Issues & Views

Statements issued by

Popular Front of India

January 2015 - December 2015

Preface

Popular Front of India is a neo-social movement striving for the empowerment of the marginalized sections of the Indian society. We strive for social justice which is one of the fundamental objectives of our democracy. We are a movement that has consistently carried forward the struggle against the challenges before our country. Popular Front has timely intervened in various issues through democratic means. As part of our interventions we have explained our stand through press statements and resolutions which cover a wide range of issues, both national and international.

This is the 3rd issue of "Issues and Views" which includes all the important statement issued by our organization headquarters from December 2014 to December 2015. This is an attempt to document our policies and approaches on current socio-political developments. We hope this document will be helpful for understanding the mission of our movement.

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New Delhi

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International

Makkah tragedy

New Delhi: Popular Front chairman KM Shareef expressed his condolences over death of hundreds of pilgrims who lost their lives in the tragedy in Mecca during Hajj. While expressing heartfelt sorrow the Chairman said all members of the Front share the sorrows of all those affected by the tragedy. He added that all by the death of Br. Niyazul Haque from Jharkhand, one of the India Fraternity Forum (IFF) volunteers who had lost his life while serving the pilgrims. He was working in Media and came to Makkah as a volunteer of India Fraternity Forum, the Indian expatriates group, involved in Haj service.
(Issued on 26-9-2015)

Divisive trends and violence in Muslims world

New Delhi: The Central Secretariat meeting of Popular Front of India has appealed to all sections of Indian Muslims for an objective understanding and realistic approach to divisive trends and violence in Muslim world. The holy month of Ramadan calls for thoughts and action that strengthen bonds among Muslims irrespective of the diversities. But unfortunately this Ramadhan is witness to Muslim disintegration as evident from the escalation of conflict in some Arab-Muslim countries.

Popular Front of India Central Secretariat has condemned all the terrorist acts of the states as well non-state parties and observed that the forces behind these inhuman attacks serve only the nefarious goal of defaming Muslims. Their actions covertly and overtly widen unrest and intensify divisions and disillusions among the Muslims across the world.

The Central Secretariat also observed that the hidden hands of Zionists, imperialists and capitalists of the West are at work in situations of turmoil in Muslim lands. But primarily the Muslim societies and their governments must blame themselves since external enemies cannot enter their domain if they stay just and united. In many Muslim countries, the government is at war with own people. The atrocities by the dictatorial regimes in countries like Syria, Egypt and Iraq without giving space for freedom and democracy work as breeding grounds for internal conflicts and armed rebellions. The militant groups that fight for control in Muslim countries show no concern for people's right for a secure life.

The Central Secretariat reminded Muslims that those who promote Sunni or Shia sectarianism or Sufi and Salafi quarrels are becoming tools in the process of disintegration of Muslim societies. The meeting also called upon the Indian Muslim community not to be carried away by the overseas developments.
(Issued on 10-7-2015)

Ethnic cleansing of Rohingya Muslims

New Delhi: NEC of Popular Front condemned the ethnic cleansing carried against Rohingya and Kaman Muslim communities in Arakan state of Myanmar by a section of Buddhist militias with government support. NEC requested the neighbouring countries and international agencies to open borders to Rohingya asylum seekers, and ensure that they have adequate food, shelter, and protection. They should stop pushing the stateless people which is equal to mass murder. NEC urged all governments to check the criminal organizations that exploit the situation for large scale human trafficking.

Popular Front appealed to the international community to press the Myanmar government to end discriminatory policies and to grand Rohingya Muslims full citizenship rights
(Issued on 31-5-2015)

Attacks on churches in Pakistan

New Delhi: Popular Front of India chairman K M Shareef in a statement strongly condemned atrocities by some mysterious militant groups on the religious minorities and innocent civilians in Pakistan. Shareef expressed deep sorrow over the loss of lives of innocent Christians in the church attacks in Lahore. The brutalities against minorities cannot be tolerated in any civilized society. Even though the attackers might claim to link their acts with religion, the real fact is that the teachings of all religion categorically forbid attacking the innocents.
(Issued on 16-3-2015)

Egyptian verdict proof of army misuse of judiciary

New Delhi: Popular Front chairman KM Shareef condemned Egyptian mass death sentence against more than 120 democratic protesters including former president Muhammed Morsy and prominent Islamic scholar Yusuful Qaradavi. The state of affairs in Egypt since July 2013 when the first democratically elected Arab president Mohammed Morsy was toppled through a meticulously planned and executed coup has amounted to a "counter revolution", the reversal of the democratic transition of the region, which was celebrated as "Arab Spring" across the region. Popular Front while expressing its solidarity with the democratic voices in Egypt, called upon the international community to voice against the burial of democracy.
(Issued on 24-4-2015)

Expresses shock at the misery and destruction by earthquake in Nepal & North India

