



ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

CENTRAL OFFICE

**“A.K. Nayak Bhavan”, IInd Floor, 14, Second Line Beach,
CHENNAI - 600 001**

Phone: 25265511 / M 9840645081 / FAX: 044-25249081 / e mail: aiboa.hq@gmail.com / www.aiboa.org

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To:

ALL UNITS / STATE COMMITTEES

Dear comrades,

YEAR 2017- A YEAR OF DISTRACTION AND DIVISION. THE CHALLENGE AWAITING IN 2018- HOW TO WARD OFF DESPAIR

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As the year 2017 came to a close, the world looks back at a year of twists and turns- political, economic and social that will influence the course of events all over the world.

Globally, the present US Administration is under continuous vigil, as North Korea is prepared to press the danger signal to establish the supremacy over USA. At this point, the stand of china is to be assessed, whether it is with North Korea, or against or equi distanced. The Trump government decided to erect wall measuring 3201 km between Mexico and USA. British Parliament, conservative party asserted the power to conduct the affairs of the Nation, though it has not secured 50% of the seats. The first and foremost issue to be handled by the new government was to handle the situation of exiting from the Euro nations commercial activities and also the market. 5 lacs Rohingya muslims sought shelter in Bangla Desh as refugees, thereby the internal administration continues to find difficulty to tackle the situation.

In our country, the year 2017, commenced with overwhelming response to the traditional Jallikattu agitation in Tamil Nadu, which was banned by highest court of the Nation, participated by more 4 lacs people in the Marina Beach in Chennai, brought a solution through collective action. The combined presentation of General and Railway budgets in the Parliament, a departure from the conventional one and the relevance of Railways has been relegated. Landside victory of the ruling dispensation at the Centre in the UP, the largest State, raised the eye brows of the common people in that state. Chhattisgarh, the trouble prone State faced once again the onslaught of killing 37 service people specially sent to contain the disruption. The connectivity between Assam and Arunachal Pradesh through water was established by construction of 9.15 km of bridge between the two states over river Lahti. It has become a fashion to observe the Yoga day throughout the country in the month of June as the programme unleashed by the Government at the Centre to promote health consciousness. Very few adhere it as a practice, but for most of them, it is yet another programme in the calendar to be observed. Agitation lasting for 100 days for a separate Gorkhaland led to conflict between the Police and the Agitators. The worst tragedy of loss of nearly 300 children in the Gorakhpur Hospital speaks volumes of the neglect demonstrated by the newly elected Government. The financial capital of the country witnessed the worst stampede in the over bridge in a Railway station. Having expressed fearlessly the views, a journalist was killed in her house at Bengaluru. The voice of the honest could not be allowed to be heard by others. Nation has entered into development mode for transporting the people through Surface – Metro rail schemes in Hyderabad, Delhi and also in Chennai. The button to run the affairs of the grand old political party has been passed on to the next generation of political leaders.

The nation witnessed change of guard at the President's office and also of Vice President's office in July and August respectively. Citizens too witnessed the horse trading in some of the states and the pressure exerted to change the sides was a glaring one. The high voltage campaign in Gujarat and concessions extended to the people to win the hearts of the Voters particularly of Traders in the matter of one tax

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regime speak volumes of the rulers. The cabinet expansion and also the reopening of the case of Ram temple by judiciary are sharp turn of events in the political history. The court verdict in 2G scam and also Coal mine scam are also questions raising doubts about the functioning of the judicial system in our country. Introduction of GST by the Government, which was opposed by them as opposition party earlier as in the case of AADHAR too shining examples of double standards.

The assurances rolled out to revive the economy through various programmes are sincerely to state are non-starters. The job losses are visible. The government has utterly failed to create new jobs of 2 crores every year. It is stated by leading journals that 2017 year was year of Artificial Intelligence. The nerve centre of the economy is Banking system. But it is saddled with burgeoning bad loans and the attempt to introduce IBC had made the matters worse. The Controller of the System directed the Banks to provide 50% of the outstanding as provisions immediately. The defaulters are allowed to participate in the bidding of the ailing companies. Developments that are taking place are totally a paradoxical one. In spite of the earlier mergers added crisis only to banking activities, still, a new adventure of merger of five banks with SBI, proving once again the pains of merger. The fear created in the minds of common citizens by the Government is the introduction of FRDI bill with flight of deposits to Private Banks as if these banks are safe to deal with. Shifting stands by the Government in the matter of adherence to the promises often exposes the hollowness in their conviction. The paramount task that has been entrusted to the working people in the Banking sector is to win the hearts of the people at large and bring them in the main stream of struggles. Wage talks are literally a nonstarter, if it is not mistaken.

Three days Parliament Dharna by ten CTUS and independent Trade unions in November, 2017, to draw the attention of the Government was once again successful. But the strike in this year is inevitable by the total working people, as their existence itself is at stake. 7th Pay commission introduction has led to certain conflicts and assurance made by the group of ministers is yet to see the light. The much awaited Gratuity bill to benefit the workers is kept hanging.

To state in a nut shell, we are in the quakemire. Challenges are very many. To tackle the same, there is only one hope, that is Trade union of the Workers. As Com. Aruna Asaf Ali gave the call from Gowalia Tank, Mumbai for Independent Struggle, the newly elected General Secretary of the first pre independent trade union of workers Com. Amarjeet Gaur worked with focused attention to make the voice of workers echoed sufficiently and loudly in the Capital in November 2017, in spite of the Air emergency declared by the Government of Delhi. The voice of the working class inside the Parliament, Com. Gurudas Das Gupta, who consistently organized the collectiveness of the all CTUS handed over the reins to the next leader, who is now in the forefront of the workers struggles.

THE HAPPIEST PEOPLE ARE NOT THOSE GETTING MORE, BUT THOSE GIVING MORE.

It is in the hands of the workers to change the course of the events.

With New Year Greetings

Yours comradely



(S.NAGARAJAN)

GENERAL SECRETARY

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MANGALORE - 575 003

Mangalore
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Sd/-
(K. RAGHAVA)
GENERAL SECRETARY