

# Proletarian Era

Volume 36 No. 7  
December 1, 2002

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

## GUJARAT ELECTIONS

# BJP's Rabid Hindutva and Moderate Posing Crafty Tactics to Grab Power

Assembly election in Gujarat is going to be held on 12th December, 2002. This election is being held in Gujarat in an extraordinary situation created by planned carnage perpetrated by the Sangh Parivar in connivance with the Modi administration. They resorted to the programme to capture power in the state after electoral defeats in states after states, more particularly, in the local bodies, Panchayats and bi-elections to assembly and parliament held in Gujarat. They did it with a view to wining the state assembly election riding on the crest of Hindu communal in the wake of the anti-Muslim pogrom. This is amply evident from the fact that the BJP dissolved the state Assembly prematurely and demand early election by September although thousands upon thousands of minority community victims were awaiting rehabilitation and lakhs of them had fled away from the state or shifted to other places. Not only this, with the same purpose Modi had still been trying to hold Gourav Yatra and there after Vijay Yatra even a few days ago to whip up Hindu communal passion on the eve of election.

Just a few months ago, in UP election the BJP could not come to power single-handedly — it had to share power with its sworn enemy BSP and Mayawati as the Chief Minister. After this defeat in its strong-hold UP and above mentioned electoral setbacks elsewhere a section of the BJP leadership were strongly demanding that desertion of their virulent Hindutva agenda in the NDA

government was the cause behind such defeats. So, the BJP chose Gujarat as the test case of reasserting its Hindutva agenda. The BJP leadership felt it most urgent to win the Gujarat election at any cost by fanning up Hindu communalism, more so, as defeat in Gujarat might even push their NDA government's existence at stake at the Centre.

The BJP is going into this election when it stands totally

discredited in all respects before the people of the whole country. The rabidly anti-people policies of the party, and its NDA government at the Centre have unmasked its real character before the people. The policy of globalization, privatization and liberalization pursued by it ever more vigorously has pushed the lives of millions upon millions of common and poor people into unprecedented unemployment, joblessness, destitution, starvation and all round misery. Added to it, one after another exposure of corruption of the BJP-led government's ministers, party bosses and high government functionaries — which have surpassed of all records of all previous governments including the Congress at the Centre — are simply horrifying to the people and have generated deep hatred among them towards the BJP and its much vaunted 'religious morality'.

In such a situation also to bring about wide cleavage in the ranks of all sections of exploited people and to divert their attention from the multitudes of burning problems

mentioned above, the BJP leadership resorted to play their virulent Hindutva card to fan up communal frenzy.

The gameplan of the BJP to hold the election just after the carnage got a jolt to a considerable extent when the Election Commission and the Chief Election Commissioner after visiting the state and thoroughly probing the situation there, declared the state unfit for holding election so early, as demanded by the Modi government. The EC deferred the election to December 2002.

Now this delay in holding election has put the BJP's nefarious design of exploiting Hindu communal passion to the extreme in the fray to a great difficulty. With the days passing and communal frenzy waning, the industrial and business circles, the afflicted working people of Gujarat and even the saner section of the Hindu community are gradually realizing what a peril the carnage has wrought upon the socio-economic fabric of the state. The BJP's top

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Thousands of people marched through the streets of Patna on 16th November protesting the BJP-led NDA and the RJD-led Bihar state government's utterly anti-people policies. A large number of women from different corners of Bihar participated. The huge procession turned into a rally at R-Block crossing. It was addressed by Comrade Dipankar Roy, SUCI West Bengal State Committee member and Comrade Arun Singh, Bihar State Committee member. The speakers condemned globalization and called upon the people to build up people's committees, the weapon to develop sustained powerful movements. Resolution was passed against US war design on Iraq. Comrade Amriteswar Chakraborty, Secretary, Bihar State Committee led a 5-member committee to submit a memorandum to the Rabri Devi government.

# Congress equally deft in communal politics

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leadership also is not unconcerned about how the naked genocide by the Sangh Parivar with the help of the Modi administration has tarnished its image, whatever, in mass mind and body politic of India and abroad. The Congress is taking advantage of it in its election campaign. So, the BJP leadership is now resorting to some sort of damage control manoeuvre. Prime Minister Vajpayee is a handy tool to the party in this respect. Which is why when the Chief Election Commissioner prohibited Modi's communally provocative Vijay Yatra scheduled to start on 20th November and infuriated VHP and Modi attacked the Commission, Vajpayee promptly declined to support Vijay Yatra and strongly advised Modi and the VHP to stop it and posed himself as a defender of communal harmony and peace on the eve of the poll. Mr Advani sharply reacted to Vajpayee's stand. The media, as usual, painted the event and the Sangh Parivar including the BJP projected the same as another contradiction between the hard liners and the moderates represented respectively by Advani and Vajpayee which is far from reality. The past records of Vajpayee prove this beyond doubt. In every case of gangsterism by the VHP and the Bajrang Dal like burning of Churches and Bible at Dang in Gujarat, assaulting missionaries, raping nuns, burning of Graham Steins and his minor sons, etc. Atal Behari Vajpayee publicly admonished the miscreants but in reality actively defended the

Sangh Parivar and its miscreant outfits within and outside Parliament and showed utter inaction as the Prime Minister of the country against such serious criminal acts of communalism. Instead of taking stern steps against the Bajrang Dal and the VHP in the case of Church and Bible burning etc., he most cunningly proposed to make 'conversion' a issue of national debate. This very Prime Minister regarding Gujarat genocide expressed grief and sorrow but defended the culprit organizations and the Chief Minister Modi branding the carnage as 'spontaneous outburst against Godhra massacre' and when he visited Gujarat much later after the carnage, he rushed to Godhra first instead of standing beside the thousands of bereaved in Ahmedabad or elsewhere whose kins were slaughtered and themselves tortured and traumatized at the hands of the VHP-Bajrang goons. During these black days, RSS resolution in Bangalore said: "Let the Muslims understand that their real safety lies in the goodwill of the majority" and termed Gujarat genocide as "Divine will of Lord Rama"! Vajpayee endorsed such dangerous resolution without uttering a single word against it. History of Vajpayee's prime ministership is replete with such double-facedness and trickeries. Which is why, Govindacharya, one of the then RSS chiefs and a high BJP official once proudly said, "Atal Behari Vajpayee is our mask". The fact is that long before Prime Minister Mr Vajpayee had

proved himself to be a mask and a hypocritic cover of the hidden agenda of the NDA government led by the BJP at the Centre. The agenda is, as all know, to foist gradually a dark fascist and at the same time a theocratic state in India making the minorities second class citizens or driving them out of the country. And this time also, BJP is using Vajpayee's hypocrisy in the case of Gujarat election. On the eve of this election Advani also has joined Vajpayee as the central BJP leadership has taken up the line of soft pedaling on the question of Hinduite jingoism on the eve of this election.

