

Proletarian Era

Volume 44 No. 13
February 15, 2011

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)
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Price : Rs. 2.00

PEOPLE'S UPRISING IN NORTH AFRICA-MIDDLE EAST

We salute people's courageous struggle! We hail people's victory!

It started rather nearly two months back in the North African state of Tunisia; it gathered strength, remained firm and reached its peak there; it tended to generate tremors in this country or that in the region of North Africa and West Asia; and finally over the last fortnight it reached a zenith in the land of pyramid, sphinx and Pharaohs, that is in Egypt, where it took the shape of a massive surge of people fighting and holding their posts till they earned a victory. Both in Tunisia and Egypt, it was the people who fought in masses against the decades-long autocratic, despotic rule of their respective corrupt and tyrannical Presidents, who were favoured, fuelled and backed by the worst enemy of mankind today, the imperialists, more so the US imperialists. In both cases, their rulers throttled democracy, trampled one and all democratic rights of people and dragged common people of the respective countries into the dark dungeons of a totally insecure life fraught with poverty, unemployment and miseries of all sorts. In both Tunisia and Egypt,

with unbending zeal and uncompromising spirit people stood up and fought for justice, democracy, dignity, civil liberties and the freedom to choose their own destiny without imperialist interference. And finally, in both Tunisia and Egypt, the people forced their respective Presidents to step down from the seat of power. It was the victory of fighting people, united in their immediate goal and determined to achieve it. Naturally this courageous people's struggle sent a strong and distinct note of inspiration to oppressed common toiling people of the different countries of this part of the world as also elsewhere. At the same time, it sent a shock wave of panic into the reactionaries, the oppressive rulers of these countries, as well as the imperialists, headed by the US imperialists. In any case, the indelible writing on the wall was clear: people's power becomes invincible as and when it steps on to the right path. The dauntless struggle of people of Tunisia and Egypt deserves a thousand salutes. Their

Contd on page 2

SUCI(C) greets dauntless people of Egypt

Extending heartfelt congratulations to the fighting people of Egypt, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI (C) issued the following statement on 2 February, 2011 :

Salute to the struggling workers-peasants-students-youth and all other sections of the toiling people of Egypt who, braving police firing that took away precious lives of hundreds of their brethren and intimidation by the military have been putting up a valiant determined fight to change the most oppressive 30 year long despotic bourgeois regime of President Hosni Mubarak, a stooge of US imperialism in the Arab world.

Mubarak has virtually been an agent of US imperialism on the Arab soil and has clamped an exploitative, extremely despotic capitalist rule on his own country where the people are denied even the basic democratic right of protest against unbearable exploitation-repression. Whoever dares to raise voice faces imprisonment and brutal physical assault. Under this despotic capitalist rule, while a few have amassed huge wealth, the majority of people are tormented by appalling poverty, massive unemployment and acute hunger. The accumulated wrath and ire of these deprived people has given rise to this massive spontaneous peoples' revolt. The object of this movement is to replace the US-backed oppressive rule with a truly secular democratic government which, the Egyptian people expect, will mitigate their plight and guarantee the right of building up working class struggle and mass movement.

The people have forced the armed police, deployed to crush the movement, to retreat. Military with tanks are moving on the streets, war planes are flying over the cities to terrorize the agitating citizens. But the people are dauntless, their mobilization is growing in numbers and without flinching from their demands, they are putting up a brave fight. This has made the Arab rulers, the US and Israeli ruling clique as well as

Contd on page 2



Over 50 thousand people participated in mass law violation in Kolkata on 14 February on various people's demands.
(Right) Comrade Soumen Basu, Secretary, West Bengal State Committee, addressing. News on page 7

Uprising in North Africa-Middle East

People's movements spread like wildfire across the region

Contd. from page 1

victory in achieving their immediate demands must be hailed wholeheartedly.

The inspiring massive uprisings of Tunisia-Egypt leave behind in their trail some points to ponder deeply and urgently. But before dealing with these points, a brief glance at events in different countries of the region may prove as relevant background.

Inception of the present movements : Tunisia

As mentioned, the present surge of people's movements started from Tunisia. A former French colony, Tunisia, stood out as a favoured tourist destination because of apparent relative political stability under a 23-year long rule of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, strongly backed by the US imperialism. The country is also known for the highest literacy in Africa. But these facts hid underneath ugly truths. The President's rule bore democratic stamp, as it was repeatedly endorsed by rigged election fetching 100% majority for him. It also kept under the carpet a menacingly rising unemployment, 14% officially though actually much higher, and rapidly soaring food prices naturally leading to increasing pauperization and plight of common people. Coupled with this was rampant corruption that earned Ben Ali and his family legendary wealth stashed reportedly in British and Swiss banks. Discontent and protest of people were crushed ruthlessly, democratic rights and civil liberties, including freedom of the press were shamelessly denied.

As the reports go, the news of a highly educated unemployed youth setting himself on fire in protest of police oppression on him, dragged people out on to the streets in thousands in cities after cities. In fact, it was a sudden spontaneous outburst of people's protest for democracy, against unemployment, price rise, corruption and oppression. In thousands, they fought for nearly a month with the security forces defying repression, that injured many and took over 200 lives; they demanded immediate removal of the President. Under pressure Ben Ali was forced to flee the country; the 23-year old dictatorial rule crumbled; but when

it became apparent that the interim government also offered berth to several tainted ministers of the past regime, people renewed their protests to force it bring widespread economic and political changes, along with a new constitution.

The movement in Tunisia sent reverberations across the region. Inhuman capitalist exploitation, coupled with lack of democratic rights under oppressive autocratic rules were back-breaking for common people in most of the countries of the region. Their rulers became unnerved at the developments in Tunisia. Hastily some of them handed out some sops, promising economic and political reforms, some others tightened the belt of repression. On the contrary, to the people, Tunisia provided a new light. People's resentment persisting latent started to come out. Movements crystallized and gradually snowballed in different countries, in Algeria, Yemen, Bahrain, Syria, Jordan, and most strikingly in Egypt.

