

100th Anniversary of CPI Foundation Centenary Celebrations Start with Great Enthusiasm



Centenary celebrations of the Communist Party of India started on December 26, 2024, in Kanpur with great jubilation.. It was at a grand scale, befitting the occasion. A grand meeting and ceremony took place in Kanpur on December 26, 2024, to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the Communist Party of India. As part of the centenary celebrations of the Party at Shastri Bhawan on Khalasi Line in Kanpur, a grand function was held. During the meeting, the party's General Secretary, D. Raja, along with National Secretaries Amarjeet Kaur and Dr. Girish, as well as Arvind Raj Swaroop, a member of the party's National Executive and State Secretary of Uttar Pradesh, were present.

The venue was named Hasrat Mohani Nagar and auditorium was named after Ajoy Ghosh. The meeting began with hoisting the flag, and the venue

Arvind Raj Swaroop

was beautifully decorated with 100 flags marking the anniversary. The party's general secretary, D. Raja, hoisted the flag, and other national leaders joined by singing the flag song, "Country after country, the workers picked up the red flags" in unison.

In Kanpur, on December 25, 1925, the

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2025 : Year for Struggle and Hope

Comrades & Friends,

As we step into the year 2025, we stand at a crucial juncture in the history of our nation. The challenges before us are immense, yet so are the opportunities to further our resolve. This New Year must be marked by renewed commitment to our ideals, and a resolute determination to strengthen the Communist Party of India as the vanguard of the people's struggle.

In the face of growing threats to India's secular fabric, democratic values, and socialist vision, we must reassert our unwavering commitment to the cause of secularism, socialism, and democracy. These ideals are the foundation of our Republic, and it is our duty to protect and uphold them against the forces of reaction and division.

2025, which is also the centenary year of the CPI, must be a year of relentless struggle, particularly against the right-wing communalism and crony capitalism that seeks to divide our people and concentrate power in the hands of a few. We must work tirelessly to build a society that is truly casteless, classless, and egalitarian – a society where no individual is oppressed, and every citizen is treated with dignity, regardless of their caste, creed, or economic status.

Let us renew our commitment to strengthening the CPI ready to mobilize the masses for the long-term struggle for a just, equal, and united India. Our vision remains clear: to ensure that the fruits of progress and development reach every corner of our land, leaving no one behind.

This year, we must deepen our connection with the people, build stronger grassroots movements, and stand firm against the divisive, communal fascist forces that seek to redefine our nation and rewrite our history. We must fortify our resolve to be the voice of the marginalized, the oppressed, and the working people.

The road ahead is challenging, but it is also filled with hope and possibility. Together, with determination and unity, we must resolve to turn 2025 into a year of hope – a hope for secularism, socialism and democracy on our soil. We have to make 2025 a year that brings us a step closer to the realization of our dream for a just and egalitarian society.

With revolutionary greetings,

D. Raja
General Secretary, CPI

New year is here with its pleasant freshness, though not without the pain that never gets dim. The memories that keep haunting are of a man who was killed because he always held human cause above the cold power of the forces of Right. His philosophy of militant nonviolence became the political instrument for him, to be used against the colonial powers. It was the means he used to seek liberation of our country with, that was in shackles, denied sovereignty and dignity, and hence, also its present and future.

It was this singularity of cause Mahatma Gandhi was committed to that was not to the liking of those who wanted to keep India always in pieces, each one fighting against the other.

He was killed because he opposed the fragmentation of not only our country, but also of our people based on community and caste. It was a deeply agonized acceptance that he extended towards the decision of partition. The nation he was the creator of, carried a tradition of composite culture since centuries. He stood for the unity of all the sects and communities, including Hindus and Muslims. But in contrast to his stand, the RSS and Hindu Mahasabha were one with British rulers and their loyalty was threatened by Bapu, the man who led the freedom struggle. It was also a time when Gandhiji identified the spreading gloom in the entire world economy. Stagnation was leading to collapse of colonialism.

Bapu seized the moment and used it to serve his own purpose. We had already attained freedom. But times were turbulent. Jawaharlal Nehru had written, "How many realize what it means to have the presence of Mahatma Gandhi during these months?" About the time, he wrote further, "Fear and hatred blinded our minds and all the restraints the civilization has imposed been swept away. Horror piled on horror, and sudden emptiness seized us at the brute savagery of human minds." Gandhiji carried the soul of our country and went to every corner possible with his message. He went to Noakhali

Significance of Being Gandhi

district of Bengal, walking all the distances at seventy seven years of age. He was crossing the rivers walking on Bamaboo bridges. He went to Kolkata also. Wherever he went, people came to get the healing touch. In Noakhali where he was in 1946, he had hopes that partition of the country would perhaps be stalled. He went to Bihar, but situation was almost out of hands there as rioting continued without any control. But the ways of Gandhiji were totally different as he told Bihar people that if they madly wanted to kill people, they should 'destroy' him first. Gandhiji was staying in the house of a Muslim which was attacked by fanatics. Gandhiji again managed to get them retreated. In August-September, 1947, Gandhiji was in Kolkata and C Rajagopalachari, then governor of West Bengal, wrote about him, "Gandhiji has achieved many things, but

evil doer?" The reply took no time, "One evil doer cannot punish another." Soon his birthday came and along with that sheafs of best wishes and congratulations, but all he said was, "Would it not be more appropriate to send condolences?" Every time he faced the challenges, he shined more.

On January 30, Gandhiji, the architect of our freedom that was achieved with such little bloodshed and violence, was killed. He was killed because he fought for Hindu and Muslim unity. He was killed because he opposed the partition. But that was not the end. Split kept widening and is now threatening to tear the secular fabric of the nation apart.

The RSS, founded in 1925, was never a part of the freedom movement. Shackles were praised as an 'act of Providence' by first chief of the RSS, Dr KB Hedgewar in 1935. This was revealed in a news-report published in *The Times of India* on October 10, 1935: "The march of the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh Volunteers in military order from the Town Hall to the Indian Gymkhana ground today ended the tenth annual celebrations of the Sangh. Dr. Moonje and Dr. Paranjpe were dressed in military uniform. At the meeting on Reshimbag ground [in Nagpur], Dr Hedgewar, the chief promoter of the Sangh, said that the British Raj afforded them a lesson in organisation, and he looked upon it as an act of providence that the Britishers were ruling over them." And what was the lesson? To keep alive the divide, never let them unite. It is not surprising that the RSS remained in conflict with the freedom fighters, and one of its members, Nathuram Godse, went to the extent of assassinating Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 1948.

For last couple of years, as the RSS men rule the country and try to control its society and culture, Gandhian vision of a secular India with equal rights for all religions has once again come under attack. The period has witnessed massive efforts to steer the national discourse to treat Muslims as the 'other'.

