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Analysing the Anti CAA Violence in West Bengal

*(Analysis of the anti-CAA Violence in West
Bengal between 13th - 15th December, 2019
in the light of the Newspaper Reports)*

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**(Translated from original Bengali by
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Background

The Citizenship Amendment Bill (henceforth CAB) was passed in the Lok Sabha on 10th December 2019. On the very next day, i.e. 11th December 2019, the Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha. On 12th December, the President of India signed the Bill; and the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) came into force. The law was brought into existence through completely democratic and constitutional means. It is absolutely normal for political parties in the opposition to hold different views when a particular law is enacted in a democracy. Even protests against the law at various levels can be lodged as a democratic way of dissent. However, the violence that took place between 13th and 15th December 2019, in West Bengal in the name of protest, and those who perpetrated atrocities, reminded many of the days preceding the formation of Pakistan in 1946. Newspaper accounts and analyses of those terrible days are recorded in this booklet so that in the days to come, the people of West Bengal do not forget those three days when the state had virtually turned into a mini-Pakistan. It is also important for those in India and globally who have opposed the passing of the CAA by the Indian Parliament, to read this booklet. They have opposed the CAA without knowing its historical context, background and necessity and have, through their protests, fanned the fires of violence.

The Citizenship Amendment Act

Before delving into newspaper reports, it is necessary to discuss the Citizenship Amendment Act first. The Citizenship Amendment Act 1955 was revised for the fourth time, to bring about the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019. Under this Act, religious minorities such as Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, Christians, Jains and Parsees from Bangladesh, Pakistan and Afghanistan, who entered India on or before 31st December 2014 due to religious persecution or the apprehension thereof, are exempted from the Passport Act, 1920 and the Foreigners Act, 1946. In other words, they shall not be treated as illegal migrants. It is not necessary for them to show any document on their coming to India, like a passport or visa. These refugees can receive citizenship on appeal through the 5th article under the Citizenship Act 1955 - 'Registration' or through the 6th article- 'Naturalization'. For receiving citizenship, they will have to live in India for 5 years after having entered the country.

The Bill for the revision of the Citizenship Act was presented for the first time in the Lok Sabha on 19th July 2016. After due deliberation it was sent to a joint Parliamentary Committee for review. Various political parties and mass organizations presented their views before this committee. Keeping in mind the On behalf of the Refugee Cell of the West Bengal

branch of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Dr. Mohit Ray and Sujit Sikdar made presentations before this Committee. The Joint Parliamentary Committee presented its views to the Lok Sabha on 7th January, 2019. Subsequently, the Bill was presented and then passed in the Lok Sabha on 8th January, 2019. A few days later, the tenure of the 16th Lok Sabha came to an end and consequently there was no time left to present the Bill before the Rajya Sabha.

The general elections were held in the country in the month of April and May 2019. The Bharatiya Janata Party led coalition of Prime Minister Narendra Modi was re-elected with an absolute majority and formed the government at the Centre with a renewed mandate. It is worth noting that the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA) was an electoral promise made by the Bharatiya Janata Party. The BJP, and its political predecessor Bharatiya Jana Sangh, have been, for the last six decades and more, advocating the need for Indian citizenship for those who, because of partition and its aftermath have faced religious persecution and were forced to come away to from the neighbourhood.

The Indian electorate elected the BJP an absolute majority, and also gave it more parliamentary seats than than in 2019, thus empowering it to fulfil its promise on granting and expediting the conferring of citizenship to these persecuted refugees. On 9th December 2019, Union Home Minister Amit

Shah presented the Citizenship Amendment Bill in the Lok Sabha. On 10th December 2019, this Bill was passed at the Lok Sabha by 311 to 80 votes following a threadbare debate in which Union Home Minister answered in detail all points raised by leaders of other parties. On the next day - 11th December 2019, at the end of a prolonged debate, the Bill was passed by a margin of 125 to 105 votes late at night in the Rajya Sabha. On 12th December 2019, the President of India Ramnath Kovind signed the Bill, whereby it became the Citizenship Amendment Act.

This brief preamble was necessary to highlight that:

1. Debate and deliberation regarding the amendment of the Act has been going on for three years
2. All democratic and constitutional procedures have been duly followed in enacting this Bill,
3. The general elections were conducted during this period, and the BJP - the proponent of this Act was re-elected by a huge mandate by the people of India. The BJP under Prime Minister Narendra Modi, it must be reiterated, had won an ever bigger mandate than that of 2014.

Who are the targeted beneficiaries of the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019?

If you or your family have arrived from Pakistan, Bangladesh, or Afghanistan, then the Citizenship Amendment Act 2019 will be of critical importance to you. Approximately 90 per cent of the beneficiaries of this Act will be the Hindu refugees living in West Bengal, who have come from erstwhile East Bengal, East Pakistan and Bangladesh. Before 1971, migrants from East Pakistan were given some kind of refugee-status, citizenship, government help, and rehabilitation (in a very limited way). During the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971, the Indian government issued a circular (letter no. 26011/16/71-10, Date- 29/11/1971) to stop receiving citizenship applications from the refugees arriving from East Pakistan. As a result, one crore Bangladeshi Hindu refugees who had come to India after 1972, could not become Indian citizens. Now, with the passing of CAA, this problem has been resolved. One may specifically note that this act does not have any bearing whatsoever on any Indian Muslim and will not affect their status.

However, along with Hindu refugees, at least 1.5 crores Bangladeshi Muslims too have illegally entered into West

Bengal and India. They are trespassers. In 1947, West Bengal was formed out of the Hindu-majority areas of Bengal. As a matter of fact, the basis for West Bengal's existence were a Hindu majority, security for Hindu lives, and freedom to practice Indic religions and culture. Over the decades, massive infiltration from East Pakistan and then Bangladesh has already shaken the basis of West Bengal's demography, through an increase in the Muslim population from 19% to more than 30% in the state today.

At first the CPI(M) and now the Trinamool Congress (TMC) have compromised the security of Indian citizens in West Bengal banking upon the Muslim infiltrator vote-bank, muscle power, violence. Consequently, , over the last few years, from Dhulagarh (2016) to Kaliachak (2016), Basirhat (2017), West Bengal witnessed riots primarily aimed at the members of the majority community, perpetrated by infiltrators, often with the support of elements linked to the ruling party in the state. The recurring attacks on Durga Puja and Saraswati Puja, the expulsion of intellectuals and writers like Taslima Nasrin [in 2007 when West Bengal was ruled by the CPIM led Left Government headed by Buddhadeb Bhattacharya] have disrupted the space for free thinking, have seriously challenged the right to practice Indic religions and have also threatened and shrunk the democratic space in the state. The aforementioned political parties have been lending their

support to elements, groups and networks that have, as their political objective, the change of demography in West Bengal and its resultant political and geographical ramifications in the future. If Hindu (and also a few Buddhist) refugees arriving from Bangladesh are given citizenship, it would be easier to identify the infiltrators. By cancelling fake citizenships along with all its rights and benefits through a legal process, India can restore balance in the religious demography of West Bengal.

