

## Trump unfolds monstrous agenda of firming stranglehold of fascism

Donald Trump has taken over as the 45<sup>th</sup> President of USA on 20 January. Trump, as everyone knows, had trailed by over 3 million popular votes behind his closest Democratic Party rival in the direct election to US Presidency in November last. Yet, as per American Parliamentary Rule, he was declared victorious because he secured majority in the 'indirect election' part of the electoral process known as the 'Electoral College' (made up of 538 selected electors who cast weighted votes to decide the President and Vice-President). It goes without saying that this 'Electoral College' hands down to the ruling US monopolists a leeway to manipulate the results in case the candidate they favour most fails to win popular mandate. As everyone knows, in US, the President's seat alternates between the Democratic Party and Republican Party, both trusted representatives of the ruling class, in

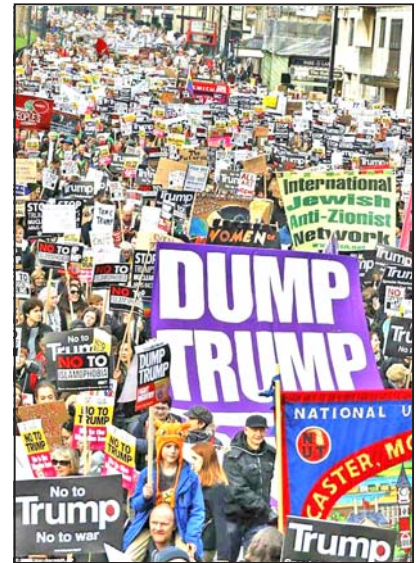
the prevailing 2-party democracy. In other words, there are two parties but one system, capitalist-imperialist. A victory of the nominee of either party is a victory of the oppressive ruling bourgeoisie while the electorate people are always the losers. Save and except some cosmetic changes here and there, a win of either party does not entail any change in the basic pro-imperialist anti-people policies which have been holding not only the entire world to ransom but bringing down escalating economic-political-social-cultural attacks on the toiling American people. So, when people's wrath against the incumbent party is found to be severe, the ruling class immediately projects the other party nominee as the alternative and pulls strings from behind to ensure his or her victory. The way Trump clinched the issue through 'Electoral College' route is attestation to this fact.

### Backed by class, rejected by people

It bears recall that Trump had from day one of his campaigning sought to project a rough and tough, non-conformist image of his. He raised racist slogans, took anti-Muslim rhetoric to a high pitch, challenged freedom of the press, threatened Black Americans' right to vote, offended people with disabilities, passed one after another objectionable, if not most of the time lurid, remarks against women reflecting not just misogynist but pervert mentality. He also tried to rouse a jingoistic mentality about American nationalism by unapologetic endorsement of, what he called, 'Americanism'. In fact, Trump shrewdly sought to exploit the accumulated grievances among the common Americans against relentless ditching by a system which they find rigged to favour the rich and the elite. Being in the mould of the despotic bourgeois leaders who possess expertise in cunningly shielding ruling capitalism, the root of all evils, by peddling in radicalism and pretending to be a crusader against established norms, Trump found safe bait in inciting American chauvinism. In fact, his campaigning bore marked resemblance with the way Hitler came to power by fomenting German chauvinism. His dictatorial autocratic style also mimics the gestures and postures of notorious humbug fascist dictators the world has seen so far.

What has been most heartening and praiseworthy is that right-thinking American people cutting across race, religion and ethnicity did not hesitate to voice their disapproval of this notoriety,

insolence, indecency and aggressiveness of a presidential candidate. Except a section of the educated unemployed who had misgivings about their jobs being taken away by the immigrants, most of the toiling Americans had characterized his campaign as insular, distrustful and xenophobic. His anti-immigrant tirade and hatred about cultural diversity and Islam even impelled people to equate him with racist white supremacist groups like Ku Klux Klan. Moreover, there was a strong voice of women



Massive rally of American people Dumping Trump

defending women's dignity mocked in such an unseemly manner by Trump. Even noted Hollywood actress like Meryl Streep came out openly against Trump's vulgar and objectionable utterances. Many other conscientious intellectuals also followed suit. The very mention of Trump's name invoked revulsion among most. All these disavowals burst forth in the form of countrywide massive anti-Trump protests during campaigning phase. Protests had been quite large in some cities in the form of walk-outs,

### SUCI(C) calls the Union Budget 2017 a document of suppressed facts, shielding truth, conducive to the vested interest of the ruling capitalists and their lackeys and totally adverse to the interest of common people

In a quick reaction to the Union Budget 2017, Comrade Provash Ghosh, General Secretary, SUCI(C), has issued the following statement on 01-02-17 :

While the country's people are bleeding white under severe economic onslaughts in the form of unbridled price rise, mounting unemployment, rapid job loss, falling income, absence of rudimentary healthcare and access to education and their plight and misery having multiplied several fold following the demonetization drive, the Union Budget 2017 did not address any of such issues in right earnest. Instead it has only confined itself to exude customary false hopes, routine prattles of allocation figures, gimmickry in the name of tax reduction, continuing existing policy of gradual reduction of corporate tax, liberalizing FDI inflow and onset of digital era. Alongside, were usual hollow promises of poverty alleviation, increasing income of the farmers and improving the condition of the backward downtrodden populace.

Though the Finance Minister has tried to justify the most undemocratic merger of railway budget with general budget giving some most untenable logic of combining all modes of transport for better

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## Trump

# Trump's executive orders bypassing legislature is typical of despotic bourgeois leaders

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business closures, petitions and other forms of dissent. The protesters were all vocal in rejecting Trump as a presidential candidate. "We dumped Trump!"—was their slogan. And that popular mood did get reflected in poll results. But since Trump was the choice of the class, popular mandate was overruled through backdoor manipulation.

### **Intensification of people's stir after Trump's unexpected victory**

But people refused to accept the result. Seething in anger, they intensified their anti-Trump stir. Thousands and thousands of protesters marched through main thoroughfares and important junctions of the main cities as well as the suburban areas on the day of his taking oath. Somewhere between 3.3 million and 4.6 million women marchers made their presence known across US. This was described by the political analysts as the largest in the history of the country. The slogan that reverberated was "He is not our President". This bore eloquent testimony to how he is disliked, if not hated, by his own countrymen. Significantly, while the number of protesters swelled in various parts of the country, attendance at the venue of Trump's inauguration ceremony was remarkably thin. Under pressure of people's movement, the bourgeois media which normally try to suppress people's anti-establishment stirs to the extent possible could not but give coverage to this swelling rage of the people against Trump. Trump had taken umbrage at this and came down heavily on the media, threatened them with dire consequences and called the journalists the most dishonest human beings on earth. So, from day one, Trump has started a war with his countrymen as well as the media for whatever little legacy of their envisaged status of 4<sup>th</sup> estate in bourgeois democracy has been upheld by them. This too also has been unprecedented in the history of US.

