

Proletarian Era

Volume 49 No. 5
October 15, 2015

Organ of the SOCIALIST UNITY CENTRE OF INDIA (COMMUNIST)
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Price : Rs. 2.00
Total — 10 pages

BARBARIC DADRI KILLING

Imperative to release a powerful united anti-communal movement

Far away from the photo ops and boasts of Digital India by Prime Minister Modi in the Silicon Valley, democratic India was lynched to death on 28 September last at Bisada village of Dadri, Uttar Pradesh, just 60 kms away from Delhi. Mohammad Akhlaq, a 52-year old ironsmith who fashioned agricultural implements, was dragged out of his house and in full view of his family, beaten to death by an insane mob who pounced upon his family because they were rumoured to have eaten beef or stored cow meat in their fridge. All on a sudden, there was a public announcement over the loudspeaker in the midst of a *kirtan* (holy songs) from the local temple that his family had slaughtered a calf and consumed its meat and within no time a beastly savagery raved wild. His son is in critical condition, doctors still struggling to keep him alive. His wife, 82-year-old mother and daughter were also not spared by the attacking goons. His daughter ran from one neighbour to another begging for help, but none came forward. In vain she insisted that the meat in their fridge was mutton not beef. Still there was no abatement to the fury and brutal physical assault on them.

There are a large number of beef-eating Hindus in India who are neither bullied nor harassed, let alone be killed. Obviously, what the frenzied Hindutva brigade reportedly led by the son of a local BJP leader wanted was blood, Muslim blood, and the minor detail of whether the family had eaten beef or mutton or not, mattered little. The priest of the temple, it is significant to note, admitted that he had been pressured to make this false statement by two youths calling themselves as Hindus. So, this barbaric killing was well planned. Seldom before has a killing been the outcome of a sinister campaign to divide the people over eating preferences endorsed by religious practices. Clearly, the objective behind this murderous attack is to engineer a communal strife that the arch Hindu communal Sangh Parivar of BJP-RSS has now taken up as sole agenda to communally polarize the country for narrow sectarian electoral gains and scuttle any possibility of development of united movement of the toiling masses against the ruthless capitalist oppression. So, there is a systematic well-calculated ploy to stoke fire of communal conflagration through planted incidents. Pictures

of a burqa-clad man alleged to be a member of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) caught by residents of a small town in Uttar Pradesh while throwing beef into a Hindu temple, has gone viral on Facebook and Twitter just after the Dadri tragedy. Earlier also, it came to light that communal miscreants had thrown beef into Hindu temple or had put pork outside a mosque to inflame communal tensions. It may be mentioned that on 2 August last year, a mini-truck driver was similarly hacked to death by unknown bike-riding miscreants near police check post of Nazafgarh's Chhawla village near Delhi because the truck was carrying dead cows and buffaloes. It was later found that the driver whom the killers presumed to be a "Muslim cow smuggler" was actually a Hindu named Shankar Kumar, a South Delhi Municipal corporation contractor who was carrying dead cows and buffaloes from a nearby cowshed for cremation. Such is the insanity of the anti-Muslim fanatics of the Sangh Parivar. The silver lining has been that after Akhlaq was bludgeoned to death, local Hindu neighbours risked their own safety and went out of their way

Contd. on page 2

PATEL RESERVATION ISSUE IN GUJARAT

What it reveals, what it indicates

The issue of reservation in job, promotion and education has once more raised its head in the country, making a ritualistic comeback and bringing in its wake its usual frenzy, clashes and loss of life and property. In fact, with newer and newer attacks and counter-attacks between two sections or groups of people centring round reservation, the issue is assuming a newer, increasingly more vicious dimension. This time the venue is Gujarat, the model state of development of the Prime Minister Modi, his mentor-master the battalion of corporate and monopolists and the section of media sustaining on them. There, as it cropped up, on 25 August a huge mass, reportedly close to several lakh of people from the economically and socially dominant Patel or Patidar community, gathered in Ahmadabad to demand reservation in government educational institutions and jobs with the Other Backward Class (OBC) quota extended to them or to have the caste-based reservation abolished altogether. The agitation was led principally by Hardik Patel, convener of the Patidar Anamat Andolan Samiti (PAAS) since the last July only. There were also other groups of Patels such as the Sardar Patel Group

(SPG), a Patidar youth body, in which Hardik was once Virangam unit president, now a renegade. To contain the agitation the BJP state government led by Anandiben Patel deployed forces and arrested the leaders including Hardik Patel, though for a brief period. But, the agitation continued and spread throughout the state. Agitators resorted to road blocks, torching of buses and other vehicles, vandalizing, even setting ablaze civic centres, ward offices, police chowkies, even homes of ministers hailing from the Patel community. The state government besides asking police to adopt all coercive steps also sought to block internet services, social media sites like whatsapp and sms on cellphones to suppress the movement. Finally 3,500 paramilitary forces personnel and 93 companies of the state reserve police were deployed in the violence-hit area. At long last after a month, as the situation was spiralling out of control, Prime Minister Narendra Modi broke his silence for recognizing the Patidars as OBCs and made an appeal for calm. As it unfolded, the agitation was not just about reservation but reflected a deeper discontent among Gujarat's most dominant community. However, before

adding details in that line, a brief background history of the reservation issue may help put the matters straight.

Reservation cries recurred through the years

The reservation issue was given a Constitutional status in the newly independent India with a view to attending to legitimate accumulated grievance of the *dalits*, long since oppressed and even ostracized in the society. It awarded a special provision for the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (SCs and STs) reserving a percentage of jobs or seats in government offices, public sector units, schools and colleges, etc, meant to help them come up to the mainstream of the country. It was also stipulated that there would be a review of the situation after 10 years. However, six such periods of 10 years have gone by; instead of there being any real assessment, the provision not only persists, but also has been extended. Originally not considered, the Other Backward Classes (OBCs) were brought within the purview of this reservation in August 1990 by the VP Singh

Contd. on page 3

BARBARIC DADRI KILLING**RSS-BJP deliberately trying to polarize country on communal line for electoral gain***Contd. from page 1*

to help seventy members of a local Muslim joint family escape minutes before a big gang of armed Hindutva fanatics could attack them. These humanitarian Hindus also ensured the safety of the houses of the Muslims that were left unattended.

What is noteworthy is that Prime Minister Modi is maintaining an enigmatic silence over all such incidents of communal provocations and murders. His observance of the code of mystic silence is also observed after Dadri killing. While his trusted Home Minister Rajnath Singh, glaringly with a view to playing to the gallery, told reporters that "Be it the state government or the central government, strongest possible action will be taken against those who try to break communal harmony in the country." But, that this is more a rhetoric than warning is evident from the fact that till date the kingpin of the crime has not been taken into custody. Only a few of the alleged accused have been arrested but time will only say if there would be any action against them or they will be released "in absence of material evidence" as had been on many similar cases of communal killing and arson in the past. Already a former MLA of BJP has similarly declared that those arrested for the killing of Dadri are "innocent kids" who got "excited" by the grave crime of eating beef. BJP legislator and Muzaffarnagar riot-accused Sangeet Som has also threatened to give a "befitting reply" if "innocents were framed" for Akhlaq's murder. BJP leader and Union Culture minister Mahesh Sharma, has fallen to a new low in justifying the murder of Akhlaq by arguing that the mob which killed him was a rather cultured one as they did not lay a finger on his 17-year old daughter. Another former BJP MLA Nawab Singh Nagar has said that those who dare hurt the feelings of the dominant Thakurs should realize the consequences. Local BJP leader Vichitra Tomar wants cow-killers to be arrested, not the killers of innocent minority Muslims. Srichand Sharma, Vice-President of BJP's Western UP unit, says violence is inevitable if Muslims disrespect Hindu sentiments. The BJP leaders, ministers and legislators are already in the field to raise communal pitch to a dizzy height centring on the ghastly killing. A group formed by Yogi Adityanath, the notorious BJP MP known for his over-enthusiasm in forcible religious conversion of Muslims and Christians to Hinduism, dubbed "ghar wapasi", has openly offered all possible help "including guns" to the Hindus of Bisada village. He had also been accused of making a hate speech ahead of the national elections in Muzaffarnagar which was seared by deadly communal riots in 2013. Sakshi Maharaj, another arch communal BJP MP, jumped to add fuel to the fire when he said, "We won't remain silent if somebody tries to kill our mother. We are ready to kill and get killed." These arch enemies of the

people even do not hesitate to claim that a cow's life is more precious than that of a man. Incidentally, in 2002, five persons belonging to the economically and socially backward dalit families were hacked to death in Jhajjar, Haryana, by a frenzied mob reportedly backed by influential rich of upper caste Hindus. Then VHP leader Giriraj Kishore Singh, a veteran member of the RSS family that makes no secret of holding the reins of the Modi government, had answered the question "Is the life of a cow more important than that of the Dalits?" with these very words: "According to our shastras, the life of a cow is very precious (*Shastron ke hisab se, gau ka jeevan bahut moolya hai*). This is the extent of insidiousness of the view of the Hindutva protagonists. All their attempts are to ensure that rupture between the two communities is deep and could be difficult to heal.