The refusal by Modi of allotting a ticket to Harin Pandya, an arch rival of him, is nothing but a personal or group squabble between Modi and Kesubhai Patel-Pandya group. But the audacity with which Modi has persistently refused the High Command's instruction vindicates one thing — the indispensability of Modi to it for winning the election actually using fanatic Hindutva passion organized and led by him in Gujarat.

It has already been mentioned after deferment of election by the EC, with declining mass support behind the BJP, its leadership is realizing that earlier prospect of smooth victory is gradually receding — even victory cannot be fully guaranteed at present. Which is why, Vajpayee has already said that this election 'should not be viewed as a referendum of the people' (in respect with their Hindutva agenda). Through Vajpayee's soft posture the BJP leadership is aiming at winning back the saner section of the Hindu community and is assuring industrial and business circles of peace in election while, through Modi and VHP leaders, the party high command wants to keep the Sangh Parivar rogues at the grass-roots level in good humour, who mainly runs the election machinery in towns and villages. On the whole, the whole thing is a coordinated move of the BJP leadership, that is, a new strategy of the party in the changed situation. But the main agenda remains the same — winning the election by fanning up and exploiting Hindu communalism as a whole through Modi-VHP-and Bajrang Dal actually involved in the election process. Still, they outwardly would have the country believe that the BJP is fighting the election not on communal line but on the basis of their 'achievements in the field of economic and social development', in the language of Vajpayee. They are now

propagating that victory or defeat in the election is not the point; the point is that the election has been conducted democratically under their governance! To project this new gesture, Vajpayee on 21st November last, forbade VHP to hold any public meeting in the state which Advani also endorsed. But all these are nothing but apparent and crafty move of the BJP's top leadership to tide over the present situation.

The carnage has taken a heavy toll on economy and the society as a whole. Moreover, the common people, more so the trading community, are now disapproving and are not ready to bear with such disturbance in their day-to-day life, field of education and economic activities. The shrewd Congress leadership has not failed to notice that whatever communal passion might have been roused among a big section of Hindu community in the state after Godhra and during the frenzy in March-April, the naked and prolonged communal rampage of the BJP and Sangh Parivar has earned widespread disapproval and hatred among a good section of Hindu community also. The Congress is out to exploit this public discontent against the BJP and the government in the next election. But at the same time, it is quite conscious of the Hindu vote-bank in the state and is equally ready and expedient to exploit Hindu religious sentiment in the society, that is, among the majority voters true to its age-old covert communal politics as against the BJP's overt and naked Hindutva.

Now, on the one hand, the Congress is posing itself as the saviour of the minority community and is engaged in garnering the minority votes in Vaghela's reincarnated KHAM (Khatriya-Harijan-Adivasi-Muslim alliance) once formed by the former Congress Chief Minister Madhav Singh Solanki. On the other hand it is also vying with the BJP in capturing a larger share of Hindu vote-bank. Appointment of rebel BJP leader Sankarsinh Vaghela as the new Gujarat Congress President and fielding arch Hindu fanatics formerly in the BJP and now in Vaghela's camp are ample testimony to it. For, the Congress knows it very well that Vaghela has a very big clout over the communal section of the Hindu community in Gujarat which can outmatch Modi to a great extent in conducting election on a communal line.

And the CPI(M) is aiding

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## Protest Against Casino Legalization in Haryana

BJP-HVP led Haryana Government's recently passed legislation for opening of Casino in the state has been strongly opposed by the AIMSS-AIDSO-AIDYO who held demonstrations condemning this legislation as also obscenity in electronic media and holding that when gambling is backed by the government it spreads inevitably and more widely the western decadent culture, compounded by more crimes on mothers and sisters, torture on them.

### Rohtak

On 20th November the AIMSS held a Dharna at the Deputy Commissioner's office at Rohtak, which was conducted by Comrade Santosh Sowran. Women from both towns and villages participated in it

and demanded withdrawal of the legislation to set up Casino. The speakers included Comrades Rosni Debi and Nilam Devi.

### Sonepat

On 21st November the AIDSO and the AIDYO held dharna at Deputy Commissioner's office in the town of Sonepat. They demanded of the Governor not to give assent to the ill-motivated legislature introducing Casino. Before the dharna, students and youths marched in a procession from the Railway Station led by Comrade Om Prakash, State President, AIDSO, Comrade Babita Kumari, Dist. AIDSO President, Comrade Sunil Kumar, Dist. AIDSO Secretary and Comrade Iswar Singh Dohia, Haryana State Secretary, AIDYO.



## Power, Education, Health, Industry, Agriculture, Law and Order in a Critical State

# West Bengal Poised for Greater Movement

## Bangla Bandh If Government Does Not Meet Demands

Comrade Provas Ghosh, Secretary West Bengal State Committee, held a press conference at the central party office, Calcutta, on 16 November last. He declared that a higher phase of movement on burning issues was going to start in the districts on 20 November and continue till 15 December. This will include processions in the districts, rallies, signature campaign, road blockades. From 21 December to 15 January 2003 the party will hold civil disobedience programmes at district and sub-divisional level. Even after this second phase of movement if the government does not withdraw its utterly anti-people policies, our party will call for Bangla Bandh in the last week of January.