### **Trump in action**

But, disdaining the mounting countrywide people's protest, Trump set out in business from day one. As is typical with any despotic bourgeois leader saddled to power with the backing of the ruling capitalist class, Trump also paraded

all kinds of deceptive demagoguery and rank populist gestures during his brief inaugural speech to hoodwink people. At the outset, to woo the countrymen, he camouflaged his intention by shedding crocodile tears for the plight and penury of the US people. "...people did not share in country's wealth... the jobs left, and the factories closed... education system flush with cash, but which leaves our young and beautiful students deprived of knowledge; and the crime and gangs and drugs that have stolen too many lives and robbed our country... The wealth of our middle class has been ripped from their homes", he said in his address. Then came his second round—the round of playing to the gallery with a bountiful of customary promises— "We will bring back our jobs, we will bring back our borders, we will bring back our wealth, and will bring back our dreams". He also postured to have resentment towards and contempt for all that is conventional and sought to project himself as non-conformist with the policy framework and rules prevailing hitherto. He held that these set of rules and laws had been "protecting the establishment" and causing "decline of the US in recent times". Hence, his mission, he declared, would be to stop "American carnage" and make "America strong again."

### **Hideous underbelly of Trump's 'Americanism'**

Within no time, the hideous underbelly of 'Americanism' came to the fore. In keeping with latest practice of autocratic bourgeois leaders to bypass legislature and implement policies best suited to the vested aggregate class interest of ruling imperialism-capitalism through most undemocratic administrative fiats, Trump, immediately after assuming chair, issued as many as 19 executive orders which stirred not only US but the whole of the world. Already during election campaign, Trump called for deporting all of America's undocumented immigrants, tearing up international trade agreements, ending the H-1B visa programme, annulling anti-environment pollution codes and building a wall along the US-Mexico border realizing the cost from Mexican government. He also accused foreign workers of holding down salaries and contributing to unemployment of the American labourers and employees and spewed anti-Muslim venom with no-

holds-barred. Now, that array of rhetoric is being translated into action programmes through the Presidential proclamations or fiats.

### **Ban on entry of citizens of seven countries**

The most controversial executive action by him has been barring people from six majority-Muslim countries like Iran, Iraq, Libya, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen from entering the country for 90 days. Entry ban on the Syrians, he said, would continue until he decides otherwise. Another order directed immediate detainment and deportation of illegal immigrants while the third one imposed stringency on issue of H-1B visa to restrict inflow of skilled workers to US.

Shortly after President Trump signed an executive order temporarily barring citizens of seven predominantly Muslim nations, protests surged forth everywhere, including the airports across the country, where some travellers were being detained. Volunteer lawyers worked to help free travellers detained at John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York and other places. Demonstrators with signs and lawyers offering legal advice jammed airports, while rallies and marches took place in city streets and squares, from New York, Atlanta, Chicago, Los Angeles, Houston, Seattle, Washington DC, Dallas, Boston, Detroit, Philadelphia, San Francisco, and more. Demonstrators gathered outside the Trump Hotel International during a protest in Washington DC. Also the demonstrators flocked at Lafayette Park near the White House, official residence of US President. Not only in US, Trump's seismic move to ban more than 218 million people from the United States and to deny entry to all refugees was indicted worldwide. An estimated 30,000 protesters marched on Downing Street in London. Protest rallies were organized in 12 UK cities. "Trump's not welcome here" because his travel ban is "an appalling attack on human rights", said the British demonstrators. Protesters picketed American embassies from Jakarta to Rome. It marked a new awakening among the oppressed people in the advanced imperialist-capitalist countries and evidenced that the spirit of historic "Occupy Wall street" movement is still living among the American as well world people

and they are not going to be bamboozled any more with cheap stunts and sweet-coated words of the custodians of power. Even they are in no mood to bear with megalomaniac overtures that Trump is trying to make synonymous with his personality.

### **Confrontation with Judiciary**

Not just people. The country's Judiciary in its bid to maintain semblance of its relative independent status viewed in bourgeois democracy also disapproved Trump's unilateral declaration of travel ban. A federal court in Seattle blocked the ban nationwide by granting a stay on the order pending a wider legal review. After Seattle, similar rulings have been handed down in New York, California, Virginia, Washington State and Massachusetts. Later, a Washington judge went further by ordering a nationwide injunction on the Trump order. Attorney generals from 16 US states jointly condemned Trump's move. Trump blasted the Seattle court ruling as "ridiculous" and warned that "it will be overturned!" He also lampooned Justice James Robart who passed the order as a "so called judge". Within no time, at the behest of Trump, the Justice Department of the US government filed an appeal seeking vacation of the stay on Trump's travel ban order. But, sensing the deep-seated confrontational mood of the people, the 9<sup>th</sup> U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco also turned down that appeal and opted for hearing both the government and the petitions of the protesters. Finally, after listening to both the sides, that Court also has rejected the argument of the US government about Presidential prerogative about issuance of such orders. In a unanimous ruling, the Court said that it would not block the lower-court's verdict of halting the ban order. It is learnt that Trump government has restrained itself from knocking at the doors of the Supreme Court.

This is a very significant development, the implication of which needs to be understood in the context of fast degeneration of bourgeois democracy consequent on obsolescence of capitalist system following inexorable course of history. The exponents of bourgeois democracy during the days of its advent brought in the doctrine of 'Separation of Power' among the

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# Great Stalin

## on the Draft Constitution of the USSR

[Socialist Unity Centre of India (Communist) has taken up the historic task of observing the Centenary of the great November Revolution. The yearlong observance, decided upon, was inaugurated with a solemn programme in Delhi on 7 November 2016. As a part of the observance, Proletarian Era has decided to publish a few historic documents pertaining to the great November Revolution as well as a brief history of the course that led to the Revolution. The following write-up is one of those documents.]

