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The communists destroyed the industries in WB. A compilation of anecdotes from many online sources.

> #JyotiBasu was CM of WB for more than 23 continuous yrs, longer by far than any other CM of any Indian state. That remarkable tenure was made possible by his towering popularity, result of 7 decades of public & political service. #BengalSalutesJyotiBasu pic.twitter.com/MIzMlr6yBe
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> — CPI(M) WEST BENGAL (@CPIM_WESTBENGAL) January 17, 2021

1. At WB, there were 179 strikes and 49 incidents of lockout in factories in 1965, in 1970, the comparative figures were 678 and 128.

2. The Philips head Frits Philips came to visit the Beliaghata factory and was not allowed to enter it by the Left union.He asked help from the state govt, who did not come to his aid. Overnight the Philips board decided to shift all their investments to other states from Kolkata

3. In 1978, BK Birla's son, Aditya Birla, relocated to Mumbai. Apparently Aditya Birla was dragged out of his car near the GPO in Dalhousie Square, his clothes torn off, and made to walk to his office with the goons jeering him all the way.

4. The railways cut down orders, and companies dependent on IR orders such as Jessop & Company, Braithwaite, Burn & Company, Indian Standard Wagon, GKW and Metal Box were all affected.

Later Jessop, Braithwaite, Burn & Company and the Indian Standard Wagon were nationalised.

5. Lakshmipat Singhania set up Aluminium Corporation of India, India's first aluminium producer. One day, a works manager was thrashed by workers. The Left CM blamed the works manager. Workers switched off power supply to the smelters. In 1974, the company was nationalised.

6. After taking charge in March 1967, the United Front with CM Ajoy Mukherjee and Deputy CM Jyoti Basu issued a circular that the police would not be able to interfere in 'gheraos' unless it had the permission of the labour ministry.

7. This order resulted in a sharp increase in gheraos related to labour disputes. In March 1967 there were 32 gheraos, and by May 1967, there were 151 gheraos in West Bengal. They reached to 194 by Sept 1967. Fortunately, this useless govt was dismissed by the Centre in Nov 1967

8. One of the first 'Work from Home' was pioneered by the Birlas in 1970. The left wanted one umbrella union for all Birla companies, which was not possible. So, the Birlas decided to close down the offices, rented 32 flats and the babus started operating out of home for 2 years.

9. In Santaldih power station for instance, in 1979, the CITU workers prevented the engineers from repairing all the tubes of a boiler unit on the excuse that only one was leaking. "It is a conspiracy to undermine the left front government by shutting down the unit," they said

10. The infamous Ashok Kumar Night in Feb 1968. Women were reportedly dragged out, and their naked, dead bodies were found over the next two days. Left leaders addressed it as “the rise of the Proletariat against the Bourgeoisie”. The left rag Frontier Weekly watered it down ...



P. M. In Calcutta

There is still an enquiry in progress on certain reported incidents in Rabindra Sarobar stadium in July when there was to be held what was called Ashok Kumar "nite", in aid of the reputed Bombay actor. Brassieres were alleged to be all over the place, as the whole show broke up in chaos. Not that there were no incidents during the visit to Calcutta by the Prime Minister, Mrs Indira Gandhi; but the exhibits at the end of it all were rather less interesting. They were the iron gloves of such knights as Mr Atulya Ghosh and Mr Prafulla Sen. Both Mr Siddhartha Ray and Dr P. C. Chunder must have known that neither was "Prince Hamlet, nor was meant to be; ... one that will do to swell a progress, start a scene or two/Advise the Prince; no doubt an easy tool,/Deferential, glad to be of use,/Politic cautious and meticulous;/Full of high sentence, but a bit obtuse;/At times, indeed, almost ridiculous/Almost at times the Fool". Almost everybody in the dramatic personae in Calcutta last weekend appears to have played his or her part reasonably competently.

Mrs Gandhi is obviously out on a considerable public relations campaign, what the Americans would call a "whistle-stop campaign". It may well be that she badly needed this kind of a campaign, for the recently deflated "Syndicate" is by no means inactive. Mr Morarji Desai has already started talking of a satyagraha; Mr S. K. Patil has been roaring in his den in Bombay. If Mr Atulya Ghosh has not been using his supposedly uncontrollable tongue, as Mr P. C. Sen put it, most others have been articulate enough. Mr Sen's letter to Mr Siddhartha Ray well shows the state of the Congress in which Mr Atulya Ghosh's integrity needs a chit from Mr P. C. Sen and the Prime Minister has to go round the country collecting chits from the people that nationalisation of 14 banks was a great idea, always adding that this small step would make no difference at all to the fate of the people. The technique of doing something mainly symbolic, claiming great credit for it and immediately pleading that what has been done is negligible belongs to the Nehru tradition. This seems the kind of gimmickry the country likes, which is probably far less offensive than most of the stances taken by the so-called "Syndicate". Mrs Gandhi's socialism may be a limited quantity; it is; but the "gang" promises even less.

What Mrs Gandhi made of the rift in the West Bengal Congress may not be known for a long time. She may not even be greatly interested. Once it has been decided, not by Mrs Gandhi alone, that the retention of Nehru's daughter as the Prime Minister means by definition the greatest good of the country and its people, everything falls in place. An adverse demonstration at the Dum Dum Airport is as inconsequential as a big meeting on the Brigade Parade Ground. At least one reporter travelling with the Prime Minister told us that in the last two months since partial nationalisation of banks, Mrs Gandhi's stature had vastly improved; she is even a better speaker. But when is she going to say something?

Car Prices

Indian industrial tycoons are perhaps not in the habit of reading the history, either ancient or more recent, of events in other lands. Otherwise this was the occasion to quote to them the case of what happened to United States Steel when the firm decided unilaterelly to raise the price of steel in the summer of 1962: President Kennedy, seething with anger, ordered the Government machinery to swing into action, defence contracts for U.S. Steel were frozen, stocks of steel and steel products were released from the official installation; Roger Blough, chairman of the giant firm, did not even need twenty-four hours to turn properly penitent and annul the decision to jack up prices.

SEPTEMBER 20, 1969

10. Jyothi Basu at the fag end may have feared his Maker said "Socialism is a far cry and we have not achieved it yet.We have to remember that we are working within the capitalist system and private capital has to be used for industrialization" A turn around after causing mayhem.