

Lecture on MARXISM & THE CITY in "THE INFORMATION AGE"



By

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Radical Notes

This Lecture will be focused on following points

1. What is unique in approaching the city from the standpoint of Marxism? It is not so much about the facts of urbanity that Marxism might help in unearthing, rather it is about understanding what and how different levels of determination and mediation generate and constitute the urban processes.
2. The approach that Marxism adopts is not essentially to provide a more sophisticated sociology of urban experience, but to make available a dialectical critique of the city to reveal the fissures in the process of its reproduction, thus to make sense of the rhythm of our urban experience, everyday life and the possibilities therein.
3. Marxist approaches destroy the myth of capitalist urbanisation and mediation as an 'abstract homogeneous progression', revealing the narrow gates through which transformative subjectivities can emerge.
4. In the age of so-called information capitalism, the everydayness of the city is becoming evermore hyper-alienated and hyper-intensified; yet it is more thoroughly networked in a panoptic sense through a plethora of mediatic forms. Can various critical approaches within Marxism still reveal the narrow escapes for the emergence of popular self-determination?
5. To develop our arguments, we will briefly discuss Benjamin, Adorno, Lefebvre, Situationism, Italian autonomism (esp Tronti, Negri, Bifo...), Harvey and urban mobilisations in and around Delhi.

About the Speaker

Pratyush Chandra is an independent researcher and activist. He has been associated with a web-journal called Radical Notes, which was established in 2006. He is one of the editors of *Radical Notes Series*, published by Aakar Books. He has contributed in various journals and magazines, including *Economic & Political Weekly*, *Socialist Register* and *Review of Radical Political Economics*.

Venue: CCMG Network Governance Lab

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