Thursday, 12th December 2019

We shall now turn our attention to those who protested against the passing of the law and NRC in West Bengal, how they did it, who they received help from, etc.

On the night of 11th December, after the Citizenship Bill was passed in the Rajya Sabha, protest marches were taken out at some places in West Bengal. On the very next day - 12th December, anti-CAA demonstrators staged protests at various places across West Bengal. The Bengali daily Bartaman reported:

“There was unrest and road-blocking on the Bolpur-Rajgram Road [Birbhum District]. Here, on the request of the police,

anti-NRC protest was concluded after a symbolic Bill-burning. On this day, the anti-CAA protesters also marched along the national highway from Baraj in Raghunathganj in Murshidabad district. Upon their arrival at Omarpur, [Raghunathganj] they started blocking the road. Amit Shah's effigy was burnt. Traffic jams ensued. The rally then reached Dadathakur More. There, a full-scale demonstration took place. On the same afternoon, demonstrations were also held at Beldanga and Salar...a rally was organised in Midnapore City and a meeting at Sonamukhi, Bankura. Bent on reaping the benefits from the NRC [CAA] amendment, the saffron camp also took to the field. Dubbing the bill 'historic', BJP took out 'victory rallies' at various places. The picture was the same also in Gangajalghati and Taldangra of Bankura, and in Krishnanagar, Shantipur, and Kalyani of the Nadia district." (Bartaman - 13 December, 2019)

Please note that the 12th December protests were like any other common political protests in West Bengal. It was business as usual - burning effigies, rallies - the way one would expect protests to happen. The BJP too had taken out rallies at various places. 'EiSamay' - one of the leading Bengali dailies of West Bengal, featured no news regarding these protests. There were no incidents on Thursday, 12th December, to hint at any ensuing danger.

Friday, 13th December 2019, Jumma

The next day was a Friday, or the jumma - the day of religious congregation for the Muslims. Usually, after the noon prayer (the namaz of Zuhr) on Fridays, congregations are held, where the religious heads of mosques preside over the programmes. Their speeches are called khutba-e-juma. We do not know what was being preached on that day in different mosques. But, right after the noon time namaz, numerous violent and chaotic occurrences erupted in various parts of the state.

Times of India - 14th December, 2019 reported that a rally of Muslims starting from the Tipu Sultan Mosque [Kolkata] and then moving along Central Avenue at the very heart of Kolkata, caused disorder due to massive traffic jams. About 3 pm, another rally of Muslims was taken out in the Park Circus area, and later in the night at Anwar Shah Road and Narkelbagan. There was a road blockade at Rajabazar as well.

But in the Muslim majority areas outside Kolkata, the incidents of violence were much more serious. Attacks took place at the rail stations of Uluberia, an important station in Howrah district, and Murshidabad district's Beldanga.

Uluberia witnessed demonstrations by hundreds of Muslims

blocking the railway line around 2 pm. As a result, the Howrah-Chennai Express was delayed at the Uluberia station. Right after that, a belligerent Muslim mob began pelting stones on trains, as it has been typically witnessed in Jammu & Kashmir. They went on to shatter the glass window panes of the train compartments. In quick succession, a number of long-distance trains were laid over at different stations. Many suburban trains too were cancelled.

Description of the incident in the Bengali daily Aajkal:

“The demonstrators wreaked havoc at Uluberia railway station and its West Cabin even as the railway police attempted to stop them in vain. Also, a police personnel sustained injury when he came in the line of assault of a stone pelting mob. Even after this incidence, the vandalizers kept on throwing stones aimed at trains. The entire railway station compound at the moment was under the control of the violent mob. On the railway tracks, tyres were being set on fire.

In the S-6 compartment of the above-mentioned train, a passenger named Amitabha Sen was travelling with his family, headed for Brahmapur. According to Mr. Sen, “Around half past three in the afternoon, when the train was passing through Uluberia, a mob began hurling stones at the train. We decided to close the windows. It was practically raining stones!”

Mr. Sanjay Ghosh, the chief of public relations at South-East Railway issued a statement: “The protesters entered the Uluberia Station office and looted 8 computers, Rupees 4 lakh in cash, and a stack of printed rail tickets. They also ransacked a new rake on the Coromandel Express. Railway traffic was much affected due to this.”

“Since the demonstrators were not led by anybody in particular, the situation could not be brought under control”, claims an officer of the district police (rural).”

(Ajkal 14th December, 2019)

The Bengali daily EiSamay reported:

“The most aggressive protests in Uluberia took place on Friday. Unrest grew in the area as blockade continued on the National Highway 6 (Bombay Road), railway lines, and many roads in the town. A group of men without any banners started protesting by flashing anti-NRC and anti-CAB posters. Next, they blocked the highway and the rail tracks. As a result, post noon, various areas in the Uluberia division became inaccessible. Due to the blockade on the Bombay Road from 1:45 pm to 4:15 pm, all Howrah and Kolaghat-bound traffic within 8-9 km came to a standstill. A dozen ambulances and a couple of fire brigade vehicles too got held up in the jam.

Massive destruction of public property took place at Uluberia

station. The demonstrators threw railway sleepers on the tracks and hoisted the national flag. The Digha-bound Tamralipta Express and the Chennai-bound Coromandel Express were halted at the Uluberia station. The RPF-kiosk on platform no 1, the reservation counter, and concrete benches at the station were ransacked. People injured in the stone pelting incident include Rintu Patra, a GRPF-constable, Mr. R. Bairagi - the driver of the Tamralipta Express and a goods-train driver also sustained injuries. Though the blockade on the railway tracks was lifted by 7 in the evening, railway traffic wasn't normal until late night."

(EiSamay, 14th December, 2019)

In the description above, note two important observations: Firstly, there were no political or organisational banners in these incidents of protest. Where did this mob come from? Secondly, it saw the beginning of a terrible trend: **rampant destruction of public property with the national flag in hand. We shall take this up later.**

The other epicentre of these violent attacks was the Muslim-majority district of Murshidabad. This unrest was no political protest, it was a religious war, a Jihad. It was immediately post the afternoon jummanamazthat frenzied mobs took to the streets everywhere. The Statesman (14th December edition) observed,

“Worst hit by the agitation was Beldanga area where the protesters raided the Beldanga railway station, set fire at station premises and allegedly attacked the security personnel of Indian Railways. A number of personnel belonging to railway protection force were injured when they made an attempt to put up some resistance against violent mob streaming into the platform. Offices of the railways at Beldanga station were allegedly vandalised, sources informed. The mob also ransacked cars of security personnel; it was learnt.