Comrade Provas Ghosh called upon the rank and file of the CPI(M) and other constituents of the ruling front as also of the Congress, Trinamul Congress and other parties to participate in these programmes of movement.

Comrade Provas Ghosh said the CPI(M)-led Front is following the footsteps of the central BJP-led government in every sphere. Price rise of essential commodities,

hiking of fees in service sector and their utterly anti-people policies in favour of Indian and foreign capital while trampling the interests of the workers, peasants and poor people, has made life unbearable in this state. The situation is getting more and more grim every day. The only way out for people lies in protracted mass movement, which our party is building up, focussing, in particular, on resisting of hike in power tariff charges, hospital fees, transport fare, anti-people agricultural policy, etc., and demands like removal of CPI(M) leader Kanti Ganguli from the ministry of Sunderban development, who is the brain behind the murder of many SUCI leaders and activists.

Comrade Provas Ghosh said that the CPI(M), as also our party, fought against power tariff hike by Congress-led Kerala government. But in West Bengal, this very party, while in government, is getting the power tariff raised at a huge rate.

In education tuition fees have been increased at the rate of 100% to 1000%. Almost all educational institutions, including medical and engineering, are being handed over to private owners. Under various

pretexts, government has introduced capitation fee. All these are a conspiracy to deprive students from lower middle class and poor families of education. Teachers do not get their salary regularly. The government is depriving thousands of teachers of their pensions. It is employing unemployed youths as part time teachers depriving them of their genuine rights.

Whatever limited opportunity common people used to get for their treatment in state government hospitals, though these lacked modern equipment and medical facilities, they will be deprived of even this, as with repeated hike in fees — many newly introduced.

The government has framed the agricultural policy in favour of the Indian and foreign capitalists, due to which peasants will lose their land and agriculture will be opened up to the multinationals for unhindered loot and plunder.

To cover up the picture of poverty, the state government has decided to show that BPL people (below poverty line) constitute 15% instead of the hard reality, that is 50% depriving them even of the meagre benefits to which they are

entitled — at least in theory — for their bare survival. Government approved dealers are selling kerosene oil, the most important fuel for the rural people, at a price much higher than government rate, with the backing of administration and police.

In the interests of the capitalists, hawkers, slum and *jhupri* dwellers are being evicted without rehabilitation in Calcutta on the plea of development, to make it a mega city.

Huge court fee hike will deprive common people from trial. On the plea of petrol, diesel price hike, the government is hiking transport fares repeatedly for the benefit of the owners, while passenger service is declining further.

Police has thrown all neutrality to the winds under CPI(M) rule, according to their dictates. To throttle the voice of opposition, police barbarity has dwarfed all the history of repression carried out by previous governments. Under CPI(M) Front rule of 25 years, CPI(M)-police-anti-social combine has killed over hundred leaders and cadres of our party and let loose a reign of terror.

## UTUC-LS Meets PM

As per earlier decision that the Prime Minister would meet the central trade union organizations at regular intervals to listen to them on pressing issues affecting labour and industrial relations, Mr A.B. Vajpayee held his overdue third meeting with trade union leaders on 18th October last at his residential office. The UTUC-LS raised the following burning issues:

1. Attacks on employment, job opportunities and alarmingly increasing unemployment problem.
2. Retrograde recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour;
3. Disinvestment and privatization;
4. Move to freeze DA;
5. Withdrawal of both the ceilings, eligibility and calculation — in respect of payment of bonus and bonus to all.

The Prime Minister, in course of his reply, expressed his helplessness regarding how to tackle growing unemployment problem. He, however, agreed to hold a separate meeting with the trade union leaders on the issue of unemployment. It was also decided to constitute a committee to enquire into the conditions of labour and related issues of the units already privatized/disinvested. But the Prime Minister maintained complete silence on other issues.

The UTUC-LS in this meeting was represented by its All India Secretary Comrade Achintya Sinha.



*Demonstration against US war machinations against Iraq — Rohtak 14-11-02 by SUCI Haryana, at Double Park, Model Town, Rohtak. Comrades Satyawan, Secretary, SUCI Haryana State Org. Committee, N C Sharma, R S Sharma and Bijender Singh, an activist of All India Anti-imperialist Forum addressed. Slogans raised: US imperialists — Hands off Iraq, Raise voice of protest against US war designs.*

## Orissa

# Protest Demonstration in Puri

The SUCI and AIKKMS Puri District Committees jointly organised a massive demonstration and rally on 8 November, at Puri town in front of the district collector's office against unprecedented price hike in essential commodities, banning of the pani panchayat, which is a step towards privatising the entire irrigation system, digging of drainage to clear surplus water from the land etc. Before the demonstration about 2000 peasants and party activists including women marched through different streets in a well decorated procession.

Comrade Dinabandhu Parida presided over the mass meeting held in front of the collectorate, Puri. Addressing the gathering, Comrade Raghunath Das, Secretary SUCI Puri District Committee and Secretary AIKKMS, Orissa State Council called upon the people to organise long protracted movements till their demands are fulfilled. A 5-member delegation team consisting of Comrades Brajabandhu Pradhan, Ajaya Kumar, Batakrishna Swain, Rajakishore Aluk and Subash Boral handed over a memorandum on 12 point demands, addressed to the Chief Minister of Orissa, through the Collector.

## Economic and Fiscal Policy Changes of BJP-led Government Further Attacks On People

The BJP led NDA Government has recently declared tax reforms, changes in credit and currency policies that bear striking resemblance with those of Bush administration in the USA, in essence. The so-called tax reforms, the change in credit and currency policies for further benefit of the capitalists, multinationals on the one hand and withdrawal of minimum reliefs to the middle class earners as also further worsening of living condition of the poor already in dire distress show whom the government serves and so blatantly. And all these are on the pretext of improving investment, revival of economy stuck in recession, generation of employment and income.

### Tax reforms — claim of 'end of inspector raj'

Mr Bijoy Kelkar, a seasoned bureaucrat and adviser to the Union Finance Minister, Mr Jaswant Singh was appointed to head a task force for tax reforms. The speed and alacrity with which the task has been completed and the promptness of the government to accept these exposes the government's complicity.

