

When you go into court you are putting your fate into the hands of twelve people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.
Norm Crosby

Global warming and man's survival

The Inter-Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) has been warning for quite some time that unless global warming is kept to 2o Celsius by the end of the century, mankind may face the threat of extinction. In its latest report released on Monday, the IPCC has further raised the threshold. It now says that unless global warming is kept to 1.5o C, there will be "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes in all aspects of society." Climatologists have said that the recent spate of heavy rains and floods in Kerala, unusually heavy rains in Maharashtra, Delhi and Bangalore are no isolated happenings. These have been caused by global warming. What is worse, they say that this may soon become a regular affair.

The curse of global warming is the direct result of the industrial civilization that man ushered in some three centuries ago and has been vigorously advancing since then. Industrial civilization needs ever higher and higher consumption of non-replenishable assets of the Earth - fossil fuels and metals. Power, that is, electric power, drives this civilization and bulk of the power comes from burning fossil fuels which releases enormous quantities of carbon in the atmosphere, raising the Earth's temperature. It is the industrially advanced countries of the West which consume enormous quantities of fossil fuel and it is primarily their responsibility to cut down on fossil fuel burning. But they, especially, the United States, stubbornly refuse to do so. Here lies the crux of the problem.

The US is the biggest emitter of green gases but President Donald Trump of the US refuses to accept the reality of global warming. He walked out of the Paris Climate Accord last year. So global warming goes on apace, bringing man ever nearer to extinction. The IPCC report has said that limiting the temperature rise to 1.5o C will require "rapid and far-reaching transition" in land, energy, industry, buildings, transport and cities. "No country - developed or developing - is doing this, regardless of the IPCC warnings. So, man cannot avoid the inevitable because he does not want to. Mahatma Gandhi said decades ago that Mother Nature has all the resources to meet man's need but she cannot meet man's insatiable greed. In the 150th year of the Mahatma's birth, we are being rudely reminded of his sage advice: to limit our wants. If we do not do that, man will become extinct on the planet. Nobody can save mankind.

Britain heading towards a political crisis

REFLEX ACTION

Kevin Ovenden

Britain is heading towards a full-blown political crisis in a matter of weeks. Even if the backdrop holds up at the Tory conference, their rancorous divisions are set to be on open display. One reason for the palpably rising political pressure is this week's successful Labour Party conference.

In particular, Jeremy Corbyn's speech managed to place that pressure squarely back on the government and Tory Party by resisting demands from the Blairite-run "People's Vote" operation to commit to a second referendum. That is the one course of action that could bring relief to the government, sink Labour and put an early general election and victory out of reach. Those running the second referendum campaign know that. And that is, indeed, the point of it. Even if some on the left sincerely believe otherwise, they are not running the show. The likes of Peter Mandelson are - people who have boasted of working night and day to stop Corbyn entering 10 Downing Street. Labour's conference adopted a compromise composite motion on Brexit. But it did not centrally focus upon forcing a general election. That was despite efforts by Keir Starmer to transform a position of not ruling out hypothetical tactics to defeat the government into a declaration of support for a rerun of the referendum two years ago. Pro-EU cheerleaders in the media played up that intervention for all it was worth. We should expect more of the same as the political crisis intensifies. Establishment figures will bend might and main to shift Labour's compromise conference formula in the direction of a second referendum and not of a general election that could well see Labour become the biggest party in Parliament. Corbyn, however, was clear about the direction he and the leadership want to maintain. He placed the call for an election central and spoke of "... most of all, [a] commitment to a Brexit that protects jobs, the economy and trade, and determined opposition to one

that does not..." "Our priority is clear - we aim to get the best Brexit deal for jobs and living standards to underpin our plans to upgrade the economy and invest in every community and region. "That can bring people together and meet the concerns of both those who voted Leave and those who voted Remain."

Instead of uniting working-class Leave and Remain supporters behind a radical Labour programme, the second referendum operation would divide the Labour vote, and under mine the advances made by the left over the last three years. Instead of driving the Tory divisions wider, it would split Labour - making it the victim of an impending parliamentary crisis, not the beneficiary. The reason why the storm that is coming in November will be so violent is that it represents the accumulation of major events over that last two years that have hollowed out the governing order. The Tories and Establishment, far from dealing with them, have piled one top of the other. First was the referendum itself. It was, as John McDonnell said in his speech, an anti-Establishment vote. There was lip service paid to that by many politicians and political commentators at the time. It rapidly gave way to amnesia in the complacent hope of restoring politics to the previous status quo. That cannot obscure, however, the scale of what happened and its continuing reverberations.

From the CBI to the TUC, the Bank of England to the Church of England, every British parliamentary party and international bodies from Nato to the EU, the Establishment and institutions campaigned for Remain. Leave won - with whatever combinations of

good and bad ideas among the millions who voted in the largest turnout for over two decades. British capitalists found themselves saddled with a policy they were utterly opposed to - leaving the EU - and all thanks to David Cameron calling a referendum that he arrogantly predicted he would win 70 to 30 and bring stability. Not only did that fail to come about, their principal political instrument, the Tory Party, was thrown into a crisis that has proved ongoing as it tries to reconcile representing capitalist interests with having to carry through the popular decision.