5 December 1936 was a day of great significance in the history of ushering in and establishing socialism in the world. On this date the erstwhile USSR, the Soviet Union adopted a new Constitution under the leadership of great Stalin. It did not remain a constitution of a country. Soon it became world famous as the "Stalin Constitution", to serve as a living embodiment of dreams and aspirations, rights and responsibilities for people entering into a new era of human history. The Report delivered by great Stalin at the Extraordinary Eighth Congress of Soviets of the USSR on 25 November 1936 was an elaborate discourse on the Draft Constitution of the USSR. We provide some excerpts to summarize what Stalin placed in the report.]

"Comrades, the Constitution Commission,...was formed ...by special decision of the Seventh Congress of Soviets of the USSR. This decision was adopted on February 6, 1935. It reads:

- 1) To amend the Constitution of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics in the direction of:
  - a) Further democratizing the electoral system by replacing not entirely equal suffrage by equal suffrage, indirect election by direct elections, and the open ballot by secret ballot;
  - b) giving more precise definition to the social and economic basis of the Constitution by bringing the Constitution into conformity with the present relation of class forces in the USSR (the creation of a new, socialist industry, the demolition of the kulak class, the victory of the collective-farm system, the consolidation of socialist property as the basis of Soviet society, and so on).
- 2) To enjoin the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to elect a Constitution Commission which shall be instructed to draw up an amended text of the Constitution in accordance with the principles indicated in Clause 1 and to submit it for approval to a session of the Central Executive Committee of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.
- 3) To conduct the next ordinary election of the organs of Soviet power in the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics on the basis of the electoral system."

Thus, the Constitution Commission was to introduce

changes in the Constitution now in force, which was adopted in 1924, taking into account the changes in the direction of socialism which have been brought about in the life of the USSR in the period from 1924 to the present day.

The absence of the exploiting classes, which are the principal organizers of strife between nations; the absence of exploitation, which cultivates mutual distrust and kindles nationalist passions; the fact that power is in the hands of the working class, which is the foe of all enslavement and the true vehicle of the ideas of internationalism; the actual practice of mutual aid among the peoples in all spheres of economic and social life; and, finally, the flourishing of the national culture of the peoples of the USSR, culture which is national in form and socialist in content – all these and similar factors have brought about a radical change in the aspect of the peoples of the USSR; their feeling of mutual distrust has disappeared, a feeling of mutual friendship has developed among them, and thus real fraternal co-operation among the peoples has been established within the system of a single federal state.

As a result, we now have a fully formed multi-national socialist state, which has stood all tests, and whose stability might well be envied by any national state in any part of the world...

The Constitution Commission was instructed to amend the text of the Constitution of 1924. ... In drafting the new Constitution, the Constitution Commission proceeded from the premise that a constitution must not be confused with a programme. This means that there is an essential difference between a programme and a constitution.

Whereas a programme speaks of that which does not yet exist, of that which has yet to be achieved and won in the future, a constitution, on the contrary, must speak of that which already exists, of that which has already been achieved and won now, at the present time. A programme deals mainly with the future, a constitution with the present.

Two examples by way of illustration.

Our Soviet society has already, in the main, succeeded in achieving socialism; it has created a socialist system, i.e., it has brought about what Marxists in other words call the first, or lower, phase of communism. Hence, in the main, we have already achieved the first phase of communism, socialism. ...The fundamental principle of this phase of communism is, as you know, the formula: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his work." Should our Constitution reflect this fact, the fact that socialism has been achieved? Should it be based on this achievement? Unquestionably, it should ... because for the USSR socialism is something already achieved and won.

But Soviet society has not yet reached the higher phase of communism, in which the ruling principle will be the formula: "From each according to his ability, to each according to his needs," although it sets itself the aim of achieving the higher phase of communism in the future. Can our Constitution be based on the higher phase of communism, which does not yet exist and which has still to be achieved? No, it cannot, because for the USSR the higher phase of communism is something that has not yet been realized, and which has to be realized in the future. It cannot, if it is not to be converted into a programme or a declaration for future achievements. (pp. 806-807)...

...Bourgeois constitutions usually confine themselves to stating the formal rights of citizens, without bothering about the conditions for the exercise of these rights, about the opportunity of exercising them, about the means by which they can be exercised. ... What distinguishes the Draft of the new Constitution is the fact that it does not confine itself to stating the formal rights of citizens, but especially stresses the guarantee of these rights, the means by which these rights can be exercised. ... It is clear, therefore,



that the democratism of the Draft of the new Constitution is not the "ordinary" and "universally recognized" democratism in the abstract, but socialist democratism. ...

... group of critics ... considers that the draft is not of much interest, because it is really...but a scrap of paper, and empty, promise, intended as a manoeuvre to deceive people.... A typical representative of this group of critics is, ...the German semi-official organ, *Deutsche Diplomatisch-Politische Korrespondenz* ...

In 1917 the peoples of the USSR overthrew the bourgeoisie and established the dictatorship of the proletariat, established the Soviet power. This is a fact, not a promise. Further, the Soviet power eliminated the landlord class and transferred to the peasants over 150 million hectares of former landlord, government and monasterial lands, over and above the lands which were already in the possession of the peasants. This is a fact, not a promise.

Further, the Soviet power expropriated the capitalist class...This is a fact, not a promise.

Further, having organized industry and agriculture on new, socialist lines, with a new technical base, ... national income has increased fourfold compared with pre-war times. All these are facts, not promises.

Further, the Soviet power has abolished unemployment, has introduced the right to work, the right to rest and leisure, the right to education, has provided better material and cultural conditions for the workers, peasants and intelligentsia, and has ensured the introduction of universal, direct and equal suffrage with secret ballot for its citizens. All these are facts, not promises... ..

...Finally, there is yet another group of critics. While the last mentioned group accuses the Draft Constitution of abandoning the dictatorship of the working class, this group, on the contrary, accuses it of not changing anything in the

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# Great Stalin

## on the Draft Constitution of the U.S.S.R.

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existing position in the USSR, of leaving the dictatorship of the working class intact, of not granting freedom to political parties and of preserving the present leading position of the Communist Party in the USSR. And this group of critics maintains that the absence of freedom for parties in the USSR is a symptom of the violation of the principles of democratism.