For example, in North Africa, in the country of **Algeria**, there has been a virtual army rule under the emergency clamped in the name of bearing down on fundamentalist forces, though there is elected government, which assumes power through elections completely rigged and manipulated. The government gave people only mounting unemployment, soaring food prices and miserable lack of democratic rights. In January 2011, major protests by people in masses led to clashes with security forces and at least two people were killed at that. Sensing the mood, the government ordered cuts to the prices of basic food items and promised the imminent repeal of the 1992 state of emergency law. However, as on the one hand, the evils of capitalist exploitation, poverty, unemployment, corruption, bureaucratic high-handedness and such others continue unabated, people's movement against the government picked up a fresh momentum, since the victory of the people of Egypt on February 11. Defying ban on demonstrations, the Algerian people registered their solidarity with the Egyptian people and voiced more vigorously their demand for democracy in their own country, demand for a 'regime change'.

In another north African country

of **Libya** countrywide protests erupted against government corruption and housing, though such protests were forbidden in the country. The government was quick to announce increased spending on public housing and development in a bid to head off the growing discontent.

In West Asia also, what is known as the Arab world countries demonstrations by masses of people, particularly the youth are being held in one country after another, **Yemen, Jordan, Bahrain, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Iran and Oman**, being among them. In these countries it appears that people, particularly the youth are no longer intending to bear with the autocratic rule of absolute monarchy aided and abetted by notorious security forces and army of their own countries on one hand and the imperialists, particularly the US imperialists on the other, may be under the façade of democracy in cases. People of these countries are coming out on to streets in increasing frequency and with greater and greater participation and militancy.

In **Jordan** people resenting ever-mounting poverty and unemployment, lack of freedom and democratic rights, demanded that the prime minister be directly elected. In the wake of large protests across the country, the King Abdullah II dismissed his government on 1 February and installed a new Prime Minister ordering him to carry out political reforms. The Prime Minister doled out a \$ 550 million package of new subsidies for fuel and food products like rice, sugar, etc. and liquefied gas used for heating and cooking

Yemen, one of the poorest of the world's low income countries despite having significant oil and gas resources, is fraught with severe poverty of its population and

rampant unemployment. The 32 year long autocratic regime of President Ali Abdullah Saleh, in league with the US imperialists or at their behest on the plea of fighting terrorism, is also characterized by ruthless oppression, though people of the country have once and again come out in movements on this issue or the other. In the wake of recent protests, people of Yemen have also come out in tens of thousands on the streets demanding democratic rights and protesting the Saleh regime's attempts to modify the constitution to allow a lifetime president. Shaken at the massiveness of the protest, Saleh tried to placate the people by announcing that he would not stand for re-election and by ordering a 50 % cut in income tax and control of basic commodity prices. At the same time, he released 36 people jailed for participating in the protests. But the people do not seem to waver from their demand of removing Saleh from power. Defying guns of their security forces, they are coming out on streets in solidarity with the victorious Egyptian people.

In **Bahrain**, protesting people have called for a 'National Protest day' against the King. The latter, sensing trouble, have hastily announced financial packages for each family, but the resentment against the regime does not appear to have died down.

Emergency clamped for nearly the last five decades in **Syria**, is punctuated by Syrian people demonstrating their solidarity with the Egyptian people winning their battle. In **Oman**, the Sultan had to cancel his India tour apprehensive about the protest in his own soil.

Thus, with people of **Tunisia** igniting the Prairie fire, people of **Egypt** have kindled the flame of protest to an intensity that has made

Contd. on page 3

SUCI(C) greets dauntless people of Egypt

Contd. from page 1

the oppressive bourgeois rulers of the whole world panic-stricken. The struggle of the Egyptian people has once again revealed the might of people's power and what indomitable a character it can assume when a determined fight on legitimate demands of the people ensues.

While extending our full support and solidarity to the fighting people of Egypt, we appeal to them to remain ever alert and vigilant against any attempt by the reactionary fundamentalist forces to usurp the leadership of such a heroic anti-imperialist anti-autocracy movement glorified by the immense sacrifice of the patriotic countrymen and to push the country to a new religion-based autocratic rule.

Uprising in North Africa-Middle East

Mighty people's power force guns trained on them to turn back

Contd. from page 2

it rapidly spread out in this region of North Africa and Middle East. The movement of Egypt thus demands a bit elaboration.

People of Egypt win battle

A land of ancient human civilization, Egypt has also been playing a pivotal role for the last few decades in the socio-economic-political events of the region. After Nasser had led Egypt and its people in their fight against the King, a virtual stooge of the British imperialists, and became its President, the country assumed a leading role in the Non-Aligned Movement of the resurgent capitalist countries of the post-second world war days. After his death, Anwar Sadat assumed the power. In the background of the then out and out revisionist role of the post-Stalin leadership of the erstwhile Soviet Union, Egypt under Sadat, succumbed to the US design and pressure and signed the Mount David Accord in 1978, backstabbing the cause of the Palestinian people in the name of peace with Israel. Hosni Mubarak became President of Egypt after Sadat had been assassinated. His rule for over three decades was virtually the rule of the army. Though repeatedly returned to power through elections, those were totally rigged and maintaining a parliament formed through those rigged elections and nominations, Mubarak wielded tyrannical power with the help of the army along with a notorious police and security apparatus. With liberal US support and approval, which went largely in maintaining the army, Mubarak acted virtually as agent of US imperialism in this region to allow Israel to carry on their tyranny and plundering unhampered, and kept the crisis-ridden capitalist system of his own country running, fleecing its people to their limits of endurance.

Undeterred capitalist exploitation, further aggravated by the recent acute recession of the world capitalist-imperialist system, has inevitably affected the millions of common people of Egypt. Unemployment has shot up sharply. Moreover, to stave off the acute man-induced water crisis the Mubarak government imposed severe restrictions on production of staple crops such as rice. This, in turn, left many agricultural

labourers jobless adding to the already rising unemployment. Added to this, soaring prices of essential food products, stagnant wages, shameless corruption and nepotism has made life of people unbearable. Perhaps the final nail to the coffin came from the complete denial of any civil liberties and police and military brutality which extended to the omnipresent threat of arrests and torture of critics and opponents, or their sudden disappearance never to be heard of again.

