

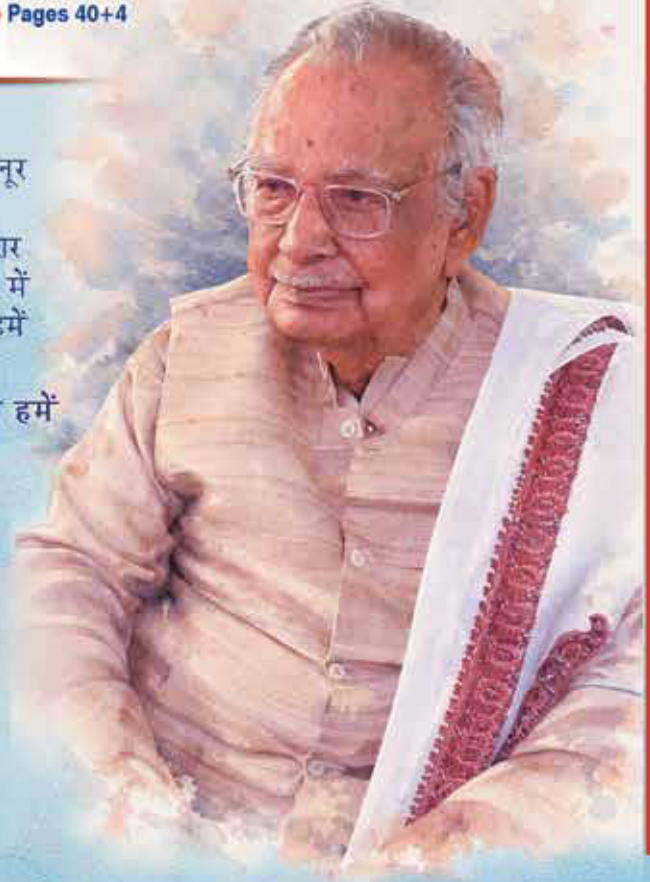
# Insurance Worker

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अब हमारी आँख में है  
उसकी बंद आँखों का नूर  
अब हमारे जिस्म में है  
उसकी रूहे, बेकरार  
उसका परचम ले के मैदान में  
निकलना है हमें  
फ़र्शों, गुल से दूर  
अंगारों पे चलना है हमें

The light of his closed eyes  
is in our eyes now  
His restless soul resides  
in our body now  
We have to enter the battlefield  
hoisting his flag  
Instead of flowers, we have to  
walk on fire now



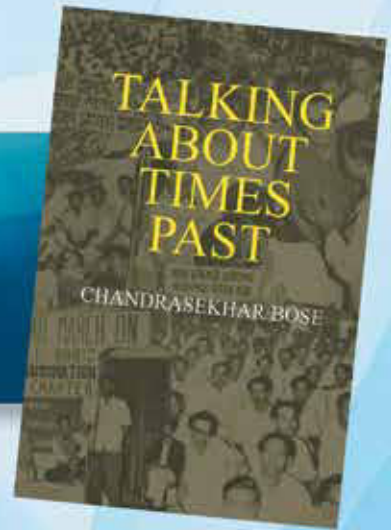
## Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose

was an idea and  
*ideas do not perish*  
His ideas will live forever  
*to inspire and guide*





# THEY CAPTURE THE HISTORY OF AIEA



With Com. B T Ranadive, Bangalore Conference, 1982



1982 Conference at Bangalore



# Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose

(14-12-1922 to 16-01-2026)

Com Chandrasekhar Bose, the Founding Member of AIIEA and a towering personality who shaped and directed the insurance employees' movement passed away peacefully in his residence at around 3 am on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at the age of 104. Com Chandrasekhar Bose was the pride, honour and glory of the AIIEA. He played such a dominant role in the movement of the insurance employees for over eight decades that any imagination of AIIEA would not be complete without him.

He was born in a small village in the Jessore District of Bengal, which is now in Bangla Desh in a middle-class family. His school days were in a village called Panjia from where he passed his matriculation. He did his further studies in the college at Jessore and at Calcutta thereafter. As a young student, Com Bose took an active role in the national liberation movement. He came in contact with great personalities who led the movement for independence from British colonialism. In the course of his participation in the freedom struggle, he experienced the brutality of imperialism. He was fully convinced that the great Bengal famine which claimed the lives of over 2 million was the result of the greed for profits by capitalism. He was deeply attracted to the emancipatory philosophy of Marxism and became a member of the undivided Communist Party of India in 1944. When the CPI was split and CPI (M) was formed, he aligned with the new party and remained its member till his end.

Com Chandrasekhar Bose joined the Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Company, which was one of the biggest insurance companies in India on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 1944 and retired from the services of LIC on 30<sup>th</sup> April 1983. After joining the employment, he witnessed the massive exploitation of the workforce and the dubious practices of the employers. He found that the existing leadership



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of the union in Hindustan Insurance Company were ineffective in dealing with the problems of the employees. They even lacked the class understanding and often accepted the version of the employer on employee related issues. This forced him to take up an active role and claim the leadership of the trade union. This task was not easy. He not only had to counter the hostility of the employer but also those of the established trade union leaders. In the process he had to undergo enormous difficulties. More than once he had to face suspension, retrenchment and court trials. But nothing could deter him from deviating from the chosen path. He remained determined and with courage set about the task of unifying the employees. The epic struggle of the Metropolitan Insurance Company that he led, will remain as a golden chapter in the history of insurance employees' movement.

Com Chandrasekhar Bose took the lead in organising the insurance employees working in different companies in the State of Bengal and succeeded in creating a state level organisation. Similar attempts were made in other major cities of the country. After unifying employees in different places, a great need was felt for an All India Organisation. This led to the birth of the All India Insurance Employees' Association in 1951 in the city of Bombay (now Mumbai). The birth of AIIEA gave new hopes, dreams and aspirations to the insurance employees. The task of unifying employees across the country was undertaken with great urgency. Com Bose played a spectacular role in this task. The AIIEA was concerned with the manner the insurance companies were operating. It was very clear that to protect the policyholders from the fraudulent practices of the insurers and for the self-reliant economic development of the country, State take over of insurance business was the fundamental necessity. Therefore, it strongly campaigned for the nationalisation of the insurance industry.

Com Chandrasekhar Bose was elected as the General Secretary of AIIEA in 1955 and the headquarter of the organisation was shifted to Calcutta (now Kolkata). The AIIEA started functioning from the residence of Com Bose which was a flat of his brother. The organisation had no funds and no assets. But it had enormous amount of determination and confidence. The struggle for nationalisation succeeded with the government taking over

the 245 life insurance companies in 1956 and creating the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The 245 companies had different pay scales and service conditions. The task was to unify the diverse community of the insurance employees and take them to the path of struggle to secure a decent common wage structure for all employees. The unilateral imposition of wage structure by the government was rejected by AIIEA and the LIC employees went on a first All India Strike on 5<sup>th</sup> December 1956 under the leadership of Com Chandrasekhar Bose. The success of the strike forced the government to consult the AIIEA and issue a fresh Standardisation Order. This heralded a new journey for the insurance employees.

Com Bose stepped down as a General Secretary in 1959 and Com Saroj Chaudhuri was elected in his place. Com Bose became the Vice-President of AIIEA, which position he held till 1974. In 1974, he became the President of AIIEA. This was a period when democracy in India was under serious challenge. The AIIEA could successfully meet all the challenges due to the astute leadership and the important role played by Com Bose in guiding the movement. Com Chandrasekhar Bose relinquished the post of President in 1994.

It was under his leadership that a decision was taken to have a journal of All India Insurance Employees' Association. Thus, Insurance Worker was born and the first issue came out in September 1957. Com Chandrasekhar Bose was asked to take up the responsibility as Editor of the Journal, which he carried out with great conviction. He remained the Editor of Insurance Worker from 1957 to 1994. The Insurance Worker has the distinction of uninterrupted publication every month since September 1957. If the Insurance Worker has gained such admiration and respectability today, the credit largely should go to the leadership of Com Bose.

Though Com Chandrasekhar Bose relinquished the post of President of AIIEA, he remained connected with the AIIEA and its activities till his last breath. There was not a moment, he was not thinking about the AIIEA. He stood as a lighthouse tower dispersing the light and showing the direction to the movement of the insurance employees. Com Bose was a man of exemplary character. He abhorred individualism and had great faith in collective leadership. His simplicity, humility, compassion

and love for fellow comrades are qualities worthy of emulation.

The AIEA has lost a great leader and mentor. His death has created a void extremely difficult to fill. His life and struggle would continue to inspire generations of insurance employees. Sahir Ludhianvi beautifully explained that death of the body does not mean death of ideas in the following lines:

जिस्म की मौत कोई मौत नहीं होती है  
जिस्म मिट जाने से इन्सान नहीं मर जाते  
धड़कनें रुकने से अरमान नहीं मर जाते  
सांस थम जाने से एलान नहीं मर जाते

*The death of a body is  
no death at all  
Humans do not perish  
as the body fades  
Desires don't die when  
the heartbeat stops  
Declarations don't die  
when breathing stops*

Com Chandrasekhar Bose was an idea and ideas do not perish. The mortal remains of Com Bose were consigned to flames but his ideas will live for ever to inspire and guide the insurance employees. Let us pay our tributes to Com Bose by pledging to move on with the joys of his dreams and continue to walk the path to construct a society of his dreams.

We dedicate this issue of Insurance Worker to celebrate his life and work.

*Long Live Com Bose.  
Long Live the rich legacy of  
Com Chandrasekhar Bose*



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# कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस

(14.12.1922 to 16.01.2026)

एआईआईईए के संस्थापक सदस्य और एक विशाल व्यक्तित्व वाले कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस, जिन्होंने बीमा कर्मचारियों के आन्दोलन को आकार दिया और रास्ता दिखाया, का 16 जनवरी 2026 को सुबह लगभग 3 बजे 104 वर्ष की आयु में उनके आवास पर शान्तिपूर्वक निधन हो गया। कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस एआईआईईईए की आन, वान और शान थे। उन्होंने आठ दशकों से ज्यादा समय तक बीमा कर्मचारियों के आन्दोलन में इतनी अहम भूमिका निभाई कि एआईआईईईए की कोई भी कल्पना उनके बिना पूरी नहीं हो सकती।

उनका जन्म बंगाल के जेसोर जिले के एक छोटे से गांव, जोकि अब बांग्लादेश में है उसके एक मध्यम वर्गीय परिवार में हुआ था। उनके स्कूल के दिन पंजिया नाम के गांव में बीते, जहां से उन्होंने मैट्रिक पास किया। उन्होंने आगे की पढ़ाई जेसोर और उसके बाद कलकत्ता के कॉलेज में की। एक युवा छात्र के रूप में, कॉमरेड बोस ने राष्ट्रीय मुक्ति आन्दोलन में सक्रिय भूमिका निभाई। वे उन महान हस्तियों के सम्पर्क में आए जिन्होंने ब्रिटिश उपनिवेशवाद से आजादी के लिए आन्दोलन का नेतृत्व किया। स्वतन्त्रता संग्राम में भाग लेने के दौरान, उन्होंने साम्राज्यवाद की क्रूरता का अनुभव किया। उन्हें पूरा यकीन था कि बंगाल का भयानक अकाल, जिसमें 20 लाख से ज्यादा लोगों की जान चली गई थी, पूंजीवाद के मुनाफे के लालच का नतीजा था। वे मार्क्सवाद की मुक्ति की सोच से बहुत आकर्षित थे जहां वे 1944 में अविभाजित भारतीय कम्युनिस्ट पार्टी के सदस्य बन गए। जब सीपीआई का विभाजन हुआ और सीपीआई (एम) बनी, तो वे नई पार्टी के साथ जुड़ गए और अपनी आखिरी सांस तक उसके सदस्य रहे।

कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस ने 3 जनवरी 1944 को हिन्दुस्तान इन्श्योरेन्स कम्पनी में नौकरी शुरू की, जो भारत की सबसे बड़ी बीमा कम्पनियों में से एक थी और 30 अप्रैल 1983 को एलआईसी की नौकरी से सेवानिवृत्त हुए। नौकरी में आने के बाद, उन्होंने कर्मचारियों का बड़े पैमाने पर शोषण और मालिकों के गलत तरीकों को देखा। उन्होंने पाया कि हिन्दुस्तान इन्श्योरेन्स कम्पनी में यूनियन के उस समय का नेतृत्व कर्मचारियों की समस्याओं से निपटने में बेअसर था। उनमें वर्ग-समझ भी नहीं थी और वे अक्सर कर्मचारियों से जुड़े मुद्दों पर मालिक की बात मान लेते थे। इससे उन्हें टैड यूनियन में एक सक्रिय भूमिका निभाने और उसके नेता होने का दावा करने के लिए मजबूर होना पड़ा। यह काम आसान नहीं था। उन्हें न केवल मालिक की दुश्मनी का सामना करना पड़ा, बल्कि पहले से मौजूद टैड यूनियन नेताओं की भी दुश्मनी का सामना करना पड़ा। इस प्रक्रिया में उन्हें बहुत मुश्किलों का सामना करना पड़ा। उन्हें एक से ज्यादा बार निलम्बन, छंटनी और अदालती मुकदमों का सामना करना पड़ा। लेकिन कोई भी चीज उन्हें अपने चुने हुए रास्ते से हटने के लिए मजबूर नहीं कर सकी। वे पक्के इरादे वाले रहे और हिम्मत के साथ कर्मचारियों को एक करने के काम में लग गए। मेट्रोपॉलिटन इन्श्योरेन्स कम्पनी का वह बड़ा संघर्ष, जिसका उन्होंने नेतृत्व किया, बीमा कर्मचारियों के आन्दोलन के इतिहास

कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस एक विचार थे  
और विचार कभी नष्ट नहीं होते।