New Delhi: The Popular Front of India stands in solidarity with the Nepalese people at this time of calamity. Many parts of India have also been affected by the quake. Reports have come that more than 700 people have died in a powerful earthquake that struck Nepal, and many are still feared to be trapped under rubble. Many people have died in Bihar, UP and West Bengal. The Central Government must rush help to all people of the affected areas in India. Chairman Mr. K.M Shareef called upon the Central Government to immediately provide all necessary assistance in Bihar, U.P and in all effected states.
(Issued on 25-4-2015)

Deplores the oppression of Uighur Muslims in China

New Delhi: Popular Front chairman K M Shareef in a statement called upon Chinese government to end the oppressive measures taken against Muslim minority. He demanded the immediate withdrawal of the ban the Chinese government had imposed on fasting during holy month of Ramadan in Xinjiang region. The China's ruling Communist party for years has restricted Muslim religious practice in Xinjiang, home to the mostly Muslim Uighur minority. This exercise to restrict Islam in China is in contradiction with the standing provisions of the Chinese constitution and naked violation of basic rights for freedom of religion and worship. It is very clear that these oppressive measures are part of the Chinese agenda to eliminate the centuries of Islamic culture in the country. Shareef called upon international community to press Chinese government to end the oppression of Uighur Muslims. He also asked Indian government to condemn the act of Chinese government.
(Issued on 23-6-2015)

Condemns attacks against civilians of Syria and Iraq

New Delhi: A resolution passed by National Secretariat meeting of Popular Front of India held at Calicut has strongly condemned all kinds of indiscriminate violence against innocent civilians by NATO forces and groups like ISIS in Syria and Iraq and condoled the death of hundreds of innocents in the recent attacks. The method used by colonial powers as well as those of so called resistance are against international covenants for human rights. Such attacks are actually undermining the ongoing democratic struggles of Syrian people against the tyranny of Basharal Assad.

Another resolution welcomed the democratization of the Myanmar, but cast doubts over the effectiveness of the democracy while minorities in the country still remain disenfranchised. Although the authorities allowed observers and international journalists to cover and monitor elections, hundreds of thousands of minority ethnic groups in Myanmar, including Rohingya Muslims were prevented from voting. Such an election does not qualify to be called fair or meaningful.
(Issued on 23-11-2015)

Human Rights

Congratulates Tripura state for human rights concerns

New Delhi: Popular Front Chairman KM Shareef in a statement has welcomed the Tripura Assembly resolution requesting the Union Government to amend Section 302 of the IPC to abolish capital punishment. The Chairman also noted that the Tripura government had earlier withdrawn Armed Forces Special Power Act (AFSPA), a widely misused draconian law in the state and added that the Tripura government is setting a model for other states in the protection of human rights and justice. *(Issued on 9-8-2015)*

Repeal UAPA, free innocents

New Delhi: Popular Front Chairman KM Shareef in a statement said that the growing number of acquittals of under-trails charged UAPA is proof enough that the law is absolutely against the interest of justice and human rights. He demanded the immediate repeal of the law. The anti-terror law UAPA enacted after Mumbai attacks in 2008 has become a tool for human rights violations and denial justice.

The Chairman demanded the immediate repeal of the act to end the unjust imprisonment of thousands of innocents and give fair compensation to all those who have lost valuable period in their lives. *(Issued on 2-5-2015)*

Encounter killings: Book the policemen

Hyderabad: Popular Front of India demanded criminal prosecution of the police involved in two encounter killings in the Telangana and AP. In a statement issued by the Front the state Gen Secretary Syed Moinuddin said that the Telangana State Police and its counterpart in Andhra Pradesh have gunned downed 25 people in 3 different fake encounters killings. The police versions of the incidents resemble screen plays of Bollywood movies. The people involved in the killings are to be booked under IPC 302 (murder) and other appropriate sections and criminally prosecuted. Since the local police are involved in the encounters the investigation must be handed over to the CBI .A judicial enquiry by a high court sitting judge should be ordered. *(Issued on 1-4-2015)*

Encounter killing in Telangana

New Delhi: Popular Front of India Chairman KM Shareef strongly condemned the extrajudicial execution of five Muslim youth in Alair near Nalgonda, AP as they were being shifted by the police from Warangal prison to a Hyderabad court for trial.

Shareef pointed out that circumstantial evidence showed that the claim of the Telengana police that they had shot dead the prisoners because the prisoners had tried to attack police is outright false. It follows the same pattern of earlier fake encounters happened in our country. Handcuffed prisoners snatch guns from the police and try to shoot yet no police men are harmed. The Chairman demanded judicial investigation to reveal the truth and to bring people responsible for the heinous crime before law.
(Issued on 3-3-2015)

The quashing of Section 66A of IT Act

New Delhi: Popular Front of India Chairman hailed the landmark Supreme Court ruling which quashed Act Section 66A of IT Act. A statement issued by the Front compared the section to some of the severe provisions in AFSPA and UAPA, as it is loosely worded giving room to subjective interpretation of authorities. According to the section literally any opinion made by a citizen online can get him/her in trouble if someone finds it somehow offensive. As feared, the law was misused to suppress political dissents in various parts of the country. People were arrested just for posting their individual opinions on social media. The law thus proved to be diametrically opposed to the interests of democracy. The ruling should be an eye-opener to the politicians and who, under the pretext of censorship, want to extend their control to social media which have, in recent times, risen to the status of a better alternative for those whose voices are not heard in the mainstream media.
(Issued on 26-3-2015)