Quite understandably, people's resentment and wrath kept on mounting. On 25 January this year a national protest demonstration was organized by a coalition of opposition groups, with varied views and opinions. Reportedly, cyber active youth also seem to have played an important role in mobilizing people's opinion and in calling on people to fight for dignity and their rights. And what an upsurge of spontaneous and overwhelming response the people gave! In tens, even hundreds of thousands, people joined the protest movement in Cairo, as also other cities, like Suez and Alexandria. They courageously confronted the brutal repression by the notorious police and security forces; they braved batons-teargas shells-bullets, even at the cost of injuries and over 300 lives; they defied curfew, faced arrest and torture. The protesting masses included people from different sections of society, from different walks of life. There were the workers, government employees, students, and professionals including teachers and professors, artists, lawyers, doctors, journalists and women in large numbers, as also children and aged; there were human rights activists and of course, there were the common toiling people. They were all on the path of struggle with remarkable fighting zeal and uncompromising spirit, particularly characterized by their secular nature. It was also unequivocally clear that the protesters bore strongest anti-US imperialist feelings, wanting in plain and simple words, to choose their own destiny free of any foreign — meaning decades-long US imperialist interference.

For long 18 days, the protesters stood their ground, refusing to be fooled by vague assurances of

Mubarak that he would not stand for elections due in September, or by promises of reforms while appointing the former intelligence chief Omar Suleiman as Vice President — well known for his closeness to Israel and US imperialists. Unarmed and peaceful they were, though firm on their decision to stand ground, the protesters were attacked by the state-sponsored pro-Mubarak thugs, whose well orchestrated attack exposed the heinous design of the rulers of unleashing terror to break the movement. There were misleading campaigns that the morale of the protesters were fizzling out. Even there were attempts to raise the bogey of fundamentalists taking up the rein of the movement. But nothing could move the determined Egyptian people from their immediate goal of forcing Mubarak to quit power. As protesters in the Tahrir Square of Cairo and elsewhere further consolidated their ranks, significantly enough, different sections of workers, employees and farmers started to join forces with this movement against the corrupt despotic Mubarak regime by holding strike actions in different cities while raising their own legitimate demands for wage rise, as well as demands for democracy. Finally, under this countrywide powerful impact of such a united, spontaneous upsurge of people, Mubarak had to step down, handing over the power to the military. But, as reports trickle out, the fighting Egyptians are not to rest content merely with this change in regime and have made it clear that their movement would continue till their demand for democracy is met with. Rather, the militant fervour seemed to be gaining ground as the protesters fought with the security forces even after Mubarak had gone. The army, too, found no option but to erase the relics of Mubarak era by dissolving parliament, suspending the country's constitution and committing that it would be in power for six months till the election to form a new government.

A few words on the role of the army in Egypt may be relevant, as its not using force against the protesters is being painted as a pro-people, at least sympathetic attitude of the army. But one should not miss the fact that on face of the

attacks by the pro-Mubarak hoodlums on the protesters, the army merely stood inert really to allow the attacks to go on. One should not also forget that army is nothing but a permanent organ of the capitalist state itself, which Mubarak had been in charge of governing and protecting in Egypt. Thus the entire period of Mubarak rule was fully backed, geared and protected by this army. Hence, notwithstanding the fact that there might be individuals in the army sympathetic to the cause of the movement, the conduct of the army in general reflected the designs and attitudes of none other than the ruling class. Both the ruling capitalists of Egypt, and the US imperialists waiting in the wings were unsure of the prospect of the movement during its early stages. Hence the army also played an apparent passive role, even posing sympathetic or friendly to the protesters. When it was evident that Mubarak must go, it was the safe hand of the army, the trusted organ of the capitalist state, to which the power was handed over. And as the reports go, after assuming the power the army is now coming down heavily upon those sections of the protesters who prepare to continue their movements, while people, including the working class are seemingly bent upon continuing their movements on various burning problems of their life.

The US imperialists, in particular, played its typical dubious role. From the very beginning they tried to mislead the movement and tried that it did not grow much. Thus, the most barbarous aggressors and invaders in this part of the world, the US imperialists posed as champions of democracy paying lip service to people's cry for democracy and demanding a 'peaceful and orderly transition'. At the same time they flexed their muscles, and threatened that otherwise they would discontinue their annual aid of 1.5 billion dollar, mostly spent on or for the army itself. They also worked overtime to manoeuvre things so that there is a change in regime to be acclaimed as people's victory for democracy, ensuring at the same time that the candidate, the regime, substituting the Mubarak regime will not fall back in acting subservient to the

Contd. on page 4

Uprising in North Africa-Middle East

Movement leaves vital lessons for people of the world

Contd. from page 3

interests of the US imperialists. As mentioned earlier, Egypt under Sadat and then Mubarak, acted as the agent of the US imperialists in implementing the pro-Israel policy. In the name of maintaining peace, the tacit understanding Egypt maintained with Israel, has only helped the Zionist Israel carry on their lethal aggressive policies and activities against the Arab countries, particularly the Palestinians, violating every international law and norm and flouting all UN resolutions with impunity. The Mubarak regime enforced the Israel-ordained illegal blockade of Gaza. Moreover, to the US-led imperialist camp Egypt is of paramount economic- strategic importance. Egypt controls access to the Suez canal, which is the gateway to one of the most important water routes, needed for shipping of Middle East oil and other resources of the world market, as also for its strategic position that the US navy wants to control. The uncompromising attitude with tremendous anti-US imperialist feelings expressed by the protestors of Egypt has thus become a matter of serious concern to the US imperialist rulers.