Editorial

there has been nothing, not even independence, which is so truly wonderful as his victory over evil in Calcutta." In Delhi, this influence carried even a 'halo' over him that scared the communalism so much that it had to opt for retreat. He had already told those attending his prayer meetings that he would be killed by someone who would be here with his gun. In fact Gandhiji was facing a storm of madness and had placed himself against it. He even attended a meeting of RSS cadres, fiercely anti-Muslim, and opposed to him as well, and told them that they were destroying Hinduism itself with their intolerance. He told them, "There is no gain in returning evil with evil." He told them that charges against RSS have been made that they were planning conspiracies to assassinate people and asked them that they should come out clean from these charges by proving their sincerity. In the recorded speech that Gandhiji had made, when he was summing up, a question was raised, "Does Hinduism allow to kill an

CPI's Centenary Celebrations in Nalgonda

To mark the inauguration of centenary celebrations of the foundation of Communist Party of India (CPI), massive public meeting was organised in Nalgonda, Telangana, a stronghold of struggles. D. Raja, the national general secretary of CPI, Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, the former general secretary of the CPI, and Kunamneni Sambasiva Rao, the Telangana state secretary of the CPI, were the chief guests. Other notable attendees included Syed Azeez Pasha, national secretary of the CPI; Chada Venkata Reddy and Pasya Padma, central executive members; Takkalapally Srinivas Rao, state assistant secretary; K. Srinivas Reddy, national council member; Kalaveni Shankar, ET Narsimha, Balnarsimha, and V.S. Bose, who were all present on the dais.



Ram Narsimha Rao

In defence of India, its Constitution, democracy, and secularism, we must liberate ourselves from the clutches of the communal fanatic forces represented by the BJP and RSS," asserted D. Raja, as he addressed a large public meeting in Nalgonda, Telangana. Before the meeting, an impressive and colourful procession was held, marching from the clock tower to the NG College grounds.

D. Raja emphasised that achieving our goals requires all secular, democratic, and leftist forces to join together in united struggles. He noted that during the freedom struggle, the

communist party fought alongside Mahatma Gandhi. In the same spirit, secular and democratic forces must unite to combat communal fanaticism. He emphasised that the Communist Party founded a hundred years ago, was pivotal in advocating for India's independence. He criticised the RSS for its lack of action against colonial powers. He stated that the BJP is essentially the political wing of the RSS.

The Communists historically called for a Constituent Assembly to ensure a secular and democratic India, rejecting the idea of a religious-based nation. Raja highlighted Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's warning

against turning India into a Hindu Rashtra, stating that such a shift threatens democracy and the Constitution. He urged united action from secular forces against the challenges the BJP and RSS posed. He also condemned Union Home Minister Amit Shah's insults to Ambedkar and called for his dismissal from the Union Cabinet. He stressed the importance of the Constitution, which guarantees all citizens' rights to education, health, and dignity, questioning the current state of equality and justice.

He voiced concerns over attacks on minorities and the rising atrocities against Dalits and Adivasis.

Furthermore, Raja accused Modi's government of favouring crony capitalists like Adani and Ambani, worsening economic inequalities. He noted the plight of the poor and reminded us that the Communist Party must fight against untouchability to create a casteless, secular, socialist society. Raja

called for the red flag of the Communist Party to be present in every village during the centenary celebrations, recalling the Party's legacy and struggles against colonial oppression, and urged a renewed fight against the BJP and RSS's rule.

Suravaram Sudhakar Reddy, the former

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CPI Mourns Loss of Former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued the following statement on December 27, 2024:

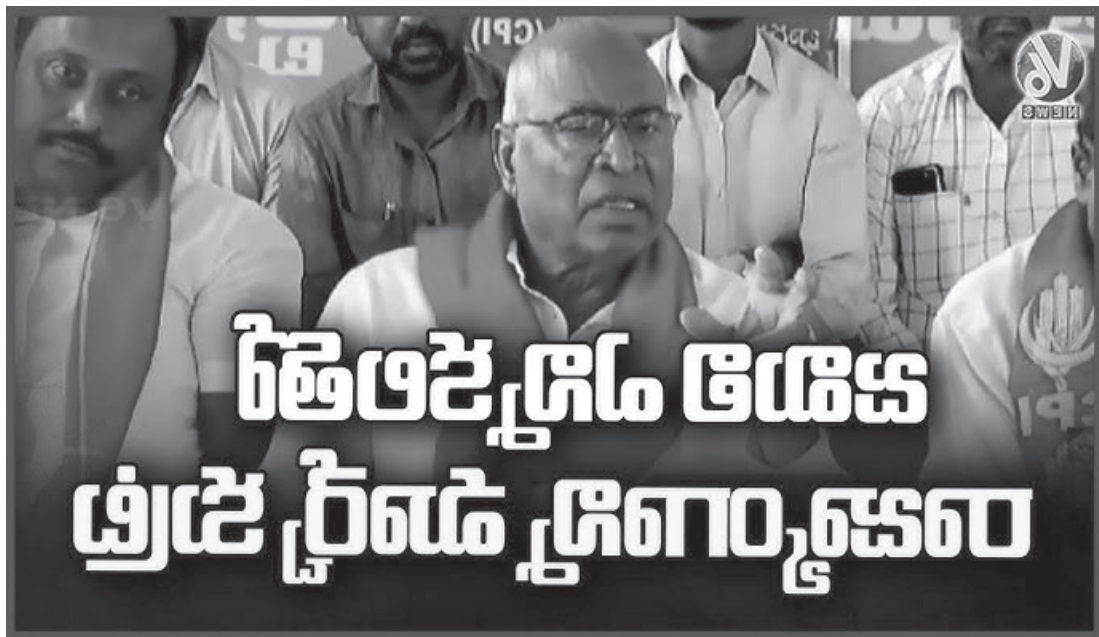
CPI conveys its deep anguish over the demise of former Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh to all his near and dear ones and the Indian National Congress.

His humility and politeness in both personal and public life were unmatched.

Dr Singh's leadership and Left's collaboration during UPA-1 proved to be transformative for our country. Historic decisions such as the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) and the Right to Information Act were taken during the tenure of UPA-1 only.

Dr Singh had deep respect for democratic values, dialogue and secularism. Despite ideological and policy disagreements, he always maintained a spirit of decency, civility and fairness.

CPI sends its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and the Indian National Congress.



CPI Foundation Day Observed in Assam

The inauguration programs for the Foundation of the CPI Centenary Celebration were held on December 26, 2024, in various districts and subdivisional headquarters, as well as at the state headquarters of the Assam State Council. A significant public meeting took place at the state headquarters, which was beautifully decorated. Several leaders from leftist, democratic, and secular parties and notable intellectuals attended the event. Senior party leader Dambaru Bora hoisted the party's red flag, and senior leader Sarat Chandra Das paid tribute to the comrades who sacrificed their lives for the nation and the party. The meeting was presided over by Chakeswar Kalita, a former state secretariat member.

Renowned thinker and retired professor Dr. Hiren Gohain delivered an impactful speech as the chief guest. He emphasised that there is no alternative to organising a fight against fascism, stating that no one can escape the grip of fascism—whether they are intellectuals, writers, journalists, opposition leaders, or the entire democratic masses. Many people are apprehensive and disappointed under the ruling fascist government in India. Therefore, all communist and secular democratic forces must unite to fight against it. Dr. Gohain also expressed that ordinary people cannot live

Kanak Gogoi

peacefully due to the neoliberal capitalist economy. He asserted that capitalist exploitation is an enemy of the people and a root cause of rising prices, unemployment, and poverty.

We must analyse and assess what type of economy would best serve the common masses. In this regard, the left parties must find a new path for the working class and peasantry. Those in leadership roles within the left parties are responsible in these circumstances. Their activities should focus on expanding the revolution and achieving a qualitative



change in society. Leaders and cadres must engage in self-criticism of their mistakes and shortcomings without hesitation. It is important to remember that communists fought alongside the Congress during the freedom struggle and played a vital role in that movement. He has offered several

inaugural speech and criticised the RSS-BJP government for its lack of contribution to the freedom struggle. He noted that left parties need to strengthen and increase their membership. He also mentioned the recent movements organised by workers and farmers.

