

# insurance Worker

June 2017  
Vol. 60 No. 6  
Pages 40+4 ₹ 10



Monthly Journal of All India Insurance Employees' Association



**CHARTER FORMULATION BEGINS**

**PREPARE FOR A BIG STRUGGLE  
TO WIN A LEGITIMATE  
SHARE IN THE GROWTH**

Pushing for  
Bank Privatisation



The jobs challenge:  
NDA GOVERNMENT'S  
BIGGEST FAILURE



Syncretism is Real India

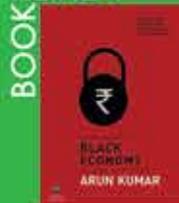
Rich Composite Culture:  
Preserve We Must



Diamond Jubilee  
of the First  
Communist Party  
Government



REVIEW



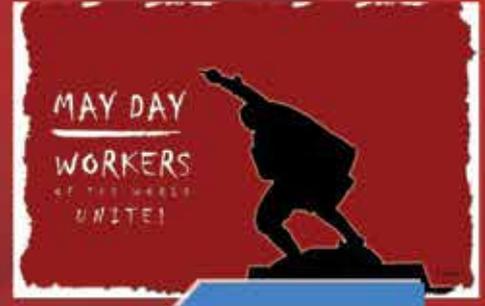
# MAY DAY 2017 -THE WORLD OVER



NEW DELHI



BENGALURU



HAVANA, CUBA



CARACAS, VENEZUELA



SAO PAULO, BRAZIL



ATHENS, GREECE



PARIS, FRANCE



BERLIN, GERMANY



CHICAGO, US



MEXICO



SEATTLE, US



LAHORE, PAKISTAN



SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA



JOHANNESBURG, SOUTH AFRICA

## PROCESS OF CHARTER FORMULATION BEGINS

The Charter Sub-Committee of AIIEA met at Varanasi on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2017 to formulate the draft Charter of Demands for the wage revision that would fall due on 1<sup>st</sup> August 2017. The draft reflects the financial strength of the institutions and takes care of the expectations and aspirations of every section of the employees. The draft will be discussed at every unit of AIIEA across the country and the Charter of Demands will be finalised in the Working Committee of the AIIEA proposed to be held at Surat in the third week of July 2017.

The fundamental demands framed in the draft are – there should be an industry-wise settlement; the effective date must be 1.8.2017; the entire DA as at 1.8.2017 be merged with the basic pay for restructuring of the new pay scales; the wage increase should be 40 percent; the National Pension Scheme should be withdrawn to enable coverage of all employees under LIC Employees' Pension

Scheme 1995 and the pension scheme should have the desired improvements. All the other demands are centered on these fundamental demands.

These demands are framed after a detailed analysis of the financial strength of LIC and the PSGI companies, the increasing productivity of the employees, the level of wage compensation in analogous institutions and private insurance companies and the international bench marks on wages in the insurance industry.

It is matter of great pride and happiness that LIC and the PSGI companies recorded a brilliant performance in the financial year 2016-17. The LIC earned a First Year Premium Income of Rs.1,24,396.27 cr registering a growth of 27.22%, much better than the growth rate of the industry by selling 2,01,31,500 policies. The market share of LIC in premium income improved to 71.07 percent and in number of policies to 76.09%.

Public Bank Privatisation in a Post-truth World Prof. C P Chandrasekhar	5
The jobs challenge: NDA GOVERNMENT'S BIGGEST FAILURE Dr. Santosh Kumar Mohapatra	8
भारत का राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन और मजदूर वर्ग एन.के.पचौरी	11
Syncretism is Real India Jayanta Mukherjee	13
Rich Composite Culture: Preserve We Must R.H.Ayi	16

### In This Issue

Diamond Jubilee of the First Communist Party Government M.Kunhikrishnan	18
Book Review: S.Sivasubramanian	20
Insurance News-A M Khan Working Class Struggles-S.Sridhara Economic Tid-bits-J.Suresh For Our Field Force-Arivukkadal	

Every segment of the business contributed to this growth. The premium earned from individual business is Rs.37853.87 cr with a growth of 47.07%. The Pension and Group Business recorded a phenomenal growth with a premium income of Rs.78464.35 cr. The Total Premium Income is expected to cross Rs 3 lakh crore and the Total Income of the Corporation is likely to touch over Rs.4.8 lakh crore. The assets of the Corporation may touch Rs.25 lakh crore. The interests of the policyholders are also well taken care by generating a valuation surplus of Rs.47387.33 cr for distribution as Bonus. The Government is likely to receive a dividend of Rs.2494.08 crore. This is truly a phenomenal performance.

The PSGI companies also recorded a stunning performance by earning a Gross Domestic Premium Income of Rs.67689.68 crore. This translates into a growth of 28.88 percent over the preceding financial year. The PSGI companies retain the market dominance with a share of 53.21 percent. The New India Assurance Company topped the ranking with a premium income of Rs.19065.07 cr followed by United India with a GDPI of Rs.15500 cr. The third position is occupied by National with a premium of Rs.14000.93 cr followed by Oriental Insurance with a GDPI of Rs.10792.91 cr. Thus the first four rankings were all secured by the public sector general insurance companies. This reflects the consistent performance of PSGI companies in the past many years.

This massive growth has been achieved by LIC and the PSGI companies in adverse economic conditions and huge joblessness. The fruits of whatever growth the economy is registering are being cornered away by a very small section of the population creating unprecedented inequalities and economic deprivation for large sections of the population with very little or no disposable income in their hands. Moreover the government is also trying to destabilise the sector with its decision to list the PSGI companies in the stock markets through disinvestment. In these circumstances, the performance of the public sector insurance industry is really praiseworthy.

The demands framed by the Charter Sub-Committee are totally justified considering the massive financial strength of the institutions. These demands appear quite modest compared to the productivity level and the wage compensation obtaining in the private sector. The LIC has the lowest expense ratio in the industry and the PSGI companies also compare favourably in this respect. The employees have worked hard to take their institutions to this level of financial strength and they deserve an extremely good wage revision.

However, the wage revision depends not just on the financial strength of the institutions and well laid arguments. It also depends on the government policy. It is the workers who create the wealth in a country. But unfortunately they are not treated well. In the last few years the government policy has been hostile to the working class. We experienced this in the last wage revision. Some of the issues decided in the last wage revision including the number of working days are still not conceded. Despite favourable recommendations from the managements of LIC and GIPSA, the government is refusing to allow another pension option. The government is attacking the existing rights and privileges of the working class through amendment to the labour laws in favour of the business and industry. The workers are denied their legitimate compensation as evident from the fact that the share of wage in the GDP is constantly declining while the profits of the corporate are on the increase.

Therefore, it would not be easy to secure the demands however justified they are. It would require a big struggle to secure the charter. The situation demands consolidation of the organisation and preparedness to wage bitter struggles. The units while discussing the proposals of the Charter Sub-Committee should also discuss and take necessary steps to consolidate the organisation to meet the challenges and to secure a wage revision commensurate with the financial strength of the institutions and the contributions of the employees.



## मांग-पत्र प्रारूप बनाने की प्रक्रिया शुरू

वाराणसी में 22 अप्रैल 2017 को वेतन संशोधन के लिये मांगपत्र का प्रारूप बनाने के लिये ए.आई.आई.ई.ए. की मांगपत्र उपसमिति की बैठक हुई। इस वेतन संशोधन को एक अगस्त 2017 से लागू होना है। प्रारूप संस्था की वित्तीय ताकत को प्रदर्शित करता है तथा कर्मचारियों के प्रत्येक वर्ग की अपेक्षाओं तथा आकांक्षाओं का ध्यान रखता है। इस प्रारूप पर देश भर की ए.आई.आई.ई.ए. इकाइयों में विचार-विमर्श किया जायेगा तथा मांगपत्र को ए.आई.आई.ई.ए. की कार्य-समिति में अन्तिम रूप दिया जायेगा जिसकी बैठक जुलाई के तीसरे सप्ताह में सूरत (गुजरात) में प्रस्तावित है।

मांगपत्र के प्रारूप में मौलिक मांगें इस प्रकार हैं- समझौता उद्योग के आधार पर किया जाना चाहिये; इसकी प्रभावी तिथि 01.08.2017 होनी चाहिये; नये वेतनमान बनाने के लिये 01.08.2017 तक का पूरा मंहगाई भत्ता मूलवेतन के साथ मिला दिया जाना चाहिये; वेतनवृद्धि 40 प्रतिशत होनी चाहिये; कर्मचारियों को एल.आई.सी. पेंशन योजना 1997 में शामिल होने के लिये पात्र बनाने हेतु राष्ट्रीय पेंशन योजना को वापिस लिया जाना चाहिये तथा पेंशन योजना 1995 में वांछित सुधार किये जाने चाहिये। शेष सब मांगें इन मौलिक मांगों पर केन्द्रित हैं।

ये मांगें एल.आई.सी. तथा सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की आम बीमा कम्पनियों की वित्तीय ताकत के विस्तार से विश्लेषण, कर्मचारियों की बढ़ती हुई उत्पादकता, समान तथा प्राइवेट संस्थाओं में वेतन तथा बीमा उद्योग में वेतन की अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कसौटी को ध्यान में रखने के पश्चात प्रस्तुत की गई हैं।

यह बहुत ही गर्व व प्रसन्नता का विषय है कि एल.आई.सी. तथा आम बीमा की सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कम्पनियों ने वर्ष 2016-17 में शानदार कार्य निष्पादन किया है। एल.आई.सी. ने 27.22 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर्ज करते हुए 1,24,396.27 करोड़ रुपये की प्रथम वर्षीय प्रीमियम आय अर्जित की है जोकि उद्योग में हुई वृद्धि दर से अधिक है तथा उसने 2,01,31,500 पालिसियों की बिक्री की है। एल.आई.सी. की बाजार हिस्सेदारी बढ़कर प्रीमियम आय में 71.07 प्रतिशत तथा पालिसियों की संख्या में 76.09 प्रतिशत हो गई है। व्यापार के प्रत्येक क्षेत्र ने इस वृद्धि में अपना योगदान दिया है। व्यक्तिगत व्यापार से अर्जित प्रीमियम 37,853.87 करोड़ रुपये है जो 47.07 प्रतिशत वृद्धि को दर्शाती है। पेंशन व समूह बीमा व्यापार ने 78,464.35 करोड़ रुपये की प्रीमियम

आय अर्जित कर उल्लेखनीय वृद्धि दर्ज की है। कुल प्रीमियम आय के तीन लाख करोड़ रुपये से भी ऊपर जाने की अपेक्षा है तथा एल.आई.सी. की कुल आय 4.8 लाख करोड़ पर पहुँचने की संभावना है। निगम की संपत्तियाँ 25 लाख करोड़ रुपये को छू सकती हैं। बोनस के वितरण के लिये एल.आई.सी. ने 47,387.33 करोड़ रुपये का आधिक्य पैदा कर पालिसीधारक के हितों का भी ध्यान रखा है। सरकार द्वारा लाभांश के रूप में 2,494.08 करोड़ रुपये प्राप्त किये जाने की आशा है। यह वास्तव में असाधारण कार्य-निष्पादन है।

सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की आम बीमा कम्पनियों में भी 67,689.68 करोड़ रुपये की सकल घरेलू प्रीमियम आय अर्जित करके आश्चर्यजनक कार्य किया है। पिछले वित्त वर्ष की तुलना में यह वृद्धि 28.88 प्रतिशत है। सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की आम बीमा कम्पनियों ने 53.21 प्रतिशत की हिस्सेदारी के साथ बाजार के अपने प्रभुत्व को कायम रखा है। न्यू इंडिया एश्योरेंस कम्पनी ने 19,065.07 करोड़ रुपये की प्रीमियम आय अर्जित करके सर्वोच्च स्थान प्राप्त किया है जबकि दूसरे स्थान पर 15,500 करोड़ रुपये की सकल घरेलू प्रीमियम आय के साथ यूनाइटेड इंडिया रही है। 14,000.93 करोड़ रुपये की प्रीमियम आय के साथ नेशनल ने तीसरा स्थान अर्जित किया है तो 10,792.91 करोड़ रुपये की प्रीमियम आय के साथ ओरियंटल इन्श्योरेंस ने इसका पीछा किया है। इस तरह से पहले चारों स्थान सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की आम बीमा कम्पनियों ने प्राप्त किये हैं। यह पिछले कुछ वर्षों में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की आम बीमा कम्पनियों द्वारा लगातार अच्छे प्रदर्शन का प्रतिबिंबित करता है।

एल.आई.सी. व सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की आम बीमा कम्पनियों द्वारा यह भारी वृद्धि प्रतिकूल आर्थिक परिस्थितियों व अत्यधिक रोजगारहीनता की स्थिति में प्राप्त की गई है। अर्थव्यवस्था द्वारा दर्ज की जा रही जो भी वृद्धि है उसे जनसंख्या के बहुत छोटे हिस्से द्वारा हथिया लिया गया है जिससे जनसंख्या के बहुत बड़े हिस्से में अभूतपूर्व गैर-बराबरी व आर्थिक वंचना पैदा हो रही है तथा जिसके कारण उनके हाथों में बहुत कम आय शेष बची है। इसके अतिरिक्त सरकार भी सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की आम बीमा कम्पनियों को पूंजी बाजार में सूचीबद्ध करने के अपने निर्णय के द्वारा इस क्षेत्र को विनिवेश के माध्यम से अस्थिर कर रही है। ऐसी परिस्थितियों में सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र के बीमा उद्योग

का कार्य वास्तव में सराहनीय है।

संस्थाओं की वित्तीय ताकत को देखते हुए मांगपत्र उपसमिति की मांगें पूरी तरह न्यायोचित हैं। उत्पादकता स्तर तथा प्राइवेट उद्योग में मिल रहे वेतन की तुलना में ये मांग शालीन ही नजर आती है। उद्योग में एल. आई.सी. का व्यय अनुपात सबसे कम है तथा आम बीमा की सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र की कम्पनियों का व्यय अनुपात भी अनुकूल है। कर्मचारियों ने अपने संस्थानों की वित्तीय ताकत को इस स्तर तक ले जाने के लिये कठिन परिश्रम किया है और वे एक बहुत अच्छे वेतन संशोधन के हकदार हैं।

यद्यपि वेतन संशोधन संस्थाओं की वित्तीय ताकत और अच्छे तर्कों से प्राप्त नहीं होता है और यह सरकार की नीतियों पर निर्भर करता है। ये मजदूर ही हैं जो किसी देश में सम्पत्ति पैदा करते हैं लेकिन दुर्भाग्य से उनके साथ अच्छा व्यवहार नहीं होता है। पिछले कुछ वर्षों से सरकार की नीति मजदूर वर्ग के प्रतिकूल रही है। हमने पिछले वेतन संशोधन के समय इसका अनुभव किया है। पिछले वेतन संशोधन के समय जो मुद्दे तय हुए थे वे अभी भी स्वीकार नहीं किये गये हैं जिसमें काम के दिनों की संख्या का मुद्दा भी शामिल है। एल.

आई.सी. व जिप्सा की अनुकूल सिफारिशों के बावजूद सरकार पेंशन का एक और विकल्प देने से मना कर रही है। व्यापार व उद्योग के पक्ष में श्रम कानूनों में संशोधन करके सरकार मजदूर वर्ग के वर्तमान अधिकारों व लाभों पर भी हमला कर रही है। मजदूरों को उनके जायज वेतन से इन्कार करने का प्रमाण इस तथ्य से साफ दिखाई देता है कि जी.डी.पी. में वेतन का प्रतिशत निरन्तर घट रहा है जबकि नैगम क्षेत्र के मुनाफों का प्रतिशत लगातार बढ़ रहा है।

इसलिये मांगों को प्राप्त करना आसान नहीं होगा चाहे वे कितनी ही न्यायसंगत क्यों न हों। मांगपत्र प्राप्त करने के लिये कड़े संघर्ष की जरूरत होगी। यह स्थिति संगठन के सुदृढीकरण एवं कड़े संघर्ष के लिये उसे तैयार करने की मांग करती है। अतः इकाईयों को मांगपत्र उप-समिति के प्रस्तावों पर विचार-विमर्श करते समय इस बात पर भी विचार करना चाहिये और इसके लिये आवश्यक कदम उठाने चाहिये कि संस्थान की वित्तीय ताकत व कर्मचारियों के योगदान के अनुरूप वेतन संशोधन प्राप्त करने की चुनौती का सामना करने के लिये संगठन को किस प्रकार सुदृढ किया जा सकता है।

## DELHI HIGH COURT JUDGEMENT ON PENSION

The Delhi High Court Judgement on pension has come as a big disappointment. The AIIPA and other petitioners agitated on two major issues. One relating to the full neutralisation of dearness allowance for those retired prior to 1.8.1997 and the second on the issue of periodical updation of pension as and when wage revision takes place for the serving employees, which is the practice in Central Government.