में एक सुनहरा अध्याय रहेगा।

कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस ने बंगाल राज्य में अलग-अलग कम्पनियों में काम करने वाले बीमा कर्मचारियों को इकट्ठा करने का बीड़ा उठाया और एक राज्य स्तर का संगठन बनाने में कामयाब रहे। देश के दूसरे बड़े शहरों में भी ऐसी ही कोशिशों की गईं। अलग-अलग जगहों पर कर्मचारियों को एक करने के बाद, एक अखिल भारतीय संगठन की बहुत जरूरत महसूस हुई। इसी वजह से 1951 में बॉम्बे (अब मुंबई) शहर में ऑल इण्डिया इन्श्योरेन्स एम्प्लॉइज एसोसिएशन का जन्म हुआ। एआईआईईए के जन्म ने बीमा कर्मचारियों को नई उम्मीदें, सपने और आकांक्षाएं दीं। देश भर में कर्मचारियों को एक करने का काम बहुत तेजी से किया गया। कॉमरेड बोस ने इस काम में शानदार भूमिका निभाई। एआईआईईए इन बीमा कम्पनियों के काम करने के तरीके से परेशान था। यह बिल्कुल साफ था कि पॉलिसी धारकों को बीमा कम्पनियों के धोखाधड़ी वाले कामों से बचाने और देश के आत्मनिर्भर आर्थिक विकास के लिए, बीमा व्यवसाय का सरकार द्वारा अधिग्रहण किया जाना बहुत जरूरी था। इसलिए, इसने बीमा व्यवसाय के राष्ट्रीयकरण के लिए जोरदार अभियान चलाया।

कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस 1955 में एआईआईईए के महासचिव चुने गए और संगठन का मुख्यालय कलकत्ता (अब कोलकाता) में स्थानान्तरित कर दिया गया। एआईआईईए ने कॉमरेड बोस के घर से काम करना शुरू किया, जो उनके भाई का एक फ्लैट था। संगठन के पास न तो कोई फंड था और न ही कोई सम्पत्ति। लेकिन इसके पास बहुत बड़ी मात्रा में पक्का इरादा और विश्वास था। राष्ट्रीयकरण की लड़ाई सफल हुई और 1956 में सरकार ने 245 बीमा कम्पनियों को अधिग्रहित कर लिया और भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम बनाया। वेतनमान और सेवा शर्तें सभी कम्पनियों की अलग-अलग थीं। काम था बीमा कर्मचारियों के अलग-अलग बिखरे समुदाय को एक करना और उन सभी कर्मचारियों के लिए एक वाजिब समान वेतनमान पक्का करने के लिए संघर्ष के रास्ते पर ले जाना। सरकार के एकतरफा वेतन ढांचे को लागू करने को एआईआईईए ने अस्वीकार कर दिया और फिर एलआईसी कर्मचारियों ने कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस के नेतृत्व में 5 दिसम्बर 1956 को पहली अखिल भारतीय हड़ताल की। हड़ताल की सफलता ने सरकार को एआईआईईए से सलाह लेने और एक नया मानकीकरण आदेश जारी करने के लिए मजबूर किया। इसके साथ ही बीमा कर्मचारियों के लिए एक नई यात्रा शुरू होने की घोषणा हुई।

कॉमरेड बोस ने 1959 में महामन्त्री का पद छोड़ दिया और उनकी जगह कॉमरेड सरोज चौधरी को चुना गया। कॉम बोस एआईआईईए के उपाध्यक्ष बने, और 1974 तक इस पद पर रहे। 1974 में वे एआईआईईए के अध्यक्ष बने। यह वह समय था जब भारत में लोकतन्त्र गम्भीर चुनौती का सामना कर रहा था। कॉमरेड बोस के दक्ष नेतृत्व और आन्दोलन को दिशा देने में उनकी अहम भूमिका की वजह से एआईआईईए सभी चुनौतियों का सफलतापूर्वक सामना कर सका। कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस ने 1994 में अध्यक्ष पद छोड़ दिया।

उनके नेतृत्व में ही ऑल इण्डिया इन्श्योरेन्स एम्प्लॉइज एसोसिएशन का एक मुखपत्र निकालने का फैसला लिया गया। इस तरह, इन्श्योरेन्स वर्कर शुरू हुआ और इसका पहला अंक सितम्बर 1957 में आया। कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस को मुखपत्र के सम्पादक की जिम्मेदारी संभालने के लिए कहा गया, जिसे उन्होंने पूरे भरोसे के साथ निभाया। वे 1957 से 1994 तक इन्श्योरेन्स वर्कर के सम्पादक रहे। इन्श्योरेन्स वर्कर को सितम्बर 1957 से हर महीने बिना किसी रूकावट के प्रकाशित होने का विशेष गौरव प्राप्त है। अगर इन्श्योरेन्स वर्कर को आज इतना आदर और सम्मान मिल रहा है, इसका ज्यादातर श्रेय कॉमरेड बोस के नेतृत्व को जाना चाहिए।

जबकि कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस ने एआईआईईए का अध्यक्ष पद छोड़ दिया था, लेकिन वे अपनी आखिरी सांस तक एआईआईईए और उसके कामों से जुड़े रहे। एक पल भी ऐसा नहीं होता होगा, जब वे एआईआईईए के बारे में नहीं सोच रहे होते हों। वे एक प्रकाश स्तम्भ की तरह खड़े होकर रोशनी फैलाते थे और बीमा कर्मचारियों के आन्दोलन को दिशा दिखाते थे। कॉमरेड बोस एक आदर्श अनुकरणीय चरित्र के व्यक्ति थे। उन्हें व्यक्तिवाद से नफरत थी और उन्हें सामूहिक नेतृत्व में बहुत भरोसा था। उनकी सादगी, विनम्रता, दया और संगी-साथियों के लिए प्यार, ऐसे गुण हैं जोकि अनुसरण के योग्य हैं।

एआईआईईए ने एक महान नेता और उस्ताद खो दिया है। उनकी मौत से एक ऐसा खालीपन आया है जिसे भरना बहुत मुश्किल है। उनका जीवन और संघर्ष बीमा कर्मचारियों की पीढ़ियों को प्रेरित करता रहेगा। साहिर लुधियानवी ने इन लाइनों में किस खूबसूरती से समझाया है कि शरीर की मौत का मतलब विचारों की मौत नहीं है:

जिस्म की मौत कोई मौत नहीं होती है  
जिस्म मिट जाने से इन्सान नहीं मर जाते  
धड़कनें रूकने से अरमान नहीं मर जाते  
सांस थम जाने से एलान नहीं मर जाते

कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस एक विचार थे और विचार कभी नष्ट नहीं होते। कॉमरेड बोस के पार्थिव शरीर को आग के हवाले कर दिया गया, लेकिन उनके विचार बीमा कर्मचारियों को प्रेरणा देने और उनका मार्गदर्शन करने के लिए हमेशा जिन्दा रहेंगे। आइए हम कॉमरेड बोस को श्रद्धांजलि देते हुए उनके सपनों की खुशियों के साथ आगे बढ़ने और उनके सपनों का समाज बनाने के रास्ते पर चलते रहने का वादा करें।

हम इन्श्योरेन्स वर्कर का यह अंक उनके जीवन और काम का जश्न मनाने के लिए समर्पित करते हैं।

कॉमरेड बोस अमर रहें।  
कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस की  
समृद्ध विरासत अमर रहे।



Com. Biman Bose, Chairman, Left Front, West Bengal paying tributes

## Glowing Tributes

To commemorate the purposeful life of struggle, dedication and conviction of Com. Chandrasekhar Bose, Founder Member and Legendary Leader of AIIEA, a Memorial Meeting was organized by ECZIEA on 7th February, 2026 in the Courtyard of Hindustan Building, Kolkata. It was from this building that he served the Life Insurance Corporation of India. The meeting was participated by over 500 insurance employees, part from the leaders of the fraternal organisations. The program witnessed the overflowing of emotions demonstration the love, affection and respect, Com Chandrasekhar Bose commanded. This meeting was presided by Com.Dhrubjyothi Ganguly, President, ECZIEA.

Prior to the commencement of the program, floral tributes

were paid by Com. Dharmaraj Mahapatra President, AIIEA, Com.Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary of AIIEA, Com. Biman Bose Chairman, Left Front, Com Amanulla Khan, Former President AIIEA, Com K.Venu Gopal, Former General Secretary,

AIIEA, Com V.Ramesh, Former President, AIIEA, Com M.Girija, Jt.Secretary, AIIEA and the leaders from zonal organisations, fraternal trade unions and family members.

The program commenced with rendering of three beautiful songs of Gurudev Rabindranath



Tagore by the women comrades. Com. Amitava Ghosh, General Secretary, EZIEA presented a brief sketch of the life of Com Bose and paid rich tributes to the enormous contributions he made for the democratic and trade union movement of India.

Com. Shreekanth Mishra, General Secretary recounted his experiences with Com. Bose and stated that he feels too small to talk about the greatness of Com. Bose. Quoting Kaifi Azmi, he said Com Bose embodied everything that is good and he was a great human. He said at a time when the government has launched an all out attack on our industry and trade union rights, we would miss his guidance. But learning from his life, we will continue to resist this onslaught and walk towards a better future for humankind.

Com. Amanulla Khan said that Com Chandrasekhar Bose led a very rich life and today we need to celebrate his life and work and draw inspirations to meet the enormous challenges of our times. He said Com Bose was an honour and glory of AIIEA and any imagination of AIIEA cannot be complete without him. The true tributes we can pay to Com Bose is to

continue to walk on the path he took us along with courage and commitment.

Com. K Venugopal said that when we joined LIC, a great deal of discussion used to be there about the Trio of AIIEA - Com. Chandrasekhar Bose, Com Saroj Chaudhuri and Com. Sunil Moitra. These great leaders of AIIEA were our role models of his generation of activists and cadres. Com. Bose retired way back in 1983, but continued to involve in the activities of union till his last breath. He has led life with a purpose. His legacy will be remembered forever.

Com. Biman Bose spoke about his close association with Com Bose for decades. Com Bose had carved a special place in the democratic movement with his organisation of insurance employees, especially from Hindustan Insurance. The membership of the CPI was given to him directly by the then party Secretary PC Joshi in 1944. He said Com Bose was a towering personality.

Com. Dharmaraj Mahapatra, President, AIIEA and Com. V Ramesh, Former President, AIIEA paid glowing tributes to Com. Bose and exhorted the present generation

to take forward the legacy of Com. Bose by imbibing working class philosophy and dreaming for a better world and working for its achievement.

Com. Somsankar Bose, Son of Com. Bose said that looking at the grief of thousands of insurance employees, he does not feel that he alone lost a father. Com Bose was a father figure to all insurance employees. He narrated the experiences of his visits to various meetings and conferences with Com Bose and admitted that this made him understand the world better. His mother always used to tell him not to complain about his long absence from home as AIIEA was the first love of Com Bose.

Coms. Sanjiv Sharma, President, NCZIEF, P. Satish, President, SCZIEF, Com. P Satish, President, SCZIEF, Com. M Girija, Joint Secretary, AIIEA spoke and recorded their gratitude and respect. Coms Rajiv Nigam, General Secretary, NCZIEF and R.K. Gopinath, Jt. Secretary, SZIEF were also present.

Com Samir Ghosh, General Secretary, All India Reserve Bank Employees' Association, Com Sumit Bhattacharya, Jt. Convenor, 12<sup>th</sup> July Committee, Com Atanu Dasgupta, General Secretary, BEFI, West Bengal and others spoke about their association with Com Chandrasekhar Bose and the guidance they received.

It was a meeting filled with emotions. The huge attendance, the participation of fraternal leaders demonstrated the love, affection and respect commanded by Com Chandrasekhar Bose.



Com Dhurbajyoti Ganguly, President, EZIEA, paying tributes

D.R.Mahapatra President, AIIEA

# Comr. Bose embodied Simplicity, Humility and Refinement



*He had the rare ability to connect theory with practice, to transform conviction into action, and to inspire ordinary workers to see themselves as architects of change... Perhaps his greatest strength lay in nurturing youth. He believed that the future of the movement rested in empowering young activists, giving them space to grow, and trusting them with responsibility— he built confidence quietly, decisively, and generously.....*

One of the founding pillars of the All India Insurance Employees Association (AIIEA), Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose was a personality so multidimensional that any attempt to describe him feels inevitably incomplete. The more one speaks of him, the more one realizes how vast his contribution was. He embodied gentleness, humility, simplicity, and refinement—the very image of a cultured Bengali bhadralok. His soft-spoken nature and serene smile were not mere personal traits; they were reflections of a deeply compassionate and principled soul.

Yet behind that gentle demeanor, stood an unshakable warrior of ideology. He was not only an eloquent speaker but also a master organizer, a strategist with clarity of vision, and a steadfast defender of working-class principles.

His speeches were not rhetorical displays; they were lessons in history, ideology, and collective responsibility. He had the rare ability to connect theory with practice, to transform conviction into action, and to inspire ordinary workers to see themselves as architects of change.

During the turbulent years preceding the formation of the LIC Central Zone, when the Raipur, Indore, and Jabalpur divisions faced repeated upheavals and organizational challenges, his presence provided direction and stability. From 1981 to 1994, he attended almost every conference of RDIEU as the chief guest, guiding delegates with insight and clarity. The qualitative transformation in the organizational structure of RDIEU and the growth of Comrade B. Sanyal as a leader bear the unmistakable imprint of his mentorship. He did not merely lead—he nurtured leadership.

It was his inspiration that enabled RDIEU to script history in 1990 by organizing a grand Zonal Conference in Raipur within an astonishing three months. At a time when such an endeavor seemed nearly impossible, his confidence in the cadre infused them with courage and discipline. Whether it was the crisis arising from the implementation of NIT in Raipur Division, the infamous “cartoon episode,” or the managerial onslaught that led to the suspension of Comrade B. Sanyal and others, Comrade Bose stood firmly with the movement. Along with other AIIEA leaders, he was always available—calm in



Retirement Felicitation of Com B.Sanyal

crisis, resolute in struggle.

In 1985, when the bold decision was taken to organize the AIIEA Conference in Indore, his encouragement and moral strength were instrumental. Earlier, during the dark days of the Emergency in 1976, he visited Indore while traveling from Bombay to Kolkata and addressed an employees' meeting, reaffirming faith in democratic and trade union rights at a time when fear gripped the nation.

