

LETTERS

RIGHT TO INFORMATION

West Bengal RTI Manch has been persistently working for the successful implementation of the Right to Information Act 2005 in West Bengal since 2005. Now, West Bengal RTI Manch has opened its office at 66, Phears Lane, Kolkata-700073 on the 15th Day of August 2008. This is a very important event considering that for the first time in West Bengal there will be a dedicated set of trained people officially posted in the above-mentioned location to voluntarily lend a hand to all the Hon'ble Citizens of this State (7 days a week) towards filing RTI Applications, assisting them in the 'Hearing' in the Information Commission, distributing Rs 10/- Court Fee Stamps(hard-to-find) for filing RTI Applications at cost price, a small library, etc. A dedicated 12 hrs (10:00 A.M. to 10:00 P.M.) RTI Helpline 09433620192, has been set up to address the queries over the phone, too.

Henceforth the Manch takes this opportunity to most humbly seek for public advices, suggestions & best wishes regarding the same.

Malay Bhattacharyya
West Bengal RTI Manch, Kolkata

PACE

Around 15 organizations sat together recently to decide on the future course of action to take up, while building up the social movement. A committee has been formed taking representatives of each organization present in the meeting. The committee is also open to those who couldn't attend the meeting eventually and also to those, who couldn't be informed well-in-advance but who supports the cause.

The committee has been named as 'Platform Against Commercialization of Education' (PACE). Convention, Street-corner meetings, Demonstration, Leaflet distribution, Press-meet, Article writing, Signature collection (to present to the governor), Internet-hosting....have come up as options for future course of action by the platform. The Public Interest Litigation (PIL) against KPC Medical College & State Govt. of West Bengal, will be carried along simultaneously.... to give a fight from legal aspect too.

PACE, Priyanka, Kolkata

CRIME AND VIOLENCE

Modi, the Merchant of Death, reportedly snuffed out 2000 Muslim lives in his killing spree in Gujarat 2002. He rendered thousands widowed, thousands orphaned, thousands homeless. He called mass murders, gang rapes, planned arson of Muslim properties Gujarati Asmita (Pride). He compounded the state terror by wholesale tyranny. Thousands of lives were wantonly, savagely destroyed by him. He decreed that only a rapist, a killer, an arsonist, and a thug was a genuine Gujarati. Gujarat echoed with "Amen".

Fighting for BJP - the cult wedded to liquidation of minorities—he conned the people, claiming he was fighting for Gujarat! Gujarat reverberated with "Aye".

He in his electioneering circus, always brought in Musharraf as if the President of Pakistan was his political rival contesting Gujarat elections.

Thus he seceded from the nation by trashing and traducing India, its Constitution, its culture. He thus declared open war against the nation.

Now, post-26 July 2008, after the blasts in Ahmedabad, he claims it is a war against the nation, not against the bloody laboratory of Hindutva, Gujarat.

He forgot to proclaim that it was he who initiated this ceaseless war on India (Delhi sultanate, in his words) as its hero, as its architect, as its Goebbels, as its Hitler, as the "butcher" on the loose.

The culture of crime and violence sparked by Advani–Thackeray (1992-93) and Modi (2002) will get out of hand unless those who are primarily responsible for treason and communal violence get punished.

I K Shukla, USA

AMERICAN DEMOCRACY!

At every point in the tortuous case of framed former Black Panther and journalist Mumia Abu-Jamal, he has been denied the most basic legal rights supposedly afforded to all those brought before the courts. This is one reason why his case so highlights the nature of the oppression of Black people and the fundamental nature of the "justice" system under the dictatorship of the capitalist class.

On July 22, ten judges of the 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed without comment the request by Mumia Abu Jamal for a rehearing of his federal appeal before a panel of all the judges of the circuit. Mumia's appeal had been rejected in May this year in a 2 to 1 vote by a three-judge panel reviewing the case.

This decision continues the 27-year railroad of a Black revolutionary writer and activist, framed by the infamous racist court system of Philadelphia. Mumia Abu-Jamal has been held in isolation on Pennsylvania's death row since his 1982 trial that was a travesty of justice.

This has occurred in spite of the mountain of new evidence that has been developed since Mumia's original trial in 1983, where Mumia was denied the right to represent himself and was barred from the courtroom during most of his own trial for protesting this injustice.

A Reader, Chicago