Enemies of rationality and enlightenment behind the assassination of Govind Pansare

New Delhi: Popular Front General Secretary Muhammed Ali Jinnah in his statement strongly condemned the brutal assassination of veteran social reformist and communist leader in Maharashtra Govind Pansare. We have not yet recovered from the shock of the 2013 assassination of another leader Narendra Dabholkar who spent most of his life fighting superstitions and spiritual exploitation prevalent in Indian society, the statement continued. The only crime they committed seems to be trying to educate common people. So, if these two men of integrity have posed any threat to any one, it is to those forces whose economic or political survival depends only on keeping the masses uninformed and superstitious. No wonder why, they feel threatened by the voices of rationality and enlightenment. Popular Front on this occasion renews its fight against superstitions and spiritual exploitation while expressing its condolence to the family of Govind Pansare and offering all possible support to their fight.
(Issued on 23-2-2015)

Delhi High Court ruling on Priya Pillai's travel ban

New Delhi: Popular Front of India chairman KM Shareef welcomed the land mark ruling of Delhi High Court which quashed the lookout notice issued by Intelligence Bureau against Green Peace activist Priya Pillai. Chairman said that it is a relief to the rights activists and environmentalists across the country that the court rightly directed the government to remove her name from a database of individuals barred from leaving the country. It is noteworthy that court rightly pointed out one cannot be called anti-national for holding an opinion against government policies. The ruling should be taken as a timely warning against the growing intolerance from the authorities towards the voices of dissent and the tendency to use force even against genuine popular protests.
(Issued on 13-3-2015)

Condemns casteist atrocities on Dalits

New Delhi: Popular Front of India Chairman KM Shareef has strongly condemned the inhuman atrocities committed against Dalits in various parts of the country. The appalling incident in which Dalit babies were burned alive in Haryana shows that caste hatred does not spare even children. This is not the first incident of the sort and not likely to be the last either. It was a few weeks back that a 90-year-old Dalit man was burned alive for trying to enter a Hindu temple in Uttar Pradesh. A Dalit youth in Maharashtra was beaten to death for setting an Ambedkar song as his ringtone. If people of upper caste still feel impunity to kill their fellow human beings belonging to lower castes, it proves that not only we could not eradicate social inequality from our country but we have even failed to ensure the fundamental right to security to the poor people. KM Shareef also condemned union minister VK Singh's remarks which compared the incident with throwing stones at street dogs. The highly sectarian and inflammatory language being spoken by those sitting at the centres of power in Modi government has emboldened the fanatic elements everywhere in the country to commit such atrocities against Dalits and religious minorities.
(Issued on 24-10-2015)

Hashimpura Acquittal verdict disappointing

New Delhi: Popular Front of India chairman K M Shareef in a statement expressed disappointment over the Delhi trial court verdict which acquitted all 16 accused Provincial Armed Constabulary (PAC) personnel in the 1987 Hashimpura massacre case. When the policemen under UP government who had killed 42 Muslims in cold blood after picking up from a village in Meerut during a communal incident are absolved of their crime of mass murder after 28 years, it gives a very wrong message in the context of increasing police violence against Muslims. Shareef blamed the state government and the prosecution for facilitating a verdict in favour of the PAC by hiding evidence. Such verdicts will definitely affect people's faith in Judiciary.
(Issued on 23-3-2015)

Socio - Political Issues

Against removal of the words "Secularism" and "Socialism"

New Delhi: A statement released by Popular Front Chairman KM Shareef has condemned NDA government's Republic Day advertisement which published the preamble of Indian constitution omitting the words "secular" and "socialist". Shareef said that the move is an alarming attempt to attack the secular values enshrined in the constitution of India.

The move should be seen as calculated one since the Sangh outfits have previously expressed their intolerance to Constitution through their actions and words. The constitution of India has always been the biggest hurdle before the fascist groups. The governments ally Shiv Sena is publicly demanding the deletion of the words "secularism" and socialism". The opposition to both words unequivocally testifies NDA's communal agenda. The influence of corporate houses on the government's policies is again proved by the omission of the word "socialist". Shareef appealed to people of India belonging to all sections to come forward and protect the constitution.
(Issued on 1-2-2015)

Uphold sovereignty and integrity of the Republic

New Delhi:Popular Front Chairman KM Shareef in a statement issued on the eve of the Republic Day urged the people of India to uphold the sovereignty and integrity of the Republic which is under threat from both from within and outside. While we celebrate Republic Day we are remembering the day on which our country was blessed with a constitution which undoubtedly is one of the world most refined constitutions. Obviously, our founding fathers envisioned a sovereign India of freedom and equal rights for all citizens.