It is also pertinent to add that while RSS-BJP are evidently responsible for Akhlaq's murder, role of the Samajwadi Party-led state government is also conspicuous. The police, to one's utter dismay, is now busy conducting forensic test of the sample of meat collected from the victim's house and ascertain if that is beef or mutton as if on that lies the necessity of apprehending the killers. Everyone knows that while RSS-BJP and their associates flaunt communal Hindutva card with the backing of the ruling Indian bourgeoisie to make fortunes in the parliamentary politics, aspirant regional bourgeois parties like Samajwadi Party also play casteist-communal card to stay afloat in vote-based power politics. So, these parties too seek to derive mileage out of such ghastly incidents by befriending counter-communalism. This nasty politics seems to be working centred on bestial Dadri killing also.

Notwithstanding his eerie silence on Dadri murder, Prime Minister Modi's views on cow slaughter are no secret. Addressing the Jain International Trade Organisation, a worldwide body of Jain businessmen and professionals in 2012, Modi, then Gujarat Chief Minister, said: "It is the Central government's dream that they will bring about a Pink Revolution in India and export meat throughout the world. This year, the Centre has itself announced that India is the world's largest beef exporter. Is this what we pride ourselves on? Brothers and sisters, I don't know whether this saddens you, but my heart screams out at this. I am unable to understand why you are silent, why you are taking this lying down?" By "Pink Revolution", he meant slaughter of an animal because colour of the meat is pink. This term BJP coined to malign the then Congress government and raise its motivated slogan of banning cow slaughter. Though not explicit, yet in tune with the way RSS-BJP are stoking the embers of communal conflagration after Dadri killing, Modi also, during a recent election speech in Bihar said in an oblique reference to Lalu Prasad Yadav of RJD and his Yadav caste that, "I am coming from Dwarka city and Dwarka has a direct connection to the Yaduvansh [referring to Bihar's Yadav caste]. ...I am therefore shocked that the same Yadavs who worship Shri Krishna, who keep cows as livestock, who serve the cow, it is their leaders who are in bed with the same

people who proudly massacre animals." Ironically, even in his regime, India continues to be one of the biggest exporters of beef and it is the state of UP which has 317 slaughterhouses and 24 export-oriented units of buffalo meat and from where originates 67% of Indian beef exports. Many Hindu Businessmen are the largest beef suppliers (4 out of 6 largest meat exporters) as well as owners of beef-associated industries (on bones, skins, fats etc.) of India. A study by ummid.com states that "...it is actually the government and non-Muslims who are benefiting the most from the \$ 4.5 billion animal slaughter business. Out of six largest meat exporters of India four are Hindus. Most business associated with cow slaughter including meat export, bone-crushing and powder industry, leather and horn processing industries, blood processing, animal fat and soap industry are dominated entirely by non-Muslims. And to add salt to the injury, Sangeet Som, whom we referred to as fiery BJP MLA at the forefront of the frenzied anti-beef protests and an accused in the Muzaffarnagar riots, founded Al-Dua, one of India's leading halal meat export companies. Perhaps, these few references are enough to show the real intent of the RSS-BJP behind beef row as well as hypocrisy of their leaders.

While having no doubts about the ulterior motive of the RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar behind fomenting beef-eating issue and going even to the extent of killing an innocent Indian citizen based on that, we take this occasion to point out that beef eating has been no taboo in Hindu religion also. Ancient Hindu scriptures establish beyond doubt that even upper-caste Hindus and great sages ate beef in days of yore. Historians say that love of cows in the Vedas goes with every possible economic use of cattle, including, of course, their slaughter for food. It is also found in the epic Mahabharata that a very hospitable king used to have 20,100 cattle slaughtered every day for his guests. In Bhababhuti's famous play *Uttara-Rama-Charita*, written in the 8th century AD, there is a dialogue between Saudahataki and Dandayana, two hermit boys of Ayodhya that as custom, meat was served along with curds and honey and for that purpose every host used to offer a heifer, a big bull, or a goat to a learned Brahmin who used to come as a guest. This was laid down in sacred law. 'The Hindu View on Food and Drink' authored by S. Ganesh and Hari Ravikumar on IndiaFacts.com draws attention to the fact that while Vedic scriptures do value the cow, they have no problem with the consumption of bulls and oxen and barren cows. One can also find endorsement of this view in Vivekananda's works where he said, "You will be surprised to know that according to ancient Hindu rites and rituals, a man cannot be a good Hindu who does not eat beef". (Complete Works, Vol. III) Our purpose of giving these references is not to hurt anyone's personal religious faith but to show that what the communal RSS-BJP are propagating as precepts of Hindu religion are travesty of truth. We are of the opinion that what food one should have is entirely a matter of one's personal choice. No secular democratic state can infringe on this

Corrigendum

Please read the 18th line of 3rd column of the first page of Proletarian Era dated 01-10-15 as **June, 1975** in place of June, 1974. The mistake through oversight is regretted.

Contd. on page 9

Has repeated raising of reservation issue brought anything else but disunity of people?

Contd. from page 1

government at the Centre as per the recommendations of the Mandal Commission, reserving 27 % jobs in Central government offices and public undertakings for the OBCs and in its wake bringing in a new divide among people. This was followed by reservation issue coming up again in late 2005- 2006. The then Congress government extended the OBC quota to IITs, IIMs and central universities. With the turn of a year, in June 2007 the state of Rajasthan and the adjoining areas of the four bordering states of Delhi, Haryana, Madhya Pradesh and Uttar Pradesh were in flames with reservation issue. A violent agitation by the Gujjar community people included in the OBCs (Other Backward Classes) erupted there when they demanded for their inclusion in the Scheduled Tribe (ST) category. Presently, the issue has been fanned up again by the Patels (later also the Brahmins) of Gujarat.

As it stands then, such flare-ups are nothing new. They break out occasionally on this or that issue in this or that part of the country. Even a brief history of these agitations show that these have never really aimed at uplifting the condition of any particular community. Rather they foment casteist-community feelings, pit one section of common people against another. And then these subside apparently after some clandestine understanding is arrived at between the government and the projected leaders of these agitations. The victims, mutually clashing groups of common people are huddled respectively into consolidated vote-banks of this or that political force.

Reservation cries rent the air, when ruthlessly exploited and cheated people try to raise their head

And under which conditions did these fratricidal, rather suicidal events take place? Here again there is a distinct commonness in the events. Ever since independence, the crisis-ridden capitalist system of the country is relentlessly generating economic recession with no significant industrialization barring a few- capital intensive ones, consequent mounting unemployment, tremendous market crisis, yawning poverty accompanied by disparity of wealth and privileges, and such other maladies, that are driving people's life to a shambles. Naturally people's resentment and wrath are also continually accumulating tending to burst forth now and then. The only concern of the ruling monopolists and their political managers, that is the governments run by different bourgeois, petty-bourgeois, national or regional, even social democratic parties, is to see to it that people's discontent does not take the shape of

united organized mass struggle against the system. And so on one hand they try to hoodwink people alluring them with the slogans of development; on the other they frantically found out ways and means to bring disunity among people to divert people from their own cause and get engaged in clashes among themselves. For historical reasons caste-community-religion provide them with one of the easiest and softest means for the purpose. So, now and then, they dig up the issue of reservation on caste-community basis, rope people in it with all media and monetary backing as well as with creating and projecting some self-proclaimed leader or leaders out of the blue, vitiate the ambience with hatred, mistrust and even enmity.

Thus in 1990 when the government and industrialists were hell bent upon computerization squeezing already evasive scope of employment further and when the Union government itself had imposed moratorium on recruitment, there was introduced the Mandal Commission recommendations generating terrible bloodbath in which the upper caste students resorted even to self immolation. Again in 2006 in an ambience of virulent spate of privatization- globalization-economic liberalization and rampant commercialization and exorbitant rise of cost of education introduced by the Congress-lead UPA government of Manmohan Singh, the reservation bait was thrown up for the OBCs in IITs etc., resulting in the fratricidal clashes between the so-called upper and lower caste students. Out of these, while the VP Singh government in 1990 and the Congress in 2006 tried to cash in upon Dalit- SC- ST- OBC support, the BJP tried to consolidate its upper caste Hindu vote bank.

