

Panel IV: The Cultural-Creative Dimension of the Naxalite Movement.

Presented by: Subharanjan Dasgupta

Discussant: Anil Acharya is a Bengali essayist, short story writer and poet. In 1966, he founded the Bengali literary quarterly and little magazine *Anustup*

Anil Acharya, the discussant, began the discussion with observations regarding the choice of texts and authors and its implications. He noted that the paper could have talked about works that gave a new dimension, instead of the common themes of revolution and changing of the society; works that reconstructed mythological stories. He further observed that the paper could have benefitted from the discussion of the role played by Little Magazine in the propagation of revolutionary ideas. He also pointed out that the movement had shades and fractures which are glossed over by the constant glorification of present times. He brought to attention the importance of discussing and reflecting on this multifaceted nature of the movement. He also brought attention to the significant role played by visual medium of arts such as Cinema; he cited the example of Mrinal Sen.

Prabhu Mahapatra observed that there is a tendency of homogenising all movements and ignoring the existence of contradictions, doubts and fractures between and within the movement. He enquired into these internal contradictions of the Naxalite movement of the 70s in order to facilitate a better understanding of it. Subharanjan, in response, brought attention to the host of emotions that were at play while the works were being written. He then proceeded to discuss about two branches of poetry that were being written at the time: one mainstream and the other which was not mainstream. Anil Acharya, once again threw light on the multidimensional aspect of the when he talked about translation exercises such as Telugu literature in Bengali which was happening for the first time and was responsible for a nationwide reach of the movement. There were other suggestions for names that could have been incorporated such as Nabarun Bhattacharya, Asim Ray and such other writers and poets. Their work, as was discussed, developed a new polemic about the Left politics of the times.