The retrospect: movements demand revolutionary leadership to reach success

Even in the glorious history of people's struggles, the recent uprisings of Egypt and Tunisia in particular, along with the growing struggles of different countries of North Africa – West Asia, will definitely earn a distinct place. These, more so the uprisings of Egypt and Tunisia, were, and are, characterized outstandingly by the spontaneity with which they occurred and the massiveness they attained. As it appeared, everywhere in this Arab world, people in huge masses have come out, and are coming out, spontaneously from their heartfelt feelings and drive, from their own realizations and experiences. They are determined in their own way and are also ready to take up militant form of movement and sustain it till their demands are met with, defying the long-continuing repressions that they have dreaded so far. People of these countries are giving shape to what is called people's power, the might with which it is emerging is forcing

their respective despotic rulers to turn their guns back, which hitherto were trained on anybody protesting. Another outstanding feature of these movements lies in their demands. Subjected for decades under severe repression, people joining these movements unequivocally cried for the end of dictatorial autocratic rule, presidential or monarchical, whatever it be; they stood and are standing for democracy. And in that fight, these movements have attracted all sections of people rising above any sectarian, religious or fundamentalist consideration, with unbending zeal and determination. Remarkably enough, as the third outstanding characteristics of the movements, these were, and are, marked by strong and deep-rooted anti-imperialist, more so anti-US imperialist fervour that is even beset with Arab nationalism. Long-continued US domination, repeated US aggression over different countries, shameless support to the despotic autocratic presidents and monarchs, and specially, heinous and brute nexus of US imperialist-Zionist Israel against the just cause of Palestinian people have given rise to tremendous hatred and wrath against the US imperialists which have come out expressedly during these movements. In their leadership there might have been different forces with contrasting views. But strikingly again, the essentially secular character the movements have maintained so far, belied the imperialist design of raising the bogey of fundamentalist terror behind any movement for democracy or against the imperialism, more so against the US imperialism in these countries dominated by the Muslims. It must also be noted that in all these countries the despotic rule has been perpetrated by none other than this or that Muslim leader who did not refrain in the least from perpetrating ruthless exploitation and repression upon the people of their own religion. As people joined hands in the present movements against these autocrats, they also have started to raise voice against exploitation, against unemployment, poverty, price rise and such other burning problems of life that their respective exploitative systems are giving birth to.

In both Tunisia and Egypt, the fighting people could wrest their immediate demand of ousting the

despotic ruler from power. We hail the success of dauntless struggle of the people, their uncompromising spirit, the inspiration for all oppressed people that they have been providing. Yet it must be recognized that their movement is not over. In both the cases, in Egypt or in Tunisia, the same capitalist state, the same powerful instrument of coercion with its arms-arsenals, armies, bureaucracies and other organs remains intact, the same root cause of all exploitations -repressions is left untouched; in each case only the head of the state who had been running the autocratic rule to serve ultimately the interests of the ruling class and their system has been ousted. In the face of the tremendous pressure of people's movement the ruling class did have no option other than removing the unwanted discredited despotic ruler. Now the same capitalist class will always try to maintain their order, which is based on exploitation to thrive and repression to keep their system alive in the face of any hindrance or opposition. It will be the same exploitative, repressive capitalist state that had forced people of Egypt, or Tunisia to cry for democracy, freedom, dignity and a life free of unemployment, poverty, degeneration or such other maladies. For the last few decades the same state had come down upon people, true, through the means of their political manager, the President. The Presidents are gone, but the states remain, the masters prevail. As reported, the army in Egypt are already out with their repressive hands on those people who chose to continue their movement further. So in reality, whether they realize it now or not, in spite of all their struggles, people are not likely to find any substantial change in their condition that they had been in.

Hence, it is urgent that the fighting people of Egypt and elsewhere in that region, already engaged in or preparing for movements for democracy and change, look through these events — their own struggles and many such powerful militant ones of the past. They would surely note that in the not very distant past, there have been powerful massive militant movements of people in Indonesia or twice in the Philippines, or Bangladesh or elsewhere. In many of them, people

in masses came out on the streets and could finally oust their respective despotic rulers, be it Suharto or Marcos or some such. But within years there emerged some other despotic ruler to bring people back to their dungeons of exploitation and repression.

From such experiences of history of different countries, including our own, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, an eminent Marxist thinker of this era and the founder General Secretary of our party explicitly pointed out that mass movements must have a genuine Marxist-Leninist revolutionary leadership established before them. Only a revolutionary leadership can help people identify their real enemy, the state and its ruling class, can build up the necessary organization as instruments of struggle to fight against that mighty state, equipping these with correct ideology and politics as well as lofty cultural-moral standards, required for sustained struggle against the powerful enemy. Otherwise, out of the discontent, unable to bear the back-breaking burden of ever intensifying exploitation and repression, exploited masses of people will again and again try to surge ahead spontaneously in waves after waves. They will long for the end of their plight; they will seek for change; a revolution they may even want. But for want of leadership, they will fight without any direction, any end to reach which would emancipate them from exploitation and repression. Sooner or later, the state, the mighty instrument of coercion in the hands of the ruling class, will pounce upon them, will suppress their struggle, on this or that plea will bring down the steam-roller of repression to break the morale of the fighters, to break the backbone of movement. Frustration, defeatism will prevail, till the situation would compel people to rise spontaneously again.

The recent course of events in North Africa- West Asia seem to indicate that this apprehension may be transferred to reality there too. We once again hail the victory the fighting people of that region achieved there and hoping that they would be able to preserve it, we sincerely look ahead to them to rise equal to their tasks. We would earnestly hope that gleaming the

Contd. on page 5

Mockery of flag hoisting in Kashmir and revelations from Swami Aseemananda's confessions

Relentless pursuit of subversive activities by rabidly communal Sangh Parivar reaffirmed once more

When the countrymen are tormented by hunger, starvation, unemployment, price rise, lack of healthcare, sanitation and drinking water, utter deprivation and deception in every sphere of life and being doomed to a sub-human life, those occupying the centre-stage of vote-based parliamentary politics with the blessings and backing of the ruthlessly oppressive ruling capitalist class are weaving newer ploys to divert people's attention and buttress their narrow sectarian agenda. Seeing that Congress, the most trusted party of the ruling class, now in power at the Centre is becoming immensely unpopular with every passing day because of unfolding of one after another mega scam, and failure to contain skyrocketing of prices of food and other essential items, BJP, the other political outfit the ruling class nurtures with utmost care, which has been passing through a bad patch after losing the parliamentary polls in 2004, has suddenly found an opportunity to stage a comeback. And immediately the BJP leaders hitherto busy in handling factional feuds and dissents within have decided to go full throttle in pursuit of that. This portends an ominous future as re-invigoration of BJP, the political face of RSS-led arch communal *Sangh Parivar*, means exacerbation of the already existent communal divide posing tremendous hurdle before growth and development of united struggle of the toiling people against ruling capitalism, the root of all evils.