The NH-34 at Barua crossing of Beldanga town witnessed rounds of blockades since yesterday. The protest on the national highway today spilled over to Beldanga railway stations. The state police personnel attracted [the] wrath of the agitators when the local police were called in to serve as backup force of the beleaguered RPF on duty, said eyewitnesses. Such was the ferocity of the mob violence that the passengers as well as railway officials on duty at Beldanga railway station were found running away to save their lives. The agitators then moved on to the Beldanga police station and clashed with the police personnel there. The police allegedly resorted to lathi-charge and blank firing to scare away the protesters who pelted brickbats at the security forces, sources said.

Similar protests broke out at Behrampore, Raghunathganj and other areas of Murshidabad district. Protest flared up

at the hospital crossing at Sagardighi. The protesters burnt [the] PM's effigies and copies of CAB. "We do not want CAB. Why should we prove anew that we are Indian citizens? We would like to warn the union government of the severe consequences of NRC and CAB. The CAB must be revoked," said a Muslim cleric who led a protest rally at Raghunathganj".

(The Statesman, 14 December, 2019).

“Who’s behind this organized violence? Sleuths investigate”

These words are not ours but the headline of a Bengali news daily. Throughout Friday, which organization had called for such destructive mass agitation in various parts of the state? Whose planning was it behind the attacks on the railway stations? Why was no name of any political party or social or religious organization found among the protesting mob? Is it even possible to mobilise people in their hundreds at various parts of the state almost around the same time everywhere, to carry out a violent mass agitation, except at the bidding of an organization or an important personality? Is it really just a series of one-time, reckless actions by a few impulsive people?

No. Had it been so, the matter would have concluded in just a day or so. This is why the jihadist attacks continued through the next day as well.

Saturday, 14th December 2019

After the atrocities of 13th December, normalcy was expected to return over the next day. What actually happened was just the opposite. It had become clear to the Islamist mobs that the state police administration was not going to do anything about the atrocities, for the state government's support lies very much with the Islamists. Even the self-proclaimed intellectuals of West Bengal did not spare a word except for homilies about the importance of peace, thus conveniently refraining from sending out a strongly worded caution to the aggressors. As a result, the jihad-driven people in various Muslim-majority localities took to the streets with renewed vigour to destroy public property and to point out in no uncertain terms that in West Bengal, the Islamist power has the last word. Anandabazarreports:

“In protest against the new Citizenship Act, unrest continued in various parts of the state even on Saturday. After blocking roads and rail lines in various parts of Murshidabad, North 24 Parganas, and Howrah, a number of trains were set ablaze in quick succession while many railway stations were ransacked. Fire was set to a toll plaza and a number of buses. At the railway station in Harishchandrapur of Malda district, stones were hurled at trains after a thorough ransacking of the station compound. Around the clock, scheduled trains on the Hasnabad, and the Lalgola-Krishnanagar routes remained cancelled. At the end of the day, the general public had to

bear the brunt of it all.”

(Anandabazar, 15th December, 2019)

Though the staunch ‘Secularists’ at Anandabazar suppressed the truth of the incidents, other newspapers reported a fair bit of it. After targeting the railway stations, an unrestrained jihadist mob now descended on the Kona Expressway since Saturday morning. The singular aim behind these actions was to display the jihadist might before the people of West Bengal and its political parties and mainly the destruction of public property in the name of opposing the Citizenship Amendment Act. Bartaman(15th December) writes about the incident on Saturday:

“Our Correspondent, Howrah: Tensions regarding the Citizenship Act on Saturday turned Kona Expressway into a veritable battle field. At least 19 vehicles were set ablaze near Garfa since morning when the blockading began. 9 out of these were completely reduced to ashes. There was also brutal ransacking of 30-40 buses. To bring the situation under control, cops resorted to widespread lathi-charge and teargas shelling. In spite of that, they faced difficulties throughout the day in bringing frenzied masses under control. Some people were found blocking the road near the Garfa region on the Kona Expressway. When cops attempted to lift the blockade, demonstrators pelted bricks aiming at journalists and police

personnel from near the Aamta-line overhead. Consequently, cops had a tough time in bringing the situation under control. A number of police personnel had sustained injuries in the struggle, along with the DC of Howrah City Police (South Zone)- Swati Bhangalia. Some time later, a huge police force was deployed, which brought the situation under control. Under such circumstances on this day, Kona Road remained practically shut since morning to the utter harassment of thousands. Cabs lined up upto the Second Hooghly Bridge at one end, and upto Ankurhati More on the other.”

(Bartaman 15th December 2019)

Regarding the jihadist atrocities on Saturday, **EiSamay**(15th December) reports:

“7 buses burnt to ashes- Tyres were set ablaze in the middle of the road within just a short time. The fire was continuously being stoked by those surrounding it with pieces of straw, timberwood, and dry bark thrown into the flames. All Kolkata-bound traffic on the highway was stuck right before the rail bridge. And the southward bound traffic from Kolkata came to a halt right before the Santragachi railway station. At the time, there were only a few cops around. The City Police arrived at the location with a large number of cops

gathered from various police outposts in the vicinity for the sole purpose of tackling the situation. The demonstrators were further incensed by this turn of events. The police gave them precisely ten minutes to lift the blockade. When this didn't work, the cops charged at the mob with raised batons. At around quarter to 11, the mass-demonstration practically went out of control. A terrible series of skirmishes between the mob and the police force now ensued. The belligerent mob was then going for a counter attack at the charging police forces. Bricks and stones were being continuously pelted at the police. In front of the Garfa rail bridge, many were throwing granite chunks picked up from the railway tracks. That is when the police allegedly began lathi-charging.

While entering Kolkata via the national highway, a long queue of buses got stuck at the mouth of the bridge. Fearing trouble, most passengers alighted at this point and started to walk towards the highway. However, some of them have claimed that it was an aggressive mob which forced the passengers out of the buses. The passengers were also robbed of their belongings. By then, the deserted bus was already ransacked several times. Chased by the police, the mob set ablaze at least 15 buses. Out of these, 7 buses - which include 2 state buses and 5 long-distance, private ones, were completely reduced to ashes. Later, the mob retreated when the police fired tear-gas at them. The fire brigade, even after arriving

at the spot, couldn't go near the burning buses due to the continuous brick pelting. Coming under the attack with bricks, a number of police personnel also sustained injuries.

When walking down the street that day, Alam Khan had found himself in the midst of an ongoing skirmish. He said, 'A row of buses were up in flames. The entire compound was filled with cinder and smoke. Only later, the police were able to control the situation with relentless lath-charging.' However, the DC of Howrah City Police (South) Swati Bhangalia claimed that the police did not lathi-charge. The demonstrators were simply chased away. A few journalists too faced harassment that day when they went to take photographs of the situation. The mobile phone of a person among the crew of an electronic media house was snatched away by the demonstrators and smashed to the ground."