Gujjar issue in 2007 also brought forth violent disruption of public life leading even to full-blown caste conflict with Rajasthan's dominant Scheduled Tribe, the Meenas, and the Gujjars fighting vicious battles to take a toll from both the communities. In the end, it was found that both the communities had been used in vote-politics, the Gujjars with an assurance by the BJP government before an election and then left at lurch and the Meenas from their dominant position, though poorer sections of both the communities continued to remain equally oppressed before or after the agitation and the handful privileged sections of both carried on with their flourish.

Leadership of Patel reservation tries to cash in upon mounting resentment of their people

To this list is added the recent stir of Patels from Gujarat, which held all the characteristics of the earlier reservation stirs: namely, violence, heavy damages of life and property, murderous

clashes between the Patidars and the Thakore communities all taking place in the familiar ambience of rising discontent of people and the vested interest coming up with money-media-material to create the stage for the stir. In Gujarat despite all tall claims of Gujarat model of development, the BJP-run state has become aggressively pro-corporate,

pro-monopolist, and investment-savvy, where there is a parallel sharp decline in the small- and medium-scale industries, concomitant shortage even absence of jobs in the corporate and industrial sectors. Moreover the land policy of the BJP governments at the state and more recently at the centre made people lose lands terribly in favour of corporates, land-sharks and real-estate moguls. As a result, once economically strong and fairly homogeneous Patel community was known as the diamond kingpins, detergent barons, real estate moguls, successful emigrants and most motel owners of the USA. Now they are at one end of the spectrum. At the other end, there are hundreds of small diamond units of Surat, Amreli and Bhavnagar shutting their shops; landholdings belonging to middle class Patels contracting in size; inadequate minimum support price for cash crops creating crisis in this top cotton-producing state. In the state of Gujarat there is a huge Rs.1.80 lakh crore investment over the last two decades and the annual industrial growth estimated at 22 per cent. But employment growth is set at just 3.5 per cent. In agriculture for the first time Gujarat's GDP (gross domestic product) clocked a negative growth (-6.96 per cent) in 2012-13 (April 2015 Comptroller Auditor General's (CAG) report) and so on. So at the other end of the community there are increasing numbers of impoverished small farmers, diamond workers, petty businessmen, and unemployed, prospectless youth. In their own words "There are lakhs of Patels who are economically backward" as lamented a leader of the SPG which launched the present protests. Unaware though, they confirmed the invaluable conclusions of Marx that capitalism ultimately abolishes the middle class between the rich and the poor. Naturally this did not go without rising discontent and sense of insecurity among the youth of once well established affluent community of the Patidars or Patels: a feature that had everything common with their counterpart in every nook and corner of the entire country. To see that this discontent is not transformed into a powerful united organized mass movement, the rulers and their henchmen leave no stone unturned, taking resort to all kinds of deceit and trickery. So the Patidar movement boastfully challenging the governments and administration virtually out of nothing, is found to be enjoying some powerful hand from behind that render all sorts of support, from popping up a leader, to organizing a huge rally that required huge cache of money and material, well-built organization as well as media support; the stir was ignited and the rising sense of insecurity and discontent in the community was channelized into it to be directed against other castes and communities. Neither did it end with the Patels; reportedly the Brahmins, the uppermost caste was also staring to demand reservation for them.

To hoodwink people they ask for reservation for job but never speak of what causes growing unemployment

At this point, it should be noted that in none of the stirs centring round reservations, neither the bourgeois politicians drumming for reservation or creating the hype against it, ever speak of the growing unemployment, massive job loss and closures, why these are taking place and who are

Contd. on page 9



A 147-member strong state body was formed in fifth state level conference of Jharkhand state AIDSO held in Hazaribagh on 26-27 September.

A few words worth pondering over on Bihar elections

First phase of Bihar assembly election is just over. Other four rounds are in the offing. Mainstream bourgeois media right from beginning and in keeping with the bourgeois design of increasingly effecting 2-party democracy to keep people's choice restricted between two parties or combinations of the ruling bourgeois class have been projecting BJP-led NDA and alliance of Nitish Kumar-Lalu Prasad-Congress as the main contestants, publishing occasionally pre-poll survey, instituted to influence the voters, and highlighting issues which are in no way connected with the burning problems of people's life. Both these bourgeois combinations vying with each other for power, instead of addressing genuine people's issues of food, shelter, job and availability of proper healthcare, education, sanitation, potable water and other civic amenities, are busy mudling at each other, seeking to virtually bribing the voters with customary promises of providing some one-time material incentives like cycles, tablets (IT gadget) etc. and above all are freely fuelling casteist and communal sentiments to win. In a hypocritical exhibition of so-called *Swachh Bharat* image and compliance with most undemocratic directive of the Election Commission, display of posters, banners, wall writings have been prohibited thereby disallowing parties like SUCI(C) who do not get any media coverage and thereby are deprived of reaching out to the electorate with their political viewpoint. But there is no bar on criminal display of enormous money power by the bourgeois parties. It is learnt that for the last one month, about 20 helicopters costing Rs 7 lakhs per day have been brought from other states. As usual, film stars are flown from Mumbai to add glamour to campaign. If one goes to Bihar now, one would find money is not just flowing but flying and wonder how come the state is languishing in abject poverty? Added to this is the muscle-flexing of the mafias whom the bourgeois parties maintain and nourish to terrorize and bully voters to vote in favour or, if it is so needed, snatch vote at gunpoint. This, in fine, is the obtaining spectacle of electioneering Bihar.

Bihar, as we all know, has been a backward state in many respects. While, like all other states, a few belonging to the rich and affluent have continued to corner all benefits, the common oppressed people, both in the rural and urban areas, have found their life deteriorating in every respect. Added to this, has been the overwhelming casteist discriminations, conflicts and even engineered clashes that have been reaping through their lives. Flaunting the credential of so called higher caste and Brahmin origin, a powerful lobby of landed gentry has been persecuting and exploiting the downtrodden to a level beyond tolerance and running virtually a parallel administration. Even the poor belonging to so called higher caste by birth is equally exploited and oppressed. But no bourgeois political party, whether the national parties like BJP or Congress, or regional outfits like Lalu's RJD, Nitish's JD(U) or Ram Vilas Paswan's Lok Janashakti party, has ever fought against this casteist oppression. Rather, they all have continuously been fomenting casteist feelings and trying to corner votes. Theirs has been a general strategy to befool the politically unconscious hapless people that if someone from the Yadav or Bhumihaar or Kurmis or the extremely impoverished *dalits* branded as

so-called lower caste wins, those belonging to the same caste would be looked after well. Exactly like that, the communal card has also been freely used to inject such warped feelings among the poor. A Muslim will look after a Muslim; a Hindu will look after a Hindu and so forth. Then there have been caste equations. If one can rally the Yadavs and Muslims behind him, he would clinch the issue. Similarly flaunting Hindu credential would fetch one Hindu votes. So, the contest is who can garner which community vote in bulk to gain majority. The bourgeois electoral alliances are also formed keeping which combinations would prove to be beneficial in the given context of caste-religion alignments and realignments. Alliances are also broken and regrouping taking place based on this consideration. Added to this is the political aspiration of individual bourgeois leaders. So once Nitish broke out with Lalu and formed a separate party. Nitish then combined with BJP to form government. Then later Nitish found that too close an intimacy with BJP might cost him Muslim vote. So, he severed relationship with BJP. Within no time, another aspirant within his party who was made chief minister by Nitish for tactical reason deserted him to join BJP's hand. BJP too opened their door to all such floor-crossers. Ram Vilas was once with Congress. But when he found that Congress was a sinking boat for the time being, he bluntly switched towards BJP and became minister. Now, there is a competition among them to show who is more pro-dalit, pro-OBC or pro-Muslim so as to snatch electoral victory and make political fortunes. And the poor people ought to have noticed that whether it is Lalu, Paswan, Nitish, or BJP's Sushil Modi—all have been sitting on huge wealth amassed through their political fortunes. All of them maintain luxurious lives. Many of these bourgeois leaders are also found to be extremely corrupt. Now Nitish Kumar is trying to project how much progress he has brought to Bihar by pointing towards some asphalt roads, bridges and flyovers. But has there been an iota of improvement in the life of common people? What is the fate of Bihar's once famous sugar industry? What is the condition of rural poor and peasants of Bihar? Are they benefitted in anyway? Is there any abatement to the large scale influx to other states in search for jobs? Has there been any improvement in the lots of the poor who by birth belonging to the caste represented by Nitish? Similarly, who is not aware that Lalu is charged with Rs 2000 crore fodder scam? How Lalu ran the government by installing his wife as puppet? The BJP leaders are now shedding crocodile tears for Bihar and no one else but the BJP Prime Minister is trying to woo Bihar people by dangling carrot of one lakh core odd economic package. But what prevented BJP from doing so earlier? If Nitish is called a non-performer, how come they shared power for so many years and broke only when some conflict over power-sharing, no matter what they tell in the public, occurred? If Modi talks of development, people should understand what that development means. Just in one year, prices of all essential commodities have sky-rocketed, unemployment and job loss have mounted, subsidies progressively withdrawn from many areas including fuel and fertilizers, prices of agricultural inputs have also gone up whereas there is progressive decline in prices paid to the