The Kelkar panel recommendations are over both indirect and direct taxations. The tax pattern in our country has been drawn in favour of capitalists, so much so that 72% of tax revenues come from indirect sources which fleece the common people and only 6% are in the net of direct tax allowing black money to flood the economy. We concentrate on income tax, the direct source, which reveals more glaringly the brutal character of fiscal policy as also to call the bluff of the bravado of ending 'exemption raj'. Let the facts speak.

First, corporate tax payable by industrial houses and multinationals has been slashed down from 36.75% to 30% and from 40% to 30% respectively. Further, the Finance Secretary Mr S. Narayan in his inaugural speech at international conference on taxation, held in New Delhi on 13 November, last informed that exemptions in corporate tax would remain and that this tax in India on average is 19.2% as also so low as 6.2% in certain sectors. (*The Statesman*, 15.11.02)

Second, wealth tax for the wealthy, still in vogue in western countries, will be abolished. Third, long term capital gains tax for the corporates, dividend tax, minimum alternate tax all are to be abolished. Fourth, the exemption limit of income tax has been raised from Rs.50,000 to Rs.1,00,000 and the existing minimum rate has been divided into two stages according to range of annual income. For those earning between one to four lakh rupees, the rate will be 20% and

those above 30%. This has been trumpeted as a big benefit to the middle class. Is it really? Actually a heavy burden has been imposed by way of withdrawal of standard deduction and tax deduction under Section 88 and exemption under Section 80L. Benefits enjoyed by the senior citizens and women are proposed to be withdrawn.

Another recommendation of Kelkar's task force is for introduction of agricultural income tax having the exemption limit of Rs. 1 lakh annual income. This is a show piece as a similar recommendation in the past has been cold-storaged. This time too, Mr Ajit Singh, the Union Agriculture Minister, rubbished it as being 'impractical'. The protest comes from the kulak lobby through him. Fact is the rich farmers — the rural capitalists have been enjoying over the decades fiscal patronage by way of annual increase in issue prices for cereals, subsidies in irrigation and electricity, but have not paid tax when food subsidies for the poor have been withdrawn. All the parliamentary parties of different hues whether at the Centre or in states do not touch them as they control the rural vote-banks. According to P Chidambaram, former Union Finance Minister, 75% of individual tax-payers having capacity to pay will go out of tax-net (*Business Standard*, 20.11.02)

### Changes in credit and currency policies — portentous consequences invited

The so-called tax reform is to be integrated with the credit and currency policies announced to be changed. Following the monetarist device to offset recession, the Reserve Bank of India declared reduction in bank rate by 25 basis points from 6.5 percent to 6.25 percent, the lowest since 1973. This means banks, already awash with liquid money, may draw further from their reserves with the apex bank at a cheaper rate to have further addition to liquid money.

Along with this, CRR, i.e. cash reserve ratio has been lowered from 5 percent to 4.7 percent over the last two years. The natural question arises: has the adoption of cheap money policy caused investment or industrial revival? Has the market demand picked up to lessen the impact of recession by a jot? Answers to all these questions are in the negative.

Dr Bimal Jalan, the Governor of Reserve Bank of India admits that bank rate reduction is serving no purpose precisely because investors are not coming to take advantage of cheaper loans. He admitted: "A steady increase in net foreign currency assets of RBI combined with lower than anticipated level of real economic activity created situation of excess liquidity during most part of the year" (*The Statesman*, 30.10.02). This is an admission that cheap money policy or the monetarist method has failed to boost investment rather helped by cheap bank credits illicit gains from speculative activities slip out of the country, eluding tax net to add to foreign currency assets. What is to be noted that the RBI in its mid-term review of credit policy corrected the projected GDP growth rate from 6.65% to 5.55%. This too has been disputed by the ICRA (Investment Information and Credit Rating Agency). In its opinion the Gross Domestic Product growth rate will be less than last year's figure of 5.4%. It will be round about 5 percent at best. Dr Jalan has explained that the cause of revision of GDP figure is due to anticipated fall in production of agricultural products by 5 percent less than last year. Although GDP growth rate is not the indicator of real living condition of the people as is evident everywhere, still it reveals the failure of supply side economics in favour of which the bourgeois planners resort to false logic to conceal the truth.

### Nature of present day crisis completely different

They conceal the truth that today's crisis in capitalist world is distinctly different in character from earlier ones of 'cyclical variation in the pre-Second World War condition'. At that stage world capitalist market, despite periodic interruptions, maintained more or less relative stability of market. This was the thesis of Lenin. After Second World War, the world capitalist market lost its relative

stability. Comrade Stalin showed that Lenin's thesis on relative stability of world capitalist market no longer holds good in the changed post-Second World War situation. This is the reason why crisis of capitalism today has become distinctly different from earlier ones. It has become all-out, all-pervading as pointed out by Comrade Shibdas Ghosh long ago.

Faced with this reality, world capitalism in its desperate bid to survive took to its latest design of 'Globalization-Liberalization-Privatization'. Our party document in 1994, "Latest Design of Imperialism" exposed this fact. It was pointed out that the root cause of present day crisis of capitalism is the phenomenon of visible 'excess finance capital and excess productivity'.

The meaning is to be grasped. Capital is aplenty but not for productive investment. It has become speculative and usurious in nature. The market has become highly unstable. The huge capitals accumulated at the hands of the monopolists who are imperialists in character, shown by Lenin, use these finance capitals for quick return and search for the spot, throughout the globe. Trillions of dollars are hopping from place to place for this purpose to earn super profits out of speculative investments.

