

Bihar Demands Building of Dam Fast

DELHI: A dharna was organized here at Jantar Mantar to construct the multi-purpose high dam here by the Multi-purpose High Dam Niman Sangharsh Samiti unit of Bihar state with a demand to start building the dam without delay. At the initiative of Sangharsha Samiti state convener Mithilesh Jha, a massive public meeting was organized to address the dharna. Those who addressed the gathering were general secretary, Communist Party of India, and former member of Parliament, D

Kirnesh Kumar

Raja, state secretary of the Bihar unit of the CPI and former MLA, Ram Naresh Pandey, national secretariat member and MP Binoy Viswam, Bharatiya Khet Mazdoor Union general secretary Gulzar Singh Gorla, Akhil Bharatiya Kisan Sabha president Ravula Venkaiah, Akhil Bharatiya Mithila Sangh general secretary Vidyanand Thakur, Bihar Mahila Samaj general secretary Rajashri Kiran, national council member



CPI general secretary D Raja addressing the dharna

Omprakash Narayan, Pramod Prabhakar Bihar Rajya Sabha president Ram Kumar Jha, farmer

leaders Ramkishor Jha, Lakshman Chaudhary, Rakesh Kumar Pandey, Secretary, Delhi trade

union secretary Babban Kumar Singh, AITUC vice president

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Falling Long-Term Growth Prospects Under Capitalism

Let Us Think Out of This Box

The World Bank has released (in March 2023) Advance Edition of its report 'Falling Long-Term Growth Prospects: Trends, Expectations, and Policies'. The 396-page document, elaborately researched globally, has come to the conclusion that across the world a structural growth slowdown is underway; the global potential growth rate is expected to fall to a three-decade low over the remainder of 2020s. The slowdown could be even more pronounced if financial crises erupt in major economies and spread to other countries.

The present World Bank study is an outcome of the suggestion given

in 2015 by Kaushik Basu, then World Bank Groups Chief Economist, to assess long-term growth prospects of emerging market and developing economies (EMDEs). India is one among them. The response was a world Bank report under the title "Slowdown in Emerging markets: Rough Patch or Prolonged Weakness." The study had 2010-15 as the reference period and had concluded that cyclical factors played a role and that, policies could reverse the decline in growth. Eight years on (2015-23) and the same authors have definitive answers to the question then posed in title.

Today's answer is that

Shreenivas Khandewale

"These economies are in the midst of prolonged period of weakness." Now it is being acknowledged that factors responsible are structural rather than cyclical! Shall we ask 'why'? In 1990s, the impediment to global growth were removed (so the Report says) by the implosion of the Soviet Union. Another fillip was the creation of the World Trade Organisation in 1994. International (Multilateral) Trade was described as the 'engine of development'. Now that engine is also

slowing down. The enthusiasm of US (the chief support of multilateralism) seems be waning as it is entering into Trans-Atlantic and Trans-Pacific Bi-lateral Trade Agreements. Is there not something wrong in the design of the world trade arrangements?

There is. Otherwise the multilateral design would have made progress. The global GDP growth of 3.5 per cent at the commencement of the 21st century fell to 2.6 per cent during 2018-21 is likely to decline to 2.2 per cent between today and 2030 (the end of the decade). 'Why' is our question. In the category

of developing economies, the investment rates which were six per cent between 2000 and 2010, declined to an average rate of five per cent between 2011 and 2021, and are set to decline to four per cent during the remainder of the present decade. The decline of investment leads to decline in production, employment, rates of wages of labourers, slowdowns in wage incomes etc.

The Report hinges on six important policy suggestions. They are: (1) Increasing the investment rates and adoption of business-enabling reforms in

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Communist Manifesto, Harbinger of a New Society

For the first time we face the challenges against whatever we have held sacred till now. Our Constitutional values, our composite culture rooted deep in the society with all its beauty and love, our economy built democratically with a strong public sector, with rights to live, work and express ourselves freely and then finally the right to chose our government. Today, people's elected representatives are not allowed to function. Bills in Parliament are passed without debate. Efforts are made to mute the Opposition. Since Independence, when we had laid the foundation of a democratic state, for a socialist, sovereign, secular republic, we promised to ourselves to achieve justice, equality and liberty to all citizens and promote fraternity to maintain unity and integrity of the nation. For smooth functioning of democracy, pillars were identified to help. They were legislature, executive and judiciary. There was a fourth one also, and that was media. It was said that strength of democracy depends upon the strength of each pillar and on how they complement each other.

In seventy five years of freedom, we built our nation, a democratic one. Today we are again at a threshold, facing drastic basic changes. Capitalism has been in deep crisis. It was predicted in Communist Manifesto, by Karl Marx and Frederick Engels, published in 1848. It was as early as hundred and seventy five years back, when feudalism was dying and capitalism was replacing it. It was also a period when the East India Company had taken hold of prime economic processes in India. Context for capitalism was prepared by the colonial forces. We were entering a new historical epoch as industrialisation was forced on us with a new economic structure. There were the new emerging working class and the bourgeoisie. Colonial capitalism was ruling over the country. About this period and the phase of class struggle, Frederick

Engels wrote in the preface of the German edition of Communist Manifesto in 1883, " ...All history has been a history of class struggle, of struggles between exploited and exploiting, between dominated and the dominating classes at various stages of social development; that this struggle, however, has reached a stage where the exploited and oppressed classes (the proletariat) can no longer emancipate itself from the class which exploits and oppresses it (the bourgeoisie), without at the same time freeing the whole of society from exploitation, oppression, and class struggles – this basic thought belongs solely and exclusively to Marx." He added in the end, " ...Precisely now it is necessary that it also stand in front of the Manifesto itself."

It was the moment when Marx had

Editorial

visualised the stage of democracy representing the whole of the society against the rulers of late capitalism. It was concretised by Lenin and he evolved the stage when he guided the proletariat towards revolution and accomplished it in October revolution, but before that in February itself, there was the toppling of Tzar, thus doing away with ruling royalty. Kerensky, a Menshevik leader, was given the power, who was later replaced by the Bolsheviks in a decisive victory, led by Lenin.

In Manifesto, it has been explained vividly. In hundred years that the bourgeoisie has evolved, there has been massive growth of productive forces that was the outcome of industrial revolution and beginning of modernity. Nature too was enslaved to serve its purposes. But then there were the contradictions also. The history of modern productive forces against the modern conditions of production on which the bourgeoisie

prosper, is replete with the regular breaking out of the phases of over production. The reason being that the bourgeois society is too narrow to contain the products, the solution found has been destruction of the productive forces and a search for new markets. But the irony of history has been marked by the great authors as the weapons that were used by the bourgeoisie to defeat the feudalism were now turned against their own self. These were the modern working class, the proletarians. And they were not alone in demanding democracy to serve their interests. There were the small and medium level producers, who also employed the workers, followed the system and evolved competitions with the ruling capitalist class. Result has been as capitalism saw its ultimate in finance capital, in alienation of MSME, and in hiring workers only sporadically, leaving huge masses without employment. It needed a state apparatus to promote its interest. To serve the finance Capital, a different system was evolved with surrender of banks and the industries it served, less kept for investments, more indulging in shares. It invited crisis, at world level. All the while, struggle of the oppressed against oppressor remained a reality.

Productive forces have kept evolving and the result is demand for democracy and democratic rights, adult franchise, co-operation with other parties on the basis of people's interest, and finally the promotion of science that involves the entire society on the basis of new technology. Communist Manifesto, little less than two centuries back, had predicted these features, and then interpreted by Lenin, they became reality too. Now comes the turn of developments in science to unveil scientific technological progress, which hints at a basic transition with a strong need for basic interpretations.

Bihar Demands...

From Front Page

Vidyasagar Giri, Puneet Mukhiya, and many leaders of other organisations joined the meeting in support of the demand for construction of Multi-purpose High Dam.

Addressing the meeting, the speakers said that till the multi-

purpose high dam is built at the source of Kosi, Kamla, and Bagmati rivers, people in Bihar will keep suffering from drought, floods, electricity crisis. For the progress of Bihar constructing the dam is imperative. Since the state of Bihar is agri-based, floods and dry

spells are both destructive. There is hardly any industry, The Centre has a step motherly attitude towards the state which is extremely hurting to the people here. With dam, electricity would be cheaper, there would be fast Industrialisation, migration of people from the state would decline. The agrarian

system would not based on rains, people would have respite from drought. And finally all the crops would be sown and harvested in time. Speakers also said that former parliamentarian and CPI leader Bhogendra Jha had tirelessly worked for the Dam and discussing the issue with the then central government, had decided to have a

dialogue with the Nepal government also. But the present ruling regime has sent all decisions in the cold storage.

Many other organisations assured the Sangharsha Samity of their all cooperation in the initiative. Finally at the end, a charter of demand was handed over to the prime minister's office.

