

# insurance Worker

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Monthly Journal of All India Insurance Employees' Association

Vol. 61 • No. 1 • January 2018 • ₹ 10 • Pages 40+4

**NEW YEAR BECKONS:**

**“ you are  
many  
and they  
are few  
and in this  
struggle  
for justice,  
you will  
undoubtedly  
prevail”**



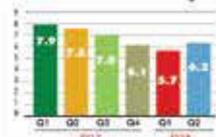
**Banks & NPAs**



**Model  
That  
Never  
Was**



**State of the  
Economy**



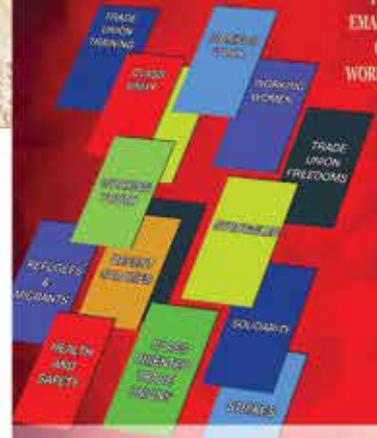
**उ. प्र.: जमीन से  
उखड़ता 'कमल'**



**Why FRDI  
is stoking  
Worst  
Fears**



**2018**  
WE STRUGGLE  
FOR THE  
EMANCIPATION  
OF THE  
WORKING CLASS



**Happy New Year**

## RED SALUTE COMRADE SUKOMAL SEN



Comrade Sukomal Sen, one of the founding leaders of All India State Government Employees' Federation and its General Secretary from 1982 to 2008 and later its Senior Vice Chairman, and also Vice President of CITU during 2010-16, breathed his last on November 22, 2017. He was 83.

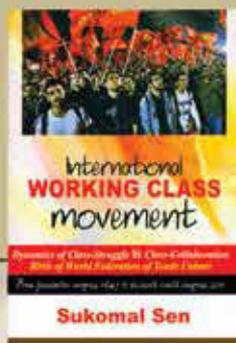
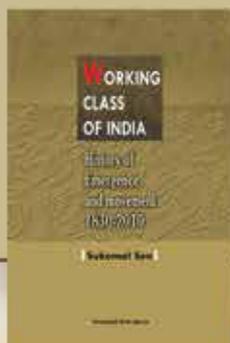
Com. Sen was one of those veterans in the working class and employees' movement in the country who contributed immensely both ideologically and organizationally, at the international level also.

He was the General Secretary of TUI Public & Allied Service from 1996 to 2009 and played leading role in coordinating the movement and activities of Govt and public sector employees at the international level. AIEA was an affiliate of this international organisation.

Com. Sukomal Sen will always be remembered by all class-conscious trade union activists for his great work 'Working Class In India-History of Emergence of Movement (1830-2010)', which has been translated into various Indian languages.

His other books are , "May Day and Eight Hours Struggle in India", "Communist Manifesto and the Theory of Revolution- a 150th Anniversary Tribute", "The History of All India State Govt Employees Federation". He has also authored "International Working Class Movement-Dynamics of Class Struggle Vs Class Collaboration" outlining the history of World Federation of Trade Unions since its foundation congress in 1945 to World Congress 2011. He had been a regular contributor to various journals in India and abroad on political-ideological issues. He had been the Editor of the "Employees Forum", the Organ of the All India State Govt Employees Federation since its birth in 1979 for over three decades. And his latest contribution is the two volume book on the subject of October Revolution and its aftermath published recently.

Com. Sukomal Sen also served as a member of the Rajya Sabha on behalf of CPI(M), for two terms, during which period , he raised various issues concerning all sections of the working people of the country. Insurance Worker pays heartfelt tributes to this veteran trade union leader.



## The New Year Arrives with New Hopes

The Year 2017 has passed into history. The new year has arrived bringing with it new hopes for humanity. These flames of hope were kindled by the resistance of the working class seen in the recent period against exploitation of both men and nature by the unsustainable capitalist system. We welcome the Year 2018 committing to keep the flames of hope burning to lift the clouds of darkness in the life of toiling and working people across the globe.

The New Year has also brought with it massive challenges for humanity. The year gone by has once again demonstrated that neo-liberalism has utterly failed humanity. It is destroying societies, democracy, whatever little social security the workers acquired through struggles and the planet that we live on. It is a fact that capitalism has generated massive wealth for some but totally failed to improve the quality of life for the workers and less privileged sections of global population. The

enormous wealth and income inequalities, the evils of poverty, hunger and destitution stalking the earth are the horror creations of capitalism. The ecological crisis created by unbridled exploitation of the nature is posing an existential threat to humanity. The Year 2018 is bound to witness increasingly militant struggle against capitalism. In the struggle against exploitation of men and nature, it must be understood that solution to the problems of humanity cannot be found within capitalism. Solutions have to be found by working towards a world order that is just, fair and equal to all countries and every inhabitant on planet earth.

The year 2017 also confirmed the continuing decline of military, economic and institutional power of US imperialism. The massive distress due to continuing economic crisis catapulted Donald Trump to the Presidency of United States. This regime has not only increased the miseries of the working class at home but

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Cover Design & Lay-out:  
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**Subscription**  
Annual : Rs.120  
Single Copy: Rs. 10

has also brought the world dangerously close to a nuclear war. Even before taking office, Donald Trump expressed willingness to wage a preventive war in North Korea. The rhetoric of the US president and his administration has brought the hostilities between the two nations to a level not seen since the end of Korean War in 1953. It requires collective efforts by countries and people to bring sanity and prevent a destructive nuclear war. Imperialism has turned the entire Middle East into a battle ground. It has created instability in South Asia with its war games in Afghanistan. Recognition of occupied Jerusalem by United States as capital of Israel is not only immoral and against all international laws but also effectively kills the two State solution to the conflict between Israel and Palestine. This action of Trump has created a totally explosive situation in the region. Peace is essential for the progress of humanity and therefore the situation demands increasing mobilisation against imperialism and its war games.

Despite the overwhelming evidence against neo-liberalism as a failed system both within and outside the country, the Modi government continues its aggressive pursuit of the discredited policies. The Indian economy is going through a period of prolong crisis. The over two and half decade of India's experiment with neo-liberalism has clearly demonstrated that it works in favour of the rich and the privileged at the cost of the poor and vulnerable. This period has witnessed massive increase in wealth and its concentration. Today the top one percent of the Indians own nearly 60 percent of the national wealth making the country second most unequal society in the world. The talk of India becoming a super power cannot hide the fact that poverty, hunger and joblessness has tremendously increased. The Modi government has put the sale of public sector units on fast track. The demonetisation and GST were measures to kill the informal sector and transfer the wealth from the poor to the rich on an unprecedented scale.

The Year 2017 saw unprecedented polarisation of society on religious lines. The

State has turned blind to the killings in the name of cow protection and other religious grounds. The campaign for the Gujarat elections witnessed the lowering of democratic discourse. It is alarming that the Prime Minister has emerged as the most polarising figure. The Prime Minister took the leading role in othering the minorities more specifically the Muslims. The unsubstantiated allegation of treason against a former Prime Minister, former Vice-President and former Army Chief has totally undermined the constitutional authorities. Whatever may be the results of Gujarat elections, it is certain that democracy which is based on an informed choice has suffered as debate on issues impacting the life and living of the people was pushed to the background and divisive and communal card was chosen to appeal to the most banal feelings. This period also witnessed undermining of all democratic institutions so painfully built by the nation.

The insurance employees have great tasks laid out for them. The divestment of shares of GIC-Re and New India Assurance Company clearly points out to a trend and design. The public sector insurance industry despite its massive contribution to the nation building will come under increasing attacks. The government has laid a roadmap for privatisation of the other three public sector general insurance companies. The privatisation policy of the government will not spare LIC which has emerged as the most important financial institution in the country. The government decision to bring a legislation to lay down the procedure for merger, liquidation etc of public sector banks, LIC and PSGI companies is to meet the demands of the global finance capital which raises red flag on issues relating to fiscal deficit. The government has not shown any urgency in tackling the NPAs which are responsible for the banking crisis. The government has no political will to attack the big corporate houses who are the wilful defaulters. The insurance employees have to prepare for sustained struggle in defence of their industry and to secure a just wage revision.

The challenges are enormous but the dying

moments of the year 2017 have also lighted the lamps of hope. The massive three day dharna of the workers in Delhi followed by equally impressive demonstration by the farmers have opened up vistas for united struggle against both neo-liberalism and communal polarisation. The experiences of common sufferings and deprivations by the workers and peasants irrespective of religious faith, language and region will bind them in united movements.

The working and toiling people through these united struggles have to challenge the economic and social policies. It has fallen upon the working and toiling people to defend through their struggles the Democratic Socialist Secular Republic of India.

The *Insurance Worker* wishes its readers, all insurance employees and the global working class a very happy and eventful new year. The Year 2018 beckons us all with the slogan -

*you are many and they are few and  
in this struggle for justice,  
you will undoubtedly prevail.*



## नया वर्ष नई उम्मीदों के साथ आता है

वर्ष 2017 इतिहास का हिस्सा बन गई है। नया वर्ष मानवता के लिये नई उम्मीदें लेकर आया है। उम्मीदों की ज्वाला हाल के समय में मानव व प्रकृति दोनों ही के शोषण के विरुद्ध मजदूर वर्ग के प्रतिरोध से प्रज्वलित हुई है जोकि गैर-टिकाऊ पूंजीवादी व्यवस्था द्वारा किया जा रहा है। हम वर्ष 2018 का स्वागत करते हैं और उम्मीदों की इस ज्वाला को जलाये रखने के लिये खुद को समर्पित करते हैं ताकि दुनियां भर के मेहनतकश व श्रमिक आवाम के जीवन में अंधेरे के बादल छंट जाये।

नया वर्ष अपने साथ मानवता के लिये भारी चुनौतियां भी साथ लाया है। गुजरे हुए वर्ष ने एक बार फिर यह स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि नव-उदारवाद ने मानवता को असफल कर दिया है। यह समाजों को, जनतन्त्र को, मजदूरों के संघर्षों से प्राप्त सामाजिक सुरक्षा के बचे हुए हिस्से को तथा खुद उस पृथ्वी को जिस पर हम रहते हैं, नष्ट कर रहा है। यह एक तथ्य है कि पूंजीवाद ने कुछ लोगों के लिये अत्यधिक धन पैदा किया है परन्तु दुनियां की जनसंख्या में श्रमिकों व कम सुविधा प्राप्त वर्गों के जीवन की गुणवत्ता सुधारने में यह पूर्ण-रूप से विफल रहा है। संपत्ति व आय में बहुत अधिक असमानता, गरीबी, भूख व निराश्रयता की बुराईयां जिनसे की पृथ्वी पीड़ित है, पूंजीवाद की डरावनी रचना है। पर्यावरण सम्बन्धी संकट जो कि प्रकृति के बे-रोकटोक शोषण का परिणाम है, मानवता के अस्तित्व को खतरा पैदा कर रहा है। वर्ष 2018 पूंजीवाद के विरुद्ध बढ़ते हुए संघर्षों का साक्षी होगा। मानव व प्रकृति के शोषण के विरुद्ध संघर्ष में यह साफ होना चाहिये कि इसका समाधान पूंजीवाद के अन्तर्गत

नहीं ढूँढा जा सकता। समाधान एक ऐसी विश्व व्यवस्था का निर्माण करने के लिये कार्य करने में ढूँढा जा सकता है जोकि न्यायसंगत व सुखद हो तथा सभी देशों व पृथ्वी पर रहने वाले हर निवासी के लिये बराबर हो।

वर्ष 2017 ने अमरीकी साम्राज्यवाद की सैन्य, आर्थिक व संस्थागत शक्ति में निरन्तर जारी कमी की भी पुष्टि की है। लगातार आर्थिक संकट के कारण हुए भारी असंतोष ने डोनाल्ड ट्रंप को अमरीका के राष्ट्रपति पद पर बैठाया। इस शासन ने न केवल अमरीका में श्रमिक वर्ग की कठिनाइयों को बढ़ाया है वरन दुनियां को नाभिकीय युद्ध के खतरों के समीप भी लाकर खड़ा कर दिया है। कार्यभार ग्रहण करने से पूर्व भी डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने उत्तरी कोरिया के विरुद्ध अवरोधक युद्ध छेड़ने की इच्छा जाहिर की थी। अमरीका के राष्ट्रपति और उसके प्रशासन की भाषणबाजी से दोनों देशों के बीच शत्रुता इस स्तर तक पहुंच गई है जो 1953 में कोरिया युद्ध समाप्त होने के बाद से कभी नहीं देखी गई थी। विभिन्न देशों तथा लोगों द्वारा सामूहिक प्रयासों से ही वह बुद्धिमत्ता पैदा हो सकती है जो नाभिकीय युद्ध के विध्वंस को रोक सकती है। साम्राज्यवाद ने पूरे मध्य-एशिया को युद्ध के मैदान में तब्दील कर दिया है। इसने अफगानिस्तान में अपने युद्ध के खेलों द्वारा दक्षिण-एशिया में अस्थिरता पैदा कर दी है। कब्जा किये हुए जेरूसलेम को अमरीका द्वारा इजराइल की राजधानी के रूप में मान्यता देना न केवल अनैतिक है तथा सभी अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानूनों के विपरीत है बल्कि फिलस्तीन व इजराइल के बीच संघर्ष में यह दो राज्यों के समाधान की भी हत्या करता है। ट्रंप की इस कार्यवाही से इस क्षेत्र में विस्फोटक

स्थिति पैदा हो गई है। मानवता की प्रगति के लिये शान्ति जरूरी है तथा इसीलिये यह स्थिति मांग करती है कि साम्राज्यवाद व उसके युद्ध-खेलों के विरुद्ध ज्यादा से ज्यादा एकजुटता हो।

देश के अन्दर तथा बाहर नव-उदारवाद की व्यवस्था के असफल होने के बावजूद मोदी सरकार उन्हीं बदनाम हो चुकी नीतियों को लागू करने में अपनी रूचि दिखा रही है। भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था एक लम्बे संकट के दौर से गुजर रही है। नव-उदारवाद के साथ लगभग 25 वर्षों का प्रयोग साफ तौर पर इस बात का साक्षी है कि यह धनी लोगों के पक्ष में काम करता है तथा देश को दुनिया का दूसरा असमान समाज बनाता है। यह बात कि भारत एक सुपर-पावर बनने जा रहा है, इस तथ्य को छिपा नहीं सकती कि गरीबी, भूख व रोजगार-हीनता में इस देश में भारी वृद्धि हुई है। मोदी सरकार ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की बिक्री की चाल तेज कर दी है। नोट-बंदी व जीएसटी अनौपचारिक क्षेत्र की हत्या करने तथा अभूतपूर्व स्तर पर सम्पत्ति को गरीब लोगों से धनी लोगों की ओर स्थानान्तरित करने के कदम थे।

वर्ष 2017 ने समाज का धार्मिक स्तर पर अभूतपूर्व धुवीकरण देखा है। गौ-रक्षा के नाम पर तथा अन्य धार्मिक आधारों पर राज्य हत्याओं के प्रति अन्धा ही बना रहा है। गुजरात के चुनाव अभियान ने जनतान्त्रिक विचार-विमर्श को गिरते हुए देखा है। यह चैंकाने वाला है कि प्रधानमंत्री धुवीकरण तेज करने वाले व्यक्ति के रूप में उभरे हैं। प्रधानमंत्री ने अल्पसंख्यकों और खासतौर पर मुसलमानों को पराया बनाये जाने में मुख्य भूमिका अदा की। पूर्व-प्रधानमंत्री, पूर्व-उपराष्ट्रपति और पूर्व सेना-प्रमुख के विरुद्ध अप्रमाणित देशद्रोह के आरोपों ने संवैधानिक अधिकारियों को कमजोर किया है। गुजरात चुनाव का चाहे कुछ भी परिणाम हो, यह निश्चित है कि जनतन्त्र जोकि शिक्षित इच्छा पर निर्भर है, कमजोर हुआ है क्योंकि लोगों के जीवन और जीविका को प्रभावित करने वाले मुद्दे पृष्ठभूमि में धकेल दिये गये थे तथा लोगों की तुच्छ भावनाओं को अपील करने के लिये साम्प्रदायिक व विभाजनकारी तर्क को चुना गया था। इस दौर ने राष्ट्र द्वारा बहुत मेहनत से बनाई गई जनतान्त्रिक संस्थाओं को कमजोर होते हुए भी देखा है।