On 21st and 22nd August 1986, when the Bhopal Division Insurance Employees Union was carved out of Indore Division, he inaugurated the new unit in his capacity as President of AIIEA. Alongside the then General Secretary, Comrade Saroj Chaudhuri. In 1988-89, he again attended the Annual General Conference of the Insurance Employees Union, Indore, as Chief Guest. For nearly four hours, he traced the history of AIIEA, narrated the struggles that shaped the movement, and shared invaluable experiences. Delegates left that session enriched, inspired, and deeply satisfied.

His presence at the Annual General Conference

of JDIEU in Jabalpur around 1989-90 remains memorable. Comrade Sundaram remarked during the conference that whenever he saw Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose in a meeting, he felt as if AIIEA itself was physically present. That statement captured the essence of his stature—he was not just a leader of the organization; he personified it. In the 1988 victimization issue in Jabalpur, he played a pivotal role in resolving the crisis. He visited earlier as well, holding meetings with office bearers and activists, strengthening morale and unity.

After the formation of CZIEA in 1992, his encouragement was vital in shaping it into one of the finest units of AIIEA. His commitment went beyond formal leadership. He forged genuine comradely bonds. His patience in listening was extraordinary. He valued dialogue and respected dissent. His memory was remarkable—he remembered names, families, personal circumstances. He treated comrades not as functionaries but as members of an extended family. His relationship with the family of Comrade B. Sanyal exemplified this spirit;

he remained deeply aware and concerned about their personal well-being. Such warmth in leadership is rare.

Perhaps his greatest strength lay in nurturing youth. He believed that the future of the movement rested in empowering young activists, giving them space to grow, and trusting them with responsibility. In 1990, at the RDIEU Conference in Jagdalpur, he ensured that even an ordinary delegate was given the opportunity to speak from the stage, requesting the chair to adjust the schedule if necessary. That single gesture became a life-defining inspiration, transforming hesitation into lifelong commitment. This was his style: he built confidence quietly, decisively, and generously.

His passing marks the end of an era. But eras defined by such leaders do not truly end; they transform into guiding legacies. The path he illuminated continues to shine. The revolutionary ideals he nurtured within AIIEA remain a compass for the movement. His life teaches that leadership is not authority - it is responsibility; not dominance - but dedication; not position - but purpose.

Let us therefore pledge to carry forward his vision. Let us strengthen AIIEA, deepen our ideological commitment, and uphold the values he so carefully cultivated. To hold aloft the torch he lit, to advance the struggle with integrity and unity - that shall be our truest tribute.

Red Salute to Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose. Comrade Bose lives on - in our struggles, in our unity, and in our resolve.



In Raigad Conference of RDIEU, 1989



## Com. Chandrasekhar Bose = The Leader par excellence

Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA

*From the formative years of organizing insurance employees under extremely adverse conditions to shaping nationwide struggles that transformed their working and living conditions, Com. Bose's contribution is unparalleled.*

*But he was something more than a mere trade unionist. He was an inexhaustible reservoir of patience. He was not only a leader, but a leaders' leader.....*

Com. Chandrasekhar Bose, the doyen of the insurance employees' movement, a founding member of the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA), and the beloved leader of generations of insurance employees, passed away in the early hours of 16 January 2026 at the age of 104. The news came as a profound shock to all members, especially to those who had attended the Platinum Jubilee Year Conference of AIIEA in Bhubaneswar from 28 December 2025 to 1 January 2026.

On 30 December 2025—barely a fortnight before his passing—the entire conference hall had resounded with joyous applause as the 104-year-old Com. Bose, wearing his characteristic smile, slowly ascended the five-foot-high stage, gently assisted by a

group of young volunteers. In that moment of celebration and reverence, no one could have imagined that the end was so near. The suddenness of his departure deepened the sorrow, leaving many of his admirers and comrades stunned and speechless.

Com. Chandrasekhar Bose was not merely a veteran trade union leader; he was a living institution and the conscience of the insurance employees' movement in India. His life was inseparably intertwined with the history, growth, and victories of the movement. From the formative years of organizing insurance employees under extremely adverse conditions to shaping nationwide struggles that transformed their working and living conditions, Com. Bose's contribution is unparalleled.

Com. Bose was something more than a mere trade unionist. A gentleman to the core, his cool and amiable temperament coupled with his persuasive manner could convert even a sworn enemy into a lifelong friend. He was an inexhaustible reservoir of patience. He was not only a leader, but a leaders' leader. He identified, nurtured and groomed generations of leaders and activists for the organization. Almost all the leaders of the AIIEA—past and present—have grown under his tutelage only. Yet, so profound was his humility that one would scarcely perceive him as a leader; he invariably carried himself as a simple worker of the organisation. His love and care for the cadres, his concern for employees' families, and his commitment to society at large were truly extraordinary.

It was the year 2000—the Golden Jubilee year of All India Insurance Employees

Association. At the time, I was not even the General Secretary of the Sambalpur Divisional Unit. With the consent of our then General Secretary, I gathered the courage to call Com. Bose. In all innocence, I made a request that was almost childlike—I requested him to come to Sambalpur and stay for an entire week and address the employees on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of AIIEA. I pleaded with him the way a schoolboy might plead with his grandfather. It was an outrageous thing to ask. Not only that, I think in retrospect it was impudence as well. The leadership of Eastern Zone Insurance Employees Association thought I had lost my senses. But Com. Bose agreed without hesitation. Our joy knew no bounds. His week-long stay in Sambalpur was truly a heartwarming experience for all of us. Each day, we would set out early in the morning and return in the evening after holding meetings at two different branches. I would share the hotel room with him at night. But after two or three days, he gently insisted that I return home, reminding me that my son was barely a year old. Another comrade stepped in to take my place. What followed left the comrade deeply moved. He entered the room with a sense of awe—almost trepidation—only to find Com. Bose quietly making the bed for him. The incident spoke volumes about the man. It revealed, more than any speech could, his disarming simplicity and profound humility.

One day while I was based in Patna, Com. Bose called and said he wanted to speak with my son. I handed the phone over. He gently asked whether

my son had read ‘Srikanta’, the celebrated novel by Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay, whose protagonist happened to share my name. When my son admitted he had not read Srikanta, Com. Bose immediately offered to gift him a copy. To his great disappointment, he could not find the English version of the book in Kolkata. So he asked me to order it online, with the clear assurance that he would reimburse the cost. The book arrived—and no one seemed happier than Bose Babu. Yet, for a long time, he could not repay the amount simply because we never found an occasion to meet. The delay was nothing short of an ordeal for him. Every now and then, he would call me and lament that he had not yet reimbursed the cost of the book. Nearly a year and a half later, when he came for the inauguration of our union office—Sugunakar Bhavan—in Hyderabad (by then I had relocated to Hyderabad), he insisted that I accompany him to his hotel room. The moment we entered, he pulled out a five-hundred-rupee note and slipped it into my pocket, reminding me with childlike innocence that it was for the book. That was his affection for the cadres and their families. That was his sense of commitment.

It was on 2 January 2026—just a day after the conclusion of the Platinum Jubilee Conference of AIIEA at Bhubaneswar—that I received his last call. He seemed deeply overwhelmed by the love and affection showered upon him by our comrades during the Conference. Yet, more than anything else, what struck me most were his special words of gratitude

for the young volunteer comrades of Bhubaneswar who had been attending to him. Com. Bose almost pleaded with me to ensure that these young comrades were carefully groomed, for he was convinced they would emerge as outstanding leaders in the future. His voice grew emotional as he remarked that such young comrades were a rare exception in present-day society. At a time when family values appear to be eroding and the concept of the joint family is increasingly fading, he was profoundly happy to see how caring and committed our young comrades were.

It would be a truism to say that the passing away of Com. Bose is an irreparable loss to our movement. Insurance employees’ movement has lost its tallest guiding light; but his legacy, however, will continue to inspire us, guide our struggles, and strengthen our resolve to carry forward the ideals he stood for.



At Platinum Jubilee Year Conference 30/12/2025

## Amanulla Khan Former President, AIIEA

*Com. Bose campaigned that employees should not endure exploitation but should wage a serious battle to fight against exploitation, injustice and for dignity in life. He lit the flame of resistance and this resistance defined his entire life. Unarguably, he made the single biggest contribution to unify the employees and give them a vision of social justice and pluralistic identity.....*



## He shaped the Consciousness of Generations

The AIIEA has lost its head of the family with the passing away of Com Chandrasekhar Bose. He played a very important role in making the AIIEA a great family and keeping it united. For the last one year he had been in and out of hospital. In every conversation during the past six months, he used to say that my last wish is to attend the Platinum Jubilee Year Conference of AIIEA. He felt that he has played his role and his innings would come to an end. But every time he went to the hospital, his indomitable spirit won over the sickness. We saw him in the Platinum Jubilee Year Conference with full of enthusiasm and energy. Therefore, I did not expect the end would come so soon.

The character and life of Com Bose was shaped by his own lived experiences. As a young boy, he saw the sufferings of his mother. He, therefore, had revulsion to patriarchy and male chauvinism. His mother was a great source of strength and courage during his turbulent youth. His assertion of equality between man and woman and the contributions he made for the involvement of the women in the trade union activities was no surprise. The experiences he gained during his participation in the freedom movement, the horrors of the second world war and the brutality of capitalism seen in the Great Bengal Famine contributed to his understanding of the world. He came to the conclusion that capitalism is the cause

of human misery and found attraction in the emancipatory philosophy of working class and at a very young age became the member of the Communist Party of India.

He witnessed the exploitation of the employees when he joined work at Hindustan Cooperative Insurance Company. He campaigned that employees should not endure this exploitation but should wage a serious battle to fight against exploitation, injustice and for dignity in life. He lit the flame of resistance and this resistance defined his entire life. Unarguably, he made the single biggest contribution to unify the employees and give them a vision of social justice and pluralistic identity. Through his life and work, he shaped the consciousness of generations of insurance employees.

For me, being in Bangalore was a great advantage. Bangalore always occupied a special place in the AIIEA. The employees of this division fought against the established leadership to defeat the split of AIIEA and went on to wage a heroic struggle against lockout. Therefore, there were frequent visits of the AIIEA leadership to Bangalore. This helped me and many other cadres of my generation to come closer to the leadership and engage in conversation with them. This greatly helped us in moulding our character.

I came close to Com Chandrasekhar Bose when Bangalore hosted the 11<sup>th</sup> General

Conference of AIIEA in 1982. Since then, it has been a relationship of tremendous value and benefit to me. I found his memory about the events and personalities as something fascinating. This bond was further strengthened when headquarter of Insurance Worker was shifted to Bangalore. He was very appreciative of the improvement in the quality of Insurance Worker. We use to have long conversations about the past of AIIEA. When his Memoir was translated in English, he sent the draft to me. I found it a treasure of information and suggested that AIIEA would publish it from Bangalore. His Memoir along with the Short History of AIIEA which he wrote carry the glimpse of the entire movement of insurance employees.

Com Chandrasekhar Bose influenced generations of employees through his simplicity, humility and commitment to the betterment of the insurance employees. He placed the interests of the collective good of the employees as supreme and in the process courted enormous sacrifices. His suspension and retrenchment over the issue of wage increase for the employees of the Hindustan Cooperative Insurance Company developed as a bigger democratic movement. The struggle of the insurance employees received wide support from the Bengal society with political figures, artists, intellectuals and ordinary workers. Even the great music director Hemant Kumar offered street mobilisation of funds through his singing. This widespread support not only forced the management to withdraw the punitive measures but also showed the respect Com Bose commanded in the democratic movement.

While addressing the Platinum Jubilee Year Conference, he expressed happiness that the small plant sown in 1951 has grown into a gigantic banyan tree. He did not claim any credit for the growth of the organisation but said it was possible due to the work, sacrifices and commitment of thousands of activists and cadres of the AIIEA. This correctly reflected his understanding that in a trade union, individualism and egos have no place. The growth of the AIIEA depends upon the collective work of leaders, cadres and rank and file of the organisation.

Com Bose took pride in the fact that AIIEA today has funds and fixed assets which would help the smooth functioning of the organisation. In a conversation, he informed me that when Calcutta became the headquarters in 1955, AIIEA had to work with a loan of around

Rs.300 and when it was shifted to Madras (now Chennai), we could transfer around Rs.50 lakhs. He was extremely happy that units were constructing their own offices specially in South India. He was keen to visit the Hyderabad and Bangalore Union Office Buildings and expressed great happiness after seeing them.

In one of the last conversations we had, he said it is important for employees to know how difficult it was for AIIEA to secure wage increases and improvements in service conditions. The Bank employees were initially benefited through tribunal awards but the government refused any tribunal for insurance employees. Therefore, every single benefit that was won in the insurance industry was through struggles and sacrifices and this fact has to be understood and sacrifices of earlier generations be appreciated.

Com Bose was an ocean of love. Through his actions, he demonstrated that true love of the country is to love the people of the country. He placed great importance for fraternity and communal harmony. The younger comrades who saw Com Bose at Bhubaneswar Conference would have felt drowned in his love and affection. Though he was not a great orator, he was an excellent conversationalist. Conversing with him on issues was really illuminating.

Com Chandrasekhar Bose is not physically with us but his ideas live in us and continue to inspire our movement. We can say with legitimate pride that we too walked some distance with this great personality in his quest for a better society. The following lines lay down the task for us now:

अब हमारी आँख में है उसकी बंद आँखों का नूर  
अब हमारे जिस्म में है उसकी रूहे.बेकरार  
उसका परचम ले के मैदान में निकलना है हमें  
फ़र्श.गुल से दूर अंगारों पे चलना है हमें

*The light of his closed eyes is in our eyes now  
His restless soul resides in our body now  
We have to enter the battlefield hoisting his flag  
Instead of flowers, we have to walk on fire now*

Ali Sardar Jafri

Let us share the happiness of his dreams and vision and walk the path he traversed in search of dignified life for all. This is not going to be easy. This path will be full of difficulties. But, walk we must. That will be the true tribute to this great personality. Long Live Com Bose.

