

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
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To
All the Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units,

Dear Comrades,

**THE 25TH SILVER JUBILEE GENERAL CONFERENCE OF AIIEA A STUPENDOUS SUCCESS
EXPRESSES SUPREME CONFIDENCE IN MEETING CHALLENGES OF THE TIMES
CALLS FOR ORGANISATIONAL CONSOLIDATION**

The 25th Silver Jubilee General Conference of the AIIEA was held from 27-30 January 2020 in the port city of Vishakhapatnam ended with supreme confidence in meeting the present challenging environment. It called for total unity and consolidation of the organisation on the basis of correct political understanding remaining loyal to the noble philosophy of the working class. Affectionately called "The City of Destiny", Vishakhapatnam happens to be the financial capital of the state of Andhra Pradesh. The Conference Venue, the Andhra University Convention Centre, was named after the legendary leader of insurance employees' movement Com. N.M. Sundaram. The Auditorium was named in memory of the beloved leader of insurance employees Com. R. Govindarajan. The imposing structure of the Andhra University Convention Centre overlooking the mighty Bay of Bengal provided a perfect ambience for the flawless conduct of the Conference of the AIIEA. The serene, tranquil and clean environs of the city offered the right platform for insurance employees throughout the length and breadth of the country to discuss and deliberate on the issues and challenges confronting insurance employees, insurance industry, the society and the people at large.

The Rally and Open Session- A Grand Display of Unity in Diversity

The Open Session of the Conference was preceded by a huge Rally of around 4000 insurance employees, including around 600 women employees. **Com. K. Venugopal**, Vice President of AIIEA, flagged off the Rally from LIC Vishakhapatnam Divisional Office. Led from the front by women employees, the Rally covered a distance of over two kilometres from the LIC Divisional Office to the Gurajada Kala Kshetram, the venue of the Open Session. The rally was a riot of colours; it was a grand spectacle to behold; it was an unmistakable display of India's unity in diversity to the discerning eyes. It was literally a mini India on the move, where insurance employees from the North to the South and from the East to the West marched shoulder to shoulder and hand in hand in defense of Public Sector, Economic Sovereignty and to re-establish the principles of Liberty, Equality and Fraternity.

Fraternal trade unions, students' organisations and women's movements in the city of Vishakhapatnam gave a rousing reception to the Rally and expressed their solidarity with our movement.

Com. Amanulla Khan, President of the AIEA, hoisted the organisational flag to the accompaniment of thunderous slogans and set the ball rolling for the 25th Silver Jubilee Conference of the AIEA. Comrades from the cultural troupe of ICEU Vishakhapatnam Division rendered some beautiful Peoples' Songs and soon afterwards, the Open Session of the Conference began with Com. Amanulla Khan in the Chair. The President of AIEA welcomed the Guests, Delegates and Observers and gave a brief account of the challenging situation in which the Conference was taking place. Com. Amanulla Khan led the house in reading the 'Preamble' of the Constitution of India and take a pledge that insurance employees under the banner of AIEA would leave no stone unturned to protect and defend the Constitution of India.

Com. B. L. Narayana, Vice Chairman of the Reception Committee, gave the Welcome Address in the absence of the Chairman of the Reception Committee **Prof. V.K. Ramanna**. **Justice V. Gopala Gowda**, retired Judge of the Supreme Court of India, addressed the Open Session as the Chief Guest. Justice Gowda lauded the efforts of AIEA in protecting the economic and political sovereignty of India. He said that public sector constituted the fulcrum of India's efforts towards self-reliant economic development. Criticising the moves towards privatisation of the insurance sector, he said that privatisation of insurance would be unconstitutional since that amounts to a negation of the Directive Principles of States Policy enshrined in the Indian Constitution. He said that a tremendous attack was mounted on the idea of India because of the divisive policies of the central government and its various outfits. Justice Gowda categorically said that the Citizenship Amendment Act recently passed by the NDA government cannot stand legal scrutiny as it violates the basic spirits of Equality as enshrined in the Indian Constitution. Justice Gowda said that the Citizenship Amendment Act which was passed by virtue of the brute majority of the ruling party in Parliament was repugnant to the basic features of the Indian constitution. He was also critical of the Supreme Court in not taking up the issue of suspension of fundamental rights of 7 million Kashmiris with the urgency it deserves. Describing insurance employees as the vanguard of the working class movement in India he exuded confidence that the working class of India would launch powerful movements to protect the idea of India.