On the first issue, the Court agrees that there cannot be a unilateral cut of date whenever a new benefit is extended. This is discriminatory and violative of Article 14 of the Constitution. Having accepted this in the text of the judgement, it is surprising that the Order does not reflect this understanding. The order gives only marginal relief to some sections of the pensioners. Moreover the Court itself has decided on an arbitrary date of effect.

The Court has completely turned down the arguments on periodical updation of the Pension. The Court makes a distinction between the Government Pension and LIC Employees Pension Scheme. It has held that the pension to the central government employees is paid from the consolidated fund on the basis of pay as you go while LIC pension scheme is a funded scheme. The judgement quoting the financial cost of conceding this demand has juxtaposed the interests of the pensioners with those of the policyholders. This is absolutely not right. The premium income is not stagnant. It has been growing at healthy rate. This growth is more than the growth in the wage bill including the pensions.

The AIIPA is exploring all options to challenge the judgement of Delhi High Court.



# Public Bank Privatisation in a Post-truth World

Prof. C P Chandrasekhar

Centre for Economic Studies and Planning,  
Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.  
Courtesy: Economic & Political Weekly,  
May 13, 2017

Deputy Governor Acharya's take is that PSBs have not just performed badly, but by sheer virtue of being public, have managed to attract a disproportionate share of deposits, including bulk deposits

...the strategy is to separate the healthy parts of public banks and sell them to private banks so that the latter can grow and the former can shrink.

....The money obtained from the sale of the healthy parts would be adequate to finance the write-offs. The NPA problem moves towards resolution and the "goal" of expanding private banking would be achieved. There could not be a more happy ending, for Acharya.

.....What is, however, left unsaid is that the government would now be holding on to a "bank" that is of little value, since its best assets have been sold to write off its bad assets

....The whole analysis, fails to see why public banking came into existence in the first place, and why nationalisation proved unavoidable.

Cartoon courtesy: : Keshav 'The Hindu'



The Narendra Modi government appears to have decided to privatise public sector banks (PSBs). Preparations are underway with arguments being marshalled that "there is no alternative" to privatisation. Noises of this kind have emanated often from the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and government spokespersons, but opposition from the unions and democratic forces inside and outside Parliament have made them just that—noises. Creeping disinvestment was the answer, but control has remained with the state. But now the advocates are getting pushy. While the governor of the RBI and the finance minister have made addressing the problem of weak banks and dealing with non-performing assets (NPAs) the main economic challenges facing the country, the recently appointed deputy governor of the RBI, Viral Acharya, appears to have taken on the task of laying out the road map to reprivatization of public banks, the time for which has possibly finally come.

## Usual Argument

The conventional argument for privatisation is well known. This is that bad decision-making, environmental factors and the absence of due diligence have resulted in an accumulation of NPAs on the books of the PSBs to an extent where they would have fallen by the wayside because of the sheer burden of writing off those losses. The only reason they have not, it is argued, is state support. And with the fiscal crunch, the government is no more in a position to provide similar support, or even the larger support that is now needed. So, mobilising capital from the "market" through sale of new equity that dilutes the government's shareholding is supposedly the only solution.

The fact of the matter is that public banks

have survived not because of the support they got from the government. One presumes that support would mean financial assistance to make up for the capital losses that provisioning to write off bad debt would involve. In practice, budgetary support for recapitalisation, of Rs.50,000 crore over 2015–16 and 2016–17, was far short of the Rs.5 lakh crore of gross NPAs on the books of banks at the end of March 2016, most of which was with the PSBs.

But that is not all. A study by the research department of the State Bank of India has found that over the period 2005–06 to 2016–17, while capital infusion into the PSBs was Rs.1.29 lakh crore, the dividend paid out by the PSBs was Rs.75,000 crore and the cumulative income tax paid was around Rs.1.5 lakh crore. More has flowed from the PSBs to the exchequer than from the latter to the public banks. The PSBs have remained in operation despite that, yet the perception is that NPAs in public banks are a drain on the exchequer and could abort the fiscal reform effort of the central government.

For the last few years, the emphasis has been on selling a part of the NPAs to asset reconstruction corporations (ARCs) at a heavy discount. However, the discounts demanded have been such that the PSBs have not found this route attractive enough, so that actual sale has been far short of expectations. The experience with private ARCs has been a disappointment; it is really asset sale and raising capital from the market that constitute non-government sources of finance to address the problem. But the problem at hand militates against this solution. Given the large NPAs on the books of banks, even when not violating the target of retaining at least 51% of equity, new issues of equity through public offerings may be difficult to push through at a price that is acceptable and non-controversial. So, alternative ways of mobilising capital need to be devised.

A recent ordinance of the government has found a convenient way to get rid of toxic assets in the short run. This is to “persuade” cash-rich public sector companies to acquire these assets in an auction on the grounds that as the environment improves, the borrowers holding these assets would be able to service their loans and the holders of the assets can profit. However, given the nature of these assets and the pressure on banks to take them

off their own books, it is unlikely that the public sector units concerned would gain anything at all. They would have to bear the burden of the write-off, assuming the government can persuade them to buy into these worthless assets. This way of funding the removal of bad assets from the banks’ books not only takes the exercise “off-budget,” but it also conceals the implicit transfer from the government to the large private sector borrowers who are responsible for much of these loans. This is nothing but a subsidy to large firms belonging to business groups, some of whom have even violated the law.

### Case for Privatisation

It is in this context that Deputy Governor Acharya’s case for reprivatization has to be examined. His take is that PSBs have not just performed badly, but by sheer virtue of being public, have managed to attract a disproportionate share of deposits, including bulk deposits. As he put it in an interview to *BloombergQuint*, “Once you have India, Maharashtra or a state’s name in the name of the bank, the depositor knows it implicitly that the bank is very, very safe.”<sup>1</sup> So even public banks with a bad balance sheet and a poor profit record attract large deposits. This helps them survive since they have the resources to lend to healthy projects and sectors that deliver returns, even when much of their money is locked up in NPAs and unhealthy sectors. Helping them out further by violating fiscal discipline and making transfers from the budget would, in this view, only amount to making a bad situation worse.

The tendency, for deposits to migrate to the PSBs has, in Acharya’s view, two consequences for private players in the banking sector. First, it keeps the private sector small, since the volume of business undertaken by private banks is limited by their small deposit base. Second, private banks cannot risk lending to sectors where risks may be higher or profits lower because they cannot hedge adequately against potential losses in these sectors by investing in both these sectors and those in which profits are more certain and perhaps larger. This is, in his view, unfortunate because of the positive role that private banks can play in driving credit in the economy.

Acharya’s real problem is not the NPAs of banks, but the failure of the private sector to grow despite liberalisation in the banking

space. "You look at the last 25 years of private sector growth, the private banking sector growth is flat," he says. "Indian private banking hasn't raised its market share beyond 25%. In fact, it shrunk after the 2007-08 crisis because the depositors, especially the corporates, flew back to State Bank of India and other public sector banks." So the problem is private banking growth, and the constraint is the sheer existence of a public banking sector, since despite poor performance mere public ownership is enough to face the competition from a dynamic private sector.

From here it is a short step to measures that will resolve the problem by shrinking the public sector and expanding the private sector. To quote Acharya again, what

research shows is that there are banks in the private sector like HDFC Bank, Kotak ... which are so well capitalised that they actually have balance sheet capacity ... to take over *the healthy parts of the activities that the public sector banks are engaging in* (emphasis added). Clearly, public sector banks have a branch network and franchise that would be very valuable even to private sector banks.

So, "the right creative destruction," he argues, is that even if the provisions on floors to public shareholding cannot be changed easily, "we need to find the minimum level of transfer of assets, branches, franchise that is possible, from unhealthy parts of the banking sector (*read public banks*) to the healthy (*or private*) parts of the banking sector."

In his view,

why this is important is that we need to wean the banking sector of the implicit government guarantees and subsidies that public sector banks enjoy. We need to allow the private sector to grow if they have been healthy. I am not saying we have to make a mission out of the private sector to grow. But if they are performing well and public sector is not, private sector banks should be rewarded for doing this.

In sum, the strategy is to separate the healthy parts of public banks and sell them to private banks so that the latter can grow and the former can shrink. There is no need to create a bad bank to absorb the bad assets of the public banks. The surgical action of separating the healthy and unhealthy part of the public bank concerned, leaves behind a bad bank. Nor is there any need to dilute shareholding in the public banks to mobilise resources to write off loss assets. The money obtained from the sale of the healthy parts

would, it is hoped, be adequate to finance the write-offs. The NPA problem moves towards resolution and the "goal" of expanding private banking would be achieved. There could not be a more happy ending, for Acharya. What is left unsaid is that the government would now be holding on to a "bank" that is of little value, since its best assets have been sold to write off its bad assets. But, how private shareholders, who had acquired some of the bank equity through past public offers and disinvestment efforts, can be persuaded to go along with this strategy is unclear.

### **Default Interests**

The main problem, however, is that this whole analysis, even if not consciously devious in intent, is ahistorical. It fails to see why public banking came into existence in the first place, and why nationalisation proved unavoidable. It does not take into account how past policy was shaped by what private banks did and did not do. And it is not based on an understanding of what led to a return of bad assets on the books of banks, after they had been cleaned up in the immediate aftermath of liberalisation.

Nationalisation was unavoidable because, despite repeated efforts of the government, private promoters of banks who put in little by way of equity, diverted public savings to projects in which the promoters had a direct or indirect interest. Agriculture and the small-scale sector were starved of credit. In an effort to cut costs at the expense of inclusion, privately owned banks limited their branching and restricted their activities to cities. Finally, with exposure to a few projects that interested the promoters, many banks were vulnerable and fragile. So growth, inclusion and stability pushed the government to take over the Imperial Bank of India in the 1950s and a host of other commercial banks in 1969 and after.

Much was achieved after that. If public banks are in dire straits today, it is because, with the closure of development banking in the country, they have been called upon to finance investments by the private sector in capital-intensive industry and infrastructure (such as steel and power generation and distribution, and transportation and communication). With those projects performing badly, the PSBs are being maligned so as to build a case to use them as instruments to write off the large loans on which big private sector operators have defaulted.

# The jobs challenge: NDA GOVERNMENT'S BIGGEST FAILURE

Dr. Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

## Introduction

Narendra Modi and the BJP had made the creation of jobs on a large-scale (i.e., 2 crore jobs a year), as one of their main election promises during the last Lok Sabha election. Modi had also repeatedly attacked the UPA government for failing to create enough jobs during its decade long rule. But the Modi-led government has failed abysmally on employment even after completing nearly 3 years rule. Job creation in India has been shrinking at an alarming rate now. Despite so-called supercilious growth story, the Indian economy is a straggler in job creation and India's rate of job creation is only two-thirds of the global average. It lags most other countries in creating quality jobs too. Youth in India face a massive job crisis. By 2050, millions of youth in India are going to be unemployed, which may trigger social upheaval.

## Rampant Unemployment, Massive Discontentment

The problem of unemployment both in organized and unorganized sector has been further aggravated during the last three years. According to World Employment and Social Outlook report -2017 of the United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO), unemployment in India is projected to witness increase between 2017 and 2018, signaling stagnation in job creation in the country. The reports also find economic growth trends lagging behind employment needs and predict both rising unemployment and worsening social inequality throughout 2017. Unemployment in India is projected to increase from 17.7 million last year to 17.8 million in 2017 and 18 million next year. Job creation in India is not expected to pick up pace in 2017 and 2018 as unemployment rises slightly, representing a near stagnation in percentage terms.

However, unemployment among the



educated is a more dangerous issue than unemployment among uneducated. In 1935, a committee chaired by Tej Bahadur Sapru laid bare the problems of India's educated unemployed. Last year President Pranab Mukherjee has said India is a "young nation" with 62% of its population in the working age group, and called the segment of population as the assets of our country. While stressing on the need to equip them with skills, he warned that the country may face "unrest and frustration" if youth remain unemployed. Unemployment can turn population dividend into population liability. In his five-year action agenda, which includes deepening the youth focus of existing programmes on employment and entrepreneurship, the UN secretary general has identified the reducing youth unemployment as the number one priority to end extreme poverty and boost sustainable economic growth.

The reality is just opposite in BJP regime now. The harsh reality was reflected from an incident that over 23 lakh candidates, including 2.22 lakh engineers and 255 Ph.D. holders had applied for 368 posts of peon in the Uttar Pradesh State Secretariat that requires qualification of V pass only. Even thousands of candidates with Masters Degree in Commerce, Humanities and Sciences were among the applicants, something that indicates the gravity of unemployment. In the last few years, India has lost on average 550 jobs every single day. This results in frustration and anger and is manifested in a variety of different ways. The Jat agitation in Haryana, Marathas marching in Mumbai or Patidars agitation in Gujarat demanding reservations is clearly due

to the extreme unemployment situation.

### Declining Job opportunities

A great deal has been spoken about India's demographic dividend. By 2020, it is said, India will become the youngest country in the world, with its population's median age at 29. That means a growing working age population, which can purchase goods and services, and a growing middle class. China, by contrast, will have a population with a median age of 37. But the reality for a poor developing country like India is that the working age population must have jobs and education that will provide them jobs, which will give them a reasonable income. Considering the mammoth population of the young that India has, the country needs to generate one million jobs a month to meet the demand. According to a report by United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), India will need to generate 280 million jobs between now and 2050, the year when the working-age population (15 to 64) will peak.

But India's rate of employment has declined and job creation has not kept up with the growing working-age population. According to the recent report by Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), youth inactivity presents the share of young people (age 15-29) not in employment, education or training (NEET) as a percentage of the total number of young people in the corresponding age group. More than 30% (30.83%) Indians aged 15-29 years are neither in employment nor in education and training which is more than that of China (11.22%), Russia (14.04%), Brazil (19.96%), Argentina and OECD average of 14.65%.

Job creation has also been suffering in labour-intensive sectors and data released by the Labour Bureau in April 2016 shows the extent of worry on this count. The Labour Bureau has compiled statistics for job creation in labour-intensive sectors in the country each quarter since the 2008 global financial crisis. The latest figures available show that 1.35 lakh jobs were created in 2015, the lowest figure by far of any year since then — lower than the 4.9 lakh new jobs in 2014 and 12.5 lakh in 2009. In this dreary scenario, the draconian step of demonetisation has destroyed more jobs especially in informal sector which accounts for 90% of jobs

What is perplexing is that the next wave of job losses is expected to happen in services. The sharp contraction in exports — both services and goods — over the last two years have impacted job creation in several key sectors. Experts expect the three key services sectors such as software services, telecom and BFSI (banking and financial services) with total employment of 6 million people is likely to shed nearly 1.5 million jobs in the 12-18 months. This trend has already begun: in the period July-September last year, the information technology/BPO sector lost 16,000 jobs, according to the Quarterly Employment Survey.

In this dismal job scenario, government should try to enhance jobs at least in central government offices. But the latest job creation figures in central government come as a sobering reality check for the NDA government. The total appointments made through direct recruitment in Central government have

Jobs and livelihoods are what people want. Job creation is very vital for a youthful country of 1.2 billion people, with the largest number of employment seekers in the world. We produce 12 million graduates in a year and there just aren't enough jobs for them. Modi-led government has failed abysmally on employment even after completing nearly 3 years rule. Job creation in India has been shrinking at an alarming rate now. Despite so-called supercilious growth story, the Indian economy is struggling on the issue of job creation.



plummeted 89% in 2015 as compared to the year 2013. According to the data presented by minister of state for personnel, public grievances and pensions Jitendra Singh in response to a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha, direct recruitment in Central government have declined from 1,51,841 in 2013 to 1,26,261 in 2014 and further to 15,877 in 2015. What is worrisome is that there is also a 90% decline in the direct recruitment of reserved category candidates in the Central government jobs in the year 2015 as compared to 2013. The data provided for 74 ministries shows that 92,928 candidates belonging to scheduled caste, scheduled tribes and other backward classes were appointed through direct recruitment in the year 2013. In 2014, the numbers declined to 72,077 (69 ministries) which plummeted to only 8,436 (50 ministries) in the year 2015 which is a sharp decline of 90 per cent as compared to 2013.

### **Neo-liberalism is also cause of declining jobs**

The 26 years of economic, reforms have been unable to create adequate jobs; rather it has spawned structural unemployment. Economists like to rubbish the idea that globalisation and automation are job destroyers. They argue that jobs destroyed in one sector will be made up elsewhere. Today, as kirana shops fold up, big retail and online marketplaces may be creating lots of jobs at checkout counters, warehousing and logistics. But job is not created at the same rate it is destroyed. Destruction rate is much higher than creation. According to Arvind Panagariya, Vice-Chairman, Niti Aayog, Indian entrepreneurs' tendency to invest only in capital-intensive businesses or those requiring high-level skills is to blame for the employment crisis in the country. He stressed that these sectors did not create well-paid jobs for those at the bottom of the pyramid. But this is half truth. In the era of neo-liberalism or market economy profits are buzzword while downsizing, cost cutting are top priority. That is why industry behemoths are giving weightage to capital-intensive over labour-intensive industries. Moreover, the employment elasticity of the Indian economy—the numbers of jobs it creates with economic growth—has been declining in the



last few year due to neo-liberalism. Hence we are witnessing jobless growth. The effort of government to liberalise FDI rules at the cost of nation's interest has led to rise of FDI in service sector but not in manufacture, that creates jobs. FDI flowing to manufacturing fell to 23% in 2015-16 from the figure of 35-40% in the previous four years.