(EiSamay, 15th December, 2019)

This was merely about what happened that day on the Kona Expressway. About the same time, Muslim mobs went on a rampage at **Sankrail Railway Station** in Howrah. **EiSamay**(15 December) writes:

"When tensions were at its peak on the Kona Expressway, tyres were also burning at Champatala of Sankrail. Around 11:10 am, a frantic mob started rampaging through Sankrail Station. The rubberized surface at level-crossing number 13

was torn out. The boom gate at the level crossing too was smashed to smithereens. The ticket counter was thoroughly ransacked and set to fire. Next, they entered the cabin and wrecked the control panel. As a result, the entire railway signalling system broke down. The cemented platform seats could be found lying about on the rail tracks. Even the tea stall at the platform was not spared from their wrath. A full-scale rampage was carried out at Chengail Railway Station by wrecking its ticket counter, train compartments, and shops on the platform. A fire set on the level crossing sparked an outrage among the general public. The mob set a few tyres ablaze on the railway line at Bauria station. Several trains were laid over at Nalpur and BankraBajar stations as well. Consequently, railway traffic came to a standstill on the South-East route completely.”

(EiSamay. 15 December, 2019)

Headline and reportage in the Bengali daily Bartaman, regarding the jihadist havoc wreaked at Sankrail Railway Station:

Massive wreckage at Sankrail Rail Station, public property set on fire, railway panel smashed to smithereens, railway service badly hit

Pappa Guha, Uluberia- The station master’s cabin has been ransacked. The ticket counter was up in flames. So was the East Cabin. The panel room has been razed to the ground.

In the blink of an eye, Sankrail rail station of the South-east section of railways has transformed into a different place. After the violence of Friday afternoon, service at Sankrail Station in South-East Railway was disrupted once again on Saturday. Today demonstrators blockaded the rail line at Bauria, Nalpur, and Sankrail railway stations, and surrounding areas. Kalinagar, Garuhata More, College More, Shyampur, Bagnan, and various other areas of Uluberia witnessed massive agitation with burning tyres on the road. In effect, it was a bandh in the Uluberia subdivision. However, the agitation was at its most violent at Sankrail. Besides ransacking the station compound, the station master's cabin too was wrecked. The ticket counter and its adjoining cabin were set ablaze. The level crossing was ransacked to the effect of having its panels crushed to bits. The burning fury of the demonstrators, caused irreparable damage to a large number of public properties in its wake. Soon, the fire of rage spread to surrounding areas. In the Champatala area, right by the rail line, tyres were burnt on the road by demonstrators as a display of agitation. There were even such allegations of bricks being pelted at houses in the neighbourhood. By Saturday noon, the entire station compound seemed to have lost all its distinguishable features with charred objects all around, broken chairs and furniture strewn all over the station. The rail police and the state police stood at a distance all the while. On approaching the station, it was found that

there was no trace of anything left, starting from the ticket counter to the station master's office. A railway employee unwilling to disclose his identity narrated to us, "Given the ferocity with which the excited mob ransacked the station, we feel grateful just to come out of the trouble alive!" On the other hand, local resident Aparna Knadar told us that the pelting of bricks by the demonstrators on their houses had terrified them.. The disruption of railway traffic again since Saturday morning inconvenienced a great many people, starting from daily commuters to the general public. Sandhya Ghosh, a resident of Rajabazar, Kolkata said, "I was supposed to return home on Saturday. On arriving at the station I learned about the disruption of railway services." The daily-commuting flower vendors of Panskura-Howrah Local who had come to sell flowers at Howrah, had to throw away all their flowers on the rail line, after getting laid over indefinitely at Uluberia. Flower vendor Goutam Hazra said, 'In this situation of on-going rail line blockades, reaching the market after the appointed time will mean a setback in our sales. So, I had to throw away all the flowers.' In another instance of public harassment, UmashankarGuchhayit, a teacher, said, 'Despite arriving at the station on time this morning, I could not make it to the school due to the cancellation of trains.' Meanwhile, on Saturday, railway services were brought to a complete standstill after the incidents of vandalism and arson at the Sankrail Station. The station master at Sankrail, Mr. Nirmalya

Chattopadhyay, informed us, “the manner in which the panel has been vandalised, it would be extremely difficult to bring the railway services back to normal. We are trying our best to normalise railway services by repairing it.” On the other hand, while commenting upon the incident of vandalism and arson, Mr. Sanjay Ghosh, the chief of public relations at South-Eastern Railway said that he was left without any word to comment on this issue.”

(Bartaman, 15 December 2019)

Let us now turn to Murshidabad: On 14th December, Islamists had a free run in Murshidabad. It was the very picture of what would happen in West Bengal in the days to come. Since the Railways is a subject of the Central Government, rail property became the primary target of these attacks. The Islamist violence which unfolded throughout 14th December has been reported by **Sangbad Pratidin (15 December 2019)**. The daily writes,

“Five trains consecutively set ablaze completely from one end to the end, from the very first coach to the last one. Two trains parked at the station were up in blazing flames. The wreckage of railway properties piled up all around and the air was heavy with the screams of terrorized passengers. Amidst all this, one could hear the war cries of the fanatic attackers. The scene at Murshidabad’s Krishnapur Station on Saturday evening was representative of the burning situation that has been created in some areas of West Bengal by the protesters

against the Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA). From Kona Expressway in Howrah to Beldanga in Murshidabad, extensive areas of the state, much like on Friday, were engulfed in the flames of unprecedented protest and agitation on Saturday as well. In most of the cases, the agitation turned into plain and simple hooliganism. Cars and buses were set on fire after roads were blocked by burning tyres, passengers were forcibly made to get down midway. The simultaneous blockade of the rail lines caused trains to stop and heightened the harassment of common people.”

“The heat of the anti-CAA agitations spread to West Bengal early on Friday. After the mayhem of Friday that lasted till evening at Howrah, Murshidabad, and the North and South 24-Parganas, on this day, the flames of agitation spread with renewed vigour. The real shocker was the picture at Murshidabad. Around 4 pm, the demonstrators started arson at Lalgola Station. Next, two trains parked at Krishnapur Station were set on fire as well. The entire train was engulfed by the flames. However, that train of the Sealdah-Lalgola route was mostly vacant. As a result, there was no casualty. Three coaches of a train parked at Beldanga Station were set on fire. A fire brigade engine sent to put out the flames, was set on fire too and burnt down. Demonstrations were held in phases throughout the day at Berhampur, Beldanga, Lalgola, Domkal, Suti, Shamsheganj, Sagardighi,