In his welcome address, CPI State

freedom struggle and its substantial contributions to making New India through organising mass movements in several states.

Satanjeeb Das (CPIM), Mihir Nandi (AIFB state chairman), and Sri Paresh Boruah (NCP) attended the meeting, alongside notable figures such as Dr. Apurba Kumar Boruah, Dr. Monurama Sarma,



suggestions to strengthen the left parties.

Munin Mahanta, a national executive member, explained the history of the Communist Party of India (CPI) in his

Secretary Kanak Gogoi stated that the CPI is the only communist party that has completed a glorious hundred years, enduring various ups and downs. He emphasised the party's significant role in India's

writer Dr. Suparna Lahiri, journalist Sri Vaikuntha Nath Goswami, and senior advocate Sri Santonu Borthakur. Youth leader Subrata Talukdar, Asomi Gogoi (state president of Asom Mahila Sangh), and other leaders from various organisations were also present. During the meeting, IPTA artists Humayun Choudhury and Manash Das performed a revolutionary song. The centenary programs were held in the districts of Sivasagar, Jorhat, Lakhimpur, Dibrugarh, Nazira, Golaghat, Nagaon, Marigaon, Karimganj, Goalpara, and Dhemaji.



Adieu to 2024

Consequences of Normalizing Hate

An impartial review of the year 2024 highlights that hate has become a central element of the BJP's campaign to vilify and malign religious minorities in India. The party is unapologetic about creating a hateful narrative for its gain and fostering a parochial mindset.

Like previous years, 2024 was particularly challenging for India's minorities, especially religious minorities such as Christians and Muslims. As it was an election year, there was a misguided hope that state-sponsored violence would decrease. However, this hope was proven unfounded. In the months leading up to the general elections, a vicious and one-sided campaign against religious minorities was orchestrated by right-wing elements, with tacit support from local bureaucracies and police.

In 2024, five states—Assam, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Jharkhand, and Uttar Pradesh—transformed into state-run laboratories for

harassing religious minorities. High-ranking officials devised the strategy to target these minorities, while the implementation was entrusted to lesser-known right-wing groups.

A loud campaign erupted in Shimla, the capital of Himachal Pradesh, against a local mosque, claiming it was an illegal encroachment. However, the mosque committee possessed all the necessary documents to prove ownership and the required permits from authorities to add additional floors to the mosque.

Nevertheless, evidence and rational advice often go ignored when state power is misused. The coordinated actions against Muslims in the Congress-led Himachal

Asad Mirza

Pradesh resulted in further ostracisation, with many Muslims

that allowing this sale would disrupt the atmosphere of the community. This kind of behaviour has been observed in several

silent and unresponsive. Prime Minister Modi, who claimed to be non-biological, seemed able to adopt anotherworldly attitude and continue



being pressured to leave various neighbourhoods in several towns and cities across the state.

In a similar case, a doctor couple in Moradabad, Uttar Pradesh, was pressured by right-wing groups to cancel the sale of their house to a Muslim couple. Locals claimed

metropolitan areas across India, where developers are increasingly constructing gated communities exclusively for specific religious groups, often excluding buyers from other faiths.

A similar situation occurred in New Delhi, where several old mosques and graveyards received notices claiming they were illegally encroaching on land. Despite clear judicial orders, local authorities carried out "bulldozer justice" by demolishing these sites—many who previously expressed concern chose not to condemn or halt this demolition.

This was happening in the national capital! As with many such incidents, the relevant authorities remained

living an illusion.

Despite the old narratives being replayed, the central government introduced a constitutional amendment bill aimed at managing Waqf properties belonging to the Muslim community—properties that Muslims have donated for their welfare. No previous government had intervened in the daily management of these Waqf properties.

Times have certainly changed! To counter the negative narrative surrounding the bill, a false narrative was constructed using WhatsApp and other social media platforms to spread misinformation about the Muslim community and Waqf properties.

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New Age Weekly



Samyukt Kisan Morcha

The Media cell of the SKM has issued the following statement on January 1, 2025, New Delhi, expressing its Inability to accept invitation to join discussion by HPC constituted by the SC:

The High Powered Committee Constituted by the Supreme Court has extended an invitation to the SKM to join its meeting scheduled on January 3, 2023 to discuss the farmer's issues.

The SC had constituted the HPC in the context of the blockade at Shambhu and Khanauri border of Punjab due to the farmers' struggle but SKM is not part of that agitation. The SC order dated September 2, 2024 had cautioned the farmers to keep themselves

at safe distance from the political parties and political issues and all their issues will be considered in a phased manner by the intervention of the Court.

SKM in principle does not accept intervention of the Court because the farmers are fighting on policy issues with the Union Government hence the Court has no role to play. In this context SKM expresses its inability to accept the invitation for the discussion by the SC appointed High Powered Committee.

Apology is not enough, Biren Singh Must Resign

The National Secretariat of the Communist Party of India issued on January 1, 2025, the following statement:

The apology expressed by Manipur Chief Minister Biren Singh after such a long time is an admission of the gravity of the crisis and the complete failure of his government to address the issues and challenges of the people in Manipur. It is also an admission of complete collapse of law and order. The crisis in Manipur highlights the absolute breakdown of governance. The state government has failed to maintain law and order, protect citizens, and ensure justice, leading to widespread suffering and insecurity. The state government has failed to take meaningful steps toward reconciliation. There have been no concrete measures to foster dialogue between communities or heal the deep social wounds inflicted by the ongoing crisis. The government has shown no willingness to take political parties into confidence or involve them in finding a comprehensive political solution. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continued refusal to visit Manipur and directly address the crisis demonstrates his lack of concern to the people of the state. This failure of Union Government has further eroded trust and exacerbated the situation. The CPI firmly believes that the people of Manipur deserve accountable and empathetic governance, which Chief Minister Biren Singh and his government have utterly failed to provide. His resignation is imperative for restoring confidence in the administration and paving the way for a fresh, people-centric approach to resolving the crisis. The CPI reiterates its solidarity with the people of Manipur and calls for a united effort to achieve justice, peace, and reconciliation in the state.

Holiday Seasons are Super Stressful: Amazon Workers

In the right-wing imaginary, the War on Christmas had a good run. Fox News host John Gibson alleged in a 2005 book that liberals were planning to "ban the sacred holiday," and a moral panic was born, yielding outrage after outrage almost every year.

This year, however, the defenders of all things merry and bright have been pretty quiet, and polling shows that even among conservatives and Donald Trump supporters, a declining minority of Americans believe that the beloved holiday is under siege. Sensitive neighbours (and corporations hoping to avoid their ire) may continue to wish us a "Happy Holidays," the ACLU may continue to object to religious

iconography in the town square, yet Americans are ignoring the likes of Tucker Carlson and Bill O'Reilly, instead adulting with a "live and let live" attitude.

This rare moment of cultural chill allows us to come together as Americans to confront the real war on Christmas, the one you won't hear about on Fox News: a class war.

