

# Proletarian Era

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## Middle East including Arab countries in flames unfold

# Nefarious role of US imperialists and their kowtows

On the thirteenth of November, Paris was stunned, along with the whole world, by a terrible act of terror. Simultaneous AK-47 shooting and bombing at a theatre with an American rock band playing, and at 3 restaurants, a bar and a stadium — all on the go — took more than hundred innocent lives. It was not that the terror act was singular for the world, or for France even. The present horror, termed as unprecedented for the peaceful art-loving megapolis capital was also preceded and succeeded by several ghastly terror acts here and there. There were explosion of a Russian passenger plane in Egypt ascribed to bombs placed within, carnage at Beirut of Lebanon, killings in Tunisia, in Nigeria, in Mali and so on. The aftermath of Paris was, however, further varied, widespread, intense, and in a sense, no less, terrible. The dreaded ISIS outfit took the onus on themselves; their killers nabbed or killed or declared to have committed suicide.

Shockwave in the form of confusion and fear spread particularly throughout Europe. The attack provided the rulers of different countries a chance to talk of, or even impose, fresh restrictions on Syrian migrant refugees. Even, on this plea, rulers of different countries snatched away people's democratic rights.

There were other usual tough talks and hard dealings. Media ran havoc with reports and analyses. French President vowed to destroy the Islamic state. US President who had said only a day before the Paris attack that the ISIS has been 'contained' in Iraq and Syria, had to eat his words back to fumble to 'eventually' destroy the ISIS after the G20 summit at Turkey. At the G20 summit itself on 15 November he vowed to 'redouble' efforts to 'eliminate' the ISIS. Well before the Paris incident, in Syria, Russia had begun its bombing campaign against the ISIS on September 30 in support of President Bashar al-Assad whom the US imperialists wanted to oust.

Russia pledged to step up its strike after the ISIS claimed bombing to bring down the Russian passenger jet over Egypt last month (October) killing 224 people on board. The US, in its turn, had been accusing Russia of bombing US-backed rebel bases in Syria, which, reportedly, were also the ISIS bases.

After the Paris incident, things changed. On Assad's future, Russia suggested the West drop the demands about the political exit of Assad if it wanted a genuinely international coalition against the ISIS. The US President changed tune praising Russian President as a 'constructive partner' after accusing all through that Russia had been trying to prop up the Syrian President. Everything was apparently going on exigency and pragmatism. For the first time since the second world war Russia and France, an active ally of the USA in Syria, joined hands and pounded the IS bastion of Raqqa in Syria and expressed

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## Left parties hold joint programme against communalism

The historic Babri Masjid (mosque) was vandalized and ravaged on 6 December 1992. People recall the disgraceful day every year observing a day of protest against communalism. This year, in an ambience in which the ugly head of vicious communalism has been popping up through mounting instances of religious intolerance even interfering with people's food habits, attacks upon freedom of expression and

rational, scientific thoughts leading to murder, and such other deplorable acts, observance of 6 December assumed greater significance. There were numerous programmes across the country. A number of left parties observed the day jointly through different programmes in different parts of the country. On 6th December, 2015 a march against communalism fascism was jointly organized in Delhi by the CPI, CPI (M), SUCI

Chakraborti, Member, Polit Bureau of the SUCI (C) had also been in the march and addressed the gathering among others. Here we reproduce the English version of the speech delivered in Hindi by him.

### Comrade Krishna Chakraborti's speech

Comrade President, comrades on the dais from fraternal parties, comrades and friends, We observe this day, the 6th December as a black day in the history of our country. It was on this day in 1992 that Babri Masjid, a historic mosque, was demolished by Hindu fanatics led by the Sangh Parivar. This most unprecedented and undemocratic act in the history of modern India led to a tense communal situation at that time. However, the situation prevailing now is more dangerous in comparison to the condition existing then. Since independence itself, we have been witnessing communal riots. But the situation today is more serious in the sense that you cannot utter a word against Sangh Parivar – Shiv Sena combine. If you dare to do so that will be at the peril of your life and existence. The basic tenets of democracy provide for open discussions, debates or criticism of the stand of different political parties. But what is happening today is totally different. You are forced to accept their viewpoint and if you do not do so you will be branded as a traitor and made the target of their

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Comrade Krishna Chakraborti addressing the joint public meeting of the six Left parties on 6th December, 2015 at Jantar Mantar, Delhi

(C), CPI (ML)-Liberation, Forward Block and RSP from Mandi House to Jantar Mantar. The march was led by Comrade Satyawan, Member CC, SUCI (C) and Comrade R.K. Sharma, Member, State Organizing Committee of the SUCI(C) Delhi, Comrade Sitaram Yechury of the CPI (M), Comrade D. Raja of the CPI, Comrade Kavita Krishnan of the CPI (ML) Liberation, Comrade Devarajan of the All India Forward Block & others. Comrade Krishna

## Middle East

# A region unfolding typical imperialist design of intrigue- aggression-exploitation- genocide

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desire to set up joint military platform. Reportedly, the US, and following later the UK, with a legislative house at home divided on the issue, also stepped up their attacks on IS assets such as its oil wells, that the jihadists had grabbed in Syria. Obviously, Syrian people are faced with two-edged ruin: the jihadists killing them grabbing their resources and the world powers attacking the jihadists and ruining none other than Syrian resources.

Meanwhile Turkey, a member of the US-led NATO, gunned down a Russian jet, that led to the killing of a Russian pilot on the allegation of violation of its repeated warning; the Russian authority denied any violation and termed that the act was 'a planned provocation'. It also accused US, *de facto* leaders of the coalition against ISIS, of "leaking the flight path of the downed Russian fighter jet to Turkish authorities". In reaction, Russia clamped sanction on trades with Turkey; the latter fumed. Even amidst the hype of G-20 summit, Russia accused that 40 nations including some in the G-20 had been financing the ISIS. The entire ambience, particularly in Europe and Middle East, including parts of North Africa, stood and stands filled with stench of explosives and arsenals, killings, confusion, overt and covert politico-military moves. In short, the world, and the columnists alike, were left astounded, groping for answers, solutions and way out. It was alone the people who were the victims: in Paris, in Syria or Iraq, in various countries of Europe already tottering with terrible recession, unemployment, market crisis and shattered social life, or among the refugees from Syria helplessly rebounding from refusal and chase-back in this or that country.