बीमा कर्मचारियों के पास बहुत से काम हैं जो पूर्व-निर्धारित हैं। जीआईसी-री व न्यू इण्डिया एश्योरेन्स कम्पनी के शेरों का विनिवेश एक रूझान व योजना की ओर स्पष्ट संकेत करते हैं। राष्ट्र निर्माण में अपने भारी योगदान के बावजूद सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बीमा उद्योग पर भारी हमले होंगे। सरकार ने सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की शेष तीन आम बीमा कम्पनियों के निजीकरण का भी मानचित्र तैयार कर लिया है। सरकार की निजीकरण की नीति एलआईसी को भी नहीं बख्खोगी जोकि देश का सबसे महत्वपूर्ण वित्तीय संस्थान बनकर उभरा है। सरकार का ये फैसला कि सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बैंक, एलआईसी व सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की आम बीमा कम्पनियों के विलय व दीवालियापन की दशा में तरीकों का निर्धारण करने हेतु वे एक विधेयक पेश करेंगे, विश्विक वित्तीय पूंजी की मांग को पूरा करता है जिससे वित्तीय घाटे से सम्बन्धित मुद्दों पर लाल निशान लगता है। सरकार ने एनपीए की समस्या को हल करने में कोई उत्सुकता नहीं दिखाई है जो बैंकिंग संकट के लिये जिम्मेदार है। सरकार के पास बड़े उद्योग-घरानों पर हमला करने के लिये इच्छा-शक्ति नहीं है जोकि विलफुल डिफाल्टर हो गये हैं। बीमा कर्मचारियों को अपने उद्योग की रक्षा करने तथा न्यायसंगत वेतन संशोधन प्राप्त करने के लिये सतत संघर्ष के लिये तैयार रहना होगा।

चुनौतियां बहुत हैं परन्तु 2017 के खत्म होते हुए क्षणों ने आशा का दीप भी जलाया है। मजदूर वर्ग का तीन दिन का भारी धरना व कृषकों द्वारा वैसे ही प्रदर्शन ने नव-उदारवाद व साम्प्रदायिक धुवीकरण दोनों के ही विरुद्ध संयुक्त संघर्ष के नये आयाम को जन्म दिया है। विभिन्न धार्मिक आस्थाओं, भाषाओं व क्षेत्रों से सम्बन्ध रखने के बावजूद मजदूरों व किसानों के एक जैसे अनुभव उन्हीं संयुक्त संघर्ष में बांधते हैं। अपने संघर्ष द्वारा किसानों व मेहनतकश लोगों को आर्थिक व सामाजिक नीतियों को चुनौती देनी होगी। यह भार श्रमिक वर्ग तथा मेहनतकश लोगों के कन्धों के ऊपर आ गया है कि वे अपने संघर्षों द्वारा भारत के जनतान्त्रिक व धर्मनिरपेक्ष गणतन्त्र की रक्षा करें।

इन्श्योरेन्स वर्कर अपने सभी पाठकों, सभी बीमा कर्मचारियों व विश्व के मजदूर वर्ग को नये वर्ष के प्रसन्नतापूर्ण व घटनापूर्ण होने की शुभ कामनाएं देता है। वर्ष 2018 हमें इस नारे के साथ पुकार रहा है-

*आप बहुत सारे हैं तथा वे बहुत थोड़े हैं  
और न्याय के लिये इस लड़ाई में निस्संदेह  
जीत आपकी ही होगी।*

## Three Major Unions hold Joint Discussions with LIC Chairman

A delegation comprising of the Presidents and General Secretaries of Federation of LIC Class I Officers' Association, National Federation of Insurance Field Workers of India and All India Insurance Employees' Association met Shri V.K.Sharma, Chairman LIC at Mumbai on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. Shri Hemant Bhargava, M.D., Shri Sharad Srivastava, EDP and other officials of the personnel department were present.

The delegation pointed out that the three unions represent over 90 percent of the workforce of LIC. Being the major unions, they are concerned over developments that have potential to impact both the industry and the workforce. The delegation discussed the effect of the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Bill on LIC. This Bill which is likely to be taken up for passage in the coming session of Parliament lays down a road map through which the public sector financial institutions can be merged, liquidated etc. The delegation wanted to know whether this Bill overrides some provisions of the LIC Act. The Chairman informed the delegation that LIC is studying the Bill in detail and will share its understanding with the Unions soon. The Chairman assured to take up with the Finance Ministry if the provisions of the proposed legislation adversely impact LIC. The delegation also discussed some investment decisions of the recent times and made it clear that there cannot be any compromise on the safety and security of the policyholders' monies. The issue of product development keeping in view the market expectations and aspiring clientele was also discussed in great detail. The delegation pointed out the effort of the unions in mobilising opinion against the imposing of GST on Life Insurance premiums and requested the Chairman to take up this issue with the Government when it is tweaking the rates on various items under popular pressure. The Chairman informed that this issue has been

seriously taken up with the Government by LIC as also the Life Insurance Council.

The delegation discussed in details various issues and demands relating to the employees. Important among them are:

### 1. Final Option on Pension

The delegation expressed anguish and disappointment on this issue not finding an amicable solution despite passage of such a long time. The delegation pointed out the change in the material facts since the last option given in 1996 and said the growth of institution provides ample justification to favourably consider this demand. The Chairman informed that despite various difficulties, the LIC is serious on this demand and is seriously pursuing it with the government. The Chairman assured that all efforts would be made by LIC for a satisfactory solution to this demand.

### 2. 5 Day Week

It was pointed out that the inordinate delay in implementing 5 day week which was agreed to during the last wage revision raises serious doubts about the autonomy of LIC Board and the functional autonomy of the LIC Chairman. The delegation said it is unfair to delay implementation of this decision when the LIC Board had approved the same before the offer to the unions was made. The Chairman agreed that there is inordinate delay but said that efforts are not lacking from LIC in pursuing the government to approve this issue early. He promised to continue efforts with the government to secure early approval.

### 3. Mediclaim Scheme

The delegation demanded improvement in the Mediclaim Scheme including substantial increase in the basic sum assured from the existing limits. The Chairman assured to positively consider this demand from the next renewal date. We also requested the Chairman to consider giving another option to retired employees who had withdrawn from the

scheme to rejoin again. We also suggested that many more improvements desirable should be negotiated with the Insurer on renewal to ensure maximum facilities are extended under the Scheme.

#### **4. PLLI for the year 2016-17**

The Chairman informed that there is no eligibility of PLLI at the Corporate Level. However many individual divisions on the basis of their performance have become eligible for PLLI. We suggested that LIC can take it up with the Board for payment of ex-gratia at the corporate level considering the impressive performance registered by LIC. We also suggested the early release of PLLI to all those who have become eligible. The Chairman assured to consider the request.

#### **5. Recruitment**

The delegation pointed out the enormous increase in the workload, age profile in the corporation to impress the need to take immediate steps for recruitment. The delegation also pointed that due to unscientific recruitment of Development Officers, the attrition rate is very high and suggested for recruitment of Development Officers from our existing agents. The Chairman agreed that recruitment is necessary and advised the P&IR department to work out the details relating to the requirement of the Corporation. He said some positive steps will be taken in this regard by the end of the current financial year.

#### **6. Diamond Jubilee Memento**

The delegation expressed disappointment that despite the massive progress registered by the Corporation, the demand for a Diamond

Jubilee Memento is yet to be conceded. We made it abundantly clear that the commitment of the workforce has made LIC the finest financial institution in the country and recognition of this contribution will go a long way in meeting the present day challenges. The Chairman said that the issue did not get any favourable response from the Board but he will make fresh efforts in the Board on this issue.

#### **7. Wage Revision**

The Chairman informed that LIC has received charter of demands for wage revision due from 1.8.2017 from all unions. The same are being assessed and analysed. Thereafter the demands will be discussed with the government. The delegation pointed out that the Charter has both monetary and non-monetary issues. We said that it is understandable that on monetary demands some guidance from the government is required by LIC, there need not be any delay in starting discussions on non-monetary issues. The Chairman assured to consider this suggestion.

The delegation also discussed the need to bring about industrial democracy by recognising the majority trade unions in the industry. Various other issues relating to different classes of employees were also discussed. The issue of termination of development officers under special rule was also raised and demanded that there should be proviso of redeployment of such development officers in administrative side with protection of wages. The discussions were positive and the unions would continue to make efforts to secure satisfactory solution to the issues represented. 

## **AIIEA meets Executive Director (Personnel)**

Comrades Amanulla Khan, President and V.Ramesh, General Secretary met Sri. Sharad Srivastava, Executive Director (Personnel) separately on 9<sup>th</sup> December, 2017. The details of the visit of the AIIEA leadership to the Central Office and the discussions with the Chairman already stand communicated through a joint circular of AIIEA, Federation of Cl. I Officers Associations and NFIFWI.

AIIEA raised the following issues with E.D. (Personnel):

**Recruitment:** We once again emphasized on early recruitment in Class III and Class IV cadres. The delegation also demanded an early solution to the CGIT issue on the lines demanded by AIIEA.

It was pointed out that recruitment cannot be delayed any more considering the need of the institution on the ground of pending legal cases. There can be a solution to the pending cases in the courts if LIC abandons its attitude to be a litigant-ever on employee related issues.

We said that the recruitment in class III cadre will face no problems if the LIC extends the benefit of the Supreme Court in Hashmuddin vs LIC decision to similar placed employees whose number is very small. Responding to the demand the E.D. (Personnel) said that they will look into the matter.

**Ex Servicemen:** The AIIEA delegation pointed out that the recent CO circular on the Fixation of pay to Ex-Servicemen from a retrospective effect is totally unjustified. The employment is a contract and on the basis of the offer made by LIC, the ex-servicemen seeking re-employment accepted the offer and joined the services of LIC. The terms of the contract cannot be changed after finalization of the

contract and therefore there is no legal basis to reopen the cases of fixation of salary which is done according to the applicable rules existing then. Therefore, the issue of pay fixation of ex-servicemen appointed before the issue of the said circular cannot be reopened. We suggested that if necessary the facts of the case be clearly brought to the Ministry and in the meantime operation of the circular should be suspended.

The delegation also demanded that LIC should issue the instructions for payment of Ex-gratia in lieu of Bonus to the eligible employees for the year 2016-17. Replying, E.D (personnel) informed that LIC has already written a letter to the government in this regard and waiting for the clearance from them. ■

## Reception Committee of 7th All India Conference of AIIPA formed

The 7<sup>th</sup> General Conference of All India Insurance Pensioners' Association is scheduled to be held at Nagpur from 11<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> February, 2018. A meeting of prominent citizens and trade union leaders of Nagpur was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 to form the Reception Committee for the successful conduct of the Conference. Com M K Chattraj, President of Vidarbha Insurance Pensioners' Association, the host unit, presided over the meeting.

Prof. Haribhau Kedar, Ex. Vice Chancellor of Nagpur University was selected as Chairman of the Reception Committee. Com TK Chakraborty, General Secretary, AIIPA traced the history of AIIPA since its formation at Nagpur on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 1997 and various achievements of the organisation. He expressed his confidence that the conference of largest Association of insurance pensioners will be organised by Nagpur unit in befitting manner. Com R N Patne, Ex Vice President of AIIEA gave his learned advise for the success of conference.

Com M L Setiya, President, AIIPA and Com K Natrajan, Vice President AIIPA emphasised on the importance of this conference, particularly in the context of present social, political and economic condition of the country.

Prof. Haribhau Kedar, Chairman of the reception committee expressed confidence that the conference of senior citizens of organised and enlightened class of insurance pensioners will

definitely ask question the government for its failure to provide essential services to the society and its elders. He also pointed to the dangers of intolerance spreading in the society. He assured that all necessary arrangements for the smooth conduct of the conference and comfortable stay of delegates and observers will be made as per the tradition of hospitality of Nagpur.

Com K S Sapate, Convener of reception committee and General Secretary of VIPA, Nagpur proposed vote of thanks and appealed to all units of AIIPA to contribute maximum financial help for the success of the conference. ■



## PRE-BUDGET 2018 CONSULTATIONS

## Central Trade Unions put across their Demands to the FM

The finance minister held Pre-budget 2018 discussion with the representatives of central trade unions on December 5, 2017. Representatives of all the central trade unions attended the meeting. CITU was represented by its president, Hemalata.

The meeting, as every year, appeared to be not more than a ritual. The 'consultative meeting' with the 12 trade unions that were called, lasted for around one hour. The trade union representatives were requested to give their opinions in 3-4 minutes. The trade unions were asked to express their concerns and suggestions related to the union budget within this time frame.

Ten central trade unions jointly presented their views in a note to the finance minister. In her intervention, Hemalata reiterated that pre budget consultation with trade unions should not be treated as a mere ritual; the views of the trade unions representing the workers who produce the wealth should be given due place in the budget proposals. She also demanded that the Group of Ministers constituted under the chairmanship of the finance minister in 2015 to discuss the demands raised by the trade unions should continue discussions with them and resolve their demands. Instead of focussing on improving 'ease of doing business' to benefit the corporates, the government should focus on improving India's position in 'Global hunger index' and closing down the 'gender gap' This should be done by increasing allocations for social sector including health and education, to the ICDS, National Health Mission, Mid-day Meal Programme etc that serve the poor, particularly women and children. ILC recommendations on recognising 'scheme workers' as 'workers', paying minimum wages to them etc should be implemented.

She also emphasised the point that the government should increase spending on social sectors like education and health and mobilise resources for this by taxing the rich who can pay. It should focus on employment

generation and increasing public expenditure on infrastructure. All vacant posts in various government departments including railways etc should be filled up by fresh recruitment. MGNREGA should be implemented in all rural areas and extended to urban areas.

The trade unions reiterated the 12 point charter of demands of the working people of the country and presented their views as follows:

**·Increase budgetary allocations for social sector:** The government should increase allocations on social sector and basic essential services like health, education, food security etc in the union budget. The necessary financial resources should be raised internally by taxing the rich who have the capacity to pay.

**·Effective measures against deliberate tax and loan repayment defaults:** Effective and firm measures should be taken against deliberate tax default by the big business and corporate lobby to curtail the huge accumulation of unpaid taxes, which have been continuously increasing. Further, wilful default should be made a criminal offence, the list of wilful defaulters should be made public and stringent measures such as fast track debt recovery tribunals should be implemented.

**Minimum Wage:** Minimum wage fixed on the basis of the recommendations of the 15th Indian Labour Conference and the Supreme Court judgment in Raptakos & Brett case and linked to consumer price index, should be guaranteed to all workers. The Seventh Pay Commission has worked this to be Rs 18000 per month, which the government has accepted. Hence, the minimum wage should not be less than Rs 18000 per month, which has been the common demand of all the central trade unions. Need based minimum wage should be considered as an essential part of social security.

**Resolve demands of the government employees regarding Seventh Pay Commission:**

All the pending demands of the government employees in centre and states with regard to Seventh Pay Commission be resolved within time frame including arrears of allowances with effect from January 1, 2016. The autonomous bodies be included into, for all the benefits of the Seventh Pay Commission.

**Price rise:** The prices of essential commodities, particularly of food items have been spiralling, making it impossible for the workers and other toiling people to meet their basic daily needs. Speculative forward trading and hoarding are major factors contributing to the price rise. The government should ban speculative forward trading in essential commodities, take strong measures to curtail hoarding and strengthen public distribution system, making it universal. Stop the system of cash transfer to beneficiaries' accounts in lieu of PDS.

**Stop disinvestment and strategic sale of public sector units:** The public sector has to be strengthened and expanded. Budgetary support should be provided for the revival of potentially viable sick public sector units. Strategic sale of the profit making PSUs, which is being resorted to at present should be stopped. The amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act, which pave the way for privatisation of the state-owned public transport system should be withdrawn.

**Employment generation:** Employment generation has nosedived in the recent period. Massive public investment in infrastructure, social sectors and agriculture would generate employment. The union budget should give priority and allocate the necessary funds for this. All vacant sanctioned posts in the different government departments, PSUs and autonomous institutions should be filled up through fresh recruitment. The ban on creation of new posts should be lifted. The practice of surrendering/ abolition of posts should be done away with.

**Prevent dumping:** The increasing import of industrial commodities including capital goods should be contained and regulated to prevent

dumping. Protect and promote domestic industries. This will also help in preventing job losses

**Extend MGNREGA:** Expenditure on MGNREGA should be increased to cover all rural areas. Ensure immediate payment of wages to workers employed under MGNREGA. It should be amended to include the urban areas as well. The unanimous recommendation of 43rd ILC to extend the scheme to urban areas, guarantee employment for a minimum of 200 days with statutory minimum wage, should be implemented.

**Contract and casual workers:** No contract/casual workers should be deployed on jobs of perennial nature. The contract and casual workers doing the same and similar work as the permanent workers should be paid the same wages and benefits as paid to regular workers as directed by Supreme Court of India in 2016.

