

Nandigram A New Saga of Hindu Victimization

The onslaught on the hapless farmers struggling for their landed rights has bled the conscience of the entire nation. Even in the recorded history there can't be many incidents that can be compared with this ghastly act. Many have compared with the Jalianwala Bagh act that swept the emotions of the then Indians irrespective of class, sex or creed. Even in West Bengal after a gap of many years from the 25th May, 1967 in Naxalbari, farmers in such a large number have been hacked to death.

We need not go into the details since they have been circulated much till date. But what has not is the inner studies or the hidden truths that have emerged before us in the wake of the incident. The incident occurred in Nandigram, a very sensitive region comprising the Hindu community but also with a significant Muslim population (about 40 percent). For some time before the very date (March 14, 2007), we have been noticing the presence and cacophony of an organization, Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Hind (Assembly of Muslim Clerics of India) and its leader Siddiquallah who has also been castigated for propagating communally charged inflammatory speeches. However, the fact remains that the Jamiat has played a pivotal role in the Nandigram unrest and it is they who have made all the difference between Nandigram and Singur.

And therefore, it is quite surprising that when the police assault occurred on March 14, there was not the presence of any Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Hind cadre or leader in the vicinity. As far as the exposures from the audio-visual media was perceived, perhaps **there shall be none who had identified any person wearing the traditional cap** (sometimes a.k.a. 'skull cap', a popular practice amongst Jamiat members – also see the pictures overleaf) **during the confrontation with the police.** The result of the administrative atrocities claimed the lives of downtrodden persons, but the majority, consequently, happen to be Hindus.

জমিয়ত নন্দীগ্রামে, দূরে আশ্ফালন সিপিএমের

প্রসূন আচার্য কলকাতা ১৩ নন্দীগ্রামে
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Jamiat has been in the forefront of Nandigram resistance. Then how do you explain the near absence of Jamiat-e-Ulema-e-Hind cadres during the confrontation with the police?

Mamata sends Jamait feeler

OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT
Calcutta, Jan. 18: Mamata has told the Jamait
According to Chowdhury, the CPM has lost the "moral right" to rule as it has now become a "stooge of capitalists".

জমিয়তের সঙ্গে কথা নয়, জানালেন বুদ্ধ

সিপিএম সরকারের, কলকাতা ১৩ নন্দীগ্রামে
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On that very fateful day the villagers happened to perform a Puja, in the hope of getting saved from the avidity or lust of the administration. But alas! They were too naïve to realize that the Communists have never shown the slightest regard for the religious sentiments of the Hindus and that a new Marichjhanpi^[1] was eagerly waiting for them. On the contrary, a combined performance of Puja and Namaaz (or any Muslim religious congregation) would have, in all probability, avoided the bloodshed as the CPM would not have risked the spilling of minority blood by its police.

Will it be wrong to ascertain therefore, that a tacit understanding had already taken place between the Jamiat & the top most brass of the State administration? How can it be that the organization which spearheaded the movement remained thoroughly untouched? Does the

recent meeting (April 1, '07 - who were they trying to fool?) in New Delhi between Mehmood Madani, the General Secretary of Jamiat and the West Bengal CM then come as a surprise to us? We also observe with amusement that post 3/14, the CPM has continued to blame the opposition parties for the unrest but the Jamiat, for reasons best known to the Party, does not figure in the list anymore. It has also been alleged that there have been incidents of molestations and rapes against Hindu women belonging to the CPM. As reported in the media, on March 3, a CPM supporter's wife was gang-raped at Kalicharanpur and the CPM local leadership had asked their supporters in Sonachura, Gangra, Kalicharanpur and the neighborhood to send all girls between 12 and 22 away to relative's houses. The CPM state leadership has, however, maintained a studied silence on this issue. Why? Is it because the perpetrators of the crimes belong to the 'other' community? Such a reaction isn't unprecedented though as we have seen in the earlier instances of Dhantala and Bakchar where the Party had conveniently sacrificed its own Hindu supporters at the shrine of the Indian brand of Secularism!



Where were they on the D-day?

Friends, the Nandigram incident is just a pretext. Several incidents are on close heels to take place. That definitely denotes that a new strategy has ensued towards victimizing the Hindu community in a novel fashion. Ask your own self. We have been for the last century going on with a strange Crime of Silence. Whenever there have been atrocities against the Hindu community, be it in Kashmir, Bangladesh, Kerala or even our home state^[2], we have shied to talk or ponder on them, thus giving an ideal room for further nefarious strategies to the adversaries.

It is high time to think and to speak. If you feel you are alone, look around. There are millions who also think like you. The gap being the lack of communication. So no more waste of time. Make yourself a resource center and try to introspect. Remember, if any person of any community has the right to speak and struggle, the same is applicable for the Hindus too.

Remember, “... somehow, somewhere and by somebody a beginning must be made.”^[3]

Remember ... somehow, somewhere you **have** to make a beginning.

References:

1. O Jan 31, 1979, at Marichjhanpi we can refresh our mind, all hell was let loose upon the Hindu refugees by the same Left Front administration killing 36 people. Are we witnessing the repetition of the same history again?
2. Dhantala (Dist. Nadia) – Feb 4, 2002; Mahaso (P.S. Hemtabad, North Dinajpur) – Aug, 2005; Bakchar (P.S. Bamangola, Malda) – Jul 29, 2006; Chotaneelpur (Burdwan town) – Dec 18, 2006; Bakultala (P.S. Joynagar, S. 24 Pgs.) – Dec 27, 2006; Banirdhal (P.S. Kultali, N. 24 Pgs.) – Jan 26, 2007; Sarberia (P.S. Sandeshkhali, N. 24 Pgs.) – Mar 4, 2007. Do these names ring any bells in your memory? No? Thank our media for that!
3. James Fintan Lolor, the leader of the Irish Home Rule Movement of the 1870s.