peasants for their produces, corruption of BJP leaders and ministers have rocked the nation and above all the country is surcharged with communal tension and is witness to occasional surge of communal clashes, murders and instigations by the RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar elements to tear apart the secular fabric of the society. Crime against women, rape and gang rape has been growing alarmingly. All helps, assistance, waivers, concessions and facilities are extended to the big industrialists, landed gentry and multi-national corporates. There is a systematic attempt to pollute mind with revivalist thoughts, religious blindness, superstitions and bigotry and to blunt rational thinking, destroy secular and democratic thoughts and values. And who can forget that just the other day, BJP leaders had made highly condemnable remarks against the Bihar people that appeared in the media? BJP leader Vijay Goel said that if Biharis are driven out of Delhi, the capital state will progress. BJP's MP chief minister Shivraj Chouhan remarked that it is because of rapist Biharis that rape cases are increasing in his state. And last but not the least had been PM Modi's remark when he held that the DNA of Biharis is bad, Biharis are traitors and one Biharis is equal to 100 diseased (*ek bihari, sou bimari*). (source: www.facebook.com/JigarThakkar official) Now, in order to secure votes, the BJP leaders are pretending how eager they are to develop Bihar. Even if, for argument's sake, a big economic package is sanctioned by central BJP government, will it by any stretch of imagination reach the poor and needy or will only go to fatten the purse of the rich and affluent, corrupt government officials and ministers, kingpins of pilferage of government treasury and election touts? What does people's experience say? And with what face can Congress seek vote? Who has ruined the country including Bihar during all these decades after independence? Why did mega-scam break out in the country during its rule? Did it during its rule pursue any policy which, like the BJP rule, was not brazenly anti-poor and deliberately pro-rich?

In fact, all these vote-based parliamentary parties and their vote-catching aspirant leaders are subserving the class interest of the ruling capitalist class in class-divided capitalist India—a truth all electorates of Bihar need to imbibe. This ruthlessly exploitative capitalist rule is begetting all miseries and poverty in their life, generating all discriminations, causing all deprivations. So, the task of the poor people is to overthrow this capitalist system by revolution by building up revolutionary movement in course of intensifying class and mass struggles under right revolutionary leadership. But that obviously would take time. Task right now is to identify the correct proletarian revolutionary party and leadership and develop powerful democratic movements on the burning problems of life under this leadership. Even in the election, it is incumbent on them to elect representatives of the revolutionary party in more and more numbers so that voice of people's movement is reflected inside the legislature and parliamentary struggle is linked with the extra-parliamentary struggle. The correct proletarian revolutionary party or genuine Marxist party can be best identified conveniently if there is a joint movement of all the parties claiming themselves to

Contd. on page 6

Serial killing of rationalist thinkers

Indicates that religious fundamentalists fear their doom in proliferation of secular scientific thoughts

The whole of India was dumbstruck when Dr. Narendra Dabholkar, a medical doctor, anti-superstition activist and a very vocal rationalist, was shot dead by two unidentified motor-cycle riding assailants in Pune two years back. Dr. Dabholkar had spearheaded a movement to eradicate superstitions and blind faith and obviously targeted self-styled godmen who have been fleecing and exploiting people in the name of religion. So, he did stir a hornet's nest because in capitalist India, the ruling class and its servitors have been using religion as well as all kinds of backward thoughts and false notions to keep oppressed people plunged in the dungeon of infirm thinking and hence turned away from enquiring into real cause of their growing misery and penury. The so called godmen are all floated, nurtured and used by the quarters of vested interest as a part of this sinister design. Dr. Dabholkar also tried to get an anti-superstition Bill passed by the Maharashtra Assembly but failed. Obviously, he became an eyesore to the reactionary circle and received regular threats from Hindu religious fanatic groups such as Sanatan Prabhat and Hindu Janajagruti Samiti. Finally, he had to pay with his life. Within no time, Dr. Govind Pansare, another veteran crusader against religious bigotry and superstitions, fell to the bullets of the fanatics who sensed danger in his espousals. Dr. Pansare ruffled the feathers of Hindu fundamentalist and provincialist groups when he published his best-selling pamphlet in Marathi, "Shivaji kon hota," (Who was Shivaji?), emphasising the Muslim contribution in Shivaji's Maharashtra. He voiced his opposition against the attempt of the Hindu fundamentalist RSS-Sangh Parivar to eulogise Nathuram Godse, a RSS member who assassinated Gandhiji and was forever cautioning against the Godse cult taking root among impressionable minds. Naturally, this did not go well with the vendors of Hindutva and Marathi chauvinists. It is pertinent to mention that Pune and Sangli areas of Maharashtra have been the bedrock of Brahmin conservatism and the cradle of so called arch communal concept of Hindu nationalism propagated by RSS ideologues like VD Savarkar and M S Golwalkar. Naturally, any effort to permeate a secular and progressive temper among the people there and carving out a space for highly regarded humanitarian social reformers like Mahatma Phule or Jyotiba Phule is viewed as 'blasphemy' by the diehard Hindu fanatics. So, Dr. Pansare was to be eliminated from the scene and exactly that happened. He was killed in broad daylight.

Next was the turn of Dr. M M Kalburgi, renowned Kannada writer, research scholar, rationalist, former Vice-chancellor of the Kannada University, Hampi and winner of many Sahitya Academy awards. This time the venue was Dharwad in Karnataka. Three armed miscreants masquerading as his students entered his house and sprayed bullets into him. Death was instantaneous. Dr. Kalburgi earned the wrath of the Hindu fanatics for varied reasons. By birth, he belonged to the Lingayet community who consider 12th century philosopher Basavanna as their lord or guru. Basavanna was opposed to religion, religious practices and Brahminical

rituals. In course of his long research, Dr. Kalburgi pointed out that Lingayets can never be considered Hindus if the philosophy of Basavanna is taken in true spirit. This irked the 'influential' among the Lingayet community who constitute a formidable power block in the vote politics of Karnataka. If Lingayets are declared to be out of the orbit of Hindu community, those using the Lingayet people as part of the "Hindu vote bank" would have difficulty in maintaining their clout in parliamentary vote politics. Dr. Kalburgi had also raised the hackles of die-hard Hindu fanatics like VHP and Bajrang Dal when he had made certain remarks about idol worship by the Hindus. Miscreants in the pay-roll of the VHP-Bajrang Dal and other constituents of the Sangh Parivar first showed their disapproval by pelting stones and bottles at him, disturbing his public speech and burning his effigy. A VHP leader is also on record to have said that those who get satisfaction out of insulting Hinduism and misleading society should be permanently lodged in jail. Another Bajrang Dal leader even dared to give an open threat that those who mock Hinduism would die dog's death. After Dr. Kalburgi's gruesome murder, these fanatics declared that another rationalist academician Shri KS Bhagavan, a retired professor from the Mysore University who is known for his incisive criticism against the Hindu fundamentalists and fanatics, is the next target. Indirectly, these Bajrang Dal leaders admitted that they were behind the culpable murder of Dr. Kalburgi. But Shri Bhagavan is not cowered by the death threat. "I don't feel frightened but feel sorry for people who attack me. They may eliminate a thinker — they cannot eliminate his ideas. What's driving such aggression is ignorance. The PM should step in and warn fringe elements — not doing so is a lapse on the Centre's part. The Union government's silence could send a wrong indication to fundamentalists", he said in an interview to Times of India.

