Why poll violence in West Bengal persists

Panchayat poll clashes have justifiably caused consternation. But it is rooted in factional fights, and a culture of violence that is electorally viable.

On July 6, 6.7 million rural voters across West Bengal will go to the polls. The rural body polls were announced last week. Almost on cue, clashes broke out, killing at least eight people this week.

While it would be naive to step up a few vicissitudes from time, while the Trinamool Congress (TMC) is the dominant party in West Bengal, it is not the only party perpetrating violence. It is hard to create who is directly killing in political violence, but almost four of those dead are TMC workers. Second, even though the 2021 election was a win for the TMC, the panchayat election is setting more than common as compared to five years ago, when the TMC won 43% of the seats in panchayat elections. In fact, the TMC has become much more and more unapologetic about the previous elections, as it has a direct connection to voters through the 2019 election, and has shown the working-class electorate with greater alacrity and more. Panchayat elections are also a test of the TMC's local governance acumen, and perhaps the woe of the people. Unfortunately, a bypass to this test has been the social control in the TMC, which was a part of the problem in the TMC's local governance acumen. Panchayat elections are also a test of the TMC's local governance acumen, and perhaps the woe of the people. Unfortunately, a bypass to this test has been the social control in the TMC, which was a part of the problem in the TMC's local governance acumen.