BJP—political face of Hindu communal Sangh Parivar

It may be recalled that right from its inception, Rashtriya Swayamsewak Sangh (RSS), notwithstanding its camouflage of a cultural organization, has been an ardent proponent of Hindutva, a euphemism for rabid communalism in the guise of professing Hindu religion. Savarkar, the founder of RSS, proclaimed the doctrine of 'Hindutva and Hindu-padpatshahi' in India, defining that Muslims and Christians could not be part of that Hindustan; later he worked upon this theory to announce in 1937 that India has two nations in the main, the Hindus and the Muslims, two years ahead of Jinnah's dishing out of two-nation theory for Pakistan. Savarkar's slogan for 'Hinduization of politics' which was nothing but a cover to foment outright anti-Muslim hatred purely from worst communal feeling was later exacerbated by his followers like

Munje, Hedgewar and Golwalkar. Their Muslim-bashing or for that matter hate campaign against all sections of minority people had reached such a peak that the RSS and its associates practically negated the very right of the minority people to live. During the long years of the rule under the Congress, they propagated their utterly reactionary thoughts down to the grassroots levels of the society cunningly through schools, student and youth organizations, cultural societies, clubs or the likes, with a view to indoctrinating the masses with blind, fanatic, communally oriented anti-Muslim or for that matter, anti-minority thought processes. Time and again, they ignited or helped ignite communal frenzy bringing down tremendous losses in life and property of the common people of minority communities. In the process, they endeavoured, and to a great extent successfully, to deceive the people

and split the country's people into two warring factions nurturing hate against each other and often engaged in internecine clashes or fratricidal bloodbath.

It may be added that due to definite historic-political reason, though politically the Indian people have achieved independence, they have remained divided, socially and culturally, into different communities centring round religion, caste, language, race, ethnicity and so forth. The task after independence, therefore, was to remove these fads and aberrations through relentless pursuit of democratization of the society and free the people from all kinds of warped mindset. But, as inseparable part of decadent moribund world capitalism, the objective of the ruling Indian capitalist class desperately needing to provide extra lease to its decaying life, was to, instead, widen the divide among various communities, particularly the chasm between the Hindus and the Muslims, the two principal religious communities. The game plan of RSS-led communal *Sangh Parivar* perfectly matched the said class design of the ruling class. So, the spree of fomenting anti-Muslim hatred in the minds of the majority Hindu people and open indulgence in anti-Muslim riots and killings by *Sangh Parivar* had and still has full backing of the class in power. And needless to mention, the mission of the RSS-led *Sangh Parivar*, as a class outfit of ruling capitalism, is to carve out a space in the corridor of power riding on this artificially created communal polarization. This is the background of rise of BJP as political front of *Sangh Parivar*.

on the minority Muslim and other communities. Incessant fomenting of communal passion paved the way for surge of communal wave in a communally polarized India and savagery of the *Sangh Parivar* manifested itself in worst ever form through demolition of a historic monument like Babri Masjid in 1992 followed by worst anti-Muslim riots orchestrated by the Hindutva zealots. Exploiting this heightened communal polarization and encashing rapidly dwindling acceptability of Congress because of its outright pro-rich and anti-people policies, BJP, having by then been able to secure the confidence of the class so much so as to be viewed as an alternative to Congress in the vote-based parliamentary politics, not only raised its tally of seats but ultimately could fulfil its dream of being saddled in power at the Centre. It was absolutely clear that the sole agenda of communal RSS-BJP was to create a vote bank by inciting blind religion passion and spitting anti-Muslim venom so as to brighten electoral prospects and enjoy power.

So, even after capturing power at the Centre and in a few states, BJP at the behest of its mentor, RSS, continued its agenda of stoking communal conflagration and minority bashing to keep the environment communally surcharged to further firm up its political hold. The ghastly Gujarat Pogrom palpably orchestrated by the *Sangh Parivar* bear eloquent testimony to what low the RSS-BJP could stoop to serve their narrow sectarian electoral interest. Could anybody dream of any human being throwing a child in the air and then cut him into pieces by brandishing sword in front of his mother? Could anyone other than a descendant of devil Hitler think of burning alive all the residents of a multi-apartment building just because they belong to the minority community? Is this what Swami Vivekananda, Ramakrishna Paramhans and other exponents of Hindu religion preached? We know that like all other fundamentalists, the *Sangh Parivar* constituents including BJP have no answer to this. No religion ever preached disaffection and disharmony let

Contd. on page 6

Uprising in North Africa-Middle East

Contd. from page 4

vital lessons of their own movements and those of other countries of the recent and distant past, they will find out their right course; will strengthen the genuine revolutionary leadership if it is there, or will give birth to it in case it is yet to emerge.

What a great source of inspiration these movements have also provided the toiling people of the world with. From these glowing instances of how the might of

emergent people's power defied repressions, exploited common people of different countries of the world would chalk out their own course. Without revolving blindfold in the vortex of election politics, they would strive to launch such massive united militant class and mass struggles, establishing the correct revolutionary leadership over them. This is what the turbulent North Africa-West Asia has really left for us to ponder urgently, deeply and unwaveringly.

