

# Proletarian Era

Volume 49 No.12  
February 1, 2016

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)  
Founder Editor-in-Chief : COMRADE SHIBDAS GHOSH

Price : Rs. 2.00  
Total — 8 pages



Comrade Chhaya Mukherjee, Member, Central Committee, SUCI(C), offering floral tribute to great Lenin, on his 92nd death anniversary on 21 January at Party's Central Office in Kolkata.

## Spurt of communal outbursts

### Simple Intolerance? Or, a blue print for unleashing relentless communal flare-ups?

Simmering for quite some time, the country under the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) rule led by Narendra Modi recently experienced instances of violent communal outbursts taking place one after another. What apparently started with attacks on minority communities on *love jihad* or alleged forced conversion, giving way to reconversion of Muslims and Christians to Hinduism, dubbed *ghar wapsi* under obvious or veiled force, or to vandalism on churches and

their inmates, the incidents went on to take uglier shape. In sequel came the ghastly communal flare-ups particularly on the eve of elections like what happened in Muzaffarnagar of UP. In all the incidents the perpetrators were the activists of the ruling RSS- BJP combine or their different allies and ancillaries. And they acted with overt or covert indulgence-support, even encouragement from the government. There was no denunciation, no drastic punishment. The situation took a turn towards worse with harassing-lynching-even murders on cooked up allegations of cow slaughter and beef-eating or even beef-carrying in this or that part of the country, be it at Dadri in UP or more recently (13 January) at Khirkiya in MP. Side by side, there were events never witnessed in this land: broad daylight murders of renowned rationalists, one after another, who dared to stand firmly against communalism and spread of obscurantism and blind faith; there was forcible cancellation of a concert by a famous ghazal singer from Pakistan through muscle flexing; pouring black paint over the organizer of the launch of a book by a former Pakistani foreign minister and the latest, the tragic suicide of a student, Rohit Vemula of Hyderabad Central University, which had behind it the obvious hands of B Dattatreya, Union minister and BJP MP of Secunderabad, Appa Rao, the Vice-Chancellor of the University and leaders of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP), the student wing of the BJP towards abetment of suicide. Even the Union HRD minister was involved, exercising her power to

## Indian capitalist economy in grip of 'Stagflation'

Text books of bourgeois economics say that if inflation is up, recession will be on the wane and vice versa. It means that prices go up (inflation) when people have more money to buy goods and hence there is a spurt in demand entailing more production. Recession or stagnation of produced goods takes place when there is low or no demand indicating no money in the hands of the buyers and so fall in prices or deflation opposite of inflation. But in decadent moribund capitalism, this classical proposition does no more hold good. Rather one finds spiralling inflation coupled with stagnation or stockpiling of goods—a situation which the bourgeois economists have named 'Stagflation' — a combination of stagnation and inflation. Though the attempt on their part is to provide by this new coinage a theoretical explanation of the peculiar phenomenon that marks capitalism today, what they refuse to admit is that stagflation denotes how grave a crisis capitalist economy in its present decadent moribund stage is now sunk in. All bourgeois governments of different countries are now resorting to a practice of manipulating figures or changing the very methods of calculation of key economic indicators with a view to distorting reality and conceal the gasping condition of capitalist economy. But despite all their efforts, the latest data the government of India and other sources have brought out as performance indicators of Indian capitalist economy show that factory output growth in the country slowed in September 2015 while retail inflation jumped up in October 2015. The Index of Industrial Production (IIP) is stated to have grown 3.6 per cent in September against a near-three-year high of 6.2 per cent in August; low growth in mining and manufacturing sectors is found to have pulled down the IIP. The manufacturing sector, which has a 75 per cent weight in the IIP, posted 2.6 per cent growth in September 2015 (versus 6.6 per

cent in August 2015). Dashing hopes of recovery, industrial production contracted by 3.2 per cent in November last— the lowest level in over four years — due to poor performance of manufacturing sector to a 28-month low and a sharp decline in capital goods output. Painting an even gloomier picture, the monthly PMI (Purchasing Managers' Index) survey showed that the rate of contraction was sharpest in almost seven years since breakout of the global financial crisis in 2008. The government's IIP figures also come close to the revelation of Nikkei India Manufacturing Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI) survey that there has been a drop in output in last December. Pointing towards the reason behind this drop, it showed that companies have scaled back production on a decline in new orders as internal demand situation is abysmally gloomy

Contd. on page 3

Contd. on page 2



23 January AIDS0, AIDYO, AIMSS and Komsomol observed 119th birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, the revered leader of uncompromising trend of Indian freedom struggle with due solemnity in every nook and corner of the country. [In picture] Rally in New Delhi

Spurt of communal outbursts**Courageous protest from right-thinking personalities rise against communal flare-ups***Contd from page 1*

repeatedly press upon the University authority to take actions against a few students belonging to the *Ambedkar Students' Association* even after their innocence on an earlier incident had been convincingly proved before an internal investigation committee of the University. Evidently the threat, humiliation and gross injustice brought to those students, were enough for at least one of them to take the saddest decision of his life. Remarkably, in marked contrast to the nakedly interfering and highly vindictive attitude towards any opposition, and shameless arrogance of the ABVP and BJP leaders, including the Union ministers, the victim explicitly held till the last not to harm even his enemies for his death.

The RSS-BJP creed was, and still continues to be, unmistakably contrasting. The members of the Sangh Parivar, including BJP ministers and MPs and their allies came out with continuous irresponsible and communally provocative pronouncements. They branded any protest against the rabidly communal acts as anti-national. The BJP President himself held on the eve of Assembly election in Bihar, "If by any chance the BJP loses ... [fire] crackers will be burst in celebration in Pakistan", casting aspersions not only on the Muslims but also those opposing the BJP and branding them as anti-nationals. The RSS chief had the audacity of saying that anybody living in India, his 'Hindustan', would have to take Hinduism as his or her religion. The BJP Chief Minister of Haryana cried out "Muslims can continue to live in this country, but they will have to give up eating beef." With the Prime Minister maintaining his busy schedule abroad and queer silence on such burning domestic issues, even the global analyst at Moody's Analytics could not but comment that the country, and Modi, could "risk losing domestic and global credibility" if action wasn't taken. Not to speak of any action, the government has been cunningly evasive. The very assurance of BJP Home Minister, one of the mouthpieces of the Union BJP government, to the media reporters that strongest possible action would be taken against those who try to break communal harmony is nothing but playing to the gallery. In the same breath, however, he played a trick to dish out a confusing and historically and scientifically untenable definition of secularism. He termed secularism as *Pant Nirpekshata* (neutral to sects) instead of *Dharmanirpekshata* (neutral to religion), clearly sanctifying and encouraging the role of religion and the religion-oriented parties and forces in politics and in all public affairs. Thus instead of putting any break to the spurt of communally charged incidents, it only suited the agenda of the RSS- BJP combine and other communally-minded outfits like Shiv Sena or others.

