

## Communalism

### Nurturing Intolerance to Perpetuate Communal Polarisation

Narendra Modi is on a spree of foreign tours with the sole aim of selling India to foreign capitalists. His mentor, RSS & Co., is raking up culture of intolerance across the length and breadth of the country. Is there any connection between the external appeals and internal smothering? Definitely yes.

Both the BJP in the government and RSS & Co on the street are openly and stealthily resorting to polarize the Indian society on communal lines and impose a monoculture as a prelude the establishment of *Hindu Rashtra* the declared ultimate aim of RSS&Co.

The BJP is taking over the institutions of higher learning directly by appointing those who have known well for their reactionary ideas. Over a year, the ICHR, Nehru Memorial Museum and Library, Film and Television Institute of India had been given new directors by the BJP. Known communal elements like Dinanath Batra has now made in-charge of drafting new curricula and text books for school education, so as to influence the world view of young generation.

The BJP government is using arm-twisting methods to force those institutions that are not in its direct control to make them fall in line. New Delhi Metropolitan Council changed the name of Aurangzeb Road to APJ Abdul Kalam Road – calling him as a nationalist “despite being a Muslim” – thus not only branding the former as ‘bad’ Muslim and the later as ‘good’ Muslim, but also making it mandatory for every Muslim to prove himself as a patriot by supporting the government. The mouth piece of big bourgeoisie, the print and electronic media, followed the clue by showering praises on the government for such a decision.

For a long time, RSS & Co has been cultivating a fear that the majority Hindus are being outnumbered by the minority Muslims, with absurd argument that a Muslim can marry four women and produce more children. The BJP government in the wake of Bihar elections released selective data of the Census-2011, which the UPA government suppressed. While the Hindu population grew by 1.68 per cent, according to the Census-2011, the Muslim population grew by 2.46 per cent. The data released did not contain the corresponding figures during the previous decades and thus concealed the fact that the population growth of both the Hindus and Muslims has slowed down compared to previous decade. While the Hindu growth rate came down from 1.99 to 1.65 per cent, the corresponding figures for Muslims were 2.95 and 2.46 per cent. Any demographer would say that this will have little impact on the overall composition of the Indian population. Taking cue from the central government’s press release, which did not contain the comparative analysis, the already fall in line Indian media took the sensation route with headlines like, ‘Muslim population rising fast’, ‘Muslim share up, Hindu share down’ etc. The BJP members of the Parliament have lost no time in rising the so-called warnings about impending danger of being overwhelmed by Muslims. What more can be expected from Narendra Modi, the Prime Minister, who as the Chief Minister of Gujarat in 2002 repeatedly used the phrase “*Hum paach, Humare-pachees*”, than spewing poison on the minorities.

On the other hand, RSS & Co is brazenly stoking religious intolerance to tear away the fabric of communal harmony woven by the toiling masses. The RSS & Co wanted a ban on the eating of beef and the governments imposed ban on sale of beef. And the Congress party started competing to have its share in this cake. Digvijay Singh has said, after invoking the name of M.K.Gandhi, that “out of 29 states, cow slaughter has been banned in 24 states and this was done during the Congress rule”. No one from the congress leadership contradicted this statement. And this came after the lynching of Ashlaq at Bisada village of Dadri in UP. On the basis of rumour that Mohammad Ashlaq storing and eating beef in his house, he was dragged from his bed, brought outside where he was stoned to death. The BJP spokes-persons have said killing on mere suspicion cannot be supported,

implying when suspicion is confirmed then lynching is justified. A dangerous argument that justifies communal frenzy. The lynching of Ashfaq and scores of attacks that followed on Muslim for alleged eating of beef stands as a testimony that RSS & Co is brazenly attempting to impose the beliefs of upper caste Hindus upon the people, aiming to change their food habits and even lifestyles in a bid to impose mono-culture.

Since BJP came to power at the center, we have also seen an increase in the incidence of violence directed against minorities. Starting from Muzaffar-nagar before elections, there are scores of communal riots, of course at lower levels, on Muslims and Christians. Targeting rationalists that began with the day light murder of Narendra Dhabolkar in Pune in 2013, followed by the killing of communist leader Govind Pansare on Kolhapur in February and of Kannada rationalist and scholar N.M. Kulaburgi in Dharwad in August this year are only part of the strategy to rake of religious intolerance in the country.

The PM claims that his government is committed to build modern and industrialised India. His *pariwar* is acting as if it is law unto itself pushing back India into medieval ages and barbarism.

BJP in its earlier avatar, Jana Sangh, remained at the fringes of the body politic for the most part of its life. It catapulted on to the central stage with brazen acts of raking up hatred against minorities and destruction of Babri masjid. The rise of BJP on the plank of hate politics at a time when the Indian ruling classes began to implement a set of policies designed by the imperialism and its financial organs, was not an accidental occurrence. It is a well-coordinated plan of the Indian ruling classes to divide the people in order to have a smooth implementation of their anti-people and anti-national policies that intensified the exploitation and oppression of the Indian toiling masses. How the Congress government colluded with the BJP in the series of incidents that finally culminated in the destruction of Babri masjid is well known to every political observer.

As the Prime Minister is prostrating before his imperialist masters praying them to plunder the Indian natural, financial and human resources, his *pariwar* is chanting about the Hindu national pride, racking up hatreds among the people, dividing the society on communal lines and throttling the democratic and secular voices.

The democratic, secular, progressive and revolutionary forces all over the country should come forward to foil the conspiracy of Indian ruling classes and oppose the attempts of BJP and RSS to impose a monoculture of their liking, in contravention and detrimental to the diverse culture of vast majority of Indian people, including those who follow Hindu religion.

The silver lining: Many intellectuals, writers and artists have denounced and even returned the awards they received from the governmental institutions as a protest against the killing of scholars like Kulburgi and other acts of communal fanatics.

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