BJP's ascent to power

After independence, the Congress with the blessings of the ruling capitalist class enjoyed power uninterrupted for three long decades. During this time, BJP and its parental organizations went from strength to strength through unremitting pursuit of crass communalism. There have been repeated attacks on the life and livelihood of the Muslim minority under this or that pretext. Not a single year passed without planned attacks including killings perpetrated

BJP intends to divide people vertically on communal line for brightening electoral prospects

Contd. from page 5

alone hatred or intolerance against other religions. It is the fanatics-fundamentalists who use religion to serve narrow sectarian vested political interest and hence instigate violence, trigger fratricidal bloodbath and indulge in insane terrorism. Their gameplan is to precipitate individual terrorism, plant sporadic violence and orchestrate merciless killing of innocent people to boast their presence. As the communal *Sangh Parivar* constituents are indulging in all such activities in a planned way to buttress their heinous motive, they are also helping other communal-fundamentalist-terrorists to raise their ugly heads, undertake same set of odious activities in the name of other religions under the pretension of being saviours of the persecuted minorities with the same objective of dividing people by inciting communal passion. Despite all efforts including peddling in religious sentiment and obscurantist thoughts, none of these outfits could ever shield its pro-establishment incendiary character. Every day every hour, the same is getting exposed with all virulence.

BJP's camouflage

Though after assuming power at the Centre and in a few states, BJP leaders in order to deceive people had to make some social-democratic overtures, pretended to be liberal in its outlook and equally concerned about the welfare of all communities and feigned to have switched to development plank, it never moved an inch away from its rabid communal mooring. Overtly or covertly, it went on fomenting communal passion. But in no time, people could experience that like Congress, BJP, too, is a party of the rich and large corporates and pursues the same kind of anti-poor policies. Even a section of the saner segment of the people who were a bit carried by the incessant propaganda of the BJP leaders also turned hostile because of its anti-people attitude and continued fostering of communal killings and violence. As a result, BJP suffered an electoral reverse in 2004 and was dethroned from power at the Centre.

Since then, it has already been in a state of political hibernation. Finding that its pretension of being a proponent of liberal outlook did

not hold water, the BJP leaders decided to revert to their basic communal plank and whip communal passion aggressively. Accordingly, the BJP leaders set out in preparing grounds for that. They first accused the various terrorist groups for planning a series of bomb blasts and killing of innocent citizens through individual terrorism and planted explosions and using the leaning of some such groups towards Islamic fundamentalism, began raising their anti-Muslim tirade to a high pitch. Particularly after the 26/11 Mumbai terror attack, they added momentum to this anti-Muslim diatribe.

It may be added in this connection that faced with continuous threat to their life and property and having suffered from worst persecution because of the communal howling and worst kind of demented acts by the *Sangh Parivar* members, the minority Muslim and other religious communities have been seething in anger. No political party allegiant to ruling capitalism came to their rescue except using their plight to create vote bank. Utterly deceived, discriminated against, tortured and tormented, these citizens of independent India have been frantically looking for redress. As we have always been saying, it is only a sustained wave of democratic movement based on higher culture and ethics involving all sections of the toiling masses and centring on the burning problems that alone can provide the necessary bulwark against all shades of communalism, fanaticism and such other divisive mentalities. Cultural milieu of such a united struggle against the common enemy, the capitalist rulers and their agents, can be the real deterrent against any attempt to poison the mind with all sorts of debased, defiled and harmful thoughts. But the treacherous role of the pseudo-Marxists like the CPI(M), CPI seriously hindered the process of development of this desired people's struggle. Seizing upon the opportunity to exploit the accumulated wrath and grievances of the minority people and taking full advantage of absence of desired tide of democratic movement, certain communal-fundamentalist forces aided and abetted by foreign agents, ISI, the intelligence wing of oppressive theocratic capitalist

Pakistan and other interested quarters swung into action and began carrying out all kinds of subversive activities.

So, after paving way for such terrorists to thump around, the RSS-BJP leaders not only sought to use this to intensify anti-Muslim hate campaign but themselves plunged into planned terrorist acts.

Recent exposure of insane blood-curdling terrorism of RSS-BJP

Some startling revelations, of late, bear eloquent testimony of how these *Sangh Parivar* activists had joined hands to carry out planned terror strikes at Muslim places of worship or in areas with a significant population of Muslims. Though there were enough indications of those earlier, concrete evidences have now come to the fore. On being arrested after a long trail, Swami Aseemananda, a self-proclaimed Hindu extremist spiritual leader and godman who was staying under a fake identity at Hardwar, confessed that a widespread network of Hindutva terror groups has advanced its extremist activities systematically over the past six to seven years with help from many leaders in mainstream Hindutva organizations as also groups within these organizations that are a part of the RSS-led *Sangh Parivar*. It reportedly came to be known from his statement that he and his associates, who were members of Hindutva terror outfits, were involved in the many terror attacks, including the bomb blasts in the Samjhauta Express (February 18-19, 2007 in which 68 persons were killed) and those at Hyderabad Mecca Masjid (May 2007 in which nine persons died on the spot) and Ajmer dargah (October 2007). Aseemananda is considered to be an ideologue of right wing group *Abhinav Bharat*, an organization aligned with the *Sangh Parivar*, alleged to be behind the bomb blast on 29 September, 2008 at Malegaon, a communally-sensitive textile town in Nasik district of north Maharashtra. Seven people were killed in that incident. Investigations proved that the militants belonging to the Bajrang Dal were found in the bomb-making and attack on a mosque in Parbhani, Maharashtra, in 2003. Lt. Col. Srikant Purohit along with other army officials, who were taken into

custody after that attack, indicated that they were helping in training the Hindu terrorists, providing them with the military-grade explosive RDX, used in the Malegaon bombings and terrorist attacks in other Indian cities. Lt. Col. Purohit also admitted that he was involved in bombing of Samjhauta Express and had link with Aseemananda. It is relevant to mention that after Mecca Masjid blast, a rumour was spread that activists of HUII, an Islamic fundamentalist organization had precipitated the crime. It is known to all that Graham Staines, Australian missionary and his two minor sons at Manoharpur village in Keonjhar district of Orissa on January 22, 1999, were brutally murdered by one Dara Singh, associated with the *Sangh Parivar* constituents. Not only the cases cited by Aseemananda but also a number of untoward happenings in Maharashtra underscore that mainstream *Sangh Parivar* members are behind all these ghastly acts. Independent civil society investigations into the blast in the house of an RSS worker in Nanded, which resulted in the death of two *Sangh Parivar* activists, and the attacks later in Pabhani, Beed and Jalna have underscored the collusion between leaders and activists of mainstream *Sangh Parivar* organizations and peripheral units carrying out the terror operations.