Similarly, 'productivity excess' does not mean over-fulfillment of productive power nor meeting the needs of the people. Productive power enhanced through sea-changes in technology is not reflected in abundance of production, rather the opposite. Major part of the installed capacity remains idle because production far less than potential becomes 'excess' due to severe contraction of market. The market contraction, a continual process, is due to worrisome decline in people's purchasing power. The decline is not only because of inequality in income which has gone to unbelievable high proportions and is still increasing with sharp lowering of income of the common people, but also due to the labour-saving devices, the crisis-ridden capitalist-imperialists resort to for 'market competitiveness'. The labour saving devices are being seen in large-scale retrenchment when employment growth rate is zero, appointment of part-time employees for mere pittance, contract labour or out-sourcing, i.e., getting the jobs done from outside and the diabolical method of 'hire and fire' under cover of 'flexible labour market' for so-called purpose of competitiveness

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**GUJARAT ELECTIONS****Gujarat SUCI's letter to all left and democratic parties**

Dear Comrade/Friend

Elections to the Gujarat Assembly are taking place in an extraordinary situation that has been created by the planned pogrom backed by the BJP Government and by the other outfits of the Sangh Parivar. That the BJP, resorted to this heinous pogrom to anyhow grab power in Gujarat after series of electoral defeats in several states and more particularly in the local bodies, Panchayats and by-elections to Assembly and Parliament in the state, with a view to creating deep communal passions among Hindus and mortal fear among the Muslim minorities was amply clear from the fact that the Modi government dissolved the Assembly immediately after the carnage even though thousands of riot victims were yet to be rehabilitated and lakhs of them fled away from the state or shifted to distant places. This has been further confirmed by the fact that the Modi government was still continuing the so-called

Gaurav Rath Yatra to whip up communal passion for garnering votes even by violating election code of conduct. Now VHP is fanning up communal sentiment to help BJP in the election. We cannot expect a free and fair election under Mr Modi, the caretaker Chief Minister during the polls.

But there was still a deeper design in playing the communal card. It was to bring about a wide cleavage in the ranks of all sections of exploited people and divert their attention from multitudes of problems basically created by exploitative capitalist system of our country and now aggravated by the most anti-people policies of globalisation, liberalisation and privatisation which were first introduced by the Congress in the interest of the ruling capitalist class and now being more vigorously and speedily implemented by the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre. Congress being the party of the capitalist class can neither protect

the interest of the people nor can it safeguard the secular and democratic values.

Under such circumstances, building up of mighty united democratic movement against these all out attacks on all sections of the people by both central and state governments is the urgent need of the hour which alone can protect the rights and interests of the people and safeguard the secular democratic values as also people's unity by defeating the fascist design of the BJP and other members of Sangh Parivar.

We call upon all left and democratic parties and secular forces of the state to come forward unitedly, to give shape to people's committees as instruments of struggle, not only to ensure crushing defeat of the BJP in the ensuing polls but also to build up resistance movement against all anti-people policies of the central government and whichever government comes to power in the state.

SUCI is contesting from Surat-Chourasi Taluka Assembly Constituency. We request you to support our candidate Comrade Satyendra Singh. SUCI will support left candidates and the people's candidates, if there by any, who are tested in the anti-communal movements and are ready to carry forward

people's legitimate movement both inside and outside the Assembly.

We propose to hold a meeting of all the left and democratic parties of Gujarat to draw a course of united action in this election. If you agree SUCI can host the meeting in our office in Ahmedabad. Even we agree to attend at any place suitable to you. Waiting for your reply,

Thanking you,

Comradely yours

**Dwarika Nath Rath**  
Secretary, Gujarat State  
Organising Committee  
SUCI

**TU Convention in Panipath**

A trade union convention against growing attacks on employment and trade union rights was held at Samalakra in Panipath district, Haryana on 27th October last. It was organized by Save Employment And Trade Union Rights Committee.

Distinguished trade union leader and Secretary, Haryana UTUC-LS Comrade Hari Prokash presided over the convention. Trade union organizers and leaders, workers and employees, unemployed youths and a large number of intellectuals and educationists attended the convention. The convention adopted a declaration which sharply criticized central and state governments for their anti-labour

policies based on globalization. The convention among other things demanded immediate re-instatement of all retrenched workers of Haryana State Small Irrigation and Tubewell Corporation and re-opening of the same. The anti-labour recommendations of the Second National Commission on Labour were also strongly condemned. Comrade Iswar Singh Rathi, the main speaker, pointed out that the Haryana State government had already retrenched 16,000 workers and employees. Comrade Sriram Namodia condemned the ghastly killing of 5 Dalits by the VHP zealots at Jhajhar and demanded exemplary punishment to the criminals and the guilty police officers.

The convention formed a 15-member strong Struggle Committee with Comrades Hari Prokash as President and Mahendra Singh, Secretary.

**Make  
SUCI Candidate  
Comrade Satyendra Singh  
Victorious**  
*from Surat-Chourasi Taluka Assembly Constituency*



The road blockade at Kalamma Circle on 30th October last by SUCI, Bellary District Committee demanding repairs of roads, now totally unfit for use. The procession led by Comrade K Somashekar, SUCI District Secretary marched from Royal Circle to Kalamma Circle. Addressing the protest meeting Comrade Somashekar criticized the BJP, controlling the city municipal corporation and also the Congress controlling the state government. Both the parties showered heaps of promises but did nothing. The ruling Congress even allotted a package of Rs. 3600 crore. But where had all this money gone, he asked? Other speakers were Comrades M Basavraj, Devdas. A memorandum was submitted by Comrades H V Ganapati and Devdas.

# Globalization Exacerbated Contraction of Market

(Contd. from page 4)

in global market. The contraction of market resulting in unstability of market is for this reason and this has been exacerbated by globalization.

## Fruits of globalization

The condition of working people in our country beggars description. The recent report admitted by the government reveals that 360 million of people go to bed at night with hunger. The Union government had to admit that 40 percent of total population are below poverty level, and this too, on the basis of monthly income which is far less than what is needed for bare survival. The hypocrisy goes beyond tolerance when the same government now talks about 'quality of living'. The CPI(M) Front government in West Bengal demonstrates dearth of minimum sense of human values when it plays dirty tricks with the exact number living below poverty line for mean parliamentary politics. All these are the fruits of globalization after a decade of its experiment. The Prime Minister of Belgium Mr Guy Verhostadt, in an open letter, shows his worry about the unheard of difference in incomes which is growing further as also the protectionist policies being pursued by the advanced capitalist-imperialist countries. (*The Statesman*, 18.10.02).