### **Conclusion**

Jobs and livelihoods are what people want. Job creation is very vital for a youthful country of 1.2 billion people, with the largest number of employment seekers in the world. We produce 12 million graduates in a year and there just aren't enough jobs for them. India has been also frequently bragging that it has a young population in contrast to the aging population of the western nations. It is this demographic dividend, which will steer India to the front ranks of the global order in the years ahead. But this demographic dividend is going to be demographic disaster resulting in to frittering away the energies of the country's young population due to decline in job opportunities. The ILO has warned of a "scarred generation". Long-term youth unemployment drains the motivation and ambition of those it touches and makes them more cynic. Countries with prolonged high levels of youth unemployment risk social instability. It can also result in a vicious circle of inter-generational poverty and social exclusion. Lack of employment opportunities may trigger violence and juvenile delinquency and social instability. Hence, the Indian government should immediately seek ways to generate decent jobs in large numbers.

# भारत का राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन और मजदूर वर्ग

एन.के.पचौरी

(अन्तिम भाग)



युवाओं और मजदूरों में बढ़ रही समाजवादी विचारधारा के प्रभाव से सरकार बुरी तरह बौखला गयी तथा मार्च 29 को उसने मजदूर आन्दोलन के प्रमुख नेताओं को गिरफ्तार कर मेरठ की जेल में बंद कर दिया और उन पर मुकदमा चलाया गया जिसे इतिहास में मेरठ षडयंत्र के नाम से जाना जाता है एवं सबसे लम्बे व सबसे विराट मुकदमों में गिना जाता है। इस मुकदमे में भारत के मजदूर आन्दोलन की भूमिका अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय मजदूर आन्दोलन के सर्वोत्तम परम्पराओं के अनुकूल थी। मुकदमों के तीन अभियुक्त ब्रिटिश नागरिक थे। रजनी पाम दत्त के शब्दों में

“ इंग्लैंड के मजदूर आन्दोलन के ये प्रतिनिधि जब भारतीय मजदूरों के साथ न्यायालय के कटघरे में खड़े हुए तथा उनके साथ जेल काटने गये तो दुनिया ने मजदूर वर्ग की अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय एकता का ऐसा ऐतिहासिक प्रदर्शन देखा जिसने पुरानी दीवारों को तोड़ दिया और जो ब्रिटेन व भारत की जनता के भविष्य के भाईचारे के लिये एक बहुत ही महत्वपूर्ण मार्गचिन्ह बन गया।”

जनवरी 1933 में उनको सजाएं दी गयीं जो इस प्रकार थीं— मुजफ्फर अहमद को आजन्म कालापानी; डाँगे, घाटे, जोगलेकर, निम्बकर और स्फैट को बारह साल का कालापानी; ब्रेडले, मिराजकर व शौकत उस्मानी को दस साल का कालापानी तथा इसी प्रकार की अन्य सजाएँ। सबसे कम सजा तीन साल की थी। जब सारी दुनिया में इन सजाओं की निंदा हुई तथा इनका विरोध हुआ तो अपील में सजाएँ घटा दी गयीं।

मजदूर आन्दोलन के विकास की प्रारम्भिक अवस्था में ही उसे इस भयंकर दमन का सामना करना पड़ा फिर भी तीस के दशक में आन्दोलन धीरे-धीरे बढ़ता रहा। सरकार ने एक बार फिर हमला किया तथा मजदूर नेताओं को बिना मुकदमे के पकड़कर बंद कर दिया। नौजवान मजदूर सभा तथा कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी पर प्रतिबंध लगा दिया तथा कुछ पंजीकृत ट्रेड यूनियनों को गैर-कानूनी घोषित कर दिया। इसके उत्तर में मजदूर आन्दोलन ने अपनी फूट खत्म करके फिर एकता स्थापित की। 1938 में कांग्रेस सरकारें बनने के बाद मजदूर आन्दोलन ने फिर गति पकड़ी तथा एक की सदस्यता 50 प्रतिशत बढ़ गई। 1937-38 में कलकत्ता के जूट मजदूरों, कानपुर, अहमदाबाद, अमृतसर

व मद्रास के कपड़ा मजदूरों तथा हीरापुर लोहा व इस्पात कारखाने के मजदूरों ने हड़ताल कार्यवाहियों का आयोजन किया। असम के दिगबोई कारखाने में अप्रैल से अक्टूबर 1939 तक छः महीने लंबा संघर्ष चला।

1938 में सरकार द्वारा बंबई ट्रेड डिस्प्यूट बिल पारित किया गया जिसके द्वारा ट्रेड यूनियनों के नियमों को कठोर बना दिया गया था तथा गैर-कानूनी घोषित की गई हड़तालों के लिये छः महीने की सजा की व्यवस्था की गई जबकि तालाबंदी पर कोई प्रतिबंध नहीं लगाया गया था। सभी राजनीतिक दलों ने इसका विरोध किया। डॉ. अम्बेडकर व जमुनादास मेहता ने कहा कि ये कानून श्रमिकों की कीमत पर उद्योगपतियों को लाभ पहुंचाने वाला पूँजीवादी कानून है। इस कानून के विरोध में छः नवम्बर 1938 को एक विरोध प्रदर्शन आयोजित किया गया, जिसमें 90,000 मजदूर शामिल हुए तथा जिसे एस.ए.डाँगे, इन्दुलाल याज्ञिक व डॉ. बी.आर. अम्बेडकर ने सम्बोधित किया। इन्डिपेन्डेन्ट लेबर पार्टी जिसकी स्थापना डॉ. अम्बेडकर ने अगस्त 1936 में की थी, तथा बंबई प्रेसीडेंसी ट्रेड यूनियन कांग्रेस ने मिलकर अगले दिन अर्थात् 7 नवम्बर 1938 को इस कानून के विरोध में हड़ताल आयोजित करने का निर्णय लिया जिसके कारण पूरे प्रान्त में औद्योगिक जन-जीवन ठप हो गया। इसके बाद पूरी दुनिया पर द्वितीय विश्व युद्ध के बादल मंडराने लगे तथा समस्त राजनीतिक गतिविधियाँ पृष्ठभूमि में चली गईं। विश्व-युद्ध समाप्त होने के पश्चात जिस तरह की परिस्थितियाँ बनीं, उन्होंने ब्रिटिश साम्राज्य को इसका एहसास दिला दिया कि उनके लिये भारतवर्ष पर अब और अधिक शासन करना संभव नहीं है। उन्होंने ब्रिटिश संसद में भारत स्वतन्त्रता अधिनियम पारित कराके भारत छोड़ने की घोषणा की। देश की आजादी को बर्बर हिंसा के तांडव से होकर गुजरना पड़ा।

आज जबकि ट्रेड यूनियन आन्दोलन एक बार फिर साम्राज्यवादी हमले का शिकार हो रहा है, राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन

In the present juncture, when the TU movement is again faced with attacks from the imperialist forces, we can draw three directions from the history of our national liberation movement.

*The first one*, we have to know the real enemies in our struggles, for which developing political consciousness is imperative. *The second*, forging unity by rising above religion, caste, language, region and other complexes. And *the third lesson is*, the necessity of coming together of the dalit and TU movements.

के इतिहास से हम सही दिशा प्राप्त कर सकते हैं। इसका पहला सबक तो यही है कि मजदूरों को अपनी आर्थिक माँगों के लिए संघर्ष करने के साथ-साथ राजनीतिक चेतना व जागृति से लैस होना पड़ेगा, तथा अपने दोस्तों व दुश्मनों की पहचान करनी होगी।

दूसरा सबक यह है कि धर्म, जाति, भाषा, क्षेत्र व लिंग की संकीर्णताओं से ऊपर उठकर एक व्यापक एकता का निर्माण आवश्यक है। हमें यह नहीं भूलना चाहिये कि 1908 में जब तिलक को राजद्रोह के आरोप में गिरफ्तार किया गया था तो 2 जुलाई को श्रम न्यायालय में उनकी जमानत की अर्जी देने वाले कोई और नहीं स्वयं मोहम्मद अली जिन्ना थे। उसके बाद भी वे काफी दिनों तक काँग्रेस में रहे। 1916 में काँग्रेस व मुस्लिम लीग के मध्य समझौता कराने वाले लोकमान्य तिलक ही थे। 1920-22 के असहयोग आन्दोलन में मुसलमानों को राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन की मुख्य धारा में जोड़ने के मकसद से ही खिलाफत बहाल करने की मांग शामिल की गयी थी। हांलाकि यह मांग प्रतिगामी थी परन्तु इसका परिणाम यह हुआ कि बड़ी संख्या में मुसलमान राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन में शामिल हुए।

बीस व तीस के दशक में हिन्दुओं और मुसलमानों को अलग-अलग राष्ट्र मानने की आर.एस.एस., हिन्दू महासभा व मुस्लिम लीग की विचारधारा ने सांप्रदायिक आधार पर समाज का विभाजन किया। 1937 में हिन्दू महासभा के

सम्मेलन में सावरकर ने हिन्दुओं को अलग राष्ट्र घोषित किया, तथा 1940 में लाहौर में जिन्ना ने मुस्लिम लीग के सम्मेलन में द्विराष्ट्रवाद का सिद्धान्त पेश कर दिया जिसकी परिणति देश के विभाजन में हुई।

राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन का तीसरा सबक यह है कि दलित व मजदूर आन्दोलन को एकता के सूत्र में पिरोए जाने की आवश्यकता है तथा यह सबक दलितों व मजदूरों दोनों को ही सीखना पड़ेगा। आज दलित आन्दोलन के बिखरने का एक मुख्य कारण यही है कि उसने उत्पीड़ित व मेहनतकश वर्ग के जनवादी आन्दोलन से स्वयं को अलग कर लिया है। मजदूर आन्दोलन के कमजोर होने की भी यह एक मुख्य वजह है। राष्ट्रीय आन्दोलन से सही सबक लेकर ही हम मजदूर आन्दोलन का सही दिशा में विकास करने में कामयाब हो सकते हैं।

श्रोत:

1. भारतीय स्वतंत्रता इतिहास का आन्दोलन- ताराचंद
2. मॉडर्न इंडिया - सुमित सरकार
3. आज का भारत - रजनी पाम दत्त
4. शहीद-ए-आजम- सं-सत्यम वर्मा, अनुवाद- विश्वनाथ मिश्र
5. दुर्दम्य (लोकमान्य तिलक जीवनी)-गंगाधर गाडगिल हिन्दी रूपान्तरण- प्रकाश भातमब्रकर
6. डॉ0 भीमराव अम्बेडकर-जीवन व कर्म-एम.एल.सहारे



Twenty five of the prisoners, which included two leaders of the British TU movement also, in the Meerut Conspiracy Case, photographed outside the Meerut jail. This case was foisted by the British rulers to curb the nascent working class movement in India.



## Syncretism is Real India

There are innumerable examples to validate that we can proudly claim ourselves to be the part and parcel of common culture irrespective of our religion, language, caste and creed and so on, for creating a unique culture in India alone. It is this heritage which gives birth to a school of thought that propounds that India was not a nation but unity of cultures.

India today is facing challenges not only in culture but in every sphere of life and living. India is undergoing an era of turbulence.

Jayanta Mukherjee

Since the last Loksabha elections, our country is witnessing a series of incidents terrorizing the common people. The situation has gone to such an extent that some are demanding specification of 'religion' of the Indian State, the Prime Minister himself is taunting 'secularism' from a new perspective & distributing Bhagavat Gita to heads of states going abroad. It is a paradox that though earlier statesmen were proud to make this country secular, the present ruling class is rebuking their predecessors. Then what is our future? It would be difficult to answer this question without analyzing our glorious past.

Culture cannot be dissociated from our lives and daily activities; rather it is reflected in each action of human life. Each ethnic community has its own ancient cultural tradition, which reveals the specific nature of its culture. The word 'culture' broadly covers the sum total of a nation's aesthetic and intellectual achievements. India, since time immemorial, has been regarded as a land of composite culture. Hazari Prasad Dwivedi, in his 'India cultural Tradition and socialist Future' (in Hindi) writes, "It is very clearly evident as far back as history allows us to go, that the cultural history of India is a Saga of diverse cultures coalescing. Innumerable races have come to this land. For some time there is a sharp clash with the local people, appearing as if this terrific struggle will be never ending. But in a short time, the struggle subsides and after widespread exchange of many things, they both become the heirs to a common culture. Like layers of silt depositing in a delta, finally leading to the emergence of a very fertile land,

ours is a history of the deposition of multiple layers of different cultures, leading to the formation of a great Indian culture".

Yes, it is true that the India through the ages was never isolated from the rest of the world. It came into contact with almost every great civilization the world witnessed, however, it never met with the same fate as other great civilizations did, like the ancient Egyptians or the Mesopotamians or the Romans. All this could be boldly attributed to the 'dynamism' of our great past – this ultimately gave rise to 'Composite culture'. The following lines are sufficient to explain it:-

*"Unan O misr O roma  
Sab mit gaye jahan se,  
Baki magar hai ab tak  
naam O nishan hamara" –*

*"The ancient civilizations of Greece, Egypt and Rome today have become irrelevant. However our civilization continues to thrive and progress."*

**Salient Features:** –

India's diversity – linguistic, religious, ethnic, cultural, etc. – is incomparably vast than any other country in the world. Officially it has been recorded that there are 1618 languages in India, 6400 castes, six major religions – four of them that originated indigenously, six anthropologically defined ethnic groups, each with its own hereditary features, dress, customs, food habits, family relations and marriage rites.

The Anthropological Survey of India stated that the people of India have emerged from the following races; Proto-Australoid, Paleo-Mediterranean, Cancasoid, Negroid and

Mongoloid. Various nationalities involved are: Aryans, Persians, Greeks, Huns, Arabs, Turks, Africans, Mongolians and Europeans. There has been so much intermingling that nowhere can one find a 'pure' specimen of any nationality. It has been observed that difference in colour, height and build, and other hereditary features are much more pronounced between members of the same community, as compared to those between members of different communities. Similarities exist more between people residing in one region than between people of the same religion or caste from other regions.

It has been scientifically established that there are no genetic differences between 'upper' castes and 'lower' castes. The people of our country have had a close connection with the natural (such as flora, fauna, etc.) and social environments and for centuries they have participated in each other's lives and struggles. It is these historical mutuality and collective struggles that have moulded the shape of our diversity as well as our unity.

#### **Some Historical Aspects:**

Although Islam entered India in 669 A.D., the leaders of our country's Hindu fundamentalist organisations link the entry of Islam to Babar's invasion in 1526 A.D. Babar was a famous warrior of Turkmenistan. An Indian King Maharana Sanga, in consultation with the ruler of Gujarat, Mahabat Khan, decided to invite Babar in order to defeat Ibrahim Lodhi, the powerful Muslim ruler of Delhi Sultanate, with an army of 1 lakh soldiers and 1000 elephants. The ambitious warrior Babar entered India with a small army of only 12000 soldiers. Both Indian kings accorded him an enthusiastic welcome, and helped him against Lodhi. Babar was victorious and Lodhi was killed. The Indian kings advised him to loot the treasures and go back to his land, but Babar refused. As a result, a ferocious battle

took place between Babar and Rana Sanga in the plains of Panipat, where again Babar emerged victorious.

Babar came to India in 1526 A.D. and died in 1530 A.D. Before his death, he wrote a letter to his son Humayun. His character is revealed by a letter preserved in the Nawab's library at Bhopal, an excerpt of which is as follows:

*Jamadi ul Auwal / 930 hijiri,*

*My dear son Humayun , it is God's great bounty that you have received a country like India to rule. This land has many races and religions. So do not desecrate the place of worship of any religious follower.....*

The legendary battle of Haldi was fought between Rana Pratap and Akbar. This battle had a great importance for Rana Pratap in particular, and for Rajputs and Rajasthan in general. Akbar's army was led by the Rajput Man Singh whereas Rana Pratap's was under Hakim Khan Soor. The chief of Rana Pratap's artillery too was a Muslim Sardar.

Similarly Shivaji had many Muslims working under him in very high and responsible posts. Shivaji's personal bodyguard included a Muslim youth called Madari Mehtav. This shows that what was important was not religion but power. Many such examples can be cited to show that the soldiers and noblemen were loyal to their masters irrespective of religion. Neither Hindu nationalism nor the mission of spreading Islam inspired the standing armies of the feudal period. To serve a master as long as he fed, was the general social practice.