Clearly the arch Hindu communal outlook and preaching of the RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar is driving the move to exterminate outspoken writers, academicians, scientists and social activists who rightly question the motive behind fomenting superstitious beliefs, revivalist thoughts and mythical illusions and seek to promote rationalist thinking. Thus they have been brazenly subverting the freedom of speech and expression enshrined in the constitution thereby baring their fascist face. To put it differently, the protagonists of dominant Hindu fundamentalism know that they stand no ground if they are to face a debate on all the issues raised by the rationalists. Ideologically the Hindutva brigade is bankrupt. Their agenda of Hindutva, as it is becoming increasingly clear to the people, is only aimed at fostering regimented thinking and blindness to shield the truth and use religion as a tool to divide the toiling masses to derive mileage in vote-bank politics. So, the easiest route to mute those who dare to challenge the heinous doctrine of Hindutva and uphold rational scientific thinking is brutal assassination. And with the Hindu fundamentalist BJP government in tow, this serial killing of rationalists has been so convenient to execute.

Spate of bloggers' murder in Bangladesh

While this is the scenario in India, just turn to our neighbour Bangladesh. And it will be found that the spectacle there is no different. Although small, the blogger community in that country is active and often debates on religion— Islam and Hinduism included—society, government, political ideas and war crimes trials. So they invited wrath of the religious fanatics. Avijit Roy, who emigrated to the southern US state of Georgia some 15 years ago, was well known in his native land for his *Mukto-Mona* (Free-mind) blog where he railed against all forms of religious fundamentalism, was hacked to death by two assailants with machetes on the streets of the capital Dhaka on 26 February last. Al Qaeda in the Indian Subcontinent (AQIS) claimed responsibility for the murder. Al Qaeda, Talibanis and the ISIS, as is known to all, are all organizations of Islamic fundamentalists. When Avijit Roy was hacked to death in full view of horrified onlookers, blogger Washiqur Rahman Babu, another Bangladeshi rationalist, had guts to double down and write that fundamentalists were choking free thought in his secular nation. And within no time, he too was hacked to death by two men with knives and meat cleavers just outside his house on 30 March. An organizer and four supporters of Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), close to the Ansar ul-Islam organisation which is part of al-Qaida in south Asia, have been charged with the murder of Washiqur. Next to pay with his life was Ananta Bijoy Das, another blogger of *Mukta mona* when mask-wearing and machete-wielding killers silenced him to death on 12 May. Ansar al-Islam, a local chapter of Al-Qaeda claimed responsibility for his killing. On 6 August, armed men broke into the flat of Niloy Chatterjee, who used the pen-name Niloy Neel, at Goran neighbourhood of Dhaka and brutally killed him. Niloy was a critic of religious extremism that led to bombings in mosques and the killing of numerous civilians. In a recent Facebook post, Niloy had drawn attention of the government authorities that he was being continuously followed by two strangers. He also said that he had approached the police but they had refused to register his complaint. In the last two years, several other rationalist bloggers like Prof. Humayun Azad, Ahmed Rajib Haider and Prof. AKM Shafiqul Islam have either been murdered or found dead under mysterious circumstances. Ansarullah Bangla Team (ABT), in fact, had published a list of the rational activists, bloggers and writers on the internet saying that, "We do not forget, we do not forgive." Al-Qaeda has publicly praised the violent operations by the ABT and has hailed its activists charged with the murder of the bloggers as "lions of the international community". On the other hand, the bloggers on the list are unfazed. "Our weapon is [the] pen, and we can use it without hurting anybody. We just want to make people conscious about their rights. So that nobody can use them to fulfil bad intentions," said Ananya Azad, a Bangladeshi blogger who has been forced into exile in Europe and is on the hit list. "I can't give you assurance

Contd. on page 6

Voice of protest against dastardly killings and fundamentalist-communal thoughts must find express manifestation in the form of an organized sustained powerful rationalist movement

Contd. from page 5

that I can't be hurt here also. Fundamentalists have threatened that they will come and kill me... they know where I am residing. I can't say what will happen in future, but I can give you this assurance that I will write until the end of my life," said she showing extraordinary grit and courage.

While one after another blogger is murdered so grisly, the role of Bangladeshi government has been in question. Following the murder of Niloy, the Inspector General of Police advised bloggers not to write anything that might hurt religious sentiments. At a press briefing, he noted: "I have enough respect for freethinkers. But we need to remember that hurting religious sentiments is a crime according to our law." Promptly, Human Rights Watch, the international campaigning group, criticized the government by saying: "It's shocking that Bangladesh authorities not only failed to protect the bloggers despite complaints to the police about threats against them, but instead are proposing self-censorship.... This pattern of vicious attacks on secular and atheist writers not only silences the victims but also sends a chilling message to all in Bangladesh who

espouse independent views on religious issues....The Bangladesh government needs to act swiftly to bring to justice those responsible for these brutal attacks, and to make clear public statements that attacking freedom of religion and expression will not be tolerated." It further called for the government "to recall that its duty is to uphold the Constitution and protect people's lives, as well as their religious freedom". Several freedom-loving secular-minded rationalist groups and mass organizations also came out on the streets to condemn the killings and decry the government for utter failure to take preventive action and nab the culprits.

All fundamentalists are strange bedfellows

It is, therefore, very clear that there is no difference in the approach of either the Hindu fundamentalists or the Muslim fundamentalists. Though they pretend to follow two different religions, they show equal disrespect to the basic teachings of both the religions and instead are out to equal religion with fanaticism, intolerance and bigotry and have arrogated to themselves the licence to silence any voice of dissent with brutal

killing. We do not know which religious preachers of yester years had ever endorsed murder of the holders of different views. Fundamentalism, it may be reiterated, is not religion. When religion is used with the ulterior motive of serving narrow sectarian political interest, it is called fundamentalism. In fact these fundamentalist fanatics are vulgarizing religion and working as hand-maidens of the ruling oppressive bourgeoisie which needs today blunting of rational thinking, promotion of backward obsolete ideas, enthrallment in blind faith and above all, to disunite toiling masses over religion and other differences so that the outmoded reactionary corrupt capitalist system faces no threat of revolt or united mass upheaval. So, the bourgeois rulers and their subservient governments of either India or Bangladesh are in fact remaining indulgent onlookers to such killing spree of rationalist thinkers by the religious bigots and fundamentalists. It is heartening to see that right-thinking progressive minded people of both the countries

have voiced their protest against such brutal killings. Quite a number of eminent personalities in India have returned their Academy and Padma awards in protest ignoring the threat of and lampooning by BJP ministers. Many others have resigned from their posts in the Academy. They all deserve our sincere praise and congratulations. What is needed is further firming up of popular opinion against such dastardly acts and expression of that opinion in the form of organized sustained powerful rationalist movement so that the respective governments are forced to take proper preventive and punitive measures; and that immense pressure on the anti-people arch communal-fundamentalist outfits builds up to abandon their nefarious agenda of mindless diabolic killing. At the same time, an intense relentless ideological battle has to be conducted against the fundamentalist-obscurantist-revivalist-communal thoughts and for inculcation of rational logical scientific secular thinking in people's mind.

Bihar Elections

Make SUCI(C) in 10 constituencies and Left Bloc in other constituencies victorious

Contd. from page 4

be left and Marxists. In course of this movement, people can judge for themselves which party is ideologically firm and supreme, which party is having sole concern for developing movement along right course and on sustained basis, which party is pursuing and exhorting people to embrace higher proletarian ethics and culture and calling upon building the movements based on this higher ethics and culture, the leaders and cadres of which party are making sincere attempt to apply higher ethics and culture of Marxist ideology in all aspects of their life to develop themselves as true communists, which party is wholeheartedly engaged in freeing people from parliamentary illusion as against arresting them in blind alley of parliamentarism and so forth. That is why, a revolutionary party tries utmost to build up unity of all left parties. The whole purpose is to spearhead a power left-democratic movement as against the ulterior utterly corrupt bourgeois governments. If in course of

conducting such a movement, there is an election and the people's mind is not yet consciously freed from parliamentary illusion, the united left bloc need to approach election as an alternative to the bourgeois parties and combinations. The objective of this left bloc should be to project a left alternative in the truest sense of the term upholding people's causes and shunning all practices of anyhow vote-catching through compromise. The left bloc must catch the imagination of the people as a force of alternative higher pro-people politics and not just as another vote-seeking combination. With that aim in mind, SUCI(C) and five other left parties have formed a left bloc in the Bihar elections. Our Party firmly believes that at this critical and crucial juncture, this left alternative is imperative. So, our Party fervently appeal to the electorates to back SUCI(C) in all the ten constituencies it is fighting and left bloc candidates in other constituencies as against the bourgeois combinations so that there is surge of a new united left power in the state.