Well, the difference in income mentioned by him, though an underestimate, indicates nevertheless, the motive and direction of the bankrupt policy of globalization. It is not correct that bourgeois economists, policy framers and politicians are unaware of this. They also know that bloated incomes of the rich do not help reducing the market crisis as the incomes and spendings of the working people alone have the higher propensity of spendings that temporarily, though, could inject the market with life. But to spell out the truth is admission of failure of their capitalist order and the urgency of a new social order which cannot but be other than scientific socialism.

The World Bank and IMF were prodding the government for reduction in fiscal deficits. The BJP-led government had the option, a sensible at that, of drastic cut in spending on arm's purchase, nuclear build up, profligacy of ministers and bureaucrats and leaders of

parliamentary parties of all brands, and in such other non-plan expenditure, recovery of NPAs of public sector banks now standing at the staggering figure of Rs. 1 lakh 20 thousand crore, according to government's admission, plugging the loopholes of income tax collected from the people. They did not. Instead, they chose to rob the common people of their wherewithal just to survive in the name of saving government's cost of meeting interests of small savers when the government's fiscal deficits ran to Rs.1 lakh 16 thousand crore in 2000-01.

In this context is to be judged the change in current currency policy. This change has been announced close on the heels of the World Bank's warning against fiscal slippages or evasion of tax net to cause loss of revenue and as a corrective measure for improvement in investment climate in our country. The RBI will now permit opening of Residential Foreign Currency (domestic) account by any citizen. The account can be for any foreign currency apart from dollar and pound, shall have the cheque facilities like current account and with no ceiling if earnings or procurement is by legal means. This facility will be over and above the existing one of holding foreign currency worth dollar 200 for foreign travel, medical treatment, education, purchase of books etc., with the same conditions of legal earnings. The transaction on foreign accounts, now, can be free and open requiring no permission from RBI as previously needed.

## The question is :

What is the material difference of this measure from full convertibility of rupee, giving scope for largescale currency trading? Was not this wide scope for currency trading one of the main causes of debacle in the Southeast Asian countries few years back? Though acting on the advice of the World Bank and at the pressure of capital — internal and external, the apex bank on behalf of the government gives justification on two counts.

First, free convertibility of currency will encourage inflow of foreign direct investment (FDI) for recovery of economy, enhancement of economic activity and employment to boost. Second, steady increase in net foreign currency assets, at the hands of RBI and consequent comfortable position of foreign exchange

reserves which shot up from dollar 45.2 billion as on 26.09.2001 to dollar 64 billion by 25.10.02. Does the justification stand on facts and logic?

We remind our readers that the slippage of money, black or white, from this country, evading tax net has been continuing for long through devious means. The traditional means, very well known Howla, over and under invoicing and exploitation of lacuna in the Foreign Exchange Management Act (FEMA) give wide scope for monopoly finance capital and the rich to despatch money to foreign accounts and for purchase of property outside the country. So, the government's plea of foreign currency assets reserves does not speak for soundness of economy. It has not been due to India's earnings from foreign trade as her biggest market, the US, is in the morass of deep recession. It has been due to RBI's purchase of dollars in order to keep the appreciated value of rupee. In contrast, Japan having foreign assets reserves of around dollar 800 billion is now in doldrums and resort to devaluation of Yen to keep her market as also to augment it to the great discomfort of the US rulers.

Regarding the perception that full convertibility will boost inflow of foreign capital, we need to mention just a fact. The Council of Economic Advisors to the US President observed recently: "Non-residential business fixed investment contracted sharply in stark contrast to the investment boom and fell at only 0.2 percent annual rate". The Wall Street have pointed out that 60% of the leading US companies have reported declined in sales in first quarter of 2002 (Global Slowdown — Bharat Jhunjhunwala — *The Statesman*, 14.06.02). The reason for this is not far to seek. The consensus of UNCTD, World Bank, various multilateral agencies and even the RBI has been that the consumer spendings in the US economy holds the key to global recovery. Speculations were rife about early recovery of the US economy on alleged buoyancy in consumer spendings. But analysts show those are not spread over various sectors, but concentrated on Housing Sector. UNCTD observes : "...falling employment level and uncertainty over future incomes" have propelled the US consumer to dig into his savings and buy a house to secure a roof over his head in the

impending deepening of recession. The analysts also show that US stocks as also dollars are highly over valued. The press reports about fall in US export trade. When correction comes as it is sure to come, not only America will go bankrupt but disastrous consequences will follow in World Economy far greater in dimension than in 1929 and following years of the Great Depression.

Had the claim of government spokesmen about the soundness of forex because of export earnings been true, then the Prime Minister would not have to go globe trotting in search of markets of Indian goods. Mr Vajpayee's request for relaxation of protectionist policy of European Union was stonewalled. He went to the Asian countries with the request to form a Free Trade Area with assurance of fiscal concessions to those countries, obviously for boosting exports and earnings from that. Besides, India bears commitment to repay huge foreign debts. The position will be really serious when export earnings dwindle simultaneously with heavy drainage from foreign exchange reserves for serving foreign debts. The BJP-led government conceals this fearful prospect and opens the door for currency trading and flight of capital from country at will as happened in Mexico, South East Asian countries and recently in Argentina. The BJP may be calculating its return to power for the second time to implement its fascist design and programme by bartering the future of the country and its people. So in recent announcements the RBI has disclosed its decision to permit foreign institutional investors a guarantee on their equities (even on hedging) and return on those thereby giving security to foreign capital. But will the people still stand and stare to see their country sliding down to abysmal depth? Already, almost in every part of the globe the workers and men of senses are in revolt against the hated policy of globalization and war design of US imperialism.

In our country amidst gloom all over, people see that the SUCI has been resolutely fighting globalization and its poisonous effect, in and through the policies and measures of both the Union and State governments. The heavy casualties that this party is braving to uphold people's cause and the banner of struggle must be known to them. Should they not join to strengthen the stream of struggle and resistance that alone can pave the path of a real change in their life? The future depends on their response.