Recent trends and incidents show that our nation's sovereignty and integrity have been threatened seriously. The forces of hatred are sowing the seeds of conflicts through violence and smear campaigns against religious minorities in order to yield political gains. Recent studies show that the menaces of casteism and untouchability are becoming more pronounced in our country. All these show that we have a long way to travel forward in order to achieve the goals envisioned by our freedom fighters. By allowing 100% foreign investment in Defense and Media, the present BJP government has surrendered the economic independence of the nation to multinational corporates. The decision to have U. S. President Barack Obama as the chief guest on Republic Day

is illustrative of the videshi seva of Hindutva politics which chants swadeshi mantra always. On this occasion of the 65th anniversary of our Republic, Popular Front chairman K M Shareef appealed to people of all section to come forward against the anti-constitutional and pro-colonial policies of the government and uphold nation's integrity and sovereignty.
(Issued on 24-1-2015)

Defeat anti-people, communal forces

New Delhi: Popular Front chairman KM Shareef in his statement on the eve of Delhi assembly elections appealed to the voters of Delhi to defeat anti-people communal forces. It is clear from the new policies that their plan is to help the country's 10 percent rich to get richer and to leave 90% of the population for the market to devour. We have seen some pre-Lok Sabha poll promises broken in the last nine months and many others yet to deliver. Promises of bringing back the black money in 100 days, relief from anti-people policies of UPA are a few to quote. Out of fear of opposition in parliament BJP is taking executive route to ordinances. Communal elements are emboldened like never before for both physical and verbal attacks on minorities. In this peculiar environment, Popular Front appeals to voters of Delhi to use their right sensibly and defeat communal anti-people politics of BJP.
(Issued on 5-2-2015)

The attack on churches

New Delhi: Mohamed Ali Jinnah, General Secretary of Popular Front of India condemned the attack on churches. During the last two months 5 churches have been attacked in the national capital and the stoic silence maintained by the ruling government indicates its deliberate reluctance to strengthen the confidence of the minority communities. It should be recalled that recently the visiting US President in his address cautioned that religious violence would come in the way of India's progress. Even such an open cue has not prompted the Prime Minister to take note of these events and take stern action. This silence can be interpreted as an uncaring attitude of the government or even as a tacit approval of the events. Popular Front of India condemns these incidents, expresses solidarity with the victimized Christian community, and empathizes with its harassed leaders and demands reigning in of such elements who meddle with the secular nature of our nation.
(Issued on 6-2-2015)

Victory against corruption and communalism

New Delhi: Popular Front Chairman KM Shareef congratulated Aam Admi Party and Arvind Kejriwal for their landslide victory in Delhi assembly election. Shareef said that it is a victory of politics against corruption and communalism. The victory should be taken as an unequivocal statement of Indian people that they want a change in present political culture held by mainstream parties.
(Issued on 10-2-2015)

Fuel price hike, an anti-people move

New Delhi: Popular Front Chairman KM Shareef has in his statement said that the latest oil price hike is another example of ant-people moves of NDA government. Minor occasional fluctuations aside, international oil prices have remained record low since last seven months. Considering that there is no corresponding cut in oil prices in India, government does not have the moral right to blame international prices for the current hikes. At the same time government has given the price-control to private companies. All these proves that, Government policies, day by day, are turning more and more anti-people and pro-rich.
(Issued on 2-3-2015)

Chattisgarh creates communal divide

New Delhi: Popular Front of India chairman K M Shareef has stated that Chhattisgarh government orders that allowed government servants to associate with RSS programmes would lead to direct RSS control over them. Everyone knows that RSS claim that it is a social movement is absurd. The government decision serves only its servants belonging to one particular religious denomination and it will deepen the communal bias that is already prevalent in government services. K M Shareef demanded immediate withdrawal of the order to maintain government administration and bureaucracy free from communal divide.
(Issued on 3-3-2015)

Maharashtra mocks at the poor and marginalized

New Delhi: In statement issued the Chairman of Popular Front, K M Shareef called the beef ban in Maharashtra a move against millions of poor people in our country who find their living from livestock. He also said that Maharashtra government is imposing the food habits of upper caste minority on majority poor Indians who are regular beef consumers, just because some fanatic people recently turned against it. K M Shareef demanded Maharashtra government to withdraw the decision since it will affect scores of poor people, belonging to all religions.

K M Shareef has also cited the decision of Maharashtra government to scrap the ordinance providing reservation for Muslims as yet another act borne out of communal hatred. It is highly objectionable that the government has acted so despite the Bombay High Court allowing quota for the Muslim community in educational institutions. The official justification for this highly discriminatory decision is that the government was against reservation on religious grounds. It is rather absurd. Muslims are entitled for reservation not because of their religious faith but due to their relative backwardness. K M Shareef also criticized the inability of opposition parties that claims to defend secularism in reverting anti-poor and highly communal decisions by BJP led central and state government. *(Issued on 4-3-2015)*

Appreciates Bihar election victory

New Delhi: Popular Front of India Chairman KM Shareef appreciated the people of Bihar for defeating communal fascist forces in the state. The mandate people of Bihar has conferred upon the Grand Alliance is a testimony that people of India will not tolerate the forces of hatred for long and that they will protect secular system of the country against all forms of threats. It is also a victory of unity against divisiveness. *(Issued on 8-11-2015)*

