

Editorial of the Day – 17.12.2025

Index

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|--|-----------|
| 1. The Three Revolutions Reshaping American Power | -1 |
| 2. Indian Communism is 100 Years Old and It's Too Early to Write its Obituary | -2 |

1. The Three Revolutions Reshaping American Power

General Studies 2– International Relation

Topic– Effect of policies and politics of developed and developing countries on India's interests.

Introduction– The Architecture of Cruelty

The text argues that the United States is undergoing a fundamental transformation in its statecraft, characterized by a unifying thread called the "Architecture of Cruelty." This framework is defined not as accidental harm, but as a system where harm is foreseen, normalised, and deliberately deployed.

This shift is driven by the alignment of three major developments–

Secretary of State Marco Rubio's Proposal– A suggestion to reshape the G-20 into an exclusive inner caucus, marginalising emerging economies.

The 2025 U.S. National Security Strategy (NSS)– A formal document reflecting a shift towards ideological exclusion and security-first logic.

The Heritage Foundation's Blueprint (Restoring America's Promise 2025–26)– A policy roadmap providing the ideological foundation for these changes.

Together, these signal a coordinated restructuring of political morality, foreign policy, and global economic governance.

Revolution I– The Shrinking of Civic Space (Internal Rupture)

This revolution fundamentally alters the domestic moral and bureaucratic landscape of the U.S.

Dismantling Moral Foundations– The political project of Mr. Trump has replaced traditional civic restraint and responsibility. Transgression is now viewed as authenticity, and the erosion of shame is utilised as a political asset.

The New Security Doctrine (2025 NSS)– Cultural cohesion, ideological alignment, and demographic stability are redefined as national security imperatives. Domestic culture is framed through a security lens, treating independent institutions not as correctives but as obstacles to sovereign autonomy.

Bureaucratic Overhaul– The Heritage blueprint advocates for a massive institutional remake. This includes ideological vetting and large-scale personnel turnover to ensure alignment with the new agenda.

Permissive Cruelty– Hardship resulting from administrative purges and punitive regulations is absorbed into governance. Suffering is met with indifference rather than recognised as harm.

Revolution II– Foreign Policy Based on Conditionality (External Shift)

The 2025 NSS marks a sharp departure from the traditional U.S. role of providing institutional stability.

Transactional Alliances– Alliances are no longer assumed permanent; they are treated as conditional contracts. Obligations are constantly reassessed based on immediate utility rather than shared long-term values.

Revival of the Monroe Doctrine– Prioritisation of the Western Hemisphere over traditional focuses like Europe or the Indo-Pacific. Signals a return to regional dominance rather than global management.

Migration as Security– Migration is elevated from a domestic policy issue to a core national security threat, reshaping foreign policy priorities to focus on border control.

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

Institutional Downgrading– International bodies (e.g., UN, WTO) are recast as constraints on U.S. sovereignty rather than amplifiers of U.S. power. Multilateralism is viewed as a violation of sovereignty; allied cooperation is judged by ideological conformity rather than capability.

Selective Dominance– The strategy is neither pure isolationism nor realism. It is assertion where leverage is high and retreat where costs rise.

Systemic Impact– This leads to fragile alliances, emboldened revisionist powers, and a fragmented global order.

Revolution III– Economic Restructuring (Inequality by Design)

The economic revolution seeks to institutionalise a tiered global economy.

Concentrated Governance– Rubio's G-20 proposal signals a division between "rule-makers" (powerful states) and "rule-takers" (emerging economies). Decision-making on critical issues like debt relief, trade, and climate finance is narrowed to a small, exclusive group.

Hemispheric Economics & Sovereignty– The NSS promotes reshoring and industrial sovereignty, aiming to anchor growth within North America. Tariffs are used as leverage, and globalisation is treated as a strategic risk.

Unequal Burdens– Countries with weak bargaining power face harsher debt terms, politicised supply chains, and restricted capital access. The burden of inflation and export disruption falls disproportionately on workers globally.

Systemic Cruelty– Economic pain is deliberately uneven; it functions as a tool to stabilise a hierarchical global order.

The Return of Imperial Logic

All three revolutions are underpinned by a mindset that echoes colonial logic, though updated for the modern era.

Colonial–Imperial Mindset– A return to a hierarchical worldview where power confers entitlement. The strong impose costs, while the weak are expected to absorb them.

Structural Domination– Unlike territorial colonialism, this is an order built on exclusion and unequal burdens.

Institutional Codification– The 2025 NSS provides the bureaucratic language. The Heritage 2026 blueprint provides the ideological justification.

