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Central Intelligence Report on burning alive of 17 Anand Margis

The burning of 17 Anand Margis, including two women, in Calcutta, on April 30, shocked the country.

The Intelligence Bureau, Government of India, has come to the conclusion that it was part of "a well-knit conspiracy" of CPM.

Here is the text of their report to the Government of India:

The April 30 killings of as many as 17 Anand Margis in Tiljala-Kasba area of 24-Parganas district has evoked widespread indignation. West Bengal did not witness such a grisly crime even in the worst days of terror and violence in the late sixties. In broad day-light, Anand Margis, including 2 women members, were way-laid near the Bijan Setu in Kasba
P. S. limits by a gang of miscreants armed with lethal weapons. They were dragged out of taxis, beaten to death and their bodies later set ablaze in the presence of thousands of local people in the heart of Calcutta. Though police have arrested over 80 persons, the gruesome incident remains shrouded in mystery, giving rise to widespread speculation about the involvement of a particular group or party in the dastardly act.

It has, however, come to light that on April 28, two women Anand Margis were apprehended with two minor children by members of the public at Tijjala on suspicion of child-lifting. An altercation ensued when Anand Margis belonging to the Volunteer Social Service (VSS), a militant wing of the Anand Marg, rushed from the Tijjala Global Jagriti Complex and challenged the people, majority of whom belonged to the CPI (M). Police intervened and, at the dictate of the local MLA, Sachin Sen, took all Anand Margis into custody. While the VSS personnel were released on bail next day, the women Anand Margis were sent to judicial custody after registering a cognizable case.

Following this incident, a meeting of the local unit of the CPM was reportedly held in the party office at Kasba on April 29, with Sachin Sen in the chair. Swapan Chakra-bory Bablu, Secretary of the local committee, Ram Nath Singh, Arjun Mukherjee, Gopal Roy and Nirmal Haldar are some of the militant cadres who attended the meeting. A prolonged discussion took place on the activities of the Anand Marg in Kasba Tijjala area. The meeting chalked out plans to foil the cultural/religious conventions of the Anand Marg slated from April 30 at the Global Jagriti Complex. The same evening, CPM volunteers took out a procession in Kasba area and raised slogans instigating the people to 'Break and Burn the Black Hands of Anand Margis'.

In keeping with the plan of action drawn up at the meeting, CPM activists joined hands with some of the notorious anti-social elements of the area and divided themselves into three main groups before taking up positions at three different places
viz., Bijan Setu, Ballygunj Railway goods-shed and Ballygunje Railway Station area. These three groups were reportedly led by Bablu Chakraborty, Ram Nath Singh and Nirmal Haldar. Around 07.30 hours on the fateful day CPM storm-troopers pounced upon the Anand Margis when they were seen proceeding towards Tiljala Ashram along Bijan Setu in taxis. Thereafter the diabolical killings were enacted by the CPM activists, raising the bogey of involvement of the Anand Margis in child-lifting. A confirmatory piece of evidence about the complicity of CPM in the mass massacre is seen from the fact that some of the well-known CPM workers viz., Ram Nath Singh, Shambhu Naskar, Khudi Ram Sardar and Gopal Roy figure in the list of persons arrested by the police. Following the house search, police also recovered a gold wrist watch and blanket belonging to the deceased Supriya Brahma-charini, from the possession of Shambhu Naskar. CPM followers led by Bablu Chakraborty also threatened the Inspector of Police, Kasba Police Station, CID Inspector and the RPF Inspector with dire consequences when they declined to release Ram Nath Singh from their custody.

The seeds of antagonism between the CPM and the Anand Marg were sown as far back as 1964 when P.R. Sarkar, Anand Murti, shifted his headquarters from Jamalpur in Bihar to Anand Nagar in Purulia district. The first outbreak of underlying tensions between the two parties was witnessed on March 5, 1967. About 5000 locals, armed with bows, arrows and spears, surrounded the Anand Marg Ashram and killed 5 Anand Margis over a land dispute. In August 1969, a few clashes were reported between the Anand Margis and local CPM workers from Khagrabari in Kotwali P. S. area of Cooch Behar district. These violent incidents occurred during the incumbency of the Left Front Government in the State.

Echoes of animosity between the two parties were later heard in Tripura after the Left Front Government assumed office in that State in January 1978. In espousing the cause of the Bengalis, the Anand Marg-inspired Amra Bengali came out with a banner of protest against the implementation of the
Autonomous Tribal District Council Act, on the plea that it challenged the very existence of the Bengalis in the State. The party also opposed the restoration of lands alienated from the tribals and organised the Bengalis for a heightened movement against the State Government.

More recently, relations between the local CPM and the Anand Marg were bedeviled following the construction of Anand Marg Global Jagriti Complex at Tiljala, which area is considered as one of the strong bastions of Marxist influence in 24-Parganas district. The CPM had thereafter embarked on a hate campaign against the Anand Marg. The local refugees were warned that the Anand Marg would not only try and evict them from their lands in the area but would also kidnap their children to indoctrinate them in the Marg ideology. On Dec. 31, 1981, some local people entered the Global Jagriti Complex in search of a missing boy and found him inside the Ashram. This helped in fanning the rumour linking the Anand Marg with child-lifting. The local people forcibly entered the Ashram on January 1, 1982, assaulted the Anand Margis and caused damage to property.

Simultaneously on February 6 this year, the pro-CPM Nagrik Committee organised a convention at Tiljala, which was presided over by the local CPM MLA Sachin Sen, to evolve a plan of action against the growing spread of Anand Marg in this contiguous belt of Calcutta. A Committee known as ‘Anand Marg Virodhi Prachar Committee’ was formed to guide the activities of the party against the organisation. Leaflets were circulated, emphasising the need for organising strong action to counter the ‘terrorist deeds’ of the Anand Marg. The CPM had also put a number of posters against the Anand Marg and the latter, in turn, had displayed posters charging the CPM with spreading false rumours about the organisation.

The savage killings of April 30 are, therefore, violent culmination of the on-going conflict. Though the ostensible reason for the mob violence is stated to be the suspicion that the Anand Marg’s were engaged in child-lifting, the evidence would indicate that the incident was a contrived one. It appears
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The burning of 17 Anand Margis in the Tijala area of Bhopal on April 30 has aroused widespread public concern. The investigation by the local government and the police has failed to establish the motive behind the massacre. However, the report indicates that the Anand Margis, who were linked to the Communist Party of India (Marxist-Leninist) were suspected of being involved in the incident.

The construction of the Gwalior Complex in Tijala area, a CPM stronghold, angered the Marxists. A child-lifting incident was "contrived" to infuriate the people into attacking the Anand Margis. We have been informed that the Anand Margis have been involved in such activities in the past.

The State Government has chosen to remain silent and not take adequate preventive measures to counter the rumour about child-lifting. The CPM has been accused of stirring up the Anand Margis, who are known for their activities. The State government has not taken any action against this group, despite the reports of their involvement.

In this context, the West Bengal CM's statement on May 4 shows no sign of any contrivance on the part of the CPM. The Chief Minister characterised the Anand Margis' allegation against the CPI MLA Sachin Sen as provocative. He also asked, would it be desirable if Sachin Sen took ten thousand workers and sympathisers to stage demonstration before the Anand Margis in protest against such provocation.

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