**FDI:** The CTUs have been repeatedly demanding that FDI should not be allowed in crucial sectors like defence production, railways, financial sector, retail trade etc. But the government has persisted with this policy. Corporates with large NPAs are allowed to invest in sensitive sectors like defence. We reiterate the demands that FDI should not be allowed in the crucial sectors.

**Defence:** Privatisation of the defence sector should be stopped. The order given for the outsourcing of the 143 items of the total 273 produced by the public sector ordinance factories should be withdrawn.

**Scheme workers:** Regularise the workforce employed in the various schemes of government of India including the ICDS, NHM, Mid-day Meal Programme, National Child Labour Project, Sarva Siksha Abhiyan etc. Till this is done, at least immediately implement the recommendation of the 45th ILC that these scheme workers should be recognised as 'workers', they should be paid minimum wages and provided social security benefits including pension. Increase budgetary allocations to these schemes and stop privatisation of these schemes in any form.

**Domestic workers:** The government should ratify the ILO Convention 189 and enact a

central law and create support system for domestic workers.

**Unorganised workers:** Create a National Fund for Unorganised Workers to provide social security for all unorganised workers including contract, casual, migrant workers etc. Direct all state governments to frame rules under the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act and allocate funds for developing street vending as livelihood model. Management of cess under the Building and Other Construction Workers' Welfare Board, Beedi Workers Welfare Board etc. should be made the responsibility of ministry of finance, which should ensure its proper collection, stoppage of evasion and utilisation.

**Labour law reforms:** Stop labour law amendments that curtail the basic and trade union rights of workers and provide unhindered 'hire and fire' facilities to the employers. The Code on Wages Bill, at present before the Standing Committee on Labour and on the draft Code on Industrial Relations Bill should be finalised on the basis of the opinions of the central trade unions expressed unanimously. No labour law amendment should be undertaken without the consent of the trade unions and workers who are the main stakeholders and the most affected.

**EPF:** The threshold limit for EPF scheme should be brought down to 10. Government and employers' contribution should be increased to provide a minimum pension of Rs 3000 per month and make it sustainable. Stop investing EPF funds in share market. The Supreme Court has given a judgment and order for higher payment of pension under EPS - 95. This option should be made available for all workers covered under the said scheme.

**Pension for all:** Pension should be construed as deferred wage and all workers who are not covered by any pension scheme should be ensured a pension not less than Rs 3,000 per month.

**New Pension scheme:** NPS should be withdrawn. All central and state government employees recruited on or after January 1,

2004 should be covered under the old pension scheme.

**Gratuity:** Gratuity under the Payment of Gratuity Act should be raised to Rs 20 lakhs and 30 days wages instead of 15 days per completed year of service.

**AADHAR:** Government should not rush making Aadhar linking compulsory.

**Closed and sick factories:** Ensure that workers of closed factories get their dues within a fixed time limit. Sudden winding up of the BIFR has left many stakeholders without a remedy. Rules for carrying out the provisions of the Sick Industrial Companies (Special Provisions) Repeal Act, 2003, should be framed immediately to facilitate them.

**Income tax exemption:** The ceiling for income tax for salaried persons and pensioners should be raised to Rs 5 lakh per year. Income Tax ceiling for senior citizens should be raised to Rs 8 lakhs. All perks and fringe benefits like housing, medical and education facilities and running allowances in railways should be exempted from income tax net totally.

**Political funding:** Recently the government has removed the limit on the amount companies can donate to political parties and the need to name the political party receiving the funds. This is far from the transparency promised in public life. The earlier regime should be restored.

**Railways:** Adequate financial resources should be allotted to the railways to ensure more effective, accessible and affordable transport to the common people, particularly the poor. The capabilities of public sector production units should be utilised fully, further developed and strengthened. No measure should be taken to privatise the railways. The measures to hand over the railway stations across the country to private players should be immediately stopped. Any property of railways should not be handed over to private sector through lease or sale. The decision to allow 100 per cent FDI in railways should be withdrawn. The pending expansion, track renewal, signals up gradation projects should be completed at the earliest. Adequate financial resources should be allocated to improve safety systems and ensure

safe rail travel for the people. All the vacancies in the railways should be filled up. The long pending demands of the railway employees like enhancement of ceiling in respect of running allowance for tax exemption, housing scheme etc should be addressed positively.

Concluding the discussion, the trade unions reiterated their strong opposition to the anti-worker measures being undertaken by the government on the pretext of improving the 'ease of doing business', to benefit the employers, particularly the big corporates,

domestic and foreign. They once again urged upon the government to take concrete measures to resolve the 12 point charter of demands of the working people, being repeatedly raised by them, as well as the pressing issues listed above.

The central trade unions regretted that none of the suggestions made by them in the earlier pre-budget meetings were incorporated in the previous budgets. They hoped that this would not be repeated yet again and the points raised by them will be given positive consideration while framing budget 2018-19. ■

## LIC does it again - settles death claims in record twelve hours time



Rising to the occasion and coming to the aid of people who are in distress have become a regular feature of LIC's functioning. LIC settled death claims in Tsunami, earthquakes, floods and other disasters waiving all regular formalities. LIC does that again in record time in an incident in Tamilnadu's nagai district. Eight bus crew members of Tamil nadu state transport corporation were crushed to death when the roof of the building collapsed on them at the TNSSTC depot at Porayar in Nagapattinam district in the early hours of 20.10.2017. After hearing the news, office bearers of Insurance corporation employees Union, Thanjavur initiated settling the claims of the deceased employees. They immediately contacted the servicing branch unit of the Transport corporation, Kumbakonam 2 branch and asked them to collect the details of Policies of the deceased in the accident. Death details of the dead personnel were received with the help

of CITU comrades and officials in the State transport corporation within matter of hours. The LIC divisional administration as well as the southern zonal office of the corporation were also very appreciative of the idea to settle the claims in record time. As it was a disaster, they were also more than willing to waive all formalities and death claim settlement was cleared off in lightning speed. The branch comrades of Claims, SSS and accounts dept swiftly did all the paper work related to the settlement of claim. There were 17 policies and for all of them, necessary paper work was done in a matter of hours and the cheques were ready to be handed over to the nominees of the deceased by 2 pm. A team comprised of Branch Manager Development officer, agent and comrades of Kumbakonam branch 2 visited all the seven places of the deceased persons' residences and handed over cheques to the nominees even before tears in their eyes dried off. Total amount settled was Rs 15 lakhs and it is important to note that the amount was disbursed to the affected families well before the Tamilnadu Government and Transport corporation compensation amount reached the grieved families. (TN govt announced a relief amount of Rs 7.5 lakh each to the next of kin of the deceased). This shows the commitment of all the tiers our institution, Employees, Officers, Development officers and agents to the service of our Policyholders. It was indeed a result of team work. ■

One might argue that no government would resort to a 'bail-in' for a public sector bank as it would create a political storm.



But Modi seems to have developed some expertise in inflicting pain citing morality and nationalism. It is this which scares the middle class to no end.

M.K.Venu

## A Proposed Law is stoking the Worst Fears of India's Bank Depositors. Here's Why.

Courtesy: The Wire 09/12/2017

It is a measure of the mistrust the Indian middle class has of the BJP government that both the traditional media as well as social media are discussing, with some trepidation, the consequences of proposed legislation which creates scope for the appropriation of people's savings.

Or, to be more specific, the appropriation of people's savings lying in banks, in the event a bank goes bankrupt or is in need of a revival.

Part of this mistrust, indeed deep suspicion, flows from the possibility that Prime Minister Narendra Modi might inflict more financial pain on the masses in the name of furthering some esoteric "national interest". After all, demonetisation was also eventually linked to the moral and "nationalist" project of cleansing the Indian system of black money.

So why are people agonising so much over the Financial Resolution and Deposit Insurance Act (FRDI) which is ostensibly aimed at protecting the interests of systemically important financial institutions as well as small depositors?

After much debate over the last few weeks, finance minister Arun Jaitley has hinted that some clauses in the legislation, currently lying with a parliamentary standing committee, will be reviewed to allay the apprehensions of the people. For starters, Jaitley must realise that the misgivings being expressed flow from the way demonetisation and GST were implemented, inflicting immense pain on the people.

So what are these apprehensions about the new draft legislation? Clause 52 of the draft legislation suggests that the nature of deposits made by depositors can be modified if the bank in question is on the threshold of becoming commercially unviable. So in the guise of rescuing a bank which may be systematically too important to fail, the proposed law puts a "bail-in" provision under clause 52 which would give legal powers to a specially mandated authority called the 'Resolution Corporation' to invoke the bail-in clause.

Let me give an example of how the bail-in clause could work as per the proposed draft. For instance SBI, India's largest bank and

systemically most critical, currently has total deposits of just over Rs 20 lakh crore rupees. If for some reason SBI were to become unviable and vulnerable enough to be referred to the Resolution Corporation under the new law, there is a real possibility that 10% of all SBI deposits, which amounts to Rs 2 lakh crores, are converted into either equity shares or interest bearing preference shares of the bank and handed over to the depositors who may have no choice in the matter. So, a part of the deposits gets converted into shares of the bank.

This partial change in the nature of deposits ends up shoring up SBI's capital, which may have got completely eroded due to massive write offs caused by NPAs run up by big business. So big business erodes the bank capital and millions of depositors then contribute Rs 2 lakh crore as fresh capital. The Centre, the owner of PSU banks, also escapes its responsibility of pumping in fresh capital. Using depositors money to shore up capital also helps the Centre claim fiscal prudence in order to impress Moody's and other rating agencies. Theoretically, the new bail-in clause creates a happy situation for the government.

However, politically such a move will be roundly challenged as big corporate defaulters are clearly not paying any price for their defaults - in many cases wilful defaults which are deliberately not being declared so by the RBI.

On present reckoning, banks will not recover more than 30% of the total loans made to the big corporate groups, which account for the bulk of the total stressed assets of Rs. 15 lakh crore.

Theoretically, the remaining 70% of big corporate loans, which are not repaid, can be tackled by forcing depositors to shore up bank capital under the bail-in clause.

This is why two pressing issues must be addressed. First, the bill includes a list of items that cannot be included in the bail-in; one such exception are deposits covered by deposit insurance. At present, all deposits up to Rs 1 lakh are protected under a 1962 law. Once the FRDI bill is cleared, however, it will replace this deposit insurance framework. Currently, the bill prescribes no specific deposit insurance amount (Rs 1 lakh in the 1960s could translate to anywhere between Rs 12 lakh to Rs 14 lakh now), which has naturally sparked concerns.

Secondly, why should the bail-in clause not be voluntary in nature? Depositors who are willing to step in and convert their money into equity shares could be allowed to after agreeing to it.

Ultimately, of course, one might argue that no government would resort to a 'bail-in' for a public sector bank as it would create a political storm. But Modi seems to have developed some expertise in inflicting pain citing morality and nationalism. It is this which scares the middle class to no end.



#### PERMANENT NOTE BAN-FRDI

...Just take it, the new slogan will be:  
Neither keep at Home Nor in the Bank  
Cartoon courtesy: Shekhar Gurera.  
[www.shekhargurera.com](http://www.shekhargurera.com)

...वस यूँ मान के चलो कि नया  
नारा 'न घर में रखने दूंगा न बैंक  
में' ही होने जा रहा है।

A banner in Ahmedabad cautioning people to be careful as Vikas(Development) has gone crazy and pothole-ridden roads will break your bones.



The Gujarat model, based on giving all concessions to the rich and the corporate houses placing confidence in the trickle-down theory, has failed the common people of Gujarat.

**Santosh Kumar Mohapatra**

## Model That Never Was

By the time this appears in print, the Gujarat Elections would have been over and the winner declared. Irrespective of who wins the election, one thing is clear that the hype built on Gujarat model of development by Prime Minister Modi and the BJP stands totally exposed and demolished.

Gujarat's industrial development, favourable investment climate were showcased across the country as the model of development every State and the country must adopt and the corporate media gave total support to this campaign in the 2014 Lok Sabha elections. The serious crisis in the economy and the massive corruption scandals of the UPA regime had disillusioned the people and they took the Gujarat Model as real. This paid electoral dividends to Narendra Modi and BJP in Lok Sabha election 2014. In his speeches during election campaigns, Mr Modi promised to bring the prosperity generated by Gujarat model to the rest of the country.

Prime Minister and other BJP leaders are now "frightened" of the outcome of the upcoming Gujarat Assembly election as "Gujarat Model" is by wide consensus a failed model. Modi admitted this indirectly by claiming that other parties in power at the center were biased and so had blocked development of Gujarat. BJP has been in power in Gujarat continuously since 1998; Modi was himself the

Chief Minister of the state from 2001 to 2014. The party has also been in power at centre since May 2014. People have now started questioning the "Gujarat model" and the resentment is out in the open particularly with the rising inequalities and the lop-sided development that helped unimaginable concentration of wealth in the few corporate houses.

Government data quoted by IndiaSpend shows that, among 29 states, Gujarat is India's second-most industrialised by gross valued added; its state gross domestic product is fourth-highest in the country, and it is ranked fifth by per capita income. But the State's non-fiscal indicators, such as health and overall quality of life, have also slipped under Modi's rule and have continued to slip after him. This clearly indicates that the growth has benefited the corporate at the cost of the working class and the peasantry. This growth rather than improving the quality of life of the people has made the living and working conditions miserable.

According to the former chief minister of Gujarat Suresh Mehta, Gujarat Model is "nothing but a jugglery of words". Successive governments in Gujarat have pushed the state in to debt trap. In 2004, the state had debt in the range of Rs 4,000 and Rs 6,000 crore. The CAG even warned that Gujarat was becoming a permanently debt-ridden state. But the

government ignored the CAG's observations and debts of Gujarat have increased to Rs 1,98,000 crore. Tax revenue raised but not realised as on March 31, 2016 was a whopping Rs 25,866.78 crores, according to the government's own declaration. This may also indicate corruption in the government.

Gujarat Model of development is missing human dimension and inclusiveness. In fact, under Modi's rule, Gujarat performed poorly and lost its relative lead on Human Development Index (HDI) scores. Kerala topped the HDI-2015, while Gujarat was placed at the 11<sup>th</sup> positions, the same as in 2011; it stood behind Delhi, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Punjab, North East (excluding Assam) Maharashtra, Tamil Nadu, Haryana and terrorism ravaged Jammu and Kashmir.

Gujarat's figure on women and child development are poor. It still ranks 20th among 21 states in education of girl child. Its female literacy rate dropped from 70.3 per cent to 57.8 per cent between 2001 and 2011. Maternal mortality is very high in the state and it is ranked third in trafficking of women; it has the fifth highest incidence of acid attacks and tenth in rape of minor girls. These realities of women life in Gujarat clearly demonstrate that the slogan *Beti padao, beti bachao* is just rhetoric.

Most children in Gujarat are underweight and thus vulnerable. Up to 39 per cent of children in Gujarat are underweight—the national average is 35 per cent—compared to 16 per cent with Kerala. The death of 18 children over three days in Ahmedabad's main civil hospital in October 2017 is a glaring example. Gujarat is ranked 17th among 29 states on infant mortality and 25th by prevalence of underweight children among under-5 children. According to the Sample Registration System Statistical Report 2015- the latest available data- up to 33 infants die per 1,000 live births in Gujarat; it is a poor figure compared with those of Kerala (12), Tamil Nadu (19), Maharashtra (21) and Punjab (23).

The Socio-Economic Review of Gujarat has revealed that 1.47 lakh of the 43 lakh children at anganwadis in the state were found to be suffering from severe acute malnutrition.

The revelation underscores how malnutrition remains a challenge in Gujarat,

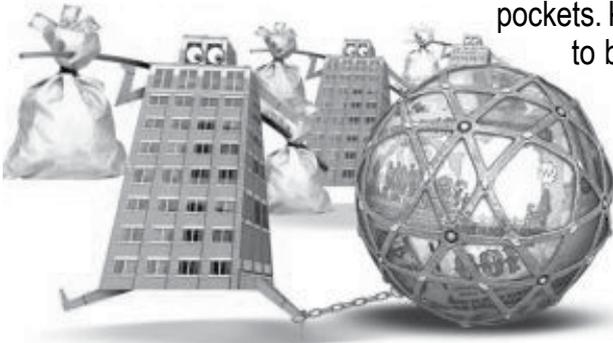
Gujarat is also plagued by scams and corruption. Scams are rife in the sale of state's natural resources to corporate giants such as Adani. Traders, who forms a major support base for party, have grown disillusioned by the messy implementation of GST. Demonetization and GST have also affected the textile industry in the state and about 90,000 looms were shut and 50,000 workers lost their jobs in the wake of these developments.