**Silver line of protest from thinking people, yet dark omens loom large**

But even this spurt of communal outbursts confronted a new and striking phenomenon this time. It made such a dent in the society that right-thinking people not belonging to any particular political strain, could not keep

themselves mute and aloof, could not suppress their wrautstanding spontaneous moves against this virulent rise of communal frenzy and attempts to muzzle rationalist voice, eminent intellectuals and professionals including writers, artistes, scientists, popular film personalities and others, came out courageously to register their protest. As a mark of this protest against the incidents as well as inaction, even meaningful silence from the authorities including the Union government, many of them returned the prestigious awards they had received. Student community at large were vociferously indignant, more so at the Hyderabad incident leading to Rohit's suicide, that came as tragic end of shameless intervention from centres of power, even as far away as the national capital.

Certainly such widespread and bold moves provided elements to add fillip to any massive, countrywide movement against this rise of communal frenzy being perpetrated by the RSS-BJP combine. What it required, was projecting to people the right direction towards any remedy. A dominant section of the media which evidently serves the prevailing capitalist order and system sensed the mood of the people. In its bid to pose critical of the situation, it painted the issue as cases of 'intolerance', only and nothing else. It did not care to explain what it really implied and from where it originated. Such a campaign could not but give rise to a feeling: was not this diluting the gravity of the issue. The way these incidents were, and are, taking place one after another prompts one to note seriously that the guileful design does not end merely in *intolerance*, that is in precipitating and perpetuating disaffection and disharmony among various sections of people based on religious belief or different viewpoints. Rather, the way the ruling clique, including the Union and even different state governments are behaving with their overt and covert support for these incidents, leaves no doubt that these cannot be termed as cases of simple *intolerance*; surely and undoubtedly these are pre-meditated and form the blueprint of a definite design to create an ambience in the whole country inflamed with the worst form of communalism to prepare the ground further for giving shape to fiercer communal pogrom and for reducing to ashes the vestiges of democracy and secularism that still exist in the country. Thereby, the design tends to blunt the very thinking process, banish logic and reason and place blindness and fanaticism above those, to make room for obscurantist thoughts in place of scientific thinking and rationality. This is why the issue demands a penetrating look at it.

However, it is painfully true that the bourgeois parliamentary parties do not leave any indication of having recognized the real implication of the issue. Even the self-styled Marxists, namely the CPI-CPI (M) or such others and their allies, got busy in performing eye-catching feats, like eating beef openly, to hoodwink people and to try to make some gain out of this situation to pay them handsomely in vote-gathering spree, creating distractions or hindrances in the way of building up required massive united movement of people against such a spree of communal outbursts. The Congress that had reigned virtually with absolute

power for a long time since independence, had preserved the rabid communal RSS or its allies on the shelf to make use of those through occasional communal flare-ups, often engineered by the Congress itself, while at the same time posing a saviour to the minority community people. Both were done, however, with an eye on vote-bank politics. Keeping to its tradition, even now the Congress is out only to fish in troubled water and gain some of its lost foothold.

Certainly there is no question of tolerating any kind of *intolerance*, any communal frenzy. India has the history of being a land that gave birth to four religions and has grown to become a multi-religious, multi-cultural, multi-lingual country. At present it has a huge Muslim population, an integral part of it, which is more than the entire populations of Iran, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia combined. Since long it was a refuge for Armenian Christians, for Jews, for Zoroastrians, for people of different religions from all over the world. Thus, multiple faiths and beliefs intermingled here for centuries in relative peace. In fact, the glorious tradition, well acclaimed scholasticism and pedantry and rich vibrant culture of the country could emerge to a large extent from the *tolerant*, compassionate and interactive contributions of these different sections of population, indigenous and coming from without. And that gave birth to people's aspirations, under pressure of which the independent India's Constitution had to enshrine in it both secularism and free speech, apparently as its two pillars.

**Platform of people's movement prevented Hindutvavadi thoughts from taking grip**

And here it should not be missed that the RSS-BJP combine or their accessories, which are perpetrating the present dastardly communal acts, themselves stand upon their pet doctrine of *Hindutvavad* which is out and out against these concepts of secularism and free speech. It may be relevant to recall here that the *Hindutvavadi* thoughts of the RSS with all its aggressiveness was born almost a century back. They were in the works of their founders and mentors: in Savarkar's *Essentials of Hindutva* or Golwalkar's *We or Our Nationhood Defined*. Their doctrine condemned the then anti-British imperialist freedom struggle of the country, shamelessly eulogized Hitler and his Nazism, bluntly prescribed a Hindu land with totally subjugated existence of the non-Hindu minorities in this land and thus left every bit of aggressive arch communal thoughts- concepts- diktats in their doctrine, that gave vent to occasional communal flare-ups with overt and covert support of the imperialist rulers; it created the ground for the two-nation theory and thence the birth of Pakistan to take shape; it also led to the murder of Gandhiji or such incidents. Yet the RSS and their doctrine could not make their desired headway against the surge of mainstream freedom struggle of the Indian people. Despite all weaknesses of that struggle, people at large refused to be carried over by their fundamentalist approach. However, the compromising leadership

*Contd. on page 6*

## Stagflation

# Bourgeois apologists suppress truth of grave capitalist crisis by indulging in hollow pedantic rigmarole

*Contd from page 1*

and overall demand precariously placed. A British organization, 'Markit' observed in last November that in India, 80% of private industries do not expect new orders to increase in next 12 months. In other words, there is least of economic activity which is a symptom of a diseased economic system. On the other hand, rising for the fifth straight month, retail inflation or CPI quickened to 5.61 per cent in December 2015, mainly on costlier vegetables and cereals. All these clearly show how hollow have been the claims of the government and its pliant economists about Indian economy being resilient, unaffected by tremors in global economy, out of recession, on a growth trajectory and poised to fly as well as in control of inflationary pressure.

### Why this plummeting demand?

For those who would like to be a bit more clarified about this predicament of Indian economy, an inalienable part of global capitalist-imperialist economy, we would discuss briefly a few relevant aspects avoiding jargons and futile academic discourses and keeping people's perspective in mind. As we know, in capitalism, objective of production is not to meet even barest of people's real need but to bring maximum profit to the capitalist class owning the means of production. This profit accrues by way of expropriation of surplus labour power of the working class, denying them due wage and squeezing common toiling people in every possible way, fiscal as well as non-fiscal. In other words, through ruthless exploitation of not just the working class, the real creators of wealth through labour, but also toiling people at large that the ruling capitalist class amass fabulous wealth and the gap between handful of rich and millions of have-nots widens with electrifying speed. So, maximization of profit means maximum exploitation. And more the exploitation more is concentration of wealth in the hands of affluent propertied class and consequent pauperization of the masses.