## K.Venu Gopal , FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY, AIIEA



*Com. Bose left us on 16th January. But he left behind the ideals needed for building an Organisation and running it. His ideals show that the Organisation is built with members, by the cadres under the guidance of the leaders. It is the synthesis of all these that makes Organisation stronger...*

## SALUTE to the GREAT LEADER

Com. Chandrasekhar Bose, a legend in his own right, had been a great source of inspiration for thousands of insurance employees across the country and was the link between the past and the present. Even after his passing away on 16th January, 2026, he left behind a legacy of selfless service for the cause of the employees as an example for others to follow. He was the member of the Communist Party from 1944 to 2026, thus maintaining the standards of a communist for 82 years. He was the oldest member of the CPI (M) when he breathed his last.

Com. Bose, brought up during the days of freedom struggle, organised the students of his school in Khulna (present day Bangladesh) and mobilised them towards the

national liberation movement. After joining the Hindusthan Cooperative Insurance Company, he organised the employees against the inhuman working conditions in the private companies. And from the efforts of Com. Bose and Com. Sunil Maitra and others, AIIEA was formed. But if anybody called him the founding leader of the AIIEA, he would humbly say that he was only a founding member.

I had the occasion to meet Com. Bose at Visakhapatnam in 1972. Visakhapatnam was a Branch centre at that time. But still he came there to resolve an organisational issue relating to branches around Vizag. He was so simple in his attitude that the comrades who came from Branches around Vizag, could straight away express their opinion and he listened to

all of them. Finally, in his inimitable soft voice, he assured the intervention of AIIEA on the issue agitating the employees and advised them about need to strengthen the organisation in the face of the attempts to split AIIEA. Members were really impressed with the way he allowed the grass root level members a direct approach to an all-India Leader. The whole atmosphere was surcharged with a feeling of unity and people literally pledged in the meeting that organisation will be protected at all costs against the attempts to split. And that pledge was kept up.

His love for the Organisation was perpetual. In 2023, when AIIEA Conference was held at Kolkata, he visited the Conference site during the time of preparations to personally see how the preparations were

going on. It was unusually cold at that time and he was 101 years old. Anybody else at his age would have just made a phone call and enquired from the comrades. But not Com. Chandrasekhar Bose. That was his love for AIIEA.

Com Bose was a comrade, who would not talk about his contribution to the Organisation but would always remember the contribution of cadres across the country. During the Diamond Jubilee Conference in 2010 at Delhi, when AIIEA decided to felicitate the former Office-bearers of AIIEA, Com. Bose enquired as to who all were the veteran comrades coming for the felicitation and when he saw Comrades like Com. Thomas after a long time, he was very much happy. Whether it was senior comrades like Bhagawan Swaroop Sharma or a much younger comrades like Jaimin Desai, he would respond to their phone calls with the same enthusiasm. Very senior comrades like late R. Janardhan of Machilipatnam, were part of the legion of ardent fans of Com. Bose for his affection shown towards the cadres.

His love for the younger comrades should be seen to be believed. At the Bhubaneswar Conference of the AIIEA, he was of total praise for the very young volunteers who attended on him and even mentioned about them to Com. Shreekant. This reminds me of another instance where his concern for the employees was seen. A group of young probationers of Raichur Division were issued letters by the management during their probation. At that time SCZIEF Conference was taking place at Udupi. When Com. Bose came to know of this, he called me and said that

the issue is serious and the young boys and girls should not lose their jobs for somebody else's fault. Organisation intervened and all of them were confirmed and are serving the Corporation.

After the AIIEA Headquarters was shifted to Hyderabad, he was keenly observing the functioning and would always appreciate the team work, whenever any major issue was resolved. His appreciation used to carry a lot of encouragement for the team to carry on the work more intensely.

Com. Bose was one comrade, who was working for others without thinking about what would be in there for him. During the pension struggle, initially the joint struggle started with Pension Coordination Committee, and Com. Samir Ghosh, General Secretary of All India Reserve Bank Employees' Association was the convener who was at Kolkata. Subsequently the committee was renamed as Joint Action Committee with the General Secretary of NCBE as the Convener. Along with Com. NM Sundaram, Com. Bose was part of the discussions among the Unions/Association which took place thereafter and played a very important role. He never bothered that the cut-off date for Pension was 01-01-1986, though he retired earlier and was not eligible for Pension scheme.

Com. Bose left us on 14th January. But he left behind the ideals needed for building an Organisation and running it. His ideals

show that the Organisation is built with members, by the cadres under the guidance of the leaders. It is the synthesis of all these that makes Organisation stronger. For this, there should be continuous activity on taking up the issues of the members, building up cadres to link up with the members and building up leadership to lead the Organisation which is a continuous process. For this, one should be humble and should recognise the role of every comrade at every tier of the Organisation. Love for the comrades and acknowledging the work done by a member, a cadre or a leader helps the Organisation to grow. These aspects look very pedantic. But they were put into practice by Comrades like Com. Chandrasekhar Bose. Let us follow his path.



Retirement felicitation of KVG in October 2011

## Bhagwan Swaroop Sharma

Former Vice-President - AIIEA

*Volumes can be written about Com Bose, about his sterling qualities of leadership, about his outstanding contribution to our movement at every point of time and about his multi-dimensional personality of the colossus. Though Com. Bose was always a non-controversial, yet non compromising, soft spoken but very strong in resolute, had a calm demeanor yet rock solid determination & full of compassion for the colleagues.....*



## Reminiscences of Com. Chandrasekhar Bose

The death of Comrade Bose, who commanded a century, has cast a pall of gloom, engulfing the entire mass of insurance employees, pensioners and all others associated with him.

I had the privilege of being a very close associate of him; I came in contact with him when I attended the Hyderabad Working Committee meeting of AIIEA held in 1964. On the day, following the conclusion of the meeting, we all including Com. Bose went to visit the Golconda fort where Com Bose very eruditely made us known the historical back-ground associated with this fort. The way he narrated the back-ground, we were not only astonished but also left with an indelible mark of his knowledge onus.

At this moment, many events are flashing across my mind like fleeting train. However, it is not possible to capture here them all, but some of the events profoundly human to the core and where Com. Bose always refused to tolerate or ignore injustice towards his peers and maintained their

humanity by protecting them from unfair process of blame are mentioned herein after.

I distinctly remember that it was 19-06-1970 when Com. Bose, along with Com. R.P. Manchanda and I were sitting in the union office of Northern Zone Insurance Employees' Association situated at the ground floor of the then Zonal Office, New Delhi, when a comrade came running and informed that the entire leadership of the Delhi Divisional Union with some other members had been arrested by Delhi Police and a criminal case had been registered against them on the basis of a false complaint, with fabricated allegations and concocted version, lodged by the management of LIC.

It is relevant to know that at that time the other leaders of AIIEA were busy holding discussions with the management to provide final touches to the draft of settlement scheduled to be signed the following day i.e. 20-06-1970. On hearing this disturbing news, Com. Bose got infuriated and without losing

any time went straight to meet Shri T.A.Pai, the Chairman of LIC, who was then there in the Zonal Office itself. Com. Bose in a choked voice & visibly with emotional posture informed the chairman that AIIEA would not sign the settlement when his Comrades are put behind the bars. This instant decision of Com. Bose visibly unnerved the Chairman, who after listening and knowing the full facts, ordered the Zonal Manager to ensure immediate withdrawal of the complaint lodged and get the leadership & all others released from the police custody. Com. RP Manchanda and I were present in the chamber of the Zonal Office. This incident simply revealed that though Com. Bose was always a non-controversial, yet non compromising, soft spoken but very strong in resolute, had a calm demeanor yet rock solid determination & full of compassion for the colleagues.

Volumes can be written about Com Bose, about his sterling qualities of leadership, about his outstanding contribution to our movement at ev-

ery point of time and about his multi-dimensional personality of the colossus. Here, I also consider it most appropriate to mention that though Late Com. Kanak Shah, the then President of Ahmedabad unit of AIIEA staged walkout from the June 1972 working committee of AIIEA held in Delhi to seek ratification of the bonus agreement and the splitters expected him to desert AIIEA, yet Com Bose's uprightness and steadfast approach with his persuasion prevented Com Kanak Shah from deserting AIIEA. It had its impact on other Divisions of Gujarat where splitters miserably failed to get any foothold.

Sometime when we all were there in Bombay, Com. Bose, on knowing, that Shri. Patil was suffering from serious

illness, went to meet him & wished him early recovery. On our questioning, Com Bose remarked that there was no place to carry on personal animosity for all times to come. The reply reflected his tender heart.

During the Lucknow conference and thereafter upto June 1972 a cleavage in the leadership of AIIEA was quite visible. In such hostile background conducting meetings at any forum of the AIIEA was always a difficult task as they ensued with heated debates and quite often acrimonious. However, Com Bose's deft handling of the debates always succeeded in preventing any untoward situation. He shall ever be remembered for his impartial handling of the meetings.

The prolonged negotiations

used to be held earlier provided us opportunities to come more & more closer to him and know each other. I always found that he used to wake-up early in the morning and have his breakfast quickly after finishing his daily routine.

He was also concerned that AIIEA should develop into a strong and a tireless organization and his leadership always believed in meticulous planning, team-building, his ability to transcend the age barrier and mingled with younger generation leaders and members with ease shall never be forgotten.

He was and is an icon of insurance employees, a legend and a great visionary & shall always be remembered with respect.

## Humility was his Virtue

*Com Chandrasekhar Bose on his retirement from LIC on 30/4/1983 received innumerable messages of gratitude for his efforts to improve the conditions of insurance employees. He addressed a letter to all employees on May 24, 1983. The letter shows the humility of Com. Chandrasekhar Bose, his dislike of individualism, faith in the collective and total commitment to the emancipatory philosophy of the working class. This letter is reproduced, which was originally published in the June 1983 issue of Insurance Worker.*

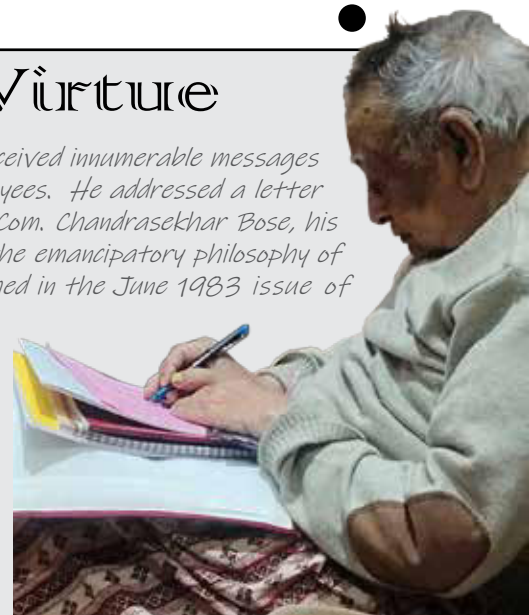
Dear Comrades,

For over two weeks now, I am daily receiving telegrams, letters and other messages from units and individual comrades at different centres spread over the length and breadth of the country congratulating me and conveying greetings and good wishes to me and my family on the occasion of my retirement from the services of the Life Insurance Corporation on April 30, 1983. All these bear testimonies to the deep love, affection and warmth of feeling towards me. I am aware, the affection and admiration expressed is as much for me personally as for the organisation with which I have been associated since its inception in 1951 and of which I have the proud privilege of being the President since 1974. I regret my inability to write individually to all the individual comrades and the units of the organisation acknowledging receipt of their communications and messages and thanking them for the courtesy and kindness shown to me. I feel overwhelmed by these messages and at the enormous goodwill displayed.

The All India Insurance Employees' Association is today not only the largest and oldest national organisation of Insurance employees,

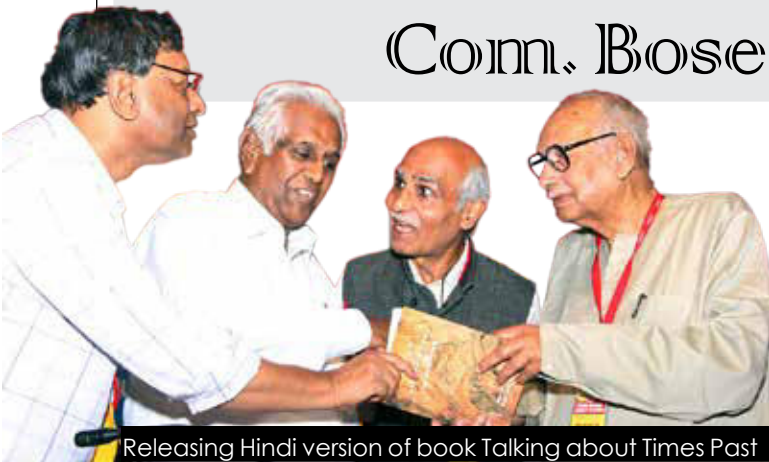
not only has the proud record of devoted services to the Insurance employees for their upliftment but is also one of the most vibrant and effective organisations of the middle class employees and has come to acquire a distinct place for itself in the comity of trade unions and mass organisations in the country.

All these could be achieved not by an individual, however gifted, but by the devoted work of scores of comrades spread all over the country. It is their labour and toil, their loyalty to a cause, their ceaseless work for the movement and organisation, their commitment



Continued on Page 19

# Com. Bose = Icon of AIIEA



Releasing Hindi version of book Talking about Times Past

*Com. Bose was a comrade in arms literally and had personal equations with all the comrades who came in contact with him. He had a long tenure and all the Leaders who worked with him had gained expertise and invaluable experience. Com. Bose had been a guiding star all through his life and will continue to be a beacon light even after his death.*

## Saga of Leadership & Camaraderie

**K. Natarajan, FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY, SZIEF & AIIPA**

A sense of grief engulfed Insurance Pensioners and insurance employees when the news of the passing away of Com. Chandrasekhar Bose was known to them. It was unbelievable that Com. Bose who was present in the 27<sup>th</sup> General Conference (Platinum Jubilee Year) of AIIEA at Bhubaneswar a week before, addressed the Delegates & Observers and invitees (former office bearers) attending the Conference, was no more.