The Gujarat model is neither corruption free nor has it helped farmers, students, Dalits, tribal or even small and medium enterprises, who form the pivot on which Gujarat's economy revolves. This model based on giving all concessions to the rich and the corporate houses placing confidence in the trickle-down theory has failed the common people of Gujarat. It is an irrefutable fact that Kerala outperforms Gujarat in all indices of human development. The success of Kerala makes it absolutely clear that economic growth unless accompanied by a fair redistribution policy cannot improve the quality of life of the common people. Though Kerala cannot be a perfect model, it sends out a message that concentration of wealth in few rich and corporate houses has the potential to disrupt the social cohesion. Therefore, the Government of India must revisit its aggressive neo-liberal policies and give a new orientation where the policies favour the less privileged sections of the population and the benefit of economic growth and prosperity flows to all the citizens. ■

Cartoon courtesy: Satish Acharya



The corporate share in NPAs is estimated roughly to be around 75 percent. A very substantial part consists of sheer “loot” where large corporate borrowers have simply used the loans for lining their pockets. Knowledgeable sources again guess this share to be around 75 percent. Funding this corporate “loot” at the expense of welfare expenditure for the people is the demand of globalized finance.



**Prof. Prabhat Patnaik**

## Banks and Non-Performing Assets

(Courtesy: Macroscan)

What exactly constitutes a non-performing asset (NPA) of a bank is not easy to determine. Since banks tend to roll over credit to borrowers, whether the request for such a roll over arises in the normal course of business or owing to a fundamental inability to pay back the loan, is difficult to decide. The tendency of late therefore has been to see NPAs as an extreme case of a wider category called “stressed assets” which are defined according to certain criteria.

The problem of NPAs has arisen in a serious form in recent times because of the change in the nature of banking in the country. In the pre-liberalization days, we had essentially commercial banks which gave short-term loans to meet the working capital needs of borrowers against inventories held by them. Longer term credit came from a host of specialized financial institutions, the IDBI, IFCI and SFCs, which charged low interest rates (often even negative in real terms), lower than on short-term credit, as a means of encouraging investment. Under this system, the inventories were the collateral for commercial banks and inability to repay meant that banks could seize these inventories. This system no doubt had its own problems, such as obtaining credit from multiple sources for the same inventories, and inaccurate and haphazard

evaluation of inventories by banks. But the problem of NPAs was restricted in principle.

After liberalization however this system has changed, with the specialized financial institutions dwindling in significance (many of them like the IDBI have become banks), and commercial banks also giving longer-term loans. Since long-term investments may or may not become viable, such loans run the risk of becoming nonperforming assets of banks. Not that NPAs arise exclusively for this reason, but the problem of NPAs now surfaces as a structural accompaniment of this change.

There are three basic reasons why NPAs arise: one, just mentioned, is that investment projects may not become viable in the manner originally visualized for a host of unforeseen but legitimate reasons. The second is when investment projects are not viable to start with, but banks nonetheless are either cajoled into giving loans by the government, or swept away into doing so by euphoria, rather than careful evaluation of prospects, because of asset price bubbles and such like. When the basic unviability of the project becomes apparent in such cases, the loan becomes a non-performing asset. The third is when the borrower, typically a large financial house, uses its clout and

political influence to obtain loans which it has no intention of paying back, at least in full, and which in other words constitute pure "loot". Needless to say, such "loot" is easier to arrange from public sector banks, because political influence counts in their case, compared to private banks which naturally are more hard-headed in the matter (which incidentally is an argument not for privatizing public sector banks, but for democratic control over their functioning, for example through greater parliament-supervised scrutiny over their lending policy, that frees them from arbitrary government interference).

From the earliest days of bank nationalization whose objective among others was to make institutional credit available to the agricultural sector, an impression has been sought to be created by spokesmen of monopoly capital that the main reason for NPAs lies in the inability of peasants to repay bank loans. The absurdity of this claim has been exposed by the list of defaulting borrowers which has been brought out periodically by bank employees but never by the government, where the largest defaulters have been shown to be the corporate borrowers (often the very same individuals who shout the most about public sector banks lending irresponsibly to undeserving borrowers).

But any default by borrowers from the agricultural sector falls typically into the first category mentioned above (where the cause of default is genuine); and, what is more, the reason behind such genuine, as opposed to willful, default is structural, having to do not with the borrowers themselves but with the macroeconomic arrangements over which they have no control.

It has been well-known for centuries that agricultural prices, especially cash crop prices, display large fluctuations, making their production an extremely risky business. To insulate producers from such risk so that they can continue their operations, and expand them through undertaking investment, which is necessary for society, the government had put in place a mechanism for providing assured remunerative prices, in the food crops

through the CACP-FCI route, and in cash crops through the marketing operations of the various commodity boards. Under neoliberalism the marketing functions of these commodity boards have ceased to exist altogether; and Doha-round negotiations are casting a shadow even on the CACP-FCI arrangement.

Under neo-liberalism, not only has institutional credit to peasant agriculture dried up anyway, but the repayment by peasants of even such institutional credit that comes their way has become problematical because of the removal of price support. Those who oppose debt-relief to peasants on the grounds that this creates a problem of "moral hazard" (i.e. encourages future default) fail to see that such periodic default is built into the logic of a neo-liberal economy that entails the withdrawal of price support for peasant agriculture. Hence the solution to the problem of peasant debt default lies in combining debt-relief with price-support.

But peasant debt-default is by no means the serious issue before the banking system. The magnitude of NPAs as already mentioned is difficult to determine, but knowledgeable sources put it at around Rs.8 lakh crores at present. The corporate share in this is estimated roughly to be around 75 percent. A part of this corporate default is because under government pressure banks had given large loans for so-called "infrastructure development", to projects of dubious economic viability (often camouflaged real estate projects). But a very substantial part consists of sheer "loot" where large corporate borrowers have simply used the loans for lining their pockets. The share of such "loot" in the total NPAs to the corporate sector is of course difficult to ascertain, but knowledgeable sources again guess this share to be around 75 percent. These "guesstimates" therefore would suggest that around 56.25 percent (75 percent of 75 percent) of the total NPAs of banks arise owing to the sheer siphoning of bank funds by corporate entities for lining their own pockets.

It is in this context that the recent bank recapitalization by the BJP government has to be assessed. There are two absolutely obvious problems with this measure. First, it is not

accompanied by any move for recovering the loans from these corporate defaulters. The “experts” who had so loudly talked of “moral hazard” when even limited debt-relief was provide to the farmers, are remarkably silent when bank recapitalization is announced without any accompanying attempt to recover loans from corporate defaulters.

Secondly, the government has already announced that the resources for such recapitalization would come from the budget. What this amounts to is a gigantic assault on the working people. Now, MGNREGS outlay will be cut (it is already limited relative to requirements as is evident from the huge non-payment of wages), ICDS outlay will be cut, i.e. even the limited welfare expenditures being undertaken at present will be further pruned, in order to compensate the banking system for the “loot” perpetrated by the corporate-financial oligarchy.

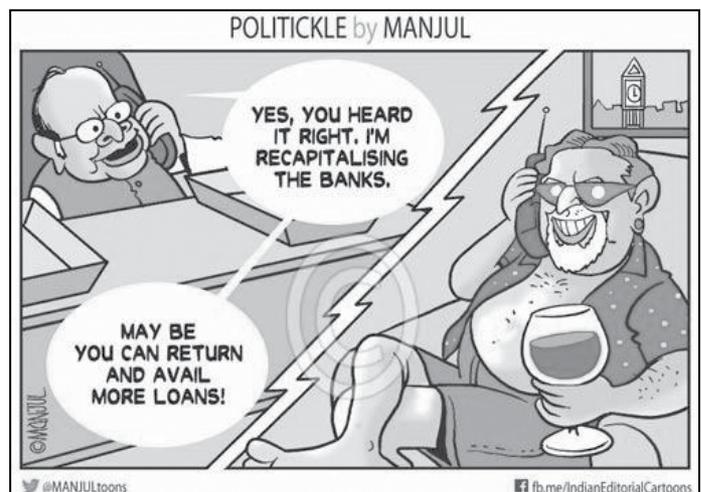
What is more, using fiscal resources for recapitalization is not even necessary. Suppose the government just used money printed by the Reserve Bank, against government bonds especially created for the purpose, to recapitalize banks, and this money simply remained parked with the RBI except to the extent that banks required it for making loans (i.e. when the demand for credit exceeded what they could provide from the resources already available to them), then there would be no reason to expect any serious problems. In case there were any inflationary pressures, then the usual mix of

policies in the government’s armoury, from monetary policy to restrict speculation to supply management for easing specific shortages, could be resorted to for countering such pressures.

The real reason the government is using fiscal resources for recapitalizing banks is because international finance capital wants it that way: any recapitalization by newly printed money will be counted as a fiscal deficit, which will mean that the government will no longer be in the good books of globalized finance (with a downgrade of its credit-rating). In short, funding corporate “loot” at the expense of welfare expenditure for the people is the demand of globalized finance.

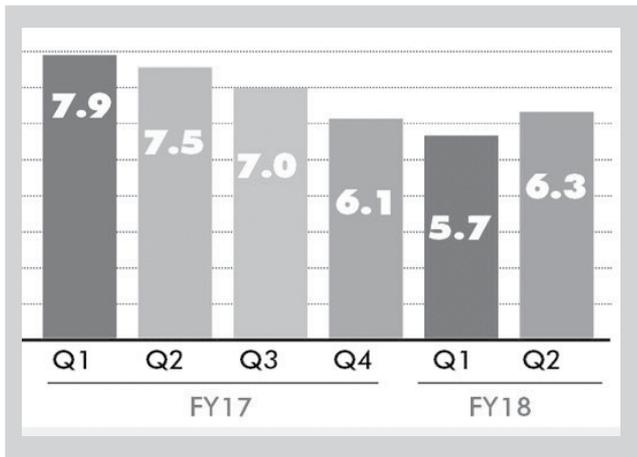
This government professes to be against black money and cronyism. But if it was at all serious, then it should have taken at least three obvious measures: first, making public the list of large defaulters; second, undertaking an independent inquiry, at least for large defaults, to determine whether a case of default is wilful or because of factors beyond the borrower’s control; and, third, amending laws to ensure that where there was clear evidence of wilful default on the part of corporate borrowers, “limited liability” provisions were not applied in the case of the promoters of the company involved, i.e. that their other assets made liable to seizure as penalty for wilful default. But if the government did all these, then it would forfeit both corporate funding and corporate media backing, both of which have been so essential for its viability.

Cartoon courtesy:  
Manjul, DNA



The estimates on GDP came in the background of improvements of Moody's rankings and appreciation for reforms from S&P and also an

enhanced ease of doing Business rank of the World Bank. Using these accolades from international agencies, the Govt is propagating that economy has come out of the docks. But Statistical jugglery cannot hide the real facts of the dreadful state of the economy.



K.Venugopal Rao

## Facts & Figures - State of the Indian Economy

The CSO recently released the GDP figures for the Second Quarter (Q2) of the current financial year 2017-18. The data revealed that the growth in the GDP for the Q2 was 6.3% which was marginally higher than the growth related to the previous two quarters (5.7 percent for Q1 of FY 2017-18 and 6.1 percent for Q4 of FY 2016-17). The data released by CSO suggests that this marginal change may have been a result of statistical jugglery rather than of any substantial change in the real economy. But there were celebrations in the ruling circles and it was proclaimed that there is a revival of the economy.

Generally quarterly estimates are done to know the direction and changes in the economy. These estimates are to be used carefully as these are made with a very limited data. But the present slight increase in the Q2 of FY 2017-18 is being used by a desperate Govt to show that the economy is back on track. For the first time, a comparison is made between the Q1 (first quarter) and Q2 (second quarter) and basing on this an impression is created that demonetisation and GST have not impacted the economy and that economy had actually improved. These estimates on GDP came in

the background of improvements of Moody's rankings and appreciation for reforms from S&P and also an enhanced ease of doing Business rank of the World Bank. Using these accolades from international agencies, the Govt is propagating that economy has come out of the docks. Does it mean that we are back to the eight percent growth path?

Normally comparison will be made between figures of Q2 of FY 2017-18 and figures of the Q2 of 2016-17. This is the most scientific way of comparison and this kind of comparison will eliminate the seasonal impact on the economy. The economy passes through various seasonal factors which by their nature make it difficult to compare with other quarters. Q1 for instance has the rabi crop while it is also the pre-monsoon time. As this is slack season there will be a slowdown of industrial production. This is also a marriage season and people will be spending on marriages from their incomes. In Q2, except for the animal husbandry and horticulture (both run for the full year), there will not be any crop harvests. Due to rains, construction work also takes place intermittently. Companies will be gearing up to push their outputs for the upcoming festival season in October. In Q3

and Q4, momentum picks up during harvest as well as festival time combined with accelerated production towards the end of the year.

The 6.3 per cent GDP growth in Q2 of FY 2017-18 is much below 7.5 per cent GDP growth in Q2 of FY 2016-17 and 8 per cent GDP growth in Q2 of FY 2015-16. Economic pundits say that the downslide continues and there are few signs of a recovery. However, the 6.3 per cent growth rate has been interpreted differently this time by juxtaposing the same with 5.7 per cent growth in Q1-FY 2017-18. With hype being built on this all-time low number, the 6.3 per cent growth rate gives the impression of a grand turnaround.

What we have to understand is that numbers could be conveniently interpreted depending on the outcome that has to be projected. In fact, the figure of 6.3 per cent growth would also be the lowest ever Q2 growth rate witnessed in the new series of National Accounts Statistics (NAS) data (base year 2011-12) methodology being followed now. Annual growth rate has never been higher than the growth rate of Q2 since 2012-13. So the annual growth rate for FY 2017-18 cannot be more than 6.3% which is much lower than 7.1% of 2016-17 and 8% of 2015-16. In the same way when we look the financial year in halves, generally the first half used to record higher growth rate than the second half under the new series. The growth for the current half year is 6% and as such the economy is likely to register an annual growth rate of less than 6% for the current financial year 2017-18. The current GDP growth rate also does not look handsome when we look at the gross capital formation. The gross fixed capital formation is very low at 26.3% in Q2 of FY 2017-18 and shows a continuous decline in the second quarter for all the preceding years which was as high as 34.4% in 2012.

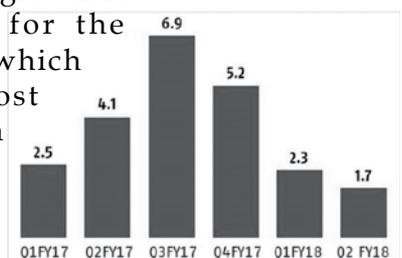
Interpretation of statistical data has to be done carefully. Monthly data are susceptible. The confusion will be more if we look at the core sector data. A better way is to see overall performance in cumulative terms. In our country we have a dominant informal sector and the data for this sector is not easily available. Even data from organised sector is also not free-flowing.

It is because of these reasons we cannot relate the data to the ground level reality.

The growth trends for the manufacturing sector are shown as the signs of improving economy. Manufacturing sector contributes to about 18% of the total Gross Value Added (GVA) and employs about 12% of the workforce. The growth rate for this sector has substantially increased from 1.2% in the Q1 of FY 2017-18 to 7% in the Q2 of FY 2017-18. Actually the growth in the second quarter is largely due to the growth in the manufacturing sector. But there are certain serious lacunae with the new methodology of the CSO in estimating the GVA for the manufacturing sector. The growth rates of the manufacturing sector as calculated by the CSO seem to be much higher than what the IIP (Index of Industrial Production) numbers indicate. If we look at the IIP, the growth rate of manufacturing output, rose modestly from 1.1% in the first quarter to 2.2% in the second quarter. Moreover, according to the revised methodology, the growth in the large part of the manufacturing sector is estimated based on the accounts of listed corporates on the stock exchanges and not based on the actual output at the factory by these companies. This will clearly overestimate the manufacturing GVA of these companies since many of these corporates have a variety of income sources other than manufacturing.

The CSO also overestimates the GVA of the manufacturing from the unorganised sector, which is very labour intensive and employs crores of workers. The new methodology underestimates the damage that has been done to the unorganised sector due to the GST and the prolonged negative effects of the demonetisation. As a result, there is a definite possibility of job loss in this sector that is hidden by the polished growth rate.