People's Struggle Yatra Concludes

Promises Unkept, Telangana Faces Crisis

**Takkalapally
Srinivasa Rao**

WARANGAL: "If Enforcement Directorate and Central Bureau of Investigation are granted freedom, all BJP leaders including Narendra Modi will go to Jail," said Binoy Viswam, leader of CPI Parliamentary group and national secretary of the party while addressing the huge public meeting at Kakateeya Urban Development Authority maidan on April 5, 2023. Public meeting was held on conclusion of (Praja Poru Yaatra) People's struggles Yaatra in erstwhile Warangal district demanding immediate implementation of assurances for the comprehensive development of old Warangal district, given at the time of bifurcation of the state by the Central government. Meeting was attended by thousands of people from various corners of old Warangal district.

Binoy Viswam was chief guest in the meeting. He said there was full support by the prime minister to entire corporate forces including Adani, involved in financial irregularities and scams. Assets of Ambani have increased many folds in the regime of rightist forces led by the Central government.

Ruling party of the BJP itself is lagging behind in sending Adani scams to Joint Parliamentary committee in order to save the skin of corporate friend of Modi. BJP instead of solving the problems of people is

busy in polarising them on communal lines like religion and caste etc. Though India got independence seven decades back but basic problems of people like food and shelter remain unresolved. That is why CPI is fighting on behalf of people in general and poor in particular. Left, secular and democratic forces should launch united struggles against corrupt ruling party BJP. If all these forces are united, it is sure to send these present rulers back home back. CPI national council is fighting with a slogan of "Modi Hatao-Desh Bachao". In old Warangal district CPI is launching historic struggles for house sites



CPI national council secretary Binoy Viswam MP addressing the public meeting

Jyothi, state general secretary, NFIW, new districts party

Sadalaxmi working president, state NFIW, Waliullah Khan state

general secretary, state AISF, Nallu Sudhakara Reddy, Jampala Ravinder, Ashok Stalin, P Sugunamma, and Palle Narsimha, state general secretary, IPTA.

Among the major promises made by prime minister were mentioned the issues of Bayyaram steel factory, Khazipet coach factory and Girijan university. If all these were established, this area would have developed. BJP government has neglected people by serving the interests of corporate forces. Hence CPI has taken slogan of

"BJP Hatao-Desh Bachao" in order to dethrone BJP from power.



A view of the gathering

and victory is inevitable, reiterated, Binoy Viswam.

Among other speakers were Chada Venkata Reddy, Central executive committee member, CPI, Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, Telangana state secretary, while participants were Syed Azeez Pasha, Central secretariat member, Palla Venkata Reddy, national council member, CPI, Takkalapally Srinivas Rao, convenor of Padayatra, Nedunoori

secretaries, Vijay Sarathi, Ch Raj's Reddy, Korimi Rajkumar, Thota Mallikarjuna Rao, Potharaju Saaraiah, former MLA, Vujjini Ratnakar Rao, former General Secretary, state AITUC, State leaders Tammera Vishweshwar Rao, Panjala Ramesh, districts Asst secretaries, Thota Bixapathi, Madhela Ellesh, Bashumiya, district leaders Ajoy Sarathi, CPI floor leader in Mahabubabad Municipality, Adani Srinivas, Manda

president, AIYF Anil Kumar, Manikanta Reddy & Puttapaka Laxman president &

NCERT Distorting History: CPI

Communist Party of India general secretary D Raja in a tweet message said on April 5, 2023 that NCERT is behaving as National Council for Eradication of Rationality and Truth. Changes are another attempt at distorting and rewriting history by RSS.

Sardar Patel banned RSS post-Gandhi's assassination "to root out the forces of hate and violence". No amount of lying can conceal that.

Democracy is in Peril Under Modi Regime: CPI

Communist Party of India national executive member P Sandosh Kumar MP said democracy in our country is in peril after BJP government headed by Narendra Modi came to power. He was addressing a public meeting held on April 1, 2023 at Mulkanoor bus stand in Hanamkonda district of Telangana. The meeting was presided over by Aadari Srinivas, state council member of Telangana CPI.

People's struggle yatra (Padayatra) passed through villages and towns of Hanamkonda district. It passed through Hasanparthi, Kamalapur, Yelkathurthi, Bheemadevarapalli and reached Mulkanoor.

Padayatris were demanding implementation of assurances given at the time of bifurcation of the state. It was led by Takkalapally Srinivas

**Takkalapally
Srinivasa Rao**

CPI.

P Santhosh Kumar MP further stated that



Rao convenor. The public meeting was also addressed by Chada Venkata Reddy, national executive member of

Modi's conspiracy is that in the name of one country, one language, one party and one businessman like Adani

Modi is to kill democracy. He is conspiring to see that the opposition is dismantled by making use of constitutional bodies. He also pointed out that BJP

suppressing democracy in the country. It is handing over national wealth to corporate sector and dismantling public sector undertakings. He appealed to democratic and secular forces to launch united massive struggles in order to defeat the conspiracies of BJP.

P Sandosh Kumar also observed that the central government has cheated Telangana people with regard to the assurances given at the time of bifurcation of the state. He assured that he will raise in the parliament this vital issue. He extended full support to

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What the Others Say...

A weaker push

Data on government finances released by the Controller General of Accounts last week shows that the Centre's fiscal deficit for 2022-23 is unlikely to significantly exceed the revised estimates presented in the recent Union budget, notwithstanding concerns over deviations in both income and expenditure. On the revenue side, the Centre's tax collections have grown at a healthy pace during April-February 2022-23, despite subdued growth in February. Gross tax collections have touched Rs 25.4 lakh crore, up 12 per cent over the same period last year. This is only marginally lower than the growth assumed in the revised estimates for the full financial year.

Direct tax collections have grown at a considerably faster pace than indirect taxes. Data released on April 1, 2023 shows that GST collection in March stood at Rs 1.6 lakh crore, up around 13 per cent over the same period last year. For the full year, gross collections are estimated to be 22 per cent higher than last year. However, overall tax collections have grown at a slower pace than nominal GDP growth. And while non-tax revenues are in line with the target, proceeds from disinvestment remain a matter of concern. As against a target of Rs 60,000 crore, collections at the end of February stood at Rs 38,640 (including the proceeds from monetisation of national highways).

On the expenditure side, while spending did slow down in February, overall central government spending for the year (April-February) grew by around 11 per cent, marginally higher than what was factored in the revised estimates. Capital spending has grown at a significantly higher pace of 21 per cent so far, as the government has focused on ramping up investments. To achieve the target for the full year, however, spending will have to grow by 28 per cent in March. In comparison, capital expenditure by state governments has been relatively subdued.

Failure to meet this year's targets will also raise questions over their ability to achieve the scaled up targets in 2023-24. As states account for a significant share of overall public sector investments, their spending is critical for driving investment activity. The slower

pace of state capex raises questions over the extent to which the public sector can drive the economic momentum.

Courtesy: The Indian Express

Keeping peace

In a by-now familiar pattern, public celebrations of Ram Navami were accompanied by the outbreak of violence in some states. Bengal, Bihar, Maharashtra and Gujarat were among states that witnessed violence. Police and other arms of the state administrations tried to keep a lid on the situation by using prohibitory orders and internet shutdowns. While these tools disrupt normal life, the fallout doesn't end there. It sows the seeds of mistrust in public life.

Religious processions are an important dimension of India's public life. They also are a vehicle often cynically used to foment trouble. Following last year's outbreak of violence during Ram Navami processions, a citizens-and-lawyers initiative brought out a report titled 'Routes of Wrath: Weaponising Religious Processions'. It pointed out that no cause of interfaith riots across decades has been as recurrent and widespread as religious processions. However, given the importance of processions in public life, any solution to this problem needs to be tailored around limiting the possibility that some elements can use it as a cover to create trouble.

One reason why police are sometimes reluctant to crack down on processions violating pre-arranged routes is mixed political signalling. This is asking for trouble in a tense atmosphere. The citizens and lawyers report observed that in 2022, Telangana police were successful in preventing trouble even in urban areas with a history of communal violence. It comes down to unambiguous law and order messaging.

With key assembly elections ahead, public events that can cause trouble have to be especially carefully monitored. It's for state governments to do whatever it takes to keep them peaceful. There's no case to be made that there's unrestricted freedom of choice in choosing procession routes. Violence of the kind witnessed last week temporarily abridged freedom of all people in the area. Religious processions need to be regulated far more tightly - by giving the police clear directions.

Courtesy: The Times of India

Odisha State Level Bikalp Samavesh

Calls for United Struggle against Rise of Rightist Forces

BHUBANESWAR: Communist Party of India organised a state level Bikalp Samavesh at Bhubaneswar on 18-point alternative programme against communal fascism, anti-democratic and anti-people policies of the central government, misrule of Odisha government and for formation of a new Odisha. The massive rally was organised on March 23, 2023, the martyrdom day of Saheed Bhagat Singh.