Though Com. Bose, affectionately called Com. Bose Babu had retired from the services of LIC nearly four and a half decades ago, all those connected with the insurance sector had fond remembrances whether they had personal acquaintances with him or not.

Com. Bose was not only the Founding Father of All India Insurance Employees' Association but was Leader of Leaders and his vast knowledge, his acumen, his understanding of issues at hand, his capacity to analyse, his ability to comprehend the challenges and his perception to evolve tactics and

strategies to meet the situation were noteworthy.

All India Insurance Employees' Association has a chequered history and Com. Bose's book on its history has been a chronicle of its glorious past upto the Silver Jubilee Year Conference of AIIEA.

The way he steered the Conferences of AIIEA when he was the President, speaks volumes of his leadership qualities.

A special mention must be made about the Madras Conference of AIIEA in 1972, when the Delegates from Bombay were specially asked to attend the Conference and were granted a free hand to express their views. It is an instance of how democratic values were adhered to in AIIEA. It is known fact that after this Conference, part of leadership led by Com. P.P. Patil sought to split AIIEA and the attempt was defeated.

After demitting office, Com. Bose attended almost all Conferences of AIIEA and he would take the Delegates and Observers to the nostalgic past and

would stress on building the Organisation numerically and ideologically.

Com. Bose was equally evincing and taking very keen interest in the functioning of AIIPA, which he was instrumental in its formation. I remember his calling me over phone immediately after my election as General Secretary of the AIIPA in 2005 and while congratulating, he also advised an enormous responsibility rests on me and many and varied important issues of the insurance pensioners were awaiting solution for long.

He continued to contact me and remind me the issues. He was also suggesting to publish the various epic legal battles fought and won by the AIIEA to let the young and new comrades aware of these battles how they were fought doggedly and how the interests of the employees were protected not only through organisational struggles but also through legal battles.

Com. Bose was a comrade in arms literally and had personal equations with all the

comrades who came in contact with him and used to personally enquire about them even if they meet him after a long gap.

On issues of standardisation of wages soon after formation of LIC with the slogan "better than the best" and categorisation of employees, the imprint of Com.Bose was visible.

Com.Bose had been a part of AIIEA as a member of the Secretariat, as a Senior Comrade in advisory capacity, an octogenarian and above all, a

living legend. During every wage negotiation, the Management keenly observed the view points of the Organisation expressed by Com.Bose.

Com.Bose was a leader who echoed his priorities, the nuances of the demands, the enormity of tasks keeping in view the attitude of the management and government forcefully, he always was for a collective decision.

Top Officials of Managements had high regards for Com.Bose and great respect

for him.

Com.Bose had a long tenure and all the Leaders who worked with him had gained expertise and invaluable experience.

Maybe Com. Bose had left us poorer but his life and teachings have enriched us to carry forward the legacy.

Com.Bose had been a guiding star all through his life and will continue to be a beacon light even after his death.

Com.Chandrasekhar Bose  
AMAR RAHE !!!

## Humility was his Virtue

Continued from Page 17

to usher in fundamental transformation of society and above all, their immeasurable concern for the well being of the vast masses of the working people that have made the AIIEA what it is today. Because of the practical requirements of the movement and organisation, some of us are needed to work in certain positions. But whatever has been accomplished during the last 32 years, especially, during the period following nationalisation of Life Insurance in 1956 and that of General Insurance in 1971 would have remained a distant dream but for the work being done by hundreds of activists, cadres and leaders in their respective areas.

This is no occasion to refer to the various battles fought by us to safeguard the interests of the employees in particular and the working people in general. Suffice it to say, ours is a glorious record of struggles and strivings for the fulfilment of the legitimate aspirations of Insurance employees and through that, those of the larger sections of toiling masses.

We had to wade through difficult water and proceed inch by inch. Nothing was given to us as anybody's benevolence or generosity. Every little bit had to be fought for and won. No slander and repression could cow us down. I, however, cannot forget even for a moment that what has been done is very small compared to what remains undone. I am sure, those in Insurance industry today as also those who would come to serve this industry hereafter shall continue to work with the same devotion, same courage and determination and even greater commitment.

We have attempted to work not only for the advancement of the Insurance employees but also for all toiling people. Unblinded by any narrow parochialism

and cheap appeals of reactionary regionalism and have consistently upheld the banner of unity of the dispossessed. This we have

done convinced as we are that it is only the organised working people alone who can preserve national unity and integrity and none else. It is the organised, conscious and struggling workers who can end exploitation and usher in a just and equitable society.

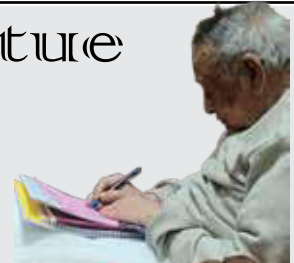
Today, when my connection with the Insurance industry as an employee is severed, we all face a very grim situation. We are being subjected to attacks from all sides. Our hard-earned rights and benefits, our service conditions are being systematically massacred.

I am, however, convinced that we through our unity and struggle shall at not a distant date defeat these attacks, retrieve our position and surge forward. In this great task I am sure, all employees, especially the younger generation will play their legitimate part.

While I am very thankful and feel proud for the messages of greetings received, I would like to inform all comrades that I shall continue to try to serve the interests of the Insurance employees, to continue to participate in the collective leadership of the AIIEA and to work for the betterment and advancement of the employees inspite of the cessation of formal connection with the LIC as an employee from the May Day, 1983.

I again thank all comrades and units who have sent the messages and wish them all well and success.

Yours sincerely,  
**Chandrasekhar Bose**





Addressing CC Meeting of AIIPA at Kolkata in November 2024

Satanjib Das  
President, AIIPA

## RIEID SALUTE Com. Chandrasekhar Bose

*Last time he attended the meeting of AIIPA was its Central Committee Meeting held at Kolkata on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. He came in a wheelchair and addressed the C.C. meeting. His presence itself was inspiring. There also he reminded the meeting of the struggles that delivered the benefit of pension and the challenges that were facing it today. He came in a wheelchair and addressed the C.C. meeting. His presence itself was inspiring. There also he reminded the meeting of the struggles that delivered the benefit of pension and the challenges that were facing it today. He stressed on strengthening the AIIPA*

A grand old banyan tree with its myriad branches rooted to the soil, that gave us confidence, hope, assurance and shelter for so long years, had fallen. That is what seemed to me the moment I came to know the sad demise of Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose. His passing away was not so unexpected given his extraordinarily ripe age of 104. Yet it seemed to be very unexpected and sudden as only a few days before he came all the way from Kolkata to Bhubaneswar to attend and address the Platinum Jubilee Year Conference of the AIIEA. His inspiring presence and address galvanised the Conference. He put aside all his physical difficulties and ailments to attend the Conference. This demonstrated his indomitable spirit and total commitment to the organization.

Com. Bose was not only one of the founding fathers of AIIEA, he was also instrumental for the formation of AIIPA. He could realise very early that

the Pensioners Associations will assume an important and significant role in the coming days. Needless it is to mention here that as in all the struggles of the insurance employees and the momentous victories they achieved, in the struggle to realise the benefit of pension also in the mid-1990s Com. Chandrasekhar Bose left his imprints of leadership. But, he could visualise that the pension achieved under 1995 pension rules is not immune to attacks that are bound to flow from the neo-liberal economic policies pursued by the successive governments at the Centre. He used to say that the Pensioners' movement and organisation have three objectives to fulfill. One is to protect the Defined Benefit Pension Scheme achieved under 1995 pension rules, Second, is to improve upon the 1995 scheme, Third, is to unite with other sections of the working people to build up wider resistance against the onslaughts of the neo-liberal economic policies and also for total reversal of these policies.

Hence, he all along laid stress on strengthening and expanding the AIIPA. He attended and guided almost all the Conferences of AIIPA despite his age and physical difficulties except of course the last one *i.e.* 9th Conference held at Mysore on 2-4 June last year. He was very eager to come. Even before we extended formal invitation to him, he phoned me expressing his eagerness to attend the Conference. But at the last moment his health didn't permit. Even at this age he used to keep contact with various functionaries of the organisation to keep himself abreast of the present state of affairs of the organisation. At least I used to get two or three calls every month. Last time he attended the meeting of AIIPA was its Central Committee Meeting held at Kolkata on held on 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2024. He came in a wheelchair and addressed the C.C. meeting. His presence itself was inspiring. There also he reminded the meeting of the struggles that delivered the benefit of pension and the challenges that were facing it today. He stressed on strengthening the AIIPA and jocularly said that now AIIPA's domain started from the East where the Sun rises first and to West where the Sun sets on the Arabian Sea hinting at the places of the President & General Secretary

of AIIPA. He constantly stressed upon the need of expansion and strengthening of the organisation.

Only one incident will demonstrate how his mind at an age of hundred plus was pre-occupied with the organisation and the movement. For him everything else was secondary including his physical difficulties and ailments. Some two or three years back, perhaps in 2023 I went to Kolkata to attend and address the Divisional Conference of KMDO-1 unit of AIIPA. Com. Chandrasekhar Bose was then hospitalised in a private hospital at Salt Lake area. From the hospital he sent a message through a comrade to me asking to meet him at the hospital. When I reached the hospital, I found him lying in hospital bed stricken with some serious ailment. As I went near his bed he took my hands in him and said that tomorrow you were scheduled to address the KMDO-1 pensioners. Please don't forget to tell our friends two things, One, most of them were recruits in 1970s. It must be reminded to them that if the AIIEA didn't launch anti-automation struggle (which is being decried by some now-a-days) they would not have got the job in LIC and also couldn't be LIC pensioners. Secondly, remind them that the benefit of pension which

they are enjoying today didn't come just like that. It was a product of huge struggle in which AIIEA unified ten major organisations of the financial sector and formed the Joint Action Committee and organised Strike and other agitational programmes under its banner.

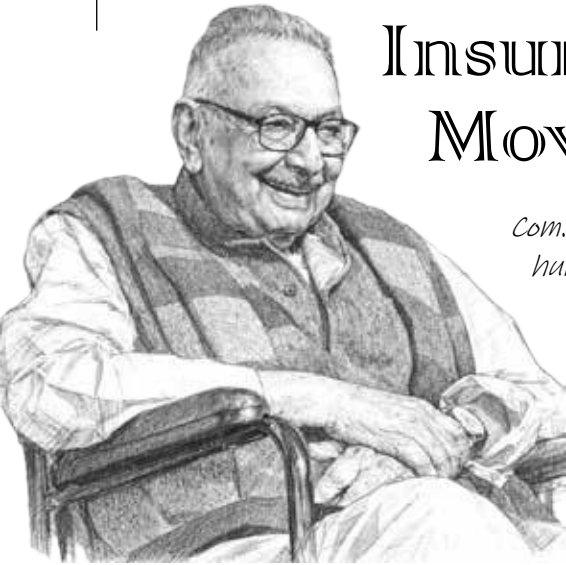
When he was telling me all these I was just wondering what a special mettle he was made of. Joseph Stalin once said, 'Communists are made of special stuff'. This can be very aptly said of Com. Chandrasekhar Bose. He was an epitome of sacrifice, dedication, indomitable spirit and total commitment to the organisation and the movement. Com. Bose was so extraordinary a personality all respects, yet so ordinary with easy access to ordinary employees and cadres. He was compassionate and humane. Nothing humane was alien to him. At the prime of his life, he embraced the liberating ideology of the working class and remained true to it till his last breath of life. His zest for life and avid interests in different arenas of life including literary arena are rarely seen. In his death, truly, an era has ended. But he left behind a rich legacy of struggles, sacrifice, self-effacement and putting the ideals over self. We are pledge-bound to carry forward this legacy and meet the graver challenges of the present times.

**LONG LIVE  
Comrade  
Chandrasekhar  
Bose.**

- Addressing  
AIIPA Conference  
at Bangalore in 2022



# The Guiding Lamp of the Insurance Employees' Movement



*Com. Bose possessed a rare fusion of intellectual clarity and deep human sensitivity. He was the principal inspiration behind the historic ILACO Vigil, a determined effort to physically resist the imposition of automation in LIC. In every crisis and adverse situation, he stood firmly beside the employees-like a vigilant sentinel, like a last trusted friend, some times like a strict teacher and some times like an inexhaustible source of boundless confidence.....*

**Amitava Ghosh, General Secretary, EZIEA**

With the passing away of Com Chandrasekhar Bose, the insurance employees' movement of Eastern Zone has lost a revered leader, an uncompromising ideologue and dedicated advocate of the working class.

Born in the era of colonial rule, Com Bose shaped by the ideals of the freedom movement- discipline, sacrifice and collective resistance. These values found organized expression in his lifelong engagement with the trade union movement. He joined Hindusthan Cooperative Insurance as clerk in 1944. Attracted by Marxist Philosophy from a young age he joined the undivided Communist party of India in 1944. When he joined Hindusthan Insurance Company, the insurance companies didn't play fair. There was no parity in pay structures, funds would be misappropriated. The turning point for Com. Bose came when he witnessed a class IV

employee being humiliated and fired for no fault of his. That incident touched his heart deeply and led him to realise the urgent necessity of organizing the employees working under private companies. At that time Bengal was the epicenter of mass struggles - movements of peasant, P&T employees, Railways employees', State govts. employees', Teachers and many other mass organizations. At that turbulent time, the IPTA was formed and powerful cultural movement began to grow in the Eastern Part of India. These struggles transformed him into a militant and committed trade union leader. With a strong foundation of class consciousness, he emerged as one of the instrumental forces behind the formation of the AIIEA in 1951. From the very beginning, guided by the Marxist philosophy, he was among those who boldly raised the demand for the nationalization of

the insurance sector. After nationalization, he played a leading role in the movement for standardization of wages across the industry.