Haryana**SUCI demonstrates against heinous killings of Dalits**

SUCI organised a strong protest demonstration at Jhajjar district headquarters on October 29, against the lynching of 5 innocent persons on the plea of cow slaughtering at Dulina Police Post and submitted a memorandum to the Deputy Commissioner addressed to the Chief Minister Haryana, demanding immediate arrest of those involved in the barbaric and heinous killings on 15 October last.

With the rumour of cow slaughter spread in the area a mob of Hindutva forces not exceeding 400 in number jumped into the fray, seized the innocents from the police and killed them with iron rods, stones etc. without any least resistance from the police in the presence of D.S.P. Jhajjar. Those five innocents were all Dalits — whose traditional profession is to skin the dead animals with licence from the government.

Not only this, on 16 Oct. the following day, VHP, Bajrang Dal and Gurukul Jhajjar — an Arya Samaji educational institute, brought out demonstration in Jhajjar threatening the administration not to take any action against those involved in the killings.

A team of SUCI activists led by Comrade Anoop Singh had visited

the spot.

In the memorandum SUCI demanded to register a criminal case against the police officials of Dulina Post who also demanded bribes from the victims as alleged by their family members. The memorandum also demanded to register a criminal case against organisations of VHP and Bajrang Dal etc. for their threat and intimidation.

SUCI appealed to the people to raise a strong voice to get justice and maintain social harmony, unity and peace, as well as to isolate the forces of communal frenzy. The party expressed strong indignation at these mass killings and expressed its deep sympathy and condolence to the families and kith and kin of the victims and demanded Rs 5 lakh each as compensation to the family members along with government job to a family member of the victims.

The demonstration had started from Bag Jahanara stadium and ended in front of the office of the Deputy Commissioner. Comrade Satyawani State Secretary, Haryana, Comrade Anoop Singh, District Secretary and Comrade Roop Chand, Zile Singh, member District Committee led the demonstration.

**Calcutta Convention Against US War Design**

The All India Anti-Imperialist Forum, West Bengal Chapter held a citizens' convention on 25th November last against US imperialists' war design on Iraq, violating freedom and sovereignty and ignoring strong worldwide anti-war protests. The convention took place in the University Institute Auditorium, Calcutta presided over by eminent scientist and former Vice-Chancellor, Dr Sushil Kumar Mukherjee.

The speakers were Prof Sunanda Sanyal, Prof Tarun Sanyal, Prof Jyotiprosad Chattopadhyaya, Prof Samar Bagchi, Prof Sujay Basu, Prof Gouri Shankar Ghatak, eminent

social workers — Gitesh Sharma, Mubarak Karim Jawahar and Hirak Roy. Prof Dhrubajyoti Mukhopadhyay moved the main resolution. The resolution exposed the US design to primarily give its sagging 'militarized economy' a lease of life besides grabbing vast oil wealth of Iraq. It also condemned India Government's pro-imperialist policy especially its growing closeness with US imperialists. The convention declared to strengthen movements against the India Government's policy of support to the imperialists and against imperialist aggression.

**November Revolution Day Observed In Ranchi**

The 85th Anniversary of the Great November Revolution was observed in Ranchi, capital of Jharkhand in a mass meeting on 18.11.02, close to the statue of Shaheed Birsha Munda at Birsha Chowk. Comrade Hem Chakraborty, Secretary, SUCI Jharkhand State Organizing Committee, presided over the meeting. Comrade Ranjit Dhar, SUCI West Bengal State Secretariat member, was the main speaker.

Before the meeting, a well-

decorated procession marched from the Ranchi Rly. Junction, traversed through the landmarks of Ranchi and finally reached the meeting spot. Workers, peasants, students and youths in big numbers participated enthusiastically.

The meeting started with the song composed on Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, the great leader of the proletariat. Comrade Sitaram Tudu on behalf of the State Organizing Committee of the SUCI also spoke on the significance of the November Revolution.

Comrade Ranjit Dhar spoke extensively on the significance of the November Revolution Day. He touched upon salient national and international issues. He stressed the fact that ever since the floating of the demand for a separate state of Jharkhand, the SUCI had always clearly said that mere creation of a separate state would in no way solve the problems of the masses. Rather, formation of such a state further strengthens the rule of the capitalist class. Experience of the two-year rule in Jharkhand only proves beyond doubt the stand of our party.

*The open session of the historic conference held at Angul Bus Stand Ground on 12th November braving inclement weather (Below) The delegate session was held on 13th and 14th November at Nabakrushna Choudhury Nagar (Savaghar). On the dais (above) are seen AIDSO leaders and Comrade Dhurjati Das, SUCI, Orissa State Committee member. The conference sent strong message of mighty students' movement against anti-student, anti-educational policies of both state and central governments.*

**7th All Orissa Students' Conference against communalization, commercialization and fee hike in education**

# Criminals get BJP tickets

"Despite BJP's lofty utterances over non-inclusion of criminals in the party list, the party list of 144 candidates for the Assembly elections, released in New Delhi this evening (19.11.02), belies the party claim. At least half a dozen leaders with criminal antecedents found their names in the list.

When the BJP came to power in the State first time in 1995, its main poll plank was their resolve to fight against corruption and criminalisation of politics alleged to have been ushered in by the previous Congress regime.

The prominent among the candidates with criminal background figuring in today's BJP list is the Minister of State Purshottam Solanki, a former TADA detainee who was named in the Srikrishna Commission as the one who instigated mob and participated in riots in north Mumbai during the 1992-93 turmoil in the city after the demolition of the Babri mosque in Ayodhya.

Apart from Solanki, who has been renominated from the Ghogha

seat in Bhavnagar district, the other candidates with criminal records fielded by the BJP include Kantibhai Amrutia from Morbi and Jairajsinh Jadeja from Gondal.

In fact, when Chief Minister Narendra Modi sought and won the vote of confidence in the state Assembly soon after taking over last year, Jairajsinh Jadeja was the only ruling BJP legislator who could not vote as he was under arrest in connection with a murder case in Gondal.

Similarly, Kantibhai Amrutia renominated from Morbi in Rajkot district was also held three years back for his involvement in the murder of a rival BJP leader who was the former chairman of the town's municipality.