Above are the facts interlaced with their political significance. Before judging those, some more facts may be necessary. Obviously the centre stage is occupied by, on one hand, the ISIS, one of the most dreaded terrorist outfits the world has seen and, on the other, the imperialists, headed by the US imperialists along with its NATO allies, as well Russia which since the counter-revolution in the USSR, has emerged as an imperialist power.

First thing first. Who are these ISIS people? No matter how you view it, the jihadists or the murderous fundamentalists, there is no dispute on how this outfit emerged. In an interview in March 2015, the US President had admitted, though apparently to appease the critics that "ISIS is a direct outgrowth of al-Qaeda in Iraq that grew out of our invasion." In another interview (with CNN), Tony Blair, a former British Premier and an enthusiast adjutant of George W. Bush during his Iraq invasion, had made the remark, with a similar motive as that of the US President Obama, that 'there would be no Islamic state if there were no Iraq war'. Remember, the Iraq war was undertaken on a pretext, later proved false, that Saddam Hussain possessed weapons of mass destruction, of course with the ulterior motive of exploiting the country's oil and other resources.

The comments from the branded chieftains of the imperialist bandwagon may be revealing, but

are really half-truths. In fact, through the years this part of the globe once more attested the undeniable truth upheld by the great leader of the proletariat, Comrade Lenin that war is an inevitability in the world under imperialism, as imperialism lives on war to sustain its crisis-ridden decadent economy. After turning one country after another into hotbeds of imperialist machination, loot and plunder, the war-monger imperialist sharks headed by the US imperialists turned afresh towards the Middle East, West Asia, in the late eighties after the debacle of the socialist camp. Obviously they had their eyes on the region's richness in natural resources, particularly oil and gas and its strategic geopolitical-geographic position placed centrally among Europe, Africa, South and South-east Asia and Russia and other former USSR countries and China. All familiar US designs were more than explicit in this region. There was weeding out of non-pliant rulers (Saddam Hussain, Qaddafi, Assad, yet unsuccessful, Milosevic etc., etc.) through cunning treacherous interventions and/or direct brute military aggressions transgressing all international norms and caring a fig for maintaining national sovereignty of smaller or weaker countries; then there was fomenting divisive seeds (racial, communal and what not) in countries targeted to shatter people's unity against the aggressors; added finally there was ravaging a country including its schools, hospitals, infrastructural base to bend its backbone and establish the aggressors' own brand of 'democracy' and so on. It was in this background in the Middle East that the ISIS was formed and raised its head. In the two countries Iraq and Syria, where the ISIS was and is the most active, the imperialist agenda were virtually the same, though with experience from one country they polished and changed their tactics to suit their need in another country and thus Iraq and Syria scenario had some differences.

The US imperialists overthrew and executed Saddam Hussain on a fraudulent claim that Iraq has weapons of mass destruction; they planted a pliant Shia-dominated government in Iraq and at the same time fomented Shia-Sunni divide, marginalised and oppressed Sunnis using the Iraqi government; thereby they destroyed the secular fabric, something unusual in the Middle East, that Saddam Hussain and the Baath Party had been successful to implement in the running of the state of Iraq. This was in addition to the devastating ravage the US aggressors brought to the country, including the looting of invaluable treasures of relics of ancient Mesopotamian or other civilizations in Iraq by the American soldiers as war souvenirs. Amidst the growing discontent of Iraqi people, was the seed sown for the Islamic State of Iraq, a Sunni dominated outfit of fundamentalists. In a guileful pretension befitting a US President, no matter the individual, Obama could not but admit in the said same interview that 'Where a young man who is growing up has no education and no prospects for the future, is looking around, and the one way that he can get validation, power, respect is if he's a fighter' and when they are given 'a religious rationale for doing this' they join the groups such as the ISIS

is.

And the same scenario, the US rulers repeated in the neighbouring Syria, with many common elements, barring the failure of the US imperialists to oust Assad from power. They were, however, successful, with ample help from their arch-reactionary allies in the Middle East, like Saudi Arabia, Qatar and others, to develop and nurture with money, arms and training, a Free Syrian Army of so-called rebels which provided the human and material sources for the ISIS. The outfit which emerged with the name Islamic State or IS or ISIL to start as an Iraqi franchise of al Qaeda, became the ISIS with a second 'S' added to its title to include Syria. And not just a change in name, the ISIS right from its start, joined the US-backed anti-Assad rebel forces working as the FSA. Syria was another country in the Middle East which had a relatively secular tenet alive in it. There the US imperialists and their allies, including France, could solely cause death in millions and partial instability of the country, and were successful in apparently destroying the vestiges of secularism by creating the extended ground for the Islamic State to spread its tentacles in Syria too.

This, in brief, is what happened in Iraq and Syria behind the emergence of the ISIS. But there is still more. As usual for them, the US imperialists and their allies and associates have played upon these fundamentalist forces, using ISIS against Assad; their war merchants provided arms; their allies provided all sorts of help. A few months back, in the wake of the migrant problem rocking world, we had indicated that the pro-US Arab monarchies — Saudi Arabia, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and the other Gulf states have all been ideological soul-mates of the ISIS and are stated to have been liberally funding and arming it. US Vice President John Biden, for instance, admitted last year that Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Qatar and Turkey had funnelled hundreds of millions of dollars to Islamist rebels in Syria that metamorphosed into ISIS. It also came in the media that there are proofs and evidence for US aiding ISIS. In last December (2014), Iraqi Parliamentary Security and Defence Commission MP Majid al-Gharawi stated that the available information pointed out that US planes are supplying arms and ammunition to the ISIS. A declassified secret US government document obtained by the public interest law firm, Judicial Watch, shows that Western governments deliberately allied with al Qaeda and other Islamist extremist groups to topple Syrian President Assad despite anticipating that doing so could lead to the emergence of forces like the ISIS. Pentagon foresaw the likely rise of the 'Islamic State' as a direct consequence of the strategy, but described this outcome as a strategic opportunity to "isolate the Syrian regime", the document revealed. The document thus provides extraordinary confirmation that the US-led coalition presuming to fight ISIS currently, had three years ago welcomed the emergence of an extremist "Salafist Principality" in the region as a way to undermine Assad. Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Ya'alon also confirmed that Israel