SC notice to Advani in Babri case

New Delhi: Popular Front Chairman KM Shareef lauded the Supreme Court notice served to BJP leader L K Advani and 19 others in Babri demolition case. He said that Babri Masjid demolition has indeed left a black mark in the secular face of our country. It was meticulously planned and executed by Hindutwa leaders after years of campaigning. Thousands of innocents were killed in the riots that followed the demolition in 1992 in Mumbai and elsewhere. Letting culprits get way with all these would ultimately undermine the meaning of justice in our country. *(Issued on 1-4-2015)*

Denial of reservation to Muslims

New Delhi: Popular Front of India General Secretary Mohammed Ali Jinnah in a statement issued in the context of the ongoing agitations by Patel community, said that denial of reservation to Muslim community is a matter of serious concern. Despite commission reports that showed that the socio-economic status of Muslim community is far worse when compared to that of other backward classes, only a small sections of the community has OBC status to get reservation.

Instead we witness agitations and protests of comparatively rich communities among Hindus demanding reservation and OBC status and they are getting a sympathetic response from governments due to their significance in vote bank politics. Now it is the turn of Patel community traditionally known to be a politically influential and affluent business community. This is a kind of misuse of political influence which undermines the very principle of reservation.

Mohammed Ali Jinnah urged that it is high time for central and state governments to take a principled stand on Muslim reservation as it is a precondition for achieving social equality and justice in the country.
(Issued on 27-8-2015)

NIA; A Sangh Pariwar outfit?

New Delhi: Popular Front Chairman KM Shareef said that NIA is acting as an RSS outfit. He was referring to the revelations of special public prosecutor Rohini Salian that she was asked to go slow against the Hindu extremists accused in the Malegaon bomb blast case.

The Malegaon blasts exposed the real face of Hindutwa terror in our country. Investigations as usual were quick to name "Islamic terrorism" as responsible for the incident. Innocent Muslim youth were falsely implicated in both and was tortured by the police. However, the probe under late Hemant Karkare, the Mumbai ATS Chief exposed the Hindutwa extremists' role and arrested 12 persons, including Sadhvi Pragya Singh Thakur, Swami Amritanand, Dayanand Pandey, Major Ramesh Upadhaya and Sri Kant Purohit. It was even found that explosives of Indian army were used for the attacks. This followed the shocking revelations of similar Hindutwa organized bomb blasts in various parts of the country carried out in the name of mysterious Muslim terrorist groups. Many Muslims are still in jails in many of these cases. The accusation by Ms. Rohini Salian is so serious that it has damaged the credibility of the agency and the cases it is investigating. The Chairman demanded direct Supreme Court or High Court monitoring of all cases now under NIA investigation.
(Issued on 27-6-2015)

One year of Modi totally disappointing

New Delhi: National Executive Council meeting of Popular Front of India held at Calicut that the performance of the Union Government under Prime Minister Narendra Modi in its first year was totally disappointing as far as the interests of the vast majority of the population are concerned. Concern for the welfare of people is seen only in high sounding hollow statements and promises. Using the development mantra as a cover, the government is implementing its pro-rich policies one after the other.

The past one year has shown enough indications of the government withdrawal from welfare measures and social expenditures. The performance of MGNREGA in terms of wages paid and number of days of work was ever lowest in past year. The allocations for National Rural Livelihood Mission PM's Gram Sadat Yolanda were reduced drastically in the current budget. Showing a clear government retreat from the idea of welfare state, there was 1.75 lakh crores cut in social expenditure which equals 10% of our national budget.

While on one side the government is busy satisfying the corporate sector, on the other side it is hastily saffronizing areas like education, history, media and film by introducing irrational and unscientific changes to the syllabi and filling governing bodies with members of Hindutva brigade.

As if to divert people's attention from the anti-people policies and to be faithful to basic Hindutva ideology, the government is allowing the calculated moves of Sangh Parivar to make the social atmosphere communally tense throughout the country.
(Issued on 16-6-2015)

On Yoga Day

New Delhi: On the eve of International Yoga Day, Popular Front of India Chairman K M Shareef called upon all sections of the society to refrain from mixing religious and political agenda with Yoga and other physical fitness programmes. The ongoing Yoga campaigns by the government with Hindutva outfits acting as key players have created apprehension among people because of the religious fervour and emphasis on Surya Namaskar. He cited that some 'Yogasanas' have been included in the Physical Education Programme of Popular Front of India but its members do not relate the same to religion or politics.
(Issued on 19-6-2015)

Against the growing intolerance

New Delhi: KM Shareef, Chairman of Popular Front of India responding to the increase of attacks by communal factions observed that dozens of prominent writers had returned literary honours awarded to them in recognition of their works, as a protest against the state for its failure to protect the fundamental rights. Incidents like the brutal assassinations of the rationalist thinkers and the and the lynching of a Muslim in Dadri, did not happen out of vacuum. All were deliberate and form a part of a plan. KM Shareef appreciated the writers who had come forward to speak up.
(Issued on 13-10-2015)

Abandon the idea of Uniform Civil Code

New Delhi: The National Secretariat Meeting of Popular Front of India has pleaded the apex court to withdraw from moves like Uniform Civil Code that infringe on the religious freedoms of the citizens at a time when the fundamental rights of minorities are being threatened by majoritarian communal forces. The meeting was responding to the recent Supreme Court query to the central government regarding the implementation of Uniform Civil Code. It is absolutely in contradiction to the idea of freedom of religion guaranteed by article 25 of Indian constitution.

