

Report from West Bengal:

Successful convening of the seminar on “The Challenges before the Forces Struggling to Change the Present System”.

On 20-21 July, 2019, Barasat Titumir Sabhagriha, Kolkata convened by the West Bengal State Committee, CPI(ML)

On last 20-21 July in pursuance of effort of the Central Committee, CPI(ML) at the initiative of the West Bengal State Committee of the party convened the above titled seminar on 20-21 July at Titumir Sabhakashesha, Barasat. Almost all the communist revolutionaries and left organisations were invited to attend the seminar. In the seminar in addition to the CPI(ML) the representative of the CPI, CPI(M), CPI(ML)-Red Star, PCC, CPI(ML), Communist Party of Bharat, RSP, RCPI, Chetana and November Revolution Centenary Committee were present. A representative of the Mazdoor Kranti Parishad was present but he did not speak. After Com. Alope Mukherjee being elected as the President as well as conductor of the Seminar, the seminar paid homage to martyrs and departed struggling comrades. Then leaders of the representatives of different organisations were led to sit on the dais. The secretary of the State Committee, CPI(ML) com. Subodh Mitra presented the welcome address to the representatives of the organisations and the delegates present. Since com. Subodh Mitra was sick on behalf of the state committee Com. Basu Acharya presented in Bengali the key note address in brief. Then as conductor of discussion Com. Alope Mukherjee declared before the delegates that on 20th July leaders of the organisations would place their views. On 21 July, there will be a “Question and answer” session. After that the leaders of the organisation would sit for a short session to decide on the draft resolution to be placed before delegates.

Accordingly one after another spoke Com. Kalyan Bandopadhyay, the leader of the representatives of the CPI, Com. Kallol Mazumdar, the leader of the representatives of the CPI(M), Com. Pradip Singh Thakur, the leader of the representation of the CPI(ML)-Red Star, Com. Golam Gazi, on behalf of the representatives of the Communist Party of Bharat, Com. Tapan Nag leader of the PCC, CPI(ML), Com. Ashoke Ghosh leader of representatives of the RSP, Com. Debashis Datta, “Chetana” and Com. Suresh Bayne, leader of the November Revolution Centenary Committee. Each of them enlightened the audience on the issue basing on their respective organisations.

At the beginning of first session of the second day audience was invited to put their question in writing to specific comrades. While questions were coming Comrade Basu a well known cultural activist from Orissa presented songs. After the famous personality of Bengali Theatre Comrade Gowtam Mukherjee, who was present among the audience spoke briefly, then started the ‘question and answer’ session. One after another, questions and questions started coming in written form. Sometimes it was asked to a specific leader; sometimes the same question was asked to more than one leader of two or three different organisations. All the delegates present were witness to a lively discussion. Time ticked on. First it was decided to carry on this session upto the lunch, but even after a delayed brief lunch, ‘question and answer’ session went on for one and half hours. It became clear instead of differing views the main objective of each and all was the importance of fighting the danger of fascism based on communalism and national chauvinism. This was also brought into the focus that in the particular context of West Bengal the steps to destroy democracy in West Bengal by the Trinamool Congress led by Mamata Banerjee have taken an important role.

After the “question and answer” session, the leaders of the organisation took a joint resolution after brief discussion. It should be noted that the leader of the representatives of RCPI, Com Prabir Adhikary who would not be present on the first day joined the second day and actively took part in the discussion for the joint resolutions.

Meanwhile Comrade Shanti Munda, who among the leader of the Naxalbari Peasant Movement is still living, thanked the audience on behalf of the CPI(ML).

The as the President, Com. Alope Mukherjee presented the joint resolution. Its essence was

- 1) We have unanimously agreed to carry on such discussion and exchange of opinion to face the challenge of the present situation.
- 2) We call upon other left and progressive forces like those who were present in this seminar to join this effort.
- 3) We call upon all the antifascist and democratic secular struggling and left forces to support this initiative.

All those present at the seminar supported it. All organisations asked the convening organisation, the CPI(ML) to take responsibility for next meeting.

After a very brief speech of the president the seminar came to an end.