Com. Chandrasekhar Bose made an outstanding contribution to building and strengthening the EZIEA through his continuous and tireless visits across the length and breadth of the Eastern Zone. At a time when organizational unity still evolving, he personally reached out to members in different divisions, overcoming geographical distances and organizational limitations. His presence in meetings, study circles, conferences and struggles helped consolidate EZIEA as cohesive and militant Zonal Organization. Through direct interaction with general members, Com. Bose instilled confidence, political clarity and organizational discipline. He played a key role in expanding EZIEA's base, nurturing local leadership and ensuring that

the ideology and principles of AIIEA were firmly rooted in every area of the Eastern Zone. His hands-on approach, simplicity and unwavering commitment transformed EZIEA from a developing structure into a vibrant center of collective struggle.

Com Chandrasekhar Bose had a long-cherished dream of bringing out a journal of AIIEA. The publication of Insurance Workers stands as one of the most significant organizational and ideological achievement in the history of the AIIEA. For this purpose, Com. Bose meticulously built a team assigning clear responsibilities to each member regarding various aspects of publication of the journal. Through this collective endeavor a large number of employees came forward and contributed in diverse ways. This initiative served as a training ground for future leadership. Many employees, through their active participation, gradually developed organizational skills and later assumed responsibilities at different levels of the organization.

Com. Bose possessed a rare fusion of intellectual clarity and deep human sensitivity. He was the principal inspiration behind the historic ILACO Vigil, a determined effort to physically resist the imposition

of automation in LIC. This anti-automation movement stands as a perfect example of United Movement. Com Bose brought together all sections of the society—workers, middle class employees, youths, students, leaders of the democratic movement, general masses—under a common platform. He envisioned and articulated the struggles not merely as a sectional movement, but as one emerging from the broader fabric of the society. The victory of this movement was on the ideological front, of the refusal of the working class to help the capitalist class and their state to shrink the employment market eliminating the potential job opportunity.

He was also deeply interested in the cooperative movement. Under his guidance, CDLIE Cooperative Credit Society was formed in Calcutta in 1962 to protect employees from exploitation by private moneylenders. Com. Bose played an instrumental role establishing employees' cooperative credit societies across eastern region following the formation of LIC. He took the initiative to introduce cultural activities among employees and through these efforts he succeeded in attracting a large number of employees towards the organization. Under his guidance the employees of

Kolkata organized a five-day program to commemorate the 100<sup>th</sup> birth centenary of Rabindranath Tagore. On this occasion, a souvenir was published in which distinguished personalities like Pearl S Buck and Victoria Ocampo contributed their write-ups.

At the time of semi-fascist terror in West Bengal and during the movements in Assam, Com Bose stood like a rock-solid pillar against reactionary forces who sought to divide the organization. He courageously shielded the leadership from attacks by hired goons and ensured their safety. He attended a number of conferences for the formation of new divisional association under Eastern Zone. In 1986 along with other leaders, he went to Jorhat to attend the 1<sup>st</sup> conference of Jorhat Division. At that time, there was a serious threat to his life, and he had to stay outside city for safety reasons. Undeterred, he courageously attended the conference and his presence inspired the members of Jorhat Division.

In every crisis and adverse situation, he stood firmly beside the employees—like a vigilant sentinel, like a last trusted friend, some times like a strict teacher and some times like an inexhaustible source of boundless confidence.

Unblemished, unwavering and unshaken Com. Chandrasekhar Bose was steadfast in profound conviction. The militant traditions, democratic practices and mass character of EZIEA today stand as a living testimony to Com. Chandrasekhar Bose's vision and lifelong commitment.



At 31<sup>st</sup> Conference of EZIEA, at Siliguri in November 2019

# ILAL SAILAM COMRADE

V V Suresh, General Secretary, SZIEF



*When he meets comrades at conferences, he would warmly ask where they had come from. When they mention their hometown, he would recall senior comrades who had worked there and enquire affectionately about them. Even after 30 years since a comrade stepped away from trade union works, he called him and asked about his well-being. Such was his noble character. Even after many years of this incident that comrade still cherishes those inspiring conversations and proudly shares those moments, reflecting his elevated regards for human relationships of Com. Bose...*

**C**omrade Chandrasekhar Bose - the name brings a surge of enthusiasm. One feels immense pride when thinking about the All India Insurance Employees' Association, which he built along with many other leaders. Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose always maintained inspiring connections with the Divisions of South Zone.

During those days in conferences, as a first man, he would be seen seated in mattress, surrounded by cylindrical pillows, in front of 1.5 feet high writing table. The brief spoken leader's command over the session was memorable. Whenever Com. Bose attended a meeting, his speech would

be simple, well-structured, and elegantly presented. He would not casually mingle or engage in informal conversation with everyone. But when he spoke about the organisation in meetings, one could see enthusiasm overflowing. Throughout his life, his thoughts were always centred around the All India Insurance Employees' Association and its comrades.

At the South Zone Conference held at Coimbatore in 1986, Comrade Bose made a request to the Reception Committee. During that period, the *Insurance Worker* journal was being published from Kolkata. He mentioned that it would be helpful to have an electronic typewriter to assist its publication, and he affectionately requested that providing one be considered more helpful for the day to day functioning of IW.

Since his thoughts were always devoted to the welfare of the Union, accepting his appeal the Reception Committee of Coimbatore decided to contribute Rs. 40,000 towards purchasing an electronic typewriter and handed over the amount to Comrade Bose. From that day onwards, at every conference,



Diamond Jubilee of AIEA program at Chennai in 2011

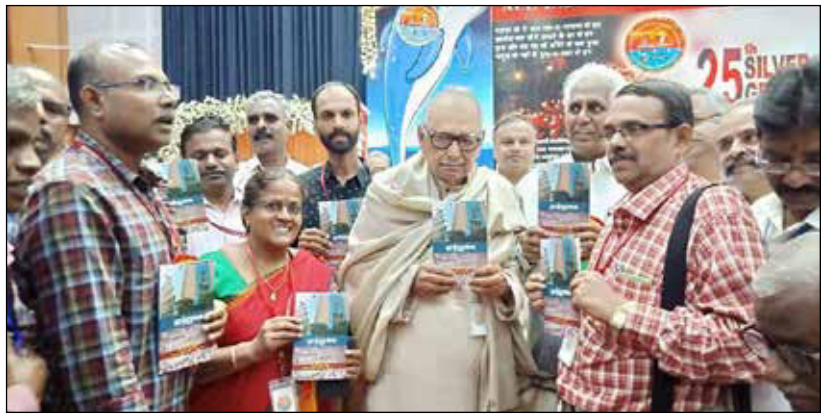
it became customary to extend support for the growth of *Insurance Worker*. It was Comrade Bose who made this possible.

Comrade Bose possessed an extraordinary memory. Even while participating in various movements and conferences across the country, he remembered the comrades with whom he had worked and interacted. Whenever he had the opportunity, he would contact them and enquire about their well-being - something truly remarkable.

He used to remember and greet the units who undertook the movements successfully and continuously. His inspiring greetings and acknowledgements enthused many cadres in our zone.

When he meets comrades at conferences, he would warmly ask where they had come from. When they mention their hometown, he would recall senior comrades who had worked there and enquire affectionately about them. Even after 30 years since a comrade stepped away from trade union works, he called him and asked about his well-being. Such was his noble character. Even after many years of this incident that comrade still cherishes those inspiring conversations and proudly shares those moments, reflecting his elevated regards for human relationships of Com. Bose.

The camaraderie and close relationship between Comrade Bose, Comrade Sunil Moitra, and Comrade Saroj Choudhury were



SZIEF Com Bose releasing the Novel *Mutrugai* during the AIIEA Conference at Vizag, 2020

remarkable. In later years, during a conversation, when speaking about his fellow comrades, the emotional way in which Comrade Bose shared his memories revealed how deeply he loved this movement and those who traversed with him.

Comrade Bose inaugurated the Madurai Divisional Union office, and that moment remains etched in the hearts of our comrades even today. In later years, when comrades from the southern region visited him, he used to engage in long discussions with them, warmly host them and send them off with great enthusiasm.

When our Vellore Comrades wished to release a booklet in Tamil on ILLACO VIGIL – against automation Com. Bose shared his thoughts, sitting for hours together without minding his health at the age of 96. He not only ensured south Indian food for our comrades, but also shared it with them. Such a noble comrade was he who respected the sentiments and feelings of

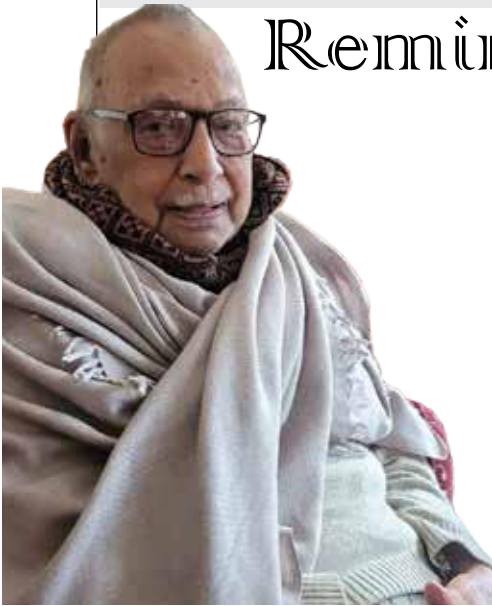
other comrades of AIIEA. It was a great moment when he released the booklet at the 25<sup>th</sup> General Conference of AIIEA held at Visakhapatnam in the year 2020.

Our comrades across the Zone are having many such rich experiences and memories about Com. Bose, be it Golden Jubilee Conference of AIIEA at Chennai, or AIIEA Conference in Ernakulam or Conferences of various Divisional Unions. His memories still are the guiding force for us. Our young comrades who attended the Platinum Jubilee Year Conference of AIIEA held at Bhubaneswar, still share their emotional feelings of Com. Bose.

We have lost a great Warrior, Good Comrade, Legendary Leader. With his memories we will carry forward the red flag which he carried all along these years, the TU movement which he always sailed through. We will carry his dreams, his ideals and his thoughts. It is the fitting tribute to our beloved leader Com. Chandrasekhar Bose. ■

# Reminiscences of a Legend

P Satish President, SCZIEF



*The understanding of the AIIEA about the class character of the State is the key for realization of the need for sustained struggle to protect LIC and the interests of Insurance Employees. Com. Bose emphatically stated that the tactics and strategy of AIIEA, which emanated from its clarity on understanding of class character of the State has been the secret of AIIEA*

The news of passing away of Com. Chandrashekar Bose on January 16, 2025, left thousands of comrades across the country in disbelief. Pall of gloom descended not just in the families of Insurance Employees, but also among his countless admirers, well-wishers across the country. Having witnessed his disarming smile, infectious energy and boundless commitment at the 27th Conference of AIIEA held at Bhubaneswar, it was hard to digest that he had left us so suddenly.

Like Bhishma Pitamaha in Mahabharata, who waited 58 days on a bed of arrows for his eternal journey, Comrade Bose seemed to be waiting for the Platinum Jubilee Conference of AIIEA to reach its culmination. His determination to participate in the conference despite health issues was a testament to his unwavering commitment to the organization.

As a founder member and

legendary leader of AIIEA, Comrade Bose took immense pride in the growth of AIIEA and achievements for the last 75 years. His speeches are like a treasure trove of history of AIIEA. His words echo the past struggles and hardships faced by the earlier generation of leaders and members, making his words so relatable and impactful.

On 5th September 2021 at Hyderabad, Com. Bose inaugurated the Sugunakar Bhavan, Union Building constructed by SCZIEF, ICEU Hyderabad and Secunderabad Divisions in the name of Founder General Secretary of SCZIEF. This sterling speech by Com. Bose still echoes in our minds and gave us a glimpse into the visionary leadership of AIIEA. The understanding of the AIIEA about the class character of the State is the key for realization of the need for sustained struggle to protect LIC and the interests of Insurance Employees. Com. Bose emphatically stated that the tactics and strategy of AIIEA, which emanated from its clarity on understanding of class character of the State has been the secret of AIIEA

The Insurance Worker, our mouthpiece, has been a powerful tool in developing our ideological mooring and inculcating working-class philosophy among the masses. Com. Bose reminded us of the pivotal role played by "Insurance worker" in infusing ideological moorings among



Inaugurating Sugunakar Bhavan at Hyderabad

members and cadres. His words, "To keep ourselves aware of ongoing happenings around us and in the industry, objective analysis of events was considered to be an important organizational task," continue to inspire us.

The humility of Comrade Bose is truly inspiring and he always chose to highlight the role played by Insurance Worker than seeking to draw attention to his own contributions as Editor of Insurance Worker. His self-effacing nature speaks volumes about his character and dedication to the cause. It is no exaggeration that the Journal gained popularity among employees thanks to pioneering strides made by Com. Bose, Com. NM Sundaram and now by Com. Amanulla Khan.

While addressing the 13th Conference of SCZIEF at Bengaluru in 2024 in a virtual mode, he recalled the sacrifices courted by Metropolitan Insurance Company comrades in upholding banner of AIIEA through thick and thin and exhorted the present generation to emulate the comradeship displayed by them.

The notable presence of Com. Bose in the memorial seminar of Comrade Saroj Chaudhury over one and half a decade ago in Vizag, despite his ill health showcased his strong bond with Com. Saroj. He elaborated in the seminar as to why he considered Com. Saroj a worthy successor and handed over the baton of General Secretary to him in 1959. It is a testament to his visionary leadership. Comrade Saroj went on to serve as General Secretary for 29 years, living up to Comrade Bose's expectations. This selfless act by Com. Bose showcases



his remarkable character and propensity to prioritize the organization's growth over personal choices. A true leader indeed!

Comrade Bose's legacy is a reminder that age is just a number. His undying spirit and mental faculties, even at an advanced age, reflect his abiding interest and passion towards AIIEA.