If you've read Charles Dickens's 1843 classic *A Christmas Carol*, you'll remember that the main character is one of literature's nastiest bosses. Ebenezer Scrooge hates the holiday and resents giving his employee, Bob Cratchit, even one paid day off with his family, calling Christmas "a poor excuse for picking a man's pocket" and demanding that the

Liza Featherstone

terrified Cratchit be at his desk "all the earlier" the next day.

As bad as that sounds, poor Bob Cratchit had it easier than many American workers today. A recent survey of over one thousand workers found that one in ten were working on Christmas Day. Nearly one in four expected to be working on Christmas Eve, while more expected to work on New Year's Eve or New Year's Day. Reasons included needing the money and lacking paid time off.

Dickens, like his contemporary, Karl Marx, made observations about capitalism and its abuses to the human spirit that remain all too relevant today; in this case, his

point was that bosses don't stop acting like bosses at the holidays. Today, layoffs at this time of year are common. Last week, billionaire Elon Musk, who has been elected to exactly no government office but suddenly seems to be running everything, was apparently seeking to force a government shutdown, which would have meant that active-duty soldiers and other government workers wouldn't get their paychecks.

For some workers, conditions on the job get even worse at Christmastime. One of the reasons Americans give for working during the holiday is the fact that it is an especially busy time of year for their company or industry. Retail is one brutal

example. If you're shopping online for Christmas presents, and using Amazon to do so, you've probably noticed how fast your packages arrive: that's convenient for the procrastinating holiday shopper, but there is a human toll to that efficiency. Amazon workers say the holiday season is particularly stressful, given the intense pressure they're under to make so many more time-sensitive deliveries than usual.

As Teamsters went on strike at seven Amazon warehouses — in New York City, San Francisco, Chicago, Atlanta, and Southern California — some workers have observed that they were barely seeing their loved ones this season, considered "peak" for the company. "When you think of the holidays

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Truth in the History of Hindu Code Bill

The Hindu Code Bill (HCB) is one of the most significant yet contentious legislative efforts in Indian history. Its trajectory reveals the socio-political dynamics of post-independence India and the challenges of reforming deeply entrenched societal norms. The controversy surrounding the bill is a critical chapter in the political careers of Jawaharlal Nehru and Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, as well as a reflection of resistance from conservative factions. Recent remarks by Home Minister Amit Shah in Parliament have reignited debates about the historical narrative and interpretation of this landmark legislation.

The HCB originated during the freedom struggle, with its roots in the 1931 Karachi Session of the Indian National Congress, which passed a resolution on fundamental rights, including gender equality. Nehru, a staunch supporter of reform, believed that legal changes were essential for societal progress. In *The Discovery of India*, Nehru criticized the British for solidifying regressive customs into Hindu law.

Post-independence, the HCB, drafted under Ambedkar's stewardship, aimed to overhaul Hindu personal laws. It sought to provide women with property rights, divorce provisions, and equal status in marriage. Dr. Ambedkar, deeply committed to the bill, studied Hindu religious texts, including *Mitakshara* and *Dayabhaga*, to ensure its soundness. He believed the bill was essential to address caste and gender inequalities, which he saw as interlinked.

Opposition and Challenges

The HCB faced staunch opposition from various quarters, including religious

organizations like the Hindu Mahasabha and political figures like Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, who argued it threatened Hindu culture. The RSS's mouthpiece, *Organiser*, described the bill as an attack on Hindu faith, particularly criticizing the provision for women's right to

divorce. Effigies of Nehru and Ambedkar were burnt by protesters, highlighting the intensity of the backlash. Conservative elements within Nehru's Congress Party also resisted the bill, fearing electoral repercussions. This opposition was compounded by societal biases against Ambedkar, rooted in caste prejudice. Historian Chitra Sinha, in *Debating Patriarchy: The Hindu Code Bill Controversy in India (1941-1956)*, underscores

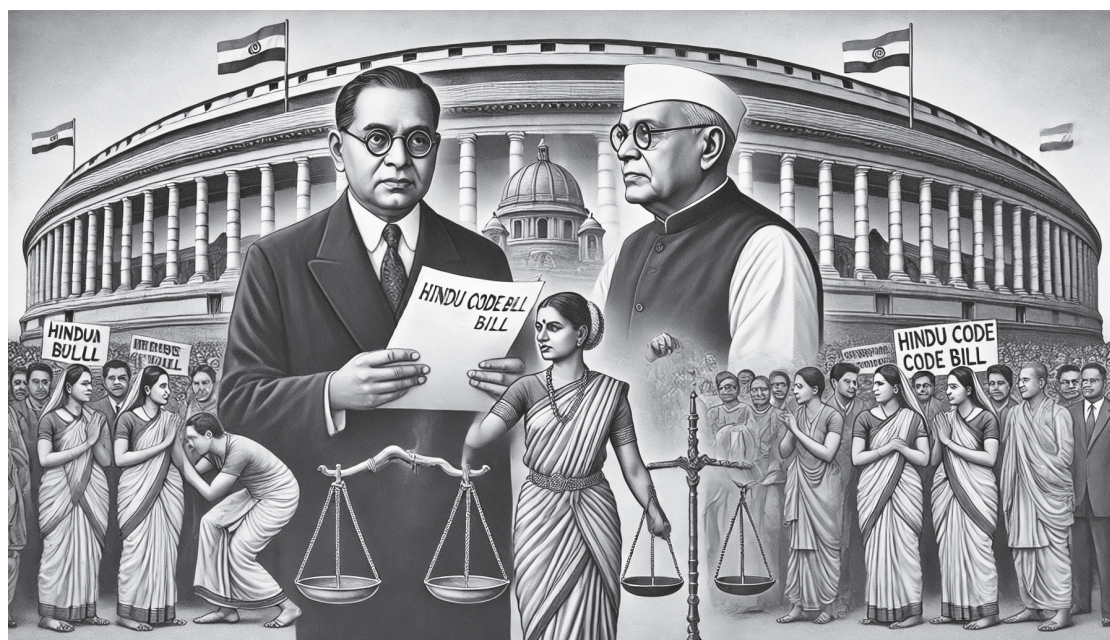
Nehru, Ambedkar, and the Withdrawal of the Bill

how caste-based hatred fueled resistance against Ambedkar's efforts. Ambedkar himself remarked that his contribution to the HCB was as significant as his role in drafting the Constitution. Despite being allies in supporting the HCB, Nehru and Ambedkar differed in their approaches. Ambedkar, driven by his vision of social justice, sought immediate implementation. Nehru, however, was more pragmatic, concerned about the political fallout, especially with the first general elections

looming in 1952. Facing opposition both inside and outside Parliament, Nehru decided to withdraw the bill in 1951. This decision deeply disappointed Ambedkar, leading to his resignation from the Cabinet. In his resignation letter, Ambedkar expressed disappointment over the inability to pass the HCB and highlighted the pervasive resistance to progressive reforms. Nehru, in subsequent correspondence,

The Legacy of the Hindu Code Bill

candidly acknowledged the challenges posed by societal opposition but reiterated his commitment to the bill's objectives. After the elections, Nehru adopted a different strategy. Instead of presenting the HCB as a single comprehensive bill, its provisions were introduced as separate legislations. This approach led to the passage of the Hindu Marriage Act, Hindu Succession Act, and Hindu Adoption and Maintenance Act between 1955 and 1956. These laws incorporated



many of Ambedkar's ideas and marked significant progress in reforming Hindu personal laws.