I must admit that the Draft of the new Constitution does preserve the regime of the dictatorship of the working class, just as it also preserves unchanged the present leading position of the Communist Party of the USSR ... If the esteemed critics regard this as a flaw in the Draft Constitution; that is only to be regretted. We Bolsheviks regard it as a merit of the Draft Constitution. ...

As to freedom for various political parties, we adhere to somewhat different views. A party is a part of a class, its most advanced part. Several parties, and, consequently, freedom for parties, can exist only in a society in which there are antagonistic classes whose interests are mutually hostile and irreconcilable – in which there are, say, capitalists and workers, landlords and peasants, kulaks and poor peasants, etc. But in the USSR, there are no longer such classes as the capitalists, the landlords, the kulaks, etc. In the USSR there are only two classes, workers and peasants, whose interests – far from being mutually hostile – are, on the contrary, friendly. Hence, there is no ground in the USSR for the existence of several parties, and consequently, for freedom for these parties. In the USSR there is ground only for one party, the Communist Party. In the USSR, only one party can exist, the Communist Party, which courageously defends the interests of the workers and peasants to the very end. And that it defends the interests of these classes not at all badly, of that there can hardly be any doubt.

The nationwide discussion of the Draft Constitution, as you know, produced a fairly large number of amendments and addenda. These have all been published in the Soviet press. In view of the great variety of amendments and the fact that they are not all of equal value, they should, in my opinion, be divided into three categories.

The distinguishing feature of the amendments in the first

category is that they deal not with constitutional questions but with questions which come within the scope of the routine legislative work of the future legislative bodies...

To the second category should be assigned those amendments and addenda which strive to introduce into the Constitution elements of historical reference, or elements of declarations concerning what the Soviet power has not yet achieved and what it should achieve in the future. ... I think that such amendments and addenda should also be set aside as having no direct bearing on the Constitution...

As for the rest of the amendments in the third category, they are of greater material significance, and, in my opinion, a few words should be said about them.

1) First of all about the amendments to Article 1 of the Draft Constitution. There are four amendments ... propose that we substitute ... the words "state of workers and peasants" ...

Should these amendments be adopted? I think they should not.

What does Article 1 of the Draft Constitution speak of? It speaks of the class composition of Soviet society. Can we, Marxists, ignore the question of the class composition of our society in the Constitution? No, we cannot. As we know, Soviet society consists of two classes, workers and peasants. And it is of this that Article 1 of the Draft Constitution speaks... It may be asked: What about the working intelligentsia? The intelligentsia has never been a class, and never can be a class – it was and remains a stratum, which recruits its member from among all classes of society. In the old days the intelligentsia recruited its member from the ranks of the nobility, of the bourgeoisie, partly from the ranks of the peasantry, and only to a very inconsiderable extent from the ranks of the workers. In our day, under the Soviets, the intelligentsia recruits its member mainly from the ranks of the workers and peasants. But no matter where it may recruit its members, and what character it may bear, the intelligentsia is nevertheless a stratum and not a class.

Does this circumstance infringe upon the rights of the working intelligentsia? Not in the least! Article 1 of the Draft Constitution deals not with the rights of the various strata of Soviet society, but with the class composition of that society. The rights of the various

strata of Soviet society, including the rights of the working intelligentsia, are dealt with mainly in Chapters X and XI of the Draft Constitution...

2) Then ... The amendment proposes that we completely delete from the Constitution Article 17, which reserves to the Union Republics the right of free secession from the USSR. I think that this proposal is a wrong one and therefore should not be adopted by the congress. The USSR is a voluntary union of Union Republics with equal rights. To delete from the Constitution the article providing for the right of free secession from the USSR would be to violate the voluntary character of this union. Can we agree to this step? I think that we cannot and should not agree to it. It is said that there is not a single Republic in the USSR that would want to secede from the USSR, and the therefore Article 17 is of no practical importance. It is, of course, true that there is not a single Republic that would want to secede from the USSR. But this does not in the least mean that we should not fix in the Constitution the right of Union Republics freely to secede from the USSR....

13) Finally, there is one other amendment of a more or less material character. I am referring to an amendment to Article 135 of the Draft Constitution. It proposes that ministers of religion, former Whiteguards, all the formerly rich or influential persons and persons not engaged in socially useful occupations be disfranchised, or, at all events, that the franchise of people in this category be restricted to the right to elect, but not to be elected. I think that this amendment should likewise be rejected. The Soviet power disfranchised the non-working and exploiting elements not for all time, but temporarily, up to a certain period. There was a time when these elements waged open war against the people and actively resisted the Soviet laws. The Soviet law depriving them of the franchise was the Soviet power's reply to this resistance. Quite some time

has elapsed since then. During this period we have succeeded in abolishing the exploiting classes, and the Soviet power has become an invincible force. Has not the time arrived for us to revise this law? I think it has. It is said that this is dangerous, as elements hostile to the Soviet power, some of the former Whiteguards, kulaks, priests, etc., may worm their way into the supreme government bodies of the country. But what is there to be afraid of? If you are afraid of wolves, keep out of the woods. ... In the first place, not all the former kulaks, Whiteguards and priests are hostile to the Soviet power. Secondly, if the people in some place or other do elect hostile persons, that will show that our propaganda work has been very badly organized, and we shall fully deserve such a disgrace; if however, our propaganda work is conducted in a Bolshevik way, the people will not let hostile persons slip into the supreme governing bodies. ...

Judging by the results of the nationwide discussion, which lasted nearly five months, it may be presumed that the Draft Constitution will be approved by the present congress. ...

It will be a document testifying to the fact that what millions of honest people in capitalist countries have dreamt of and still dream of has already been realized in the USSR. ...

The new Constitution of the USSR will give moral assistance and real support to all those who are today fighting fascist barbarism. ...

Still greater is the significance of the new Constitution of the USSR for the peoples of the USSR.... While for the peoples of capitalist countries the Constitution of the USSR will have the significance of a programme of action, it is significant for the people of the USSR as the summary of their struggles, a summary of their victories in the struggle for the emancipation of mankind. ... This arms our working class, our peasantry, our working intelligentsia spiritually. It impels them forward and ... It increases confidence in our strength and mobilizes us for fresh struggles for the achievement of new victories of communism."

