

News in Breif :

Killer Squads in the name of Cow

Cow related hate crimes began 2012 with one case recorded. Next year saw a single crime. In 2014, after the BJP came to the power at the centre, three cases were recorded. These crimes steeply rose to 13 in 2015 and almost doubled (25) the next year. 2017 recorded 35 crimes. Until now a total of 78 crimes were committed by the cow vigilante gangs. The sharp nation-wide protest condemning these crimes did not deter these criminals because of the obvious fact that they enjoy support from the communal forces headed by RSS and BJP.

The first case in this year was reported on 1st April, when Pehlu Khan, 55 year dairy farmer, a resident of Haryana was beaten by these gangs in Alwar district of Rajasthan. He succumbed to injuries two days later. Khan, before his death, identified six persons that attacked him: Om Yadav, Hukum chand Yadav, Sudhir Yadav, Jagmal Yadav, Naveen Sharma and Rahul Saini. The Alwar police registered the FIR stating these six as culprits.

After five months, the Crime Branch filed its investigation report concluding that these six persons are not involved in the said crime. This conclusion is based on the statements made by the staff of a gaushala situated 4km away from the scene of crime. One of the accused Jagmal Yadav is the patron of Gaushala. The staff said the accused were at gaushala at the time of attack. The death statement by the victim was superseded by the statement of daily workers employed by one of the accused and they are discharged from the case.

In April 2017, days after Pehlu Khan's murder, the Supreme Court had sought responses from the centre and six states – BJP ruled Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra, Gujarat and Jharkhand and Congress ruled Karnataka and called for action against culprits who parade as cow protectors. This is the action taken by the BJP government of Rajasthan taken against the perpetrators of the murder of Pehlu Khan.

No wonder these crimes continue to grow in numbers given the patronage they receive from the seats of power.

G.M.O.s Monsanto in the dock

The Rule of Rules 1989 of Environmental Protection Act prohibits deliberate as well as unintentional release of Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) with our the approval of Genetic Engi-neering Approval Committee (GEAC). However recent news reports backed by laboratory reports and other empirical evidence suggested that GM cotton seed claimed to have twin transgenic traits of herbicidal tolerance and bollworm resistance, known as Glycel Bt cotton, was being cultivated across major cotton growing state including Andhra Pradesh, Telangana and Maharashtra.

So far only bollgard-1 and bollgard-2 cotton seeds with bollworm resistance are approved for cultivation in India. Bt cotton seeds used to cover 90 per cent of the sown area few years back. In recent years farmers are coming back to cultivate hybrid varieties, as Bt cotton yields started declining and the marker for Bt cotton seeds began to shrink. The original licensee for it is Monsanto and its Indian partner Mahyco. Monsanto applied for Bollgard-3 but the GEAC refused to approve its cultivation in India.

Glycel Bt of Round Up Ready Flex, as it was names by its developer Syngenta was introduced without permission in India by Mahyco through field trial. It is reasonable to suspect that Mahyco and Monsanto as suppliers of Glycel Bt cotton to the Indian farmers.

While the All India Kisan Sabha appealed to the GEAC to take stringent action against Monsanto and Mahyco, ironically, the government of AP appointed a committee to “establish” the efficacy of Glycel Bt cotton seed on the plea on the plea that farmers had requested for supply of a better quality seed. Yet another ploy to allow Monsanto to fleece the peasants or else what is the need for AP government to have a committee when there is a statutory body, GEAC, to decide on the subject?

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Monsanto is now part of Syngenta agribusiness empire the owner of RRF. The MNC introduced in India this controversial variety that failed to give claimed results to the farmers of Latin American countries.

US Imperialism :Double Standards

When it comes to the of Iraq, the US flaunts the United nations Security Council's resolution as a proof of approval by the international community to invade Iraq. To brow beat North Korea in to submission, it talks about UN's resolution on nuclear disarmament; Because they were made by the UNO in favour of TS imperialism.

When this international body goes against its wishes, it resorts to arm twisting tactics to make the UN to comply with its dictats.

In 2011, the US stopped funding United Nations Economic, Social and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a retaliation to its decision by vote to include Palestine as a member. The US vehemently opposed membership to Palestine.

The Trump administration told many diplomats posted at UNESCO that their posts were on hold and advised to seek other jobs. This is followed by repeated repudiations of UNESCO by US officials including Niki Hailey, the US ambassador to UNO. Further the Trump's budget did not provide for any funding to UNESCO suggesting there would not be any change.

When the UNESCO is going to elect its new director in the third week of October, the US officials have told The Associated Press that the US is pulling out of UNESCO accusing it as anti-Israel.

This is the real meaning of democracy for the US imperialism!

Oil Imports Costs of Submission

India imports 80 per cent of its oil from the Gulf, mainly from Iran on a long term rate contract. And Iran honoured the supply contract even in the difficult times it faced due economic sanctions imposed by US imperialism. Long term contracts are advantageous as the price of remains fixed despite the fluctuations in the world market.

When US imperialism imposed economic sanctions on Iran, India got its crude supplies under the "Oil for Food" programme approved by the UN. Yet the Indian government had not paid for the oil supplied by Iran, as the US sanctions made it difficult. Under US pressure India abandoned mid way the talks for supply of natural gas with Iran.

Now the India government placed orders to buy crude oil from US worth \$600 million which are likely to increase to \$ 2 billion in near future. Already contracts worth \$ 450 million to supply 7.85 million barrels are finalised. 1.6 million barrels have already filled the storage tanks of Indian Oil Corporation.

These are spot buying meaning the price prevailed in the world market when the deal was contracted. Though spot buying from US is cheaper by \$ 2 a barrel than the OPEC price, India has to incur huge expenses as transportation costs from US.

Now India has trade surplus with US –its exports stands at \$ 72 billion while it imports come around \$ 30 billion. Trump wants this surplus be used to buy more from the US. And Modi succumbed to it. Now the people of India have to pay the costs of this submission.