It may also be recollected that after the massive genocide in Gujarat in 2002 in which around 2000 persons belonging to the minority Muslim community, were mercilessly killed, not only the conscientious people of the country at large but even both Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International charged the "Gujarat state administration" for involvement in "a massive cover-up of the state's role in that massacre" and pointed out numerous police officials—specifically ministers, high officials and leaders of the VHP, BJP and Bajrang Dal, all *Sangh Parivar* constituents, as participants. The finger was pointed at Narendra Modi, the BJP chief minister of Gujarat, known for his anti-Muslim arch communal outlook. Just a few days back, it has been reported in the media that the Special Investigation Team constituted by the government in its

Contd. on page 7

BJP's proposed Kashmir march was aimed at whipping up communal passion and pave way for separatists-fundamentalists take firmer grip

Contd. from page 6

report indicted Modi for this diabolism. In the widespread communal clashes that broke out in the Kandhmal district of Orissa in 2008 in which several innocent people including women and children were savagely hacked to death, one woman burnt alive and houses and places of worship mainly belonging to the minority Christian community vandalized, it was glaring that the VHP-BJP combine had played a key role behind such ghastly acts.

Farce of march to Kashmir

In order to regain power, the BJP leaders besides stirring up communalism and blind religiosity and accentuating anti-Muslim feeling are also adopting another

strategy. With the hideous underbelly of provoking communal conflicts and clashes, they are intending to woo the voters by brandishing proof of their 'unadulterated' patriotism and nationalist emotion. Of all the places in the country, the BJP leaders suddenly announced that they would march to Lal Chowk in the centre of Srinagar city in the trouble-torn state of Kashmir and hoist national flag there on 26 January last, the 62nd Republic Day of India. As if, such was the duty of an honest patriot at this very hour.

The whole country was visibly enraged at this announcement. Everyone is aware that due to definite socio-political reason, Kashmir has been in flames since quite a time. Instead of rolling out

due political process to arrive at a just solution of this long pending problem by involving India, Pakistan, the people of Kashmir and all other democratic forces having a stake in the issue and honouring the dignity and aspiration of the valley people expressed through the status of special autonomy and restoring Article 370 to its original form, Indian bourgeois government preferred to use force to bully the protesting Kashmir people to submission. Under the pretext of crackdown on insurgency and terrorism, indiscriminate shooting and killing of innocent and unarmed civilians, raping and molesting women, implicating common people in false charges and flouting with impunity the barest precepts of basic human rights became hallmark of a

worst form of state terrorism unleashed in the beautiful valley. This led to further deterioration of the situation and alienation of the Kashmir people from the Indian government. Anti-Indian feeling soared to dizzy high. The situation turned worse since June 11 last after a tear gas shell killed a 17-year-old protesting student. After this incident, pitched battles between the security forces and stone-pelting violent protestors ensued. Months of clashes claimed at least 111 precious lives. But then, under pressure of public opinion, the government of India could make out that persisting with iron-fisted approach was proving self-defeating. So it started to scale down its military operations and the agitators also began to tone

Contd. on page 8

Mass Violation of Law in Kolkata against anti-people policies and measures of both central and state governments

It was not a congregation of sheer election-campaign, it was not merely an assembly of forces showing muscle power to retain in governmental power, it was not simply a show of large crowds brought by force or bait. Kolkata witnessed on 14th February an assembly, massive and august, of over 50,000, resplendent with background of series of movements like demonstrations, blockades, sit-ins, deputations to the authorities of different government offices in the districts over the past six months. In these movements the CPI (M) government's police brought down ruthless atrocities and oppression resulting in grave injuries of scores of people and arrests of thousands across the state of West Bengal. Such a sustained movement-backed gathering was called at College Square, a centre with rich tradition of militant mass movement both at the time of freedom struggle and in the 50s and 60s of the glorious left movement in last century. Notably, people started thronging the spot right from the forenoon. From there as announced our Party, the SUCI (Communist) led a rally for mass violation of law on the 14th on demands of immediate stoppage of rapacious price rise, mass killings and rapes at *Jangalmahal* of West Midnapur in particular, and throughout the state at large,

withdrawal of the wild joint forces from *Jangalmahal*, immediate end of party as well as state terrorism, forthwith implementation of government's commitment to the people of severely drought-affected areas of the state, release of all the political prisoners, scrapping of privatization of education and health, halt in continuous hike in electricity charges along with resolution of other burning problems in people's life. The spot was not only filled in but was spilled over the large surrounding areas with huge number of people, finally wearing a look of sea of humanity. In a brief meeting there Comrade Soumen Bose, Member, Central Committee and Secretary, West Bengal State Committee accused both the state and central governments for driving the steam roller on the people to the heinous interest of the ruling capitalists who with their underlings, the hoarders, speculators and black marketers are continuously jacking up prices of all food grains and the essential commodities rendering millions of poor in hunger and starvation causing innumerable deaths and suicides. He demanded the remedy lay in introducing all-out state trading of food and other essential items and arrest of hoarders and blackmarketeers, which neither the Central government nor the state

governments are keen to do. He also noted that by way of introducing imperialist designed globalization-privatization-liberalization policy in the country these governments not only have imposed sky-high prices on all essential commodities but snatched away all the opportunities of education, medical facilities, the least that were still being provided to the poor till the other day, by enormously hiking fees and charges. He warned, if these governments refuse to concede to the demands our Party the SUCI (Communist) would organize and launch more intensified protracted movements to force them to concede to. After the meeting the procession, massive in both length and width, with people from all walks of life including students, youths, peasants, workers, medical professionals, lawyers, teachers and intellectuals, determined by revolutionary resolve and zeal to carry forward the movement to the last started marching at 3 PM towards Rani Rashmoni Road at Esplanade for executing the scheduled law-breaking programme. Splendidly decorated with countless posters, placards, flexes, red banners and festoons in hands displaying the demands and reverberating the long stretches of streets, passed through, with slogans of the same demands, it was a graceful procession of those

people who are ready to pour in blood for the cause as distinguished from all others meant for election gain. When the front of the procession reached the law breaking spot, its rear was still far away struggling to move ahead. The overwhelmed people standing for hours on waysides gazed at those whom they experienced more often than not to soak the streets of this Calcutta with blood in very many movements for realization of the people's demands. Hence they waited for long hours till the procession ended with rare tolerance and appreciation.