Many leaders of fraternal organisations greeted the Open Session. **Com. S. Rajkumar**, General Secretary of Federation of LIC Class I Officers' Associations assured to unitedly fight with AIEA for realising the demands of the employees and officers. **Com. M. Vinay Babu**, President of National Federation of Insurance Field Workers of India spoke of the exemplary fraternal relationship between his organisation and the AIEA. He said that the joint front built up by AIEA, NFIFWI and the Class I Officers' Federation constitutes over 90 per cent of the workforce of LIC and the unity was powerful enough to realise the demands from the unwilling hands of the government management combine. **Com. Animesh Mitra**, President of BSNL Employees' Union (BSNLEU) came down heavily on the government for making systematic efforts to dismantle and destroy public sector telecom company BSNL. He said that the government and the corporate media were in an unholy alliance to create a sense of fear amongst innocent employees of BSNL and forcing them to opt for voluntary retirement.

Com. Pradip Biswas, Vice President of Bank Employees' Federation of India lambasted the government for conspiring to destroy public sector banks in the fiftieth year of their nationalisation. He said that while the government's profligacy in advancing unviable loans to the corporates was the root cause of crisis in public sector banks, the IBA and government were unjustly standing on the way of a decent wage revision to bank employees. **Com. Narasingha Rao**, President of the Andhra Pradesh State Committee of the CITU and Vice-Chairman, Reception Committee urged that insurance employees should be a part of the emerging struggles in defence of public sector and against the divisive policies of the government. **Com. Ashok Tiwari**, President of All India Insurance Pensioners' Association made a critical analysis of the prevailing political and economic situation in the country. He assured that the AIIPA would strive to march hand in hand with the AIIEA in all future struggles. **Com. V. Ramesh**, General Secretary AIIEA, proposed the Vote of Thanks.

The Delegates' Session:

The Delegates Session of the Conference began in the morning of 27th January 2020 at Andhra University Convention Centre, right on the shores of the Bay of Bengal with the formal hoisting of the flag of AIIEA by Com Amanulla Khan and paying floral tributes to the Martyrs' Column. **Com. V. Ramesh**, General Secretary AIIEA, placed the Report of the Working Committee before the Conference.

The informative and exhaustive Report of the Working Committee covered a wide range of issues having a bearing on the life and living of insurance employees and of the common people at large. The International Section of the Report dealt with the growing inter imperialist contradictions, the worsening economic situation, huge increase in inequality and hunger, imperialist machinations in West Asia, the capitalist crisis in Europe and elsewhere, the growing environmental crisis and the growing struggles of the working class all over the world. The National Scene of the Report dealt at length on the analysis of the 2019 general elections, the need for electoral reforms, the unprecedented slowdown of the Indian economy, the unusual spectacle of job loss growth, increase in inequality, ill-conceived labour law reforms, farmers' distress, FDI and the danger of foreign takeover, disinvestment of public sector undertakings, scourge of hunger and malnutrition, retrograde social agenda, the divisive social agenda of the government, growing atrocities on Dalits, the deplorable status of women in India, 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, virulent attack on democracy and democratic institutions, the growing movement of students' protests and the possibilities of building an alternative social order. The Industry section of the Report dealt at some length the scenario of the global insurance industry, the impressive performance of LIC and public sector general insurance companies, the moves to list LIC in the stock market, the threat of FDI hike in insurance sector from 49 to 74 per cent, the issue of merger and subsequent disinvestment of PSGI companies and a host of other issues related to insurance industry. The report also dealt with the pending issues, challenges before the organisation and the tasks ahead.

This was followed by the placement of the Audited Statements of Accounts. **Com. B.S. Ravi**, Treasurer AIIEA, placed the audited Statements of Accounts of AIIEA, Insurance Worker and Standing Committee (General Insurance) for the years ending 31.12.2017, 31.12.2018 and 31.12.2019.