The amendments introduced by the Manmohan Singh government in 2005 further strengthened these laws, granting daughters equal rights in ancestral property. These steps underscore the enduring impact of the HCB on Indian society, even though its passage was initially thwarted.

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STUDY & STRUGGLE

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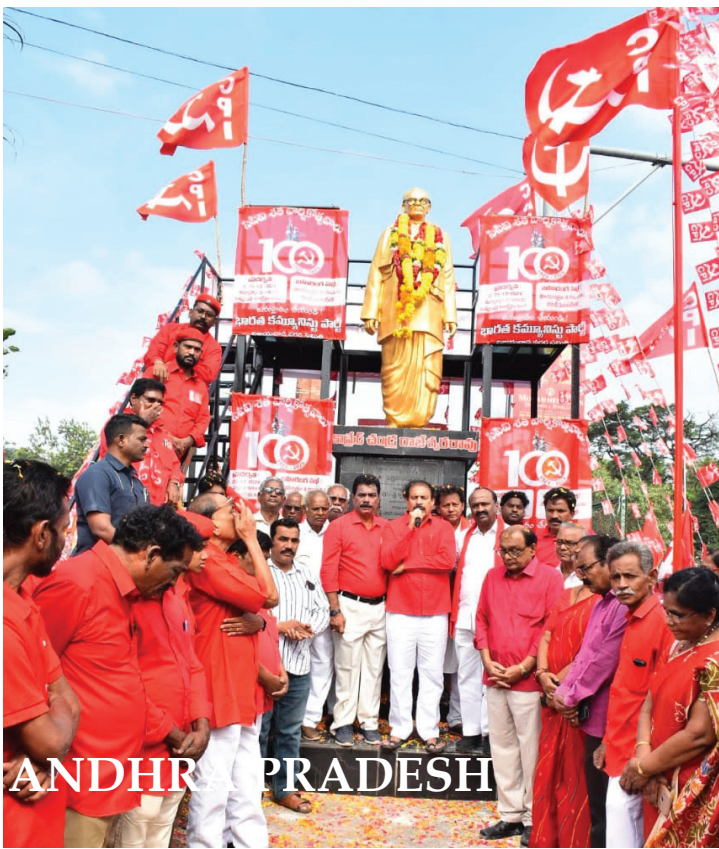


Revisiting History: Amit Shah's Controversial Remarks

In a recent Parliamentary session, Home Minister Amit Shah's comments on the HCB sparked controversy. Shah claimed the bill lacked traces of Hindu customs, targeting both Nehru and Ambedkar. Critics argue that Shah's remarks were historically inaccurate and misleading, failing to acknowledge the societal resistance that impeded the bill's passage. Moreover, Shah's statement appeared to contradict itself, questioning why Hindu customs were not reflected in a bill that aimed to reform regressive practices.

Shah's speech also omitted critical details about the opposition to the HCB by figures like Shyama Prasad Mukherjee and organizations like the RSS and Hindu Mahasabha. Historical records, including journalist Inder Malhotra's writings, reveal that Mukherjee, who later founded the Bharatiya Jana Sangh (precursor to the BJP), initially remained silent on the HCB but vehemently opposed it post-1951, describing it as a threat to Hindu traditions.

Glimpses of Centenary Celebrations All Over the Country





CPI's Centenary Celebration ...

From Page 03

General Secretary of the CPI, was discharged from the hospital three days ago. Although doctors advised him not to participate in the Nalgonda rally, he enthusiastically attended. While addressing the crowd, he emphasised the need for ideal principled unity among democratic and secular forces. He stated that their goal was to fight for a socialist India,

calling for broad unity among democratic and left forces. To combat exploitation, he urged that battles must be waged for the demands of workers, farmers, agricultural workers, and marginalised communities. He paid tribute to Nalgonda, a land known for its struggles, with a red salute.

In discussing the international situation, Reddy noted the

ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine, Israel's attacks on Palestine, and the potential threat of China attacking Taiwan. He urged the younger generation not to remain silent about these critical developments. Finally, Sudhakara Reddy appealed to all party members to strengthen the party as it approaches its 100th foundation anniversary.

Syed Azeez Pasha,

National Secretary of the CPI, stated that the party has faced numerous conspiracies and acts of repression throughout its 100-year history. He emphasised the importance of educating the current generation about this history. In the past, even hoisting the national flag could have severe consequences. However, individuals like Ravi Narayan Reddy, Baddam Yella Reddy, and Makhdoom Mohiuddin demonstrated bravery by hoisting the national

flag at the Lalguda workshop.

As communal fanatics continue to create tensions, Pasha pointed out that some people risk losing their citizenship. He urged the party to combat every genuine issue faced by the people actively. Nellikanti Satyam welcomed both the audience and leaders at the event. D. Raja has also unveiled books published by Navachetana Vignana Samithi.

Consequences of Normalizing Hate...

From Page 05

Another aspect of the rise of right-wing politics in the country became evident when various political parties announced their candidates for the Lok Sabha elections. While the BJP's reluctance to field Muslim candidates is well-known, even so-called secular parties were unwilling to allocate tickets to Muslim candidates in proportion to their population numbers.

The 18th Lok Sabha has been constituted with the lowest representation of Muslim MPs in 60 years. Less than 5% of Lok Sabha members are Muslims, despite the community making up over 15% of the country's population. There are 24 Muslim MPs, which amounts to 4.4% of the Lok Sabha.

At present, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) holds the most seats in the Lok Sabha and notably has no representatives from the Muslim community. The

decline in the number of Muslim MPs became evident in the 1990s, coinciding with the rise of the BJP, whose total MP count first surpassed 100 during the 10th Lok Sabha from 1991 to 1996.

Additionally, during the election campaign, the Prime Minister chose to focus on unfounded charges against the Muslim community rather than discussing the successes of his developmental programs. He warned that if the Congress party came to power, it would distribute the nation's wealth among Muslims.

He also warned people that the Congress party would confiscate their possessions—such as the bridal necklace or *mangalsutra* of Hindu women—and transfer them to its “vote bank,” meaning the Muslims. He further claimed that the Congress was planning to eliminate job reservations for Scheduled Castes (SC), Scheduled Tribes (ST), and Other Backward Classes (OBCs) while

providing reservations for Muslims. Additionally, he stated that the opposition alliance was encouraging Muslims to engage in “vote jihad.”

It was mistakenly believed that after the BJP returned to power, hate speeches and campaigns against minorities would cease. However, that hope proved to be unrealistic. In just two months—August and September 2024—there were 135 violent attacks on religious minorities and nearly 68 hate speeches.

In the latter half of the year, right-wing groups launched another campaign, claiming that hundreds of mosques across the country, including those in Varanasi, Mathura, and Delhi, were built on the sites of demolished temples. The most alarming incident occurred in Sambhal, Uttar Pradesh, where police action followed stone-pelting by local Muslims, resulting in the deaths of four Muslim

youths. A judicial inquiry is currently underway to investigate the violence and the circumstances surrounding the fatalities in Sambhal.

The Supreme Court took significant action on December 12, ending the ongoing campaign regarding surveys of mosques to check for temples beneath them. The court directed all lower courts in India not to entertain or pass orders in any new lawsuits or petitions related to these surveys. Additionally, it ordered these courts to refrain from making decisions on existing cases involving such disputes, effectively halting any surveys until the Supreme Court resumes hearing the six related petitions.