Former corporator Jitubhai Vaghela, nominated for Seherkotada seat in Ahmedabad, was named in a complaint lodged with the police for his involvement in the anti-minority riots earlier this year.

Besides, Minister of State for Home Gordhanbhai Zadaphiya from Rakhial and Dr Maya Ben

Kodnani from Naroda, who were seen by several riot victims as instigating arson and rioting have been renominated from their original constituencies". (*Hindustan Times*, November 20, '02)

## BJP nominates second rioting accused

"Lunawada (Gujarat), November 27 - It was one of the most gruesome incidents after the Godhra killings. Two trucks with women and children fleeing their village of Kidiyad were stopped at Limbediya Chowkdi, 15 kilometer from here

and set ablaze. Seventy people were killed.

Ms Arzuben Salfinbhad Sindhi survived by pretending to be dead and named BJP leader Mr Kalubhai Maliwad as one of the prime accused in the incident. Mr Maliwad was arrested with some others under Sections 302 and 307 IPC. While the others got bail during the trial, Mr Maliwad was denied the same and spent seven months and 10 days in jail before being released. ... Now, Mr Maliwad is the BJP's nominee for the Lunawada Assembly constituency, ..."

(*The Statesman*, 28.11.02)

# GUJARAT ELECTIONS

(Contd. from page 2)

Vaghela and the Congress's such type of 'fight against communalism' giving it certificate of secularism in lieu of a seat to be contested at the mercy of the Congress. The Congress may thousand times claim itself to be secular. But in what respect? Not to speak of innumerable communal riots during the Congress's long misrule, RSS support to Mrs Indira Gandhi in winning the then Jammu election, Rajiv Gandhi's opening of sealed lock of Ramlala Mandir in Babari complex, Narsimha Rao's shrewd inaction to protect demolition of Babari Masjid, the role of this party during and after the carnage prove how much secular the Congress is. Even during the heinous minority killings in the state, particularly in and around Ahmedabad, the Congress with its considerable political power, more or less parallel to the BJP in Gujarat, did nothing to save or even to serve the victims. Ahmedabad Corporation is controlled and run by them but they did nothing in this respect and abstained even from opening a single relief camp for the endangered Muslims lest it earns displeasure of communal section of the Hindu community which constitutes a vote-bank also for it. Such is their secularism and love for the minority! Can the CPI(M) deny this fact? Then why does the CPI(M) certify the Congress as secular? Because its policy is either to anyhow cling to power or where they cannot capture it, to get hold of the apronstring of the most powerful in the Opposition, that is, anyhow to remain in power or in the proximity of the corridors of power. The entire history of the party tells this ugly truth of their election politics. Whereas as a left party, as it itself claims, its duty should be to build up mass movement uniting

with all left and secular democratic forces against the BJP's communal politics and to fight the election from such a left-democratic-secular platform, it preferred to appease the Congress for a seat. Actually in the present situation it is incumbent for any truly left and secular party to make the people understand that the politics of both the BJP and the Congress, whoever wins in the election, will ultimately drag in people into the quagmire of cast and communal divide to divert their attention from the real problems of life arising out of capitalist exploitation. It was the duty of the big left and democratic parties in the country to build up mighty united mass movement for this purpose to defeat the communal politics of BJP. The Gujarat State Organizing Committee of SUCI, with this aim in view, wrote to all left and democratic parties including the CPI(M) and the CPI in Gujarat to make initiative to this end. But these parties did not respond to our appeal. (*Please see letter on page 5*) They preferred alliance with the Congress being guided by sheer opportunism.

In such a situation, we appeal to the people to build up people's committees i.e. instruments of struggle not only to ensure crushing defeat of the BJP in this election but also to build up united movement against all anti-people policies of the Central Government and whichever government comes to power in the state. We appeal also to the people of the state to make the SUCI candidate victorious from Surat Assembly Constituency and vote for those people's candidates, if there be any, who are tested in anti-communal and democratic movements and are ready to carry forward people's legitimate struggle both inside and outside the Assembly.

## Modi Government Behind Gujarat Massacre

### — Citizens' Tribunal

'Concerned Citizens' Tribunal — Gujarat 2002' formed at the initiative of Justice V R Krishna Iyer, in its report released to the press on 21 November has held Narendra Modi and his Cabinet responsible for minority carnage following Godhra incident. Modi is held guilty to deny relief and rehabilitation to the victims. Modi is described as "the chief author and architect of all that hapened in Gujarat after February 27." The report accused VHP and Bajrang Dal members were trained to massacre Muslim people and Godhra incident provided them the plea.

Tribunal and PUCL head K C Kannibaran said to the press that any Central agency could chargesheet Chief Minister Modi and his Cabinet as well. Other members of the tribunal are retired judges of Supreme Court Mr Justice P B Sawant and Mr Justice H Suresh (Bombay High Court) respectively.

Among the accused are Mr Modi, Home Minister, Mr. Gordhan Zadaphia, revenue minister Mr Harin Pandya, health minister Mr Ashok Bhatt and VHP's Pravin Togadia. Top brass bureaucrats including Chief Secretary Bubharao, Home Secretary Ashok Narayan and DGP K Chakraborty are on the accused list.

The report said : The (Sabarmati Exp) fire started inside the coach and the flames leaping out of the windows singed the outside of the compartment." Some ministers, it says, met on 27 February night at Lunawada village in Sabarkantta. "A plan was drawn and disseminated to the top 50 leaders of the BJP/RSS/VHP/BD on the method and manner in which the 72-hour carnage that followed was to be carried out."

The report also mentions the shifting of the bodies of the Godhra victims to Ahmedabad the same night. Modi's conclusion the same day that the attack on the train was pre-planned by the ISI and the bandh call given by the VHP and supported by the BJP the next day as 'evidence of a well planned scheme to extract political capital out of Godhra'."

Significantly, Modi now stands scathingly indicted by the Citizens' Tribunal for the third time after being similarly accused by the National Human Rights Commission and the Minorities Commission.

(Source : *The Statesman* and *the Times of India*, 22.11.02).

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