Raghunathganj, Jangipur, and Farakka. Railway blockade, blockade of the National and State highways, arson targeting the public property, ransacking - everything happened. The PWD office, the bus stand, and the post-office at the Lalgola Bazar area were set on fire. Saturday's blockade held on National Highway-38 in different phases, disrupted public life. Multiple railway stations in the Murshidabad district, including Lalgola, Krishnapur, Beldanga, Poradanga, Nimtita, Dhuliyani, Basudebpur, etc were reduced to ashes. The protesters also dug out railway tracks at Poradanga Station with spades. There were allegations of ransacking of the Samserganj Police Station. No doubt, it was an eventful day for Murshidabad. Bricks were pelted in Islampur at the house of the President of Raninagar-1 Panchayat Samity. There were instances of cars and motorcycles being set on fire. The situation at Howrah, a district adjacent to Kolkata, was no different than that at the border-district of Murshidabad. Howrah was rife with incidents of violence. Demonstration and vandalism followed at the rail stations of Bauria, Sankrail, and Uluberia. At Sankrail, the ticket counter was set on fire. The East Cabin and the station manager's room, and the panel room at the station was ransacked: the agitators registered their protest against the CAA by burning tyres on the rail tracks at this station. As a result, railway traffic was disrupted. The effect of this disruption manifested on Mumbai Road. People held up at different sections of the Mumbai Road

suffered. Demonstration continued throughout the day in Uluberia, Bagnan, Shyampur, and many other areas in the Howrah district. The situation became extremely tense at Kona Expressway. Angry demonstrations were staged here by burning tyres. When the police came to clear away the demonstrators, a skirmish broke out between the mob and the cops. The police were targeted with bricks. Officers and other personnel of the Howrah City Police department sustained injuries. The police lathi-charged and dispersed the mob of demonstrators. The demonstrators set seven state buses on fire after forcing the passengers to get down. Allegations also came up about setting police vehicles on fire. Ultimately, cops had to fire tear-gas shells to bring the situation under control. There were allegations of rubber bullets being fired. Railway traffic on the Howrah route was considerably affected due to the blockade of the rail line. Incidents of day-long unrest on the Sealdah-Hasnabad route of the North 24 Parganas came to light. Rail traffic was disrupted due to the blockades and demonstrations throughout the day. Demonstrations were held in phases at Amdanga on National Highway-34. In front of a store in Santoshpur of Duttapukur town where demonstrations were going on, oil heating on a kadhai had been allegedly thrown at the demonstrators. Seven people have sustained injuries due to this incident. Right after this, the demonstrators turning belligerent, started ransacking stores in the neighborhood. There were incidents of arson too.

The unrest has affected cross-border trade as well. Besides, Harishchandra station of Malda district was ransacked, and there were cases of arson as well. From commuters to cops, a lot of people have sustained injuries due to the brick hurled by the agitators. The picture was much the same for demonstrations at Bardhaman, Birbhum, and Nadia.

(Sangbad Pratidin 15 December 2019).

Read again, carefully:

“Two trains parked at the station were up in blazing flames. The wreckage of railway properties piled up all around and the air was heavy with the screams of terrorized passengers. Amidst all this, one could hear the war cries of the fanatic attackers.”

Just think, where is it that you are living, a place where Islamist mobs can create such a traumatic scene, unhindered. Is it India, or Pakistan? Read again:

“Three coaches of a train parked at Beldanga Station were set on fire. A fire brigade engine sent to put out the flames, was too set on fire and burnt down.”

One by one, railway stations were burning -- “Multiple railway stations in the Murshidabad district, including Lalgola, Krishnapur, Beldanga, Poradanga, Nimtita, Dhuliyar, Basudebpur, etc were reduced to ashes. The protesters also dug

out railway tracks at Poradanga Station with spades.” This is the description of a battlefield. Who are the people that waged this war? Whom this war is being waged against? It is high time that we get a clear understanding of this. An understanding of why Islamist mobs waged this war and also why the state’s police administration is silent on it.

“In unprecedented violence, anti-CAB agitators set fire to several trains which were parked at the loco-shed at Krishnapur railway station, the penultimate station located close to Lalgola, the terminal station in Sealdah-Lalgola sections. At Beldanga railway station, protesters who set the station ablaze yesterday, were allowed to carry on with their dance of destruction today”.

(The Statesman, 15 December 2019).

Read carefully: The Islamist mob of Murshidabad came and set fire to three trucks parked at the locomotive shade of Krishnapur railway station siding. Is this possible in a mere political demonstration? Only a day earlier, Beldanga station was set on fire, but the very next day, the same rioters were there to indulge in wilful destruction of railways property without having to face any obstacle. The Statesman (15 December, 2019) has elaborated further:

“The fire engine that arrived at Beldanga from Behrampore was set on fire while the fire fighters saved themselves by

taking shelter at Beldanga police station, said fire officials here. Three vehicles were lying charred inside the Beldanga-I BDO office ground, that was vandalized yesterday.”

These firefighters who had come to douse the fire at Beldanga, somehow escaped the scene to take refuge at a police station. The fire department’s vehicle was burnt down as well. The Islamist rioters have burnt down even the quarters of the railway police.” “The iron cots of the GRP personnel at Beldanga were charred as the attackers went upstairs and set fire to the first floor of the building yesterday.” “ God saved my life. I managed to escape, ‘ said Mr. PriyanathHaldar, a GRP personnel. He said that he had hidden himself inside a political party office”.

(The Statesman, 15 December 2019).

The Railway Police quarters at the Beldanga Station had been charred. PriyanathHaldar, a railway police personnel, told us: “God saved my life. I managed to escape”. But, for how long will the Hindus of West Bengal keep fleeing for their lives?

The English daily **The Telegraph** has published a document listing the various places in West Bengal where jihadist violence took place. From among these, let’s see what the situation was in various places, except for the ones already discussed.

Nimtita, Murshidabad District- Jihadist mobs attacked the Nimtita Station in the morning. The office of the station master

and the ticket counter was burnt to ashes. Next, the mob sat on a demonstration on the railway tracks, thus bringing railway traffic to a standstill.

Sargachi, Murshidabad District- The Sargachi Station came under a massive destructive attack. The Station Master's office and the ticket counter were burnt to the ground.

Suti, Murshidabad District - Three state buses were set on fire. Next, the National Highway 12 was blockaded

Samsherganj, Murshidabad District - The jihadist mob attacked the Samsherganj police station and threw stones inside the compound.

Murarai, Birbhum District - Almost five thousand people sat on a demonstration on the railway tracks, bringing the rail traffic at a standstill. As a result, many important trains were laid over at different places.

Sondalia-Lebutala, North 24 Parganas - Railway tracks were blocked at Sondalia-Lebutala Station on the Barasat-Hasnabad route, holding up railway traffic. Stones were pelted at the train and the station office was ransacked. Blockading the National Highway 12 with burning tyres on the road, at least 500 trucks importing goods to Bangladesh were held up. These trucks often carry various perishable goods which are prone to be wasted away, if trucks are held up for too long.

Harishchandrapur, Malda District - Along with a few hundred jihadist youth, adolescents too led the attacks that destroyed platform chairs, ticket booking counter, computers and more. Stones were hurled at the railway personnel. These rioters blocked the Malda-Katihar passenger train, generating fear among the passengers.