The GVA for the Agriculture, which employs almost half of the Indian workforce, fell from 2.3% in



Continued on Page 22

When the electronic and print media were hailing the success of BJP candidates to the posts of Mayors in 14 of the 16 Municipal Corporations in UP, as another saffron wave, the ground realities were revealing a



different story. Nearly half of the BJP candidates have forfeited their deposits in this Statewide civic elections, which points towards the scope for emergence of an alternative political force from the people's movements

गीता शान्त

## उ. प्र. निकाय चुनाव : जमीन से उखड़ता कमल

झूठ, झूठ और बस झूठ यही पहचान है वर्तमान सरकार की। उ. प्र. निकाय चुनाव में जमानत ज़ब्त उम्मीदवारों की सूची में सबसे ऊँचा स्थान रखने वाली भाजपा केवल मेयर के 16 में से 14 सीटें जीतने को लेकर अपने चरण मीडिया की मदद से जश्न का माहौल बनाकर अपनी असफलताओं और तेजी से बढ़ती अस्वीकार्यता को ढकने की चालाकी दिखा रही है। जिस समय टी.वी. और अखबार बता रहे थे कि पूरा प्रदेश भाजपा की लहर में डूबा हुआ है, उस समय का सच यह है कि प्रदेश में नगर पालिका परिषदों एवं नगर पंचायत के अध्यक्ष के 636 पदों के निर्वाचन में 243 भाजपा उम्मीदवारों की जमानत ज़ब्त हुई है एवं सदस्यों में 46% भाजपा उम्मीदवार अपनी जमानत नहीं बचा पाये।

मेयर में 16 में 14 सीटें (87.5%) जीतने वाली भाजपा पार्षदों में 1299 में से मात्र 596 यानि 45.85% ही जीत दर्ज पाई। यहाँ तक कि मुख्यमंत्री योगी आदित्यनाथ के अपने वार्ड तक में भाजपा हार गई और निर्दलीय उम्मीदवार नादिरा खातून ने विजय दर्ज की।

नगर पालिका परिषद में भाजपा की हालत बेहद पतली रही। अध्यक्ष के 198 पदों में 70 (35.35%) एवं सदस्यों में 5261 में सिर्फ 922 (17.53%) सीटों पर सिमट गई।

नगर पंचायत में तो सत्ता के सारे घमण्ड धूल चाट गये। अध्यक्ष के 438 में 100 (22.83%) और सदस्यों के 5434 में से केवल 664 (12.22%) पर भाजपा लुढ़क गई।

प्यू और मूडीज़ के सर्वे उ. प्र. निकाय चुनावों में भाजपा की कोई मदद नहीं कर पाये। दरअसल भाजपा को लगता है कि टी.वी. और अखबारों की चमाचम से वे ज़िन्दगी के वास्तविक तज़ुर्बों पर ख़ाक डाल देंगे, मगर ऐसा कहाँ होता है ?

चुनाव के नतीजे बता रहे हैं कि जैसे-जैसे हम प्रदेश

के ज़मीनी स्तर पर उतरते हैं वैसे-वैसे भाजपा का प्रभाव टूटता नजर आता है। बावजूद इसके कि भाजपा ने इस चुनाव को पूरे मनोयोग से प्रतिष्ठा का विषय बनाकर लड़ा था। स्वयं मुख्यमंत्री ने पूरा प्रदेश खंगाल दिया था।

वैसे भी इन चुनावों में लगभग 50% मतदान से जनता ने चुनाव के प्रति उत्साहीनता द्वारा वर्तमान राजनैतिक परिदृश्य के प्रति नैराश्य पूर्ण आक्रोश को व्यक्त किया है। मीडिया की मदद से केवल मेयर की जीत को महिमा मंडित हुए मुख्यमंत्री ने इस जीत को भाजपा की विकास की नीतियों की जीत कहकर उन नीतियों पर जनस्वीकृति की मोहर लगाने की नाकाम कोशिश की है जिन्हें प्रदेश की जनता नकार रही है।

सत्य तो प्रदेश की जनता रोज़ भुगत रही है कि वर्तमान सरकार के आने के बाद से प्रदेश में अपराधों की बाढ़ आ गई है। नेशनल क्राइम ब्यूरो की रिपोर्ट भी यही बता रही है। चोरी, डकैती, हत्या और विशेष तौर पर बलात्कारों में बेहताशा वृद्धि हुई है। फर्क बस इतना है कि अब 'अपराध'

		BJP	SP	BSP	Cong
Mayor (16)	Seats won	14	0	2	0
	Deposit lost	0	10	11	10
	Vote share	41.4	15.9	17.3	16.6
Nagar Nigam Members (1,299)	Seats won	596	202	147	110
	Deposit lost	339	750	712	846
	Vote share	27.1	15.6	11.8	11.2
Nagar Palika Parishad Chairmen (198)	Seats won	70	45	29	9
	Deposit lost	44	83	131	147
	Vote share	28.6	21.7	14.3	6.8
Nagar Palika Parishad Members (5,260)	Seats won	922	477	262	158
	Deposit lost	1,612	1,103	1,075	1,024
	Vote share	16.0	8.8	5.8	3.9
Nagar Panchayat Chairmen (438)	Seats won	100	83	45	17
	Deposit lost	199	207	268	230
	Vote share	19.8	16.6	10.9	5.3
Nagar Panchayat Members (5,433)	Seats won	664	453	218	126
	Deposit lost	1,462	769	713	513
	Vote share	11.1	7.4	4.4	2.8
Total (12,644)	Seats won	2,366	1,260	703	420
	Deposit lost	3,656	2,922	2,910	2,770
	Vote share	30.8	18.0	14.3	10.0

ने अखबारों के मुख्य हैडिंग में अपना स्थान खो दिया है वो मामूली बात बनकर पीछे के पन्नों की नीचे की लाइनों में चला गया है।

प्रदेश में भाजपा नेताओं का चाल, चरित्र और चेहरा ऐसा देखने को मिल रहा है कि बैंक मैनेजर, एसडीएम से लेकर तमाम सरकारी विभागों में आये दिन कर्मचारी/अधिकारी पिट रहे हैं। सरकारी विभागों में तोड़-फोड़ व दबंगई सत्ता की सामन्ती हनक बन कर गूँज रही है।

प्रदेश में रोजगार की हालत बद से बदतर है। विभागों में लाखों खाली पदों पर भर्तियों की बजाय सरकार 'विभागों के विलय' कर रही है जिसके परिणाम स्वरूप लाखों पद ही समाप्त हो जायेंगे।

सरकारी विभागों में संविदा नियुक्ति ही सरकार की अधोषित नीति बन चुकी है। अस्पतालों तक में डाक्टर संविदा पर रखे जा रहे हैं। स्थायी रोजगार की अवधारणा ही समाप्त करने का काम तेजी पर है। श्रम कानूनों और श्रमिकों के प्रति सरकार के नज़रिये ने निजी क्षेत्र मालिकों को बेहद ताकत का एहसास करा दिया है। प्रदेश में काम के घण्टे 12 से 14 हो चुके हैं तथा न्यूनतम वेतन एक सपना है।

अस्पतालों में दम तोड़ते बच्चों ने स्वास्थ्य सुविधाओं की पोल खोल ही दी है। इस हाल में शिक्षा का हाल स्वयं समझा जा सकता है।

उ. प्र. निकाय चुनाव में दलगत रूप से सपा, बसपा, कांग्रेस भले ही दूसरे, तीसरे व चौथे स्थान पर रहे परन्तु वास्तविक विपक्ष के रूप में निर्दलीय उम्मीदवार उभरे हैं। निर्दलीय उम्मीदवारों ने नगर पार्षदों में 224 सीटें अर्थात् 17.23%, नगर पालिका परिषद अध्यक्ष में 43 सीट (21.72%), सदस्य 3380 (64.25%), नगर पंचायत

में यह विजय और बढ़ गई अध्यक्ष पद पर 182 सीटें (41.55%) एवं सदस्यों में 3875 सीटें यानि 71.31% जीत हासिल की।

उ.प्र. की पूरी परिस्थिति प्रदेश के भीतर मौजूद राजनैतिक बेचैनी को व्यक्त कर रही है। राजनैतिक विकल्प की चाहत की पूरी कसमसाहट यहाँ मौजूद है। यह चाहत और कसमसाहट उन तमाम आन्दोलनों की सफलता है जो समय-समय पर ट्रेड यूनियन और किसान संगठन स्थानीय स्तर पर राष्ट्रीय व स्थानीय मुद्दों पर कर रहे हैं। नवम्बर 2017 के मजदूरों व किसानों के दिल्ली महापड़ाव के संदेश भी इन नतीजों में प्रतिबिम्बित हो रहे हैं, जो नेता नहीं नीति परिवर्तन की माँग करते हैं।

यह सत्य है कि प्रदेश में राजनैतिक प्रतिद्वन्दी तो जरूर मौजूद है परन्तु वास्तविक राजनैतिक विकल्प जो इन नीतियों को पलट देने के साथ-साथ सामाजिक न्याय व समरसता स्थापित करने की सामर्थ्य रखता हो, फिलहाल प्रत्यक्ष प्रकट नहीं है। मगर इस चुनाव ने यह उम्मीद जरूर पैदा की है कि उ. प्र. वर्तमान आर्थिक, सामाजिक नीतियों के साथ-साथ साम्प्रदायिक कट्टरता का भी कड़ा प्रतिवाद करता हुआ भीतरी तहों में मजबूत हो रहा है। इस मजबूती को समेटे उ. प्र. के श्रमिक-कृषक आन्दोलनों से उस विकल्प की राह जरूर फूटेगी जिसका मानवता को इन्तज़ार है।

शासकों द्वारा साम्प्रदायिकता के कुछ पांसे अभी और आजमाये जा सकते हैं, थोड़ा छल और हो सकता है मगर एक दिन उत्तर प्रदेश दिखा देगा कि

जो रुके तो कोह-ए-गिरां थे हम,  
जो चले तो जां से गुज़र गये।

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the first quarter to 1.7% in the second quarter. Such a fall in growth rate does not augur well for the livelihoods of millions of workers. The growth rate of services like trade, travel, hotel, etc. fell from 11.1% to 9.9% between the first and second quarter of 2017-18. Similarly, the growth rate of financial services, real estate and professional services fell from 6.4% to 5.7%. These two service sectors together account for 40% of non-agricultural employment in India. Thus key sectors which together employ 70% of India's workforce, have slowed down in the second quarter. The construction sector which employs 10.6% of total workforce has seen a slight increase of GVA from 2% to 2.6%. A growth rate of 2.6% is definitely not a sign of great recovery.

After looking at the individual sectors, it is clear that there is nothing for an ordinary Indian to be enthusiastic about the 6.3% growth rate in the second quarter. According to the data from the Ministry of Statistics & Programme Implementation, October's consumer price index (CPI) inflation rose during the month to 4.88 percent from 3.58 percent. India's factory output rose just 2.2 percent in October from 4.14 percent in September. The so called recovery of the economy is beneficial only to the corporate sector, whose profits have been increasing year after year. The demonetisation, hasty implementation of GST and other wrong policies of the Govt have pushed the economy into doldrums. Statistical jugglery cannot hide the real facts of the dreadful state of the economy.



## DIAMOND JUBILEE CONFERENCE of ICEU, CHENNAI DIVISION-1

The Diamond Jubilee Year Conference of ICEU, Chennai Division I was held on 25-26 November 2017. The venue of the Conference was named after Com R.Govindarajan, Former Joint Secretary of AIIEA. The inaugural session began with the hoisting of flag by Com L.Palaniappan, President, AIIEA. The choir conducted by Com A.Anburaj thrilled the audience with three revolutionary songs. Com N.M.Sundaram, the tall leader of our movement inaugurated a photo exhibition depicting the journey of 60 years of the ICEU.

In his inaugural address, Com.V.Ramesh, General Secretary, AIIEA, highlighted the role of AIIEA in defending the LIC and to ensure its continuance in the public sector and contribute to the welfare of the nation and its people. He referred to the several struggles launched by the organization, which besides rendering the best of service to its clientele, had been contributing to the nation building exercise with enormous amounts of funds. He regretted that today there

are attempts to split the unity among the people on the basis of religion, culture, language, caste, region etc and there is an urgent need to fight the forces of disruption to protect the national unity. He appealed to the audience to remain united and strengthen the AIIEA, with a view to achieve the pending demands. He concluded his confidence-building speech reiterating that victory belonged to the working class.





Com.R.Vijayashankar, Editor, *Frontline* journal in his special address, was full of praise for the role played by the public sector LIC in the development of the country. By our commitments, “we are really making India”, while the Prime Minister calls for “Make in India”. He interpreted the words “LIC” to mean “Life Injecting Corporation”. He said that the benefits of the economic policies go to the upper classes while the common men including the agriculturists are affected. He revealed that a large section of the media ignored the recent siege of 10 lakh workers for 3 days at Delhi, the Gujarat riots, the agitations of Tamil Nadu agriculturists, the effect of demonetization and a score of other problems. There were few exceptions like the *Frontline*, *Theekkathir*, *Janasakthi*, etc., he said. There is politicalisation and commercialization of the media. He appreciated the political awareness created by AIIEA and averred that a time would come when “we will join in your struggles”.

Com.T.Senthilkumar, General Secretary, SZIEF pointed out that rich are becoming richer under neo-liberalism. He questioned the wisdom of linking Aadhaar with the ration supplies for the lepers kept aloof in a secluded camp when biometrics could not be recorded for such people without fingers.

A cheque for Rs.50,000/= was handed over by Com.S.Ramesh kumar to Com.V.Ramesh, General Secretary, AIIEA, as the first installment of donation for the installation of a Tamil Chair in Harvard University of USA.

The Session came to a close with the vote of thanks proposed by Com.G.Jayaraman, Joint Secretary, ICEU.

In the Delegates’ Session an exhaustive Report

placed by Com.S. Rameshkumar, General Secretary, was adopted unanimously after 13 delegates discussed it threadbare and the reply by the General Secretary. Similarly, the Statement of Accounts for the Year 2016 submitted by Com.T.Sridhar, Treasurer, was approved unanimously.

Intervening in the debate, Com.K.Swaminathan, Vice-President, SZIEF complimented the organizers for a splendid inaugural session and the successful activities carried out in the last one year. He exuded confidence in the future as the left and progressive forces across the world are regrouping to challenge neo-liberalism. He spoke on the necessity of vigilance and struggle to safeguard LIC in public sector so as to win over the demands.

Com.G.Kannan, Joint Secretary, GIEA, South Zone, while extending his greetings, gave details of AIIEA campaign against divestment of public sector general insurance companies. Comrades S.Rajappa, former President of SZIEF, K.Manoharan, General Secretary, ICEU, Chennai Division-2 and K.David, former Manager of *Insurance Worker* greeted the conference.

Several resolutions were passed by the house reiterating the demands already formulated and placed by the AIIEA besides demands on local problems.

The conference unanimously elected Comrades L.Palaniappan as President, S.Rameshkumar as General Secretary and K.Sridhar as Treasurer for the ensuing term.

The inspiring and confidence building conference came to a close with vote of thanks by Com.D.Ramesh, Joint Secretary, ICEU.

## 26<sup>th</sup> Divl Conference of LICEU Kottayam

The 26<sup>th</sup> Divisional Conference of LIC Employees' Union, Kottayam Division along with the felicitation to former Joint Secretary of SZIEF and current President of LICEU Com. Baby Joseph who had retired from the services of LIC on 30<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 was held on 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> of December, 2017 at Kottayam. The conference was vibrant with the presence of leaders of AIIEA, SZIEF and various progressive and mass organizations along with retired comrades and colourful cultural programmes presented by LICEU comrades. Com. Baby Joseph signaled the start of the open session by hoisting the union flag amidst thunderous slogans. Thereafter, LICEU comrades presented the welcome song.

Com. KJ Thomas, State Vice President (CITU) and General Manager (Desabhimani Daily) inaugurated the open session. He said that no force in the country could destroy LIC which was protected by AIIEA and that the Modi government was following the path of communal divide and riots to escape the chaos created by demonetisation and GST. Com. V Ramesh, General Secretary (AIIEA) delivered the key-note address. Comrades M Kunhikrishnan (Vice President, AIIEA), M Girija (Joint Secretary, AIIEA), T Senthil kumar (General Secretary, SZIEF), V P Ibrahim (District President, CITU), Sri Uthup Joseph (Senior Divisional Manager, LIC), Comrades C Raveendranathan (Former Vice President, AIIEA), M U Thomas (General Secretary, KSGIEU), P N Krishnan

Nair (District Secretary, Kerala NGO Union), P K Subramanian (Central Committee Member, AIIPA), A B Lalkumar (State Secretary, NFPE), V P Sreeraman ( District Secretary, BEFI), Sri C D George (General Secretary, LIC Class-I Officers' Association Kottayam Division), Sri Mathew Dominic (Divisional President, NFIFWI), Comrades V Joykutty (All India Working Committee Member, LICAOT), N O George (AILIAF), K R Vini (Joint Convener, SZWWCC), M Rajeev (Vice President, SZIEF), P P Krishnan (Joint Secretary, SZIEF), S Rameshkumar (General Secretary, ICEU Chennai-I) and Deepak Viswanath (General Secretary, LICEU Thrissur Division) greeted the gathering.

Com. Baby Joseph, the retired Divisional President was felicitated thereafter.