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## Middle East

# US imperialists create terror, fan it up, on its plea bring down ghastly state terror to give birth to graver terror

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has been providing aid to US-backed Syrian rebels. Another source quoted in the media apprehended that even European superpowers like Germany were selling arms to ISIS through intermediaries and via some of the Arab states who are clients of their weapon business. And there cannot be anything otherwise. The ISIS do not have an arms industry nor do they have any permanent territory. How then can they be in possession of so many sophisticated arms unless the imperialist arms merchants supply those to them? Also they are buying the arms out of the money they are making by selling oil from the captured oil fields. And the *Frankenstein* was not recognized till they beheaded hostages and finally brought about the Paris carnage. Now after the Paris carnage perpetrated by the ISIS, the same US imperialists are bombing the oil fields held by the ISIS. The same Saudi king has donated \$110 mn for war against terrorism. What a benevolence, what a pity, what a hypocrisy! One can simply wonder if it is still possible whether the US rulers really recognize the ISIS as that demon even now. People's opinion within their countries and across the world were vehemently going against the ISIS which might have prompted the US and their allies now to act. It is obvious from also the afore-said remark of the US President made only a day before Paris attack; it was meant to suggest, at least in public, that the US rulers were not considering the ISIS as a threat any more.

Be that as it may. Certain facts stand confirmed. Number one, both the perpetrators of terror go hand in hand; they are, on one side the rabid fundamentalist ISIS created and working in US-ravaged countries and on the other the war-monger design-weaving US imperialists practising state terrorism in one country after another since the debacle of the socialist camp. The ISIS was created by the imperialists as a planned outcome of their war or the imperialist design of divide and rule by fomenting communal divisiveness. Now gone out of hand, the imperialists pose tough towards them. And on that plea they bring about fresh use of their weaponry and arsenals on innocent people of their target land.

History has proved, and one must not miss it in any case, that in this process of brigandage with such demonic acts of state terror with all its venom and arsenals, the imperialists even on the plea of containing terrorism, could not put an end to the growth of fundamentalist terror. Rather, they themselves by their own acts have created, new terror forces posing graver danger to mankind. The US imperialists and their allies and associates who pretend to be so belligerent against the terror and tyranny of ISIS and other fundamentalist forces, are indeed keen to sustain and nurture them to ensure perpetual divide among the common toiling people centred on religion, sect, region, ethnicity and so forth and thus scuttle possibility of any true upsurge of the oppressed millions against their sinister design. They thus help fundamentalist forces grow, they nurture those with all aids and assistances.

The more they carry out these activities, the more people of these Arab countries, in fact of

the entire Middle East develop stronger and stronger anti-imperialist, particularly the anti-US imperialist feelings. It is by exploiting these feelings and sentiments, in turn, that the forces like the ISIS and others, one after another, are able to drive their wedge of fundamentalism and disunity among people. Each time a new force emerges, the world sees a more dreadful outfit to have developed.

The world has not forgotten that in the same way as they have given rise to the ISIS, the very same US imperialists created the Talibans and al-Qaeda outfits in Afghanistan to eliminate the Soviet influence, or even a democracy there run by a leadership not to their choice. And later the US rulers declared even pre-emptive war against that terrorism when the world opinion went totally against those dreaded terror outfits. But then again, this war against terror was carried out with nothing short of devastating state terror, the US aggressors destroying the hapless Afghanistan in course of it. Now out of those ashes of the Talibans and al-Qaeda, has come out the force like the ISIS, again created and fanned up by the US imperialists. And what kind of force it is? They are monstrously diabolic, savagely reactionary, inhuman in approach, incensed, viciously misogynic and extremely cruel to women, virulently sectarian and virtually in a killing spree sparing no innocent. They survive upon and preach arrogantly the most outdated concepts and ways of life the world has left long behind; they take to totally dictatorial rule and issue *fatwas* to trample all norms and practice of liberty, freedom, rationality and even humanity. The US imperialists and their kowtows must be feeling proud to have caused the birth of such demons! Are not they? The Paris or Lebanon carnage victims or any such innocent people falling prey to the ISIS must dare to ask the US imperialists this question.

And how about the Russia? Clear as daylight, the US as well as other imperialist powers' motive in Syria or Iraq, had been, number one removing a non-pliant ruler to establish a total, unopposed political grip over the target country and the region; the few non-pliant rulers for the US imperialists in the Middle East included Saddam Hussain and Bashar el- Assad. So they were the targets on any pretext. Number two, with firm political control thus attained, establishing total control over the natural resources of the target country or the region; both Iraq and Syria had rich oil reserves. Number three, with control on politics and natural resources established, ensuring smooth, free, unopposed and unhindered passage of these plundered natural resources to the desired destination of the imperialists, ports or on land, from and through the target countries and region. Number four, and no less important, in addition to political and economic devastation, the imperialists, headed by the US imperialists impregnated these countries with religious fundamentalism, communal divisions and all other brands of reactionary thinking and ways of life, creating and nurturing forces preaching these. They thus tried to implant disunity among people

there and dehumanize them to shatter the moral backbone of these countries. It cannot be missed that Russia has Syria as their last outpost and Assad as their ally. So his removal means Russia's loss of control and oil of the country too. To start with, the US imperialist, the leading war-monger power of the imperialist brigandage, had the obvious advantage. But as their design for removal of Assad failed, ISIS developed, world opinion started tilting against the US imperialists, the Russian rulers found the ground ready for taking initiative. And the jet-downing in Egypt, Paris incident, Turkey shooting down Russian fighter plane, all these prompted the Russian rulers to act with more vigour. So they too now pound Syria, apparently, the ISIS bases, but in the long run, Syrian people too. One must not miss that dropping bombs, no matter who drops those, kills and injures civilians, traumatizes children who survive, harms infrastructure, destroys housing, poisons the environment, creates refugees, fuels bitter commitments to violence, and wastes massive resources. And one cannot also miss that Russia now an imperialist power is internally trouble-torn and crisis-ridden and thus cannot have a largely different motive in essence from other imperialists.

