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-M publication features ad from murder-accused

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Thiruvananthapuram, Nov 29 (IANS) As the CPI-M three-day plenum draws to an end at Palakkad, discussions focussed on matters lofty and moral. The party organ, Deshabhimani, Friday featured an advertisement from a murder-accused businessman.

The front page of the publication features an advertisement of the Surya Group of Companies, featuring also a picture of V.M. Radhakrishnan, who heads the company, wishing the party all success at the plenum.

Radhakrishnan, charged by the Central Bureau of Investigation with murder, is currently out on bail.

Radhakrishnan began his career as a small-time contractor with the Palakkad-based Malabar Cements, and later rose to control all major contracts of the profit-making cement manufacturer. He also entered into close association with top political leaders, across parties, in the state.

Speaking to IANS, P.C.George, chief whip of the Congress, which leads the coalition government in the state, said the advertisement was a sign of the hypocrisy of the Communist Party of India-Marxist.

"They say the plenum is discussing how best to bring a new face to the party, and to improve moral conduct, and their newspaper carries an advertisement of a murder-accused man. No one can beat the CPI-M, because they say one thing and do something else," George said.

Meanwhile, Radhakrishnan claimed that there was nothing new in the reaction to the advertisement. He said he gives advertisements to all newspapers, like



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as the CPI-M boycotts all programmes of Chief Minister Oommen Chandy, that newspaper carries all state government advertisements, and even carries photographs of the chief minister," he told IANS.

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