

The Curtain Is Falling

It is not that the Marxists have not pumped enough terror into the vote market but they never get tired to believe pumping more is going to solve their problems. From Nandigram to Netai-gram—the Marxist tactic carries the all too familiar hallmark methods used previously by different autocratic regimes throughout the world at critical junctures of history. But their ‘good’ intention always yielded bad result. Faced with the real prospects of losing their 3-decade-old subedari, the Marxist Nawabs of Bengal are simply moving in political wilderness, sometimes making mockery of Marxism, even of their kind. Ludicrously enough, their dialectical materialism begins with Mamata-bashing and finally it ends with Mamata-bashing. There is not much to read between the lines. Now the janglemahal conundrum keeps the CPM-led left government on the defensive, both regionally and nationally, but their storm-troopers—armed cadres (or paid musclemen)—are unlikely to pull out of janglemahal, notwithstanding the dwindling support of the population towards CPM-variety of populism. They don’t take pains to explain why a Congress offshoot—Trinamul Congress, rather a state-level party, is gaining ground at their expense. They are so isolated from masses that they cannot manufacture more lies to deceive people. As if they are running a marathon, and finding out during the race that they have added more miles to the course.

Once upon a time communists used to enjoy ideological and political superiority despite their poor numerical strength. Their world was small but it was beautiful. It’s no more. Today their number makes sense, at least in some parts of the country, though their changed priorities make little sense and sense of timing as well.

What disturbs most old guards is their systematic political decline which seems irreversible. The way things are developing, there will be few people left to mourn their sad demise as it has happened in case of ex-Soviet communists. Having failed to defend the indefensible—anti-people policies all these years—they are actually beating around the bush while trying to sell somewhat unsuccessfully, the growing evidence of Maoist-Trinamul alliance in the killing fields of janglemahal. And to make their case strong they made a bold representation to Union Home Minister along with their allies—Telugu Desham Party and Janata Dal (Secular). Even the company of Lalu Yadav would have made it sensible, not that of Chandra Babu Naidu and Deve Gauda people. In many ways the Trinamul Chief Mamata Banerjee sets the agenda of Marxists. It’s a queer turn of history. The recent murder of seven unarmed villagers by armed CPM-goons in Lalgarh area of janglemahal suggests among other things that they won’t hesitate to create more Nandigrams. For ordinary people this is a worry because an unstable janglemahal will be breeding ground of terror ideology, and this chronically crisis-ridden state, already bleeding from frequent violent strikes, will be even more vulnerable in the coming days.

The poor are supporting the right because they think the left will never offer any recipe for overhauling their economic and social status. Nor will it address their basic question of survival. Food inflation is said to have soared to 18.32 percent in recent weeks, affecting the common man most and yet no party is reacting, as if it is normal as natural disaster, having many mathematics about probabilities.

The communist left in India has not learnt any lesson from East Europe and Russia where communism stands for corruption and repression. Maybe, they will have to witness the same tragic episode as some East European leaders faced after the collapse of their dictatorial regimes. After the great fall in the nineties East European Communist parties immediately changed their brand names with some appropriate social democratic nomenclature to save

their skin, becoming more like their West European cousins, trying to salvage their burnt houses by playing second fiddle to the powers that be.

Strange it may seem, after 34 years of left rule, Bengal remains a net importer of essential food items—vegetables, fish, egg, edible oil—what not. They precariously depend on other states for daily necessities. The same is true of yet another CPM-ruled state—Kerala. Their success stories about agriculture and land reforms glitter in advertisements round the year while the real scenario tells altogether an agonising story of total failure in every sphere. They are now in favour of contract farming as advised by an American Consultancy Firm—Mckinsey—hopefully to have third party investment in agriculture, without bothering about its long-term consequences. What is more fearsome is their new found love for GM crops peddled in India by the notorious Mansanto.

Marxists and Multinationals do share a real interest in subverting traditional agriculture. Also, there are many areas where they are likely to work together—and vulgarise communist culture at the same time. The 19th century belonged to Europe; the 20th century to America. The 21st century as most people say, can be the Asian-century. But the official communists in this part of the globe have no role to play because they are no longer an advocacy group against status quo-ism. □□□