Next point is about demand and supply. Let it be clear at the outset that there is no dip in demand if one takes into consideration people's need to eke out a decent living. Nor is there any shortage of supply with productive capacity going up. But in capitalism, market demand means capacity of the buyers i.e. common people at large to purchase goods at prices fixed by the capitalists and their corporates. If masses are pauperized more and more, they progressively lose purchasing capacity entailing shrinkage of market. If market shrinks, the capitalists stop production. Rein on production means no set up of new industries or no new employment opportunities. On the contrary, closure of existing industries is triggering massive job loss. Both these are causing unemployment to mount by leaps and bounds. No employment means no income and hence no money to buy goods. So, purchasing power of the people plummets further and hence the market squeezes more and more. This is the vicious cycle of dying capitalism. The dip in manufacturing production and stagnation of produced goods is due to this rapid fall in the

purchasing power of the people—a truth the bourgeois economists-apologists try to suppress utmost by indulging in hollow pedantic rigmarole.

### Hoax of reforms and suitable adjustment in monetary policy to stimulate economy

Of late, the cry is for more and more reforms as if that would turn the table. Without entering into a detailed discussion on the proposed reforms, we can only say that these are nakedly aimed at further swelling of the overflowing coffers of the ruling capitalist class and slated to devastate people further. For example, the proposed Goods and Services Tax (GST) which the ruling quarters are so insistent on introducing in the name of rationalizing tax system would virtually free the owning industrialists and corporates from shouldering any burden of sales tax, excise and customs duties but straightway recover the entire tax from the end-consumers in the form of a lump-sum load on the prices (like VAT or Services Tax at present). In other words, pauperizing common people would bear an additional stiff rise of indirect taxation.

The apologists of bourgeois economy have also been pressing from time to time for lowering interest rate as if that would boost credit to corporates and industrial houses, stimulate investment and production. Nothing could be far from truth as there have been slash in interest rates several times in recent past but that has been of no avail. In fact, the Economic Survey last year admitted that projects worth 8.3 per cent of the GDP are investment in "suspended animation" meaning that roll out is held back because of absence of market. 33 per cent of \$450-billion debt to Indian corporates is stated to be with companies that do not earn enough even to cover interest costs. So, the bad debts or non-performing assets with the banks are piling up astronomically—a fact which has been corroborated by no one else but the RBI governor who even said that big promoters or industrialists are arm-twisting the banks for not making a row over loan default. So far the government has subsidized the monopoly houses and corporate sector to the tune of Rs. 5, 89,285.2 crores in 2014-15 in the form of various tax concessions and relaxations on customs duty and excise. This figure, technically termed as revenue foregone is more than the budget estimate of fiscal deficit of Rs. 5, 55,649 crores and stated to have exceeded figure of total borrowings by the government. But, has that, by any means, stimulated growth, increased investment or created adequate jobs? Arguing that our "domestic companies need to be more competitive" and "a regime of exemptions has led to pressure groups, litigation and loss of revenue", the BJP Finance Minister had reduced corporate tax from 30% to 25% in the last budget. He claimed that this would "lead to higher level of investment, higher growth and more jobs." Has that happened or it proved to be a big hoax? Ananda Bazar Patrika, one of the leading Bengali dailies, is also on record to have clearly stated in its edition dated 26 May, 2015 that "there is no demand in domestic market. The condition of overseas market is also the same. So both

domestic and foreign investors are staying away from deploying capital. ...The spectacle is same in all industries—manufacturing, construction, transport, real estate to financial services. There is no off-take of fresh bank loan for setting up new industries" This very statement also mocks in no uncertain a term the much clamoured claim that once all sectors are opened to FDI, there will be an avalanche of investment.

In fact, this is the scenario throughout the capitalist-imperialist world. IMF Managing Director Christine Lagarde said in a guest article for German newspaper *Handelsblatt* published in last December that global economic growth will be "disappointing" next year. The entire Europe is in the grip of recession. Chinese capitalist economy is in doldrums. Condition of US economy is no better as both US based companies and the US Congress expressed fear of a slowdown way back in October last. And in tandem, it is clear from all available facts that Indian economy is in recession because of plummeting demand. The bourgeois government instead of taking steps to stimulate demand by increasing purchasing power of the people through creation of enough job at reasonable remuneration, reduction in the burden of indirect taxation and lowering price level by firmly controlling hoarding, black marketing and price manipulation, is moving just the other way. Leaving poverty and misery-stricken people to fend for themselves, the BJP government like its predecessor Congress government are increasing the dose of subventions, concessions and waivers to the industrial houses and corporate bigwigs. So, the situation is turning from bad to worse.

### Surge in inflation

While stagnation of economy marked by growing recession, dipping industrial output and absence of productive investment, inflation is on a steep ascent. Union BJP Finance Minister in his last budget speech claimed that "one of the major achievements of his government has been to conquer inflation." In support of his claim, he has stated that "the latest CPI (Consumer Price Index) inflation rate is 5.1%, and the wholesale price inflation is negative." But for the common man who goes to the market to procure bare necessities of life, this very claim proved to be a palpable falsehood tantamount to defrauding the countrymen. How he misguided the House as well as people at large is evident now with rising for the fifth straight month, retail inflation or CPI soared appreciably. Food inflation too rose to 6.40 per cent during the month as per data released by the government. It is to be reiterated that in order to camouflage the reality and peg down figures revealing peril of capitalist economy, the government and its agencies resort to lots of manipulations including, if necessary, changing the very basis of calculation. In spite of that, the upswing of retail inflation could not be kept under the wraps.

As we said earlier, what is more criminal is that while all these policies of and steps by the bourgeois government are jacking up inflation which itself is a product of capitalist economic

*Contd. on page 4*

## Stagflation

# It is an hourly insolvable crisis, capitalism is sunk in

*Contd from page 3*

law, the government is resorting to criminal manipulations in understating the rate of inflation. Instead of Consumer Price Index (CPI) which is compiled based on the retail price at which people purchase goods from the market, the Indian government publishes the Wholesale Price Index (WPI) figure as inflation. Everyone knows that there is a huge gap between wholesale and retail prices. Just the other day, it came to light that a vegetable is sold at Rs 15 a kg in the wholesale market, retail price of the same hovered around Rs 25 to Rs 30 a kg. So, it would not be incorrect to hold that actual figures of inflation are 3 to 4 times higher than what the government statistics hold out.