It is true that the invading Muslim armies, while expanding their rule, looted and destroyed temples. But this is not the whole truth, it is a half-truth. The tribes like armies of Arabs, Turks and Afghans were not regularly paid. It was an accepted practice for them to loot and keep their share with them as wage. So, looting wealth was the prime concern as certain Hindu temples used to be very rich. Moreover, Muslim



Babar before his death, he wrote a letter to his son Humayun. In this letter preserved in the Nawab's library at Bhopal, he writes:

*Jamadi ul Auwal / 930 hijiri,*

*My dear son Humayun , it is God's great bounty that you have received a country like India to rule. This land has many races and religions. So do not desecrate the place of worship of any religious follower.....*



kings were not alone in their loot of temples but even Hindu kings also looted temples for the wealth. Chronicles such as Kalhana's Rajatarangini tells us that Harsha Dev, king of Kashmir, used to loot Hindu temples.

The process of cultural integration was carried forward vigorously under the Mughals, crystallizing under Akbar and finding expression in diverse fields such as architecture, painting, music, literature and such others are too well known. These are the concepts of Sulh-i-kul, and the gradual emergence of a new ruling class which had a more composite character, and projected and propounded a liberal, tolerant ethos. We know that Shahjahan's son Dara Shikoh (1615-1659) attempted to build a bridge of spiritual unity and philosophical assimilation between Hindus and Muslims. He studied all religious scriptures and established contact with all religious teachers. Dara Shikoh was instrumental in the spread of Upanishads all over the world. During his time Viswanath Temple of Varanasi (Kashi) was reconstructed through the efforts of Ahilyabai.

In the past we find Radical Bhakti Movement headed by Kabir, Raidas, Sena and many others who stood for human equality, opposed the caste-based society and emphasized the fundamental unity of all religions. We have also seen the emergence of Sufi poetical works, wherein a systematic effort was made to find a meeting point between Hindu and Muslim practices and beliefs. The real name of Bulle Shah, the Punjabi Sufi poet, was Madhavlal Hussain. He never considered himself either a Muslim or a Hindu. A famous Punjabi song of this Sufi poet states:

*'Raze the mosque and the temple,  
raze whatever can be razed,  
But don't ever break anybody's heart,  
for God lives there.'*

Further we can call upon the name of Lalan Fakir, who was born in a Hindu family, brought up by a Muslim couple and became a disciple of a Sufi Saint Shiraj Shah. He was called a Baul Samrat because of his contribution of composing more than 3000 Baul songs which were mainly based on the ideal of religious tolerance. The two great poets of Bengal Rabindranath Tagore and Kaji Nazrul Islam

were fond of the ideology of Lalan Fakir.

We all know the name of a legendary Sehnaï player – Ustad Bismillah Khan. He often played at Hindu temples including the famous Viswanath Temple in Varanasi on the banks of the river Ganga. He was once asked to stay back in America following his concerts there, even with a promise that a Varanasi would be replicated for him there to which he said "Sukriya, an image can never be the real thing. Varanasi is where the Ganga flows, where I can play the Shehnai for Lord Shiva. I shall be at home, nowhere else but in India".

Similarly, Pandit Ravi Shankar, the sitar maestro, a great composer of classical music was a Bengali Brahmin born in Varanasi. His Guru was none other than Alauddin Khan.

*Some glorious glimpses of Harmony may be cited.*

- \* When Goswami Tulsidas first came to Benaras, the local pandas (priests) abused and stoned him for using Awadhi and not Sanskrit language in Ram Charit Manas. It was the Muslim Governor of Benaras, Rahim Khankhana, who came to his rescue.
- \* The closest friend of Guru Arjun Das was Miyan Mir, who laid the foundation of the Golden Temple at Amritsar. He was also the tutor of Dara Shikoh, Jayasi, Amir Khusro, Dadoo, Baba Farid and Rahim.
- \* The Nawab of Awadh used to play Holi for 13 days and Raslila was held in his court. Amir Khusro has penned numerous songs on Holi.
- \* During the first war of Independence in 1857, the Generals of Queen Laxmibai of Jhansi were Muslims. Gulam Gaus Khan and Khudad Khan. They died defending the gates of the Jhansi Fort on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1857.

There are innumerable examples to validate that we can proudly claim ourselves to be the part and parcel of common culture irrespective of our religion, language, caste and creed and so on, for creating a unique culture in India alone. It is this heritage which gives birth to a school of thought that propounds that India was not a nation but unity of cultures.

India today is facing challenges not only in culture but in every sphere of life and living. India is undergoing an era of turbulence. The unprecedented ascendancy of the right wing B.J.P. to power, the shameless assertion of the Home Minister that 'we are R.S.S.' signifies that it is no more the remote control, but the government itself is being operated by R.S.S. (Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh), which wants to snatch away the multi hued diversify of Indian Culture, replacing it with a single monolithic brand. It brazenly declares that the present secular democratic fabric has to be replaced by a theocratic authoritarian one.

Further, both globalization and communalism seek to divert the attention of the people from their daily sufferings and importantly weaken their struggle against the existing exploitative order. But, Indian constitution which promotes cultural social and political plurality and swears by secularism is considered an obstacle to the promotion of the Hindutva project.

It is the responsibility of the working class and progressive sections of the Indian people to defend the Republic, the Constitution, the plurality and diversity of our Nation. This is the need of the hour. Then and then only we can materialise the words of the great poet Iqbal:

**" Sare Jahan se achcha  
Hindustan Hamara".**

(The writer is a  
Joint Secretary of AIIEA)



Over centuries music world in India has been highly secular and its contribution to strengthen composite culture has been invaluable. This has been so mainly because the legendary artistes intensely respected these values and practised them religiously in their day-to-day life without tom-toming about it.

History has recorded that king Ibrahim Adil Shah of Bijapur composed many verses in praise of Ganesh, Durga, Saraswati et al. In the early 1950s Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan was living in Karachi. In a music concert he was singing a composition containing the word 'Kanhaiya' (Krishna) beautifully. A VIP in the audience sent a chit to drop the word 'Kanhaiya'. The indomitable singer said he had no right to do so and doing so would be sacrilege. Later he migrated to India and rose to legendary status.

Ustad Alladia Khan was under the patronage of Sahu Maharaja of Kolhapur for sometime. When Alladia Khan learnt about a genuine problem of farmers who were suffering on account of their land being acquired forcibly, Khansaheb reported it to the Maharaja and he being a progressive administrator resolved the problem. Revered Hangal Kumar Swamiji brought renowned musician Ustad Wahid Khan to Shivayog Mandir to train Panchakshari Gawai who later became 'Gana Yogi'. When Bhimsen Joshi was moving from place to place in search of a guru, Ustad Hafiz Ali Khan (father of Ustad Amjad Ali Khan) helped



Cartoon courtesy: Alok Nirantar (@caricatured)

# Rich Composite Culture: Preserve We Must

'Music is the universal language of the mankind'. This age old axiom is well accepted not only in music circles but outside as well. Why then unnecessary hue and cry about talented Nahid Afrin and Suhaana Sayyad who sang so well in recent television singing competitions? Why the songs sung by them should raise a controversy? Needless to say that this is done deliberately by obscurantist minds.

R.H.Ayi



him stay in Gwalior and taught him *raag* Marwa.

There were many Hindu musicians in the courts of Muslim kings and Muslim musicians in the courts of Hindu kings and they were held in high esteem. What mattered was not religion but the musical prowess of the artistes concerned.

How can we forget the mesmerising impact on the audience who heard Ustad Abdul Karim Khan singing "Gopala Karuna Kyun Nahii Aawe"; Ustad Bade Ghulam Ali Khan singing "Hair Om Tat Sat"; Ustad Amir Khan singing a khayal "Jinake Mana Ram Viraaje" in *raag* Malkauns; Vidhushi Parveen Sultana's thumri "Tum Radhe Bano Sham" and bhajan "Bhavani Dayani" in *raag* Bhairavi. So also, audience have gone into trance hearing Pt. Bheemsen Joshi sing "Tuhai Mohammad Sha Nizamuddin Auliya" in *raag* Suhaa-Kaanada; Pt. Jasraj singing "Allha Jaane Moula Jaane" in *raag* Todi. Audience just enjoyed the bliss of music. It was immaterial for the music lovers to which religion the singer belonged. For these musicians music has been their religion. This glorious tradition continues even today.

When someone asked shahanai maestro, Bharat Ratna Bismillah Khan, who lived in Varanasi, as to why he was not willing to go to United States, he quipped saying that he can take shahanai to US but cannot take Vishwanath temple and river Ganga.

Ustad Rahamat Khan who was hailed as 'Bhoogandharva' took shelter in

Siddharudhswamy Math in Hubli for quite some time. Ustad Rahimat Khan, a renowned Been- Sitar player, who came down from Indore (MP) and made Dharwad his home in early 20<sup>th</sup> century, was honoured by the then Maharaja of Mysore. The title of 'Sitar Ratna' was conferred on him by Mysore Darbar.

Amirbai Karnataki, Gohar Jaan, Jubeida Bai, all noted Kannada theatre artistes were known for attracting large audience by their rendering of songs in praise of gods. Hussein sab of Raichur has made name by singing 'Daasa Vaani' and is popularly called Hussein Das.

'Music is the universal language of the mankind'. This age old axiom is well accepted not only in music circles but outside as well. Why then unnecessary hue and cry about talented Nahid Afrin and Suhaana Sayyad who sang so well in recent television singing competitions? Why the songs sung by them should raise a controversy? Needless to say that this is done deliberately by obscurantist minds.

At a time when vigilantism is barging into our houses, intolerance is taking its own toll, university campuses coming under surveillance, the richness of our composite culture needs to be understood in its letter and spirit. Unity and integrity of India can only be protected by nurturing the spirit of secularism and ethos of composite culture.

(The writer is the former  
President of IEU, Dharwad)



The formation of the ministry led by EMS Namboodiripad in Kerala on April 5, 1957, was hailed in India and abroad as well and it literally stunned the world. In fact, it was the product of militant struggles conducted by the Communist Party to protect the basic rights of the People at large and the workers and downtrodden in particular. It paved way for the socio-cultural development of Kerala State, the "Kerala Model Development". All the development indices such as total literacy, health care, education etc are far ahead of all other states of the Country.

## Diamond Jubilee of the First Communist Party Government

M.Kunhikrishnan

**2017** is the Diamond Jubilee year of the first Communist Party Government democratically elected through constitutional parameters and by the free exercise of franchise by the electorate of Kerala. The ministry led by **Com. EMS Namboodiripad** was sworn in on 5<sup>th</sup> April 1957. EMS is no more with us but he lives in the hearts and minds of millions of people.

The formation of the ministry in Kerala on April 5, 1957, was hailed in India and abroad as well and it literally stunned the world. In fact, it was the product of militant struggles conducted by the Communist Party to protect the basic rights of the People at large and the workers and downtrodden in particular. While actively engaging in the struggles of the freedom movement, the Communist Party also fought against exploitation of landlord gentry to ensure sustainable wages to the agricultural workers. The movement of peasants and agricultural workers had to fight against the onslaughts of bourgeois – landlord system which suppressed the workers using police machinery as a tool. Hundreds of comrades lost their lives, thousands had to go to jail and suffer all kinds of brutal attacks of landlord goons and police. The Communist Party raised the slogan of "land to tillers" and organised the agricultural workers in many a struggle. The confidence reposed by the have-nots in the Communist Party resulted in fruition by installing a Communist Government in Kerala.

### **Towards land reforms**

The Government of Kerala promulgated an ordinance on April 11, 1957 (just six days after assuming office) prohibiting all evictions of tenants, sub-tenants, and occupants of homestead land on any ground, including failure to pay rent. Further, all Court proceedings initiated by landlords against tenants, sub-tenants, and occupants of homestead were stayed. The ordinance was issued as a prelude to the Agrarian Relations Bill that the Government intended to enact.

Finally, the Agrarian Relations Bill was adopted by the Kerala Legislative Assembly in June 1959 which protected genuine interests of tenants and occupants of homesteads. The legislation defined 'tenant' to include not only tenants but sub-tenants and every authorised or unauthorised occupants of a piece of land or a small patch of land on which a hut had been built. All such tenants were given fixity of tenure. The rent to be paid by the tenants was substantially reduced and a fair rent fixed. The Agrarian Relations Act had provisions for distribution of surplus land to the landless and poor peasants involving popular committees. Thus, a pioneering adventure in distributive justice was given statutory shape.

### **Democratisation of educational system**

Another novel move was in the field of education. A Bill was introduced in the Assembly with the intention of democratising education

system of Kerala. The prime objective of the Bill was to provide direct payment of salaries to teachers in private educational institutions, to curb the power of the managers to suspend or dismiss teachers from employment, to fix criteria for appointment of teachers and the related matters. The practice prevalent then was to get the vouchers for full amount discharged by the teachers and to pay them a paltry sum, thereby pocketing a major portion of salaries by the managers. The new Act enabled teachers in private educational institutions to receive the same emoluments as their counterparts in Government schools.

### **New Police policy**

The EMS Government adopted a new Police policy and a new approach towards struggles of mass organisations. It prohibited third-degree methods and torture of persons in custody. The Police were not allowed suppress strikes, struggles, and agitations of workers, peasants, agricultural workers and other sections of people. It was also declared that all industrial disputes would be settled through bilateral negotiations between employers and workers.

### **Agriculture and Small Industries**

A vigorous drive was launched for increasing agricultural production. Various forms of co-operative societies were formed for strengthening small and cottage industries.

### **Involving people in the administration**

The Government gave great importance in associating people of all walks of life in the day to day functioning of the administration. The Government constituted People's Committees to supervise, advise and assess the work of permanent officials in various departments, viz, Food, Land Revenue, Health, Education etc.

### **Public Distribution system**

Public Distribution System was strengthened by a system of 'Fair Price Shops' through which supplied rice and other essential items at cheap rates to the needy sections.

### **Democratic decentralisation**

The Administrative Reforms Committee headed by Chief Minister EMS Namboodiripad as Chairman was formed to examine the issue of administrative reforms with "Democratic Decentralisation" as the key word. New Bills were introduced in the Assembly for vesting elected Panchayats with all functions discharged by Revenue and other department officials at the village level. It also proposed for transfers of many functions discharged by District officials to elected District Councils with elected Presidents and assisted by Deputy Collectors. These Bills could not be made Acts but the move acted as a precursor to decentralization of powers to lower levels of administration and adoption of Panchayati Raj Bills by Central Government, years later.

### **Care to minorities**

The Muslims in Malabar area (northern part of Kerala) were not allowed to repair or do maintenance work in their mosques or to construct new ones because they were considered as criminal tribes by British colonial rulers. They had to obtain special permission from district Collectors for this purpose. The Communist Government ended all discriminative practices against Muslim minorities and provided equal rights with all other religious believers.

In short, EMS ministry paved way for the socio-cultural development of Kerala State, the "Kerala Model Development". All the development indices such as total literacy, health care, education etc are far ahead of all other states of the Country.

*The first Communist Ministry in India*



## Ministry toppled

The Agrarian Relations Bill irked the landlords, Nair Service Society, Indian National Congress, Praja Socialist Party and Indian Union Muslim League. The reforms proposed in the field of education annoyed all of them including Christian Church and other reactionary establishments. Their unholy alliance embarked upon a move 'Operation Overthrow' coining a slogan 'Vimochana Samaram' – Liberation Struggle – to 'liberate' Kerala from Communists. The agitation attained pitch with the tacit connivance of Congress High Command and other vested interests aided by motivated dollars from abroad.

Though the Communist Government headed by Com EMS enjoyed a clear majority in the Assembly and had unstinted support of the people it was overthrown by the Nehru Government on 31<sup>st</sup> July 1959 invoking provisions of obnoxious Article 356 of the Constitution. The undemocratic act remains as a blemish on Jawaharlal Nehru, who was considered as a true democrat.

## Legacy continues

Had that Government been allowed to complete its full term the present socio-economic status of Kerala would have been different. Despite all odds, six Governments led by Left and Democratic Front came to power in the state in fixed intervals, thereafter. All these Governments made all out efforts to make the vision of EMS, the legendary visionary, a reality.

Kerala is presently ruled by LDF Government headed by Com. Pinarayi Vijayan. It follows the legacy of 1957 EMS ministry and is keen to introduce various measures for the development of the state in all spheres. Com.Pinarayi inaugurated yearlong celebration of diamond jubilee of first communist government on 5<sup>th</sup> April, 2017 announcing a slew of programmes. The Government which pursue pro-people policies is entering its second year on 25<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The 'New Kerala Mission', the special purpose vehicle established by the government, has been entrusted with the job of identifying the areas where Government's focused attention is required to attain goals set. The Government is rededicating itself for the establishment of a new Kerala ensuring equality, development, a peaceful, strong, democratic and secular state which will pave way for delivery of justice to all.