While there remains total ambiguity about the nature of the yet to born uniform civil code, it is natural that minorities foresee it as an attempt in disguise to impose the civil law of the majority on them. This concern cannot be ruled out in the context in which our country seems to be increasingly coming under the arrogant dictates of Sangh Parivar. We do not see the same urge from the part of the courts or governments in implementing other more fundamental directive principles of Indian constitution as regards to social justice, equal justice and free legal aid, minimum wage for labourers, prohibition, public healthcare and protection of environment. Unity cannot be brought about through forced uniformity; it can be achieved only through respect for diversity and individual freedom that governments and courts are supposed to promote. The meeting expressed apprehensions over the increase of observations, comments and orders from apex court on issues related to minorities and backward classes that can be misused by right wing majoritarian forces.
(Issued on 17-10-2015)

Asks Supreme Court not to obstruct reservation

New Delhi: Popular Front of India chairman KM Shareef expressed strong resentment over the latest Supreme Court remarks against community quota reservation in higher education. The bench of Justices Dipak Misra and P C Pant, complains of retaining reservation even 68 years after independence and wants to do away with it but the bench conveniently ignores the fact that caste and community based inequalities still remain a major challenge to equal justice in our country.

The Supreme Court observation that merit should be primary consideration in admissions can only see as an attempt to cover many truths with a single black cloak. The basic truth is that the constitutional provision of reservation is to ensure adequate share of scheduled castes, scheduled tribes and other socially and educationally backward classes in employment as well as education. Hence it is the primary duty of Supreme Court to examine whether these classes are now seen in higher education institutions in proportion to their population even after 68 years of education. If it is not yet accomplished, the sense of justice calls upon the higher judiciary to order the central and state governments not to sabotage the reservation system existing in the country. On the contrary, Supreme Court has criticized the governments for not abolishing reservation in higher education. This stand is totally against the letter and spirit of Indian constitution. The judiciary has not right to interfere with the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the weaker sections of citizens. K M Shareef pointed out that by such observations the judiciary is encroaching upon the realm of legislature.

K M Shareef also stated that the judiciary is not preventing, but continuously promoting privatization and commercialization of education. He asked the higher judiciary to refrain from moves that force the poor to streets by doing away with reservation, the only means left to them amidst overwhelming threats of privatization and commercialization of higher education.
(Issued on 28-10-2015)

On freedom and security

(Excerpts from NEC statement)

New Delhi: The rise of intolerance and the attempts to polarize the nation on religious lines will be a tragedy for the country and will definitely damage overall growth and development. The primary duty of democratically elected governments at the Centre and States is to ensure freedom and security of people belonging to all religions and streams of thoughts. It can be achieved only if the governments show the guts to take stringent administrative and legal actions against various Sangh Parivar elements that have become more emboldened to trigger violence under new political dispensations. The house extended its support to the writers, film makers and scientists for their protest against the denial of freedom in the country. It observed that the protests of prominent personalities have been pivotal in bringing these issues to the forefront. Our pluralist values are under direct attack today. It is the duty of all sensible people to join hands in defending the secular character of the nation and the diversity in the society from the threats posed by Sangh Parivar. It is time that people should set aside their minor differences and stand united to protect our national unity, freedom and diversity.

The NEC of Popular Front of India observed it a shame for the nation that the victims of 1984 Anti-Sikh riots still wait in vain for justice. The meeting also urged the peace loving citizens of the country to stand up and speak for justice in Babri Masjid case. Popular Front also demanded the central government to fulfill its responsibility by punishing the culprits of the demolition in 1992 and rebuilding Babri Masjid.

(Issued on 2-11-2015)

Condemns demonizing of Tipu Sultan

New Delhi: The National Secretariat of Popular Front passed a resolution criticizing the attempt of fascist groups in South India to communalize the history of Tippu Sultan. History shows that Tipu Sultan was a secular ruler and valiant fighter against foreign occupation. But communal forces, in their desperate attempt to polarise people, are vilifying and presenting him as fanatic. The meeting called on the authorities to control such forces and prevent them from misusing historic figures for political gains.

(Issued on 23-11-2015)

Popular Front Programmes

Popular Front in Bihar

Katihar: Popular Front of India declared its unit in Bihar during a conference organized on the subject Democracy and Minority Rights in Rajendra stadium, Katihar on April 11, 2015. Chairman K.M Shareef and other national and state level leaders attended the meeting. More than 10000 people including 3000 women from the various sections of minorities and backward classes attended the conference.

Chairman K.M Shareef in his inaugural speech said that after 67years since independence the situation of minority and other backward classes remain backward. Human rights have been violated by the state. They are trying to destroy democracy and secularism.