It has always been customary with ruling bourgeois quarters to argue that prices go up when demand picks up. They also define inflation as a situation in which 'too much of money chases too little a goods'. They contend that when money in the hands of the people increase, there is spurt in demand and if supply falls short of meeting the rising demand, prices shore up. They also argue that increase in the circulation of money in the system causes inflation which indicates a growth in economy and hence bears hallmark of prosperity. This argument they still float to befool people forgetting that a tumbling demand is causing recession in the country. What is craftily shielded is that money is concentrated in the hands of a few and not people at large. So prosperity smiles only on that handful of rich while the toiling millions are doomed to utter privation and predicament. There is another theory classical bourgeois economics propounds that rise in inflation is because of either 'demand pull' or 'cost push'. But in the instant case of stagflation in dying capitalism, this is neither due to any of these. Plummeting income of the people at large is spiking demand. The very other explanation of 'cost-pull' also would prove infructuous. The government is doling out a host of concessions and facilities given to the capitalists to peg down their cost of production. For example, just for establishing a Nano car factory in Sanand, Gujarat, the then Narendra Modi-led BJP state government there provided a subsidy of as high as Rs 30, 000 crores including a soft loan of Rs 9,570 crore at a ludicrous interest of 0.1 per cent from public exchequer. Similarly, the cost of procuring agricultural produces including food crops is never high rather low as most of the peasants who shell out more and more expenses in buying seeds, fertilizers, pesticides and other inputs are forced to 'distress sale' of the output by a corrupt nexus of rural kulaks-government-administration-political touts-middlemen-pedlars. Then why prices are up? Because, the prices are fixed arbitrarily by the controllers of production i.e. the ruling bourgeoisie with its pliant government in tow with the object of maximizing profit by selling lower volumes through increased squeezing of the common men. Over and above that, the aforesaid unholy nexus jacks up the price further to pocket its own margin. Besides that, as high as Rs 28.30 lakh crore of black money is roughly estimated to be generated in India per year with government as an indulgent onlooker and a sizeable part of that also contributes to rising inflation.

But turning a blind eye to all these factors,

the government circle at the behest of the ruling bourgeoisie is harping on lowering interest rate on the plea that it would discourage savings and bring more money to the system thereby stimulate demand. This is another fraudulent argument. Over 77% of the countrymen live below poverty line as per revelations by a government-appointed committee. Everyday, shutters are downed in various industries throwing thousands and thousands out of job and making them virtually street beggars. Over 3 lakh peasants have already committed suicide. On the contrary, lowering of interest rate is increasing hardship of those people including the retirees who subsist on bank interest. Are we to believe that these penury-stricken hapless people have enough savings in banks so much so that if interest rate comes down, they would unlock their savings and purchase more goods and thereby add to inflationary pressure? This is a ridiculous argument but the bourgeois ministers-economists-columnists merrily ride on that to justify their pro-capitalist anti-people steps. In fact, with most of the vast population living below the poverty line, inflation acts as a 'Poor Man's Tax'.

### **Capitalism cannot come out of growing crisis**

A glaring contradiction of capitalist economy is worth noting in this connection. As per the argument advanced by the bourgeois economists, if interest rate is brought down, it would stimulate investment. But much to their discomfort, this, according to them, would also trigger further inflation. What a double whammy! In fact, this is an example of grave crisis capitalism is enmeshed with. It is in fact caught in its own web. As Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary, SUCI(C), and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era had shown long back, capitalist economy is haunted by a shadow of crisis. It is trying to somehow stave off a crisis only to tumble into another bigger crisis. This Comrade Ghosh termed as hourly crisis of capitalism now in its decay and pointed out based on the science of Marxism-Leninism that as the days would roll by, this crisis would go on accentuating. No magic, no quackery would be

able to save capitalism from this ongoing and intensifying crisis which is created by its own law of operation. With passage of time, this prognosis is corroborated by facts and thereby confirming the correctness of Marxist methodology of analysis to derive truth.

So, it is evident that whatever attempt is made on the part of the ruling bourgeois quarters to hide facts, truth is that India like other developed imperialist-capitalist countries is in grip of stagflation—a disease of moribund capitalism. With every passing day, this disease will aggravate because there cannot be any cure of this in capitalism. Only the ruling bourgeoisie will, in the name of treating the disease will put more and more burden on the common people and make their life yet more strangulating. However, in order that people's wrath do not burst forth in the form of surging protest, the central as well as various state governments wedded to the task of serving the ruling capitalist class, often as a shrewd deceptive overture, distribute some stray benefits like offering sub-standard rice and wheat at less price, provide laptops, cycles, etc, particularly on the eve of elections. In fact, the government through its monetary policies and fiscal savagery squeeze out even the last penny from the pockets of suffering people and then uses a miniscule part of the collection in throwing such crumbs to them pretending to be showering largesse on them. It is akin to the proverbial saying 'gain without spending'. But, when the question of providing relief to people through budgetary provision arises, it is simply brushed aside as "sheer populism". Suffering people should, therefore, never be carried by the customary conciliatory speeches and bluffs by the bourgeoisie ministers, economists, commentators about so called economic revival and rise up against all kinds of bourgeois deception in this regard. Task imperative is to understand that unless capitalism is overthrown, there can be no respite in their life. And till the time capitalism is not overthrown, a powerful well-organized conscious people's movement under correct revolutionary leadership can only exert necessary pressure on the government to at least concede some relief to the suffering people.

### **AISEC condemns suicide of Rohith Vemula**

In a statement issued on 20 January, Dr. AK Ray, General Secretary, All India Save Education Committee (AISEC) expressed unstinted condemnation of the events that lead to the shocking suicide of Rohith Vemula, a research scholar holding a UGC fellowship in the hostel of the Hyderabad Central University on 17 January night. The sequence of events as revealed in print and electronic media clearly indicates the clear hand of leaders of Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP, the student wing of the BJP) and even BJP Union ministers behind it, he said. Also the clear partisan casteist attitude and action of two important union ministers virtually forced a bright research scholar to commit suicide because of threat, humiliation and injustice. Remarkably, as against the arrogant and brute vengeful attitude of ABVP and BJP leaders, the victim in his suicidal note, explicitly stated not to harm even his enemies for his death.

The AISEC, said Dr. Ray, demands in clearest words a thorough enquiry into the sequence of events and exemplary punishment including resignation of Shri Bandaru Dattatreya and Smt. Smriti Irani, the two guilty union ministers, and the Vice-Chancellor of Hyderabad Central University. It further demands of the MHRD to stop interference into the autonomy of educational institutions and infringement and atrocities upon students- teachers- employees fighting for any just cause.

The AISEC also condemns not only brutal police atrocities that are being perpetrated upon students and others who are protesting against this incident, but also demands resignation of the Union ministers and the VC of the HCU. It urges right-thinking people of the country to raise in one voice strong protest against these heinous events unfolded in Hyderabad and Delhi.