And here lies the last truth. Freedom and peace –loving people of the world, in Paris or anywhere in Europe, in Iraq-Syria- North Africa-Middle East or anywhere in the world, helplessly witness a clash for power and pelf between the rabid fundamentalist terrorists and the brute ruthless war-monger state terrorists! But they cannot remain such for long. They must think and act, if for anything, for their own survival.

No doubt people must condemn in one voice, and not just that, must rise to exterminate such fundamentalist forces like the ISIS and their cohorts and mindless dastardly acts like the Paris or Lebanon carnage carried out by these rabid killers. At the same time, unless people of the world can develop, release and step up mass movements in each and every country, augmented with worldwide anti-imperialist, particularly anti-US imperialist, well-organized, well-coordinated militant peace movement under correct revolutionary leadership, unless such a movement surges forth and spreads out in the lands lying stricken by imperialist aggression and fundamentalist devastation, the death procession would not end.

And here, people, particularly the vibrant younger community of each and every country of the capitalist-imperialist world, has one more truth to observe and realize. The utterly decadent world capitalist-imperialist system, totally ridden with acute market crisis and irresolvable industrial recession are giving birth to deeper and deeper problems, maladies, vices and crises for entire humanity in every capitalist country of the world. As mentioned, unemployment, poverty, hunger, homelessness, abject insecurity of life and livelihood, total cultural degeneration are no longer features confined to the so-called underdeveloped or poorer countries. These are fast eclipsing the traditionally termed 'developed' or affluent societies of the western world. Hopelessness,

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Middle East

# Bombs do not rout terror, no matter who drops them : united people's movement the only way to combat both imperialist and fundamentalist terrors

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resentment, wrath are, on the other hand, rapidly overwhelming the mind of common people, waiting to be channelized against the exploitative social order, capitalism- imperialism. The rulers can very well see the red on the horizon. So they become ruthless to suppress and exterminate any opposition; cunning and design-weaving to sow seeds of disunity among people; foment all kinds of divisive traits and, based on those, pit one section of people against another within the limits of a country or in different countries. As discussed above, the rise of fundamentalism too, has its origin largely in this imperialist design.

And when these fundamentalists go out of hand and world opinion rises strongly against them, the same imperialists bring down attack. The more the imperialists, in the name of containing or curbing these fundamentalists, carry on devastating aggressions on this or that country, the deeper and stronger becomes the world opinion against imperialism, the anti-imperialist, particularly the anti-US imperialist

feelings. It has already been indicated above : this is what the fundamentalists are exploiting, this is what the dreaded terrorists wish the imperialists to do. In the name of resisting and thwarting these imperialist attacks the fundamentalists step up further their campaign of religious fanaticism, their ghastly terrorist activities.

So oppressed, exploited people need to realize that however compelling may be the situation to drive people mad against imperialist butchers, the path of mindless, sporadic acts of terror and violence particularly on soft targets like common men, are never going to pay dividend in the long run. On the contrary, these give the imperialists the leverage to fan up confusion among people and bring down further oppressive measures, further tyranny, in the name of fighting terror; to whip up their brigandage and ultimately crush any resistance power of people themselves. In its outcome, it becomes more and more difficult to develop any effective anti-imperialist movement over the world or in any country.

What is then needed, to repeat once more, is

sustained, well-organized, mass movement in one country after another, developed on secular outlook also totally free from any terrorist bend along with massive militant anti-imperialist peace movement, both involving all sections of freedom and peace loving people, garnering their strength, rising above all divisions and frustrating all attempts of imperialist sharks. The peace movement must look ahead for immediate cease fire, arms embargo, a halt to training and providing fighters and funding to forces being channelized to the terrorists, and finally a negotiated settlement, primarily by the people of the country concerned, and excluding the war-monger powers that fly over the globe for thousands of kilometres to sell their arms to exploit natural resources and to establish a brand of governance of their own choice.

These are no wishful thinking. It makes the only correct course determined by the inexorable law of social change and development, this is the path history is bound to tread! Victory awaits people to earn it!

## Students protest across the country On fellowship issue

### Delhi students stage Occupy UGC movement

On 9th December 2015, people of Delhi witnessed one more shameless example of police brutality on the peaceful demonstration of students, which came from various parts of the country at the call of Occupy UGC to March to Parliament after 50 days of prolonged battle against the UGC's decision to scrap Non-NET fellowship. Students gathered at occupation site at UGC office in New Delhi and started marching towards Parliament Street raising slogans to restore, enhance and expand non-NET fellowship and demanding of the Indian government to come out of WTO. When the procession reached Mandi House, police tried to stop the students but failed to trample down the vigour of protestors. But just after few metres, brute and naked reality of police was waiting for them. The peaceful protestors were targeted with water canon, tear gas shells and brutal lathi charge. Women

protestors were shamelessly grabbed and molested by male police. Several students got severely injured. Hundreds of students were detained in Parliament Police Station for several hours. Comrade Prashant Kumar, Delhi State Secretary of AIDS0 was also detained, Comrade Praveen Nahra, District Secretary of AIDS0 Sonapat, Comrade Bhupendra and Comrade Ashutosh Singh Yadav both members of AIDS0 Delhi were injured in the incident.