Com. K. Venugopal Rao, President SCZIEF, initiated the discussion on the Report. A total of 52 comrades including 10 women comrades participated in the discussion on the Report. The Conference had the privilege of listening to the deliberations of the legendary leader of insurance employees' movement **Com. Chandra Shekhar Bose**. Com. Bose gave a bird's eye view of the many ups and downs through which the organisation had passed and emerged as the true representative union of insurance employees. **Com. K. Natarajan**, Vice president of All India Insurance Pensioners' Association (AIIPA), also addressed the delegates Session and spoke of the symbiotic relationship between the AIIEA and AIIPA. **Com. Amanulla Khan** and **Com. K. Venugopal** also intervened in the debate and made rich contributions to the debate.

Address by Com. Tapan Sen

Com. Tapan Sen, General Secretary CITU, addressed the Delegates Session of the Conference. He said that the CITU had always had the best of fraternal relationship with the AIIEA. Com. Tapan Sen said that the Indian economy was headed towards a bottomless pit and the government had no idea as to how to come out of the crisis. The government therefore was trying to shift the burdens of the crisis to the shoulders of the working people. Complimenting the rank and file of AIIEA for their magnificent participation on the 8th January strike action, he said that insurance employees had to make common cause with the common people of the country and join the growing tide of struggles against economic exploitation and social oppression.

Prof. Apoorvanand speaks on "Present Social Conflicts in India"

Eminent writer and social activist Prof. Apoorvanand of Delhi University addressed a Special Session on the topic "Present Social Conflicts in India". He made a brilliant analysis of the prevailing social situation in India and opined that India was facing million mutinies now. He felt that ascendancy of the Hindu right to political power has led to a ghettoization of Indian society. The values espoused during the course of our anti-colonial struggle which formed the bedrock of India's constitution are today being shred to pieces, he observed. He said that in order to camouflage its failure on the economic front, the NDA government had resorted to creating a division in society by imposing a false binary of 'Us' and 'them'. He was critical of the fact that the ruling party and its various outfits were mobilising people to learn to hate the 'other'. Drawing analogies from the history of pre-war Europe he said that a sinister attempt was being made in India to convert a large section of the people from 'citizens' to 'non citizens'. He however felt that the growing participation of women and students in the popular struggle against social oppression in recent days had kindled a new hope of resistance. He exuded confidence that insurance employees under the banner of AIIEA would be proud participants in these struggles.

Adoption of the Report:

The General Secretary of AIIEA, Com. V. Ramesh, summed up the discussions after a marathon debate spanning over 750 minutes. Com. Ramesh profusely thanked ICEU Vishakhapatnam Division for the magnificent arrangements they had made for the smooth conduct of the Conference. Expressing happiness over the absolute unanimity on the basic formulation of the Report, he said that this unanimity should be applied to strengthening the organisation at all levels. The Report of the Working Committee and the Audited Statements of Accounts were unanimously adopted.

Adoption of Resolutions:

The Conference unanimously adopted 18 Resolutions against imperialist globalisation, against capitalist development and environmental degradation, demanding reversal of neo-liberal economic policies, against the policy of disinvestment of PSUs, demanding strengthening of public sector insurance industry, against FDI in crucial sectors of the economy, against government policy on Pension, against labour law amendments, against the retrograde social agenda of the government, demanding functional autonomy to LIC, demanding wage revision in public sector insurance industry, demanding Recruitment, on issues pertaining to women employees, against violence on women and children, demanding collective bargaining right to AIIEA, demanding recognition to AIIEA, demanding restoration of civil liberties in Jammu and Kashmir and against the Citizenship Amendment Act.