## Trump

# Heartening surge of people's protest against Trump's anti-people postures and policies

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three wings of the state viz. Legislature, Judiciary and Executive and argued that each and every function must be exercised by a separate and independent organ with relative autonomy if guarantee of political liberty was to be secured within bourgeois socio-political economic framework. Further, suitable provisions of check and balance were also put in place to ensure that power was not concentrated with any of the wings or the organs and there was no disharmony in and overlapping or interference of their relative functions. However, notwithstanding this relative independence, all the three organs, as parts of the bourgeois state machine, have never been supra-class, that is, above class, in class-divided capitalist system. They all ultimately stood and still stand to serve the class interest of the ruling bourgeoisie no matter if that militates against the ruled i.e. the common toiling people. But with capitalism entering its decadent moribund phase and attaining the stage of imperialism, bourgeois democracy as its political superstructure is fast stripped of its essence and made virtually an appendage to the ruling capitalists-imperialists seeking to concentrate both economic and political powers more and more in their hands to clamp fascism. So, gradually Legislature is made defunct with only the façade remaining as a showpiece, and power is increasingly concentrated at the Executive (i.e. the President, Prime Minister, Ministers and Bureaucracy including police-military) wing. Judiciary was envisaged as the

custodian of the rule under the bourgeois constitution and assigned the job of interpreting the law. But now, all the bourgeois governments in the world irrespective of being presidential or non-presidential in form are impairing the relative independence of the judiciary and seeking to put in place a committed judiciary. So, often there is a clash between the Executive and Judiciary over their respective jurisdictions. At the same time, as we have mentioned above, the Judiciary, too, is ultimately bound to safeguard bourgeois class interest. In case any executive functioning is found to be excess and harming the aggregate interest of the ruling bourgeoisie, the restraint on that is exercised by the ruling class through the Judiciary. In this backdrop, it appears that the overdoing by Trump and his attempts to project himself above the presidency as well as being licensed to do anything, is viewed by the ruling American bourgeoisie as crossing the limit set out by it and such actions, it apprehends, would antagonize people further against the system. That could in all probability be the reason behind the aforesaid judicial action against travel ban. And sensing that disposition of the ruling bourgeoisie, Trump has held back referring the matter to Supreme Court.

### **Racist-communal outpourings**

There is another side of this travel ban and visa restriction notifications. During his campaign trail, Trump had been targeting Black Americans, Hispanics, Women and also several countries that he wanted to hold responsible for the decline of the US in recent

times. He also systematically fomented the orchestrated seething of anti-Muslim racism in the US. Sources within US say that since Trump's election in November, incidents of racist and xenophobic violence have increased on a large scale. In view of this, travel ban order is destined to exacerbate that violence vitiating the social climate further. Moreover, such racist-communal espousals are bound to incite fanaticism and there is every possibility that this would provide fodder to the canon of the fundamentalists-terrorist groups wreaking havoc in West Asia as well as other parts of the world under the garb of 'protecting Islam' and resorting to all kind of diabolism including merciless killing. Also, this rabid anti-Muslim tirade might prompt some of the West Asian countries to slap a counter ban on the US nationals from entering their territories. Thus the global environment would be surcharged with more tension, mutual suspicion, disaffection and racial-communal frenzy. But it is highly satisfying to see that apart from US, there is global condemnation of this racist-communal standpoint of Trump. Not only American Muslims, even large numbers of non-Muslims, including many thousands of whites, have come out in support of an ideal of anti-racism they hold dear.

Why is Trump doing it? Is it because he is insane? No, it is not so. The lone objective has obviously been to divert people's attention

from the real issue. By doing this, he, as most obedient political manager of the US imperialist rulers, is skilfully articulating sinister bourgeois class design of dividing toiling people, both within and outside the country, along racial-religious-ethnic line on a perpetual basis so that genuine anti-imperialist, particularly anti-US imperialist movements among the suffering people do not crystallize and do not pose any threat to the ruthlessly oppressive imperialist-capitalist system breeding all misery and penury in people's life. It is with the same very intention that the US imperialists along with their associates had exacerbated otherwise dormant Shia-Sunni conflict, driven a wedge between the two sects of the Muslim community and pitted one against the other which is manifest in recurrent incidents of fratricidal bloodbath and diabolism in many of the West Asian countries.

### **Anti-immigrant tirade**

Next is about Trump's anti-immigrant frenzy and signing an executive order directing immediate detention and deportation of illegal immigrants in US and construction of a wall on the US-Mexico border to stop influx of Mexican immigrants. No one questions appropriate steps to stop illegal cross-border migration. But is it that entry of Mexican refugees has taken place for so many decades without indulgence of the US

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*AIMSS, Kolkata District Committee, organized a discussion on 'Impact of November Revolution on Women' at Subarna Banik Samaj hall in Kolkata on 12 February. Comrade Sujata Banerjee, AIMSS West Bengal State Secretary, was the discussant.*



*Comrade Chandralekha Das, Assam State Secretary, SUCI(C) addressing a convention of more than two thousand people at Dhubri on 13 February on demand of a rail-cum-road bridge over the Brahmaputra connecting Dhubri (Assam) and Phulbari (Meghalaya), in place of a simple road bridge proposed by the government. There, Conrad K Sangma, MP from Tura promised to take the message of the movement to parliament. Among others who spoke were Prof. Joinal Abedin, ex-MLA Assam, Azhar Hussain, Roynath D Sangma, Manirul Ichlam, former minister of Meghalaya Government, Giasuddin Ahmed, former Deputy Speaker, Assam Assembly, Kantimoy Deb, Pravash D Sangma, and others.*

## Trump

# Trump is serving aggregate interest of US imperialism through his so called slogan of “Americanism”

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administration and that too for sourcing cheap labour for the US industrialists and business lobbies? Similarly, is one to believe that all immigrants in US are illegal? Even if that be, what was the US intelligence network doing so far and what prevented their deportation so far? Again, it would be revealed that it is the US corporates and MNCs who resisted that in their vested interest. In fact, as analysts show, the immigrants have played a noteworthy role in whatever little development in relative sense has been possible in decadent moribund capitalist system. Acknowledging that, 100 US tech companies including Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, Intel, eBay have categorically stated in a joint legal brief against Trump's anti-immigrant order that “Immigrants make many of the nation's greatest discoveries, and create some of the country's most innovative and iconic companies... People who choose to leave everything that is familiar and journey to an unknown land to make a new life necessarily are endowed with drive, creativity, determination — and just plain guts...energy they bring to America, is a key reason why the American economy has been the greatest engine of prosperity and innovation in history.” But Trump is unmoved. Because, his immediate objective is to use this anti-immigrant diatribe to fox the unemployed American youth and shield the fact that their jobs are taken away by crisis-ridden capitalism and not poor immigrants.