The movement started after the decision of UGC on 7th October to scrap to discontinue fellowship for Non-NET (National Eligibility Test) students doing their M. Phil and PhD. This decision of UGC has come as a rude shock for the students of our country. Under the pretext of 'getting a lot of complaints about the fellowship' the UGC has withdrawn the fellowship. It's an irony that when less than 10% of the youths of the country are pursuing higher education in India, the government is drastically cutting down

infrastructure facilities, among others, are major causes for fall in the research standards of the country! The decision of the UGC to discontinue the fellowship for M.Phil and PhD students in all central universities will thus seriously jeopardize research and drastically bring down enrolment in higher education

The direction given by the MHRD to constitute a review committee to consider eligibility for research fellowships is nothing but another way of restricting the fellowships. The committee as per the directions of the Ministry will base their decisions on merit and economic status of the students. We demand that these fellowships should be continued unconditionally. It is also noteworthy that when students were demanding enhancement in the existing scholarship, the UGC, in the name of shortage of funds, has decided to scrap the hitherto existing system. It is quite shameful that while there is hefty hike in the salaries and perks of ministers and bureaucrats and their extravagant spendings, the government is bent upon curtailing the most deserving fellowships which promoted pursuit of higher education and research projects.

The decision of UGC should not be seen in isolation. It is actually part and parcel of the bigger design of the ruling capitalist class to privatize and commercialize education in our country. In an attempt to somehow extricate itself from the insoluble economic crisis, the capitalist class all over the world through IMF, World Bank and WTO is trying its best to privatize/ commercialize the service sector like education, health-care, water, electricity and other welfare measures which hitherto fell into the domain of the governments. The Indian ruling class from 1986 onwards has been systematically taking steps one after another to gradually not only to privatize education but also



*Police brutality on protesting students in Delhi*

budgetary allocation for education. Eminent scientists are already worried about the pathetic state of research in India. The fact that brilliant students are not motivated towards research is a matter of grave concern for all of us. Poverty, escalating cost of education, ignominious fellowship scales and lack of

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# Left parties hold joint programme against communalism

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attack. Still then, they talk of democracy. What type of democracy is it?

From the day the BJP ascended to power, a dangerous communally surcharged atmosphere is being built up. In the name of "Ghar Wapsi" an aggressive movement was started to forcibly reconvert not only the Muslims but also the Christians whose forefathers had, during more than a thousand years of Muslim feudal rule and the centuries long British colonial rule, embraced Islam and Christianity. The people being reconverted now have been born as Muslims or Christians in the present democratic era. You are reconverting them forcibly which is out and out a feudal practice and not in consonance with the principles of democracy which allows freedom of belief to individuals. They talk of democracy. Is it democracy?

Immediately before the last Lok Sabha Elections communal riots were engineered in Muzaffarnagar and electoral benefits reaped therefrom. Before the Delhi elections six Delhi churches were specifically targeted for attacks to surcharge the atmosphere on communal lines. By whipping up communal frenzy on the pretext of having cooked beef in his home, Mohd. Akhlaq was lynched to death in Dadri, U.P with serious injuries to his son. A few days later, another person was killed in Himachal Pradesh in a similar way.

It is not that Muslims or Christians alone are being attacked. Even Hindus like Dhabolkar, Pansare, and Prof. Kalburgi were eliminated. Their only fault was that they were the people with a rational and scientific mind. These incidents have given rise to an apprehension about the fate of democracy in our country. Eminent writers, artists, litterateurs, historians and even renowned scientists felt that they should protest against this suffocating atmosphere. They returned their awards in protest. In the history of democratic movements of India this has never happened before. This also shows how serious the situation is. They fear that the country is heading towards fascism because fascism engulfed various countries of the world in almost the same fashion. If an atmosphere of intolerance is generated by the ruling party or, if not the ruling party directly but, by its various outfits, the situation becomes dangerous. Fanaticism, which is the product of blindness, is being generated through orchestrated communal hatred. That is why the minorities all over the country are apprehensive, which is quite natural under such a situation. Aamir Khan had only pointed out to this very situation in the country. The government, instead of paying heed to the seriousness of the situation, slapped false allegation on him that he has besmirched the country's image before the whole world. Thus, instead of taking corrective measures and steps to safeguard democracy, the government itself encouraged such a vilification campaign. The Home Minister redefined secularism (Dharam-nirpekhshta) as 'Panth-nirpekhshta' meaning thereby that religion has a role to play in politics, education and in every sphere of public life. This is sheer distortion of the concept of secularism. The students of history know it well that the concept of secularism emerged during the Renaissance in Europe during the developing phase of capitalism and capitalism as a system emerged in the society after fighting

feudal oligarchy which derived its strength from religion. The parliamentary form of governance, which we call bourgeois democracy today, was established after overthrowing the feudal system where the monarch or the king was considered as the representative of God. A secular state neither encourages any religion nor interferes in it as religion is considered a personal matter of an individual. Both believers and non-believers are treated as equals in a secular state. Shri Rajnath Singh also says that since secularism originated in Europe, it is not suited to the Indian conditions. He forgets that the parliamentary democracy itself, which he swears by day-in and day-out, is the product of Europe. Such distortions are being

Panchayat elections in U.P. and the results of the elections of Gujarat local bodies are an indication towards all this. This anger of the people needs to be given an organized shape. The spontaneous and unorganized movements are always short-lived and fritter away as soon as they burst forth. To give the movement an organized shape and for nurturing and strengthening democratic thinking and values among the people and ultimately proceed towards changing the system as a whole, we, the six left parties and democratic forces have come together. All of you shall have to join this struggle. I appeal to all the democratic forces of the country to strengthen this struggle with all their might. In this era of capitalist crisis the bourgeois parties are trying their best to create animosity among the people belonging to majority and minority communities; between lower and upper castes etc, and make them fight amongst themselves. People shall have to understand the simple fact that the main contradiction in the capitalist society is between the capitalist class and the working class. For the purpose of exploiting the working class, the capitalist class do not discriminate between Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs and Christians. The working class has to understand that they are an invincible force if they are not divided into Hindus, Muslims, Christians, Sikhs and Buddhists. If they consider themselves as Muslims, Hindus and Christians, that way they are definitely a minority. But if they consider themselves as part and parcel of the working class, then they constitute 90% of the total population of the country which is an invincible force in comparison to the minority of 10% of the capitalist exploiters. Here lies the necessity of approaching these problems from working class angularity. I hope the people of this country and you the leaders of this movement will follow this path of the struggle. With this hope I end my speech.