Cruelty as Logic– Suffering is not accidental; it is designed and embedded within policy execution as an organising principle.

The Emerging Order– The U.S. seeks to protect sovereignty through contraction, project power through hierarchy, and reshape governance through exclusion.

Conclusion

The restructuring of American power creates a global architecture of cruelty. The irony of this transformation is the universality of its harm. The victims of this reordering are not just in distant locations like Maputo or Dhaka, but also within the U.S., in places like Harlan, Kentucky. The effects of this policy shift extend outward across borders but ultimately return home, damaging the very populace the policies claim to protect.

Source– <https://www.thehindu.com/opinion/op-ed/the-three-revolutions-reshaping-american-power/article70404219.ece>

2. Indian Communism is 100 Years Old and It's Too Early to Write its Obituary

General Studies 1– History

Topic– Modern Indian history from about the middle of the eighteenth century until the present – significant events, personalities, issues.

Indian Communism at 100– Unfinished Business

Introduction

The year 2025 marks the centenary of the Communist Party of India (CPI), a milestone that stands in sharp contrast to the public fanfare surrounding the centenary of the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS). Once a formidable force capable of influencing national policy and ruling key states like West Bengal and Tripura, the Left now faces severe political marginalisation. Despite this decline, the movement leaves behind a complex legacy of land reforms and secularism, while the persistence of inequality suggests its core issues remain relevant.

Historical Trajectory of Indian Communism

Origins & Global Context– Indian communism was born out of the global political and intellectual upheavals following World War I, the Russian Revolution, and the rising tide of anti-colonial nationalist movements.

Key Leaders– The movement was shaped by foundational figures such as M.N. Roy, Singaravelu Chettiar, and S.A. Dange.

Early Influence (Pre-Independence)– Despite facing severe repression under British colonial rule, the CPI successfully mobilised diverse sections of society, including workers, peasants, students, and intellectuals. It played a significant role in shaping political and cultural discourse through robust mass organisations.

Peak Electoral Strength (Post-Independence)– The movement reached a zenith in 2004, commanding approximately 60 Lok Sabha seats. It held influential sway over national policy during the UPA government era. It maintained prolonged governance in strongholds like West Bengal and Tripura.

Reasons for Decline

The text attributes the steep decline of the Left to three primary structural and strategic failures–

Political Missteps– The decision to withdraw from the UPA coalition in 2008 is highlighted as a critical error. Tactical alliances, including occasional alignment with the BJP in opposition, weakened its ideological credibility.

Factionalism & Rigidity– Internal divisions and ideological rigidity prevented the formation of effective coalitions with other democratic forces, including the Congress.

Failure to Adapt– The Communists struggled to recalibrate their strategy in response to major geopolitical and domestic shifts, including The Sino-Soviet split. The trauma of Partition. The political rise of the BJP. The economic reforms of the liberalisation era.

Enduring Legacy

Despite its political contraction, Indian communism has left an indelible mark on the socio-political fabric of the nation

Land Reforms– The Left pressured governments to implement land redistribution, which fundamentally reshaped rural power structures and empowered the landless.

Secularism & Federalism– It has been a consistent defender of pluralism and decentralisation, offering staunch resistance to communal mobilisation.

Welfare & Social Justice– The movement played a pivotal role in the expansion of social welfare programmes and the codification of labour rights.

Cultural Impact– Beyond politics, it fostered a vibrant cultural ecosystem in literature, theatre, and cinema. It promoted rationalist thought and amplified the voices of the marginalised through egalitarian values.

Future Prospects

Building Bureaucrats Since 2006

Persistent Relevance of Core Issues- The systemic conditions that originally gave rise to communism are still acute in 21st-century India- agrarian distress, widening income inequality, precarious labour conditions, and global economic instability.

Global Context- There is a renewed interest in socialist and left-wing ideas globally, offering a potential tailwind for revival.

Path Forward- Revival depends on three strategic pillars

1. Ideological flexibility to adapt to modern realities.
2. Strategic unity among the currently fragmented Left parties.
3. Coalition-building with progressive democratic forces.

Conclusion

Indian communism is currently facing its gravest crisis, battling existential marginalisation. However, its historical contributions to socio-economic reform and secular discourse cannot be erased. If Left parties can pivot from rigid dogma to strategic adaptation, the movement retains the potential to play a meaningful role in India's evolving political landscape.

Source- <https://indianexpress.com/article/opinion/columns/c-raj-mohan-writes-indian-communism-is-100-years-old-and-its-too-early-to-write-its-obituary-10424059/>