Burning of effigy of NATO at anti-imperialist rally of AIAIF in Kolkata on 9 October, 2015 on migrant issue



Eastern Zonal Conference of AIMSS in Kolkata on 7 October, 2015 against growing atrocities on women

SUCI (C) on Government notification on 7th September 2015 on refugee problem in the country in general and Assam in particular

On the question of latest explosive political situation more particularly centering round the central BJP Government gazette notification issued on the 7th September 2015 Assam State, Committee of the SUCI(C), has issued 13 October 2015 the following statement :—

Having carefully examined the gazette notification of the Government of India issued on 7 September 2015, which allowed minority communities such as Hindus, Sikhs, Christians, Jains, Parsis and Buddhists who had to leave their respective homelands— Bangladesh and Pakistan—after facing religious persecution and take shelter in any part of India including Assam, we would like to place certain very important aspects before the people of the state who irrespective of caste, religion, region or ethnicity, are pressed under the grinding wheel of ruthless capitalist exploitation day in day out and finding life becoming increasingly unbearable.

It is too well-known an international custom and convention to grant instant shelter to the people fleeing their own countries in fear of life considering them as refugees. It is cruel as well as inhuman to refuse shelter to such hapless people thereby throwing them out to die like cats and dogs. However, when there is a massive influx of such migrants to a country from a neighbouring country, it is desirable that this crucial issue be discussed at the national level and appropriate ways and means are found out to deal with it. At the same time, it is also possible to initiate dialogue and discussion in an amicable ambience with the government of the country from which these refugees are pouring in with a view to persuading them to take back these refugees after creating conditions conducive to their early return and ensuring their safety and security.

In case that country refuses blatantly to take back these uprooted people, the country which has given shelter to these hapless refugees will have to decide how to cope with such a grave humanitarian problem of gigantic nature giving prime importance on just and equitable distribution of the burden leaving no scope whatsoever for any parochial, chauvinist or communal thinking and approach to creep in. History has been witness to many such similar situations where faced with the danger to their life and livelihood, people had to flee en masse from their own country and seek shelter in neighbouring countries. And it was found that in almost all the cases, ultimately human considerations prevailed over all other considerations and a humane solution found out.

The State Committee is fully aware of the pains, pathos, agonies and deep concern of the Assamese-speaking people centering round the question of the changing pattern of population of the state and its consequent effect, as they have been made to understand, upon their language, culture, political rights and liberties— in a word their distinct identity of being the original native residents of Assam which they do not want to be endangered in any way. While fully appreciating this natural sentiment and concern of the Assamese-speaking people, it is necessary to urge upon them to bear in mind that all miseries

and penury, deprivations and discriminations are stemming from the divide between a few rich and the vast multitude of toiling masses which mark our society, whether in Assam or any other state. There is no conflict of interest, no antagonism among the poor oppressed toiling people, no matter which language they speak, which religion they profess or which region they originally belong to. So, in so far as the struggle for existence, struggle for preservation and realizing the legitimate right to live and let others live are concerned, it has to be borne in mind by all that the interest of all sections of the oppressed people is one and the same and fighting unitedly rising above all differences against the ruthlessly exploitative capitalist system, the root of all evils, is the call of the hour. History has affirmed again and again that poor common people irrespective of their caste, creed, language and religion, never, out of their own, indulge in any hate campaign or fratricidal conflicts, never possess any feeling of animosity and never cause any harm to the members of fellow communities with respect to their identity, culture, language, political rights and liberties. If dawned up by correct understanding, it will be revealed that interest of all sections of the toiling masses is one and the same, hence indivisible. It is under provocation and instigation from the oppressor capitalist class and its subservient governments that fratricidal conflicts and internecine clashes take place to divide otherwise indivisible toiling oppressed people.

What, therefore, is of utmost importance to bear in mind is that all sections of the common people must remain ever vigilant about these sinister machinations and other conspiratorial moves of the ruling capitalist class, their subservient governments and all other quarters of reaction and vested interest. The only course to foil these heinous bourgeois conspiracies is to constantly strive for developing powerful united

democratic movements on the common burning problems of life with real leftist outlook and approach. Task of the hour, therefore, is to frustrate all sorts of ulterior divisive designs and bury all kinds of hatchet sought to be created by the oppressor bourgeois class and its servitors deeply imbibing the truth that there is not even an iota of conflict among the common oppressed people irrespective of language, religion or ethnicity in so far as real pressing issues of their life are concerned.

The State Committee would also like to emphasize on another great lesson of history that nothing at all can be achieved, nothing positive can accrue trampling down truth, justice and legitimacy. Moreover, injustices even if inadvertently done to any other section of the oppressed people more often than not act like a boomerang leading to catastrophically disastrous self-destructive consequences which none can escape from. The State Committee urges upon the people of Assam to recall that our Party had always been giving stress on this vital aspect right from the day the parochial, separatist secessionist movement broke out more than three decades ago. The State Committee appeals to the people of the state not to yield to such instigations and incitements, not to fall prey to any kind of provocation whatsoever and refrain from nurturing any kind of divisive or separatist outlook and approach.

At the end, the State Committee once again fervently calls upon all sections of people of the state that one of the vital conditions for remaining in the right path is to regard themselves as a single whole firmly held together by cemented unity based on correct understanding and steadfastly uphold the noble outlook of mutual cooperation, fraternity, cultural exchanges, appreciation of each other's qualities and thus reflect the humanitarian spirit to live and let others live.

SUCI(C) severely condemns muscle flexing by Shiv Sena in cancelling Ghulam Ali's performance

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 09-10-15:—

We severely condemn the most despotic muscle flexing by the Shiv Sena, a constituent of arch communal Sangh Parivar, in forcing the organizers to cancel the scheduled performances in Mumbai and Pune by Ghulam Ali, renowned gazal singer from Pakistan on the plea that Pakistan is firing on Indian border. In fact, the singer was invited for presentation of concerts which many music-loving people in India appreciate and enjoy as mind-soothing rendition. By cancelling the programmes, the protagonists of so-called Hindutva as well as the BJP-led governments, both at Centre and in Maharashtra, have not only shown affront to such an eminent singer but also tarnished the image of the country before the whole world. This is no isolated an incident but part of the nefarious design of the RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar to communally surcharge the country for disrupting people's unity and reaping electoral benefit through communal polarization. While border tension and clashes between India and Pakistan would end only when the respective bourgeois rulers would sincerely desire to resolve the political issues amicably through bilateral dialogue, there is no reason whatsoever to stop cultural exchanges and sports between the two countries. In fact, it is the oppressive bourgeois rulers, their subservient governments and servitor forces who in their ulterior interest are trying to wedge a divide between the peace-loving people of the two neighbouring countries and thereby vitiating the atmosphere.

We appeal to the people of both countries not to acquiesce in such sinister moves of the vested interest of both the countries, force their respective bourgeois governments to firmly deal with the religious fundamentalist forces making deliberate attempt to disrupt amity and fraternity between them and unitedly demand more and more exchanges of sports and cultural activities to strengthen the tie between them.

AIMSS condemns gruesome gang-rape of a 4-year old child in Delhi

Dr. H. G. Jayalakshmi, General Secretary, AIMSS, issued the following statement on 13-10-2015:-

AIMSS expresses its deep shock over the gruesome incident of a 4 year old minor girl having been gang-raped in Delhi. It is horrifying to know that there were cuts on lips, face and private parts of her body, which are suspected to have been being caused using a razor blade. Other than injuries by a sharp object, doctors have noticed several bite marks on her body. A three hour long colostomy was performed to provide an alternate opening for passage of stool.

As reported in the media, the girl's grandfather has said that a liquor vend in the area was a den for anti-social elements and the two men suspected were regulars there. AIMSS demands that such anti-socials be dealt with severely as per law. As reported, one of the suspects is detained by the police. AIMSS demands that a speedy enquiry be conducted and the guilty is stringently punished severely and adequate medical care is ensured to the child for her speedy recovery, both mental and physical.

AIMSS calls upon the people in general and women in particular to remain united and fight against such heinous crimes and ensure that such criminals are punished exemplarily.

AIMSS holds protest demonstration in Delhi

AIMSS Delhi organized a protest demonstration on 14 October at Jantar Mantar in protest against the savage incident of gang rape of a 4-year old girl child. Those who spoke on the occasion were Comrade Pran Sharma, Delhi State Secretary, SUCI(C), Prof. Subrata Sharma and Comrade Ritu Kaushik, President and Secretary respectively of AIMSS Delhi unit. An effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was burnt.