Comrade Somsekhar at Bellary, Karnataka



Protest at Adityapur, Jharkhand



Comrade Sridhar at Hyderabad, AP-TS



Dharna at Allahabad, UP

deliberately cooked to create confusion among the people. We, the Left parties, need to place all these things before the people. This is one of the aspects of the situation which I have placed before you.

Another aspect is that capitalism today is in its deepest ever crisis. This government is fully committed to serve the interest of the capitalist class who are responsible for generating this crisis. The government is shifting the burden of this crisis on to the shoulders of the people of the country which has resulted in immense disillusionment and anger against the ruling dispensation. The results of the Assembly Elections of Delhi and Bihar and the recently held

In the state of Andhra Pradesh-Telangana, there was a protest rally at Visakhapatnam on 4th, a meeting at Anantapuram on 5th, a convention against communalism at Sundaraiiah Vignana Kendram, at Hyderabad and a massive demonstration followed by a meeting at Kurnool on 6th. Different combinations of the left parties including SUCI (Communist), CPI(M), CPI, CPI(ML-ND), CPI(ML), RSP, AIFB, MCP(U) and other parties organized these programmes. At Hyderabad, the convention was inaugurated by Ex-Judge of High Court (Hyderabad) Justice Chandrakumar. State secretariat and State Committee members and district leaders including district -in-charges of these parties addressed the gathering. At Hyderabad Comrade T. Veerabhadram- State Secretary CPI(M), Comrade Chada Venkatreddy, State Secretary CPI addressed among others. From SUCI (C) Comrade K.Sridhar, Secretary, TS-AP State Organizing Committee, Comrade S.Govinda Rajulu, Visakhapatnam District Incharge, Comrade B.S. Amarnath, Anantapur District Secretary addressed at Hyderabad, Visakhapatnam, Anantapur and Kurnool respectively. Comrade Ch. Murahari was also present on the dais at Hyderabad.

At Visakhapatnam, the police of the Andhra Pradesh State Government led by Telugu Desham Party did not allow the peaceful protest rally to be held. However as the left parties stuck to the

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# Deluge in Chennai : Nature's fury or a man-induced devastation?

Three hundred forty seven people perished in the recent deluge in Chennai. With so many lives gone, huge property destroyed, food and drinking water not reaching the sufferers, piled up stinking garbage and carcass causing diseases, posing threat of epidemic, coupled with inadequate relief make a veritable hell to the surviving people. There can be hardly any word for solace for the grief stricken millions.

From a city facing such a disaster, there was a report of the following type. Eighteen patients died between December 2 and 3 in a single hospital the MIOT International in Manapakkam in Chennai, after the hospital was flooded owing to the Adyar breaching its banks, tearing through the hospital's compound wall and damaging its power units. The managing director of the hospital, said the loss of power led to the death of those on ventilator support and no help had come. But the State health department said that on December 3 oxygen cylinders had been provided in response to a distress call on December 3; the hospital, however, did not have adequate stand-by generators as back-up. The instance is provided as a sample of what attitude the authorities, administration including the government bore on face of such a disaster. There were again samples of what the experts tried to make people know or believe about why did the deluge take place, holding '17 days straight of rain', 'warming world' 'El Nino' or some such causes responsible.

Moreover, this devastation brought back the memory of many such in the country, even in the recent years; for example, the super cyclone in Odisha, tsunami in coastal areas, severe flood in Uttarakhand, flood in Jammu and Kashmir, as also flood like situation in metropolitan cities. It also brought back the memory of how after every disaster, all the powers-that-be, the governments, at the centre or in the respective states promptly advanced the customary explanation that it was the rage and fury of nature which caused these devastations; or nonchalantly exchanged words to shift the blame on each other.

But what is the truth? Why all metropolis Delhi and Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai, Bengaluru and Kolkata suffer from disaster and wait for more disasters? Why in this age of science and technology, civilization still remains helpless in the hands of nature? Why do people have to face such calamities now and then helplessly with the authorities behaving such heartlessly? It is for themselves, for their own survival that people need to find the answers. Chennai deluge provides a lot.

Bare facts centring Chennai disaster that appear in media are revealing.

This year it was raining since Diwali. But there was international agencies' forecast of 500 mm rain on 1 and 2 December. Reportedly PWD officials advised the secretary and other senior bureaucrats to bring down the water level in the huge Chembarambakkam reservoir, from 22ft to below 18ft so the lake could absorb heavy inflow four days later. It was totally ignored. And when the rain came, the huge reservoir, that has long lost its more than 40% of water holding strength owing to acute sedimentation, could not hold the excess water and flooded Chennai. When the

inevitable happened, there was the soft target of nature to blame upon. The disaster, if it is measured in terms of human suffering, multiplied as people living in low lying areas were not informed about the impending flood. Whom should the people hold responsible for it?

Besides, natural buffers, namely the water bodies such as lakes, have been encroached upon, vegetation has vanished; rivers have been mined for sands. Thus the buffers that the nature itself preserved to act between its fury and mankind, have been done away with. The bureaucratic capital that remains as surplus waiting to be invested, is put into real estate business; sky scrapers involving billions of rupees have come up in their place, the sand mafias mint money as efficient ancillaries to the realtors. The two together put life of millions at stake. Add to these, closing of outlet in the metropolis, water bodies used as dumping ground, felling trees to give way for construction of flats—none can deny that these are some of the principal factors leading to flood.

Truth is, while extreme weather conditions are on the rise, their manifestations on our cities is worsened by man made decisions, faulty legislations, lack of will to enforce laws and plain human greed. All big cities await this consequence, only it's a question of time.