In his speech he also explained the aims and objectives of Popular Front of India. He said, Popular Front of India is a neo social movement and it is struggling to make a new India where every citizens can enjoy equal rights of justice, freedom and security.
(Issued on 11-4-2015)

Jharkand State unit declared

Pakur, Jharkand: Popular Front of India declared the Jharkhand state unit during Democracy and Minority Rights Conference held at Jidato Mission Ground in Pakur.K.M Shareef the Chairman handed over the flag of the Front to Jharkhand state convener Mr.Hanzala Sheik.K.M. Shareef said that all weaker sections including minorities, Dalits, Adivasis, etc are facing discrimination, marginalization and persecution. They have to be mobilized for their rights.

Father Chilominz (Chairman, United Christian Forum) who spoke on the occasion said a 71-year-old nun of a convent school was gang-raped in Ranaghat near Kolkata and it was a sign of growing intolerance and religious fanaticism in the state. Shahabuddin (President, SDPI, West Bengal) said all bomb blasts in our country was the handiwork of fascist groups and the media and police join hands to trap innocent Muslims in many fake cases. Mr.Usman Baig Rashadi (National President All India Imams Council) said it is the responsibility of Muslim scholars to come forward to make Muslim united and work for the total empowerment of minority committees.

Mr.Aftab Alam Nadwi (Secretary, International League of Islamic Lecturers, Jharkhand,Md. Shafi (SDPI) Zia-ul-Huda (Director, Madrasa Islamia), Mr.Khalid Rashadi (National Treasurer Popular Front) Moulana Hanzala Sheik, Ashraf Ankajal and Abdul Wahid attended the programme.
(Issued on 12-4-2015)

Higher Education Loan Scholarship

New Delhi: Popular Front of India announces Loan scholarship programme 2015. This scholarship scheme is for poor and meritorious students who wish to pursue higher studies after completing Higher Secondary (12th). Applications are invited from students who are pursuing their course in the academic year 2015-16. It's is the fifth consecutive year Popular front is implementing this national scholarship scheme for higher education.

Popular front loan scholarship programme was started in 2011-12 at national level. So far Rs 2.84 crore distributed to 3103(2121 boys and 982 girls) students across 12 states. First batch students who completed the course and got job started repaying or expressed their willingness to repay the loan amount which will be given to more students in coming years.
(Issued on 12-7-2015)

Campaign to Defend Democracy

Bangalore : Popular Front of India will launch a national campaign to defend the democratic rights of people to eat what they like and speak what they like. The decision was taken in the joint meeting of Central Secretariat and the Zonal and State leaders of Popular Front of India at Bangalore on 1st and 2nd October. The resolution passed by the National Leadership Meet opined that policies and actions of Narendra Modi government are proving that it is only protecting the interests of big corporates and RSS, and not the people of India. BJP's tall promises such as Sab ka saath Sab ka Vikas, return of black money within hundred days, corruption free governance etc. have been proved to be just that, empty promises. The government's withdrawal from service sectors like education and public health in favour of big business houses are going to seriously affect the common people.

The meeting also found highly disturbing the increasing role of Sangh Parivar in running the government. There is strong evidence that even cabinet ministers and high level bureaucrats queue up to meet the higher ups in RSS. It is involved in creating an atmosphere of fear and intimidation among the Dalits, backward castes and secular circles. Innocents pay the price of communalisation The meeting has expressed deep concern over the rise of attacks, both verbal and physical, against minorities ever since new government came to power.

Popular Front appeals the secular democratic forces and patriotic citizens at large to join hand to defend democracy by standing up for people's right to freedom of food and freedom of thought. As a step towards this goal, Popular Front will undertake a campaign across the country under the caption Right to Eat; Right to Speak from 9 to 18 October. The National Leadership Meet appealed support from all sections of society for making the campaign successful.
(Issued on 3-11-2015)

Resolutions

The National General Assembly of Popular Front held at Malabar House, Puthanathani, Kerala on 27th to 29th December 2014 passed the following resolutions.

Resolution 1

A united response against the onslaught of fascism

Since the ascension of the BJP to power the Sangh affiliated outfits and individuals have started spewing communal venom. The prime targets of the Hindutva groups are the Muslims, Tribals, Dalits, backward sections and progressive movements. The country has witnessed a steep rise in localized communal riots especially in states ruled by non-BJP parties. The campaigns like Love Jihad, Ghar Wapasi and the promotion of a fake saffron history are part of the nefarious plan to permanently polarize the country on communal lines for political benefits. Such a situation demands swift activism by the Muslims, Dalits, Backward classes and progressive movements. A united stand to fight the onslaught of fascism is the need of the hour. The NGA calls upon all the anti-fascist movements to join hands to defend the secular and pluralistic culture of the country.