Thousands of CPI cadres, mass organisation members and supporters participated in the colourful massive rally with Red Flags, banners and placards. The procession started from Raj Mahal Squire, proceeded via Master Canteen Squire and reached lower PMG Samavesh venue in front of Odisha legislative assembly. Slogans were raised denouncing Modi Sarkar's communal fascist agenda and anti-people policies.

CPI national council secretary Dr Bhalchandra Kango, addressing the mammoth gathering said that the central government led by Prime Minister Narendra Modi is serving the interests of the corporate houses, which is evident from the recent developments in

the Parliament. To avoid the demand of a JPC probe into the Adani scams, the ruling BJP is stalling the Parliament proceedings in a planned manner. In the nine-year rule of Narendra Modi, the number of hungry people has reached to 35 crores while at the same time the wealth of the capitalists has increased 90 times.

Modi sarkar is handing over the public sector assets to the domestic and foreign capitalists for a song. Foreign capitalists are entering the defence sector of the nation causing grave concern to the national sovereignty and security. Instead of doubling the incomes of the farmers, black farm laws were passed in the Parliament unilaterally and more than 700 farmers laid their lives while protesting at the

Borders of Delhi in their year-long protest



movement which compelled the central government to withdraw the black farm laws.

Dr Kango further said Modi promised two crore employment annually. Instead four crore workers and employees lost their jobs. The Modi sarkar is controlled by the RSS which is following fascist ideology. With the support of the government these fascist forces are sowing seeds of hate and disharmony throughout the country. Also, the central government is destroying the constitutional values of democracy and secularism. To put an end to all these, all Left, democratic and secular forces of the country should unite to save the country.

In the beginning of the

Ramesh Padhy

meeting presided over by former CPI MLA Narayan Reddy, national council member Khirod Prasad Singhdeo delivered introductory speech narrating the intention of the massive Bikalp Samavesh.

CPI Odisha state council secretary Abhaya Sahu, speaking on the occasion paid rich tributes to the memories of Saheed Bhagat Singh and his comrades who were hanged by the British imperialist rulers during the freedom struggle. He said Odisha is rich in natural assets and minerals but is suffering as a poor state. The farmers of the state are not able to sell their produce in the mandis for weeks together.

Lakhs of young

people are going outside the state in search of jobs and employment. In Odisha there is not a single commodity producing industry today. Whatever few industries were functioning earlier remain closed at present. The state government thinks industry means steel industry only. The black listed POSCO had to pack up and leave Odisha due to strong protest movement of the people. Law and order situation has worsened in Odisha where even a state cabinet minister is killed by a police officer with his service revolver.

The state is placed in number one category in criminal intimidation and atrocities on women, children, Dalits and tribal people. The lives and livelihood of the people have deteriorated. Therefore to change the present scenario and for formation of a new Odisha, CPI is holding this Bikalp (Alternative) Samavesh with 18 point pro-people programme. Abhaya Sahu appealed to all left, democratic and secular forces to get united to defeat the communal fascist BJP rule at the Centre and support this alternative



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Signature Campaign against Amendment of the Marine Zone Minerals Development and Control Act, 2002

Fishermen March to Parliament

National Executive Committee meeting of All India Fishermen Workers Federation (AITUC) was held in Chennai on April 4, 2023, under the chairmanship of Satya Narayana Murthy. In the meeting general secretary D Raju presented the activity report. The meeting was inaugurated by TM Murthi, national secretary of the AITUC.

The meeting passed the following resolution unanimously.

In the name of Blue Economy Policy, the Union government has decided to completely sell India's deep sea, coastal and fishing industry to corporates. For this purpose, the marine area of India is divided into seven zones. This allows the corporates to make huge profits by allowing mining in deep sea and

offshore areas.

As per the existing law, there are so many restrictions that they cannot exploit the mineral resources as much as they think. So, the Marine Zone Minerals Development and Control Act, 2002 is



being amended. Union Government has issued a public notification for this purpose on February 9. By amending the Act, it intends to auction mining licenses to private parties. Also, the Geological Survey of India (GSI) has published estimates of various

P Raju

types of mineral reserves in the Indian seas.

According to this it is clear that, the coastal area of Odisha, Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra

states have mineral sand, Gujarat, Maharashtra coasts have limestone deposits and Kerala has sand for construction. It said that 7.9 crore tonnes of mineral sand, 15,399.6 crore tonnes of limestone and 74.5 crore tonnes of construction sand are there.

There are various court judgments that if notices are published on issues affecting the environment, it should be issued in the local language, so that all the people of the area can understand it. But contrary to them, this announcement has been made only on the website of the mining department of the Union Government, and that too in English language only.

Allowing such mines in India's deep sea and coastal waters will have dire consequences. This disrupts the entire ecosystem in the sea. Fisheries will be affected and fishermen who depend upon the sea will not be able to do their business and live along the coast, which will ruin their lives as a whole. Moreover, such mining activities will cause great

damage to the coast, the people living along it, and the properties. States like Kerala, Goa, Tamil Nadu, where large numbers of people live around the coast, will be heavily affected.

The meeting therefore decided to conduct a signature drive among fishermen, workers and the public in all coastal states against the proposed amendment of the Act.

The meeting decided to hold a national level seminar with competent scholars to explain these dangers and organize a rally of Indian fishermen to Parliament.

In this meeting, A, K, Jabar, Rayappan, Elizabeth Assisi, P. Chinnathambi, S. Muruganatham, C.R. Senthilvel and Kalidas, including all members from maritime states took active part in the proceedings.

State, Centre both have Deceived Youth

Promises Made in Election Days Still Unmet: AIYF

A seminar on unemployment was organised by AIYF unit of Andhra Pradesh State council at Kurnool on March 31. AIYF AP state president Parchuri Rajendra presided over the meeting. AIYF AP state secretary Lenin Babu, CPI Kurnool district secretary Biggidiah and others were also present in the meeting. AIYF general secretary Thirumalai Raman, former national vice-president Eshwaraiah were the special speakers.

In his address, Thirumalai Raman said

that the BJP gave a promise of creating two crore jobs every year, if



elected to power. It has been nine years since this government came to power. But no new

employment avenue has been generated, instead, it is worsening. Public

sectors, which provide ample job opportunities are being privatised. He termed the

unemployment problem as the conspiracy of the Modi government. Fifty

lakhs posts are lying vacant in the public sectors including railways. They are not filled. He also charged

that the state government led by Jagan Mohan Reddy has also failed in the employment generation.

While speaking, Eshwaraiah said that around 235000 vacancies are there across the state of Andhra Pradesh. But, no steps have been taken by the chief minister to fill them. He demanded that the vacancies should be filled immediately. He also told the youth that employment can be achieved only through struggles.

Other leaders and comrades of AIYF also took part in the successful seminar.

NCERT Removes Chapters on 'Mughal Empire' from Class 12 History Book

Once again the Union government ruled by BJP has hurt the minority communities in India. This time it has removed chapters on 'Mughal Empire' from class 12 history book.

From Class 12, chapters related to 'Kings and Chronicles; the Mughal Courts (C. 16th and 17th centuries)' have been removed from the History book 'Themes of Indian History-Part 2'.

National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) has revised its books, including the 12th class History book by removing the chapters on the Mughal empire. The change will be applicable to all the schools that follow NCERT across the country. Similarly, NCERT will remove some poems and paragraphs from the Hindi textbooks too.

As per NCERT, all the changes made will be implemented from the current academic session, i.e. 2023-2024. Along with History and Hindi textbooks, 12th class Civics book has also been revised. Two chapters titled, 'American Hegemony in World Politics' and 'The Cold War Era' have been removed from the book.

Continuing with the changes, two chapters namely, 'Rise of Popular Movements' and 'Era of One-Party Dominance' from the Class 12th textbook 'Indian Politics after Independence' have also been removed. Changes have been made in Class 10th and 11th textbooks as well, such as chapters on 'Democracy and Diversity', 'Popular Struggles and Movements', and 'Challenges of Democracy' have been removed from Class 10th

book 'Democratic Politics-2'.

Separate Religion from Politics to Stop Hate Speech: Supreme Court

The Supreme Court of India has rightly observed that the state under the ruling regime has become impotent and powerless to stop the hate speech. It is silent and inactive when hardcore Hindutva fringe elements make hate speeches but the

were the two organisations which were founded based on religion.

In view of this Constitutional principle the state must act against those who are pitting one religion against another. People of one religion should not spread hatredness against another. When this principle is violated one group of people then the state should intervene and act against the hate mongering people.



state has started implicating those who are critical of Narendra Modi and his government branding them as anti-national.

The Communist Party of India including other Left parties have always taken a principled stand that religion should not be mixed with politics and both are separate identities. This is what the Constitution of India says in the preamble which has included the word secularism, which means that state neither should favour or against any religion. That means state must be separate from religion. Religion is an individual liberty.