Indian Institute of Science in a study shows that in Bangalore which grew exponentially between 2000 and 2014, the vegetation has considerably shrunk. The status of water bodies is worse. Hyderabad which once had 3000 plus lakes has only few of them left. Hyderabad's hi-tech city IT corridor has no storm water drainage and drowns when it rains. In Mumbai, 26 subways in the western suburbs were originally culverts below sea level. After being paved over as roads for East-West connectivity, sprawling western suburbs like Andheri, Goregaon and Malad are flooded when it rains at high tide. The weak laws of Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) aimed to save delicate littoral ecologies are conveniently tweaked to allow all kinds of construction on mud flats and salt marshes of Thane, Malad and Vashi creeks. Mumbai's buffer zone of mangroves receded by over 36 sq km in last 20 years. In Kolkata creation of Salt Lake (12.35 sq km) and New Town (37 sq km) on converted marshland bypassing objections raised by KMDA have been responsible for severe water logging. Kolkata's network of water bodies, the nayanjulis and inland canals are disappearing. In Delhi, catchment areas of many water bodies are finished. On Sarai Kala Khan, which was a water retention area, has been built an interstate bus terminal causing severe road flooding during rainfall.

It does not end there, nor did it in Chennai. During the crucial hours when help was desperately needed, hapless and marooned people did not know whom to turn to. Absolute lack of coordination among the Army, the Coastal Guard and National Disaster Response Force and Police made things only worse. A shocked world was witness to a macabre drama played out on flooded streets – marooned residents beseeching help, rescuers unable to reach them, AIADMK workers obstructing relief work of anybody other

than them, but taking credit for all relief and rescue operations. They boasted of how many thousands of government staff have been involved in flood relief; how many hundreds of boats employed, how many lakh affected persons had been rescued and lodged in camps, or how many lakh food packets have been distributed and medical camps held. But government representatives did not face the media till 6 December. Their food packets beamed with the chief minister Jayalalithaa's photo. People can well judge what ethics it upholds particularly when they have to scramble for the relief they are provided with. Crisis of food and drinking water is rampant. AIADMK led state government's largely inadequate relief measures have caused strong indignation among the people. Beside huge loss of property, the survivors face a polluted environment from piled up garbage and rotten carcass around the city as water receded with the grave possibility of spread of diseases. The experts have highlighted the positive use of social media — Twitter, Whatsapp and Facebook — as a resource tool for the people to organise and help each other. One may wonder what kind of joke is this? Cruel or foolish? How are marooned people without shelter, food or even minimum place to stand upon, supposed to make use of social media? Rather, the experts should learn that even amidst such a disaster people of Chennai have shown remarkable instances of their sense of ethics, when they have extended all sorts of help to each and every victim, irrespective of his or her identity: all help without any social media.

Now questions that arise: How can we save millions from these man-made disasters? How can people's demands reach the deaf ears of the rulers? On whose behests these are happening? It's obvious that governments, whether central or state, be it of any party rightist or so-called lefts, all are equally responsible for allowing such mindless urbanization, deforestation, filling up marshland, etc. But why?

Here people should understand that ridden by acute market crisis created by the very laws of capitalism, yet driven by the unquenchable thirst for maximum profit, the capitalist class is diverting their bureaucratic capital towards, among other things, real estate promotion. They are guided by their greed and penchant for making money without the least concern for safety, security of the people. Profit is their sole motto. Added to this is rampant corruption which is permeated in every level of administration making things worse.

Inhuman face of capitalism is also manifest in the way government administration is handling disaster. People are dying like cats and dogs, frantically beseeching for help. There has been virtually no response from government. This is what we saw during super cyclone, tsunami. What we find now in Chennai? There is no coordination, no communication. Whatever skeleton help is coming that too in maximum instances are focused in petty party interest. Inhumanity of pushing people to disaster on the one hand, while posing as their saviour on the other. The country's prime minister is talking tall

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# Students protest across the country

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make it bereft of its man making, character building qualities, which was so assiduously stressed by our great thinkers. The result is that real education, as also study of arts, literature i.e., humanities are getting ignored while a kind of education which brings more profits to the coffers of monopoly houses and corporates is getting encouraged. This education system is intended to create human machines or robots, devoid of scientific bent of mind and human values.

Earlier on 18th November, 2015, hundreds of students from different Universities assembled in front of the UGC office in New Delhi, under the banner of 'Occupy UGC', with demands to continue non-net fellowship, to extend fellowships to the state universities, for enhancement of the amount of fellowship and also for fellowship to be given unconditionally to each and every eligible student. Failing to secure response from the authorities through movements, and having braved police atrocities, the students decided to rally to MHRD but were stopped on the way by the police. So a meeting was held a few metres away from MHRD. Leaders of AISA, AISF, KYS, Disha, DSU along with AIDS0 addressed the gathering. Comrade Prashant Kumar, State Secretary AIDS0, Delhi, in his speech appealed to the protestors to join the movement against the Government's design for privatization and commercialization of education along with other services in the interest of the corporates.

Subsequently there was this attack on 9th December 2015. But it could not stop the ongoing movement, rather fuelled it up and the movement is taking a national shape. A national level coordination committee is in the process of formation which aims to develop a protracted and sustained nationwide movement.

## Hyderabad students submit memorandum to the VC

On 4 December, students of the Hyderabad Central University submitted a memorandum to the Vice Chancellor against massive fund cuts of

## Deluge in Chennai

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of 100 smart cities to help the crisis ridden capitalists but is averse to take safety measures for people. In the same voice the central government announces about digital India. Technologically India is so advanced that state is armed with missiles, satellites, bullet train, etc., but there is no help for people in danger. It may also announce a fat sum for relief. But how far and how fast that may reach the victims before they can rebuild their life and livelihood, remain a crucial question.

In this grave situation the urge for the thinking people is that they realize the need for a mighty sustained mass movement that alone can compel the ruling governments to meet people's demands. People must close their rank and exert pressure of united decisive voice of protest so much so that even a heartless government is forced to adopt measures to stop playing with nature and ensure that adequate safety measures, preventive steps are taken.

Non-NET Fellowship students, under the leadership of AIDS0 with their state and district leaders taking the lead.

## Against Union government's submission to WTO-GATS diktat

As a part of All India Protest Day on 12 December 2015, call given by All India committee of AIDS0, demanding the central government to stop privatization and commercialization of education and come out of WTO/GATS, students staged protests at different places in the country. The Bangalore District Committee organized a protest demonstration at Mysore Bank circle. The gathering of the demonstration was presided over by Comrade Ajay Kamath, Vice President, Bangalore District Committee, AIDS0. Comrades V. N. Rajashekhar, All India Vice

President of AIDS0 and Ashwini. K. S, Bangalore District President, AIDS0 addressed the protest demonstration.