(The writer is  
Vice President of AIIEA)



## BOOK REVIEW

The Modi government's sudden demonetization of Rs.500/- and Rs.1000/- notes on 8<sup>th</sup> November, 2016 had not only failed to dent the black economy and black money in India, it had caused enormous burdens and hardship to the millions of Indians. It has created a debate on the black economy and black money in India.

India's black economy is the main reason why India continues to be a poor country, all the economic gains of the past few decades notwithstanding. India's black economy is estimated to be 62% of GDP, generating (at 2016-2017 prices) about Rs.93 lakh crore of revenue (or \$1.4 trillion). It is larger than the income generated by agriculture and industry put together, which is about 39% of GDP. It is larger than the size of government spending, (Centre plus states) which is about 27% of GDP. Because of its existence, the country's economy has been losing on an average 5% growth (when compared to official figures) since the mid 1970s when the black economy became significant. If we add 5% to the rate of growth over the past four decades or so, the size of our economy would be Rs.1050/- lakh crore or about \$15 trillion at the current rate of exchange instead of Rs.150 lakh crore (or \$2.2 trillion) as it is now.

This is what, Mr.Arunkumar is saying in his latest book titled "**Understanding Black Economy and Black Money in India**". The author traces the route of black economy and black money in India and has suggested remedies also to get rid of it.

"A proper understanding is needed to both measure the size of the black economy and to talk of its impact on society. The common notion that the black economy means cash is not an accurate description. Essentially, the black economy consists of activities through which black incomes are earned. So, the black economy is about

# Understanding the Black Economy and Black Money in India

S.Sivasubramanian

earning incomes (which is a flow) and not the holding of cash (a stock).

"In India taxation begins at a high multiple of per capita income say two or three times. Because of deductions and concessions available, people only begin to pay taxes at four to five times the per capita income. So, most people are out of the tax net. That is why out of a population of almost 130 crore, only about 5.2 crore people are in the tax net. Even then the number of people who actually pay significant tax is only about 1.5 crore (1.2 percent of the population) as the rest file either a low return or a nil return. Thus the tax base is very narrow" the author says.

Further 94% of the workforce is in the unorganized or informal sector(as per the Economic Survey) and earns very low incomes. Bulk of them are in agriculture and earn an income way below the taxable limit.

"In a country like India, black income comprises wholly illegal activity generating black income, as well as legal activities generating black income by committing an illegality which results in tax evasion" he adds.

About the Macro economic aspects of the Black Economy, the author says "It has been shown that wages are inflated to show higher costs and generate black incomes. Revenues are shown to be less through under invoicing and wages (costs) are over-invoiced(shown to be higher).

The black economy results in loss of revenue of about 25 per cent of GDP at current rates of taxes. In comparison, the fiscal deficit is currently around 4% of the GDP for the Centre. Had the black economy not existed, the revenue deficit which underlies the fiscal deficit and rising debt in the budget would have been wiped out so that the fiscal health of the government would have been better. If the black economy had been white, there would have been a surplus in the budget and there would have been much greater investments in infrastructure and poverty removal. Also, with

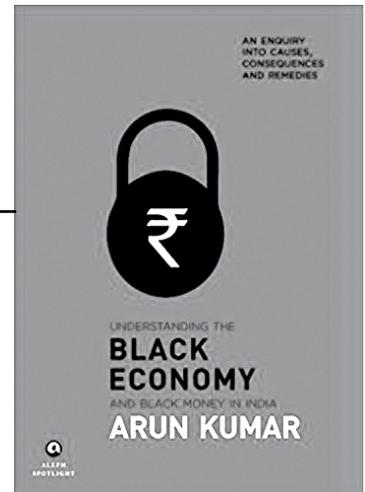
less corruption, expenditures would have been more effective".

India's macro economy cannot be correctly understood without taking the black economy in to account. "For most empirical analyses the black economy that should be incorporated is not, so there is a gap in the analysis. For proper analysis the black economy is either a missing or a mis-specified variable".

"Today, in a vast and poor population of 1.27 billion, there are 39 million who are well off – the size of a European nation – who can afford all the luxuries, because many of them have large black incomes in addition to their high white incomes. This explains the existence of vast poverty in the midst of glitzy markets and the ostentatious consumerism of the wealthy."

While tracing the origins and growth of black economy and black money in India, he was explaining to some extent the transfer of power at the time of independence. The political class that emerged from the national freedom movement was democratic in its aspirations, but its members came from the country's elite class and had feudal inclinations. They thought of themselves as rulers and not as true representatives of the people. Consequently, independent India started with high aspirations, but a weak democracy because the power was transferred from the colonial masters to a relatively unaccountable political class and a civil service that was accountable mostly to the ruling elite. As the democratic aspirations of the national movement weakened, the political class became more corrupt".

On the post-globalisation phase he was briefing the concessions given to the private



sector – Direct taxes reduced, licencing eliminated, imports liberalized and so on. He says “a triad of corrupt Politicians, businessmen and the executive which was already in place changed its style of functioning and the way it shared the gains from corruption. Many politicians became businessmen – openly or by setting up proxies who at times were their family members. Businessmen also entered politics in large numbers. Privatisation and establishment of infrastructure of the private sector(in public private partnership mode) offered new opportunities for making illegal gains by cornering resources like land, forests and mines. Greater participation by the private sector since 1991 in the education and health sectors has also created enormous opportunities to indulge in illegalities. The number of scams and the amount of money involved per scam has grown exponentially in the decades since then”.

Under the caption “What fuels the Black Economy”, the author argues that the evasion of taxes, whether direct or indirect is not linked to the rates of taxes alone. He quotes an example. “A 2007 Alternative Economic Survey article showed that the rise in the direct tax to GDP ratio was a result of increase in inequality and not better compliance. A 2016 Economic and Political Weekly article shows that eventhough the number of people in the direct tax net has risen to 52 million in 2012-13, the latest year for which the data was released(from 1999 to 2015 the government did not release this data), the effective number of tax payers was approximately 1`5 million or just about 1.2% of the population. Thus the tax base has not broadened effectively in spite of lower tax rates”.

While talking about Mr.Modi’s Demonetisation act, Mr.Arunkumar says that the scheme was imposed on the country with little or no forethought. He says that it must be understood that the black money the government was targeting is only about 1 per cent of the black wealth held in the country and only 3.5 percent of the black income generated in 2016. Even if the government managed to suck out all the black cash in circulation, it would not have much effect on the black economy which involves various activities in which black incomes are generated. It does not stop these activities from continuing.

Not only do a vast majority of Indians, rich and poor, use cash and not credit cards for daily financial transactions but businesses need it for working capital to buy raw materials, pay wages and other requirements for production and sales.

The black economy is unlikely to be impacted by demonetization. Even if there is an effect, it will be small. The bigger impact is likely to be advent of recessionary conditions and a decline in production and incomes which will adversely affect tax collection, leading to an increase in deficit and additional problems for the government”.

On the ‘Remedies’, he is suggesting short, medium and long term remedies. On the short and medium term, he is suggests “it is crucial to bring under RTI all political parties,the judiciary, the PM and CM’s Offices.” He is suggesting autonomy of the institution like the CVC, CAG, CBI, ED and RAW.

On the changes in the structure of Taxes he says that the tax structure needs simplification and modification. He suggest that there should be wealth taxation on all forms of wealth, gift tax and estate duty.

The author says that one of the problems to be resolved is the role of political funding by big businesses. He says”this is usually hidden from the public gaze. It leads to crony capitalism. This backdoor funding needs to be changed”.

Mr.Arunkumar has emphasized throughout the book, in order to tackle the black economy, the triad of corrupt politicians, businessmen and the executive has to be dismantled. He says that this can only be done via changes in the politics of the land. It cannot be achieved by the good intensions of someone or by some technical devices.

Concludingly he says “Political change is only possible with a change in the consciousness of the public. This requires the fostering of the social movements for change. People’s movements can be an effective check on politicians. What is needed therefore is a combination of large scale movements by the people which will force change upon the political class and change that is initiated within the system by members of the executive. Only then will it be possible to dismantle black economy”.

Contd on Page 40

# 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of SCZIEF Reception Committee formed



A meeting to form the Reception Committee to organise the 11<sup>th</sup> General Conference of South Central Zone Insurance Employees' Federation was held at Lions Bhavan, Udupi on 13.05.2017. The Conference will be held from 18<sup>th</sup> November to 21<sup>st</sup> November 2017.

Sri Amanulla Khan, President, All India Insurance Employees' Association who attended the meeting as Chief Guest in his address lauded the Insurance Employees' Union, Udupi Division for accepting to host. He spoke elaborately on the twin dangers of neo-liberalism and communalism facing the working class and the need to confront these policies. the 11<sup>th</sup> Zonal Conference of SCZIEF. He hoped that Udupi Unit will utilise the opportunity of hoisting the conference to carry out massive campaign amongst the people against the policies of the government and the rising communalism which is weakening the unity of the working class. He was confident that the conference would dilate all these issues in detail and formulate action plan for the next three years.

Sri J. Suresh, Joint Secretary, SCZIEF in his address thanked all the fraternal trade unions and mass organisations for extending whole hearted support for making the the conference a successful one. While explaining the challenges before the working class, he assured the other trade unions that as a conscious trade union, the occasion will be utilised effectively to unleash powerful campaign against the policies of the government and also to campaign to strengthen the public sector LIC.

Dr. K Rajendra Udupi, Professor, NITK, Surathkal was elected as the Chairman of Reception Committee. Com. K. Vishwanatha, President, IEU, Udupi Division, Com. A.S. Acharya, Convenor, JCTU, Udupi Dist., Com. P Vishwanatha Rai, President, CITU, Udupi Dist., Com. Balakrishna Shetty, Vice President, CITU, Udupi District were elected as Vice-Chairmen. Com. U.Gurudath, General Secretary, IEU, Udupi was elected as convenor and Com. Sripada Herle P was elected as Treasurer of the Reception Committee.

Sri R.M Samuga, General Secretary, LIC Class - I Officers Assn., Sri Nandakrishna, General Secretary, NFIFWI, Sri Ramesh Kumar and Sri Shekhar B Poojary, LIC Agents Organisations, Literary Scholar, Smt Madhavi Bhandary, Smt. Suma S, General Secretary, Udupi District Lecturers' Organisation, Rationalists Sri K. Phaniraj, Sri G. Rajashekhar and Sri Hayavadana Mudusagri, Sri K. Shankar, General Secretary, CITU, Udupi Dist, Sri K.V. Bhat, AITUC, Sri Herald D'Souza (AIBEA), United Forum of Bank Employees', Sri Ravindra, BEFI, Sri Shashidhar Golla, BSNLEU, Sri H. Vittal Poojary, Udupi District Construction Workers Assn. and Smt. Nagarathna, GIC Employees Union were elected as members.

The Chairman of Reception Committee, Dr. K. Rajendra Udupa thanked IEU, Udupi for electing him as the Chairman of Reception Committee. He said "the introduction of robotic technology is a major challenge to the working





class of this country. The Robotic technology of this magnitude would challenge the very existence of working class". He hoped that the forthcoming conference would throw light

on all these issues and find ways and means to fight this challenge. The Members of the Reception Committee spoke and assured their full support for the successful conduct of the conference.

Revolutionary songs were presented by the members of IEU, Udupi before the start of the meeting. Com. U. Gurudath, General Secretary, IEU, Udupi welcomed the gathering and presented the background in which the conference is being organised. Com. Deric A Rebello compered the programme. Com. K. Vishwanatha, President, IEU, Udupi presided over the meeting and presented vote of thanks.

## May Day celebrated in Chennai

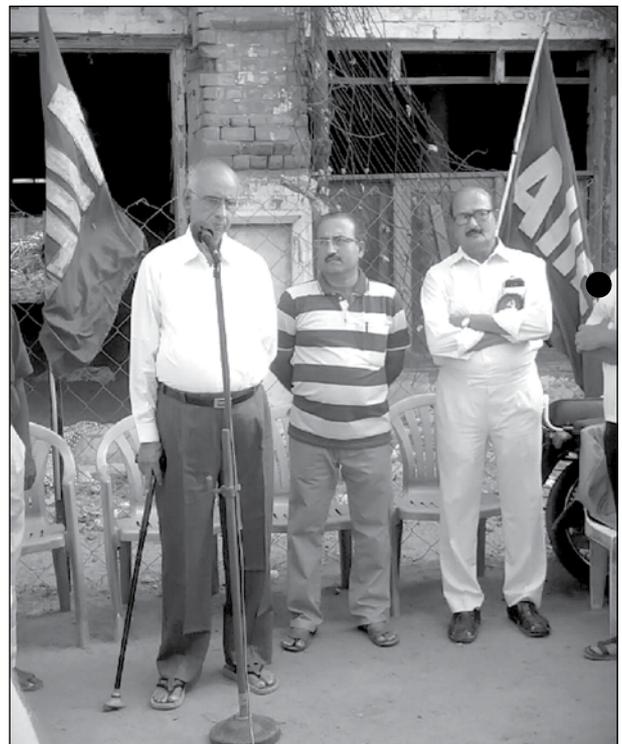
Traditionally celebrated throughout the nations of the Day as May Day signifying and highlighting the contributions of the labour force to the development of mankind, was observed by the comrades of Chennai, both from the Life and General Sectors in front of Bharat Building. Com.N.M.Sundaram, veteran leader of the AIIEA, hoisted the AIIEA flag.

The year since last May had seen several changes in the political fields of several European countries as also the United States of America, where the rightist forces captured power, resulting in hate being preached against the foreigners residing within those countries. The year also witnessed some progress achieved by the leftist forces even in countries like the Britain, USA, France, etc.

In India, apart from the nation-wide strike in September, 2016 by the workers and employees, Anganwadi, mid-day meal workers and others organized under the CITU went on strike on January 20, 2017 and one lakh Medical Representatives struck work on February 3, 2017, the bank employees and officers went on a strike on February 28, 2017, 13 lakh Central Government employees struck work on March 16, 2017 and the workers of Salem, Durgapur and Badravathi Steel Plants observed a strike action on April 11, 2017 against privatization.

In his address to the gathering, Com.N.M.Sundaram, referred to the enactment of the Indian Trade Union Act in the year 1926

by the then British imperialist government in the midst of struggles by the working class as also the mutiny by the soldiers; the Industrial Disputes Act was enacted as the first Act immediately following Indian independence in 1947; the rights of the working class came under attack during the period of emergency proclaimed by Mrs. Indira Gandhi in 1975. He said that today the Hindutva forces are



incited by the ruling classes to attack the religious minorities; there are also moves to curtail the trade union and democratic rights of the working class, who are to be organized, educated, united and made to involve themselves in struggles against neo-liberal capitalism and attacks on minorities.

Com.S.Rameshkumar, General Secretary, ICEU, Chennai Division -I, presided over the meeting and conducted the proceedings. He also expressed his thanks to the assemblage, which included leaders and cadres of AIIEA from both the LIC and GIC.

## Diamond Jubilee Year conference of VDIEA

The 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual conference (Diamond Jubilee Year) of VDIEA was held on 22-24<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in the auditorium named in memory of com. Ramji Ram and com. Uday Nath Singh at Varanasi divisional office campus.

### Inaugural Session

Com. Amanulla Khan, President AIIEA inaugurated the conference and Com. Rathindra Nath chakravarty, former Vice-President AIIEA who was the honorary chairman of the Reception Committee of conference greeted the Participants in the session.

Over 500 employees both Men and women enthusiastically participated in the impressive inaugural session. Com. Narayan chatterjee, President VDIEA hosted the Flag of AIIEA amidst thunderous slogans reverberating in the air.

Com. Amanulla Khan, President AIIEA inaugurated the conference with his thought provoking address. He gave a vivid description of the achievements and struggle of AIIEA. He said the journey of 60 years was not easy for AIIEA and VDIEA. He explained the Lock out of

1974 when AIIEA called for indefinite strike and after 14 days strike AIIEA defeated the divide and rule policy of Late. PM Indira Gandhi. He pointed out that the change in government alone has not led to change in the policies and present NDA government pursues the same policies which the congress led UPA has followed with greater aggression. He advised the comrades to strengthen the AIIEA both ideologically and numerically. He said that we need to protect and advance the interest of L.I.C by strengthening and consolidating the organization. He also spoke at length about the progress achieved by LIC and said the financial prosperity of LIC makes the demand for 40 percent wage revision totally justified.

Com. V. Ramesh, General Secretary, AIIEA briefed in detail about CGIT case, new appointments, charter and organization related matters along with national and international scenario in reference to life insurance industry. He emphasized on the need for recruitment to infuse new blood in the institution considering

*Continued on next page*



## Diamond Jubilee Year conference of VDIEA

*Continued from previous page*

the average age which is now close to 50 years.