Previously, in April 2023 and again in October 2022, the Supreme Court urged relevant authorities to act on their initiative against individuals making hate speeches and to file First Information Reports (FIRs) against them.

However, despite these directives, hate speech continued to be prevalent during the election campaign, with an estimated 200 instances reported in 2024 alone.

Reports from the United Christian Forum indicate that not only Muslims but also the Christian community faced significant challenges, with 745 cases of hate and violence documented against them across India. Disturbingly, several incidents targeting individuals dressed as Santa Claus were reported during Christmas in various regions of the country.

Overall, it appears that hate has become deeply rooted in the Indian political landscape. Unless the central government implements a comprehensive action plan to hold perpetrators accountable, the situation will unlikely improve by 2025. The current environment of hate has become violently ‘normalised’ for India's religious minorities, supporting a divisive political agenda.

India Prepares for Digital Base as part of Labour Reforms

India is moving fast with its intention of implementing the next phase of labour reforms. Digital bases are being put in place, that may ultimately pave the way for smooth transition to new labour code regime, implementation of which is likely to be announced soon, though it is generally considered to be a minefield that would be very problematic to navigate by both workers and employers. Both the stakeholders are yet not ready to the occasion, though Centre and the majority of States and UTs are ready with their laws required for implementation.

The latest few moves of the Centre indicate in this direction. It has already put eShram portal for migrant and informal workers, and directions have already issued to ministries and departments to ensure payments of subsidy and incentives to beneficiaries of the welfare schemes through Aadhar Payment Bridge.

Under the Aadhar Payment Bridge, Central Government has earlier ordered the ministries and departments to ensure 100 per cent Biometric Aadhar Authentication. Now, it has ordered the Employment Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) to ensure employers to complete the first stage of the process of Universal Account Number (UAN) activation through Aadhar-based OTP by November 30, 2024, starting with the latest

joiner employees in the current financial year 2024-25. In the second stage of the process, going forward, UAN activation will include the state-of-the-art facility of Biometric authentication, through Face-recognition Technology.

Thereafter, the Employers are required to complete the process for all employees working with them. It is part of the EPFO reform that is required to ensure that maximum number of employers and employees benefit from the Employment Linked Incentive (ELI) Scheme announced in the Union Budget 2024-25.

It is in this backdrop, the Ministry of Labour & Employment has directed EPFO to work in a campaign mode with Employers and ensure activation of Universal Account Number (UAN) of employees. EPFO, in their turn, will involve their zonal and regional offices for effective outreach.

The Union Ministry of Labour & Employment has said that using Aadhar as an identity document simplifies government delivery processes, enhances transparency and efficiency, and ensures beneficiaries receive their entitlements seamlessly. Aadhar-based verification eliminates the need for producing multiple documents to prove one's identity.

Three schemes A, B, and C were launched in

Dr Gyan Pathak

the Union Budget 2024-25 to give Rs10,000 crore subsidies to employers under ELI scheme through EPFO for every new membership, and it was claimed that it would generate 8 million jobs, apart from skilling 10 million youths over the next five years.

EPFO has just celebrated its foundation day, and on that occasion, the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment had said, "India's economy is currently undergoing a transformative shift marked by an increasing trend toward formalization—a process that is redefining job structures, employment security, and social benefits for millions. This change is of profound importance for India's workforce, as it ensures that a larger segment of the population is covered by social security systems, offering them greater economic stability and a more secure future."

The process of creating a digital base for entire informal and formal workforce in the country is likely to make the transition from the old labour laws regime to the new labour code regime a little smoother. PM Narendra Modi has already labelled the new labour codes as the largest labour reform in India since independence, which according to him would benefit both the

employees and employers – employees with better working conditions and employers with ease of doing business.

Nevertheless, transition is not likely to be smooth on account of fear of new problems that the implementation of the codes would bring to both the stakeholders – the employees and employers. The joint platform of the 10 Central Trade Unions (CTUs) has been agitating against the four labour codes since PM Modi government had got them passed – Code of Wages in 2019, and Industrial Relations Code, Code on Social Security, and Occupational Safety, and Health and Working Conditions in 2020. Government supported Bharatiya Mazdoor Sangh (BMS) has also reservations on certain provisions of the codes which they say need further discussion before implementation.

As for the Employers, navigating from old labour laws regime to the new labour codes regime would not be smooth either, though the new four codes were prepared by subsuming 29 of the 44 labour related laws to make doing business easier. Barring the big Corporate companies, all other companies would have to undergo numerous problems while implementing the new labour codes, since they would require to identify and make arrangements

as per the new laws involving funds to deal with the complexities in compliance and the new possible legal pitfalls.

The EPFO, ESI, and eShram platforms have already displayed considerable level of problems in implementation of the new direction of the Central government. States and UTs will also be required to make enough arrangements in terms of skilled manpower, digital space for themselves, and effective implementing machinery.

Nevertheless, the fast-changing world of work will compel all stakeholder to adopt to the new realities on the ground as far as fast emerging new Employment regime is concerned that heavy relies on technology and Artificial Intelligence. Even the four labour codes are almost five years old during which the world of work has drastically changed, requiring further tweaks in the codes themselves. Foolish implementation of the codes without suitable changes to meet the challenges of the fast changing world of work after COVID-19 crisis of 2020 could be disastrous.

The joint platform of CTUs is still threatening strong protest agitation against implementation of the labour codes, including all India strike action. Employers may face pressures from the government to implement the new laws on the one hand and from agitating workers on the other.

Centenary Celebrations ...

From First Page

conference had started hundred years back, in the presence of massive participants, all either communists or sympathisers. On December 26, decision was taken to form a Communist Party which was given the name unanimously. The Foundation Conference started on December 25 and continued up to December 29, 1925. Maulana Hasrat Mohani was the chairperson of the reception committee. M Singaravelu chaired the conference.

The CPI was founded in Kanpur on December 25-26, 1925. The yearlong celebrations have started from December 25-26. The meeting venue was named Maulana Hasrat Mohani Nagar, and the auditorium was named Ajay Ghosh Auditorium

The party's state secretariat members, Imtiaz Ahmed, Motilal, Rajesh Tiwari, Ramchandra Saras, Phoolchand Yadav, and Kanti Mishra, were present at the inauguration meeting. State Secretary Arvind Raj Swaroop conducted the proceedings on behalf of the Chairman of the Board. On this occasion, several notable individuals were present on stage. The party's state executive members, Abdul Ghaffar, Shiromani Singh Rajput, Vinod Rai, Kalpath Gupta, Amit Yadav, RK Sharma, and Suheb Sherwani, were present.

The forum was honoured by the presence of leaders from the party's mass

organisations. Notable attendees included Rakesh, the National Executive Chairman of IPTA; VK Singh, the President of AITUC Uttar Pradesh; and Chandrashekhar, the General Secretary of AITUC.

Other distinguished guests were Imtiaz Baig, the President of Kisan Sabha; Mahendra Rai, the General Secretary of the Uttar Pradesh Electricity Employees Union; and Jawaharlal Vishwakarma, the Chairman.