# BJP government deprives common Indians of benefits of dipping oil price

Earlier, when the government made it a habit of raising retail prices of petrol-diesel, its usual argument was that such was necessary to bail out the 'loss making' oil companies because of upswing in the international crude price. We had at that time showed with all relevant facts that this was a flawed argument as no oil company ever incurred a loss but rather was minting fabulous profit and the government was trying to equate the so called 'under recovery of prices' as loss to befool people. Later, when the government defying public opinion and disdaining countrywide protest, deregulated first petrol and then diesel price as part of its much-trumpeted economic reforms, the argument put forth was that if international crude price comes down resulting in lowering of the cost of acquisition of crude, retail prices would be slashed proportionately. But to their utter dismay, the common citizens now find how the government makes a somersault and refuses to pass on the benefits of a drastic fall in international crude tariff and instead impose additional tax to inflate its kitty and also allows domestic oil barons to pile up huge profit.

For example, in January 2014 when the global price of crude oil was \$106 per barrel the retail price of petroleum products, petrol and diesel in

Delhi were Rs 72.43 and Rs 54.34 per litre respectively. But, now when global crude price has fallen to \$32 per barrel, petrol is priced at Rs 59.99. In other words, for a 331% downslide in crude price, the drop in petrol price had been just 16%. Clearly, this is fraud on the common people. One would recall that in April 2011 when the price of crude oil was above \$110 per barrel, the then Congress government informed Parliament that the cost of "fuel component" for one litre of petrol was Rs 30.22 and Rs 25.11 for one litre of diesel. Fuel component is the cost of crude oil+ processing cost+ overhead cost+ GRN (Gross refinery margin), and also includes freight. In other words, the contention was that production cost of one litre of petrol plus a margin in 2011 was Rs 30.22 and for diesel Rs 25.11. BJP came to power in May 2014. In June that year \$115 was per barrel crude oil price. At that time \$1 was equal to Rs 58.44. So, crude price per barrel (159 litres) was Rs 6720.60 paisa. As per this standard oil price per litre should have been Rs 42.26. But the market price was then Rs 74.42 for petrol and Rs 55.45 for diesel. Naturally, the question is why the people bear such a heavy burden of retail fuel prices? The answer lies in the calculation of retail fuel tariff which we produce below from a known source.

This shows how the common people are fleeced by the government on this score through heavy taxation. In fact, the BJP government at the Centre has made it a practice to go on imposing additional tax on petrol and diesel to mop up more revenue. In January only, the government has hiked excise duty on petrol-diesel three times. On 16 January, second dose of increase was by Rs 0.75 per litre and by Rs 2 a litre on diesel to collect over Rs 3,700 crore. And on a third occasion on 30 January, the raise has been by Rs1.00 (petrol) and Rs 1.50 (diesel) to fetch further sum of Rs 3,200 crores. Such arbitrary hike in excise duty on regular basis is taking away the gain which should have accrued to consumers from international oil prices slumping to 12 year low. Had this government any commitment for people it would have tried to minimise the expenses of transportation by bringing down oil prices and had ensured that lowered transportation cost translated into lowering of general price line of essential commodities including food items like cereals, pulses, vegetables, spices, salt, sugar and cooking oil. But the BJP government instead prefers to feather its own nest at the cost of the people. To save face, the Union Finance Minister said that this increased revenue would be used for constructing new roads. But there is not a single taker of this argument in the country as everyone is witness to how this government in naked subservience to bourgeois class interest is withdrawing subsidy from important areas concerning people like fertilizer, ration, cooking gas etc. and drastically reducing allocation to welfare areas like irrigation and flood control, health, rural job generating projects, child education. On the other hand, there is no relent from fattening the purse of the ruling monopolists, big corporates and industrial houses through providence of an array of tax concessions, waivers and concessions. So, it is a pipedream that any accretion to government's kitty in capitalist India will be used for people's welfare.

As it is already revealed, with plummeting of crude price resulting in drastic fall in cost of production of refined oil by the oil companies, profit of Reliance Industries owned by Mukesh Ambani, the richest Indian monopolist with an asset of reportedly worth \$22 billion, has risen from 39% to Rs 7,290 crore (\$1 billion) in the October-December 2015 quarter over the same period in 2014. And in 15 days of January, 2016, Mukesh's wealth swelled by a staggering \$620 million, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires index. Clearly the oil barons and their pliant government are the clear beneficiaries of the downslide of international crude price while people at large are left in the lurch. It came out in the media that till the last July, the longest global oil glut was estimated to save India close to Rs 1.5 lakh crore, or roughly \$24 billion, in 2015-16. To put that sum in perspective, it would be enough to cover the government's school education, health, women and child development budgets and pay for the rural jobs scheme. This will keep swelling the longer the prices keep falling. The oil ministry's market tracker, Policy

### Calculating Crude Oil Cost - Petrol & Diesel - 2016

Assume, price of crude Oil hovers at \$30 per barrel  
 On Importing Oil - Barrel Cost + Ocean Freight at 2 Dollar needs to be paid - effectively implying - 32\$ per barrel as import cost. This is Equivalent to Rs 2145 in INR (keeping exchange rate at Rs. 66 / US\$ )  
 » 1 barrel of crude Oil is Equivalent to around 159 Litres of Crude Oil  
 » Raw Crude Oil in Indian Currency: Rs. 2440 / 159 = Rs 15.36 per Litre approx

### Simplified Calculation Chart for Petrol & Diesel Prices in New Delhi - (Jan 2016)

	Petrol Price*	Diesel Price Calculation*
International Price of Crude Oil with Ocean Freight (as on 1st January 2016)	\$32 or Rs 2145 per Barrel	\$32 or Rs 2145 per Barrel
1 Barrel of Crude Oil	159 Litre	159 Litre
Crude Oil - Cost per Litre	Rs 13.49 per Litre	Rs 13.49 per Litre

### Basic Oil Marketing Company's Cost Calculation

Entry Tax (if appl.), Refinery Processing, Margin & Landing		
Cost from Refinery to OMC - (Refinery Costs)	Rs 8.18 per Litre	Rs 4 per Litre
OMC Margin, Transportation, Freight, Landing to Dealers	Rs 2.83 per Litre	Rs 2.90 per Litre

<b>Basic Cost of Fuel after Refining Cost</b>	Rs 24.5 per Litre	Rs 20.39 per Litre
<b>Additional: Excise Duty as on 16th January 2016</b> (hiked further by 75paise on Petrol and Rs 2 / Litre on Diesel)	Rs 20.48 per Litre	Rs 15.83 per Litre
<b>Pricing Charged to Dealers before VAT</b>	Rs 44.98 per Litre	Rs 36.22 per Litre

### Calculating Dealer Retail Price - Base Location Delhi

Commission to Petrol Pump Dealers	Rs 2.25 per Litre	Rs 1.42 per Litre
<b>Fuel Cost Before VAT</b> (rounded off for approximation)	Rs 47.23 per Litre	Rs 37.64 per Litre
Additional: VAT (Varies from State to State - 27% on Petrol & 18% on Diesel + 25p as Pollution Cess with Surcharge)	Rs 12.76 per Litre	Rs 7.03 per Litre

<b>Final Retail Price as on January 20, 2016 -(calculation)</b>	Rs 59.99 per Litre	Rs 44.67 per Litre
---	--------------------	--------------------

\* - Prices as on 20 January 2016

Had it been ideal world - we would have ended up with Fuel Cost of less than Rs 30 per Litre for Petrol and Diesel. (Source:-mycarhelpline.com)

## Spurt of communal outbursts

# Vote-bank oriented politics ultimately helped the communal forces gain strength

*Contd. from page 2*

of the Indian bourgeoisie in its haste to usurp power from the British imperialists, ended in dividing the country on religion. The Indian capitalist class usurped the state power of India and the Congress, their most trusted representative, which had managed to come to the forefront in the freedom struggle, assumed the charge of governance of the country. The *Hindutvavadis* waited in the wings to gain strength. They even earned the favour of the Congress which, as mentioned, kept them ready to be made use of for the purpose of catching Hindu vote-bank.