Decisions of the Conference:

The Conference unanimously decided on the policy of the organisation for the next three years and in the immediate present, it decided on the following program of action:

1. Strike actions in March 2020 on wage revision if the demands are not settled. The dates will be finalised in consultation with Joint Front Partners;
2. Protest Demonstrations if FDI is further hiked in insurance sector;
3. Spontaneous one hour strike the very next day if any announcement is made to list LIC in stock markets;
4. Join the larger struggles of Indian people to defend the Constitution, fight the virus of communalism and fight against the curtailment of fundamental rights and civil liberties;
5. Continuance of campaign in defence of the industry and against the levying of GST on insurance premium;
6. Organise trade union camps from All India level to Branch unit levels;
7. Work for further cementing unity of organisation on the basis of working class philosophy

Office-Bearers

The Conference unanimously elected Com V.RAMESH, com Shreekant Mishra, com B.S. Ravi & com K.S.Rajasekhar as President, General Secretary, Treasurer and Asst. treasurer respectively.

It was unanimously decided to seek and benefit from the guidance of Coms Amanulla Khan and K.Venu Gopal. Therefore, they will be the part of Secretariat of AIIEA as invitees. Hyderabad will continue as the Headquarter of the AIIEA.

The Conference also unanimously elected a Working Committee consisting of 145 Members excluding the Office Bearers.

Expression of Gratitude

The Conference recorded its gratitude to Coms Amanulla Khan, K.Venu Gopal, Satanjib Das, M.Kunhikrishnan, V. S. Nalvade and N.Chakraborty who demitted the offices for their immense contribution to the development and growth of the organisation.

Insurance Worker

The Conference appreciated the tremendous work the Journal is performing in helping the understanding of the insurance employees on vital issues confronting the Indian Society. It was decided to further increase number of subscribers to the Journal and popularise it among the workers and employees outside the insurance industry. It was unanimously decided on continuation of Com Amanulla Khan and Com N.K.Vedaraja as Editor and Publisher respectively. The Conference accepted the request of Com M.Chandan for relief from the duties as Manager and approved the name of Com R.Padmanabha, Jt.Secretary, ICEU, Bangalore I Division as the Manager of Insurance Worker. The conference recorded appreciation of the contribution of Com M.Chandan. The Journal will continue its publication from Bangalore.

Cultural Programs

The Cultural troupe of Visakhapatnam enthralled the Conference with their magnificent performances. The song presentations and the choice were excellent. The folk dance Dhinsa presented on 28th January and the drama Chandaliika based on Guru Rabindranath Tagore's classic were marvellous and came for huge appreciation.

Martyrs' Day Observed

The Conference decided to observe the Martyrs Day on 30th January. On this fateful day India lost the Father of the Nation who fell to an assassin's bullet. The murder of Mahatma Gandhi was an attempt to murder his philosophy of brotherhood, communal harmony and a society free of violence. The assassin and the forces behind the ideology of the assassin miserably failed to obliterate the noble values and principles of Bapuji. He continues to live and guide all progressive forces not just in India but world over. A human Chain was formed on the

beach road in front of the Conference Venue and pledge was taken to carry forward the message of love and fraternity that Babuji lived and died for.

A VERY SUCCESSFUL CONFERENCE

The 25th General Conference of AIEA was historic in more than one sense. It had the largest ever participation of the women. The discussions and deliberations were of the highest order clear demonstration of the qualitative growth and maturity of the organisation. The conference discussed every important issue concerning the Indian Society today. There was total unanimity that the divisive policies have to be fought as this is an attempt to weaken the resistance of the poor and working class against the disastrous new economic policies. There was a firm conviction that undermining democracy would finally result in undermining the rights of the working class and therefore no effort should be spared to defend and protect democracy. The Constitution which is a social contract based on the foundational principles of Democracy, Secularism, Equality, Justice and Fraternity is under tremendous attack. There was total unanimity that Constitution and its foundational principles are sacred and they cannot be allowed to be tampered and tinkered with and these values have to be defended and protected at all cost. There was unanimity on all issues relating to the industry and demands of the employees. The Conference resolved to carry forward the struggles to defend the industry and secure the legitimate demands of the employees. Such unanimity on all major issues is really breath-taking. Armed with the decisions of the 25th General Conference, the AIEA continues its journey with supreme confidence and decides to join hands with millions of Indians who desires to establish a just, fair, equal and exploitation free society.

Long Live 25th General Conference of AIEA. Long Live AIEA

With revolutionary greetings,

Comradely yours,



(Shreekanth Mishra)
General Secretary