Com. V. Ramesh said this is a historical moment for VDIEA. The charter sub-committee met just before the commencement of the inaugural session to take stock of the developments and progress of the institution and decided to make a demand for 40 percent wage hike effective from 1.8.2017.

This was truly a historical occasion for VDIEA. All the Zonal General Secretaries of AIIEA were present. The Vice-President from General Insurance and Secretary, Standing Committee too graced the occasion. Com Sanjeev Sharma, President, NCZIEF and the tall leader of the zone Com Ashok Tewari were present in the inaugural session. The inaugural session came to a successful close with Com. Narayan Chatterjee, President VDIEA proposing the vote of thanks.

There was a cultural programme on 22<sup>nd</sup> evening which was very interesting and the Audience enjoyed the whole programme. The "Kathak Dance" of Narayan Chatterjee daughter's was excellent.

### Delegates Sessions

The Delegates Session was held in Shilatuli hall on 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup> April 2017. AIIEA President, General Secretary, NCZIEF President and General Secretary addressed the delegates. 28 delegates participated in the discussions on the report presented by the General Secretary of VDIEA. Former General Secretary VDIEA Sagar Chatterjee and D.C.Singh also participated in the discussions.

Com. Vinod Srivastava, General Secretary, VDIEA summed up the debate agreeing to include certain suggestions that came up in discussion. He also gave clarifications on the points raised in the discussion. With this the house adopted the report unanimously. The audited statement of Accounts submitted by com. Shailendra Mehrotra, Treasurer was approved by the house. The conference also adopted a number of resolutions on issues that are important for the insurance employees and the toiling masses of the country. To increase the membership fees to 20 Rupees from 10 Rupees per month.

The conference elected unanimously Com Narayan Chatterjee as President, Com Vinod Srivastava as General Secretary and Com Shailendra Mehrotra as Treasurer for the ensuing term.

The conference came to a successful conclusion with thunderous slogans. ●

## LICPA Ernakulam Conference.

The 18<sup>th</sup> annual general conference of Ernakulam Division LIC Pensioners' Association was held on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2017. After hoisting of flag the conference started at about 10.30AM in the morning having Com. CSP Nair, President at the chair.

The conference was inaugurated by Com. P S Subramanian, central working committee member. He gave a good account of the pensioners' case in the New Delhi high court. HE gave an elaborate account of how AIIPA is pursuing the case. Our lawyers presented the facts and argued the case quoting constitutional provisions and the violation of fundamental rights.

The chief guest was Com. C B Venugopal, President, KSGIEU. He reminded the impending attacks on the working class as a whole and

insurance employees in particular. The general insurance companies are on the verge of selling their shares. He warned us that it may come in LIC also. Therefore we have to be very vigilant and have to put up a very effective resistance to the attacks on our industry.

Com.PB baburaj, General Secretary, LIC Employees' Union, Ernakulam Division spoke on the successful conduct of the 24<sup>th</sup> General Conference of AIIEA at Ernakulam. He thanked the pensioners for the cooperation and support given for the conduct of the conference.

Report presented by Secretary was discussed and passed. Comrades CSP Nair, P Kunhikkannan and A Raghunathan Nair were elected as President, Secretary and Treasurer respectively. ●

# Women's Convention at Kozhikode



The 26<sup>th</sup> Women's Convention of LIC Employees' Union, Kozhikode Division held at Kozhikode on 19<sup>th</sup> April 2017 was inaugurated by Dr. Khadeeja Mumthas, noted literateur and Vice Chairperson, Kerala Sahithya Academy. In her inaugural speech, she gave a brief account of the present socio economic condition of India and said that all civic rights were being put to danger. A wave of intolerance and communalisation is sweeping over India and all democratic rights are being thrown to winds. The secular character of India is threatened with each passing day. The youth of the country on whom the future is dependent is becoming more and more passive, which does not augur well for the Indian democracy. She urged upon the women comrades to tutor their children well, so that they become responsive to the happenings around. Comrades T.Sreeja, Preetha Thomas, R.Swapna, K.P. Bindu, A.D. Poornima, P.G. Thanuja, K. Shylaja, P.K. Bhagia Bindu, T. Anusree and K. Rekha participated in the debate on the report presented by

the convener Com. T. Bindu. Com. M. Kunhikrishnan, Vice President, AIIEA and Com. C Raveendranathan, former Vice President, AIIEA greeted the Convention and Com. P.P. Krishnan, Joint Secretary, SZIEF summed up the discussions.

Resolutions were passed decrying atrocities against women, against the move to disinvest the public sector general insurance companies, demanding passage of the Bill providing 33% Reservation for women in decision making bodies, demanding recruitment of the Class III and Class IV employees in LIC, demanding recognition of AIIEA, demanding solution to all pending issues including the 5 day week and calling upon the employees to join hands with all activities to resist the growing intolerance and communalisation. The Convention elected Divisional Women's Sub Committee of 37 members with Com. T.Bindu as Convener and Comrades C.H. Sapna, M.D. Rugmani, T. Sreeja (Kozhikode), A.D. Poornima (Thalassery), K. Shylaja (Kasaragod), K.P. Bindu (Kalpetta) and K. Shylaja (Perinthalmanna) as Joint Conveners. 172 women comrades from all the Base Units of Kozhikode Division attended the Convention. A presidium consisting of comrades P.K. Bhagia Bindu, C.H. Sapna, A.D. Poornima, MD Rugmani, K. Shylaja and K.P. Bindu guided the proceedings. Com. T. Bindu gave the welcome address and Com. C.H. Sapna proposed the vote of thanks.

## TWO WHEELER RALLY AT SATARA DEMANDING JUSTICE FOR FARMERS

I.E.U Satara along with comrades of M.S.M.R.A organised two wheeler rally. The participating comrades assembled at Gandhi Maidan. Veteran Comrades C.P.Kulkarni and A.N.Mulley addressed the inaugural meeting. Placards demanding justice to "Arhar" producing farmers and contract workers were held by participating comrades. The rally after covering the main route of city reached LIC divisional office, where CITU comrades joined the meeting. The meeting was addressed by Com. Vasant Nalawade, president WZIEA, Com. Milind Manohar of MSMRA and Com. Manik Awaghade of CITU. Com. S.Y.Bhujbal proposed vote of thanks.



## STATE LEVEL CONVENTION AT GUWAHATI

A state level convention organised by NERGIEA against disinvestment of the share of 4 PSU General Insurance Companies and GIC-Re and demand for one more option for pension under 1995 scheme was held at Lakhiram Baruah Sadan auditorium at Guwahati on 22 nd April 2017 under the Presidentship of Com. Bhubaneswar Baruah.

Com Anand, General Secretary, GIEA (SZ) was the chief guest. He gave details of the performance of the PSU general insurance companies and their contribution towards Indian economy. Despite such performance the central government has decided to list the companies in the stock market which is nothing but the move towards privatisation and destabilisation of economic sovereignty of the country in the name of neo-liberal policy adopted by the government. He called upon the employees to unleash powerful united struggle against the decision of the government and also carry forward the campaign programme amongst the customer, agents and general people about the role of the public sector general Insurance companies. He pointed out that it is the need of the hour to merge the 4 PSU general insurance companies and formation of one monolithic corporation in the scenario of competitive market. He also analysed the genuine demand for one more pension option.

Another guest speaker Com. Satanjib Das, Vice-president, AIEA addressed in the house eloquently. He analysed the performance

of the 4 PSU general Insurance Companies and mentioned that in the interest of the private and foreign capital government has decided to list the PSU general insurance companies. He called upon the rank and file to be in preparedness to intensify the struggle to defend the attempts of the government to disinvest share of the companies which is nothing but an attempt to privatise the insurance companies. He also called upon the insurance employees to properly understand the policies being pursued by the authoritarian government at the centre that are destabilising the public sector, the backbone of the economic sovereignty of the country.

Com. Surajit Das, president EZGIEA addressed the house and called for united struggle of the employees of all section to save the industry.

Com. Tapan Sharma, Secretary, CITU, Assam, Com Garga Talukdar, Joint Convenor, Joint council of Trade Unions, Assam, Com Dinesh Kakati, Secretary, Bank employees Federation of India, Assam unit spoke at the convention in support of the resolution moved by Com. S.R.Dev, Joint Secretary. NERGIEA.

The house unanimously adopted the resolution and decided to carry forward the united struggle of the employee and intensify the campaign programme amongst all section of employee, customer and general masses to defeat the move of disinvestment and in support of the demand for one more pension option.

## EZIEA: Zonal Level TU Class for Women Activists



without organizing them. The Jaipur Conference of A.I.I.E.A. decided to form Women's sub-committees in all the divisional units. She underlined that though the progress is not uniform throughout the country, we have to

identify the reasons for the same and take efforts to find solutions to them.

**E**astern Zone Insurance Employees' Association (E.Z.I.E.A.) organized its first Zonal Level Trade Union Class for Women Activists on 30<sup>th</sup> April, 2017. Howrah Division Insurance Employees' Association hosted this class in the Conference Room of Howrah Divisional Office. 101 women comrades throughout the Eastern Zone participated in the programme.

At the outset, Com. Jayanta Mukherjee, Joint Secretary of A.I.I.E.A. and General Secretary of E.Z.I.E.A., explained the relevance of the programme and appreciated the women participants coming from far and near in large numbers. The educative venture was distributed in two sessions.

The first session was presided over by Com. Ramkrishna Dutta, Vice President of E.Z.I.E.A. The Joint Secretary and first female Secretariat member of A.I.I.E.A. – Com. M. Girija discussed on 'Women Empowerment in the Present Situation – Challenges & Tasks'. In her lucid speech, she stated that in spite of considerable progress since seven decades of independence, many evil forces still prevail in the modern Indian society that resists the forward march of its women folk. She explained that women empowerment means emancipation of women from the vicious grips of social, economic, political, caste and gender-based discrimination. She reminded the great social reformers like Raja Rammohan Roy, Pandit Iswar Chandra Vidyasagar and Jyotirao Phule who started agitations for the empowerment of women. She said that leaders like Comrades B.T. Ranadive and R. Umanath of C.I.T.U. indicated that when working women are part of the working class, the trade union movement will remain partial

The second session was presided over by Com. Amitendra Chatterjee, another Vice President of E.Z.I.E.A. The Vice President of A.I.I.E.A. and President of E.Z.I.E.A. Com. Satanjib Das spoke on 'Challenges Before the Public Sector Insurance and Our Tasks'. He reminded that though the B.J.P. opposed F.D.I. hike in insurance when U.P.A.-II was in power, the same B.J.P. passed the same Insurance Laws Amendment Bill with the help of Congress party as soon as they assumed power at the Centre. He mentioned that when the disposable income of the masses is decreasing, domestic savings is falling and so scope for insurance business is naturally shrinking. He expressed with grave concern that in this year's budget, the Government proposed to disinvest 25% shares of public sector general insurance companies to garner Rs. 11,000 crores. He highlighted that both life and non-life insurance industry throughout the world is yet to recover from the global financial crisis and is stagnating. Indian insurance industry has a vast potential because of its demographic dividend and so the developed countries would pressurise the F.D.I. ceiling to increase beyond 49%. A government which is rabidly anti-public sector and beholden to F.D.I. is prone to succumb to such pressures. He proudly declared that A.I.I.E.A.'s continuous campaign and struggle for the last 25 years in defense of public sector insurance is unique in the history of Indian trade union movement and unparalleled in the world. This relentless

*See P. 30*

## GDIEA Diamond Jubilee : State level Seminar



A state level seminar was organised on 6<sup>th</sup> May, 2017 at Institution of Engineers, Guwahati as valedictory function of the yearlong celebration of Diamond Jubilee of Gauhati Division Insurance Employees' Association (GDIEA). Renowned scientist, a prolific writer, professor Shyamal Chakraborty of Kolkata University addressed the seminar titled as "India 2017-Challenges and Possibilities" as guest in chief and mesmerised the audience.

In his one and half hour long deliberation Prof. Chakraborty started with the significance of the year 2017 being loaded with the celebration of the centenary of great November Revolution and bicentenary birth anniversary of Karl Marx, the greatest philosopher of 20<sup>th</sup> Century as surveyed by BBC. The speaker

referred to the speech by Gopal Krishna Gandhi, the former Governor of West Bengal by saying that our country been ruling parallelly by Mukesh Ambani along with Narendra Modi. He extensively dealt with the growing intolerance and attack on scientific temper in our country and exemplified his submission referring the incidents of murder of Narendra Davolkar, M Kalburgi and Govind Pansare. The speaker lambasted the disrespect shown now a days towards the reputed world figures such as Amartya Sen and Romilla Thapar by the fascist force that left no stone unturned to term mythology as history and theology as philosophy. And, as the speaker put it, if they succeeded to do the first, later would automatically be implemented. To highlight the danger of mingling religion with the state politics Prof Chakraborty referred to the drama "Bishorjon" written by Robindra Nath Tagore. Lastly the speaker appealed all to take pledge to protect our future generation from the cultures of communalism by cultivating scientific temperament.

The massively attended seminar was presided over by Com. Birendra Kr Kalita, President, GDIEA and General Secretary, GDIEA Com Bhabendra Kr Kalita explained the purpose of the seminar. Com Satanjib Das, President, EZIEA introduced the guest in chief to the audience. At the outset the musical troupe of GDIEA performed two choruses.

## TU Class for Women Activists

*From P 29*

campaign helped public sector insurance to march forward and become market leader despite adverse economic scenario. This campaign has to be broadened and intensified further with involvement of agents, field staff, policyholders and countrymen at large. He asserted that the united struggle of the working class and other sections of the toiling people for reversal of neo-liberal policies and for a pro-people alternative policy-framework must be strengthened. He concluded by saying that this political struggle demands

enhancing the consciousness of the employees to a higher plane through which the offensives of communal and divisive forces must be resisted ideologically and organisationally.

Com. M. Girija was felicitated by Com. Jayanta Mukherjee and Com. Satanjib Das was felicitated by Com. Pradip Kumar Gargari, Joint Secretary, EZIEA. The class enlivened when the participants involved in an interactive session with intelligent questions and ably reciprocated by illuminating answers by the speakers.

# Trade Union Classes at Raichur



As part of the organisational consolidation programme, Insurance Employees' Union Raichur Division conducted Trade Union classes on 26<sup>th</sup> March 2017 at Raichur for the comrades working in the Raichur, Yadgir, Sindhanur, Manvi branch units. Com J Suresh, Jt. Secretary, SCZIEF and Com. K Gopal, General Secretary, ICEU, Bangalore Divn-II were the faculty. They took classes on the topics Challenges before Insurance Industry and our role, and Organisation respectively.

The classes began with a revolutionary song rendered by group of comrades led by Com A. Venkatesh of DO base Unit. Com Sridhar, Jt. Secretary, welcomed the gathering. Com M Ravi, General Secretary, in his initial remarks said that in a situation where in the attacks on the industry and employees a coming in new forms, we should also get ourselves readied to face the challenges and in this direction such type of classes will certainly help us achieving success. Therefore, he appealed to the participants should make optimum utilization of the information provided in the classes.

Dealing on the subject Challenges before Insurance Industry and our Role, Com. J Suresh elaborated the challenges our Industry is facing today in the wake of the change in the policies of the government. Due to the sustained campaign unleashed by AIIEA, LIC could retain its market share in the country and has performed exceedingly well both in field of new business and servicing as well. The government is coming out with newer and newer attacks on LIC and GIC with a sole motive to weaken them and later on, handover not only the ownership of these mighty organizations but also the huge corpus of lakhs of crores of rupees of the hard earned savings of the common man of this country invested here. In spite of the best performances both state owned Insurance companies, this government is now divesting its share in PSGI companies to garner a meager amount from the market fully aware of the fact that these companies are functioning profitably but also have huge reserve funds several times more than what this government is planning to mobilise through disinvestment. This is nothing but a systematic move by the government to shed of its responsibility of social commitment of providing insurance coverage to the needy at a cheaper and affordable price, which otherwise is not given by the private insurance companies as the experience itself shows in our country since the opening up of the sector in the year 2000.