During the independence movement the Muslim League and Jansangh

The irony is that that the state is guardian of our Constitution. It is the duty of the state to preserve the basic principles of the Constitution. Infact, it becomes difficult when the state itself favours one religion and acts against another religion. This means that the state is moving towards a theocratic state, where the religion becomes state policy.

It is an indictable anguish over the unstoppable hate speech throughout the country, the Supreme Court of India has said that the State is impotent and powerless to stop the hate speech day out and day in. In the same observation the Supreme Court has also added that once the mixing of

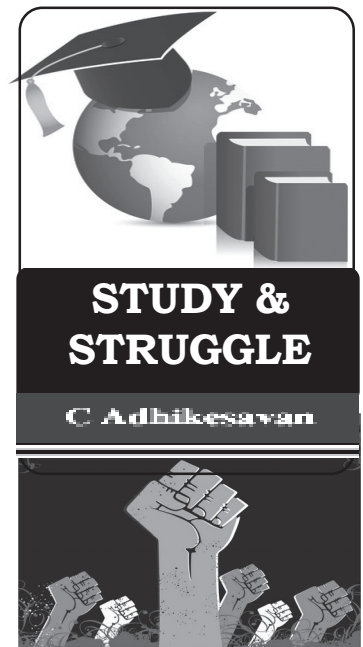
religion with politics halted then the hate speech will automatically stop. The RSS is an organisation which has been communalising the Indian politics even prior its foundation in 1925.

Justice K M Joseph while reflecting on the importance of rule of law, brotherhood and tolerance said, "The minorities also have rights under the Constitution recognised by the founding fathers. Most important thing for a man is dignity, not wealth and health. It dignity is being demolished on a regular basis. Some statements are made like 'Go to Pakistan'. They are those people have had chosen this country. They are like our brothers and sisters. If we want to become a superpower, the first thing we need is rule of law."

Justice B V Nagarathna observed, "People from rural areas used to come and listen the orators like Jawaharlal Nehru and A B Vajpayee. Now the leaders who have no stuff, fringe elements are making these hate speeches. If there is an intellectual depravement you cannot take this country as number one in the world and intellectual depravement only comes when there is intolerance; lack of knowledge and lack of education."

Every Indian has right to freedom of speech and expression

This BJP ruled Union government wants is offensive through the its Law Minister is a clear trend of the executive trying to subvert the judiciary – a signpost for authoritarianism. The Minister has attacked the retired judges this time. Retired judges as Indian



citizens enjoy the right to freedom of speech and expression and they have a duty to speak up when there is Constitutional transgression.

With ulterior motive the law minister has described the retired judges in a rather harsh manner. For the Minister to label retired judges who question "state policies" as being "anti-India" elements is not just a case of a flawed understanding of concepts but also a matter of grave concern for citizens.

The Minister's parting shot, based on the erroneous assumption that certain judges are working against India and "will have to pay the price", was not only intimidatory in its tone and tenor but also portends grave danger for the future. Involving retired judges in the issue was uncalled for. The Minister's statements are defamatory and raise larger issues that touch the core of our polity.

The retired judges and any other citizens have the duty to speak up when they find either the legislature, the executive or even the judiciary transgress their limits. Indian Constitution has emphasised for check and balance parameters. The act of questioning the transgression of state is not 'anti-national'. It is the concern of every citizen as patriots and statesmen. It is the binding duty of the state to justify its actions and measures it has adopted.

BD JOSHI: BUILDER OF TRADE UNION

Famous trade union leader, freedom fighter and politician BD Joshi (Bhawani Dutt Joshi) was born on August 9, 1917 in Shimla. His father was an astrologer and a priest in a temple of the Maharaja of Shimla. His forefathers belonged to district Almora, in the Kumaon region of Uttarakhand. Almora has been a center for education, art and culture since long. Even during British period, the literacy rate of proper Almora was much higher than many other parts of the country. That is why the people of this area were well educated and prosperous, and dominated education, politics, higher positions in government services and art and culture etc. The region gave the country such luminaries as PC Joshi, Sumitranandan Pant, Mohan Upreti, BM Shah and many others.

Shimla used to be the summer capital of the Britishers where Joshi was brought up. This city, like many British cities generally prohibited the entrance of Indians except a select few. This fact affected Bhawani. He was then taking his basic education in Sanskrit medium. For higher education he moved to Delhi and took admission in Hindu College of Delhi University. In his childhood Joshi had seen how the Britishers looked down upon the Indians, leading to his dislike for the British. Moreover, one of his elder brothers was involved in Khilafat Movement which inspired him towards politics.

Joining politics

Joshi joined the government service in 1939 and soon got promotion as an officer in the ministry of finance due to hard work and his capabilities. Here he organized Class Four employees like peons, gardeners, sweepers, khalasis etc and guided them in their struggle for their rights secretly. In 1942, he actively

participated in Quit India Movement. He was an active office bearer of



(Com BD Joshi 3rd from left)

the Congress Socialist Party of Delhi state. Between 1943 to 1945 he was jailed several times. Finally, he was released from Firozpur jail in 1945 but lost his job, though reinstated soon. Despite getting back the job, he was deprived of promotion on the basis of seniority. It was injustice and he refused to join.

In TU movement

On release, he decided to join the trade union full time. Joshi started his public life as a labor leader. He was more popular as a trade unionist than a political

leader. He settled down in Delhi and organized Textile Mazdoor Sewa Sangh under Congress leadership. He was elected its general secretary in October 1946. He organized the workers in tramways, electricity, chemicals, engineering and other industries.

He was working as both president and general secretary of Delhi State committee of AITUC. At national level he served as vice president, president, secretary, deputy

famous during the working class strike and movement in the 1970s, particularly in Faridabad, when many workers were killed during the upsurge.

India gained freedom but was partitioned in 1947

The country became free on August 15, 1947 followed by partition. The new country was called Pakistan. Communal riots erupted immediately before and

Tika Ram Sharma

Therefore, in order to maintain peace and harmony Joshi was appointed honorary magistrate and posted at Bara Hindu Rao area of Delhi. His wife Subhadra Joshi and Indra Gandhi were associated with him in the relief work among the refugees coming across the border.

After some time, BD Joshi developed serious differences with Congress Party. So, he left Congress and joined Socialist Party and became its provincial secretary. He continued his work among workers and employees. But soon he found it difficult in Socialist Party to adjust, and left it once for all.

Some of the political leaders of the time in Delhi were Aruna Asaf Ali, Subhadra Joshi, Sarla Sharma, Mir Mustaq Ahmed, Krishan Chand Chandi Wale, Chaudhary Braham Prakash, M Farooqi, Prem Sagar Gupta, YD Sharma, Lala Shyam Nath and Ram Chandra Aggarwal. C.K. Nayar, known as "Dehat ka Gandhi", (Gandhi of the rural areas) was the senior-most among them. In 1952 Joshi contested Lok Sabha election from 'Delhi Dehat' (Delhi rural) as an independent candidate supported by Communist Party of India (CPI) against Congress candidate C.K. Nayar but lost. Prior to it he had contested assembly election as independent candidate and had won. This was the first Delhi assembly,

thereafter. Mahatma Gandhi was shot dead on January 30, 1948 by a communal fanatic Nathuram Godse, trained by communal-fascist anti-Gandhi organizations.

Joshi was at the time in charge of labor wing of the Congress Party. Feroz Gandhi and Krishan Kant, who later on became the vice President of India, were among his friends. By this time BD Joshi had acquired quite a reputation. At that time, communal violence was raging in Delhi.

BD Joshi became very

AND COMMUNIST MOVEMENT IN NORTH

and its tenure was 1952-57.

Joining CPI

Joshi formally joined the Communist Party of India (CPI) in 1957. He was unquestioned leader of Delhi textile workers. Now he also started taking part in party activities actively. China attacked India in 1962, and the right reactionaries led by RSS and Jan Sangh started defaming the Communist Party. Its offices were attacked in different parts of the country. In Delhi, the All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) office

Pakistan was badly defeated. China tried to blackmail India threatening to attack it charging the soldiers of Indian Army of stealing their hundred sheep. In response to this B.D. Joshi along with Prem Sagar Gupta paraded 101 sheep in a procession starting from Chandni Chowk to Chinese Embassy, Chanakyapuri, via Red Fort, Connaught Place, Teen murti, and asked the Chinese ambassador to accept those sheep and not to attack India! Nobody came out from the embassy and ultimately after a long

Sanjay Gandhi, son of Indra Gandhi. His speeches in Metropolitan Council in Delhi were very popular among people.

His wife Subhadra Joshi was member of Lok Sabha for 25 years and a formidable leader in her own right. She dedicated her life for the cause of communal harmony. She defeated Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the stalwart of Bharatiya Jan Sangh from Balrampur (Uttar Pradesh) in 1962 with a huge margin. She was a left leader belonging to the Indian National Congress.