### **Congress did not care to eradicate communalism- fundamentalism, but used those**

Decades of Congress rule only proved to be the best means towards protection, consolidation and strengthening of Indian capitalism bringing down ruthless capitalist rule of exploitation and oppression on the vast masses of toiling people. People's resentment and wrath mounted higher every moment and found expression time and again in spontaneous outbursts against the common enemy, the Congress in power. Once more, people at large, overcoming all differences and divisions among themselves joined hands in those struggles. Repeatedly, it was proved that the platform of struggle served as the impenetrable shield against religious fundamentalism or such divisive traits. But in absence of a correct leadership, all their efforts and sacrifice ended in fiasco. The movements could not be guided towards the desired goal to make those conducive to the growth and development of anti-capitalist socialist revolutionary struggle. Even the self-styled Marxists, CPI(M), CPI and their allies used the erupting people's movements for their petty parliamentary ends thereby weakening the movements in the long run. For some seats or some taste of power and pelf, they did not hesitate to make electoral adjustments with the forces which they shunned as right reaction in the fields of movement. On the contrary, in the name of fighting the right reaction they branded the Congress as secular, thus covering up the facts that during their long tenure of rule in the Union government, the Congress not only made use of the RSS, VHP and its ancillaries for winning over Hindu vote-bank (an act that gave birth to the term *soft Hinduism*), they themselves incited, provoked, even engineered communal flare-ups and religious fanaticism, at the same time posing the saviour of the minority communities, both again for winning elections and preserving vote banks. Even with overwhelming power the Congress never cared for meting out the least exemplary punishment to those responsible for fomenting communalism. Branding such a force as secular by the CPI(M), CPI, helped the Congress to build up its pseudo-progressive image and thus take out the wind out of the sail of movements. The only outcome was, the communal forces, particularly the *Hindutvavadis* slowly yet gradually gained strength. People's movements ended in frustration and helplessness.

### **The BJP rises with two agenda : serve the monopolists and disunite people**

The all-out crisis of Indian capitalism deepened fast along with the intense crisis of the moribund world capitalist system. The Indian monopoly grew imperialist character. Faced with acute internal market crisis, it looked for global market and aspired for developing into a regional superpower in the world. The governments of the Indian capitalist state of any and every shade as well as the entire band of bourgeois, petty bourgeois and social democratic parties vying for parliamentary power and pelf, became totally subservient to the Indian monopolists. Their policies simply hinged upon protecting and perpetrating the rule of capital, prolong the lease of life of this crisis-ridden exploitative system. Obviously that brought on unmitigated sufferings in people, giving way to increasing wrath and resentment among exploited toiling people. Like any despotic rulers, in the same way as the British imperialist rulers did, the governments, be it of the Congress or the BJP, or any combination, instigated all kinds of divisive tendencies, headed by communal frenzy to disrupt the unity of people, so that they may not stand united against their common enemy, the ruling monopolists to end with the rule of capitalism.

The present BJP government with Narendra Modi at the helm rose to power in course of these. Massive resentment and wrath of people during the two terms of the Congress-led UPA government, made the monopolists thrust the BJP, led by Narendra Modi into power as their alternative choice. Utter failure to develop genuine democratic movement led by the lefts, further helped Modi's ascent. After assuming power, the entire effort of the BJP has hinged upon two agenda. First, to prove its worth and efficiency as the most effective subservient force of the ruling monopolists at this critical hour of the world capitalist- imperialist system facing intense recession and market crisis, the BJP government is directing all its policies, including so-called reforms or development measures towards protecting, enhancing and consolidating the interests of the monopolists and the corporates. Two, to give shape to their above agenda, on one side the RSS—BJP and their government are fanning up national jingoism from behind the slogan of development or of so called Indianization, and on the other side they are cleverly fomenting religious fundamentalism and communal frenzy, with a view to shattering the unity of toiling masses on the face of ever-increasing ruthless exploitation and accompanying oppression of the capitalist state.

### **Weakness of nation-building process left the seeds of disunity and enmity within**

The BJP has managed to rise to power of governing this country. As indicated, the parliamentary parties, including the pseudo-Marxists as well as the Congress have not only failed to eradicate the rabid communalist-fundamentalist forces from the country's political scenes; their politics have simply provided those with newer lease of life to sprout at a convenient moment. At the same time, it may be worthwhile

to point out here that the roots remained embedded even in the historical process of our nation-building. A glance at that is thus necessary to understand the situation further in its real light. In course of elaborating the characteristics of this process, Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era and Founder General Secretary of SUCI (C), said : "I consider it my duty to condemn, with all the force at my command, that section of the Hindu and the Muslim community, who, in the name of history, falsifies history and asserts that there can be no unity between the Hindus and the Muslims, let alone national integration of the two communities. However loud and assertive, this is no logic nor is it corroborated by facts...it should be noted that in India the process of formation of nation started in the second half of the nineteenth century, when capitalism, as a world social force, had not only lost its revolutionary character but also become definitely anti-revolution. Over and above this general characteristic, Indian capitalism had its specific features. Unlike western capitalism, which grew independently, Indian capitalism grew and developed under the domination of foreign finance capital with feudal relations surrounding it. As a result, it had a stunted growth...Indian bourgeoisie maintain a reformist oppositional role against imperialism. Its role against feudalism was equally compromising. Indian capitalism, therefore, tried to develop through compromises with both imperialism and feudalism. The result of compromises with feudalism was that the Indian bourgeoisie could not and did not carry out the tasks of social and cultural revolutions essential for the democratization of the society and complete merger of different nationalities speaking different languages and different communities professing different religions, into a nation. In the course of the political movement against imperialism, the Indian people speaking different languages and professing different religions became a nation politically but...remained socially and culturally divided into different communities, disunited by religion, cast, language, race, etc.