Com. K Gopal, who dealt with the subject,

*Contd on Page 40*



## Seminar on Dr. Ambedkar at Madurai



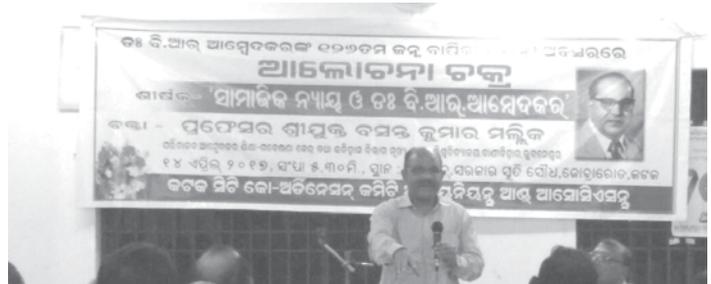
ICEU, Madurai organized a seminar on 14<sup>th</sup> of April 2017 at Madurai commemorating the birth anniversary of Bharath Ratna, **B.R. Ambedkar**. The programme was presided over by Com. **G. Meenakshisundaram**, President. Com. **S. Balasubramanian**, Vice-President,

GIEA-SZ garlanded the portrait of B.R. Ambedhkar. Com. **J. Vijaya**, Vice-President welcomed the gathering. Com. **K. Swaminathan** delivered Special Address on the topic, **Jai Bhim – Lal Salam**. He narrated the contributions of Dr. B.R. Ambedkar and quoted various incidents from his life. Further, he pointed out the recent developments taking place to alter the social fabric of our nation and explained that Ambedkar's Life and his thoughts are all the more relevant and essential today and reiterated that the trade union movement and other democratic organizations have to understand this essence fully to carry forward the movements in future. The Seminar was well attended by our comrades and from other fraternal unions. The programme came to an end with vote of thanks proposed by Com. **N.P. Rameshkannan**, General Secretary.

## Cuttack City Co-Ordination Committee observed Ambedkar Jayanti

Cuttack Division Insurance Employees' Association is the founder and forerunner of Cuttack City Co-ordination Committee of Unions and Associations comprising State Govt, Central Govt, Bank, OSGIEA, FMRI, and Nursing etc. Unlike earlier CDIEA under the banner of Cuttack City Co-ordination Committee observed 126<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar on 14th April 2017 at S.N.Sircar Memorial hall, Cuttack. More than 100 comrades from constituent units participated in the occasion. Com.M.G.Barik, General Secretary, CDIEA and Com. Prakash Ray, BEFI both being joint convenor of co-ordination committee presided over the meeting. After brief introduction of the guest by Com. M.G.Barik, Com.Prakash Ray briefed the contribution of Ambedkar and the importance of observance.

Shri Basanta Kumar Mallick, Head of the Deptt of History and Director of Ambedkar Research Centre, Utkal University, Vani Vihar, Bhubaneswar graced the occasion as Chief Guest Cum-Speaker. Sri Mallick at the outset congratulated the effort of CDIEA and OSGIEA for the Construction of a Building for Trade Union Activities in the name of S.N.Sircar, the pioneer of middle class trade union movement in the state of Odisha. During his one hour long brilliant presentation he stated that because of inadequate study and understanding most



of us project Dr.Ambedkar as the icon of caste based reservation and critique of caste system. Highlighting the identity of Ambedkar abroad, he reminded the view of Barack Obama, Ex-President of USA that had he born in USA he would have been conferred the highest position of the State. On his visit to India, once Nelson Mandela told if he would be asked to take anything from India, definitely he would choose the 'Constitution of India' enacted by Dr. B.R. Ambedkar'.

Counting the contribution of Dr. Ambedkar he pointed out that on Water Resource Management what has been implemented, planned and dreamt, all are of Dr. Ambedkar during his tenure from 1942-46 as Cabinet Minister of Labour, Irrigation and Power. Not only he has formed River Valley Authority to oversee Centre-State issues on Damodar, Mahanadi and on other rivers but also build Hirakud Dam in Odisha and planned the connectivity of rivers to control flood and

drought. Since he was convinced caste is the root of major problems in India he attempted his best to bring solutions through constitution but did not succeed for opposition. On his second Assignment- Hindu Code Bill he had proposed the Abolition of Castes, Rights of Women on Education, Property, Adoption, Divorce and Appointment of Priests not by birth but by competitive Examinations like Christian community erupted serious opposition for that the bill was withdrawn and he resigned as Law Minister on the ground of morality.

Ultimately he accepted Buddhism after deep study on every religion. At that time what Ambedkar had visualized those problems are seen today in black and white. His dream of Caste less Society and State Socialism is much felt in today's time. To the concluding part S.J. Mallick very calmly answered the questions of the audience. The meeting was concluded at around 8 pm. after vote of thanks proposed by Com Abhay Kumar Das, Organizing Secretary, CDIEA.

## Dr. B.R. Ambedkar Jayanti at Hazaribagh

Dr. Bhim Rao Ambedkar Jayanti was organized and celebrated under the banner of All India Insurance Employees' Association, Hazaribagh Division on 14.04.2017.

Program was inaugurated by garlanding the portrait Baba Saheb by Chief guest, special guest & other members of organization.

Smt. Kavita Sarkar in her address appealed that one should follow the path of Baba Saheb's ideology & struggle to achieve goal of life.

After that, Com. Ganesh Kumar Verma (CITU), District Secretary, CPI(M) spoke on the three slogans coined by Dr Ambedkar - Organize, Educate & struggle. He stated that main resource of social upliftment is education. He questioned on present Macaulay based education system. He said less than 10% of youth of our country get to reach higher education. Locally situated Indira Gandhi Residential school was one of the eminent institution of country but now this institution is on the verge of closure. Private School became the firm of capitalism on the other hand govt. schools are far away from quality education.

After that, Sri S.K. Ram, President of LIC Class-1 federation highlighted the complete Biography of Baba Saheb and his early life struggle.

Sri A.B. Rath, Marketing Manager, in his address said that Baba Saheb had completed PHD in Six subjects and played the most important role in drafting the Constitution.

Sri S. K. Samantaray, Special guest, Sr. Divisional Manager, LIC of India, Hazaribagh, lauded the efforts of Dr. Ambedkar for bringing into sharp focus the question of caste discrimination and the need for its annihilation.

Chief guest Prof. K. P. Sharma, the former HOD of Political Science at Vinoba Bhave university, Hazaribagh lauded the role of Dr. Ambedkar for his struggle on behalf of

the most deprived sections and spoke on the cultural diversity and richness of India. Those who dreamed of social change and social welfare and sowed seeds, their birth anniversary is now being Politicized today. He condemned this politicization and said that this is the politics of the ballot and this is not going to help Dalits.

Professor Sharma praised the Insurance Employees' union (AIIEA) saying that even though you are less in number but your organizational ability, efficiency and dedication is enough to get any result.

At the end of ceremony Mahendra Kishore Prasad, General Secretary of the Insurance Employees Association discussed the struggles and history of the organization. He said that our ultimate aim is to establish an exploitation free society. He gave details of the social activities of the association like distribution of bags, books, copy pen etc. in many schools, in addition to donation of inverter in Balika Avashiya Vidyalaya (Gurukul) Hazaribagh and distribution of meal among tribal Birhor village every week. With this he proposed vote of thanks to guests and participants.



## Seminar on Ambdekar at Vijayawada

On the eve of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar's 126th Birth Anniversary, the Insurance Corporation Employees' Union, Machilipatnam Division, organised a Seminar on 13<sup>th</sup> April 2017 on the topic "In the Contemporary Society Dr.Ambedkar's Ideology and the relevance of Equality and Social Justice" in Vijayawada, which was



addressed by the Main Speaker Dr.T.Srikumar, President, Jana Vignana Vedika (Progressive Science Forum), Krishna District and Associate Professor, Dept of Physics, Andhra Loyola College, Vijayawada. Vijayawada CAB Branch Manager R.Mario attended as Chief Guest. ICEU, Machilipatnam Division Vice Presidents - Dr.Ch.Kaladhar, Com.L.Anand, Jt.Secretaries Com.E.V.Tulasi Rao and Com.S.V.Giridhar spoke on the occasion. ●

## Seminar on Impact of Communalism in Chennai

To commemorate the 127<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Dr.B.R.Ambedkar a seminar was organized by ICEU Chennai Div-2 on the topic "How Communalism affects the Right to Live of Citizens" on 22nd April.

Professor Arunan delivered the special address. He explained in detail who are responsible for dividing people on religious lines, pitting one against the other. He said beef eaters are demonized. They are made to be looked down by the vegetarians. These people decide the menu on our plate. In CBSE schools and Kendriya vidyalaya students

cannot opt for Tamil as a subject. Between Tamil or Hindi exercised by students previously, is curtailed. "Only Hindi" slogan is heard vociferously. Even in universities, the welfare of the Oppressed caste students are neglected. Their freedom of expression is denied. These people are opposing the 33% reservation for women in parliament. It robs the right of all women alike whether they belong to upper or lower caste. Prof.ARUNAN concluded his speech by saying that the Hindutva politics endangers the entire country.

Com M.Dhanaselvam, President, ICEU Chennai Div-2 presided over the function. Com.K.Manoharan, General Secretary gave the welcome speech. Com P.M.Ramesh, Vice President delivered the vote of thanks.

The seminar was grand success due to the enthusiastic participation of a large number of comrades. ●





## Trade Union Class at Chennai

A special trade union class was held on 8.4.2017 in Chennai. The topic of the special trade union class was "ICEU-60". Comrade S.Rajappa the veteran leader AIIEA took the class. The class was conducted as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebrations of ICEU, Chennai division-I. Earlier on 14.3.2017 the diamond jubilee celebrations was inaugurated by Com.N.M Sundaram former President of AIIEA on 14.3.2017.

Com.S.Rajappa enthralled the audience with the history of struggles of ICEU, Chennai Division. He narrated the history right from the formation of ICEU in the year 1956 till his retirement from services of LIC. A total of 127 comrades attended the class including forty women comrades. The class was a great success.

Com.S. Ramesh kumar, General Secretary, ICEU, Chennai Division-I, presided over the program and conducted the proceedings.

He also expressed thanks to the assemblage, which included leaders like Com.NMS, K.Swaminathan, R.D.Dharanipathy, R.Boopathy and others.



## Trade Union Workshop at Kottayam

A one day Trade Union workshop was held on 23 April 2017 by LICEU, Kottayam Division for the branch leadership. Com.VK Prasad (former AIBOC), unit manager, Desabhimani Publications, Kochi took the class on "Globalisation policies - after 25 years". Com.Baby Joseph, President, LICEU dealt with the subject "Industry and the organisation". In the afternoon session, Com.CB Venugopal, President, KSGIEU led the class on "Working class unity against communalism". Around 50 comrades took part in the workshop. Com.V K Ramesh, Gen. Secretary, LICEU welcomed

the participants. The classes were presided over by Com.Baby Joseph and Com.PN Vijayamma (Vice-President).



# INSURANCE NEWS IN BRIEF

- ▶ LIC continues to climb the market share ladder. In the just passed financial year 2016-2017 LIC has acquired a market share, in new business, of 71.07 per cent up from 70.4% in 2015--16 and 69.2% in 2014--15. LIC booked Rs.1.24 lakh crore first year premium at the close of this financial year. 23 private insurance companies have underwritten a new business premium of Rs.50,626.23 crore. While the entire life insurance industry saw a growth of 26.13 per cent LIC grew by 27.22 per cent. In relation with the number of policies LIC's share is 76.09 per cent with 20131500 policies.
- ▶ The motor insurance premium for the year 2017-18 which were announced in April 2017 have now been modified by IRDA reducing them. However, the premium rates for the current financial year are higher than those of the previous year. The Motor Vehicles (Amendment) Bill, 2016, gives some relief to policyholders with regards to the provisions of third-party claims. This Bill, which initially had proposed a cap on insurers' liability at Rs.5 lakh for grievous injury and Rs.10 lakh for death, in its finality, has no cap. And to the dismay of the insurers the Bill seeks to increase the minimum compensation to Rs.2.5 lakh for grievous injury and Rs.5 lakh for death.
- ▶ New India Assurance Company, a Public Sector General Insurance company, comes forward to provide health cover to 4.5 lakh knitwear workers under MediPlus 365 Plan. Tirupur Exporters Association is the principal insured of this group health insurance scheme. The contribution by the worker will be Rs.1 per day for 365 days. Same is the premium to the cover of family members under the scheme. Facility of cashless treatment is also available at the designated hospitals. The scheme has come into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> May. "This arrangement was essential as the facilities provided by ESI (Employees State Insurance) dispensaries are not only not adequate but are pathetic" says Tirupur Exporters' Association.
- ▶ What it had lost in last August to ICICI Lombard, The Oriental Insurance Company, a public sector insurer, has gained back in March 2017. ICICI Lombard had over taken Oriental Insurance in August 2016 by underwriting a gross premium of Rs.2880 crores. At the end of the financial year 2016-2017, in March 2017, Oriental Insurance pushed ICICI Lombard out of the top 4 slot among the general insurers. With a gross under written premium of 10792 crores, Oriental Insurance Company now commands a market share of 8.46 percent. For the last 15 years the four public sector general insurance companies have occupied the top slot of 4 and this year too they continue to do so.
- ▶ Public Sector general insurance company, New India Assurance Company has registered a net profit of Rs.1,008 crore in the financial year 2016-2017, an increase by 22 percent over the previous year. Though there had been high underwriting losses to the tune of Rs.3500 crore, the profit comes due to investment income. This largest non-life insurer is also set for a growth of around 17 per cent in total premium (global premium) income at Rs 26,000 crore in FY18 from Rs 22,279 crore it achieved in FY17.
- ▶ The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India has appointed a committee to review the existing regulatory framework with regard to reinsurance norms. The 17-member committee is headed by M Ramaprasad, a former member of IRDAI. The committee will study international regulatory frameworks and practices relating to reinsurance pools, Alternative Risk Transfer and other mechanisms and make appropriate recommendations by August 2017.
- ▶ "The ERA of the Intelligent Insurer" is the hashtag of a report by Accenture in its Technology Vision for Insurance 2017 – Technology for people! In a survey of 563 respondents from 30 countries, India included, across the world the report says that within three years customers will be dealing with a robot instead of the present human. As it is about two-thirds of the insurers are using artificial intelligence-based "virtual assistants". 85 percent of the top executives in the insurance industry say that they plan to invest "significantly" in Artificial Intelligence in the next three years. A combination of price pressure and ultra-low interest rates is forcing insurers to cut costs to preserve their profit margins. Introducing more automation is one way of achieving this and to fend off competition. According to a research by Tata Consultancy Services by 2020 insurance companies will be spending on an average \$90 million on artificial intelligence technologies. **Where is the place for people in this "Technology for people"? How will one prevent the RansomwareWannaCry(recent malware of the cyber-criminals) from using AI ? What if a la-Ex Machinaevolves ?**

■ A.M.KHAN, DHARWAD

## ECONOMIC TID BITS

- \* According to a survey, 27% of the Indian population still practice untouchability, though it is a crime according to law. According to a report by National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), a crime is committed against a Dalit every 18 minutes, on an average every day three dalit women are raped, two dalits murdered, two dalit houses burnt, 27 atrocities every day and 6 kidnapped every week. 37 percent of Dalits live below poverty line, 54 percent are undernourished, 83 per 1000 children born in a Dalit household die before their first birthday, 12 percent before their fifth birthday and 45% remain illiterate. The data also shows that Dalits are prevented from entering the police station in 28% of the villages. Dalit children have been made to sit separately while eating in 39% government schools. Dalits do not get mail delivered to their homes in 24% of the villages and they are denied access to water sources in 48% of our villages. Medical field workers do not visit 65% of Dalit settlements, 47% of Dalits are not allowed entry into ration depots; 64% are given less grains than non-dalits and 52% are given grains from a distance. According to Socio Economic and Caste Census 2011, nearly 79% of rural Adivasi households and 73% of Dalit households were most deprived among rural households in India. 45% of Schedule Caste households are landless and earn by manual casual labour for their living, the same is 30% for Adivasis.
- \* US tech giant Apple, now holds more than \$ 257 billion in cash reserves, a figure which has doubled in the last four and half years. 93% of this amount is held outside USA in the form of short-term and long-term securities to avoid paying corporate taxes in USA. In the last quarter of 2016, Apple has accumulated cash at the rate of \$ 3.6 million per hour. This cash reserve of Apple is more than the market value of Wal-Mart and Procter and Gamble and is more than the foreign currency reserve of UK and Canada. There is a report that Apple will not use this huge reserve for increased investments in productive activity leading to creating of more jobs but will invest in speculative activities to increase its profits. Apple does not manufacture the iPhones and other products but it sells. They are assembled in big industrial firms, employing hundreds of thousands of workers, such as Foxconn in China by paying low wages from the components made elsewhere. It has been estimated that the cost of an iPhone retailing for around \$ 650 to \$700 is made up of \$ 220 for the components and \$5 for the labour for assembling. The selling price of nearly three times the cost of production means that the Apple is able to secure a far higher rate of return on its capital employed than elsewhere. Today the share market valuation of Apple has reached a new height crossing \$ 800 billion – the largest ever for any single firm and it is on the way to touch \$ 1 trillion mark.
- \* In UK, the Disability Free Life Expectancy (DFLE) at age 65 has been falling from its peak in 2010-12. This is a measurement of the number of people who have reached the age of 65 without having any health problem before the age of 65. The number of people aged 85 and above in UK has increased to almost a third in the last decade and will more than double over the next two decades. This substantial section requires increased health services and care support as they get older. However, massive numbers of British health workers who provide care to adults in Nursing Homes are quitting their jobs due to low wages being paid.
- \* The official unemployment rate of USA is 4.4%, lowest in more than a decade. However, the labour force participation rate remains at 62.8%, only marginally above a four decade low. Most of the jobs are created in cheap labour service sector where many workers receive poverty level wages. The workers of USA received average wage increase of just 2.5% in 2016 while the profits of US Corporate soar to 13.9%.
- \* The Srilankan export earnings dropped by 2.2% between 2015 and 2016 to \$ 10.3 billion. The trade deficit rose from \$ 8.4 billion in 2015 to \$ 9.1 billion in 2016. IMF has stalled a \$ 162 million bailout to Srilanka demanding the government to further intensify the austerity measures to attack the social welfare measures to the people and to attack the jobs of the workers.