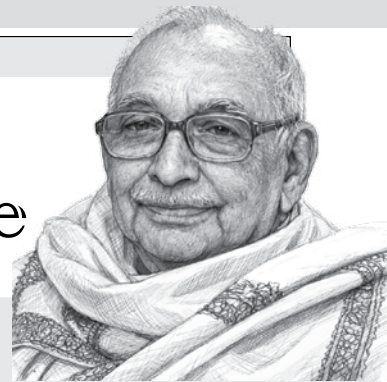
As the legendary Comrade NMS remarked in Ernakulam Conference of AIIEA that "We should always feel proud that this organization was led by Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose, Com. Saroj Chaudhury & Com. Sunil Moitra.

Comrade Bose's photographic memory is a treat to relish. It's amazing how he could recall names and events with such clarity, even after all these years. His ability to connect with comrades on a personal level must have inspired many and earned him immense respect from them. I along with countless social media activists throughout the country feel privileged to have got his phone calls, his messages for our activities in Social Media. He minutely

observe all the posts of Union Functionaries in Face book and whatsapp , and often intervene and applaud the tiniest contributions also. Like his speeches, interactions with Com. Bose are laced with incidents about Comrade Saroj, Comrade Sunil, and other generational leaders and it gives us inkling as to how their extensive tours and efforts have clearly laid a strong foundation for growth and success of AIIEA

Incidentally Karmikavahini (Telugu journal of SCZIEF) in its December 2025 Issue had published the speech excerpts of Com. Bose, at the time of his Retirement in April, 1983. This speech is reflection of the life and struggles of Com. Bose - a shining example of dedication, perseverance, and passion. His life and struggles are perennial source of Inspiration for generations to come. The SCZIEF will always cherish his memories and strive to follow in his footsteps for strengthening of PSU Insurance Industry and AIIEA.

# Heartfelt Tribute to Com. Chandrasekhar Bose



Trinath Dora, General Secretary, ECZIEA

*We humbly urge all comrades to read his three books: A Short History of AIIEA (1978), Talking About the Times Past and Smruti Bismruti (Bengali). We also commend reading the three editorials he wrote as Editor of Insurance Worker: Save Democracy (1972, on semi-fascist terror in West Bengal), the heavily censored editorial during the Emergency and Black Friday (on the demolition of the Babri Masjid), to truly understand his expansive vision and unwavering faith in the ultimate victory of humankind.....*

It is truly difficult to describe Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose and his immense contributions to the divisions of the East Central Zone, which were once part of the undivided Eastern Zone. He was indeed one of the rarest breeds, a comrade with an infectious smile on his lips and an abiding commitment to the larger cause of humankind; a sage in appearance, yet a seer at heart. As a matter of fact, he guided all the divisional units of the then Eastern Zone whenever the need arose. Although it is not easy to specifically enumerate his contributions to our present zone, we have attempted to highlight a few of them in the following lines.

In 1971, he visited Cuttack and the flood-affected districts as a member of a three-member team representing the Zonal Management. The other two members were late Dasarathi Nanda, representing the Cuttack Divisional

Management (a colleague of Com. Bose since their service days at Hindustan Co-operative Insurance Co.), and late Comrade S. N. Sircar, then President of CDIEA.

On the recommendation of this three-member team, the flood-affected employees received flood advances perhaps for the first time, as demanded by our Union.

In 1972, the split of AIIEA took place, leading to the formation of the All India Life Insurance Employees' Federation. In our Zone, two divisions were particularly affected. Our units functioned as the Insurance Employees' Association, Jamshedpur Division, and the Insurance Employees' Union, Muzaffarpur Division, under the banner of AIIEA. The split was such that our units began with zero balance and a very small number of comrades. Inter-union conflicts often turned violent, yet our comrades remained ideologically strong and fearless.

Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose played a highly encouraging and supportive role during this turbulent period. Along with Comrade Saroj, he visited these divisions repeatedly, provided ideological guidance, encouraged young comrades to participate in union activities, boosted morale, and counselled employees



Com. Chandrasekhar Bose arriving at the 27th Conference venue

to remain calm and firm. As the Management attempted to exploit the situation by harassing employees and creating undue pressure, Comrade Bose provided invaluable guidance to the leadership on how to tackle these challenges. His visits to Jamshedpur and Muzaffarpur continued until 1987-88, by which time IEAJD and IEUMD had grown strong and vibrant.

Then came the historic Charter of Demands struggle of 1973-74, which AIIEA won decisively defeating lockouts in six divisions and braving the victimisation of hundreds of leaders and cadres across the country. As President of AIIEA, Comrade Bose played a stellar role in this historic struggle. Patna Division was among those subjected to lockout. The Divisional Management issued grave threats of dismissal to all employees of Patna Division (now Patna-1 and Patna-2). Though the employees stood firm with rock-solid unity, the Management spared no effort to break their resolve. Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose visited Patna during the lockout along with Comrades Saroj and Sunil. His visit proved to be a major morale booster for the comrades there, instilling immense confidence among both the leadership and the employees.

During the historic Railway Strike of 1974, involving over 20 lakh railway workers, the Government unleashed a reign of terror, dismissing thousands and brutally attacking their families. Late Comrade Ram Chandra Nayak of Berhampur, then Assistant Secretary of Cuttack Division Insurance Employees' Association, was arrested under the Defence of India Rules, imprisoned,

and suspended from service for supporting the strike. The lower court convicted him on three counts, sentencing him to 15 days rigorous imprisonment or a fine of ₹ 50 for each offence.

CDIEA challenged the verdict and the case eventually reached the Orissa High Court. With the guidance and advice of Comrade C. S. Bose and late Comrade S. N. Bhowmik, CDIEA succeeded in persuading barrister late Comrade Sadhan Gupta (former Communist MP, who studied law through the Braille system) to argue the case, assisted by late Comrade Prabir Palit (CPI), Advocate. Owing to Comrade Sadhan Gupta's brilliant defence, the High Court discharged Comrade Ram Chandra Nayak of two charges. The remaining charge "causing disaffection against the State" required a fine of Rs.50 or 15 days' imprisonment, which was sufficient grounds for dismissal from LIC service. Ultimately, through the efforts of Comrades C. S. Bose and Sunil Maitra (former CPI(M) MP and Joint Secretary of AIIEA), the then Union Minister George Fernandes whom Comrade Ram Chandra Nayak had once helped evade arrest during the Emergency prevailed upon the LIC Management to withdraw all charges against him.

Similar guidance and support from Comrade Bose were extended to CDIEA during the struggle against the victimisation of Comrade T. N. Das of Balasore, then Assistant Secretary of CDIEA, for protesting against casteist and uncivilised slurs by Branch Management.

Whether it was confronting disruptors who sought to exploit irregularities in the Cuttack Co-operative Society

or resisting attempts by self-seekers to weaken and fragment our organisation, Comrade C. S. Bose stood rock-solid with the leadership of CDIEA.

Under his towering leadership and able guidance, the Cuttack Unit successfully hosted two Eastern Zonal Conferences (1968 and 1980), one AIIEA Working Committee meeting (1980), and notably, the 14th AIIEA Conference at Cuttack in 1990. His gracious presence at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Triennial Conference of ECZIEA at Cuttack in 2010 and the recently concluded Platinum Jubilee 27th General Conference held at Bhubaneswar will remain forever etched in our collective memory.

Above all, his love and affection for the leadership past and present and for the comrades of AIIEA at large are truly worth emulating. Until his last days, he endeavoured to collect details of the comrades he had known. We humbly urge all comrades to read his three books:

A Short History of AIIEA (1978), Talking About the Times Past and Smruti Bismruti (Bengali). We also commend reading the three editorials he wrote as Editor of Insurance Worker: Save Democracy (1972, on semi-fascist terror in West Bengal), the heavily censored editorial during the Emergency and Black Friday (on the demolition of the Babri Masjid), to truly understand his expansive vision and unwavering faith in the ultimate victory of humankind.

*Long live Comrade  
Chandra Sekhar Bose.*



# The driving force behind organization in General Insurance

Sanjay Jha Secretary, Standing Committee (GI) AIIEA



*PSGI employees are filled with gratitude to Com. Chandrashekhar Bose who led the organization with courage of conviction to force the Government for nationalizing the General Insurance business and who stood tall in the face of adversity and not only protected the organization from the treacherous assault but helped it grow and become a force to reckon with in the PSGI industry. Once I told him that his presence would inspire us all. He laughed and said, "Actually it's the love and respect of you all otherwise what I am". This humility and simplicity of his shows us that great leaders need not be flamboyant and flashy.....*

Com. Chandrashekhar Bose spent his life working for the betterment of insurance employees. lurking behind. He reiterated this resolve in the platinum jubilee year conference at Bhubaneswar even at the age of 104 years! Though he left us forever very soon thereafter, his indomitable spirit of hope and relentless struggle will continue to guide us in every organizational endeavor.

The AIIEA under the leadership of Com. Chandrashekhar Bose and his comrade-in-arms put forth the demand for nationalization of the insurance industry in India. He pursued it with passion, dedication and perseverance. The aim was partially achieved under his General Secretaryship when LIC was formed in 1956 following nationalization of life insurance business. However, the Government left General Insurance Business untouched considering it was related to businesses only. But AIIEA continued with its campaign and struggle.

Com. Chandrashekhar Bose, as a devoted soldier of AIIEA, continued to spearhead the campaign, first as General Secretary and then as Vice

President of the organization and fought relentlessly for 16 years from 1956 to 1972 to convince the Government that like LIC a nationalized general insurance industry would help the government to further expand its welfare policies. The Government finally acceded to our demand and nationalized the General Insurance Business in 1972 but out of certain political compulsions the Government decided to form GIC of India as holding company with its four subsidiaries headquartered at Mumbai, Chennai, Delhi and Kolkata. AIIEA opposed it vehemently and demanded for a monolithic corporation like LIC. However, when the AIIEA delegation led by Com. Chandrashekhar Bose met Mr. Y B Chavan, finance minister, it was informed that one of its leaders from General Insurance has agreed to the government's proposal. Com. Bose could smell the conspiracy and called upon AIIEA members to foil the same.

Soon thereafter, the \* wolf in the sheep's dress\* came out in the open and the AIIEA had to face a treacherous attempt to split. It was successfully thwarted in LIC but the wrecker-in-chief being an all-

India office bearer of AIIEA from General Insurance, the split had an adverse impact on the organization in the General Insurance. But then with the very presence of the towering personality of Com. Bose, AIIEA could save itself not only in the eastern zone but also kept the possibility of revival alive. AIIEA, with Com. Chandrashekhar Bose as its president, continued to espouse the cause of LIC and GIC simultaneously forging broader unity of insurance workers. It successfully resolved wage issues and other benefits on similar lines in LIC and GIC. During the 1980s and 90s, the credibility of AIIEA among the insurance employees was sky high which helped it in swelling its ranks in General Insurance. In the first decade of this century, AIIEA was numerically at number one in South and Eastern Zone and had made inroads in various regions in North and South Zone.

The unity of LIC and general insurance employees strongly advocated by Com Chandrasekhar Bose has benefitted the general insurance employees to a great extent. Today, AIIEA in general insurance has become

a formidable force and has been able to influence outcome in wage revision. It has also been possible for AIIEA to build a broad unity to challenge the policies of the government that are detrimental to public sector. This unity is due to the consistent education and campaign in which Com Chandrasekhar Bose played a very big role.

Hence, PSGI employees are filled with gratitude to Com. Chandrashekhar Bose who led the organization with courage of conviction to force the Government for nationalizing the General Insurance business and who stood tall in the face of adversity and not only protected the organization from the treacherous assault but helped it grow and become a force to reckon with in the PSGI industry.

Com. Chandrashekhar Bose regularly addressed programs organized by the WBSGIEA, as the President of AIIEA and even after he got relieved from that position. He had nurtured a large pool of leaders in the General Insurance Sector in the Eastern Zone. Most of them led the organization at pan India level in General Insurance. As a true leader

as he was, he never interfered in the day-to-day activity of the organization in General Insurance but when he was approached, he used to freely share his opinion and advice on various issues be it the struggle against privatization or for merger of four PSGI companies post- opening up of the Insurance sector, campaign against SVRS, unilateral TMP and for recruitment.

I normally do not make unnecessary or even formal calls to any comrade. Hence, my personal interaction with him was very limited. But every time I spoke to him or called on him, he used to make the whole conversation so simple and comfortable. He spoke from conviction but in a friendly way. He was strict with his views but tolerant to other ideas also. He had the patience to listen, tenacity to explain his views in the most amiable way and humility to accept his mistake without any qualms.

A few days before we were to start for Bhubaneswar in order to attend the platinum jubilee Year conference of AIIEA, I got his call asking me plainly regarding one of my decisions which he did not feel appropriate. Once satisfied with my clarification, he stated that he was at hospital a few days back but on the insistence of AIIEA HQ he was going to attend the conference. I told him that his presence would inspire us all. He laughed and said, "Actually it's the love and respect of you all otherwise what I am". This humility and simplicity of his shows us that great leaders need not be flamboyant and flashy.

That is why, we love you Comrade, and will continue to do so till our memory assist us.



Encouraging Blood donors

# An Enduring Organisational Legacy & a Living Presence in Our Memory

**Naveen Chand**, General Secretary, NZIEA

*Often, he spoke less and listened more. That rare ability to listen with empathy, seriousness, and respect created a deep emotional bond between him and comrades. To many, he felt less like a leader and more like a trusted elder of the movement. While engaging the government and countering management manoeuvres on one front, he stood firmly with comrades on the other, assuring them that the organisation would never abandon its people. His speeches during those testing times carried no hollow slogans. They reflected shared pain, collective resolve, and an unshakeable belief that unity would ultimately prevail. Many comrades still recall how his words prevented despair from turning into defeat.....*



The passing away of Comrade Chander Shekhar Bose is not merely the loss of a senior leader for NZIEA; it is the silencing of a voice that stood beside us in every difficult moment. It marks the absence of a reassuring presence that never allowed the organisation to feel alone in times of crisis. For us, he was never a distant national functionary. He was our own comrade - one whose very arrival restored confidence, whose words carried warmth, and whose unwavering commitment made every struggle feel collective and meaningful.