This is not all. The Indian nationalist leadership not only did not try to free the Indian masses from the bondage of religion and democratize the society by carrying out the tasks of social and cultural revolutions, it took up, on the contrary, religion as a vehicle of propagating nationalistic ideas. Indian nationalism, therefore, was basically religion-oriented. This religion-oriented nationalism manifested itself in the form of Hindu religious revivalism.... Real integration of different communities into a nation can be achieved only by making religion completely powerless, in so far as the social activities of individuals are concerned, through democratization of the society in the course of accomplishing the tasks of social and cultural revolutions. Neither the nationalist bourgeois leadership nor those forces who spoke of the necessity of establishing a leadership alternative to the nationalist bourgeois leadership did perform these essential tasks of formation of the Indian nation. So, notwithstanding the sincerity to unify

*Contd. on page 7*

## Spurt of communal outbursts

# People's movement under correct leadership, the only guarantee to thwart communal danger

*Contd. from page 6*

all the communities into a nation, the wrong process adopted for the purpose failed to integrate the different communities, particularly the Muslims, into a national whole... A really secular state considers religion the private affair of its citizens and does not, therefore, interfere, either by encouragement or by opposition, in the profession, practice and propagation of religion by the individual. On the contrary, it guarantees full freedom to the believers to profess any faith as well as to the non-believers. By carrying out the tasks of social and cultural revolutions, it democratizes the society and takes the wind out of the sail of religion, in so far as its influence on the social activities of the individual and on the state is concerned." (*On Communal Problem*, Selected Works, Vol. II, pp. 173-177)

### Graver omens of fascism loom large

Under pressure of people's aspiration, the term secularism had to be incorporated in the Constitution of the newly independent Indian capitalist state. Yet the Indian state never grew into a truly secular one. In the name of harmony what it promoted was multi-theocratism as against Islamic theocratism of Pakistan. Just as in India under the British rule, religion was used by the then governments, by the Congress for the obvious lion's share of the six decade long rule as also by others, to create majority or minority vote-banks for petty parliamentary gains. Naturally the divisions persisted ready to be played upon by the fundamentalist forces like the RSS or the likes. And now in power they are coming out with all their teeth and claws.

But what they are practicing are not just fundamentalist onslaughts. As mentioned earlier, it has still graver omens. It aims at affecting the very thinking process, promoting obscurantist thoughts and mechanically accepting those on the basis of fanaticism and blind faith, destroying all traces of scientific thinking and rationality, all kinds of debates and discussions; it aims at destroying all attempts towards opposition to their agenda. This is the rock-bottom culture of fascism which, as Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, our departed leader, teacher and guide rightly showed, "destroys the

### Retail fuel tariff is double of cost because of hefty tax component

*Contd. from page 5*

Planning and Analysis Cell, estimated the country's oil import bill for this fiscal at \$88.2 billion, or nearly 22% lower than \$112.7 billion in 2014-15. (Times of India 22-08-15) Another source says that with the price of crude oil per barrel decreasing by \$1 the import expense comes down by Rs 6 trillion 5 billion. Now keeping in mind the decrease of crude price from \$115 to \$30, it is anybody's guess what a huge amount has been saved on this count.

This is the way the bourgeois government is fleeing the people with alacrity showing whom the BJP government is working for. Similarly will continue the con game in the days to come not only in fuel pricing but in other fields of gruelling economic oppression as well.

very process of creating Man'. The real danger of rising spate of communal frenzies, be it in the guise of intolerance or otherwise, inheres here.

### Alone people's united movement can thwart the danger

The question that remains: How then can people's mind be freed from the shackles of obsolete thoughts and illogical bent? To reiterate, movement for a common cause serves as the platform to unite people. Hence rising above religion, caste, ethnicity and language, the toiling masses need to build up and join the surges of intense class and mass struggles on the burning problems of their life that the capitalist system is breeding every moment. Despite the rise of communal outbursts, the present situation had its silver linings too. Here right thinking people were coming out courageously raising their voice of protest against communalism. It was also important that massive united movement against the virulent onslaught from the RSS- BJP combine and their allies was urgently needed. But at this point people need to give a thought to a sad reality. It is not a fact that there has not been any movement during all these decades of independence. It is not that people overcoming all divisive forces did not join in masses and even shed their blood for their brethren from a different community, different religion. The question is why then did not the movements meet their desired ends. Launching a movement is not then the last word. Unavoidably, it requires vigilance, requires ensuring that the movement takes place under a correct revolutionary leadership which can lead people into a movement built not only on the

common cause against common enemy. The revolutionary leadership with its unflinching commitment to people's cause, are committed also to develop that united sustained and organized movement on the desired edifice of higher ideology and loftier culture-ethics and morality fighting uncompromisingly against all divisive thoughts and processes. Only such a leadership also incorporates the task of launching an intense ideological struggle, released in right earnest, against the doctrines of religiosity, communalism and fundamentalism as an integral part of the broader movement. Hence in the cultural ambience of class and mass struggles under revolutionary leadership, all divisive thoughts based on religion, caste etc. tend to be subdued and finally erased and people's unity cemented firmly against the common enemy, the capitalist class and their subservient forces. The organized and ideologically fortified two-pronged attack can then be wielded against the capitalist class and their henchmen by the people to foil all sinister attempts to drive a wedge among the oppressed people.

The debate on intolerance may go on. Even the perpetrators of intolerance will talk of tolerance as and when they may need to win over support from a vote-bank. But for people, particularly those who dare to come forward and fight from the front in protest against communalism-fundamentalism, it is incumbent on all of them to take up the task of building and joining the class and mass struggles under correct leadership that is growing in the country. If intelligent, thinking minds nourish the mass movements with intellectual support, the camp of reaction and vested interest would be disarmed quickly.

## Thousands commemorate Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht in Berlin

On Sunday, 10 January, more than 10,000 people in the capital commemorated Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht, the murdered founders of the Communist Party of Germany (KPD). The large demonstration marched in the morning for about one and a half hours through Berlin. It ended at the Memorial of the Socialists at the Friedrichsfelde Central Cemetery where, among others, Luxemburg and Liebknecht are honoured.

Left Party politicians also took part in the commemoration of the two revolutionaries and laid a wreath at the tomb. Over 14,000 people participated in the Luxemburg-Liebknecht demonstration, according to organizers. Organizer Klaus Meinel informed *Junge Welt* that there were more people than last year. Among the demonstrators there was a consistently militant mood — although many of the mostly young protesters had likely participated in political festivities the night before, which traditionally take place on this date in Berlin. The weekend of the Rosa Luxemburg Conference of *Junge Welt* on 9 January and the following day's march marks the start of the year's political activities for many left-wing groups and parties.

The march was divided into blocs. Behind the lead banner — "Luxemburg, Liebknecht, Lenin:

Nobody is forgotten! Stand up and resist!" — one could see flags of various organizations, including the Left Party followed by a large group from the Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany (MLPD), an antifascist bloc, then internationalists, youth, and finally the German Communist Party (DKP).