Com K Suresh (Vice President, LICEU) presided over the session which was welcomed by Com V K Remesh (General Secretary, LICEU) and thanked by Com KS Saileshkumar (Working Committee Member, SZIEF).

Various cultural programmes staged by LICEU comrades followed the open session.

The General Council in the evening was inaugurated by Com M Kunhikrishnan. On the 4<sup>th</sup> morning, the discussion on the report presented by the General Secretary and Statement of Accounts by the Treasurer commenced in which 26 comrades including 6 women comrades took part. Comrades

T Senthilkumar (General Secretary, SZIEF), P P Krishnan and Siva Subramanian (Joint Secretaries, SZIEF) intervened in the discussion. The Report and Statement of accounts were unanimously approved. Several resolutions on important issues were adopted.

Comrades Treesa P Ignatius, V K Remesh and Santhosh Ninan Zachariah were unanimously elected as the President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the ensuing term.



# 10th Conference of Bhubaneswar Division

## CONFERENCE OF CONVICTION & CONFIDENCE

The 10th Annual General Conference of BDLIEA was organised in a befitting manner at the Divisional Office Premises, Suryanagar, Bhubaneswar from 9th to 10th December 2017.

A colorful rally largely participated by women comrades, passing through the roads of Bhubaneswar, in a very cloudy weather reflected

the confidence of the employees' reposed in AIEA. The rally was followed by open session which was organized in the premises of Divisional Office. The Red flag of BDLIEA was unfurled by Com. Chandra Mohan Haibru, President of our Association. Then, floral tributes were offered at the martyrs' column.

The conference began with welcome address by Prof. Amiya Kumar Pattanayak, noted academician and Chairperson of the Reception Committee. Com. Pradeep Mukharjee, Vice-President, AIEA, while inaugurating the conference, discussed in detail the multi-dimensional challenges confronted by Indian working class under the rule of the BJP led NDA govt. and the hypocrite and political opportunist character of BJP in respect of FDI hike in Insurance Industry from 26% to 49%. He said that this govt. is working for the corporate and not for masses.

Com. S.B. Pattanaik, Gen. Secy. BDLIEA presented the annual report on behalf of the working committee and Com. A.K. Mohanty, Treasurer also placed the audited accounts for the corresponding period.

Initiating the discussion on the report Com. B.B. Nayak, Org. Secy. presented a vivisection of the burning issues of our nation after an ultra right, reactionary political outfit like the BJP assumed office securing only 31% of total votes polled in the 16th General election.

A large number of audience including a galaxy of leaders on the dais surpassed every meetings of BDLIEA. The speakers were eloquent against the grievous attack on the democratic rights, on existence of public sector industries, on amendment of labour laws and communal polarisation, etc. Particularly, in view of the present government taking



a pro-imperialist stand reposing their commitment towards LPG policies which was followed by the previous UPA government. Among the leaders who spoke were Com. Shreekantha Mishra,

Gen. Secy, ECZIEA, Prof. Amiya Kumar Mohanty, Chairman, Reception Committee, Sri L.P. Das, Sr. D.M., Bhubaneswar Division, Com. R.N. Mallick, Joint Convenor, OSKEM, Com. Dushmant Das, Jt. Convenor, OSKEM, Com. K.C. Mishra, Gen. Secy, BDIEA, Com. M.G. Barik, Gen. Secy. CDIEA and Com. K.C. Behera, President, OSGIEA. The session called for preparing for impending struggles particularly against the anti-people pro-capitalist and communal policies of the present NDA government. Com. S.B. Pattanaik, Gen. Secy, BDLIEA, offered vote of thanks.

On 10th morning, in the delegate session, Com. Trinath Dora, Jt. Secy, ECZIEA, explained in detailed about the development in the industry, wage revision and gave a call to carry forward the campaign and struggle to protect the industry and to consolidate the organisation. Com. M.R. Bisi, Gen. Secy, SDLIEA, while addressing the delegate session, explained very lucidly on the communal characteristics of NDA government.

The conference adopted 15 resolutions. Com. S.B. Pattanaik, General Secretary summed up the debate. The conference took a firm decision to protect the public sector LIC and four General Insurance Companies from the attacks of government and the imperialistic forces. The conference unanimously elected Com. C.M. Haibru, Com. B.B. Nayak and Com. A.K. Mohanty as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively.

## ANNUAL CONFERENCE of I.E.U SATARA

The annual conference of I.E.U Satara was held on 26<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Satara. The venue was named as "Savidhan Sabhagrha". It was participated by more than 75 delegate and observers including good number of women. It began with the reading of Preamble to the Constitution of India and oath to protect the values of freedom, equality, justice & fraternity by the participants in a public place. Com. A.N.Muley, veteran leader was felicitated on the occasion. Comrade Sachin Mali and Sheetal Sathe renowned progressive folk artists greeted the conference with revolutionary song.

General Secretary Com. S.Y.Bhujbal welcomed the guests and participants. He briefed the house about organizational activities since last conference

and challenges ahead. Com. Chandrakant Tiwari dealt with pending issues and Insurance industry in his inaugural speech. Com. V.G.Kadam Gen.Secretary, I.P.A Satara, Narendra Phadake, Gen. Secretary, KDIEU, Nandkishore Jagade, Gen. Secretary, I.E.U Pune II & Salim Attar of LICOAI greeted the Conference.

Chief Guest Com. Vasant Nalawade, President, WZIEA cautioned the employees about fast tracked disinvestment of Public sector & labour reforms. The Government is ignoring real issues of growing unemployment, economic inequality and intolerance. He congratulated the Union for being active participant in boarder movement at local level like struggles by farmers, unorganized workers and campaigns like "Not in my Name".

The report was placed by Com. S.Y.Bhujbal, Gen. Secretary. More than fifteen comrade placed their views. Com. D.E.Sapkal, Treasurer placed the statements of accounts for year ended on 31.12.2016. Both were accepted unanimously. The conference was presided by Com. S.V.Chavan & S.H.Sane. Com. S.V.Chavan, S.Y.Bhujbal & D.E.Sapkal were elected as President, General Secretary & Treasurer respectively for ensuing term. Com. Milind Waghmare Jt. Secretary proposed vote of thanks.



## NZIEA Srinagar supports Workers of Sudhir Power Ltd

**W**orkers of Sudhir Power Ltd. were compelled to go on indefinite strike under the banner of Lal Jandha Union affiliated to CITU, against the Management of Sudhir Power Ltd. which is working in the field of manufacturing of generators, after the negotiations ultimately failed after many rounds of discussion. The Management was adamant to accept genuine demands of the workers, main being sanctioning of annual increment. After the start of the strike, the Management terminated 12 workers who were leading the agitation. The workers are on strike since more than fifty days and the factory is almost closed. The poor workers are facing a lot of problem and even facing difficulty in feeding their family.

NZIEA Srinagar Division visited the site time and again supporting the workers. In a recent visit;

NZIEA Srinagar Division donated one quintal rice for the workers. The strike is still going on and our support is with them.



## 7<sup>th</sup> Women's Convention of KDLIEA(Kolkata- I)

7<sup>th</sup> Women Convention of KDLIEA was held on 18<sup>th</sup> November, 2017 under the auspices of KDLIEA and its Women Sub-Committee. The Convention generated much enthusiasm among the women employees working in the Eastern Zonal Office, the Internal Audit Department and the LIC offices under KMDO-I. The women employees gathered in large numbers to attend the Convention. That apart, the Secretariat members of KDLIEA, the Secretariat members of EZIEA stationed at Kolkata, the leaders of the Base committees under KDLIEA and some invitees also attended the Convention. Just before the commencement of the 7<sup>th</sup> Convention a couple of songs were sung in chorus by the cultural team of KDLIEA.



At the outset a Presidium consisting of Com. Swarachita Mallick, Com. Hena De Sarkar and Com. Sonali Bhaduri was formed for the smooth conduct of the Convention. On behalf of the Presidium a condolence resolution was moved in the house by Com. Swarachita Mallick. Thereafter, Com Maitreyee Mishra, Jt. Convenor, EZIEA Women Sub-Committee was invited to inaugurate the Convention and she did the job with a great deal of competence. She dealt with the issues of working women in particular and the working class in general. She pointed out that the question of women's liberation is intricately linked with the question of liberation of the society as a whole from exploitation. Com. Mishra thanked AIIEA for providing much democratic space for women activists in the organisation. She expressed her happiness that women comrades today were being inducted into the leadership of the organisation at various levels. She made a strong appeal to the women employees to get more involved in the day to day affairs of the organisation.

On behalf of the Women Sub-Committee, a Report was placed before the Convention by Com. Shyama Bhattacharya and Com. Arpita Roy, Joint Convenors.

Eight delegates participated in the discussions on the Report. All of them praised the succinct Report. Along with voicing their own demands like Child Care Leave, Special Leave for Women etc., the speakers also discussed the neo-liberal onslaught on the working class, both within the country and outside. They also discussed threadbare the problems of women and children who are actually bearing the brunt. Com. Ramkrishna Datta, President, KDLIEA and Vice-President, EZIEA also addressed the Convention. Apart from dealing with the questions that came to the fore, he talked about the Great November Revolution and its relevance today, its impact on women liberation movement and on the working class movement throughout the world. Com. Datta reminded the audience that it was in Soviet Union, the first socialist state in the world, the women tasted first the joy of freedom and liberation.

The discussions on the Report were summed up by Com. Shyama Bhattacharya. Thereafter a number of resolutions on relevant issues were adopted by the Convention. The Convention firmly resolved to strengthen further the insurance employees' movement led by AIIEA. Towards the end of the Convention a 41-member Women Sub-committee, 15-member Executive Body included, was unanimously elected. Com. Shyama Bhattacharya and Com. Saswati Kundu were elected

Joint Convenors



# Gujarat State Women's Convention at Somnath

Western Zonal women's convention of Gujarat State was held on 2 & 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 at holy land of Somnath with co-operation of comrades from Rajkot. Nearly 200 lady comrades from various Divisions viz Rajkot, Gandhinagar, Surat, Ahmedabad, Vadodara, Bhanagar and Rajkot enthusiastically took part in the convention. Cultural Programme with a view to promote sense of unity and equality was arranged on the eve of 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2017. Women comrades from all Divisions participated with gaiety, exaltation and zeal, presenting various cultural programmes.

In the proceedings of the Convention Com. Nalawade, WZIEA President, Com H I Bhatt, General Secretary, WZIEA women's committee convener Com Ms. Falguni Mehta and Women's committee Conveners from all Divisions were present. In his inaugural speech,, Com.Nalawade dwelt upon the present status and challenges faced by women in Indian society and the contributions made by few women leaders in various fields including LIC.

Comrade H I Bhatt gave glimpse of ups and downs in present Economy and its effect on LIC. He also informed of upcoming challenges and ways to deal with it giving our best we could. Comrade Falguni delivered her strong yet beautiful thoughts about contribution of women comrades in the organisation & explained ways to face the upcoming challenges. Women's committee



convener of Gandhinagar Division, Com.Lalita Khemani presented her views on how women empowerment can affect development in almost all fields. Also, other women comrades Jayshree from Surat & Bhavna from Rajkot contributed to the discussions.

Convention was adorned by 200+women comrades wearing similar sarees in tricolour(black Red and Golden) giving the impression that black days can become Golden days if the thought of Red unity are implemented.

Comrades Subodh Trivedi, Jaimin Desai, Harshadbhai, Popatbhai, Prakash Macwan & S. I. Chaudhary also participated actively in the convention. The convention concluded with various ideas and planning to face future challenges . The convention ended with vote of thanks from Com. Dhruv.



# Working Women's Convention at Thanjavur

## LET THE FIGHT FOR OUR RIGHTS BEGIN AT HOME

The 20th Convention of LICWWCC of ICEU, Thanjavur Division was held on 10.12.2017 at Thanjavur. The Presidium was chaired by Comrades N. Kannammal, B. Sathiya, P. Savithiri, K. Aruna and S.S. Mangai took the session lively. The participants, more than 150 in numbers, enjoyed every moment of the session.

The Convention was inaugurated by the Tamil Film Director, Shri Brammah, who is in the limelight of the Tamil film industry for his progrogressive thoughts in his latest 2 films. While addressing the gathering, he told that the fight for our rights has to start from our family by utilising our children as our crews. He asked us to have regular interactions with our children on all subjects which will help them in identifying evils and show the way how to get rid of the same. Male children are to be inculcated to do kitchen work also so as to understand the real pain of the women community. These will make the next generation pave the way for gender equality. He also insisted the participants to react immediately wherever the media commits a mistake and utilise Social Media to get fruitful resluts on serious issues such as mobilising people to fight for rights.

After his address, our Comrade had an interactive



session with him which very much thought provoking. Dr. Uma Velmurugan had given counselling on health which was very useful to the participants. She had also interaction with the participants.

Comrade B. Sathya (Joint Convenor, LICWWCC) presented the Work report on which 8 comrades placed their worthy views. The debate had reflected the necessity for Women Reservation, freedom of expression, Women's participation in the Trade Union activities, Communalism, Secularism etc. After the summing up by the General Secretary, it was unanimously adopted.

The resolutions including the protection of Public Sector, against the disinvestment of GIC Companies, demanding 33 % reservation for women, Special leave for menopause period were approved by the Conference.

The conference had taken the decision to focus on forming the readers' circle and Media Response committee in all Branch centres and conducting the special TU class for women.

Com P. Savithiri welcomed the gathering and Com K. Aruna proposed Vote of thanks.



# CYCLONE OCKHI DEVASTATES LIFE AND LIVING

## ICEU TIRUNELVELI CARRIES RELIEF WORK

Report: R.S. Chenbagam

On 30<sup>th</sup> November 2017, the devastating Cyclone named Ockhi hit and threw away normal life out of gear in Kanyakumari District, situated at the southernmost part of TamilNadu State in India. The first Tropical Cyclone for the season "Ockhi" which means "Eye", named by Bangladesh hit at a speed of 155km per hour, uprooted many big trees of long age, snapped power and communication lines, uprooted thousands of electric poles, toppled hoardings, destroyed the houses particularly the roofs, and damaged the crops. There are many places in kkt are not still having electric power. The mammoth loss is yet to be calculated exactly.

### Distress of fishermen

High tides and stormy winds devastated many families of fishermen. They lost the houses, the boats and their family members. The families are waiting at the sea shore for their son, brother, father, life partner without knowing whether they are alive or not. Families of missed fishermen are gathering in big numbers and conducting various types of struggles to make the Government to search out the missed fishermen. Meantime, news about floating bodies of some missed fishermen is also coming. The approach of the Central and State Government is very lethargic. This is the portion which has to be dealt in depth in the mere future.

### Economy uprooted

Kulasekaram town panchayath having a



population of more than 20000 is the second largest business centre in Kanyakumari District with overall money exchange of more than 25 million rupees. This town has many rubber plantations that yield high quality latex, which is the town's major revenue source. Around 15 villages there are many pottery workers and brick (kiln) workers. They lost their raw materials and other production accessories. Each family incurred a loss of Rs. 25000 to 1 lakh. These workers lost their livelihood.

The gust wind and heavy downpour devastated all the agricultural products mainly the rubber, plantain, jack fruit, clove, cardamom, Pepper, cashew and tapioca etc. which were cultivated in the hill areas. Majority of the Rubber, plantain and Jackfruit trees which are yielding regular income were broken or uprooted by the squally wind. The plants like cardamom, clove and tapioca which were yielding regular income to the people in hill areas were totally damaged. In many places coconut trees also were uprooted.

It is estimated that more than 20 lakhs rubber trees were damaged. It will take 7 to 8 years to cultivate and get yield from a rubber tree. The Planter has to spend around 7000 rupees to cultivate and to get the yield. Consequently, more than 15000 plantation workers lost their livelihood and their daily earnings for the forthcoming 8 years. The workers who already lost their houses, household goods are now starving. It is a wonder whether the economy of the hill area and the life of the plantation workers will get revive in the near future?

### RELIEF WORK

The Insurance Corporation Employees Union, Tirunelveli Division joined in the relief measures along with the CITU and Democratic Youth Federation Volunteers. On 6<sup>th</sup> December 2017, ICEU Tirunelveli Division under the leadership of Com. K. Swaminathan, Vice-President, ICEU visited the camps with our relief materials in 1. Pura

Continued on Page 40

## **21st ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF LICPA, MADURAI**

The 21st Conference of LICPA, Madurai held on 5.8.17 was presided over by Com.V.Ramasamy, the President. The dearth of vision and health did not dampen the spirit of a few aged comrades as noticed through the attendance of 165 comrades. Com.C.Chandrasekaran, Secretary presented the annual report before the house. Com.T.Kumararaja, Treasurer, submitted the audited accounts. Five comrades took part in the deliberations on the report.