Officials from the Progressive Writers Association, including Dr. Khan Ahmed Farooq and Dr. Anand Shukla, attended the event. Ramprasad Kanaujia, the secretary of the welcome committee and district secretary of the Kanpur Party, was also in attendance. Additionally, State Party Treasurer Parmanand was present at the function.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Dr Umendra Kumar's team from Kanpur IPTA performed revolutionary songs, and a skit about Shaheed Bhagat Singh was presented. During the meeting, party general secretary D Raja highlighted that the organisation has been active for a century and was founded in Kanpur. Over these years, it has advocated for independence and the rights of the oppressed, opposing capitalism while promoting socialism and communism. He criticised the BJP government for its

harmful agenda over the past decade, contributing to high poverty and rampant unemployment. To distract from these issues, the BJP fosters communal tensions and seeks constitutional amendments, leading to increased violence against marginalised groups like Dalits and backward communities.

He criticised the Modi government for attempting to replace the constitution with Manusmriti and condemned Home Minister Amit Shah's remarks about Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar, calling for his resignation. He described the Central and Uttar Pradesh governments as anti-people and communal, citing the Sambhal incident as an example. He noted that the CPI first demanded Purna Swaraj, while the RSS, formed in 1925, did not contribute to the freedom struggle and instead supported the British. He emphasised that the CPI would continue its fight alongside Left and democratic forces to oust the BJP, urging party workers to raise public awareness and address people's issues.

The national secretary, Amarjeet Kaur, stated that the party has been committed to its cause despite the challenges and with struggle and sacrifices it always has been on the move. It has always been with the working class, and the deprived masses, enacting laws that open ways for their

livelihoods. Today, under the BJP government, working-class livelihoods are being threatened. The working class and the CPI must continue to fight against this attack. She said that, under the Modi government, one per cent of the people in the country have more than 40 percent capital. The government has written off 16 lakh crore NPAs of tax evaders.

Dr Girish, the National Secretary of the party, outlined key campaigns, including land nationalisation, adult franchise, democratic rights for organising and protesting, women's equality, and social justice for Dalits, which became part of the national agenda. He mentioned that the efforts and political movements of farmers, labourers, and students nationwide contributed to the environment that led to the formation of the Communist Party. The climate of resistance against imperialist oppression was fostered, even through the use of fabricated conspiracy charges against revolutionaries.

Addressing the meeting, Arvind Raj Swaroop noted that the CPI was founded in Kanpur on December 25/26, 1925. Although the party was divided in 1964, it still recognised the Kanpur conference as the foundational conference in its resolutions. He emphasised the need to combat capitalist exploitation, uphold the constitution, and

establish socialism. Swaroop urged party workers to select 100 new villages in each district to address public issues. Veteran party leaders, including Ranjit Singh Sengar, Rajendra Dutt Shukla, Master Akhlakh, and Ikram from Kanpur Nagar, were honoured by the reception committee.

Following the leaders' addresses, the party's UP state secretary declared the conclusion of the meeting on behalf of Chairman Mandal. At the close of the gathering, party members raised slogans that resonated with revolutionary spirit and a commitment to fundamental change. Party leaders and members from different districts took part in the program. The party workers adorned the area with flags, banners, and other decorations. Additionally, posters and flags were placed throughout the city to inform the residents of Kanpur about the celebration of the party's 100th anniversary.

During this event, a significant number of leaflets detailing the program were also handed out. Key members of the local reception committee, including Gan Saathi Om Prakash Anand, Pawan Shukla, Asit Kumar Singh, Neeraj Yadav, Raghuvir Singh, Sunil Singh, and others, contributed significantly to the program's success. Sanjay Singh and Satish of the All India Student Federation, along with Secretary Board members Comrade Rajesh Tiwari and Comrade Phoolchand Yadav, contributed significantly to the program's success.

Germany's Collapse: Economic, Political and Social Turmoil



*Diary of
International
Events*

C. Adhikesavan

Germany, once a symbol of stability and economic prowess, now finds itself in a multifaceted crisis, grappling with economic stagnation, political instability, and social unrest. As the world's third-largest economy, Germany's decline raises critical questions about the policies and decisions that led to this downfall. This essay examines the reasons behind Germany's current predicament, the implications of its collapse, and the lessons India can learn as it eyes the opportunity to ascend as the third-largest global economy.

Germany's Economic Rise and fall

Germany's post-World War II recovery was nothing short of miraculous. With financial aid under the Marshall Plan and innovative reforms in 1948, West Germany embraced a social market economy that balanced free-market principles with social welfare. This foundation enabled the rapid growth of key sectors such as automotive, machinery, and engineering, propelling Germany into the ranks of global economic leaders.

In the decades that followed, Germany's manufacturing and export-driven growth solidified its position as Europe's economic powerhouse. Companies like Volkswagen, BMW, and Mercedes became synonymous with German industrial might. However, recent years have seen this growth falter due to a combination of internal and external factors. The COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine war disrupted global supply chains, but the seeds of Germany's crisis were sown much earlier.

The Energy Crisis and Policy Failures

Germany's reliance on Russian energy became a critical vulnerability during the Ukraine war. In 2022, Russia supplied over 30 per cent of Germany's energy needs, particularly natural gas, and essential for its manufacturing sector. When Germany imposed sanctions on Russia, retaliatory measures cut off this supply, causing energy prices to surge by 40 per cent.

The crisis was exacerbated by Germany's premature phase-out of nuclear energy. In

response to the 2011 Fukushima disaster, Germany accelerated its plan to shut down nuclear power plants, aiming to replace them with renewable energy sources. However, this transition left a gap that was filled by cheap Russian gas,



creating a dangerous dependency. The sudden loss of this energy source exposed Germany's over-reliance and led to skyrocketing production costs, declining industrial output, and job losses.

Germany's manufacturing sector, which accounts for 25 per cent of its GDP, has been hit hard. Automotive giants like Volkswagen and BMW face challenges from high production costs and the global shift toward electric vehicles. Industrial production has declined by 9 per cent since 2018, and companies are increasingly shutting down operations or relocating to more cost-effective regions.

Political Instability and Social Unrest

Economic crises often spill over into political and social domains, and Germany is no exception. Rising energy costs and inflation have eroded the purchasing power of ordinary citizens, fuelling widespread dissatisfaction. The three-party coalition government led by Chancellor Olaf Scholz collapsed amid disagreements over handling the economic crisis. Scholz's dismissal of Finance Minister Christian Lindner led to the withdrawal

has further polarized German society, echoing troubling aspects of the country's past.

Lessons for India

Germany's economic and political turmoil holds valuable lessons for India as it seeks to expand its global economic footprint. Despite its challenges, Germany's diversified economy and manufacturing strength serve as a reminder that complacency can undo decades of progress. India must address vulnerabilities and capitalize on Germany's decline to emerge as the third-largest economy.

1. Avoid Over-Reliance on External Dependencies

Germany's dependence on Russian energy highlights the risks of relying heavily on a single source for critical needs. India must reduce its dependency on imports from China, which currently amount to 100 billion dollar annually. Strengthening domestic manufacturing through initiatives like the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme can help India build resilience and become a global hub for sectors such as electronics and automotive.

2. Sustain Economic Growth with Policy Focus

Germany's shift away from economic priorities to other issues contributed to its downfall. India must maintain its focus on economic growth, ensuring policies support manufacturing, exports, and renewable energy. Projects like "Aatmanirbhar Bharat" must be reinforced with robust execution and international collaboration.

of Lindner's party from the coalition, triggering a political stalemate.