The call for the demonstration was reminiscent of the anti-militarist attitude of Luxemburg and Liebknecht. It read: "In their spirit — with their clarity and energy — we demonstrate peacefully against wars and exploitation, for humanity and internationalism."

The participation of German soldiers in the war in Syria, initiated by the Federal Government, and the deployment of Bundeswehr Tornados [fighter planes] were particularly criticized. Banners read: "International solidarity to fight German imperialism" and "Bundeswehr out of Syria!"

At the turn of 1918-1919, Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht founded the German Communist Party (KPD). Shortly after, both took part in the Spartacist Uprising. The revolutionary attempt was bloodily suppressed. Luxemburg and Liebknecht were captured by the right-wing Freikorps and murdered at the behest of Gustav Noske's Social Democrats on 15 January, 1919. (Source: *German left daily Junge Welt-14-01-16*)

## Netaji birth anniversary observed throughout the country

On the occasion of 23 January, 119th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhashchandra Bose, the great revolutionary leader of the Indian freedom movement, AIDS0, AIDYO, AIMSS as also others, organized various programmes throughout the country. Remarkably, common people at large participated enthusiastically in these programmes. A new edition of the valuable document on assessment of Netaji's life and struggle, by Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C) was sold in lakhs across the country. At Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Surat in Gujarat whole-day programmes like public meetings on Netaji's life and struggles were made, wearing of badges with Netaji's portrait, photo exhibition particularly in university campuses, open cultural programmes with rendering of patriotic songs etc. were held. A public meeting at RD Nagar in Surat was addressed by Comrade Satyawan, Member, Central Committee, SUCI(C), who reminded the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh that it was our bounden duty to remember the revolutionaries, freedom fighters, social reformers and other great men of our country. He elaborated the life struggle and thoughts of Netaji. He said that real tribute to Netaji would be to carry forward his struggle and accomplish his unfulfilled task.

## Richest 62 people as wealthy as half of world's population

The vast and growing gap between rich and poor has been laid bare in a new Oxfam report showing that the 62 richest billionaires own as much wealth as the poorer half of the world's population.

Timed to coincide with this week's gathering of many of the super-rich at the annual World Economic Forum in Davos, the report calls for urgent action to deal with a trend showing that 1% of people own more wealth than the other 99% combined.

Oxfam said that the wealth of the poorest 50% dropped by 41% between 2010 and 2015, despite an increase in the global population of 400m. In the same period, the wealth of the richest 62 people increased by \$500bn (£350bn) to \$1.76tn.

The charity said that, in 2010, the 388 richest people owned the same wealth as the poorest 50%. This dropped to 80 in 2014 before falling again in 2015.

Mark Goldring, the Oxfam GB chief executive, said: "It is simply unacceptable that the poorest half of the world population owns no more than a small group of the global super-rich – so few, you could fit them all on a single coach."

(Source : Guardian 18-01-16)

## Nagpur District Organizing Committee of SUCI (C) formed

At its meeting held from 28 to 31 December, 2015, in Kolkata, Central Committee approved formation of Nagpur district organizing committee of SUCI (Communist) comprising Comrades Bijendra Rajput, Madhuri Nakure and Prabin Kumar. Comrade Bijendra Rajput has been appointed as the secretary of the organizing committee.

## SUCI(C) strongly condemns Peshawar terror attack, calls upon world people to thwart menace of religious fundamentalism-terrorism

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 20-01-16:

We vehemently condemn the most diabolic terror attack by Tehreek-i-Taliban Pakistan (TTP) on the students and teachers of Bacha Khan University in Khyber Pakhtunkhawa's Charsadda town of Peshawar this morning in which, as per latest report, 22 have been killed many more injured. This is a gruesome attack on humanity and beggars no forgiveness.

Throughout the world, there is a spurt in such mindless violence and reckless murder by terror groups affiliated to religious fundamentalist organizations which have been of serious concern for peace and stability of common citizens. As is revealed today, it is the imperialists headed by the US imperialists who in their narrow sectarian interest of establishing total hegemony over the world have given birth to these religious fundamentalist organizations and notwithstanding all their diatribes against terrorism for public consumption and camouflaging their heinous covert acts, are continuing to nourish and nurture them to precipitate disunity, divisiveness and hatred among various sections of people and use them

to topple regimes refusing to bow before their dictates. It is pertinent to mention that so long as the socialist bloc headed by Soviet Union existed as a bulwark of world peace and a deterrent force against imperialist brigandage, religious fundamentalism and terrorism could never raise their ugly heads. It is only after sad dismantling of socialist bloc due to revisionist conspiracy aided and abetted by world imperialism-capitalism that such fanatics-terrorists are on a killing spree and holding peace-loving world people into ransom.

Unless people of the world in right earnest close their rank and alongside intensifying legitimate mass movements on just demands of life spearhead a powerful well-knit anti-imperialist militant peace movement together with fierce ideological campaign against the vile doctrine of religious fundamentalism-communalism-terrorism of all shades, this menace of sporadic grisly terror attacks and other forms of diabolism cannot be contained. We, therefore, fervently call upon toiling people of all countries to rise up and act accordingly in a decisive manner to prove that organized people's power exerted in right direction and in right manner is invincible.

## AIDS0 condemns the central government's political interference in University affairs resulting in the suicide of Rohith Vemula

AIDS0 in a statement issued on 19 January, 2015, expressed deepest condolences to the parents and family members of Rohith Vemula a bright research scholar of Central University, Hyderabad, who ended his life being unable to bear the harassment and vindictive action of the university and the central government. It also vehemently condemned the union HRD minister,

less a crime on the part of the central ministers. By forcing its will on the university, the central government is nakedly infringing on the Autonomy of the University and the vindictive punishment meted out to the 5 students blatantly exposed favouritism and undemocratic act of the central government and the university.

Vehemently condemning once again this



As part of the countrywide protest on Rohit Vemula's suicide, students in Kolkata protesting at the entrance of the Governor's House

Union Labour Minister and other BJP leaders for forcing the university to expel 5 research students who were opposed to the ideology of the BJP and its student wing ABVP. This ghastly incident, the statement said, is one more reflection of intolerance of the BJP and the Sangh Parivar organisations. This dastardly and vindictive action of the central government which has been the cause behind the tragic suicide of Rohith is no

brutally undemocratic and vindictive decision of the central government and university, AIDS0 demanded immediate resignation of Union Ministers Shri Bandaru Dattatreya and Smt. Smriti Irani, and Prof. Appa Rao Podile, Vice-Chancellor of

Hyderabad Central University and wanted of the government to immediately release the stipend and adequate compensation to the deceased family and order an impartial inquiry.

In a separate statement AIDS0 extended moral support to the All India Student Strike in the universities convened by the Joint Action Committee of University of Hyderabad on 27th January.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF : PROVASH GHOSH