

The Rise of Far-Right in Sweden

With the victory of Sweden Democrats (SD) an ultra-nationalist, far-right party which traces its origins to neo-Nazi groups of the 1980s, far-right populism swept entire Europe. Sweden held-out the longest against the wave of far-right populism sweeping through Europe. For the first time an ultra-nationalist, anti-immigrant party would be ruling Sweden.

The right-wing block in Sweden united on the core issues propelling the rise of SD. They are the immigration and law and order. Sweden when it had a population of 10 million in 2015, took 1,63,000 immigrants mostly Syrians and Iraqis.

But due to the implementation of neo-economic policies unemployment has risen considerably. While the unemployment among Sweden's rose to a higher rate, unemployment among Sweden's immigrants four times higher to that of native Swedes. Besides this the crime rate in Sweden also rose sharply, especially the gang violence.

These conditions provided an opportunity to the right-wing block to raise nationality and immigrant questions against the immigrants' communities, showing the immigrants as the "other" people who have come to exploit the country's generous welfare system of Sweden.

Over time ultra-right-wing like Sweden Democrats began to explicitly define as "white" only against the ideal of multiculturalism professed by the state. With this the coloured immigrant communities could not gain acceptance and were not accepted as a part of the Swedish National identity.

SD stoked people's unspoken sub-terranean prejudices and anxieties, to win over their votes. With the singular xenophobic agenda to clamp down on immigration and crack-down on criminals (insinuating that immigrants are the criminals) the ultra nationalist, far-right party – Sweden Democrats – could come to governmental power in Sweden.

The ultra-nationalist agenda of SD is akin to the 'Hindutva' agenda-based BJP in our country which treats 'Muslim Community' as others and denies to accept to give them national identity and treats them as criminals by foisting umpteen false cases against them under UAPA and NIA Acts.

This is the consequence of 'neo-liberalism' and neo-liberal economic policies that heightened inequality that created social tensions which eventually led to the rise of far-right leaders and parties and radical identitarian groups threatening humanity.

Rise of reactionary far-right throughout the world is the evil outcome of neo-liberal economic policies that are ruling the entire globe. The victory of SD in Sweden is a part of that menace which has to be opposed and fought bitterly to protect the entire humanity of the globe from the evil!