There is another related aspect. Why is there sudden accentuation of the problem of immigration across the globe? Who and what are driving people away from their home and hearth, making them refugees and subjecting them to all sorts of cruel and brutal exploitation? Again it is the US imperialism and its hegemonic policy of engineering local and partial wars, wars to overthrow regimes refusing to bend to its dictates that is causing this distressful eviction of innocent citizens of different countries and turning them into beggars overnight. The mindless violence and killings by the fundamentalist-terrorist groups like ISIS, Al Qaeda and Taliban who, as all evidence shows conclusively, have been propped up by the US imperialists to buttress

their heinous agenda, are also contributing to this accentuation of immigration problem. In fact, on this question, there is a serious rift within the imperialist-capitalist camp with most of the European powers openly voicing opposition to the US rulers. So, what propriety Trump, the political manager of the US imperialist rulers, has to cast blame on the immigrants for America's predicament and economic crisis? In fact, many constituents of the imperialist-capitalist world like Germany, Australia and others have been refusing to buy the anti-immigrant argument of Trump because that would jeopardise their effort to use the immigrants as cheap labour and at the same time project a human face before the world. This is a glaring manifestation of internal contradiction within the imperialist-capitalist camp.

### **Other significant executive fiat**

Trump has not stopped at that only. Under tremendous pressure from the people, former US President Obama introduced a Health Care Act popularly known as the ‘Obamacare’ to provide some kind of affordable medical services to all Americans. Notwithstanding all limitations, this Act at least offered some relief to the US citizens who found medicare cost shooting up alarmingly. One of Trump's first acts in office was to sign an executive order to scale back aspects of that Act with a view to articulating the wish of the ruling monopolists who want healthcare to be opened for limitless plunder. Similarly, during Obama regime, a ‘Dodd-Frank’ law and “Volcker Rule” were introduced to impose strict new capital standards on banks, prohibiting banks from making speculative investments and creating the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau to guard against what is called ‘predatory lending’ (i.e. indiscriminately lending particularly for housing diluting the norms of ‘creditworthiness’ of the borrowers meaning their capacity to repay). These steps were taken as preventions against recurrence of any crisis like the sub-prime crisis that rocked not only US but the entire imperialist-capitalist world and triggered worst economic meltdown in 2008.

Trump has also said that he would undo a number of environmental protections enacted

earlier like the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Clean Power Plan – the nation's first nationwide emissions limits for existing power plants – to prohibitions on drilling offshore and in the Arctic, to revising regulations for oil and gas operations on US lands. Trump inflamed the scientist community as well by signing a gag order on government scientists and specific scientific research agencies. He ordered removal of all fact-based studies, press releases, social media and blogs related to EPA research that show evidence of carbon emissions intensifying global warming.

Trump has also abandoned the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) among by 12 countries including US, Singapore, Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Mexico with a view to deepening economic ties between these nations and slashing tariffs and fostering mutual trade. The agreement was so designed as to eventually create a new single market, something like that of the European Union among the signatory countries. Trump has also indicated of abrogating similar trade pacts like NAFTA etc.

### **War monger posing as apostle of peace**

Spelling out the foreign policy of the US under his stewardship, Trump said, “Peace through strength will be at the centre of the policy. This principle will make possible a stable, more peaceful world with less conflict and more common ground.” The word worth to be noted is “peace through strength”. We have been seeing for years that the successive US presidents subservient to class interest of US imperialism have been avidly pursuing a policy of international gangsterism, exporting ‘democracy’ at gunpoint’, plotting change of regimes which are refusing to bend before their diktats through coup or planting rebellion, installing client rules in various countries, pounding countries after countries with lethal weapons with the intent to occupy them or bully them into submission.

Now, Trump wants to take that policy further. He has already put Iran formally on notice on two most dubious pretexts. First one is about Iran's backing of Houthi forces in famine-struck Yemen who are fighting against unprovoked Saudi attack and the other is about Iran's testing of a medium-range ballistic

missile in alleged violation of the P5+1 negotiated and UN-backed Iran nuclear deal. It reminds us of the illegal occupation of Iraq by the US imperialists under fraudulent pretext of the then Saddam Hussein regime possessing weapons of mass destruction that threatened global peace. It is learnt that Trump is poised to impose fresh sanctions on multiple Iranian entities, seeking to ratchet up pressure on Tehran for toeing US line. He has already revived the earlier “two China” policy by taking a phone call from the President of Taiwan which is destined to ruffle US-China relations.

Trump administration has issued a fresh warning to socialist North Korea which is currently encircled by US military and armed forces of its allies, that its advancement in nuclear programme would be met with what he called an “effective and overwhelming” response. Alongside, Trump has issued fresh threats to China, Iran, Mexico, Cuba and Venezuela and appointed some of the worst US war criminals in key posts. So, with his ascendancy to power, war psychosis is intensifying and possibility of US-sponsored wars on foreign lands is deepening in furtherance of the pursuit of the hegemonic aspirations and overlordism of ruling US imperialism.

### **Trump is executing reversion of anti-globalization by US imperialism**

Once again we reiterate that Trump is no isolated an individual running on his whims, idiosyncrasies and narrow sectarian warped mindset. He is doing it with a motive, with a definite mission at the behest of the ruling US monopolists to serve their immediate needs and interest in the best possible way. It was world imperialism-capitalism headed by US imperialism who fostered the theory of globalization in the early 1990s that, *inter alia*, called for opening up the markets, breaking the tariff walls, free trade as well as unrestricted movement of manpower for stimulating ‘economic growth’. The intention behind liberalizing import of manpower from abroad and simplifying procedures for outsourcing jobs abroad was to allow the industrial houses, corporate sector and MNCs to

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Trump

# Transform anti-Trump protests into a more organized powerful sustained movement along correct base political line under correct leadership