Resolution 2

Discontent about NDA government

The NGA expresses its discontent at the economic and social policies of the NDA government headed by Narendra Modi. Much of the economic decisions take by Modi government are for the benefit of big business houses which have given huge amounts to the election fund of BJP. They are asking for their pound of flesh. Narendra Modi on the eve of his visit to the US took away the price controls of essential drugs mainly to fill up the coffers of Indian drug companies like Sun Pharma and their global counter parts. He continued his pamper-the-rich policies during his visit to Australia. Only a couple of days ago the central government issued an ordinance helping private companies invest in all sectors of insurance business. Modi did not pressure for an enactment on insurance because he was afraid of stiff resistance in the Lok Sabha. Instead he went for an ordinance against the constitutional powers of the legislature. The Hindu Right wants to dismantle the remnants of the welfare state which was itself on deathbed during UPA regime. As a corollary to these developments the Modi regime is implementing on the sly the secret agenda of RSS. Narendra Modi during his visit to Japan and Nepal tried to present himself as a Hindu leader and not as the prime minister of a secular democratic republic. The influence RSS pracharaks and people

seconded by Vivekananda Foundation is palpable on the function of the Modi cabinet which is, in fact, nonfunctional. Though it may be too early to pass a judgment about the performance of the government the NGA feels that the signals people get from New Delhi are extremely bad and disappointing.

Resolution 3

Unification of secular Parties

The NGA welcomed the efforts of socialist forces to come together and work for a common political platform. Rather than going on a single agenda, the time calls for a concerted effort with clear political vision and comprehensive plan to alleviate the sufferings of the down-trodden, Dalits and minorities in India and to restore the weakened secular system to its formal health. A deep rooted political move, rather than an exchange house of seats, is required from the opposition. They have to take in to confidence Muslims and other religious minorities, Adivasis, Dalits and other deprived communities. The NGA calls upon the new front to keep their doors open to other like-minded political formations which represent different deprived communities.

Resolution 4

Muslim politics should change for better

The rise if Hindutva politics has further complicated the problems of Muslims. Adding to the politics of terrorism played by the former UPA government the NDA government is implementing a highly divisive agenda imperiling the belief, customs and cultural existence of religious minorities of the country. Instead of focusing on vote bank politics, the Muslim political parties are now bound to come forward to address Muslim issues at large. Their party culture and attitude towards other political parties have to undergo great change. Most of the parties are family based without internal democracy or criticism. Mostly they are localized or in the control of a small coterie. Such political formations will not be able to confront the new challenges as seen now. It is high time that these parties gave up their narrow agenda and work for a viable political platform for the Muslims.

Resolution 5

Politics of black money

The BJP and its saffron allies were seen campaigning to get back the black money from Swiss and German banks. The black money issue was also part of the gimmicks used by Modi during the election campaign. The real face of BJP was exposed when it took refuge double taxation agreements to protect the back money account holders. Big corporate houses and money managers are smart enough to understand this ridiculous attempt of the government to protect the big corporate sharks. The NGA condemns betraying the people by BJP government. The house also demands the government to submit the entire list of account holders and then take time - bound steps to bring the black money back to the country.

Resolution 6

Stop the atrocities on women

NGA expresses deep concern and anguish at the increase in atrocities against women all over the country. The capital city witnesses gang rapes almost every day. All our cities have become unsafe for women to travel or to socialize especially at night. The NGA is of the view that the atrocities on women are on the increase for the following reasons:

1. As part of the neo-liberal economic policies, evils of consumerism, loose family life, race for material comforts, licentiousness has also arrived and taken over the lives of people of all sections.

2. The availability of pornographic sites and social networks has broken all the barriers needed for peaceful family and social life. The recent jump in child rapes and incestuous relationships are signs of moral depravity promoted by social networks and media.

3. Another reason is the influence by anarchist intellectuals, thinkers, and opinion makers. They in the name of gender justice, freedom of thought and expression, and gay lesbian rights have been trying to undermine the concept of family. The sanctity of husband and wife relationships and the legitimacy of off-springs are questioned. The new lifestyle has created a number of social problems in the western countries as well as in India.

Resolution 7

Neo-colonial threat

NGA observes that a major threat to global stability and peace is US and her allies that impose imperialist hegemony over the developing countries to safe guard their economic and military interests. In this process countries which try to defy neo-colonial domination are destroyed one by one by various means. Israel continues to be a terrorist bully in connivance with domestic intelligence agencies the Middle East and has become the only apartheid state in the world. That racist nation dares to continue the illegal occupation and drives away Palestinians from their homes due to the support rendered by US and impotence shown by U N. In recent years the Arab and Muslim countries are their prime targets. They have occupied Afghanistan and Iraq, run countries like Yemen and Somalia through proxies; support dictators throughout. Democratically elected nations are labelled “extremist”, while brutal religious or secular regimes are welcomed with open arms and labelled “moderate”.

It is an unfortunate betrayal of our tradition that the present Indian government is gradually converting our nation into a U S satellite. The shift in our foreign policies in favour Israel and against Palestine speaks of the influence of India's purported involvement in the US led dubious agenda of “war on terror”. And also the emerging economic, foreign and security policies of India are framed to protect the interests of neo-colonial powers. The NGA calls upon the patriotic people in the country to be vigilant about the growing influence of neo-colonial agenda in our state policies and join hands for political fight to protect the sovereignty of our nation.

Popular Front of India

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