Joshi was a very good orator; he had a command over Hindi as well as English language. In Sanskrit also he was equally at ease and used to cite examples from the Panchtantra, Geeta, Neeti Sataka of Bhadrachari in his speeches and discussions. He was national council member of CPI for one term and an invitee to the national executive of the party for some time. He was highly disciplined. He had a good command over Marxism.

Apart from Delhi and Faridabad Joshi was associated with trade unions of the other states like Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan etc. In Delhi he was leader of the textile workers apart from other industries like hotels, hospitals, petroleum etc. He was general secretary of "Kapda Majdoor Ekta Union" till its last. There were four textile mills in Delhi at the time, namely, Delhi Cloth Mills (DCM), Swatantra Bharat Mills (SBM), The Birla Mills and Ayodhya Textile

Mills. He led several struggles of textile workers of Delhi on matters related to wages, dearness allowance, residential accommodation etc. In 1979 there was a complete strike in the industry, in which workers numbering twenty-four thousand participated. Apart from other demands, implementation of Vaidya Lingam award was the main one. The strike continued for three months but the management did not agree. Ultimately Joshi had to sit on fast unto death. As a result, the matter was solved, and the workers came out with flying colors.

Joshi was the president of Delhi Medical Technicians and Employees' Association (DMTA) from 1971 to April 1999. In 1974 the medical laboratory technicians working in Delhi Municipal Corporation-run hospitals went on an indefinite strike in support of their long pending demands. Joshi was the metropolitan counselor during that period; the matter echoed in the council also. The administration was quite adamant in the beginning but ultimately was compelled to come to the negotiating table and the demands were accepted. Similarly, in 1978 the technicians of Maulana Azad Medical College and associated Lok Nayak Hospital and G.B. Pant Hospital started agitation in support of their demands. But the government gave a deaf ear to it. Joshi threatened Delhi Administration that the employees of transport, oil, textile,

hotel etc. would come together in action in case the government failed to start negotiations. As a result, the negotiations started and the major demands were accepted.

There was one more union, Gramin Shramjivi Union in 'Delhi Dehat', of which B.D. Joshi was the President. The Government of India allotted 120 acres of land to the Harijans and Scheduled Tribes in Kanjhawala, in Delhi. There were 109 harijan and seven scheduled tribe families who were to be benefitted from it. The landlords of the area prohibited them from taking over possession of the said land and challenged the matter in the court of law. Though the Honourable Delhi High Court dismissed their petition, the land could not be occupied by those families. For many years these people neither could get this land nor did the government help them in the matter. Gramin Shramjivi Union stood firmly by them, and on July 7, 1978, the struggle started for occupation. Twelve Harijans including men and women were badly injured in it. Next day, B.D. Joshi, Prem Sagar Gupta and N.M. Manna visited the area. Bhupesh Gupta raised the issue in Rajya Sabha; only then peace could be established in the area. The battle was won and the beneficiaries got the possession.

Joshi suffered from jaundice (Hepatitis B) and struggled for about two years. He was admitted in G.B. Pant Hospital of Delhi Government for quite some time. On April 27, 1999 he breathed his last breath in the hospital.

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was located at Katra Asharfi, Chandni Chowk. It had two doors; one had opening in one street while the other had in another. The Bhartiya Jan Sangh (now BJP) goons came to vandalize the office while Joshi was holding workers meeting. Some workers stood at the gate, caught hold of one of the shouting fellows, brought him inside and thrust him and threw him away from the other gate. When five or six fellows were treated in this way, the remaining fellows ran away. This was possible due to the courage and wisdom of Joshi only.

There was an interesting incident in 1965, during Indo-Pakistan war in which

wait the sheep were packed in a truck by their master and the procession ended!!

Elected to Legislature

In 1972 Joshi was elected to Delhi Metropolitan Council from Kishanganj constituency. It consisted of 57 members. Apart from Joshi, Ram Chander Sharma and Chaudhary Shri Chand of CPI were also elected for the council. Joshi was senior and highly experienced and respected member of the council. He always stood by people, in their sufferings and miseries. During Emergency, on the issue of forcible sterilization and demolition at Turkman Gate, Joshi criticized the government particularly

AIFUCTO Decries NCERT Stand on History

All India Federation of University & College Teachers' Organisations (AIFUCTO) has issued the following statement strongly condemning the decision of NCERT to revise Class 11th - 12th syllabus of history by scrapping off the chapters related to Mughal period:

The Mughals had ruled India from 1526-45 to 1556- 1857 for more than three centuries. By removing the Mughals from history book, NCERT is doing great disservice not only to the country's history but also to the students who would not develop any knowledge about one of the most remarkable and formative period of Indian history. We are appalled at the way the attempt to write a new

history of India is now set forth and the saffronisation agenda is further pushed.

We are concerned that NCERT which is led by panel of experts took such a drastic decision. Students are not allowed to form an opinion about India's syncretic past by deliberately removing the chapters on Mughal India. A study of History of India will remain incomplete and an academic void will be created as a result of this decision. NCERT should reconsider its decision and not play with the future of students who want to pursue Indian history in future. State intervention in what students should learn is against the spirit of the Constitution.

The government of India is leaving no stone unturned to change the contents of the Indian History to brain wash the young mind on their philosophy of cultural nationalism. History must be scientific, inclusive and objective. It must be based on facts, not fiction or myths.

AIFUCTO demands that the Government of India must stop divisive agenda and also withdraw the unwanted changes in Indian History immediately. We, the people of India, need cultural, religious & lingual unity of our nation. Unity in diversity is the soul of Indian Constitution. It must be maintained in all fields of our society including Education.

India's Service Sector Growth Slows Down

Growth in India's dominant services sector fell to 57.8 in March from a 12-year high of 59.4 in February, said a private survey, as new businesses and output lost momentum amid cost pressures easing.

The headline figure in the survey by credit rating agency S&P Global has been in the expansion zone for the twentieth consecutive month since August 2021. A print above 50 in the survey denotes expansion of services activity and below that suggests contraction, says a report.

The survey said output expanded in March due to favourable demand and new business gains. New business inflows increased at a softer but still sharp rate, as demand, competitive pricing and marketing efforts helped sales.

"The rise in overall new business was supported by an increase in international sales. Companies commonly mentioned an improvement in external demand for their services," the survey said.

Pollyanna De Lima, economics associate director at S&P Global Market Intelligence, said India's service sector built on to the momentum gained in February with further increases in new business intakes and output at the end of the 2022-23 fiscal quarter.

Despite an increase in input prices at Indian services firms, amid reports of higher food, fuel, transportation and wage costs, a large proportion of survey participants signaled no change in expenses since February, as the overall rate of inflation was mild and the weakest in two and-a-half years.

Calls for United Struggle against Rise...

From Page 05

programme for formation of a new Odisha.

CPI national council member Ashis Kanungo, state secretariat member Dr Prasant Mishra, Ashik Dash, Prasant Pattojoshi, Jayanta Das, Prakash Patra and former state council secretary Dibakar Nayak said in their respective speeches that in the name of development huge loot is taking place in Odisha. Due to the cold indifference of BJD government, the communal forces are spreading their tentacles in the state. Unwritten understanding is working between BJD and BJP in Odisha. All the anti-people policies and bills such as scraping of 370 in JK,

Black Farm Laws and anti-worker four labour codes, etc, are supported by BJP in the Parliament. Now when the elections are approaching they are engaged in false mock fight. Therefore CPI calls for BJP Hatao, Desh Bachao struggle and for a reversal of the state government's anti-people policies, they said.

Bijaya Jena, state AITUC general secretary, Jinmayee Sahan, Utkal Mahila Samiti general secretary, Sura Jena, BKMU state secretary, Pradeep Sethi, AIYF state general secretary, Sanghamitra Jena, AISF state general secretary also spoke on the occasion, discussed various problems of the state and people and called for united

struggle of all left, democratic and secular forces to save the country and the state.

The 18-point alternative programme for which the massive rally was organised was placed by the speakers that included the following:

- Fix paddy price at Rs 3,000 per quintal.
- Recognise share croppers.
- Set up cold storage in every block of the state.
- Provide irrigation facilities to all farm lands.
- Create employment by establishing commodity, forest and agriculture based industries in the state.
- Encourage artisans.

■ Provide free electricity up to 200 units.

■ Provide employment to all young people or pay unemployment doles.

■ Scrap contractual practices in all employments and government jobs and filling of all vacant government posts.

■ Recognise scheme workers as government employees and provide minimum wages/salary of Rs 25,000.

■ Stop commercialisation of education and health services

■ Provide employment to the farm workers throughout the year.

■ Daily wage of Rs 700 to MGNREGS

workers.

■ Rs 5,000 pension to all old age persons of 55 years and above.

■ Stop atrocities on women and provide equal opportunities to women.