Shaheed –e- Azam Bhagat Singh Martyr day observed

Surat, Gujarat

The occasion was observed by AIDYO, Surat, on September 28 at Maurya Samaj Body, by holding a meeting. AIDYO Surat District secretary Prayagraj Maurya was in conduction and among those who addressed the gathering were Maurya Samaj Chief Jawaharlal Maurya, Neeraj Kumar, Ratanchandra, Rammurat and Suresh Kumar Maurya. AIDYO Surat District President Vikhabhai Prajapati greeted the gathering.

Durg, Chhattisgarh

On September 28, AIDS0, Durg organized a meeting at Durg Science College ground. Along with paying floral tribute, discussions were held on the life-struggle of the martyr as well as on the revolutionary role he played in the independence movement. The speakers pointed out that revolutionaries like Bhagat Singh had visualized a society where all sorts of exploitation, oppression, injustices would end. But the problems of the poor and the unemployed instead of being solved, are getting even more intensified. So it is necessary

SUCI(C) strongly condemns RSS-BJP for most dastardly killing of an innocent citizen of Dadri on false pretext of consuming beef and trying to stoke communal tension by throwing beef into Hindu temple in Azamgarh

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 03-10-15:—

The diabolism with which arch Hindu communal RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar are bent upon dividing people on communal line, persecute the religious minorities and not just precipitate but perpetuate disaffection, disharmony, suspicion and a sense of animosity among two religious groups, equally oppressed under ruthlessly exploitative capitalist system, is expressly manifest in the way a frenzied mob lynched an innocent middle-aged person and critically injured his 22-year-old son belonging to the minority community at Dadri near Delhi simply based on a planted rumour that they were storing cow meat in their fridge. The family of the victim has alleged that son of a local BJP member instigated the murderous crowd. The accused person, it is understood, had earlier forced the priest of a village temple to announce on a megaphone that the victim's family was consuming beef. There is no language to condemn this dastardly act. If the protagonists of so-called Hindutva arrogate to themselves the right to dictate who will eat what, where will be the end of such autocratic fiats?

In another incident, a burqa-clad bespectacled man, alleged to be a member of RSS, was caught by the residents when he was throwing beef into a Hindu temple obviously with a motive of stoking a communal conflagration in Azamgarh, a small town in Uttar Pradesh, just like the way Sangh Parivar-sponsored miscreants on some earlier occasions either hurled chunks of beef into Hindu temples or put pork outside a mosque to exacerbate communal. It is obvious that with a BJP government with its communal Hindutva slogan in power, these incendiary forces are getting overt or covert indulgence and backing to engineer communal flare-up tensions and even killings wherever and whenever they get an opportunity to do so.

But it is worth noting with sincere appreciation that the well-meaning saner section of the people is not carried away by the nefarious attempt of the arch communal forces to drive wedge between the two communities. 75 members of a joint Muslim family of neighbouring Bisada village who were about to be attacked by an incensed communal mob after the Dadri killing were saved and helped to escape unhurt by their Hindu brethren.

While calling upon peace-loving people of all communities residing in complete harmony with each other, not to fall prey to such instigations of the vested interest, we call upon all common people particularly the secular-minded right-thinking persons to close their rank and rise up in vehement protest against such cowardly criminal acts of the RSS-BJP and their associates and compel the government to nab and punish the culprits. Otherwise, the rabid communal forces would continue surcharging the atmosphere with tension and escalate violence and killings with impunity.

to develop mighty movements involving the students.

AIDSO held students' conference at Durg

A successful students' conference was organized by AIDSO at Durg, Chhattisgarh, on October 1 on demands of opening government schools that had been closed down, reintroduction of pass-fail system and board examinations at the end of classes V and VIII and also opposing the privatization-commercialization-communalization of education. In his address, Comrade Ashok Misra, AIDSO General Secretary criticized the educational policies of the government aimed at gradually turning education to a purchasable commodity inaccessible to the poor and middle-class students. He showed how the BJP government is bent upon remodelling education on the basis of blind faith and spirituality thereby destroying 'secular education' and establishing fascist culture. He called upon students to come forward in developing movements to save mankind as well as education and saying that mighty movements of students, youth, teachers and guardians could only solve the problems of peoples' life. Comrades Biswajit Harode and Atmaram Sahoo also addressed the students. More than 100 delegates who took part in the conference elected a new committee with Comrades Neetu Sahoo as the President, Vooneswari Sahoo as the Vice-President and Praveen Sharma as the Secretary. A council of a total of 28 members was also constituted. The

conference adopted a few resolutions protesting against atrocities and exploitation of students and women.

Massive victory of AIDSO in two states

In Assam, amidst the murky ambience in the state as well as in its educational institutions, centring round particularly the foreigners issue and so called Identity crisis, the students of the Kamakhya Ram Barua Girls College at Guwahati, voted for and thus helped the AIDSO earn a commendable victory in college union election; the AIDSO won all the seats defeating two other panels backed by other organisations. Comrade Dharitri Kakati, the in-charge of the college unit was elected the General Secretary.

Also in Jharkhand, defeating all frantic and heinous efforts of the ABVP, the student wing of the party in state power, BJP, and of NUCI, JCM etc., and ignoring their threat, temptation with money, slanderous campaign the students of the Ghatshila College voted the AIDSO unambiguously to earn a massive victory in the college union election. Comrade Dasmal Kisku was elected the President and Comrade Nitu Mahato, the Secretary.

What was remarkable in the two cases at two distant parts of the country is that against all odds, confusions, slanders or such other adversaries, general students were getting more and more attracted towards ideology and culture of the AIDSO, armed with the teachings of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat.

Reservation notwithstanding oppressed masses continue to suffer

Contd. from page 3

responsible for these. They do not care to make people aware that answers to these vital questions in the issue of reservation are to be sought invariably with an eye to the goal of overthrowing the capitalist system of the country, which is ultimately and incessantly breeding these evils. Instead, for their heinous petty ends in vote politics, the bourgeois politicians rather push people towards each other to clutch at their neck, they only talk of reservation or no reservation, alienated from these fundamental issues.

Secondly, have any of these virulent recurrent reservation stirs been able to bring about any real and lasting benefit to those enjoying reservation? Reservation was introduced to bring the traditionally oppressed *dalits* and other backward people up to the level of the mainstream of the country. Have the benefits promised accrued, even trickled down to the vast multitudes of the *dalit* people, the SCs-STs-OBCs and so on? The emphatic singular answer is 'no'. What is the experience of 65 years of independence? Vast multitudes of people, among them *dalits*- SCs- STs not excluded, still stand at where they had been in regard to the basic necessities of life. Rather the condition of the latter has worsened further along with creation of haves and have-nots with ever-widening gap between them in the same way as in all other sections of the people in independent India, irrespective of caste, creed, religion, community and such others. Amidst already squeezing scope for education and appalling poverty of common people, *dalits*- SCs- STs fall further well below the desired mark in every question, in illiteracy, in percentage of school dropouts, even in filling up reserved seats or posts for them in educational institutions, more so, the technical ones or government offices. What has happened as a fallout of the reservation is that, a tiny fraction, hardly 2-3%, of the *dalits* and others has usurped all opportunities and benefits. By way of that, that fraction emerged as a 'creamy layer', a tiny group of affluent 'elites' enjoying all privileges and clout as part of the handful of dominating rich in the society. And eventually they stand totally callous and indifferent to the rapid degeneration of the livelihood of their brethren from the same caste or community. In reality a large section of them eventually become a subservient appendage to the ruling bourgeoisie that have granted the privilege to them. For instance, a former chief minister of Jharkhand from the tribals, was able to amass about Rs 6,000 crore by granting illegal mining rights to favoured companies.

Reservation now a tool in the hands of self-seeking bourgeois politicians

Reservation has thus turned into a tool in the hands of the self-seeking opportunist aspirant bourgeois parties or leaders who want to build up career by playing upon people's growing discontent and wrath, by exploiting their poverty and misery. For people, reservation will not create employment; then what purpose will it serve other than playing as a hoax, a trick to divert their attention from their real problems? The situation has even gone to the extent where sections or communities, placed at relatively better-off position in the society are also crying out for

reservation. The recent cry of the Brahmins in Gujarat is an example. And in this nefarious game the ruling capitalist class, the monopolists and the bourgeois political parties subservient to them, with a view to perpetrating their rule and keeping their seat of power intact, as well as to keeping the vote-based politics running smoothly, are framing designs every day, every moment to divide people into warring groups. The design must be thwarted with the help of sustained united organized movement of toiling people.