Kaliachak, Malda District - Kaliachak is a familiar name when it comes to Islamist terrorism . Here, college students and the local mob blocked the roads. **(The Telegraph, 15 December 2019)**

The daylong incidents of Saturday have been summarized by Times of India **(15 December, 2019):**

“Buses, trains, stations torched as stir over new law turns into vandalism – Violent agitations over the Citizenship Amendment Act rocked parts of Bengal on Saturday with four districts – Murshidabad, Howrah, Maldah and North 24 Parganas – emerging as flashpoints where protesters torched at least 17 buses, five empty trains, fire engines and police vehicles, vandalized half a dozen rail stations, hurled stones at passing vehicles and fought a pitched battle with police. In Murshidabad’s Jangipur, there were reports of **protesters using children as human shields.**”

It’s an utterly war-like situation in which children have been dragged to participate. Not just in Jangipur, these Muslim

children and adolescents got to sharpen their skills at everything from stone pelting to arson in different places on various occasions. Far from firing, the police remained completely passive. Naturally, there is no report of any casualty among the rioters from the police's lathi-charge or any other types of attacks on them. As a matter of fact, there was no sincerity in any of the statements issued by figures ranging from the Chief Minister to the self-proclaimed intellectuals. There were only some hollow calls for peace, pleadings for not taking law in one's own hands, and weak threats of punitive action. Evidently, these jihadist rioters knew in advance that the police, shall not take any action against them. When Islamic fundamentalists had made Central Kolkata burn for a day in order to expel the renowned Bangladeshi writer Taslima Nasrin from West Bengal(2007), or when the jihadist mob ransacked Hindu households at Deganga, the police force under Buddhadev Bhattacharya, the communist Chief Minister of the state, simply did nothing. During the Trinamool regime too, the police never seemed to do much, be it about the burning of police vehicles at Kaliachak by an Islamist mob, at Dhulagarh or, Rajabazar tram depot where 46 buses, 11 cars, and 2 trams were burnt down (2012), and in many other similar cases as well. As a result, the jihadist mob despite unleashing violence on Friday, took to the streets on Saturday to unleash more violence without any repercussions, thus showing West Bengal who really runs the state. So, why would they cease their operations even on a Sunday?

Sunday, 15th December 2019

Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee knew fully that her appeals and directives beamed on television had no impact, in fact if one studied the trend and pattern of violence, these were routine appeals made with no intention to bring the situation in control. On Sunday, the next and the third day of the protests, the jihadist mob took to the streets in order to complete the dance of destruction that they had started in West Bengal. **Sangbad Pratidin (16 December, 2019)** writes,

“Though the capital city remained peaceful on Sunday, havoc continued in full force in the adjacent regions as well as in the districts. Miscreants carrying lathis, rods, and other arms ran amok in Diamond Harbour, Caning, Pujali, Akra, and Maheshtala in the South 24 Parganas. Railway service on the Diamond Harbour and Budge Budge routes was disrupted for an extended period. Akra station in Budge Budge was set ablaze. The passengers were attacked. Two trains were wrecked. The police came under attack. The blockade on the highways resulted in Kulpi, Namkhana, Kakdwip being cut off. ... Several hundreds of armed miscreants attacked the Bhaluka Station in Malda. After rampant vandalism at the station, the station master’s cabin was soaked with petrol and then set

ablaze. The terrorized railway staff fled the scene. The rail police had to surrender helplessly. On Saturday, a similar rampage was conducted here at Harishchandrapur Station. The situation in different localities of Murshidabad reached explosive proportions on Sunday. Both the roadways and the railway closed down almost entirely due to the havoc caused here by a fanatic mob. Everywhere, the modus operandi remained the same - blockade created by burning tyres in the middle of the road. Railway blockades also occurred on the Farakka, Jangipur, Katoa routes. 11 state buses were ransacked. Sagardighi, Sheikhdighi, Naoda, Raghunathganj - the flames of unrest seemed to be burning everywhere. Some people barged into the BJP-office of Bardhaman and vandalized it. Unrest grew in a number of areas. To handle the fast escalating unrest in these areas which comprised of a mixed religious population, extra forces were soon deployed. A BJP office was ransacked in Kotashur, Mayureshwar of Birbhum district. In this area, the anti-CAA mobs barged into several houses with the intention of vandalising these..

“Jaipur in Bankura district has been burnt. There too, the BJP office was set on fire. The Bishnupur-Kotulpur highway was blocked. It was alleged that a few shops were attacked at Jaipur-More by people who were part of a rally by the ruling party. Tyres were burnt on the streets. Traders were harassed and beaten up. The situation was volatile in North

24 Parganas too. Amdanga has been under blockade for three days straight. Nearby in Kamdevpur, on the National Highway 34, demonstrators were practically living on the streets, cooking and having their meals twice a day. No Behrampur or other north-bound buses could pass. Trouble broke out at the blockade in Deganga. At Barasat too, BJP offices were ransacked during the blockade. The BJP held another blockade in response. Overall, the picture of unrest in the state remained the very same. More scenes of these terrors were gradually coming into focus.”

Sangbad Pratidin (16 December, 2019)

In simple words, West Bengal remained captive in the hands of the Jihadists for three days. The analogy of a protest against a law debated and passed by the Indian Parliament:

“Some people ran amok in Diamond Harbour, Caning, Pujali, Akra, and Maheshtala of South 24 Parganas carrying batons, rods, and other arms.”

But the situation grew even more terrifying. **EiSamay (16 December, 2019)** reports:

“What’s notable here in the attacks on Bhaluka Station on this date is that various small rallies first gathered before the Bhaluka Road Station under the banner of the national flag.

The moment the gathering swelled, the miscreants became active. After setting the ticket counter and the station manager's cabin ablaze, the mob lined up on the railway tracks. Tyres too were burnt on the tracks.”

It was a strategy meant to deceive and it was also an insult to the National Flag. As we have mentioned earlier, there were no party or organizational banners, no leaflets, no leaders, yet, the destruction continued on a war footing. The abuse of the National Flag, children, and adolescents were also seen. Incidentally, no woman could be spotted in these marauding mobs. But later this pattern would change. In protests across India, that ensued after the orchestrated anti-CAA violence in West Bengal, women would be , used at the forefront - from Shahin Bagh to Park Circus.

This Jihadist strategy was not only about setting a few stations on fire, but more about upsetting the railway network. For West Bengal, the most significant network is the North-South Railway connectivity. **The EiSamay's (16 December, 2019)** headline mentioned - “North Cut Off”. The Jihadists disrupted this connectivity, rendering it non-functional. They wanted to test the waters for future operations, with perhaps slogans like - ladkelenge Paschim Bangal!

This massive assault is not the work of a few miscreants, but rather the handiwork of an entire Jihadi network - **Times of**

India (16 December, 2019) writes,

“Around 11.30am, a mob of around 15,000 – chanting anti-CAA slogans – gathered outside Bhaluka Road station in Malda. They ransacked the ticket counter and set it on fire. Then they ransacked the station master’s room. The station master managed to escape, but some railway men were assaulted”.

Fifteen thousand people rallied to the station and set the place on fire. At some places, the Trinamool Congress got directly involved in such affairs. **Times of India (16 December, 2019)** writes:

“At Karandighi, North Dinajpur, a Trinamool procession came out in protest of CAA and NRC around 11 am. Some from the procession came out to attack buses on the road. At least five buses were set on fire.”