The procession was led by the state leaders headed by the State Secretary. Mass law violation began at 4 PM with thousands of people rushing defying the barricades of hundreds of police and embraced arrest with slogans in mouth. Many thousand who were not arrested left the place in another procession rending the air with slogans for further preparation of yet more massive movement. It added a glorious chapter in the annals of the history of democratic movement. Though the bourgeois media, for obvious reasons, did not give due coverage of a such mammoth rally, one of the leading Bengali dailies could not but comment: Rani Rashmoni Road resembled Tahrir square of Egypt on 14th afternoon.

Mockery of flag hoisting in Kashmir

Contd. from page 7

down the pitch of protest. All well-meaning people both inside and outside the state including those who have been extremely vocal against the Indian government's atrocities were sincerely longing for an end to this escalated violence and loss of innocent lives. As a result, slowly the situation was limping back to normal paving way for a congenial environment for initiation of the much needed political process. With abatement of violence, the grip of the divisive-fundamentalist forces was also loosening. Even a child would understand that at this juncture, there ought not to be any provocation from any quarter which might come a cropper to the gradually improving situation. But such wisdom eluded the BJP leaders. How could it be otherwise since they are not for normalizing the situation but to vertically divide the people on communal line by adopting all kinds of vile means and instigating programmes so as to reap electoral mileage and ride to power? So, in the name of demonstrating patriotism, the BJP leaders deliberately intended to provoke the secessionist-separatist-fundamentalist forces to react and renew their subversive activities by inciting people on communal line. A glaring proof is that as soon as the BJP leaders declared their flag hoisting programme, J&K Liberation Front, one of such separatist outfits gave a call for a counter-march to Lal Chowk. Though the programme did not materialize ultimately because

of timely intervention of the administration in the face of countrywide row against it, substantial damage was already done by that time. What else can one call this act of the BJP leaders other than abject betrayal to the people's cause and treachery to the country?

Isolate these communal forces

Such power-greedy crass communal forces like BJP and its parentage must be completely isolated from the masses. This is possible only when there is a surge of democratic mass movements on the burning problems of life based on the higher ethics and culture and involving all sections of toiling people, irrespective of religion, caste or ethnicity, and an intense ideological struggle against the vile doctrine of communalism-fundamentalism right from the grass roots level is launched. But, development of this democratic struggle is seriously hampered because of the perfidy of the self-styled Marxists-leftists like the CPI(M), CPI. Not only that these pseudo-Marxists are shunning the path of movement and even brutally crushing democratic movements in the states they are in power, their role-play in the arena of parliamentary politics has been such as to provide a pro-people face of this arch communal BJP. We call upon people at large to take due note of this treachery of these sham Marxists-leftists and embrace the right course of action to frustrate the communal conspiracy of RSS-BJP and their associates.

International Protest Against Conspiracy To Close Down Lenin Mausoleum

The arch reactionary ruling bourgeois Party of Russia is once again on to its heinous conspiracy of closing down the Lenin Mausoleum in Red Square of Moscow and removing the embalmed body of Lenin, the great leader of the Proletariat and the architect of the November Revolution. These rulers are the fitting successors of the old revisionist leadership of Soviet Russia, who, in collusion with the imperialist powers, staged the counter-revolution and brought about the downfall of the socialist state.

The present rulers have consolidated capitalism in Russia, ruthlessly exploiting the Russian people. Capitalist Russia is a willing partner of the imperialist camp. But the ruling class is mortally afraid of a resurgence of revolutionary movement in Russia and it is this fear complex which has goaded it to remove this symbol of revolutionary battle from the public eye.

Lenin was not just a leader of the Russian people; all over the world wherever people have been fighting against imperialism, against capitalist oppression and exploitation Lenin has been their inspiration, has been their leader. We register our strongest condemnation of this move to close down the Lenin Mausoleum and call upon the freedom-loving people everywhere to voice their protest, mobilize world opinion and organize movements to foil this heinous conspiracy.

Signatories

Manik Mukherjee
Member, Politburo, Socialist Unity Centre Of India (Communist)
Ninu Chapagain
Member, Politburo, United Communist Party Of Nepal (Maoist)
Khalekuzzaman
General Secretary, Socialist Party of Bangladesh
Mubinal Hyder Chowdhury
Central Committee Member, Socialist Party of Bangladesh
Sara Flounders, Deirdre Griswold
Members, Secretariat, Workers World Party, USA
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MLCP Turkey/ North Kurdistan,
International Bureau
Maktab Alalakat,
Communist Party Leadership of Baghdad
Gyula Thurmer,
President, Hungarian Communist Workers' Party



SUCI(C) protest against close-down of Lenin Mausoleum on 4 February being led by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, Comrades Asit Bhattacharyya, member, Polit Bureau, Chhaya Mukherjee, Gopal Kundu, Sankar Saha, members, Central Committee in Kolkata and (right) Comrades Krishna Chakraborty, member, Polit Bureau and Satyawan, member, Central Committee in Delhi

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Edited & Published by Asit Bhattacharyya from 48 Lenin Sarani, Kolkata 700 013 and printed by him at Ganadabi Printers and Publishers Private Limited, 52B, Indian Mirror Street, Kolkata 700013. Phone : 2249-1828, 2265-3234 E-mail : suci_cc@vsnl.net, proletarianera@gmail.com, Website : www.suci-c.in