Com. D.Gopalraj, (GIPA), Com.J.Gopalakrishnan, (LIC Cl.I Fedn) Com.G.Mariyappan, (NFIFWI), and Com.N.P.Rameshkannan, (ICEU) greeted the conference. The speeches of the leaders condemned the move of the centre to disinvest PSU and dwelt on the lingering threat to diversity and secularism.

The report was adopted after the summing up of the Secretary. Dr.P.Suresh, MD,DM (Neuro), Apollo Hospitals Madurai hogged the limelight with his power point presentation on "Stroke" the disease, to which the aged are more susceptible to. He listed

the do's and don'ts and clarified the doubts of the audience.

Mr.Sivanath of Vidal Health Insurance explained the procedures for cashless treatment.

The senior comrades were honoured in the conference. Resolutions on withdrawal of GST on LIC premium, upward revision of pension on wage revision in LIC as per the practice in vogue at state and central govt, withdrawal of NEET, against imposition of Hindi, repeal of Gooda's act against social activists in TN, on controlling price rise, on generation of jobs, on protection of PSUs, against merger of banks, condemning "beef" murders, etc ... moved by Com.V.Shanmugam, Jt.Secretary were adopted unanimously.

Com.V.Ramasamy, C.Chandrasekaran, T.Kumararaja, were elected President, Secretary, and Treasurer respectively. The curtains of the conference were dropped with the vote of thanks proposed by Com.I.Joseph Williams.



## **Seminar on ROLE OF PUBLIC SECTOR – SOCIAL JUSTICE**

HRGIEA organized a seminar on the topic 'The role of Public Sector-Social Justice' on 06/12/2017 at Hyderabad on the occasion of the death anniversary of Dr.Baba SahebAmbedkar and Mahathma Jothiba Pule.

The Seminar was presided over by Com. A. Narayana Rao, President, HRGIEA. Shri.G.Yesudass, Dy.General Manager, Regional Office, United India Insurance Co. Ltd., Hyderabad, Com.K.V.V.S.N.Raju, Vice President, AIIEA, Shri.K. Suresh Kumar, Joint Secretary, Oriental Insurance Co. Officers' Association, Shri.V.Sivakumar, Addl.Joint Secretary, All India General Insurance Sc/ST Employees' Welfare Association, Shri.T.Wilson, Vice President, General Insurance Sc/ST Employees Welfare Parishad, Dr.V.Suresh Kumar, President, SZ, General Insurance Officers' All India Association and Shri.K.P.Purushotham, General Secretary, A.P and Telengana General Insurance OBC employees' Association participated in the seminar and addressed the gathering.

The speakers while pointing about the vision of Dr.Ambedkar and Mahathma Pule, narrated the



role of Public Sector Institutions more particularly the Public Sector Life Insurance Corporation and four Public Sector General Insurance Companies in fulfilling the objectives of Nationalisation by generating huge income, paying adequate dividends to the Government, investing in Infrastructure Projects, providing insurance coverage at low cost premium to the common public, penetrating in the rural areas also and generating permanent employment for all classes of people. Good number of employees and officers working in Twin Cities participated in the seminar.

## 24<sup>th</sup> General Conference of MRGIEA

The 24<sup>th</sup> General conference of MADURAI REGION GENERAL INSURANCE EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION was held on 7-8 October 2017 at Dindugal a vanguard district and centre of Indian trade union activities. Com R Rajendran , Regional president hoisted the flag of AIIEA amidst thunderous slogans. After paying homage to martyrs column, the open session presided over by Com R Rajendran commenced and the welcome address delivered by Com R Ramanarayanan.

Com G. Kannan , Joint Secretary, GIEA(SZ) inaugurated the conference and he hailed the achievement of AIIEA in getting remarkable improvements in Staff Medi-claim scheme, accumulation of EL upto 270 days etc. He underlined the importance of achieving 40% wage rise to General Insurance Employees and explained the governments negative attitude against the working class.

Com R.Karumalayan State Deputy General Secretary CITU, in his special address lashed out at the Demonetisation exercise which helped exchange convert black money and hasty implementation of GST impacting traders and common public and rendering lakhs of workers jobless.

Com Balabharathi the Ex-MLA from the constituency greeted the inaugural session. Com Vanjinathan Vice President, ICEU, Madurai Division

too greeted the gathering . The inaugural session ended with the vote of thanks by Com M Pushparajan , the General Secretary of MRGIEA.

In the delegate session Com G Anand, General Secretary , GIEA(SZ) and Sanjay Jah , Standing Committee Secretary addressed the delegates and dealt with all important issues confronting the insurance employees both within the industry and outside. They cautioned that the present government would aggressively move forward to privatise the insurance industry and therefore organization must be strengthened to meet these challenges.

The discussions on the Report were initiated by Com V Ramesh, Jt Secretary, MRGIEA and more than 30 comrades took part in it. The Report thereafter was unanimously adopted.

Com R Rajendran, Com M Pushparajan and Com N Mohan were elected President, Secretary and Treasurer of the MRGIEA for the ensuing term.

Various resolution were passed against disinvestment move of the Government to dilute the stake of PS General Insurance Companies, demanding one more pension option and demanding merger of PS GI companies.

The conference came to successful close with vote of thanks by Com P S Periasamy, District Secretary.



## HELP TO VISUALLY IMPAIRED CHILDREN'S SCHOOL

The members of the Women's Sub-Committee of DIEA, Siliguri Branch Base-II handed over to the residents of BHIMBHAR SNEHASRAM DRISTIHN VIDYALAYA with 30 Bedsheets, 100 Kg Rice, 20 Kgs Atta, 5 Kg Maida, 7 Kg Daal, 5 Kg Sugar, 3 Kgs Suji, 6 ltr Edible oil, 30 Nos. Bathing Soap , Toothpastes, Detergents, Biscuits, etc. This school is run for the visually impaired children, majority of whom are girls.

A programme was organized on the occasion at the Branch on 22.9.2017. Sri Asish Das and Sri Soumen Tudu, who are also blind and resident

of the said Vidyalaya, were present there as the representatives of the Authority of the said Vidyalaya. Speaking on the occasion, Smt. Swati Dey described how the Women's Sub-Committee arranges such programmes as a part of social responsibilities of a Trade Union. Com. Swarnali Das, Com. Manoj Nag, Com. Sandip Paul and Com. Rajat Roy of DIEA, Jalpaiguri were present on the occasion.

The representatives of the Vidyalaya expressed their happiness and thanks to the Women Sub-Committee for helping the school children. It was a very satisfying program.



## Com RK memorial Convention at Kumbakonam



A convention was held on 14.11.2017 in Kumbakonam town in memory of Com R Karuppaiah who held the position of Vice president of ICEU Thanjavur for number of years. Com G Anand General Secretary of South Zone General Insurance Employees Association gave the special address on “Divestment of shares in Public sector General Insurance Companies” & Com R Punniamoorthy Vice President of SZIEF spoke on the immense contributions made by Com R Karuppaiah of Pudukkottai to working class and downtrodden people. The convention was presided over by Com S Subramaniam Vice President of ICEU Thanjavur. Comrades from Life and general sector from nearby branches/divisions of Thanjavur and fraternal trade union members from Kumbakonam participated in good numbers. Com R Easudoss, former President of ICEU Thanjavur, after garlanding Com RK’s Portrait dwelt on the importance of protecting us from dengue and other diseases.

Com G Anand in his special address spoke on the vital and leading role played by Pandit Jawarlal Nehru in creating the Public sector enterprises and he also said it was appropriate that the convention was being held on his birthday. He criticized the Modi govt for vigorously pursuing neo-liberal policies that are heaping miseries on the common people while furthering inequalities in the Indian society. He said that the Indian ruling classes wanted the privatisation of insurance sector in 1994 itself on the basis of Malhotra committee recommendations. But the heroic resistance spanning for over 23 years prevented the government from doing so. Finally the Government has put around 14 percent of stakes in New India and GIC-Re for sale through initial public offering to raise nearly 18000 crore of rupees.

This is primarily done not to expand the capital of the companies but to meet the fiscal deficit of the government. This is evident from the fact that nearly 14000 crore have gone to the government coffers and only 4000 crore have come to the companies. This is a classic case of selling the family silver to meet the financial needs of the day. Com Anand said that the government will not rest with divesting only 14 percent stake. The neo-liberalism demands total sale of the public assets so as to create space for the private capital to operate. The struggle on this score will intensify and therefore it has become very necessary to strengthen the AIIEA which alone can challenge the policies of the government.

Comrade R Punniamurthy fondly remembered his association with Com R Karuppaiah and his tireless work among all sections of working class. He praised the simplicity and dedicated organizational work of the comrade which have to be emulated by all of us. He said that the best tribute to Com RK would be to follow his ideals and continue to fight his unfinished battles.

Comrade H Kannan of ICEU Kumbakonam 1 welcomed the gathering and Com A Sekar Joint Secretary ICEU, Thanjavur gave vote of thanks. Comrade S Balasubramanian Jt Secy, SZGIEA and Comrade Pushparajan GS, MRGIEA attended the convention along with several other leaders and comrades of General Insurance Employees Association.

Com. Baby Joseph, President of LIC Employees’ Union, Kottayam Division and former Joint Secretary of SZIEF retired from the services of LIC on 30/11/2017. He was the General Secretary of the Division for 17 years and has been the President for the last 5 years. He held the post of SZIEF Joint Secretary for three successive terms.

Com. Baby Joseph joined LIC in 1981 at the Kozhikode Divisional Office. His integrity and commitment to socialist values marked him out right from that time as a potential leader. His abilities were amply evident when he became the Joint Secretary of LICEU, Ernakulam Division. The LICEU, Kottayam Division received a boost when the comrade joined Kottayam Division in its formation year and became the Joint Secretary of the Divisional Unit. He went on to become the General Secretary of the Division in 1995.

## Blood Donation Camps organised by KSDIEA

In memory of the first All India Strike on 5<sup>th</sup> of December 1957 Kolkata Suburban Divisional Insurance Employees' Association every year organizes blood donation camps. This year KSDIEA organized District wise three 'Voluntary Blood Donation Camps' at Murshidabad, Nadia and North 24-Parganas. At Murshidabad District, the Blood Donation Camp was held at Berhampore Branch where all classes of employees, Agents and policy holders enthusiastically participated and transformed the entire atmosphere of the Camp into a festival of great humanitarian sense of commitment. The camp was inaugurated by Debasish Banerjee, the Assistant Secretary of KSDIEA kindling the light of lamp along with other local dignitaries including CM of the Branch and leaders of fraternal organizations. As many as 103 people donated blood in the camp and many more went back with a heavy heart due to lack of medical fitness. The blood donation camp at Berhampore created a new mile-stone in the history of our Association with dedication – sense of commitment – magnificent presentation and above all the unity of all concerns.

The blood donation camp of Nadia District was held at the premises of Kalyani Branch. The camp was inaugurated by Haridas Saha, President of the KSDIEA, kindling the light of lamp along with CM of the Branch and representatives of other fraternal organizations. Employees and agents from different branches of the district assembled and donated blood for a great social

purpose. As many as 40 people donated blood in this camp but a good number of voluntary donors went back with a painful heart due to shortage of blood kits. Everyone who attended the camp left with a pledge to stand beside the people at the time of need – this was the essence of the programme which will inspire the entire organization in the days to come.

North 24-Parganas District is one of the biggest districts of our jurisdiction and the voluntary blood donation camp of this district was organized by Barrackpore Branch unit in a befitting manner. In connection to the programme, a seminar on necessity and social need of donating blood was arranged on 1<sup>st</sup> of December, 2017, at the branch premises. Sri D.Asish, the General Secretary of Voluntary Blood Donors Association, the main speaker dealt at length on the subject with his profound knowledge and experience which inspired the audience of the seminar and as a result, on the day, the premises of blood donation camp literally converted into an assembly of mega festival of humanity for a great social cause. Ujjal Pal, the General Secretary of KSDIEA inaugurated the camp kindling the light of lamp along with other dignitaries. Here, 53 donors donated blood and here too almost 25 donors returned disappointed as they could not donate blood due to medical reasons. The massive participation in all the blood donation camps conveyed the message that insurance employees and their beloved organization AIEA are dedicated to great social causes.

## Com. Baby Joseph retires

With unparalleled skill he led the nascent cadre of Kottayam Division, building it up to form a strong

and vibrant unit of the Organisation. He was looked up to as a leader who stood up for the employees at all times

A grand function for felicitating Com. Baby Joseph and his wife Smt. Lissamma Mathew was held along with the 26<sup>th</sup> Divisional Conference of LICEU Kottayam Division in the presence of leaders of AIEA and SZIEF. The leaders of various progressive and mass organizations and retired comrades were also present. This was followed by a colourful cultural program where Music Concerts, Skit, Comedy Show, Mimicry, and Dance were performed. A photo exhibition of various activities of ours as well as other progressive mass organisations with special focus on Com. Baby Joseph was also held.



# Insurance News in brief

■ A.M.KHAN, DHARWAD

# **LIC** has invested Rs 44,000 crore in the equity markets between April-November this year, a rise of 52 per cent over the year-ago period. It had invested around Rs 29,000 crore in April-November period in the previous fiscal. LIC, with assets of Rs 27,26,000 crore as at the of end-September, had a target of investing Rs 50,000 crore in stocks through the fiscal year 2017-2018. Continuing its support to government, LIC has bought Rs.161, 000 crore worth of Central and State Government bonds during the first half of the fiscal year. It has plans to make further purchases of Rs.10000 crore to Rs.20000 crore worth of government debt securities up to March 2018. LIC has made about Rs. 12,374 crore on sales of equities during this period April to September 2017 as against Rs.10,643 crore in the same period last year, an increase by 16.26 per cent.

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# **Seeing** the tepid response to the initial public offers of equity from the two bigger peer public sector insurance companies, GIC –Re and New India Assurance, National Insurance plans to review its strategy and go for IPO somewhere in March-April 2018. "Insurance is a complex sector and many do not understand it. We will incorporate the learning from the IPOs of NIA and GIC in our offering" says National Insurance Company.

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# **Shares** of insurance companies are taking a beating on the bourses. Not only shares of public sector insurance companies have been seeing a down trend but also share of private insurance companies are also down. ICICI Prudential Life and SBI Life fell close to four per cent each. HDFC Standard Life Insurance, ICICI Prudential Life Insurance, SBI Life Insurance and Max Financial Services were down in the range of 3% to 5% on the BSE. This is due to the concern that the higher taxation could impact profitability and valuations. Such fear has triggered after the finance ministry set up a task force to have a re-look at direct taxation. The 2009 Direct Tax Code proposes to bring the tax paid by insurance companies on par with corporate tax rate. The insurance companies now pay income tax of 14.3 % while the corporates pay 25%. Share market fears that the insurance companies would be adversely hit if the recommendation is adopted. It is only HDFC Life which has bucked the downward trend.

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# One colour from the rainbow of the market seems to shine bright for the insurance companies to have come to market. Mutual Funds are making almost a beeline to invest in the shares of insurance companies, not only from the IPOs but are hunting in the secondary market also. ICICI Lombard, ICICI Prudential Life insurance and SBI Life have already garnered Rs.6000 crore from 251 mutual fund schemes through sale of 109.55 million shares.

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# **Crop** insurance, which has contributed 16 percent of total general insurance premium of Rs.1,28,000 crore in financial year 2016-17, is third-largest line of business for the insurance industry, after motor and health. Central Government's flagship crop insurance scheme plays a main role. This year too premium from crop insurance sector will increase as the government has increased the insurable crop coverage from 30 per cent to 40 per cent. The increase in coverage limit has a proportional impact on premium. From Rs. 21,000 crore in FY17, crop insurance premium is expected to increase to Rs. 25,000-26,000 crore this year.

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# **Third** party motor insurance the segment that used to be a drag on insurers for more than a decade has turned into a money spinner for general insurance companies thanks to increased premiums and motor safety norms. Private insurance companies are underwriting more third party insurance than own damage insurance.

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# **Out** of estimated commitment of US \$4.8 billion towards claims arising out of hurricanes – Harvey, Irma and Maria, Lloyd's market has already paid claims worth US \$ 1.7 billion.

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# **How** rich are those who deal with pharmaceuticals, leave alone the manufacturers. CVS, a drugstore chain giant in US, plans to buy US's third largest insurance giant Aetna for a price of \$ 69 billion. This deal will give CVS 22 million health insured people. CVS has 9,700 drugstores and 1,100 walk-in clinics.

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# **In US** and other parts of the west, companies are receiving notices of premium and coverage changes for 2018. The changes vary, depending on factors including the state where a company is located, how many employees it has and how comprehensive its insurance is. But the rate increases are of double-digit percentages and dramatically reduced coverage. Unable to cope with this situation, many smaller companies are on to choose alternatives for their employees like paying for claims themselves or adding health services that can lower costs.



