

New Book Explores Decadence in CPM

by Athul Lal A G

Kozhikode: A lengthy speech on the decadence of the CPM in the state and its undergoing crisis after getting stung by the murder of Revolutionary Marxist Party (RMP) leader T P Chandrasekharan. The book *Crisis of Corporate Communism - Politics of Murder in Kerala*, a collection of essays edited by senior journalist V K Cherian, can be thus defined.

Says Cherian in the book, "What has gone so drastically wrong in the CPM that it has to ensure the elimination of a local leader and face the wrath of general public.

The question is whether CPM's leadership can be mute witness to this downward trend in Kerala, just as it did while the Bengal unit was besieged by issues. If they do so, they have a lot to lose, not just another state government which the Left used to get every five years in Kerala Assembly elections, but a huge support base of a party which played an important role in the nation's polity."

The book, published by Har-Anand Publications, New Delhi, comprises 14 articles by ideologues, writers, journalists, activists, academics and a retired bureaucrat on CPM's ideological

bankruptcy. "Right now a CPM party membership is the license to do business—real estate, mining, contract work or anything irrespective of the party villages, it is a license to remain corrupted," says the article 'Party Villages - The Power Houses of Impudence of CPM in Kerala' by Chandrasekhar (Editor Cherian notes that the author, who was born in a party village, could not bring forth his real name for fear of repercussion on his family residing there).

The factionalism within the CPM leadership also figures in the book. Author Paul Zacharia, in his article 'Conduct of a Perfect Murder'



terms V S Achuthanandan as an 'opportunistic demagogue' and says that 'the arch enemy of the Kannur CPM has made some noises using the murder plank to attack

his enemy Pinarayi Vijayan, who heads the Kannur lobby, may drop the issue once his purpose has been served.'

In the article 'CPM's Internal Strifes and Murder of T P Chandrasekharan, Activist T K Vinodan' also comments on factional feud. "Achuthanandan, who opposed party's attempts to adopt extra legal means in TP murder did not find it wrong to call for public protests when Kannur district secretary of CPM was arrested in another murder case. The inconsistency shows that gaining advantage in the factional fight is more important for him than taking up real issues," says

the article.

Marxist ideologue Berlin Kunhanandan Nair criticises that Pinarayi Vijayan has completely replaced the communist idioms of EMS and other counter-revolutionary idioms in the unwritten dictionary of 'corp.com' (Corporate Communism). "When they say 'Marxism', it means now post Marxism and neo-liberal socialism. Communism means 'corporate communism' with a huge amount of capital owned by the CPM. Leninism today means 'capturing of the party by its secretary', democratic centralism means 'centralised dictatorship of the party', and the

party means its 'secretary general'. The word proletarian means 'petty bourgeoisie', middle class and land mafia. The people now mean the 'party members'. Theoretically, it can be called Kerala model of ideological subversion of classical Marxism."

It could be portrayed as a one-sided attack on CPM than a discussion due to the absence of a CPM ideologue. "An ex-MP was approached, he agreed, but never sent his copy. I cannot blame him, as any independent opinion in a non-party forum can cost him his future in the party," Cherian makes it clear in the editor's note. ENS