■ Stop atrocities on the Dalits and tribal people.

■ Provide tribal people rights on forests and forest produces.

■ Give land patta to the landless poor.

■ Return the money to the chit fund depositors without delay.

■ Scrap anti-worker four Labour Codes and New Education Policy of the central government.

■ Stringent measures to check and control price rise.

■ Rs 1,000 pension to Green Card holders.

Declare Right to Health a Fundamental Right

Passing of Right to Health Bill by the Rajasthan Assembly is a long overdue requirement of the citizens and demand of the health care organizations. This Act gives the residents of Rajasthan right to free healthcare. The right to health thus becomes justifiable, that is the government is now answerable in eyes of law. The Act primarily puts the onus on the state to ensure healthcare to the people and through guarantee of nutrition, safe drinking water, sewerage facilities etc. The patients will have the facility to avail of OPD or indoor care free of charge in the public health facilities.

Since major part of the health care has been developed in the private sector in our country, the act involves the private sector also to provide emergency care to the needy and in case of emergency delivery even if the person is not able to pay. The doctors of Rajasthan have been agitating against the Act. The government has agreed to the demand of doctors and has excluded health facilities with less than 50 beds and those who have not taken any grant from the government from the purview of the Act.

Rajasthan has shown the way; it is now important that such an act is passed at the Central government level and health is declared as a Fundamental right.

This is essential because the health care indices in our country are dismal. That every year out of a population of 100,000 in our country 36.11 persons die due to Tuberculosis (1); large number of children fall prey to Encephalitis,

Diarrhea, Malaria and many other communicable diseases, is a matter of grave concern. Needless to mention the havoc caused by the COVID Pandemic where we failed to prevent several thousand deaths because of mismanagement and skewed priorities. Non-communicable diseases too are on the rise. It is estimated that 29.8 percent of Indians have hypertension. India is soon likely to become the diabetes capital of the world.

It is very unfortunate



that several patients die in case of an emergency because of denial of treatment for want of money or due to some technicalities. This is deplorable and complete violation of the right to life which is a basic human right. The Supreme Court of India as long back as 1989 observed in *Parmanand Katara v. Union of India* AIR 1989 SC 2039 that when accidents occur and the victims are taken to available hospitals or to a medical practitioner, they are not given emergency care, precisely on the ground that the case is a medico-legal case and the injured person should go to a Government Hospital. The Supreme Court emphasized the

Dr Arun Mitra

need for making it obligatory for hospitals and medical practitioners to provide emergency medical care. The Apex court further observed that this is not the only reason for not attending on injured persons or persons in a medical emergency, for sometimes such persons are turned out on the ground that they are not in a position to make payment immediately or that they have no insurance or that they are

expenditure comes from the pockets of households. Every year 6.3 crore population of India is pushed towards poverty due to out of pocket expenditure, a fact admitted in the Health Policy 2017. This catastrophic healthcare cost is an important cause of impoverishment which further adds to poor health. Our public health spending is one among the lowest in the world that is nearly 1.1 percent of the GDP against the required minimum of five percent as recommended by the WHO.

On the contrary there has been a paradigm shift in the approach to healthcare. The National Health Policy 2017 showed concern on the healthcare situation in the country but it offers the solution on the insurance based healthcare. The existing insurance based schemes cover only the indoor care while nearly 67 percent of the health expenditure is incurred on OPD care. With entry of corporate sector in healthcare system, healthcare has been turned into business rather than a social responsibility. Moreover those not covered under any government insurance scheme have to shelve huge amount for insurance. Senior citizens are the worst affected. The insurance based schemes have in fact turned into doling away public money to the insurance companies.

Health was recognized as human right way back in 1966. The erstwhile USSR

declared health as a right of every citizen and responsibility of the state in 1936. In the year 1948 the UK government took a similar step to establish National Health Services (NHS). But ironically till date the Constitution of India does not expressly guarantee a fundamental right to health. However references to the state's responsibility to health of the people are mentioned in the directive principles in Part IV of the Indian Constitution. These provide a basis for the right to health. Article 42 directs the State to just and humane conditions of work and maternity relief. Article 47 casts a duty on the state to raise the nutrition levels and standard of living of people and to improve public health. Article 21 guarantees the right to life.

A subject like healthcare cannot be left to the market forces alone. It will further exclude the low income strata from quality healthcare. Organisations like the Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD) and the Alliance of Doctors for Ethical Healthcare have been demanding such an Act from the central government to declare the Health as a Fundamental Right. It is the primary duty of all doctors as custodian of health to press for the demand for Health as a Fundamental Right. This will also help in reducing trust deficit between patients and doctors.

With Rajasthan Act in force it is time now for the central government to follow.

World Bank, ADB Cut India's Growth Forecast

The World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB) on April 4, 2023 slashed their economic growth forecasts for India for 2023-24 by 30 and 80 bps to 6.3 and 6.4 per cent respectively, citing risks to the outlook arising from both global and domestic factors.

In its India Development Update, the World Bank said real GDP growth is expected to moderate from 6.9 per cent in 2022-23 to 6.3 per cent in 2023-24 because of global slowdown spillovers and slower consumption growth. "The lagged impact of monetary policy tightening, heightened growth uncertainty, and reduced current spending of the government are

expected to constrain domestic demand in India in 2023-24," it added.

The ADB, on the other hand, in its latest Asian Development Outlook said if global conditions do not deteriorate as much as anticipated, higher global demand will likely spur growth in India. "However, any worsening of geopolitical tensions is likely to exert further downward pressure on global demand and increase uncertainty, tamping down India's growth rate and pushing up inflation. Domestically, weather shocks to agricultural production, including abnormal rainfall or higher temperatures, could spur food inflation, thereby putting

further pressure on the central bank to raise interest rates," it said.

The World Bank cautioned that consumer spending by lower-income groups is expected to be hit in 2023-24 due to slower growth in their incomes. "This is consistent with labour market data indicating that over the past two years, jobs and earnings losses were higher among informal workers like those in casual-wage work, those with below-tertiary level education, and those in low-paying sectors most affected by the pandemic, such as retail and hospitality services, and construction," it said.

The ADB is more optimistic on prospects of domestic consumption growth. "A robust

labour market and rising consumer confidence are indicators of relatively strong growth in consumption in 2023-24 and 2024-25. Further, a higher tax rebate and a raised income threshold for tax exemption, announced in the most recent budget, may increase disposable income for the middle class, also boosting private consumption," it said.

On recovery of private investment demand, the World Bank said the investment cycle is projected to pick up in the second half of 2023-24, contingent on global growth recovery and lower borrowing costs. The ADB said private investment growth is likely to be lower in 2023-24, given tightened monetary policy, high lending rates, global uncertainty, and moderating optimism on business conditions.

Both the World Bank and the ADB projected retail inflation to moderate in 2023-24 to 5.2 per cent and 5.0 per cent respectively, assuming moderation in oil and food prices.

The World Bank said core inflation is expected to remain elevated but on a downward trajectory as the impact of monetary policy tightening starts to materialise from mid-2023-24. "Moderating global oil prices will push transportation costs down, and inflation in other services is also expected to ease on the back of a modest growth in consumer spending. Furthermore, an expected fall in prices of inputs such as cotton and synthetic fibres over

2023-24 will further push down core inflation," it added.

The ADB projected monetary policy to become more accommodative in 2024-25 in tandem with expected actions by the US Federal Reserve.

Both the multilateral lending agencies projected India's current account deficit (CAD) to narrow, to 2.1 per cent and 2.2 per cent of GDP respectively, due to a substantial decline in the merchandise trade deficit.

"Growth in import of goods and services is expected to slow as commodity prices moderate, narrowing the trade deficit. With rising global uncertainty and interest rates, foreign direct investment and portfolio inflow are likely to remain weak in 2023-24 before picking up slightly in 2024-25. Nevertheless, India's overall balance of payments will remain strong to the forecast horizon," the ADB said.

The World Bank said India's elevated public debt-to-GDP ratio is stable but subject to risks arising from macroeconomic uncertainty, while the ADB maintained that India's public debt is on a sustainable path. "The projected level of the fiscal deficit stabilizes the debt-to-GDP ratio around 84 per cent but if nominal GDP growth were to moderate more than currently projected, faster consolidation would be needed to reduce the debt burden over the medium-term," the World Bank said.

Let Us Think Out...

From Front Page

agriculture, energy, climate change etc. (2) Aligning monetary and fiscal frameworks. They can soften the ups and downs of business cycles, prioritize debt, inflation and improve financial sector stability. (3) Cutting Trade Costs: The Report suggests that by improving the logistics and regulation can cut the trading costs by half. (4) The category of digitally delivered services exports from

developing countries has increased up to 50 per cent of their total exports. It needs more education, skills through greater capital expenditure. (5) Greater emphasis being laid on increasing women's participation in labour force. In order to increase labour supply in

labour-short economies, there is a suggestion to encourage women aged 55 or over to join the labour force. And (6) It is pointed out that there is a great need

of international cooperation at all levels. All countries, it is mentioned, cooperated well during the decade of 1990s following the breakup of Soviet Union, but later the co-operation faltered. Shall we ask why did it falter?