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scout for cheap labour globally and, primarily to pry open and capture markets of the developing countries. Globalization was then highlighted as panacea for curing all ailments of capitalism-imperialism. So, US imperialists virtually took the lead in implementing the prescriptions of globalization. But following inexorable law of history, capitalism is stricken with insolvable market crisis from the day it has attained the stage of imperialism. More the days are rolling by, more and more acute is that crisis. No quackery, no medicine, no regulation or deregulation can save tumbling imperialism-capitalism from its ultimate fall. So, now the US imperialists as well as their counterparts in Europe and elsewhere are now advocating anti-globalization and conservatism in place of globalization and liberalism. This once more confirms the valuable analysis of Comrade Shibdas Ghosh, Founder General Secretary, SUCI(C), and one of the foremost Marxist thinkers of the era, that capitalism-imperialism is now in the midst of an hourly crisis. It is trying to stave off one crisis only to tumble into a bigger crisis. Capitalism-imperialism cannot get out of this crisis and calamity it has created in the life of people by shifting on them the burden of that crisis

So as against opening markets to each other, dismantling tariff walls, facilitating free flow of labour across the border and hunting opportunity of keeping production cost low through outsourcing and setting up regional trade blocs to boost mutual business, US imperialists are now reverting to protectionist regime again just like the way Britain and some other European countries have been exiting or trying to exit European union they themselves had once formed. Hence is raised the slogan of 'Americanism' which is distinctly different from 'Americanness' which once symbolised a political creed, or a set of ideas contained in the Declaration of Independence, 1776, which laid the foundations of the American democratic Republic based on the then lofty bourgeois principles of equality, freedom and republicanism. Trump's call of 'Americanism' represents a negative connotation in class-divided America where concept of

nationalism today is a ploy to rally people behind the reactionary class interest of ruling oppressive imperialism.

### **Trump's pro-monopolist policies**

If one looks at the orders issued by Trump so far and his spelt out policy directives, it would be clear that key industries like oil including harnessing domestic resources through thrust on shale oil extraction, arms manufacturing, private prisons and infrastructure (highways, bridges, tunnels, airports, schools, hospitals) and construction equipment making, electric vehicles, telecom, pharmaceutical and biotech, commercial real estate building would find something to cheer about notwithstanding rising recession coupled with spiralling inflation — a feature of dying capitalism euphemized as stagflation.

To counteract the dominance of Oil Producing and Exporting Countries (OPEC) of West Asia in deciding international crude oil price, US monopolists now want to increase their domestic reserve besides continuing efforts to grab more and more oil fields overseas through military intervention. So, existing domestic environmental rules are repealed and a number of environmental protections undone to encourage full scale extraction of shale oil fraught with the danger of environment pollution, contamination of groundwater and escape of potentially carcinogenic chemicals. But to the US monopolist sharks, profit maximization overtakes all other consideration including health hazards. Trump's appointment of R. W. Tillerson, former CEO of US Oil giant ExxonMobil as the Secretary of State indicates how deeply he wants to look after the US oil barons. Trump's open support for fossil fuels marks a dramatic shift from erstwhile US pledge to harness clean energy like solar and wind much to the glee of American power giants and against people's interest. Trump frequently pledged to "rebuild the depleted military", "repeal the defence sequester" and beef up the military in every respect. It is also known that oil and wars rely on each other for billions of dollars: Indeed, the US oil companies profited handsomely from US-sponsored wars because the military is the single largest consumer of

petroleum in the US. Now with fresh opportunities in domestic drilling, they are slated to benefit in a big way. Trump's victory and renewed war threats to others has given a shot in the arm to the world's leading arms dealers as well. So, the industrial-military complex is upbeat. Similarly, buoyant are the private prison industries as they view huge prospect among other things in immigrant detention. Trump's thrust on infrastructure and real estate with indication of embargo imposed on foreign competitors indicate that he is providing avenues in domestic market to US construction companies under the aegis of the government. Likewise with his call for using costly US steel as against cheaper steel from overseas shows he is under instruction to somehow salvage this basic industry. Finally, his promise of a slew of financial reform like abrogating Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform Act is clear indication of opening once again the floodgate of widespread unbridled speculation which is now one of the most favoured destinations of huge idle capital lying with US monopoly houses and MNCs.

This is how Trump has been serving the aggregate interest of US imperialism through his so called slogan of "back to Americanism", "bring back jobs to the Americans" and make America the 'most powerful country in the world'. All is in the interest of the imperialists, out and out anti-people and smacks of fascism. That is the reason the US monopolists have seen to it that he emerged victorious no matter even if that be against the wishes of the common American people.

### **Contradiction within imperialism-capitalism**

But there is always a contradiction between aggregate interest of capitalism and individual interest of some of the capitalists. Trump's thrust on 'Americanism', anti-immigrant policy, ban of certain ethnic and religious groups and annulling international trade treaties are in conflict with the business interest of the Information Technology, hospitality (hotel, tourism etc.) and retail industries who operate globally, have internationally spread supply chain and depend on migrant employees and cheap labour overseas. So,

there is express opposition to Trump from these industries. But, it would soon be found that some compromises would be arrived at, if so warranted, with the intervention of the state. But the truce would once again be short-lived since capitalist crisis would aggravate further and again this internal contradiction within capitalism-imperialism centred on profit maximization by squeezing people more and more would be manifested in different ways.

### **People must rise up consciously under correct leadership**

So, it is evident that the problems common US citizens are grappling with are stemming from the decadent moribund capitalist system. To obfuscate this truth, ruling US monopolists and their servitors like Trump have been weaving all possible ploys to deflect people's attention from the root of the problems and keep them arrested within the confines of parliamentary illusion. We salute the American people for not falling prey to this sinister bourgeois design and instead raise voice against Trump's heuristics, racist-communal espousals and highly objectionable administrative fiats. And that even most of the despotic rulers do feel the pressure of concertedly asserted people's power is evident in the fact that even after feigning to ignore the growing people's protest and continuing with all bragging and bluster, Trump had been forced to say now that he would be rethinking about his entry ban order. This is a laudable victory of the courageous struggling American people. These tidal waves of protest demonstrations and refusal to purchase fake assurances and promises by the bourgeois politicians indicate that objective situation is maturing fast for anti-capitalist socialist revolution even in a country like America. The conscious people within this ongoing movement ought to take cognizance of this, take initiative to transform this anti-Trump protest movement into a more organized powerful sustained movement on the burning problems of people's life based on correct base political line and under correct leadership so that the road to overthrow capitalism and establish socialism can be laid on firm foundation.