There is no denying the fact that despite their political and economic dominance in Gujarat, the Patidars or Patels are fast losing their economic strength. In consequence of the pro-monopolist, pro-corporate policies of the BJP government, be it under Modi or Patel, even the Patel community is increasingly being cleaved vertically into haves and have-nots. And so they are demanding reservation, which they repudiated fiercely only three decades back. It is by no means any question of principles for them. It is a matter of exigency, to appease the fast-developing have-nots of the community. For those have-nots it is a matter of survival in the face of the increasing crisis of the capitalist economy fraught with unemployment, insecurity of job and life, downward slide towards gaping poverty. And also for the haves of the community it is a matter of survival, because the growing resentment within their own community may endanger the haves' hegemony and privilege. But the crisis is not singular to them. It affects all sections of common people irrespective of caste or community, in their state as well as in the entire country. Will reservation create employment for

them, or secure jobs? Will reservation prevent the land-grabbing policy of the BJP government to ensure no further loss of Patels' lands? Will reservation help the medium and small industries survive in the face of the onslaught of corporate-monopolists-big industries and their multi-billion investment? All the answers are emphatic 'No'.

Toiling people of the Patel community need to realize these truths. Without being swayed they should set their task at building up massive organized movement on demands of setting up labour intensive industries under public sector to generate employment and create really inclusive growth, at the same time identifying the real enemy, the capitalist system of the country which fails to do that; they should also raise in unequivocal voice the demand that in regard to the reservation issue, the government will have to follow honestly and seriously the principle of laying emphasis on economic criterion as fundamental. In this bid, Patels or anybody fighting this battle, should prepare themselves to fight shoulder to shoulder with their brethren of the entire country fighting for the same cause against this system built on exploitation, oppression and deceit. At any cost, the unity of people must be preserved like the apple of the eye. Along with this, it also needs to be recognized that it is only the revolutionary force of the country the SUCI(C), that can help preserve the coveted unity. It is the alternative current of that united genuine left-democratic movement built under the leadership of the revolutionary force, that can bring some relief to people from the nefarious game of reservation politics.

Barbaric Dadri killing

Contd. from page 2

right to food of its citizens. The din and bustle around beef issue is completely aimed at buttressing motivated political interest. If the RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar consider cow as their mother, why do they wear shoes and belts which are made of cow skin? In fact, they like any fundamentalist-communal force are not faithful to the religion also. Religion is not fundamentalism. But when religion is used for serving heinous political interest, it is called fundamentalism.

The sole objective of RSS-BJP and its Sangh Parivar is to reap electoral benefits riding on this religious divide and be in power. If one goes back in history, it will be observed that after demolition of historic Babri Masjid by Hindutva zealots in the indulging presence of front-ranking BJP leaders followed by engineered communal riots in many parts of the country, BJP raised its tally of MPs from just 2 to 83. Encashing on the same communally surcharged atmosphere, it managed to be saddled to the central government. Whipping up religious passion by raising the bogey of cow slaughter was part of Narendra Modi's politics even when he was the chief minister of Gujarat. The organized Gujarat pogrom which saw rise of Modi as a trusted political figure of the ruling monopolists enamoured by seeing his ability to rupture the unity and fraternity of the oppressed people by fomenting Hindu communal sentiment, which in turn gave handle to Muslim fundamentalists to raise their ugly heads more prominently and instigate persecuted Muslim

populace to embrace counter-communalism. This exacerbated communal polarization also cemented the position of BJP as a formidable bourgeois political alternative to Congress. Emboldened by the success of their gory Gujarat experiment, the RSS-BJP leaders took it as a strategy to orchestrate communal conflagration at select pockets on a regular basis and keep the communal cauldron boiling. Just before last parliament elections, various parts of Uttar Pradesh including Muzaffarnagar as also some other areas in different states saw surge in communal skirmish and fratricidal bloodbath with definite proof of RSS-BJP leaders instigating and executing the same. With Bihar elections on and Uttar Pradesh assembly poll in the offing, the RSS-BJP top brass has now found in precipitated beef-eating controversy a convenient tool to fuel communal divide and rancour on a larger scale. It is high time all sections of the toiling people understand this vile game of Hindu communal RSS-BJP as well as the danger counter-communalism of Muslim fundamentalists in reaction and refuse to fall prey to their evil design of using distorted versions of religion to create division among people for petty electoral interest. A counter-current of secular-democratic movement rising above religion, caste and other differences coupled with an intense ideological struggle to combat and defeat the doctrines of fundamentalism-communalism can only thwart this vicious attack of communal forces and thereby save and protect innocent lives like that of Mohammad Akhlaq.



Dais of the first State level Students' conference in Srinagar, Uttarakhand, on 27 September, where a 15-member strong AIDSO committee was formed

Planted Explosion in Turkey kills over 100 peace marchers

Two explosions at the venue of a leftist-led peace march labelled "Labour, Peace, Democracy" in the Turkish capital of Ankara to protest against the ongoing unrest in the south-east of the country between the Turkish state and the PKK (the Kurdistan Workers' Party), have killed more than 95 people and injured another 150 civilians on 10 October last. "If such an attack could take place in the middle of the capital city, how will security be maintained for elections in three weeks' time", asked the common Turkish people.

It may be added that many Kurdish people want to establish their own homeland, linking up with Kurds in Turkey, Iraq and Syria. Recently a ceasefire between the Kurd groups and Turkish state broke down after two years, with Turkey bombing PKK positions and the PKK launching attacks on Turkish forces. However important PKK military persons expressed PKK's readiness for a ceasefire. A statement from an umbrella group that includes the PKK said its forces would "make no attempts to hinder or harm the exercise of a fair and equal election". The pro-Kurdish HDP party was among those attending, and it said statement that it believes its members were the main target of the bombings. HDP leader Selahettin Demirtas has blamed the state for the attack and has cancelled all election rallies. Demirtas angrily condemned the government as "murderers" and said it had blood on its hands. The Turkish government, as all knows, is a close ally of US imperialists and has long been torturing, persecuting and killing progressive forces including those pursuing the ideals of communism. It was also supporting the US imperialism-backed rebellious forces in their attempt to oust President Assad. Hence, the allegation of the HDP leader does have a basis. All anti-imperialist democratic-minded peace-loving people of the world cannot but condemn this cowardly attack and killing. There ought to be an organized protest movement against such planted violence and indiscriminate killings by the agents of vested interest.

SUCI (C) lauds intellectuals returning awards in protest against the fascist acts of RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar-Shiv Sena, calls for united left movement against rising menace of communalism-fundamentalism-so called Indianness

Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), issued the following statement on 14-10-15:—

A spate of recent incidents like broad daylight murder of three eminent rationalists, barbaric Dadri killing, forced cancellation of performance by renowned gazal singer from Pakistan, smearing the face of a former aide of ex-BJP Prime Minister in black for organizing launch of a book by a former Minister of Pakistan have been extremely alarming and matter of grave concern. Such random killings, frequent precipitation of mindless violence, stoking embers of communal conflagration, vandalizing and strong-arm actions by the arch Hindu communal RSS-BJP-Sangh Parivar and their close ally Shiv Sena signal complete destruction of democracy and democratic values, norms and practices. The situation has come to such a pass that even L K Advani, one of BJP's top leaders while strongly condemning the face blackening act could not but remark that "Of late, we have seen an increase in cases of intolerance. This is against democracy." He, it may be recalled, said in last June that conditions which can give rise to another Emergency continue to prevail in India. Emboldened by the presence of BJP government at the Centre and in various states, Hindutva fanatics are now on a rampage and at the same time ripping through the secular fabric of the country by way of incessant fomenting of communal-fundamentalist thoughts and propagation of obsolete revivalist obscurantist reactionary ideas to regiment thinking and robotize people. More dangerous move on the part of the Hindutva brigade is fostering national jingoism and pushing the country back to medieval darkness in the name of 'Indianness'. If allowed to go unbridled, these anti-people forces will be further despotic in their evil acts and help the oppressive ruling monopolists to successfully strengthen further the fascization of the country and thus enshroud the country with complete darkness. Heartening is the fact that a good number of eminent personalities have been returning Academy and Padma awards in protest. This rise of the intelligentsia against ominous footsteps of fascism is indeed in recognition of necessity and hence laudable.

It is high time that the left-democratic forces unite and unleash a powerful anti-communal people's movement throughout the country drawing attention of the masses to the impending danger and simultaneously release an intense ideological struggle to defeat the vile doctrine of communalism-fundamentalism-so called Indianness aimed at dividing people, pitting one section of the people against the other and reversing the direction of civilization.



Police resorted to brutal lathicharge on the members of AIDSO, AIDYO and AIMSS when they were demonstrating before the Assembly House, Kolkata, on 21 September for re-introduction of pass fail system as well as in demand for lowering transport fare commensurate with the fall in fuel tariff, stopping atrocities on women etc.

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