Out-of-(Capitalist) Box Some Scholars in their Advance Praise to the Report have suggested out-of-box solutions to the problems. It has been seen above that the policy suggestions have been from the capitalist box, which have not worked up till now and, therefore, the present situation has arrived.

It seems time has come for suitable socialistic solutions to be proposed, discussed and tried.

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Trump Arrested in Fraud after Court's Indictment

Donald Trump once a powerful president of USA was arrested. Trump was closer the Indian prime minister Narendra Modi. Both cooperated each other in their elections in their respective countries. Both belong to rightist parties. A Manhattan grand jury has indicted Donald Trump, the ex-president of US in more than 30 counts related to business fraud. This is the first time that country's history that a current or former president is facing in criminal charges. In this way Trump was caught off guard by the grand jury's decision to indict him.

The Manhattan District Attorney has indicted Trump in connection with his alleged role in a hush money payment scheme and cover-up involving adult film star dated back to 2016 presidential election. The witness gave 30 minutes of testimony before it voted to indict Trump.

The indictment has sent shockwaves across the US, pushing the country's political system. The legal action against Trump jolts the 2024 presidential campaign into a new phase, as the former president has vowed to keep running in the face of criminal charges.

Trump has long avoided legal consequences in his personal, professional and political lives. He has settled several private civil lawsuits through the years and paid his way out of disputes concerning the Trump Organization, his namesake company. As president, he was twice impeached by the Democratic-led House, but avoided conviction by the Senate.

In December, the Trump Organization was convicted on multiple charges of tax fraud, though Trump himself was not charged in that case. It relates to a 130,000 dollar payment made by Trump's then-personal attorney Michael Cohen to Daniels in late October 2016, days before the 2016 presidential election, to silence her from going public about an alleged affair with Trump a decade earlier.

At issue in the investigation is the payment made to Daniels and the Trump Organization's reimbursement to Cohen.

Kiev regime in Ukraine, which exposes an important strategically significant point that should not be sidelined by those who continue to hold Russia solely responsible. Thousands of protestors assembled at Brandenburg Gate in Berlin as well as across the country also symbolise an acute understanding that exists in the German public that only dialogue and diplomacy, instead of camp politics and hegemony can resolve the Ukraine war. There is definitely a need to change course on Kiev.

These protests unfolded as the impasse in Ukraine is becoming

sponsored war machineries remain unacceptable and the fact that this is coming from Berlin, which has historically adopted a nuanced foreign policy, is a cause for concern.

The protests in Germany are a reminder that the Scholz administration must work towards peace instead of resorting to confrontation. As a great power in Europe with significant clout in international affairs, translating domestic sentiment into foreign policy will work well for Germany and aid the peacemaking process. It is high time to shelve nefarious policies,



According to court filings in Cohen's own federal prosecution, Trump Organization executives authorized payments to him totalling 420,000 dollar to cover his original 130,000 dollar payment and tax liabilities and reward him with a bonus. The Trump Organization noted the reimbursements as a legal expense in its internal books.

Anti-war Protests in Deutschland

The Germans across Germany have come out in protest against weapons supplies to

unbearable. The war continues to fester in the absence of de-escalation calls and is further solidified as countries such as Germany sign off on 8.9 million Euro in arms exports in 2022, with a quarter of that amount heading straight to the Zelensky regime. The transnational nature of the conflict and various actors stepping in to prolong it, has resulted in the United States approving sales to countries such as Poland worth \$10 Bn for interoperability. These hard facts continue to alarm pacifists and those vouching for negotiations with the Kremlin. Such state-

strategies and tactics for good. The protestors raised slogans against NATO countries which has been instigating war between Ukraine and Russia.

Millions in Japan Live as Social Recluses

Capitalism is collapsing on its own weight now, everywhere internationally, it may be in United States of America, it may be in European countries and elsewhere some countries which are following these nations. Japan is one of them. An estimated 1.46 million working-age people in

Diary of International Events

C. Adhikesavan

Japan are living as social recluses, with many citing the pandemic as a reason for their withdrawal from society.

An estimated 1.46 million working-age people in Japan are living as hikikomori (social recluses), according to a survey.

The figure accounts for some 2 per cent of the total population of people between 15 and 64 years of age in the country. Some 20 per cent became social recluses due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Anyone could become a social recluse here.

The estimate was based on a survey conducted in November last year on 30,000 people the ages of 10 and 69 across the country. The survey found that 2.05 per cent of people age 15 to 39 go out only for their hobbies, leave their rooms but stay within their homes or rarely leave their rooms for at least six months. The share stood at 2.02 per cent for people between the ages of 40 to 64.

According to the survey, 21.5 per cent of hikikomori between ages 15 to 39 have been socially isolated for six months to less than one year, and 21.9 per cent of those between ages 40 and 64 have shut themselves in their homes for less than two to three years.

Asked why they became hikikomori, 20.8 per cent of social recluses between ages 15 and 39 said they had difficulty with interpersonal relations, followed by 18.1 per cent who cited the pandemic. As a trigger to start social retreat, 44.5 per cent of hikikomori between ages 40 to 64 cited leaving their jobs, followed by 20.6 per cent who cited the pandemic.

Democracy is in Peril...

From Page 04

the statewide land struggles. Finally he demanded the state government to issue pattas to those struggling shelterless people.

Chada Venkata Reddy, national executive member of CPI, while addressing stated that the state government should join the struggle for implementation of assurances given at the time of bifurcation. KCR should go for dharna in front of parliament in this regard. He urged upon the state government to take immediate steps to distribute houses and pattas to hut dwellers.

On this occasion a CD of revolutionary songs on people's struggle yatra was unveiled by P Sandosh Kumar.



Takkalapally Srinivasa Rao, convenor of padayatra, Kalaveni Shankar state secretariat member of CPI, Nedunoori Jyothi state general secretary of NFIW also addressed the

meeting. Karre Bixapathi, B Vijayasarathi, Korimi Rajkumar, Ramadugu Laxman, Thota Mallikarjuna Rao, district party secretaries, Panjala Ramesh,

Bashumiya, Thota Bixapathi, Manda Sadalaxmi state working president of NFIW, Mekala Dasu, Chandrashekar, Ashok Stalin, Maddela Yellesh

and Anil Kumar had participated.

P Sandosh Kumar MP visited the hut dwellers at Peddapendyala village of Dharma Sagar mandal of Hanamkonda

district and expressed total support on behalf of CPI. He urged upon the state government to distribute pattas to hut dwellers. He also revealed that 50 percent of people of Telangana

are shelterless. Hence they are opting to erect huts in government lands. He also made it clear that he came to know that in erstwhile Warangal district shelterless people are waging battles for shelter. He has come to support padayatra demanding implementation of assurances given at the time of bifurcation.

The meeting was also addressed by Marupaka Anil Kumar, Palle Narsimha, state general secretary of IPTA, Gokala Rajaiah village unit party secretary, .Rajarapu Ratnam, Devanna, Rajanna, DJ Raju, Yaqub, Ramesh, Pranitha, Anitha, Sravanthi and Jyothakka.

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IDPD Condemns Hike in Prices of Essential Drugs

Increasing the price of essential medicines by 12.1 per cent is a retrograde step which will add to the out-of-pocket expenditure and put burden on the patients who will now have to shelve more money to buy the drugs.

Dr Arun Mitra, president of Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD) has said that they had submitted a memorandum to the National Pharmaceutical Pricing Authority (NPPA) in October 2022 demanding

streamlining the prices of drugs. We had demanded drug prices should be regulated at par with rationalisation of trade margins.

The ex-factory price of the drugs should be calculated on the basis of cost involved in its production and cap the trade margin to a maximum of 30 per cent from the factory price to the consumer. All the chemicals which are labeled as medicines should be included in the list of essential medicines because medicines are not a

choice of the patient. Therefore it is important to bring more drugs under Drug Price Control Order (DPCO).

India's patents office on March 23, 2023 rejected an application from Janssen Pharmaceutica, a Belgian firm owned by Johnson and Johnson, seeking to extend its monopoly in India on Bedaquiline beyond the primary patent's expiry this July. Bedaquiline is used in the treatment of drug-resistant TB. This would help the production of less

expensive generic versions of this life-saving drug which could now cost Rs 650 to Rs 1,400 per person per month, compared with Rs 3,700 for the patented version. This order of the NPPA is very retrograde.

Dr G S Grewal former president Punjab Medical Council and member core committee of the alliance of doctors for Ethical Health Care (ADEH) said that they had met the NPPA chairpersons earlier too and got the prices of coronary stents reduced when Bhupender Singh

was the chairman.

