

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD 500063

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To all the Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units:

Dear Comrades,

SIXTY GLORIOUS YEARS

Diamond Jubilee of AIIEA is being celebrated across the country with great enthusiasm. We extend warm and revolutionary greetings to all insurance employees on this occasion.

The modest journey AIIEA began on 1st July, 1951 from Bombay with the objective of uniting the employees and work for improving their living and working conditions has completed sixty glorious years. In the process of these struggles, the AIIEA raised consciousness level of employees and presented to them its vision of the Indian society and the need to work for its achievement. These sixty years have been truly eventful. Much of this period, the AIIEA had to pass through a great turbulence. The ruling classes spared no efforts to weaken and destroy this great organisation. Despite the politically motivated efforts to disrupt the unity achieved by the AIIEA, the organisation remained uncompromising in the matter of the interests of the employees. The AIIEA remained steadfast to the great cause of the working class; it remained committed to the unity of the nation and unity of the working class. The AIIEA could successfully weather many a storm due to the sheer loyalty and unflinching faith of its membership. It is this impressive record that endeared AIIEA to the trade union movement of the country earning its admiration and respect.

These sixty years have not been easy. They could never have been easy for a trade union that refused to deviate from the principles and philosophy of the working class. The AIIEA had to wage epic struggles on the issues of nationalisation, automation and privatization. However, great the odds were, the AIIEA never deviated from the path of struggle. It did not succumb even to the pressures of Indira Gandhi's authoritarian emergency regime (June 1975 to March 1977) and valiantly fought to defend the interests of the employees. This authoritarian regime was so blinded by its hatred towards courage of AIIEA that it did not hesitate to try to destroy LIC on its return to power again in January 1980. A Bill was introduced in the Parliament to split this finest institution into five or more independent corporations. The challenge was well accepted and the AIIEA mobilised the people against this move and finally succeeded in retaining the monolithic character of LIC which

has helped this institution to successfully meet the challenges thrown up by a competitive environment. In public sector general insurance companies the uncompromising struggle unleashed by the AIIEA could not only protect the industry but also blunted the moves of the management to attack employees in various forms viz., SVRS (Special Voluntary Retirement Scheme), TMP (Transfer and Mobility Policy), abolition of certain cadres in Class III and IV.

In these sixty years, the AIIEA succeeded in improving the living and working conditions of the employees. The AIIEA was never sectarian in its approach. It sensitized the employees about the plight of the other sections of the working class specially those belonging to the unorganised sector. Today, when the insurance employees are celebrating the achievements, the organisation has to confront many new challenges. But the two most important tasks today are to preserve the unity of the employees and protect the industry from the onslaught of the neo-liberal state. The unity of the working class is under strain from the politics of identity. The ruling classes are cleverly using the politics of identity to divide the working class and weaken their challenge to the neo-liberal state. The immediate need is to preserve and cement this unity with the trade union movement placing an agenda of struggle against all forms of social oppression.

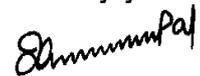
The second important task is the protection of the public sector insurance industry. The epic struggle of the AIIEA has stalled the government's attempts to privatize the public sector insurance industry for nearly two decades now. This struggle has to be strengthened and widened in the background of the government moves to push through the two legislations – Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill 2008 and LIC Act (Amendment) Bill 2009. The liberalisation of financial sector has dangerous consequences. It gives primacy to finance capital over the state. Therefore, it has to be resisted.

The Diamond Jubilee is a proud, yet a solemn occasion. The achievements of the AIIEA in the last six decades have made every insurance employee proud. On this proud occasion let us rededicate ourselves to the lofty ideals of the AIIEA and take our beloved organisation to still greater heights.

Long live AIIEA,

With greetings,

Comradely yours,



General Secretary