Worse, from the Establishment point of view, the Labour Party was not in the hands of Blair-Brown cut-outs. Corbyn had been elected nine months earlier and was in the process of undoing the New Labour years and moving in a radical reforming direction. That's why the "chicken coup" was launched within days of the referendum result. It provided some space for the Tories to patch things up temporarily and anoint a leader as Labour was consumed by a leadership contest. But it failed in bringing Labour in any way back to being a reliable instrument for big business as it had been prior to 2015. In fact, it accelerated the process of grassroots radicalisation as more joined the party on the pro-Corbyn surge and he was returned more emphatically. They talk up crisis, but talk down toppling the government. They want Labour to pay the price of a rerun referendum in the hope of stabilising the governing system over the body of Corbynism, in the process creating the political space for their dreamed-of centrist realignment. What is happening in Britain is an aspect of a European-wide phenomenon where the crash of 2008 and its after-math have whittled down the bipartisan political systems of the neoliberal period. Brexit brings that fundamental reality to the fore. Something is going to crack seriously in the coming months, possibly weeks. (IPA)



Baba Nageshwar balances 21 Kalash with 'Gangaja' on his chest in front of the idol of Goddess Durga at Naulakha Durga Mandir on the first day of Navratri festival in Patna on Wednesday

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| ACROSS | DOWN |
| 1 Quick | 1 Rural prosperity |
| 5 Water grasses | 2 Consumed |
| 9 Dress | 3 Branding society |
| 10 Tear | 4 Duration |
| 11 Quantity of paper | 5 Emerged |
| 12 Edge | 6 Do wrong |
| 14 Dogma | 7 Excavate |
| 16 Periods of time | 8 Small spot |
| 19 Identical | 9 Greek letter |
| 21 Saloon car | 15 Retributive justice |
| 24 Game of skill | 17 Musical composition |
| 27 Rules of conduct | 18 Cults |
| 28 Pull along | 20 Donkey |
| 30 Part of the foot | 22 As well |
| 31 Slender supports | 23 Okalke |
| 32 Breakfast food | 25 Pungent |
| | 26 Venable sheep |
| | 28 Raining |

SUDOKU: 2338

2	6			3	7		
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5			7		2		
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Yesterday's Solution 2337

9	7	4	8	1	2	3	6	5
5	8	6	4	3	9	7	1	2
2	3	1	5	6	7	9	4	8
1	2	3	6	9	8	4	5	7
7	5	9	2	4	1	6	8	3
6	4	8	3	7	5	2	9	1
4	1	2	9	8	3	5	7	6
8	6	5	7	2	4	1	3	9
3	9	7	1	5	6	8	2	4

Yesterday's Cross Word Solution 346

P	R	E	S	T	O	M	A	Y
A	T	A	G	I	L	E		
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JPC probe must for Rafale deal

FOCUS

Shameem Faizee

Having been exposed thoroughly on huge corruption and irregularities in the Rafale deal scam, the Narendra Modi government is resorting to its old tactics of side tracking the issue by raising sectarian, communal and caste issues as well as trying to confuse people with the misconceived ideas of nationalism.

Ever since the revelations made by then French President Hollande that the government of India had proposed the Anil Ambani's Reliance Defence as off-shore partner and French government had no option in this, minister after minister of the Modi government are weaving different theories to hide its crime.

First it was alleged that the former French president made the observation to help the opposition in its fight against prime minister. But the French president reiterated his charge and the journalists probing the allegation of "conflict of interests" against Hollande came across the comment about India's role in finalising the off shore partner in Rafale deal was just accidental. The

charge of "conflict of interest" relates to a contract between Hollande's film actress girlfriend and Anil Ambani's entertainment outfit, and Ambani has allegedly paid cores of rupees to the actress. It automatically got connected with favour shown to Anil Ambani in Rafale deal. Refuting it, the French leader asserted that Anil Ambani's company was suggested by GOI without giving any other option.

As prime minister himself has negotiated the deal without taking into confidence anybody else, the charge against him is that he has favoured Anil Ambani with the gift of Rs. 30,000 crores. Though ministers are talking all nonsense, the PM has kept mum. So it is clear that Modi had a role in favouring Ambani's company that was incorporated just a couple of weeks before.

Defence Minister Nirmala Seetharaman's claim that Ambani's were favoured as the PSU Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) was not competent. As it is just reverse of the fact, Nirmala

Seetharaman has been condemned by one and all. Having failed to refute the charges like favouring Ambanis with Rs. 30,000 crores, paying three times more the price than decided earlier and endangering national security, the government is trying to rouse sentiments of nationalism. First it accused of collaboration of Indian opposition with former French President and then tried to drag Pakistan. And now the prime minister himself has talked about "International alliance" after opposition's failure to finalise Mahagatbandhan for Lok Sabha polls in 2019. This clearly shows the desperation of ruling conglomerate. It is definitely going to be routed in the all elections in coming days.

While continuing the campaign on corruption in Rafale deal and persisting with the demand that the entire episode be probed by the Joint Parliamentary Committee, the opposition should also take up other cases of corruption during the past four and half years of Modi regime. Equally important is the case of demonetisation. Although the RBI and other concerned government outfits have conceded that the goals that prime minister Narendra has fixed while announcing cancellation of the currency notes of Rs. 1,000 and Rs. 500 could not be achieved. On the contrary, the black money that was to be unearthed has got doubled.

At the time of demonetisation it was claimed that Rs three lakh crores are there as black money in these two banned currencies and will not be deposited in banks. Not only that, all such currency had come back and got whitened,

but black money in circulation has doubled. RBI itself has said that the value of big currency has become above 19 lakh crore that was just 15 lakh crores at the time of demonetisation. The newly floated currency note of Rs. 2,000 has played main role in enhancing black money.

It has also been reported that the BJP leaders as also various units of the ruling party and their allied organisations have benefited maximum by note ban. Crores and crores of rupees have been whitened by these crores after demonetisation. That is the reason, the ruling party is obstructing the finalisation of report of parliamentary committee on finance.

This committee may expose the real crimes committed in the garb of demonetisation. It was done to provide opportunity to cronies to whiten black money as well as push the banks to further bankruptcy. It is time to demand another JPC to probe and unearth the entire episode of demonetisation along with JPC to probe the Corruption in Rafale deal. (IPA)