He had shown agreement with our proposal to cap the prices of various medical devices. But soon he was transferred for the reasons best known to the concerned. We demand that this order to raise the prices of essential medicines be revoked. It is worth mentioning here that as per reports earlier the prices of essential medicines has been raised from 0.5 per cent to four per cent but this time the raise is exorbitant, Dr Arun Mitra said.

On Record ...

Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud-led bench said the Centre can't raise national security claims out of thin air to deny people their rights. The Supreme Court quashed the Centre's refusal to grant security clearance to Malayalam news channel MediaOne and pulled up the Union Home Ministry for raising national security claim out of 'thin air'. Chief Justice of India DY Chandrachud-led bench said critical views of a media organisation can't be termed anti-establishment. The CJI-led bench said the Centre can't claim absolute immunity against investigative reports when such reports impact the rights of people and entities. "National security can't be raised to deny people their rights...it was raised by the MHA in a cavalier matter in the case," the bench noted. – *The Hindustan Times*, April 5.

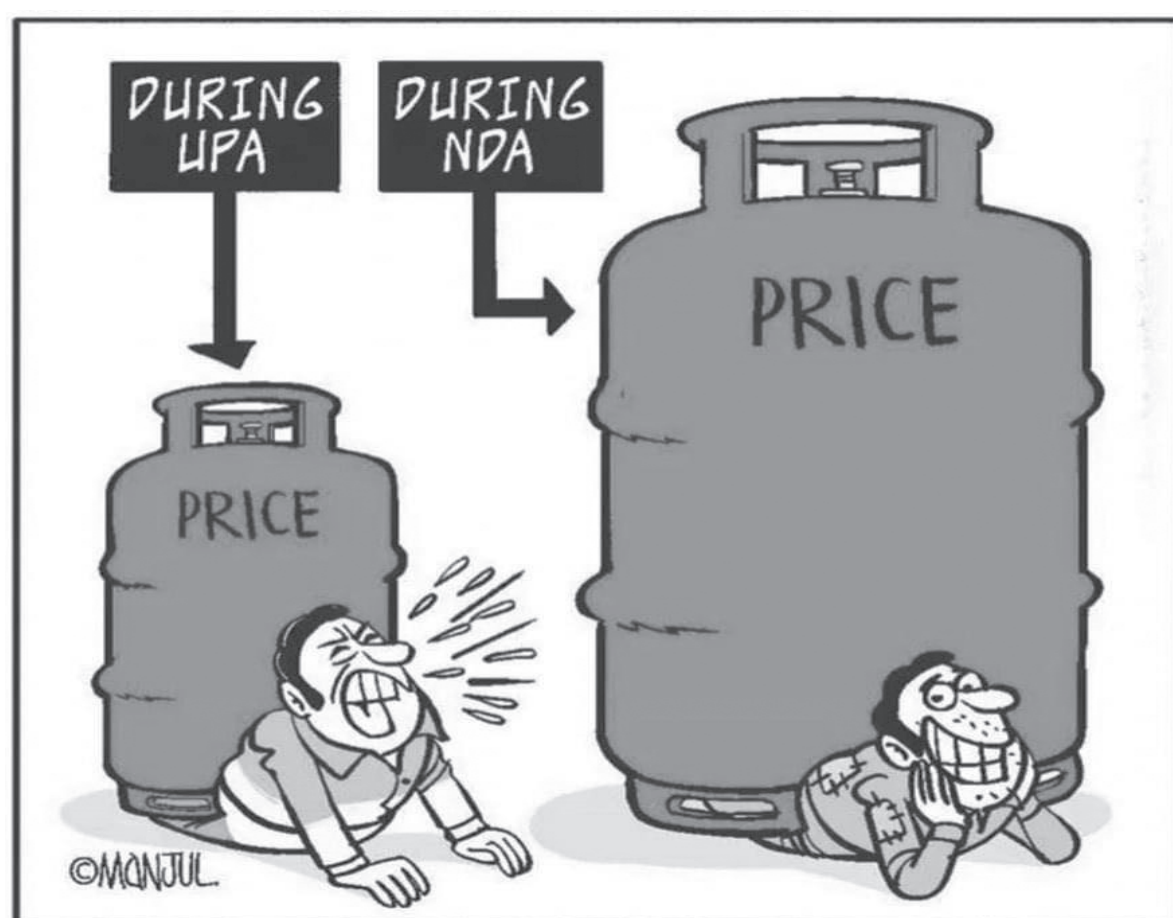
A comparison of the new class 12 political science textbook titled "Politics in India since Independence" with its older version showed that certain references to Mahatma Gandhi have been deleted by the NCERT. The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) in its new Class 12 political science and history textbooks

has removed references to dislike of Hindu extremists for Mahatma Gandhi's pursuit of Hindu-Muslim unity, banning of Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) after his assassination and dropped reference of "Brahmin" to his assassin Nathuram Godse. – *The Hindustan Times*, April 5.

Days after communal tension and violence in Bihar's Nalanda and Sasaram towns, Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on April 5 said, "It was well-thought of conspiracy and truth behind violence

would come out soon." When asked about Union Home Minister Amit Shah's remark made during his recent Bihar visit at Nawada that "doors of BJP have been shut forever for Nitish Kumar", Kumar asked, "Do they have any doors?" "It was all a well-thought-of conspiracy and the truth behind violence [of Nalanda and Sasaram] will come out soon," Chief Minister Nitish Kumar told media persons in Patna. – *The Hindu*, April 5.

Compiled by: C Adhikesavan



Maladministration Prevails, Corruption on Rise

Grand March against Centre, State Policies

KOLKATA: In response to a call for a greater movement against maladministration and corruption at the Centre and in the state, the city of Kolkata witnessed on March 29, 2023 a grand march of the Left and the Congress combine.

The joint march demanded implementation of MGNREGA project properly and allotment of adequate funds to West Bengal, BJP government's anti-people policies, strengthening of Rightist forces, efforts to silence opposition voices and against TMC government's corruption and autocracy in the state.

A demand was also raised to hike daily wages for MGNREGA workers up to Rs 600 and 200 days of work in a year. The massive rally in which participated the Left and Congress leaders and the masses marching through the streets of Kolkata. It was an expression of a conviction that the Left and Congress will not

bow down to any fascist and authoritarian forces. From Kolkata's Ramlila Park through Maulali and Park Circus Maidan, the slogan was raised in a single voice, "Throw away fascist and communal BJP to save the country and throw away corrupt Trinamool to save Bengal!"

The march started at 3 p.m. on March 29 and culminated near Park Circus Maidan. Left Front chairman Biman Bose, state council secretary of CPI Swapn Banerjee, state secretariat members of CPI Prabir Dev, Gautam Roy, Tapan Ganguly, Kalyan Banerjee, state secretary of CPI(M) Mohammad Salim, Manoj Bhattacharya of RSP, Naren Chatterjee of AIFB, Asit Mitra and Ashutosh Chatterjee of the National Congress, Mihir Bayan of RCPI, Prabir Ghosh of Bolshevik Party marched along with thousands of participants.

CPI workers and supporters joined the main procession at Ramlila Park with



massive participation from state headquarters of the CPI, Bhupesh Bhavan. Nanda Sengupta, Shyamal Manna, Madhuchanda Dev, Nawal Kishore Srivastava, Arun Chatteraj, Subrata Das, Raju Das, Nihar Ghosh, Ranjit Karmakar, Tarit Chakraborty, Amitabh Chakraborty, Amlendu Debnath, Ruhidas Saharay, Saibal Ghosh, Subodh Datta, Bidhan Ray, Pratap Roy, Subir Mukherjee, Saikat Giri were among the many others taking part in the colourful

Subodh Datta

procession.

The Left and Congress leaders at the outset stated that we need to strengthen this unity against the BJP government's fascist attitude, anti-people policies and mentality of silencing opposition voices at the Centre and against the misgovernance and corruption of the Trinamool government in the state.

The joint march of Left and Congress held a short meeting near Lady Brabourne College near Park Circus Maidan. CPI state secretary Swapn Banerjee presided over the meeting. Referring to the existing situation in the country and our state, he called for the overthrow of the fascist, communal, corporate-friendly BJP government at the Centre

and the establishment of a secular, democratic, people-friendly, labour-farmer-friendly government in the country and to overthrow the corrupt and autocratic Trinamool government from the state. He said that to achieve this all the left, democratic and secular forces should come together. This is the call of this day.

Left Front chairman Biman Basu said that today's march is against BJP's fascist attitude, anti-people policy and mismanagement of Trinamool. It is as if the Trinamool government has opened a shop selling jobs in the state. State ministers, leaders and education officials are in jail on corruption charges.

Mohammad Salim, Naren Chattopadhyay, Subhash Naskar, Asit Mitra, Ashutosh Chattopadhyay and others also addressed the protesters.