The English daily **The Telegraph (15 December, 2019)** has published a list of places where the state-wide jihadist havoc of Sunday (15 December, 2019) were concentrated upon. Here is that description in brief:

Rejinagar, Murshidabad District - A mob of 4,000 ransacked the ticket room, and office cabins. Next, they blocked National Highway 12.

Sagardighi, Murshidabad District - A mob of 3,000 blocked the National Highway 12.

Manigram, Murshidabad District - A mob consisting of more than 3,000, ransacked the Manigram rail station for two hours straight. The railway personnel fled the station after the violence and destruction caused by the mob.

Farakka, Murshidabad District - Nearly 2,000 miscreants ransacked the Tildanga rail station. They destroyed the ticket room and office room at the station.

Lohapur, Birbhum District - Nearly 2,000 miscreants ransacked the station and its office furniture, then threw work files on the tracks and set fire.

Batashpur, Birbhum District - Blockade on the railway line at Batashpur near Sainthia for two hours.

Murarai, Birbhum District - Murarai-Raghunathganj highway was blocked for three hours.

Khandaghosh, East Bardhaman District - The BJP office was ransacked and set ablaze.

Howrah District - More than two-thousand people blocked the roads at Lichutala, Aamta, and Patiyal, while continuing to throw burning tyres at vehicles.

Akra, South 24 Parganas District - A mob having more than two thousand miscreants ransacked the Akra rail station, and set its ticketing room and the station master's cabin ablaze.

North 24 Parganas District - The national highway 12 was blocked in Kamdevpur region of Amdanga. Roads were blocked at Sonadanga and Dhankal More while tyres and wooden planks were set on fire. At Bhyabla, Deganga, and Jibanpore, Congress supporters were found blocking the roads.

Nadia District - After gathering at the Insaaf Club grounds of Chapra, the mob blocked the Karimpur-Krishnapur Road next.

A well-plotted, three-day long, jihadi destruction cycle was thus unleashed in West Bengal. Chief-Minister Mamata Banerjee, her party the Trinamool Congress, the CPI(M), and the Congress - kept issuing their vacuous appeals for peace to the Jihadist miscreants. Additionally, by keeping the Government and the administration passive, all of the above-mentioned political parties made sure that the Jihadi plot of anti-CAA violence had an impact. In a sense, West Bengal became a replica of Pakistan for these three days. The Citizenship Act is a parliamentary issue, it is an Act that was debated, discussed and passed by the Indian Parliament, but in West Bengal open mayhem was allowed to be carried out in order to protest against it. This reminded us of the days of the Great Calcutta Killing, and especially of that slogan –ladkelenge Pakistan.

The Great Calcutta Killing of 1946 and the Jihadist violence of 2019

13th December 2019, on a jumma-day, Muslim mobs lit fires at various places in West Bengal in protest against the Citizenship Amendment Act or CAA. This is no exaggeration - three daily newspapers carried similar-sounding headlines like - “Fire of protests now burning the state”, “Fire against Citizenship Act lit in Bengal too”, “Demonstration with rampage and arson as tensions rise in Murshidabad Station”. It is not possible, without prior planning, to organise violent demonstrations of similar nature on the same day, at the same time in - Park Circus, Metiaburz, Uluberia, Beldanga, Garden Reach, New Town, Dharmatala, Purulia, West Midnapur, Howrah, Murshidabad, and various other places. And, this continued uninterrupted for three days, although, no organization took responsibility for this. It’s doubly interesting to mark that, though demonstrations against CAA had broken out at several places in the country, nowhere had these assumed such destructive proportions. This kind of havoc and destruction began with Kolkata.

16th August, 1946, a jumma-day. Under the leadership of Muhammad Ali Jinnah, the Muslim League had called for Direct

Action Day across India. The first strike of this blood-curdling operation fell on Kolkata. Announcing his 'Direct Action', Jinnah had said- 'so far, the British have threatened us with their machine guns and the Congress with their weapon of non-cooperation. Now we have possession of pistols and we are ready to use them too.' The preparation for this mass-scale attack was taking place in Kolkata. Historian Suranjan Das (Vice-chancellor, Jadavpur University) writes in his book Communal Riots in Bengal 1905-1947 (Oxford University Press: 1991 & 1993), how since a few days prior to the riots, the Muslim League would regularly hold public meetings from one hooligan-infested slum to another. Then Bengal Premier H.S. Suhrawardy himself would participate in these meetings. After this, on 16th August 1946, Muslim League- sponsored riots broke out.

Today's anti -CAA attacks and violence (December 2019) led by Muslim mobs all over West Bengal is reminding people of 1946.. A leaflet shared on Direct-Action Day, reads - 'Don't lose hope. Take up your sword. O Kafir, your destruction is not very far.' An image of Jinnah brandishing a sword was printed on the leaflet. Everyone saw the pictures of the violent protests of 13th to 15th December 2019 that were beamed on television, and were printed in newspapers. Thousands of people donning the typical Islamic religious dress setting fire to properties, pelting stones on innocent passengers while blocking a train, ransacking shops and market places. It was exactly like Direct Action Day! It

was not the routine type of protests. It was a proclamation that –“we have got guns.”

Now let us see, Direct-Action of August 1946 and the ‘Direct Action’ of 13th December 2019 are similar. The demand of the 1946-event was for the creation of Pakistan - a Muslim homeland. And a violent assault was launched in its pursuit. The Communist Party of India supported the creation of Pakistan. To organize the riots, the Muslim League government announced a general strike on the 16th of August. The Congress and the Hindu Mahasabha opposed this move, whereas, the communists supported it.. The anti-CAA “Direct-Action” of 13th December 2019 aimed at making West Bengal into another extension of Pakistan. The demand for the citizenship of the refugees arriving from Bangladesh has been around for a long time. Political parties of all shades, be it - the Congress, the communist parties, or the Trinamool Congress, were in favor of this demand. It was therefore expected that everybody would support the Citizenship Amendment Act. In fact, the same political parties had extended their support for the law in Assam. But the revised Citizenship Law also prevents the acquiring of fake citizenship by Muslims entering India illegally. But the communist parties in India have always stood in support of Islamic fundamentalism. The Trinamool Congress is an election-centric political party. For the Trinamool Congress, the key to acquiring power in West Bengal and holding on to

the same, depends primarily on its influence over the large number of Muslim infiltrators. Consequently, the party has now developed fully into an organization which appeases Islamic fundamentalism. So, the opposition to the CAA is a key political obligation for this party. It does not matter to the Trinamool Congress and to its leadership that its opposition to the CAA is providing a fillip to the most rabid Islamic elements, it does not matter to them if their blind opposition to the CAA leads to the creation of a Pakistan like formation in West Bengal, these are the least of the Trinamool Congress's concerns. Evidently, the movement for the creation of Pakistan in the year 1946 has made a comeback in the form of the "Direct Action" observed on 13 December, 2019.