## November Revolution Centenary in Assam

In Assam, at Shaka Sahitya Sabha Bhawan of Tinsukia and at Joya Bhawan, Dhemaji, respectively on 22 and 31 January public meetings were held as part of the yearlong celebration of the Centenary of the great November Revolution being observed by the SUCI (Communist) across the

country. Comrade Chandralekha Das, Assam State Secretary of the Party addressed in both the cases, elaborating the lessons of the great revolution and its significance today towards guiding the working class of India to accomplish the anti-capitalist socialist revolution in the country.

## Massive rally of Anganwadi workers and helpers in Delhi

Under the auspices of the Anganwadi Employees Federation of India (AEFI) affiliated to All India United Trade Union Centre (AIUTUC) a massive rally of anganwadi workers from the three states viz. Delhi, UP and Haryana was organized in Delhi on 27 January 2017. Expressing their grave concern over the continued apathy of Government of India towards their demands which, *inter alia*, included enhancement in Budget allocation, no privatization of ICDS scheme, etc.

Comrade Achintya Sinha, member, All India Secretariat, AIUTUC and adviser, AEFI was the main speaker on this occasion. A four member delegation led by

AIUTUC and AEFI leaders submitted the memorandum to the Minister of Women and Child Development, Government of India. In their said memorandum on behalf of 2.8 million Anganwadi workers and helpers of the country hopes were expressed that there would be reflections of implementations of our demand in the Budget for the year 2017-18, failing which sustained powerful movement including indefinite strike and various forms of blockade will be launched. Comrade Satyawand, member, All India Secretariat, AIUTUC read out the memorandum to the participants at the dharna. Kamlesh Chahal, President, AEFI, chaired the dharna.

## AIMSS-AIDSO-AIDYO protest sex scandal of BJP members in Gujarat

As reported in 11 February issue of a Gujarati daily, *Divya Bhaskar*, a disgusting incident of rape and sex scandal took place at Naliya of Kutch. The victim alleged that she had been raped by nine persons for forty times during a year. Adding to that, she said, sixty five persons had victimized forty five women. The culprits involved in this scandal are members of the ruling party BJP of the state. And they even gave card of BJP to the victim women so that they could have easy access to the places they were asked for and thus make

themselves easily available. The MP of Kutch himself admitted to have known the matter since three months. The report brought to light the real approach and attitude of the BJP towards women. All India Mahila Sanskritik Sangathan (All India MSS) along with All India DSO and All India DY0 organized protest demonstrations at Ahmedabad and Vadodara on 10 February. A memorandum was sent to the D. S. P. and the Collector of the Kutch District demanding immediate action against all the culprits.

## Building Construction Workers' Movement

On 7 February, a district-level conference and a rally were held, at Manas Sarovar Park in Rohtak, Haryana, at the initiative of Building Construction Workers' Union against demonitisation policy of Modi Government. Workers and masons from all over the district including women workers had joined in. The

conference was presided over by Rohtak District In-charge Comrade Rajkumar and Comrade Jagdish was in conduction. A memorandum was submitted to the Assistant Director, declaring that the workers would carry on their movement if their demands are not attended.

## Union Budget 2017 totally adverse to the interest of the common people

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management, every indication has been towards more and more privatization of railways causing further dent into the pockets of the passengers in the name of "fixing tariffs on the basis of cost and competition." Apart from progressively deteriorating passenger services and punctuality, safety of train travel is now under serious question following a trail of accidents. But no concrete time-bound programme to ensure the security aspect say by filling up the vacant posts in this field and stringent supervision with proper answerability in case of dereliction of duty or lax in vigilance on the part of the incumbent administration has been declared.

Without caring to spell out how and to what extent the much-trumpeted demonitization move has fossilized black money, curbed corruption, immobilized fake currency rackets and foiled terror-funding with counterfeit notes, the Union Finance Minister in order to hide the baselessness of such claims has only ended in saying that "demonitization is a bold and decisive measure and has strong potential to generate long-term benefits." Like previous year, he has once again bluffed the rural poor by highlighting increased budget allocation towards agriculture evading any reference to growing suicide of the peasants, their deprivation of remunerative price and being forced to distressed sale by quarters of vested interest, increasing pauperization of the farmers and their conversion into agricultural workers and migrant labours. Similarly, notwithstanding the Economic Survey having admitted economic growth whatsoever to be jobless, the Budget has no mention of positive steps of job creation except new scope in 'indigenisation of hardware and software' (meaning use of domestically manufactured electronic technology) of Metro rail and augmentation of allocation under MNREGA. All emphasis is on so called skill development and entrepreneurship of the youth knowing full well that such are all bunkum in a monopoly-controlled crisis-ridden capitalist economy whose whole and sole objective is to swell the coffers of the industrial houses and corporate behemoths by squeezing even the last drop of blood from the common oppressed people. Facts show that while only 35 days' work out of promised 100 days was made available under MNREGA last year. The much-clamoured boost of start-up ventures of the 'entrepreneurs' has been, as expected by the informed people, a master flop. With clubbing of plan and non-plan outlays, it is clear that the government has no clue of any planned productive investment. Hence, as a part of ongoing militarization of economy to create whatever little artificial stimulation is possible in basic industries, military budget has been raised from 2.58 lakh crores of last year to 2.74 lakh crores excluding pension disbursements to defence personnel. CAG recently observed that fund generated through *swachh bharat* tax is either remaining idle or diverted elsewhere. But the Finance minister while singing praise for *sachh bharat abhiyan* did not utter a single word about it. Similarly, he also avoided mentioning what happened to the additional resources raised through agriculture cess on common people. The sop in the form of miniscule relief in personal income tax is virtually a show off to sooth the frayed temper of the suffering middle class who would soon find the rudimentary advantage having been wiped out following galloping rise in indirect tax once GST is introduced. Already it is apparent that the shortfall of Rs 20,000 crores because of marginal lowering of direct tax rates would be covered by mopping up Rs 60,000 crores through indirect taxation route like service tax etc., which would have to be borne by common people. Finally, the entire thrust is on a credit driven economy the devastating consequence of which people have seen in the case of sub-prime crisis that originated in US and spread throughout the world. But there is no mention of increasing non-performing and stressed assets of the banks because of large scale default by the large corporates and industries. Also there is no specific indication of where the money for various budgetary allocations would come from. It is obvious that the government would either go for increased borrowing (over and above the budgeted 5.48 lakh crores) or resort to printing of additional notes pushing up inflation further.

In fine, it is, therefore, a budget of suppressed facts and shielding truth conducive to the vested interest of the ruling capitalists and their lackeys and totally adverse to the interest of the common people.

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