■ J.SURESH, MYSORE

# WORKING CLASS STRUGGLES

## Two-day strike by Portuguese health staff

Portuguese doctors began a two-day strike midnight on 9<sup>th</sup> May, with nurses also carrying out a work-to-rule. As a result of their action, nearly 7,000 elective surgical operations were postponed along with the cancellation of around 142,000 consultations. The medics are demanding a 150-hour limit on overtime rather than the current 200-hour limit, a doubling of the overtime rate, more rest breaks and more staff. The doctors are concerned at deteriorating conditions in the Portuguese health system, accusing the government of "progressively degrading the quality of medical care."

## Greek ferry workers strike

Greek ferry workers struck work on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2017 was in protest over the Greek Syriza-led government's recent agreement with the European Union and International Monetary Fund to impose further austerity measures, tax rises and pension cuts. The strike is part of a growing protest movement at the pseudo-left Syriza government's attack on wages, pensions and social benefits, as it commits to paying back Greece's overall debt of £300 million.

## Strike at French oil refinery

Hundreds of employees at the Total oil refinery in Feyzin in eastern France walked out on strike on May 4. The members of the Force Ouvriere union walked out after talks between the company and the union over bonuses and other matters reached a deadlock.

## Irish road maintenance staff to strike

Road maintenance staff working for Cork County will strike on May 18. The members of the Services Industrial Professional and Technical Union (SIPTU) are taking the action over the failure of Cork County council to recruit staff, which has led to severe staff shortages.

## Strike by UK Fujitsu staff as more strikes announced

Staff working for the Japanese based IT technology company Fujitsu held a one-day strike on May 8 and a two-day strike 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> May. Sites affected by the strike are at London, Manchester, Birmingham, Edinburgh, Basingstoke, Belfast, Crewe, Stevenage, Wakefield and Warrington. The action is part of a long running dispute. The members of the Unite union are protesting the company's plans to push through around 1,800 redundancies, the attack on their pensions as well as pushing for a pay increase and union recognition. Unite has announced a further five days of strikes, with a 48-hour strike to begin May 18, a 24-hour strike on May 22 and a 48-hour strike on May 25.

## Israeli foreign ministry staff to strike

Foreign Ministry diplomatic service staff in Israel are to strike after the Finance Ministry renege on promises

over pay reached two months ago. The action by diplomatic staff may interrupt a planned visit by US President Trump later this month.

## South African Municipal workers on strike

Municipal workers in South Africa are on strike over late payment of wages and nonpayment of remittances. The members of the South African Municipal Workers Union demand payment of pension contributions and health insurance, and full time jobs for qualified workers. Workers demonstrated in Sasolburg on 5<sup>th</sup> May.

## Nigerian journalist at state broadcaster strike over owed wages

Journalists employed at the Ogun State Broadcasting Corporation have gone on strike on 12<sup>th</sup> May 2017. The reporters have taken action after several meetings with management over unpaid wages resulted in no agreement. Journalists are reportedly owed over 148 million naira (US\$471000). The two unions involved, the Nigerian Union of Journalists, and the Radio Television and Theatre Arts Workers Union, say this amount accounts for wages, pension payments, union dues, housing allowances and tax deductions.

## Pakistan: Punjab health workers protest

Hundreds of employees of the government run Lady Health Workers (LHW) program demonstrated in Rawalpindi on May 3 demanding payment of long-pending arrears, permanent jobs and the implementation of a service structure including raising their pay scale based on qualifications. Another demand was for a 50 percent adhoc relief amount in their regular monthly salary.

## Indonesia: Freeport mine workers' strike in second week

Over 8,000 permanent and contract workers from Freeport's massive Grasberg copper mine in West Papua have been on strike since May 1 over mass lay-offs. The company claims the walkout is illegal, that strikers would be considered absent without leave and that all those who struck for five days would lose their jobs. So far over 170 jobs have been terminated.

## Mexican auto parts workers carry out wildcat strike

Workers for auto parts supplier Takata struck the firm's factory in Ciudad Frontera, Coahuila, Mexico on May 13. The workers walked out after being told their profit-sharing bonus would be 1,000 pesos (US\$53.15). Previously, the bonus, given after an employee had worked 60 days per fiscal year, was ten times that much.

S.SRIDHARA, MYSORE

# For our Field Force

## Broking regulations

After almost 13 years since broking was allowed in the insurance industry, the regulator has taken initiatives to regulate the segment more closely. Currently, there are over 500 brokers channelising over Rs.25,000 crore of business, or 20 to 25%, of the total premium in the non-life sector. The IRDAI has proposed raising the capital requirement of insurance brokers to Rs.1 crore, Rs.4 crore and Rs.5 crore for direct, reinsurance and composite brokers, respectively. The existing capital requirement is Rs.50 lakh, Rs.2 crore and Rs.2.5 crore for direct, reinsurance and composite brokers, respectively. A composite broker can do both direct insurance and reinsurance business. KK Srinivasan, former member, IRDAI, has said the proposed broking regulation that a promoter can float only one broking venture should be applied to other insurance companies also. "Given the limited procurement role they play, there is no need for 49% in broking. 26% will do. They make huge profits and will drain away huge profits abroad," he said.

## Insurance sachet

Everything is sold in small sachets nowadays. 'Mahindra Insurance Brokers' plans to sell insurance in that manner, after researching Kenya and Ghana! It's pay-as-you-can model allows users to take cover for one month, two months etc. The game-changing concept was tried and tested on cattle insurance, personal accident and cashless hospitalisation with a jaw-dropping premium of Rs.2-100. Though it is sold only to group customers at the moment, it will be gradually extended to individuals.

## Motor Premium

IRDAI has reduced motor insurance premium rates in most of the segments like two-wheelers, cars and trucks by modifying the rates for 2017-18 issued three-weeks ago. The modified 'premium rates for motor third party liability insurance cover' will apply retrospectively from April 1, IRDAI said in an order. However, the premium rates for the current financial year are higher than those of the previous year.

## Persistency

For FY2016, the life insurance industry, on average, had a persistency of 61% in the 13th month, which means: 1 year after the sale, only 61 out of every 100 policies were renewed. Globally, persistency of these policies is close to 90% in the 13th month and above 65% after 5 years.

## PSU GI Cos Merger

The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (Dipam) has initiated consultations on a possible merger of Oriental Insurance, National

Insurance and United India Insurance and the combined entity would be then taken to the market for listing. It is estimated the combined entity will have around 35% share of the domestic general insurance market while underwriting total direct premium of over Rs.30,000 crore.

## Health Premium

New India Insurance, the country's leading health insurer, has decided to raise premium on its mediclaim policy by up to 20%, but almost doubled the maximum sum assured to Rs.15 lakh to attract new customers. This revision has happened for the first time since the product was launched in 2012. A company can revise rates after three years of launching a product.

## Rs.407 Cr to IDBI Bank

LIC will infuse Rs.406.9 crore in IDBI Bank increasing its stake to 14.25%. Currently, the LIC has 13.76% stake in the bank.

## India Post Bank

India Post Payments Bank (IPPB) will start selling mutual funds and insurance products of other companies by early 2018 and is open only to "non-exclusive" tie-ups. As many as 100 entities including IDBI Bank, HSBC, Axis Bank, Deutsche Bank, Barclays Bank, Citibank, SBI and LIC have evinced interest in partnering with IPPB for various functions given the unmatched rural reach India Post has.

## Insurance Lokpal

The Government has finally notified the rules for appointment of the "Insurance Lokpal" as an ombudsman to entertain complaints on any kind of irregularities in life, health or general insurance. The rules gazetted on April 25 say the ombudsman's award shall be binding on the insurers, required to comply with it within 30 days. Anyone with experience in the insurance industry, civil, administrative or judicial service is eligible to be selected as the ombudsman.

## Penalty

IRDAI has imposed a penalty of Rs.20 lakhs on TATA AIG Gen Ins Co for various violations including additional pay outs to agents and procuring business through unlicensed entities.

## Curbing misselling

The new guidelines for the web aggregators issued by the IRDAI mandates that no insurance web aggregators should promote or push a particular product of a particular company either through its web-site or through distance marketing. Further, the product has to be sold based on the need analysis of the prospect.

**ARIVUKKADAL, THANJAVUR**

## Trade Union Classes at Raichur

*Continued from Page 31*

organisation highlighted that is at all LIC is today celebrating its Diamond Jubilee year of its formation; it is because of the foresightedness of our senior comrades who dreamt of the nationalization of insurance Industry. The struggle unleashed by them and their sacrifices resulted into the birth of LIC. He told the members that we should feel proud to be associated with such a mighty organisation called AIIEA which has been in the forefront in the struggle against every attack on the institution be it automation struggle, attempt to split LIC, the lockout struggle, against the emergency, the struggle for pension and recent one against the opening up of the Insurance sector including entry of FDI. Every time AIIEA launches a struggle against any attempt by the government to weaken PS LIC and GIC they will unique in nature taking the shape of a campaign of masses resulting into a huge success ultimately forcing the government to change its policies. Today, AIIEA is regarded as a Trade Union worth emulating by many other organizations because of its struggle against the neoliberal policies.

A lively interaction took place after the class in which many comrades raised points on the present situation prevailing in the country and the world over, the policies of the ruling classes, about the situation in the Industry which was suitably clarified by the faculty.

Com Sridhar, Jt. Secretary, welcomed the gathering. Com. M Sharanagouda, President, presided over the programme. Around 100 members attended the classes which gave wide and enriched knowledge to the participants on the topics.

### DONATIONS

COM. NIRMAL CHAND, GARSHANKAR BRANCH,  
JALANDHAR DIVISION RS. 2,100

COM.SANTOSH KUMARI, NAWANSHAHAR BRANCH,  
JALANDHAR DIVISION RS. 1,100

The insurance worker thanks these comrades for their kind gesture.



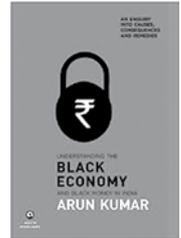
## BOOK REVIEW

*Continued from Page 22*

The author had had many a reference on this subject to make this book an informative one. The references the author had went through were given at the end of this book. This is a book published by the ALEPH Book Company, an independent publishing firm promoted by Rupa Publications India.

In the background of the claims by Mr. Modi government of routing out black money in the name of demonetization, this book gives a valuable insight into the problem of black money.

(The writer is Vice-President of SZIEF)



## OBITUARY

Com N.M.Jain, Former Jt.Secretary and Treasurer of IEU, Indore Division passed away on 12/3/2017 due to a massive cardiac arrest. Com Jain was a devoted cadre of AIIEA and made significant contribution in the fight against split of AIIEA at Indore. Though he retired from the services of LIC in 1995, he continued his association with the movement of insurance employees through his work in the Pensioners' Association. Insurance Worker condoles the sad demise of Com Jain and shares the grief with the bereaved family.

### CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Month	Base 2001	Base 1960
July	280	6391.25
August	278	6345.60
September	277	6322.77
October	278	6345.60
November	277	6322.77
December	275	6277.12
January	274	6254.30
February	274	6254.30
March	275	6277.12
Base 1960=Base 2001x22.8259		

# MAY DAY 2017 -THE WORLD OVER



KOLKATA



KERALA



MADURAI



BUENOS AIRES, ARGENTINA



MADRID, FRANCE



MOSCOW, RUSSIA



MANILA, PHILIPINES



BEIRUT, LEBANON



ISTANBUL, TURKEY



TAIPEI, TAIWAN



SAN SALVADOR



LOS ANGELES, US



SAN FRANCISCO, US



LONDON, UK



IT EMPLOYEES, INDIA

Posted at Bangalore PSO, BG-560026  
on 5th/7th/12th of Every Month  
Date of Publication: 3rd June 2017

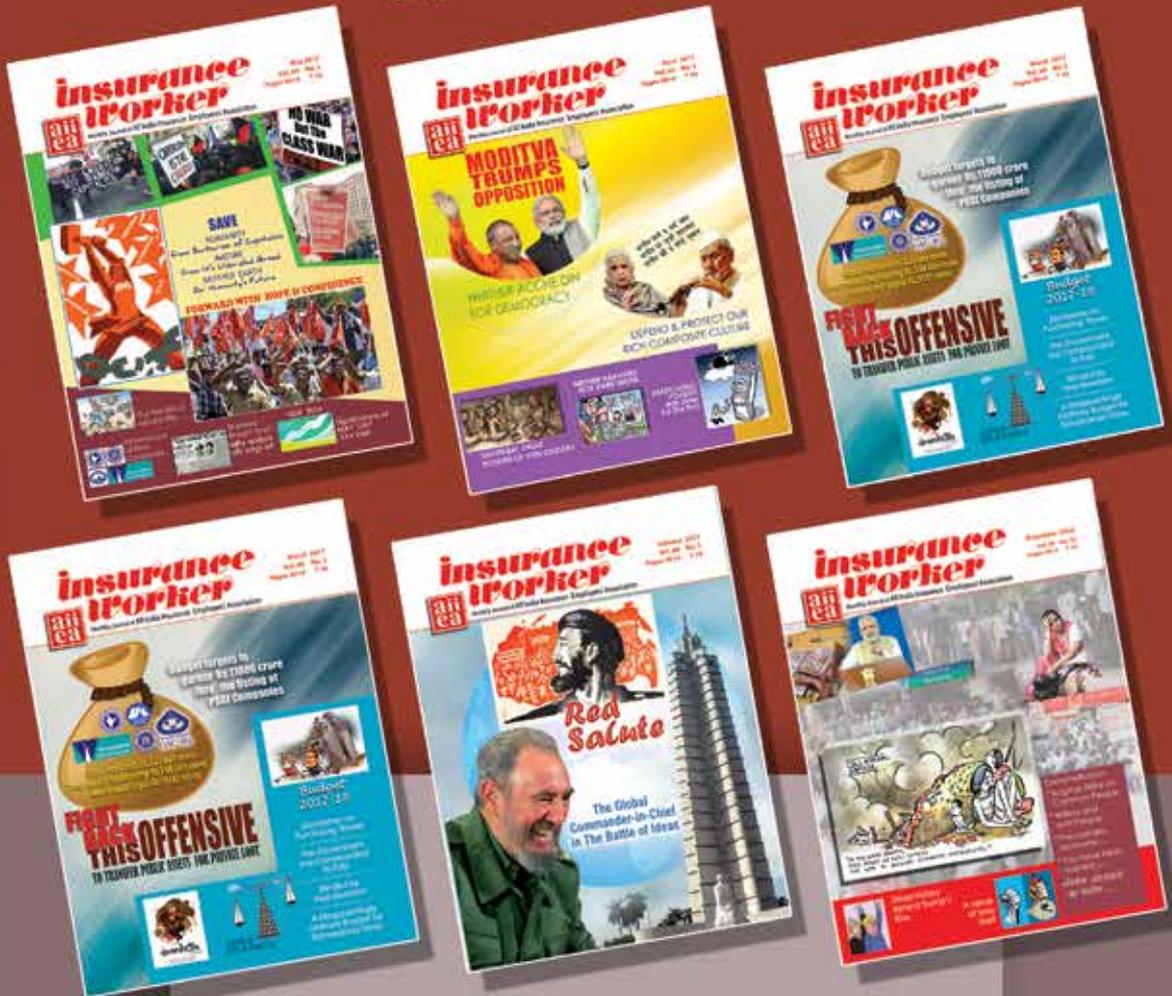
REG.NO. KA/BGW-1693/2015-17 RNI NO.5122/1957  
Licensed to post Without Prepayment License No. WPP-262

## GREETINGS FROM INSURANCE CORPORATION EMPLOYEES' UNION

### CHENNAI DIVISION I & II

# 60

Years of  
Uninterrupted  
Publication



READ  
AND  
SUBSCRIBE  
**INSURANCE WORKER**

Printed by : Vedaraja N.K. for and on behalf of All India Insurance Employees' Association  
at Kriya Prakashana, No. 12, 18th Cross, Sampangirama Nagar, Bangalore - 560 027  
& Published by him from No. 8, O.T.C. Road, Bangalore - 560 002. Editor : Amanulla Khan