What role did the government and administration assume during the event of Direct-Action Day of 1946? As mentioned, the Premier of Bengal H.S. Suhrawardy himself was busy organizing riots in 1946. Trucks, petrol, and kerosene were supplied to the rioters from the government. Premier Suhrawardy was himself present at the Lalbazar [Police Headquarters] control room to ensure that the police did not act against the Muslim League rioters. Unresisted loot and murder was the order of the day. Maulana Azad and Fazlul Haque, both held the League government responsible for the riots. In the Bengal Legislative Assembly, Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee raised questions directed at Suhrawardy - why had Suhrawardy handed the city over to

goons, hijackers, and looters on that fateful day? Suhrawardy was alleged to have gone to the police station and bailed out the criminals. Dr Mookerjee called Suhrawardy the 'kingpin of criminal activities'. Who might be that kingpin in present-day West Bengal?

Don't the happening of 1946 have a chilling similarity with today's West Bengal? A Chief Minister going to the police station, bailing out criminals, that's a picture we all know too well. Premier Suhrawardy, too kept the cops benched at the station so that the goons of the Muslim League could have a free run. It is completely in the same manner that Islamic fundamentalists organized a day-long program of ransacking, looting, and unleashing arson in central Kolkata in the year 2007 while demanding for the deportation of Taslima Nasreen. The then-Chief Minister Buddhadev Bhattacharjee, a notable communist intellectual, failed to take any action. Later, the army had to be called in. In 2010 at Deganga too, though Islamic fundamentalists had organized mass ransacking, loot and arson, and Buddhadev Bhattacharjee's CPIM led Left Front government had stood by passively. This time, it is the Trinamool Congress which stood by passively. The police failed to take act, even when people belonging to a certain community set ten police vans ablaze and beat up cops after pushing them into a local pond in Bhangar (South 24 Parganas) in 2017. Police action was withheld when thousands of Islamic fundamentalists

burned down police outposts at Kaliachak. Between 13th and 15th December 2019, ransacking, loot, and arson went on throughout the day before the TV camera. The police barely did its job. There was not attempt at all to bring the situation under control.

Thousands of people were killed in the riot of '46. Direct Action in Kolkata was greeted with resistance, a couple of days after the riots had begun. Resistance started in full force. It was the active resistance put up by the Hindus that finally undermined the Islamic attack. As a result, Kolkata could not be made into a part of Pakistan, that is why almost all the Chief Ministers of West Bengal - from Prafulla Ghosh, to Prafulla Sen, to Jyoti Basu and Buddhadev Bhattacharjee - despite their East Bengal origin - could go on reigning in this state. West Bengal was created as a homeland of Bengali Hindus. Can today's Jihadist attack be repelled just as it was in 1946?

Can you see the reflection of 1946 in this?

1946	2019
16 August, Jummabar, planned attacks begin.	13 December, Jummabar, planned attacks begin.
Objective- To include Bengal into Pakistan.	Objective- To transform Bengal into a sort of Pakistan.
Strategy: Violent assaults, generating fear among the Bengali people and thus push to make Bengal a part of Pakistan.	Strategy: Violent assaults to generate fear among the Bengali people to to push for the cancellation of CAA.
Police inaction	Police inaction
How did Kolkata still remain a part of India? Through active resistance of the Bengali people.	How could West Bengal deport infiltrators from her lands? By bringing the CAA into force through the active participation and support of the Bengali people.

Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee, Acharya Jadunath Sarkar, Acharya Suniti Kumar Chattopadhyaya, scientists Meghnad Saha and Sisir Mitra, historian Ramesh Chandra Mazumdar, and various other thought-leaders of Bengal wanted freedom from Islamist persecution and a homeland for free-thinking Hindu Bengalis. That homeland is West Bengal. They knew, that Hindus be able to follow/practice their religion and culture, and preserve the dignity of their women in a Muslim-majority undivided Bengal. In that surmise they were one hundred percent correct, and that is evident from the waves of Hindu refugees from East Pakistan, and later from Bangladesh. The percentage of Hindus in total population of Bangladesh has shrunk from 29% in 1947 to 7% to the present. What is astonishing here is that with complete disregard to arithmetic, 19% the percentage of Muslims of the total population of West Bengal in 1951, has now multiplied to nearly 30%, from 19% despite thousands of Hindus arriving from outside frequently. This force of infiltrators today is ready to engulf West Bengal. Whenever it has been resisted through democratic and constitutional means, the Jihadists come out on streets rallying in the same way they had rallied for the creation of Pakistan in the past. It is our misfortune that the ruling political party of the state, the Trinamool Congress, is working in cahoots with Jihadist forces in order to hold onto their position of power. Just for the sake of opposing the BJP, parties like the CPI(M) and the Congress too are supporting such a jihadist nexus.

Isolated incidents of attack, vandalism, and violence against women were committed on various occasions. Bantala rapes, Dhantala assaults, Taslima Nasrin's deportation, Deganga riots, Rajabazar Tram Depot rampages, Naliakhali, Kulpi, Kamduni, Dhulagarh, Basirhat, Kaliachak - the list is too long – are the result of the same jihadi mindset. But the incident which trumped everything else this time, is not some isolated incidence, but this state-wide massive rampage going on for three days at a stretch. After all these days of savouring success through these isolated incidents, the Islamist groups are being challenged by the passing of the CAA. In opposing the CAA, the jihadi nexus in West Bengal has shown its true colours.

Forget not that you are never safe. Even if you live in an apparently safe neighborhood, you are not safe. Exactly 6 months before the anti-CAA violence took place in West Bengal, on the evening of 10th June 2019, a 75-year-old and ailing Muslim elderly person had died at the Nil Ratan Sircar Medical College in Kolkata. His relatives had then physically assaulted the hospital staff including female doctors. Apprehending more trouble, doctors called up the Entally police station, requesting for security. At 10 pm, a Muslim mob of 200 people came in a truck from Tiljala, located a few kilometers away, and recklessly beat up the doctors and hospital staff. Two doctors had to be admitted to the Intensive Care Unit. Despite knowing everything, the police remained inactive. Later, under pressure, and only

for optics, a handful of the patient's relatives were arrested. It means, that no matter where you are, a Muslim mob of 200 miscreants can arrive at your doorstep in a truck, beat you and assault the women of your houses with impunity and face no consequences for their action. This is the present state of West Bengal.

But as far as we are concerned, nothing has been forgotten, and nothing will be forgotten. Hence, we documented this report so that each rioter can be appropriately brought to justice, so that we can tackle those sections which insists on nurturing jihadist forces, so that we can end the politics of appeasement, identify every infiltrator, and retrieve that West Bengal dreamt of by Dr Syama Prasad Mookerjee and other great luminaries of Bengal.

If infiltrators are not resisted now, the West Bengal of tomorrow will become West Bangladesh. Are you ready to become a refugee again?



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