guiding principle in thinking, saying, doing and organising.

(2) It strongly advocates the fundamental task of environment (i.e., air, water, land, forests, bio-diversity, etc.) promotion at all times and places.

(3) It maintains the fundamental right of every human to bio-social existence, ensured through a network of social security with regard to clean air, pure drinking water, nutritious food, housing, clothing, free health facilities and education.

(4) It stands for fundamental human right of fair equality, based on 1:5 income differences.

(5)It firmly upholds the principle of world peace and steadfastly follows the path of peaceful resolution of all disputes in the world, particularly Jammu-Kashmir, Palestine and Sri Lanka, etc. In case of a just solution to Jammu-Kashmir problem, a joint Indo-Pak Condominium be entrusted to handle its (JKs) defence and foreign affairs. In all, other matters (except defence and foreign affair), JK should have independence, while each of its 9 ethnic regions be given maximum possible autonomy. A similar type of just arrangement be worked out in case of Israel, Palestine and Jordan also.

(6) It demands the restructuring of the world order by ending the veto-powers to the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council and by giving the absolute power of deciding any issue to the UN Central Assembly on the basis of simple majority vote,

(7) It argues for the restructuring of WTO, WB and IMF on the basis of substituting their free market economic perspective by Nature-Human Centric perspective and their (i.e., WTO, WB and IMF) development strategy favouring money and money-owners by a Nature-Human Centric Development strategy, comprising two top priorities, i.e., human and environmental, and 5 principles, i.e., environmental promotion, fair equality, productivity, peoples led democracy and all-sided transparency.

(8) It champions the women's cause and demands their empowerment, ensuring them 50% representation in all social institutions at all levels.

(9) It promotes the organising of agriculture on co-operative basis, ensuring the livelihood security of all concerned.

(l0) It forcefully speaks for labour (both physical and mental) empowerment, ensuring workers l/3rd elected representation in the management of all institutions, projects and factories.

(11) It pleads for the decentralisation of all industrial and services sectors by ending their corporate and state monopoly control and managing them through ordinary share-holders (with 2/3rd representation) and workers (with I/3rd representation).

(12) It proposes for a democratic management and control of finance. While the corporate sector upholds the monopoly corporate management and control and the state sector supports the monopoly bureaucratic management and control, the Nature-Human Centric Development Model stands for democratic management and control of public companies by elected joint committees, each comprising 2/3rd elected members from ordinary share-holders and 1/3rd elected workers' representatives in place of permanent corporators. All promoters' shares purchased at cheaper rates (than the market rates) and owned by the corporate management be ended.

(13) It firmly believes that political process be headed by the people and conducted through the Nature-Human Centric dedicated social workers. The elections be entirely free where everyone has the right to participate as a candidate and as a voter.

(l4) It proposes the restructuring of corporate capitalist oriented constitution and jurisprudence in each country on the basis of Nature-human Centric Outlook.

(15) It urges for ending the state power monopoly of the corrupt and money and power-hungry political parties by introducing the rule of the state funding of elections to each individual candidate (who is required to produce one thousand signatures of his electors in state assembly and five thousand in central assembly elections), without any consideration to his party affiliation. Concerned voters right to recall any assembly member if one-fifth of voters demand in writing a re-poll on the ground that the afore-mentioned member has lost the confidence of his electorate.

(16) It encourages the spending of all development funds through elected peoples development committees (including the gram Sabhas and not above that), abrogating the current rule of allotting Rs 2 crores to each MP and lakhs of rupees to each MLA for development spending in their constituencies.

(17) It strongly favours the fundamental principle of safeguarding and protecting the interests of environmental and human resources. Any disregard of the foregoing principle to be dealt with the aim of reforming the offender, while prescribing punishment according to the severity of the offence. Punishment may include all humane forms that have existed in history, except the sentence to death and human cruelty.

(18) It propounds the empowerment of people (or people-led governance) at five levels from the village/ward to national level with powers to manage the three basic facets of social life—political, economic and cultural.

(19) Political aspect demands the establishment of Political Assembly at 5-levels, (i.e., national, state (or regional), district, block and gram) which stands for a democratic order and is based on fully democratic principles, functioning and structure. Such a model necessitates the introducing of the principles of the maximum possible empowerment of the people in decision making.

(20) Economic aspect needs the establishment of development assembly at 5 levels for a rational and realistic economics whose concepts, laws and rules are required to be framed in the light of former's 2 top priorities (i.e., humankind and environment) and 5 principles (i.e., environmental promotion, fair equality, productivity, peoples-led democracy and all sided transparency). In view of human's bio-social nature, both Adam Smith's basic economic principle of "self-interest" and Marxian basic economic principle of state nationalisation of every thing are one-sided. But, ironically, both measure development, prosperity and progress in terms of monetary growth and not in the context of human and environmental development.

(21) Cultural aspect requires establishment of cultural assembly at 5 levels that calls for a way of life (or lifestyle) that is embedded in basic human and environmental values and promotes rational humanist and environmentalist thinking, behaviour and organisation among the people.

(22) The political, development and cultural Assemblies at 5 levels elect their respective political, development and cultural commissions to implement the agendas and policies framed by them (i.e. Assemblies). The respective political, economic and cultural commissions at 5-levels elect their committees of specialists pertaining to every political, development, and cultural processes. The political commission of political specialists may deal with political issues like law and order, crime prevention, judicial working, etc., the commission of development specialists may handle economic, financial matters like development, planning, agriculture, industry, service, finances and budget. The Commission of cultural specialists attends to education, health, moral Ethic-values and other cultural subjects like languages, music, dancing, cine industry, etc.