The far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) party has capitalized on public discontent, gaining significant support with its anti-immigration and nationalist rhetoric. In regions with higher unemployment and economic hardship, the AfD's vote share has surged to 22-24 per cent. This mirrors historical patterns, such as the rise of extremist ideologies in Germany during the interwar period. The AfD's rhetoric, which targets migrants,

Way out from Crisis ... Holiday Seasons are Super ...

From Page 15

A declaration was passed after thorough discussion among the participants. They expressed anguish at the failure of the global community in preventing attacks on healthcare facilities and health workers. This is against all forms of internationally accepted conventions, the declaration said. It demanded immediate steps to stop attack on health care facilities, health workers and innocent civilians, restoration of all types of humanitarian aid in war affected zones. The declaration also demanded immediate steps to plan building of infrastructure destroyed during these wars. It was felt that the UNO has to be strengthened and made democratic so as to make it effective to promote lasting peace. It also declared that the nuclear weapons possessing countries should join the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) so as to respect the will of the global community and prevent any catastrophe from occurring.

The participants decided to expand the work and to hold similar events in other countries of south Asia and also in different states of India to spread the message further.

From Page 06

you think of spending time with your family, you think of reconnecting," a packer in Staten Island told Labour Notes, "And during peak, all you can think of is sleep."

Even for those who don't have to slave away in an Amazon warehouse, exploitation gets in the way of Christmas. Many people don't get paid enough to enjoy travel and gift-giving. In fact, financial stress during the holiday season is so common that articles advising us how to manage it are published every year.

In A Christmas Carol, the problem of the callous capitalist is resolved spiritually;

Scrooge is visited by a series of ghosts who make him understand the poverty of his greedy ways. The ghosts awaken in Scrooge a compassion for Cratchit and his struggling family, showing him the sour misery of his own life as a capitalist and all the love and fellowship he has missed in a life devoted to accumulation. Scrooge sees the error of his ways and becomes a better man: a generous boss, a kindly second father to Cratchit's disabled son, and a philanthropic pillar of the community. And he ends his personal war on Christmas, becoming an enthusiastic celebrant.

It's an enchanting story, literally; Dickens

was smart enough about class relations under capitalism to know that Scrooge's transformation wouldn't have been realistic without an extraordinary plot twist. Scrooge needs an intervention — by ghosts. Dickens knew that getting capitalists to behave humanely, at Christmas or at any time of year, would require a departure from the realism he employs in many of his other novels.

Unfortunately, we can't count on spirits to fix present-day Scrooges like Jeff Bezos or Elon Musk. There's only one other option: waging class war from below, as the Amazon workers are doing. Merry Christmas to all who celebrate, and a happy class war to all!

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Ongoing Wars Destroy Health, Lives

Way out from Crisis Possible only in Way Forward: IDPD

An international seminar was organised by the Indian Doctors for Peace and Development (IDPD) at New Delhi on December 1, 2024 to deliberate on "Health and Humanitarian Crisis in the Ongoing Wars - The Way Forward".

Doctors from various affiliates of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) including Australia, Nepal, Sri Lanka and different states of India, Jammu & Kashmir, Punjab, Rajasthan, Delhi, Bihar, Maharashtra, Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Manipur,

Tripura participated. They expressed serious concern at the increasing health and humanitarian crisis arising out of the on-going wars in different parts of the world. Subjects under discussion include, Increasing Nuclear dangers - a cause of concern, Possibilities of peace in Middle East, On-going wars and Global Repercussion and Global initiative for peace.

Various experts who delivered their talks include Qamar Agha - senior journalist gave his

Dr Arun Mitra

talk on "Possibilities of peace in Middle East"; Maj. Gen. (Retd) Vinod Saighal expressed his views on "Global initiative for peace"; Prof Achin Vanaik - Retired Professor of International Studies from Delhi University cautioned on "Increasing Nuclear dangers a cause of concern" and Pallab Sen Gupta - President World Peace Council spoke on "Ongoing wars and Global Repercussions". Dr

Asoka Hettiarachchi, President Sri Lanka Doctors for Peace and Development gave a talk on "No to arms race in South Asia", Dr Ganesh Gurung - President Physicians for Social Responsibility Nepal spoke on "South Asia as a nuclear weapons free zone", Dr S S Soodan - Patron IDPD, Dr Arun Mitra President IDPD, Dr Shakeel Ur Rahman - General Secretary IDPD also addressed. Dr Ruth Michell from Australia and Chair of the Board of IPPNW said that the

Nobel Laureates at a conference in Mexico in September '24 have expressed serious concern at the increasing arms race which is fraught with escalation into nuclear danger. This would be catastrophic, she said. We have no medical remedy in that eventuality. The only answer is to raise a united voice for disarmament and complete abolition of nuclear weapons.

A video presentation on Militarism and Health by Dr Bimal Khadka, member IPPNW Board was shown. Dr Suraj and Dr Rajat presented a video documentary on IDPD activities.

On Page 15

On Record ...

Tension prevailed in Gujarat's Rajkot after a group of people tried to evict three shopkeepers and forcibly throw out their wares, claiming that the properties belonged to the Gujarat Waqf Board and were illegally transferred to their descendants. The shops are located on the premises of the Nawab Masjid.

After the attempt to forcibly evict the shopkeepers, a complaint was filed against five people involved in the incident. According to the police complaint, the shops were rented to three Hindu businessmen about 60 years ago. - India Today, January 2.

Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan's statement that social reformer Sree Narayana Guru had reconstructed Sanatana Dharma has come under fire from the BJP, which said Vijayan had insulted Hinduism to win "extremist" votes.

Addressing a meeting in connection with the annual pilgrimage to Sivagiri mutt, established by Guru, at Varkala in the district, Vijayan had said on Tuesday that there was an attempt to depict Guru as a proponent of Sanatana Dharma.

"He challenged the Varnashrama system and reconstructed Sanatana Dharma. He upheld a secular humanistic worldview. Any attempt to confine that view within the framework of Sanatana Dharma will be an insult to Guru. His dharma is one that stands with the times and challenges Varnashrama. How can



Narayana Guru, who propagated the concept of 'One Caste, One Religion, One God', be an advocate of Sanatana Dharma? There is an attempt to depict social reformer Guru as a religious leader and religious sanyasin," the CM said. - The Indian Express, January 2.

Violence within the confines of home continues to remain a serious concern with 24% (6,237) of the total 25,743 complaints

received by the National Commission for Women over 2024 pertaining to domestic violence. Largely keeping with trends noticed in previous years, complaints from women seeking "right to live with dignity" continue to top the list, accounting for nearly 28% of the total cases in 2024, followed by domestic violence and dowry harassment.

Data available on the NCW website till Dec 31 showed that 17% (4,383) of the total complaints received last year were related to dowry harassment, and there were also 292 complaints of dowry deaths. This yet again brings into focus the challenges women face within their marital homes.

The 2024 data, however, showed an overall decline in complaints from 2023 when the number from across all categories of crime against women was 28,811. Out of the total complaints in 2023, there were 6,350 of domestic violence. - The Times of India, January 2.

'Toolkit', which acquired a negative connotation with political parties associating its use for mainly spreading fake narratives, has become a potent instrument for the country's supreme auditor, CAG, for bringing transparency in public spends and accountability in delivery of govt schemes.

- Compiled by C. Adhikesavan

Huge Masses Take Part in CPI Celebrations