At Hyderabad AIDS0 AP-Telangana staged a rally on 11 December 2015 with AIDS0 AP-Telangana State Secretary Comrade R.GANGADHAR and other state and district leaders of the organization attending the rally and addressing it. Protests were also lodged on 12 December by the respective AIDS0 units at Guna in MP, at Guwahati in Assam, in Haryana and elsewhere.

Everywhere the leaders addressing the respective gatherings brought out the nature of the attack and called for powerful movement against it. They pointed out that the BJP-led Union government has submitted its 'offers' for 'market access' in 'Higher education Sub-sector' to WTO, on the eve of the Tenth Ministerial Conference, the topmost body of the WTO, to be held from 15 to 18 December 2015 at Nairobi, Kenya. This attempt towards opening up education sector to the WTO-GATS regime would add fuel to the fire of already mounting unbridled privatization and commercialization in education of

the country initiated particularly with the implementation of the NPE'86 and increasing ever since then, making education still more inaccessible not only to the poorer section of the masses but even to people of relatively higher echelon. At present, only 7% of the student community are making to higher education. If education comes under the WTO/GATS, one can imagine the disastrous consequences that may befall on higher education in India.

However, the silver line on the horizon is also there. Students and youths across the globe are coming out onto the streets in protest against the evil design of capitalists and imperialists. Even in India, waves of protests are rising against the onslaught on education. It is time for all the education loving people to stand as one man against this attack to save education: the AIDS0 leaders commented.



Students' protest against GATS in Guwahati, Assam



Students' protest against GATS at Dharwar, Karnataka



Students' protest against GATS in Hyderabad, Telangana

## Doyens of Indian Renaissance and independence movement remembered across the country

As a part of the programmes on paying tributes to the doyens of the Indian renaissance and independence movement, mass organizations of our Party observe birth or death anniversaries of these past luminaries in different parts of the country with due honour and solemnity. One such programme was the observance on 3rd December, the 127th birth anniversary of the great martyr Shaheed Kshudiram Bose, who had been one of the brightest sources of glowing inspiration for the country, particularly its youth under British imperialist rule and continue to do so even at present. Remarkably this year the observance was held among other places at **Rajpura, Pilani** in Rajasthan by AIDYO, at **Jamshedpur**, Jharkhand and at **Pakhanjore of Kanker district** in Chhattisgarh by a mass platform Jagriti Mancha. The latter programme was addressed by Khagendranath Mandal, Principal of Esebera High School and was attended by teachers, student and common people in fairly large number. On 4th December, at the Sangam Bazar programme in Kanker again, a pledge was read out commemorating the Martyr. Many teachers, students and Bazar Committee members attended it.

In **West Bengal**, the state in which Kshudiram was born, the day was observed in a number of cities, towns and villages, in educational institutions, clubs and on roadsides. Many people garlanded the statue in front of **Kolkata High Court**. In a central programme, a procession was taken out at the call of 125th Kshudiram Birth Anniversary Committee. The procession evoked surprise and admiration in the bystanders all along the route, who even expressed their feelings to find youth and students in such a large number coming out on this occasion when the entire society seems to have bogged in desperation, frustration and self-seeking aimlessness. In the evening, a meeting was held in front of the Coffee House, near Presidency College (now University). A publication was brought out and a film-show named *Beer Khudiram* (The Gallant Khudiram) was held. The meeting was presided over by Dr. Dhruba Mukhopadhyay, eminent educationist and the President of the 125th Kshudiram Birth Centenary Committee; renowned sculptor Niranjan Proddhan was present as the chief

### Seminar on “Alternative to Global Capitalist Offensive: Asia’s Response”

On the occasion of the 90th anniversary of the foundation of the Communist Party of India, a two day seminar on “Alternative to Global Capitalist Offensive: Asia’s Response” was organised by the CPI on 28-29 November, 2015 at Ajoy Bhawan, New Delhi. The participants in the seminar were the six left parties, including the SUCI(C) and representatives from various communist parties from abroad.

Comrade Pran Sharma, Secretary, Delhi State Organising Committee of the SUCI(C) attended the Seminar on behalf of the Party.

guest. Anjanava Chakraborty spoke on the Martyr. Niranjan Naskar, Secretary of the Committee expressed greetings to everyone present. The music group of *Charanik* presented some songs as homage.

In celebration of the birth anniversaries of Iswarchandra Vidyasagar, the doyen of the Indian renaissance (on 26 September) and Shaheed-e-Azam (The Vanguard Martyr) Bhagat Singh (on 28 September), at **Jaunpur, UP**, the AIDSO unit held a programme on 4 October. With Shree Phulchand Gupta as the president and Comrade Dilip Kumar Kharwar in charge of conduction, the programme included distribution of prizes



for the competition on *samanya gnyan, nibandh & chitrangan* (General knowledge, essay and drawing), and discussion by Comrade Jharna Malviya, the main speaker. More than a thousand students took part in the programme.

## Joint programme against communalism

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programme and started the rally from Saraswati Park, the police pounced on them and arrested more than 100 leaders and activists, who were, however, later released. The leaders severely condemned the police atrocities against peaceful demonstrators.

A 6-day programme from 1 to 6 December 2015 was organized jointly by the left parties in **Allahabad** in UP against rising religious intolerance and communal hatred. Public meetings and demonstrations were held in six important areas of the city – at Chandra Shekhar Azad Park on 1 December, Shaheed Lal Padmdhar Statue, Kutcheri on 2 December, Shaheed Roshan Singh Statue, SRN Hospital, on 3 December, Ambedkar Statue, High Court Crossing, on the 4th, Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose statue, Civil Lines, on the 5th and Gandhi Statue, Balson Crossing, on 6 December. Leaders of SUCI(C), CPI (M), CPI, and CPI (ML) respectively presided over the public meetings organized each of these six days.



KOLKATA



PATNA



DELHI



JAMSHEDPUR

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