# Economic Tid Bits

■ J.SURESH, MYSORE

- ◆ India ranks 139 out of 144 countries on economic opportunity and participation on global gender gap index, which is lesser than Bangladesh and closer to Saudi Arabia that is infamous for denying rights and freedom to women. India does not recognise the women in unpaid labour. 19.6 million of women dropped out of work in India between 2004-05 and 2011-12. Credit rating agency Fitch has cut India's GDP forecast for the current fiscal to 6.7% from 6.9%.
- ◆ The share price of the digital currency bitcoin has reached \$10,000 registering more than 11 fold increase since January 2017, when it was valued at \$ 900 per share. This has eclipsed all the records of modern history for comparable asset surge. This has also resulted in Wall Street and other major financial institutions around the world pouring billions of dollars into a financial asset that is totally unregulated, has no clear rules for lending and exchange and no consumer safeguards. There is a serious risk of another global financial meltdown severe than the 2008 crisis centered on crypto currencies instead of sub prime mortgages. When and how this bubble pops up is difficult to predict but when it happens, it has the potential to take a major chunk of world economy, heaping miseries on the common man. The origins of bitcoin in itself is shrouded in mystery. First introduced in January 2009 by an unknown individual or group claiming to be a Japanese man named Satoshi Nakamoto, its' nameless creator is now sitting on a fortune of some \$ 7 billion.
- ◆ In the ongoing discussions with European Union and UK government on the formalities to be completed for Brexit, both the parties have arrived at a " divorce settlement" which is estimated to be between Euro 40 to 45 billion. The UK is allowed to honour the outstanding European Union liabilities over a period of ten years and agreed to maintain full alignment with those rules of Internal Market and the Customs Union which, now or in the future, support North-South cooperation, the all-island economy.
- ◆ According to a forecast by Resolution

Foundation, UK faces the longest fall in living standards on record. Real disposable incomes will decline for 19 successive quarters, which is the longest in sixty years of history. According to them, the incomes are expected to be 450 pounds lesser by 2022 and the trend is expected to continue for almost a decade after that. For the poorest third of the households, the income is expected to be down by 715 pounds a year while the richest third will gain an average of 185 pounds. According to Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), UK will be the world's weakest economies over the next five years. The OBR has cut expected growth from 2% to 1.5% in 2017 and averaging just 1.4% over the subsequent four years. The OBR estimates that average yearly earnings will be down by 1000 pounds in real terms by the start of 2022. The fact that the GDP was expected to be 3.5% lower in 2021 than anticipated amounted to a 65 billion pound hit on the Indian economy.

- ◆ According to a report published by the Institute for Policy Studies, the three richer Americans - Jeff Bezos, Bill Gates and Warren Baffet now own more wealth than the poorest half of the US Population – some 163 million people. The combined wealth of the three richest individuals is over \$ 264 billion. According to the report, the richest 25 Americans are wealthier than the bottom 56% of the US. The net worth of 400 richest Americans is roughly equal to that of the bottom two thirds of the country, a total of 200 million people. Oxfam reported in June 2017 that the world's richest 5 people own as much as the poorest half of the world's population, down from 80 people in ;2015. Today, each of the 5 billionaires owns as much as of 750 million people, more than the total population of Latin American and double the population of USA. According to another report, world's super rich have between \$ 5.7 and \$ 32 trillion hidden from taxation in tax heavens.

# Working Class Struggles

■ S.SRIDHARA, MYSORE

## **Protests against policies of Syriza government in Greece**

PAME trade union federation held a demonstration outside the Ministry of Labour on 05.12.2017. Riot police were called to disperse the protest and used tear gas. The protest was called after the Syriza-led government proposed to increase the quorum for strike action from a third to 50 percent. On 04.12.2017, the government decided not to go ahead with the change, for the time being. Meanwhile, staff at Public Power Corporation (PPC) lignite power plants held protests against plans by the Syriza-led government plans to privatize the facilities. On 04.12.2017, workers at the Florina plant in northern Greece held a protest outside the plant. Local people and businesses that are economically dependent on the plant supported them. A similar protest took place on 06.12.2017 at the Megalopoli plant in the Peloponnese. GENOP union said further action could take place, including strikes.

## **Bus workers in Surrey, England hold strike over union recognition**

A strike by workers employed by Quality Line Epsom in Surrey in southeastern England went ahead on 04.12.2017. They are demanding the company recognize the right of the workforce to be represented by the Rail, Maritime and Transport (RMT) union.

## **Delivery drivers in Scotland hold protests**

On 05.12.2017, drivers working for parcel delivery company, DPD, held protests outside DPD depots in Glasgow, Edinburgh and Dundee. The GMB union members protested changes in working conditions imposed by DPD, including a reduction in delivery rates and enforced weekend working.

## **Strike threat by metro staff in Hungarian capital**

Staff working for the Metro transit system in Budapest are seeking a pay increase. So far, they have rejected two offers from the employer dismissing them as inadequate. The Trade Union of Retail Employees (KASZ) has set up a strike committee and is threatening industrial action in the Christmas period unless an improved offer is made.

## **Iranian sugar workers strike over non-payment of wages**

Workers at the Haff Tapeh sugar plantation and mill in Shush, northwest Iran came out on strike on 02.12.2017. It was called after the workers had not

received wages or benefits for the last four months. The workers formed an independent union in 2008 following a 42-day strike over the same issue. Union leaders have been subjected to harassment, imprisonment and blacklisting. The company was privatized in 2015.

## **Nigerian university staff resume strike after government reneges**

Non-academic staff at all Nigerian universities went out on strike on 04.12.2017. The three unions involved previously went out on indefinite strike in late September, but called it off after government promises. However, yet again the government reneged on its promise and the unions involved-the NASU, SSANU and NAAT have resumed industrial action. The renewed action was further provoked by the government imposing a share out formula to distribute N23 billion (US \$64 million) funding of earned allowances. Staff represented by the Academics Staff University Union (ASUU) who had recently returned to work following a strike received 75 percent of the funds, while the non-academic unions got 25 percent.

## **One-day strike by Argentine public health workers against privatization**

Doctors and other health professionals for 80 Buenos Aires public hospitals, as well as municipal hospitals and health clinics, held a 24-hour strike on December 1. The mobilization was called by CICOP, the Buenos Aires health professionals' union.

## **One-day "warning strike" by Chilean childcare workers to demand better pay, conditions**

Workers for Integra, Chile's national preschool program, held a one-day "warning strike" on December 1. The striking workers, who care for children from three months to five years of age, are members of SINATI (National Integra Foundation Workers Syndicate) and National Syndicates Nos. 1 and 2.

## **Laid off Bangladeshi garment workers protest**

Workers from the shuttered factory of Luxma Sweater are maintaining a daily demonstration outside the Bangladesh Garment Manufacture Employers Association building in Dhaka protesting non-payment of wages since August and severance entitlements. Workers began protesting on 03.12.2017 but riot police intervened on 06.12.2017 and blocked a march to the labour ministry building. Garment Workers Trade Union Centre representatives have presented a memorandum to the labour ministry calling for it to help retrieve the workers' wages and entitlements.

# For our Field Force

■ ARIVUKKADAL, THANJAVUR

## Rs.27 Lakh Crore assets

LIC has announced its financial audit report for the first six months of fiscal year 2018, under which its total assets crossed over Rs.27.25 lakh crore. The premium income of LIC for April -September 2017 period stood at Rs.1.48 lakh crore, higher by 12.12% from Rs.1.32 lakh crore recorded in the corresponding period of the previous year. The new business premium, grew by 23.7% to Rs.68,220 crore in the current period. LIC's investment in equities is Rs.5.71 lakh crore in the half year, compared to Rs.4.96 lakh crore last year. Trading profit from sale of equities at Rs.12,370 crore, witnessing a growth of 16% year-on-year basis. LIC has also announced that it would not buy equities aggressively for rest of FY18, as the market is at peak. LIC has given Rs.16,000 crore to IRFC out of total Rs.1.5 lakh crore committed. LIC will continue to invest in banking system of the country.

## Rs.44K Cr in Stocks

LIC has invested Rs.44,000 crore in the equity markets between April-November this year, a rise of 52% over the year-earlier period's Rs.29,000 crore. An analysis done on the basis of LICs holding as of September 30, 2017, showed more than 85% of its stock picks have given positive return this calendar till November 2017. LIC has significant exposure in the small and midcap space. Out of 108 stocks in its portfolio, top 11 stocks based on return given belong to the mid and smallcap space. These stocks have more than doubled investors' wealth so far in the year 2017.

## Digital Branch

Bajaj Allianz Life Insurance Company has started adoption of digital branch services through its offering Mosambee. Mosambee is a handheld device that offers the services of a mobile branch and assists customers with an entire range of customer services.

## Online Marketplace

Mahindra Finance plans to launch an online marketplace for insurance, Paybima.com, which will allow customers to browse through and buy policies offered by various insurers. The company plans to launch the website early in calendar 2018. The website will provide options from different insurance companies for health, travel and motor insurance. Customers will not only be able to compare the quotes of insurance products and exercise their choice transparently, but will also be supported by experts to select the best product.

## Flipkart in Insurance

Flipkart is going to sell insurance products on

its platform. Flipkart will initially sell products in general, life and health insurance and intends to later venture into other categories such as motor insurance as well. The company will launch this after obtaining the regulatory approval from IRDAI.

## Training via app

Online insurance broker Coverfox.com has announced the launch of Coverdrive - a mobile app that allows individuals, including insurance agents, to sell insurance via its seller platform. Anyone, who has received appropriate insurance training and certification from Coverfox would be able to solicit insurance business through Coverdrive app. Certification and training would also be available via the app. Available on all devices (desktop, tablets and mobile android app), Coverdrive's platform and services are available to insurance agents absolutely free of cost.

## Accident Claims

The Motor Accident Claims Tribunal (MACT) claim rejection may not mean the end of the road for accident victims to get justice. Grievance redressal options can be pursued to get justice even if MACT declines. The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court (MHC) has set aside an MACT order and directed payment of compensation to the victim's family who was fatally knocked down by a police van.

## Increase cover

The Madras High Court has directed IRDAI to enhance compulsory personal accident cover from Rs.1 lakh to not less than Rs.15 lakh, enabling vehicle owners paying premium to get adequate compensation in the event of death or bodily injury. In 2002, Rs one lakh envisaged under it might have been enough to meet medical expenses of the injured owner to a certain extent. 15 years had lapsed and medical treatment costs had skyrocketed.

## Accident in another country

Punjab and Haryana high court has ruled that if a vehicle registered and insured in India meets with an accident in another country, the insurance company would be liable to pay the claim. The order pertained to compensation to the kin of 54 pilgrims from Kurukshetra who lost their lives in an accident in Nepal on June 18, 1995.

# ICEU Tirunelveli carries Cyclone Relief Work

Continued from Page 31

vilai, 2. Alan Vilai and Manalodai. These are the settlements around Perunjani reservoir. Here we can go by vehicles but with great skill we have to reach these hill areas. The uprooted trees and electric poles, snapped electrical wires and roads blocked by small rocks and stones are the scenes to reach the villages. They have to come to plains for everything even to education and health also. The Children have to reach their educational institutions either by walk or by the government transport which is available only once in the morning and once in the evening.

Second day ie.on 7<sup>th</sup> December 2017, I and our team went with CITU comrades to 1. Thatcha malai, 2. Thotta Malai, 3. Maaraa Malai, 5. Ettankunnu, 6. Elankunnu and 7. Valayamthooki Kani Camps. Boat travel through the dam is the only medium of transport to these areas. Here also the same condition. They have to come



to plains for everything. Their routine mutual interaction is also through the water transport only.

We distributed 126 Tarpaulins to cover the roofless huts, 500 bed sheets, 600 napkins to ladies, biscuits to children with the contribution of 2 lakhs rupees from SZIEF, and Rs. 50,000 from ICEU, Tirunelveli Division. Of this Rs. 18,000 has been collected by our Women's Sub Committee with an immediate call in DO unit. The amount has been collected within one and half hours from our lady comrades who were there at that time. These goods were distributed to the people who were kept at the relief camps. CITU Transport workers distributed food materials (2000kg rice, 250 kg sugar, 500 tea packets) to the worth of Rs. 1.25 lakhs. CITU EB workers distributed provisions and groceries of the worth of Rs. 1.25 lakhs. Our team could reach more than 400 families on both the days.

**What Government should do**

The relief materials given is not in any way match the requirements

and immediate needs of the tribal people. In addition to meet the immediate needs the long term requirement to revive their lives is more important. Unless The State and Central Governments took special care to meet out the damage caused to these people, it took a very long period to come back to normal life.

The dedicated work of Tamil Nadu electricity board workers both permanent and contract has to be appreciated and recorded here. More than 3000 workers risking their lives are working day and night with their minimum facilities arranged to restore power supply.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX		
Month	Base 2001	Base 1960
January 2017	274	6254.30
February	274	6254.30
March	275	6277.12
April	277	6322.77
May	278	6345.60
June	280	6391.25
July	285	6505.38
August	285	6505.38
September	285	6505.38
October	287	6551.03
Base1960=Base2001x22.8259		

DONATIONS	
Com.P.Mangalakumar, CB-24, Chennai Div-II.	Rs.2000
Com.Jaimin Desai, President, Surat Div. IEA	Rs.10000
Insurance Worker thanks these comrades for their fine gesture.	

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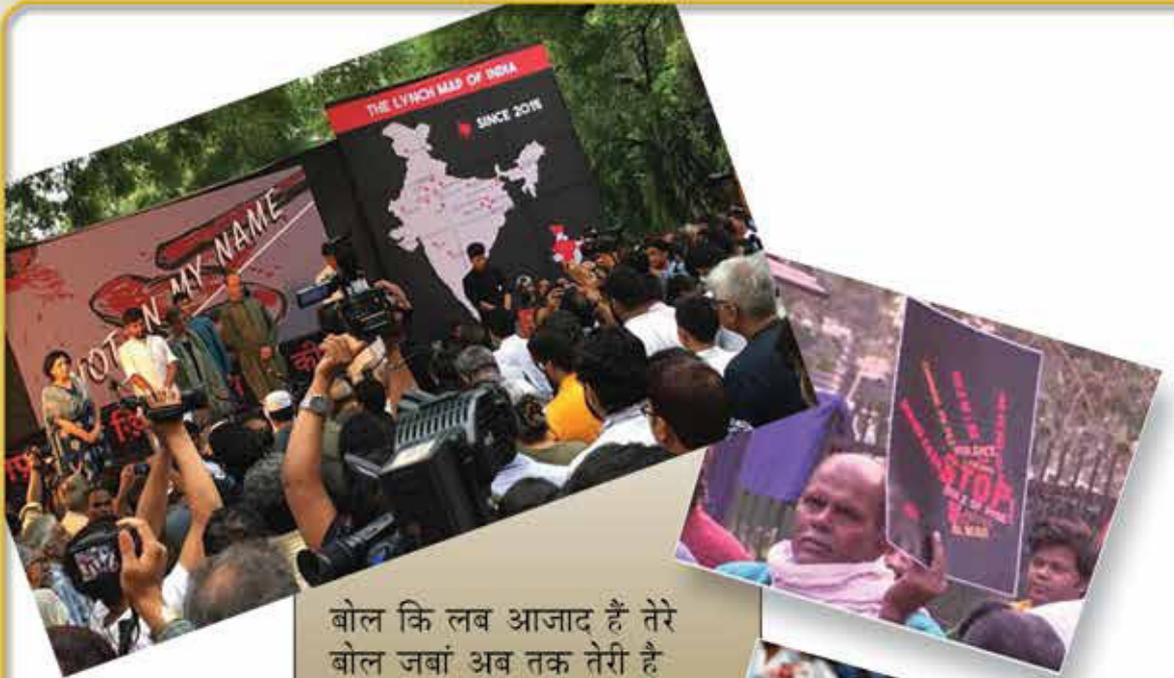
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## **CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION**

CELEBRATING 25 YEARS OF GLORIOUS JOURNEY



बोल कि लब आजाद हैं तेरे  
बोल जबां अब तक तेरी है  
तेरा सुतवां जिस्म है तेरा  
बोल कि जां अब तक तेरी है  
देख के आहनगर की दुकां में  
तुंद हैं शोले, सुर्ख है आहन  
खुलने लगे कुफलों के दहाने  
फ़ैला हर एक जंजीर का दामन  
बोल, ये थोडा वक्त बहुत है  
जिस्मों-जबां की मौत से पहले  
बोल कि सच जिंदा है अब तक  
बोल, जो कुछ कहने है कह ले

-फैज अहमद फैज



## CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

November 21, 1992 - 2017

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