

EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
Jeevan Deep Buildings (First Floor), Exhibition Road, Patna -800001

www.ecziea.org

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Good Bye Year 2020 – The year of challenges
Welome New Year 2021 – The year of hopes and aspirations

Never before we had faced such a beleaguered moment while penning down a year-ender like for the year 2020- the most challenging year this generation had ever encountered in their lifetimes. When the human race takes pride at the advancement of science and technology, one health hazard named COVID-19 turned out to be a pandemic and wrought havoc across the world in the form of loss of human lives and livelihoods. A lot has been written about its ravages and how it crippled the world economy into recession so no further elaboration is needed. With year- 2020 finally crawling towards its end and will be in the history in a few hours, the hope that a heroic COVID-19 vaccine will swoop in and make 2021 a blissful year for the human civilization. With new hopes and aspirations, let us welcome the new dawn of year-2021, when there will be no curtailment of individual freedom and there will be no discrimination in the name of religion and caste. At the cost of repetition, ECZIEA wishes all our comrades and well wishers a very happy and peaceful New Year-2021. May the New Year bring in peace, prosperity, progress and happiness for all comrades and family members.

The present is much more important than the past & future. By drawing lessons from the past, we have to build the present to meet the future challenges. The Year-2020 is the most turbulent year for the whole globe. The entire universe was in a chaotic situation that never witnessed in the past. Before pandemic-19, the entire world economy was in the grip of deep recession. From the year 2016, every year's growth is less than the previous year's growth. The growth of the Indian economy was reduced to -23.9% in the 1st quarter of the current FY 2020-21. Before pandemic the unemployment ratio was 6.1% which broke the last 45 years record. Due to demonetization and hasty implementation of GST the Indian economy was pushed to that situation. The Covid-19 added and created havoc and devastation not only in the global economy but also in the Indian economy. The impact and crisis of the Indian economy was much more than the crisis of 2008 and world war-II. In real terms Indian economy virtually gone into ventilator in the first two consecutive quarters of the FY-2020. Instead of declaring and providing adequate fiscal stimulus to increase the purchasing power of the common man, the government provided much rhetoric fiscal package of 20 lakhs to the corporate house to boost the market. Out of this 20 Lakhs package which is 10% of India's budget, only 0.01% given to the common man and rest of the package gone on the way of loan exemption to the corporate houses. The sudden declared lock down lead a disastrous situation in the country. Millions of workers not only

lost their jobs and livelihoods but many lost their lives, suffered untold miseries while returning from their work place to the respective home states.

In order to revive the economy and to meet the fiscal deficit, instead of imposing higher taxes upon rich and billionaire, the government preferred to give more incentives to them. As a result, disparities broaden between the Haves and the Have Nots. National assets and resources were transferred to the corporate houses in a systematic way by accelerating and implementing the neo-liberal policies by the government. It has been the motto of the government to handover all the Public sectors to the corporate houses. To kill the golden goose, in a most undemocratic manner road map has been set up by the government that within the last quarter of the current FY 20-21, the shares of LIC may be listed in the stock market through IPO. It is needless to explain the contribution of LIC for the nation building activities since its inception. It not only acts as the oxygen to revive the Indian economy and the stock market but also acts as the ATM of government of India. It is reprehensible that government of India has taken decision to hand over the ATM to Corporate houses. That apart the very slogan of the government:- Minimum government and maximum governance falls flat which is evident from the pending issues like wage revision, updating of family pension etc before the government for its clearance for years together. This has to be resisted by our struggle under the banner of AIIEA. The farmers bill passed in the parliament by overlooking all the democratic norms to destroy the farming and to push farmers to labourers of their own land and thereby the cost of essential commodities to be fixed at the mercy of the Corporate houses. The biggest ever struggle by the farmers during the last three decades to repeal the three farm bills passed by the Central Government has snatched the sleep of the ruling class.

Besides this, all the independent institutions and constitutional bodies including judiciary are under severe attack and they have lost their independence and are forced to favour the ruling dispensations. Hard earned democratic rights like to form union, raise voice against injustice, right to strike, minimum wages, working hours etc have been snatched away by way of amending all the Labour laws into four labour codes. The ruling party is polarizing the country on communal lines. The right wing forces have created an atmosphere of fear and helplessness among Minorities, Dalits and women. The Slogan of One Nation-One Religion, One Nation- One Constitution,, One Nation-One Language, One Nation One Leader proves the autocratic attitude of the ruling class. The very pluralistic character of Indian society is being attacked & people are divided in the name of caste, region and religion.

Against such anti democratic steps of the government of the day massive agitations and struggles are going on in the country. The heroic struggles of the Indian farmers which is more than 34 days, and 26th November strike resistance of 25 crores Indian people give a hope and confidence that the anti people, anti worker policies of the government are bound to retreat. The more broad based unity and struggle can pave the way to force government to come to their good senses for the benefit of the common mass.

Let us unite the common masses, broaden our struggle with democratic and secular forces and strengthen our unity to meet the unprecedented challenges created by the ruling class. The struggle can give us guarantee to achieve these demands. Let us march in this regard in the New Year. Victory will be ours and victory will be for the toiling masses. Last but not the least, May the New Year bring greater harmony, happiness and hope to a humanity, that badly needs these attributes.

With revolutionary greetings,

Comradely yours,

Trinath Dora

General Secretary