As Delhi is the capital of India, every major confrontation of the organisation with government policy inevitably drew Comrade Bose to the city. Whether it was resistance to anti-worker decisions, defence of public sector insurance, or critical negotiations with the authorities, Delhi became the

nerve centre of struggle - and Comrade Bose was always there. He came to engage ministers, senior officials, and policymakers, firmly and fearlessly placing the position of insurance employees before those in power. Yet, for him, Delhi was never confined to the corridors of authority. Every visit to the capital also meant reconnecting with NZIEA comrades, listening to their concerns, and strengthening the organisation at the grassroots.

Whenever he came to Delhi, visiting the NZIEA office and meeting comrades was almost instinctive. These were never formal or ritualistic interactions. He would sit with office-bearers and activists & enquire about their well-being. Often, he spoke less and listened more. That rare ability to listen—with empathy, seriousness, and respect—created a deep emotional

bond between him and NZIEA comrades. To many, he felt less like a leader and more like a trusted elder of the movement.

A defining episode that forged this bond occurred in June 1970. On the basis of a false and fabricated complaint by the LIC management, arrest warrants were issued against around thirty leading comrades of the Delhi Divisional Committee of NZIEA. Stringent sections of the Indian Penal Code were invoked with the clear intent of branding union leaders as threats to the State and denying them bail. The move was designed to terrorise the organisation and break its resolve.

By circumstance, Comrade Bose happened to be in Delhi on that very day. With clarity and firmness he intervened decisively & categorically in the matter which compelled the management to withdraw the complaint and ensured

the closure of the case against the Delhi leadership. For NZIEA, this was not merely an organisational intervention; it was an unforgettable act of comradeship. It affirmed, beyond doubt, that when repression strikes at the grassroots, the national leadership stands unambiguously with its people.

During the dark days of the 1974 lockout - when fear, uncertainty, and economic distress engulfed insurance employees across the country - and in other fierce battles led by AIIEA, whether against the government's proposal to divide LIC into five corporations, the historic bonus struggle, or the prolonged legal battle that reached the Supreme Court, Comrade Bose devoted equal energy to sustaining the emotional strength of the organisation. While engaging the government and countering management manoeuvres on one front, he stood firmly with comrades on the other, assuring them that the organisation would never abandon its people. His speeches during those testing times carried no hollow slogans. They reflected shared pain, collective resolve, and an unshakeable belief that unity would ultimately prevail. Many comrades still recall how



Felicitation at Delhi , 2010

his words prevented despair from turning into defeat.

What truly set Comrade Chander Shekhar Bose apart was his ability to humanise struggle. He understood deeply that organisations do not survive on resolutions and agitations alone - they endure through trust, empathy, and shared sacrifice. For NZIEA, he was not merely a part of history; he became an integral part of its emotional fabric. Even today, in moments of uncertainty, comrades instinctively recall his calm, firm, and reassuring voice.

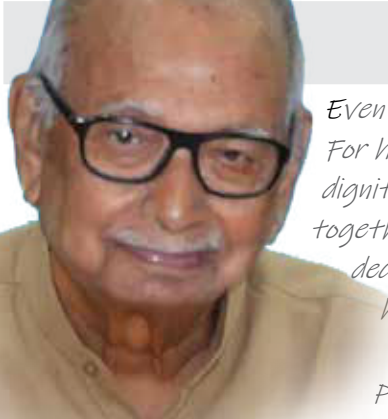
The demise of such a legendary personality is a profound and irreparable loss

to NZIEA. We have lost not only a guide, but a guardian - one who confronted power in Delhi while standing shoulder to shoulder with comrades on the ground. In mourning and in honour, NZIEA dips its banner in his memory, with heavy hearts but unwavering resolve.

Comrade Chander Shekhar Bose may no longer walk among us, but his spirit lives on in our unity, our courage, and our commitment to the organisation. His life reminds us that no struggle is insurmountable when comrades stand together - and this is the legacy NZIEA will carry forward with pride and gratitude.

Addressing 22<sup>ND</sup> Conference of AIIEA in New Delhi, 2010

# The life of Com. Chandrashekhar Bose = Echoes of Memory



Rajiv Nigam General Secretary, NCZIEF

*Even in adverse circumstances, his voice never weakened. For him, struggle was not merely a fight for rights, but a defense of dignity. His leadership was not about giving orders, but about walking together with everyone. He listened, he understood, and he valued collective decision-making. Today, though he is no longer with us, his thoughts, his values, his simplicity and courage remain indelibly etched in our hearts. His life teaches us that a person may depart, but ideals and principles live beyond the boundaries of time.....*

बीते हुए लम्हों की वह हल्की-सी आहट  
जैसे दूर कहीं से आती कोई मधुर धुन-  
जो हमें फिर उसी पल में ले जाती है  
जहाँ सपने थे, सपनों के लिए संघर्ष था  
संघर्ष की राह दिखाता शख्स था ।  
यादों की यही गूँज  
जीवन को अर्थ देती है।  
क्योंकि जो बीत गया  
वही तो एक कहानी बन गया ।

*That gentle whisper of moments gone by,  
Like a sweet melody drifting from afar-  
It carries us back to that very instant,  
Where there were dreams,  
the struggle to fulfill those dreams,  
and a guiding soul  
who showed the path through struggle.  
It is this echo of memories that gives meaning to life.  
For what has passed has become the story.*

The Life of Com. Chandrashekhar Bose itself

is a Story. A story of 104 years of lively and purposeful life.

For all of us who are working in the democratic and Employees movement under the banner of All India Insurance Employees' Association, the life and journey of Com. Chandrashekhar Bose is not merely a treasure of memories but also a source of Inspiration for all of us.

Some lives are not merely lived; they become an ideology in themselves. The life of Comrade Chandrashekhar Bose was one such dedicated, resilient, and inspiring journey.

We at NCZIEF always felt a deep association with Com. Bose. He was **Dada** for all of us not only as we call him but also in his role in shaping the cadres through his inspiring guidance on many of the occasions. Our leaders of past in the Zone and the present generation too feel fortunate enough to see him, listen him,

sought his guidance and presence on many occasions. Long back in 1959 it was the Kanpur, where he was elected as Vice President of AIIEA.

His brilliant speech in the presence of Sri Chandrashekhar, *former Prime Minister of India* in the Zonal Conference of NCZIEF in the year 2000 at Varanasi will always be in the hearts



At NCZIEF Conference at Varanasi with former PM, 2000

of comrades, who were present there.

It was a proud moment for us, when we took the responsibility to translate his book/Memoir "Talking about the times Past" into Hindi as "Smritikosh". The Hindi translation of his memoir gave an opportunity to Hindi speaking zones/comrades to learn from the writing of his experience and memory of the struggles of his journey.

It was not only a surprise but an unbelievable moment for the newly recruited Assistants in 2020 at Varanasi, when Dada visited the place of their training in February 2020, during his personal visit to Varanasi. Those who were present there call it an unforgettable moment of their lives.

It is a fact that memory fades with the age, but it doesn't fit to Comrade Chandrashekhar Bose. I personally remember that when in November 2023 he called me for sending some copies of his "Smritikosh", his recollection of names of the leaders of various divisional units of NCZIEF and events mesmerized me. It was beyond my expectation that even at that age and in absence of day to day touch with the Zonal Federation, "He could hold so much within his memories - simply outstanding".

He did not confine his principles to words; he transformed them into action, Commitment to the organization, affection for his comrades, and an unwavering dedication to justice - these were his true identity.

Even in adverse circumstances, his voice

never weakened. For him, struggle was not merely a fight for rights, but a defense of dignity. His leadership was not about giving orders, but about walking together with everyone. He listened, he understood, and he valued collective decision-making. Today, though he is no longer with us, there is indeed a deep void. Yet his thoughts, his values, his simplicity and courage remain indelibly etched in our hearts. His life teaches us that a person may depart, but ideals and principles live beyond the boundaries of time.

The beautiful lines by *Sahir Ludhiyanavi* very well suit to the life of Comrade Chandrashekhar Bose. *Sahir writes....*

जिस्म की मौत कोई मौत नहीं होती है ।  
जिस्म मिट जाने से इसांन नहीं मर जाते ॥  
धडकनें रुकने से अरमान नहीं मर जाते ।  
सा स थम जाने से एलान नहीं मर जाते ॥

*The death of the body is not truly death.*

*When the body perishes, a person does not die.*

*Heartbeats may cease, yet aspirations do not die.*

*Breath may come to a halt,*

*yet declarations and convictions do not fade away.*

And this makes Comrade Chandrashekhar Bose *A Living Legend*.

He lives in our heart, he lives in our conviction, he lives in our struggles, he lives in our memory and that is why he was and he is *A Living Legend*.

The life of Comrade Chandrashekhar Bose will forever remain an inspiration - *an echo in our memories*.



Addressing 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of AIIEA at Nagpur, 2014

## END OF AN ERA

-Hitendra Bhatt,  
former General Secretary, WZIEA  
and former Joint Secretary, AIIEA



*As the foundational pillar of both the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA) and the All India Insurance Pensioners' Association (AIIPA), he shaped the destiny of thousands of employees in LIC and GIC. A great leader has passed away, leaving behind a legacy of integrity, courage, and relentless struggle.*

It is very sad for all the working class in the country that on the 16th of January 2026 the mentor, the main pillar and founder member and great leader, Com Chandrasekhar Bose breathed his last.

Comrade Bose always remained a guiding force and navigator of Insurance employees and pensioners movement since its inception until his final breath. He was soft spoken and friendly to the leadership, cadres and always remained in touch with them.

We will never forget his presence at the 27th General Conference of AIIEA in Bhubaneswar just fifteen days ago, where he addressed the Platinum Jubilee gathering on Dec 31, 2025. It will remain a life time memory of his indomitable spirit and life long commitment to the working class movement. His message to strengthen our organization in the coming days to meet

challenges, will give us confidence and enthusiasm to further Unite with ideology of working class.

As the foundational pillar of both the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA) and the All India Insurance Pensioners' Association (AIIPA), he shaped the destiny of thousands of employees in LIC and GIC. A great leader has passed away, leaving behind a legacy of integrity, courage, and relentless struggle.

After nationalization of LIC the employees of LIC were facing lots of difficulties and under his leadership & after prolonged struggle LIC employees got standardization of wages. This was the first great victory under the leadership of

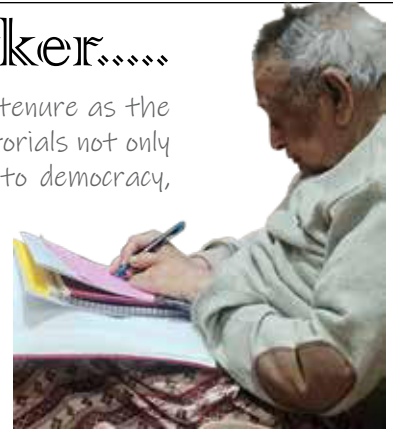
Com Bose. There after attacks on public sector LIC were continued by the then Government in the name of various reforms. The struggle against the Split Bill of LIC was also a great success under his leadership.

He wrote a small wonderful book on the history of AIIEA at the time of the Silver Jubilee conference of AIIEA. He was a visionary and towering leader. A book "Tryst with Trust" written by the ex C-in-C of LIC Mr. Gupta has mentioned the glorious role played by Com. Chandrashekhar Bose in the movement of the employees and progress of LIC. Since the inception of AIIEA his relationship with Western Zone, particularly with Maharashtra

⇒ ⇒ Continued on P. 39

# As Editor of Insurance Worker.....

Com Chandrasekhar Bose penned some excellent Editorials during his tenure as the founding Editor of Insurance Worker from 1957 to 1994. These Editorials not only reflected the policies of the organisation but also his commitment to democracy, secularism, communal harmony and fraternity. We are reproducing two of the Editorials: Save Democracy in March 1972 and Hey Ram in December 1994. These are worth reading again and again.....



## SAVE DEMOCRACY (March 1972)

ALMOST ALL THE OPPOSITION PARTIES WITH one voice have declared that democracy has been butchered in the recent elections in West Bengal, Andhra, Bihar and Kashmir. We are spectators of the horror story of West Bengal elections. We have also heard some reports of Bihar. Facts are coming in; details are pouring in. The signs are ominous.

But what happened following the elections are still more dangerous. Throughout the State of West Bengal, armed thugs under the protective wings of the Police have unleashed an unprecedented terror. Area after area is being attacked.

Thousands are being physically ejected from their hearth and homes. Houses are burning; murders are being committed; women are being dishonoured. Overnight thousands have become refugees.

Trade unions have become special targets. Armed thugs are entering factories and offices and at the point of drawn revolvers are asking the workers and employees to leave their militant unions and join the Trade Unions of the ruling party.

They are forcing the Unions to withdraw their Charter of Demands. It is no longer necessary for the Government to ban the strike; goondas are taking care of that. No procession or meeting can be organised without being attacked.

In this greatest democracy on earth, there is virtually no democratic right of the people of West Bengal or its Trade Unions. Either you agree to be the tail end of the ruling classes or agree to be butchered. Such is the law of the jungle that is prevailing at this end of the country.

Yet, the working people must forge ahead. There is no other alternative. It is the duty of the working people in the rest of the country to raise their voice of

protest against the butchering of democracy. For, without democracy and democratic rights, the life is not worth living. Many brave sons and daughters throughout the world and in this country sacrificed themselves for the cause of democracy. Let us take the vow that we shall not fail them. We shall fight to the last to hold aloft the banner of democracy and democratic rights.

## HEY RAM (December 1994)

AS THESE LINES ARE BEING WRITTEN, INDIA is slowly emerging out of a terrible fratricidal blood bath that has brought back the memories of killings, arson and orgy of violence that preceded the partition of India in 1947. The whole country remained for days under stifling curfew, dead bodies of men, women and children lied strewn on the roads, lanes and deserted homes, rows of houses and huts billowed black columns of smoke, the deadly silence in curfew-bound cities and towns were frequently broken by gunshots and bomb-blasts, rushing fire brigade engines and siren-blowing ambulance, occasional shrill cries of the helpless pierced the sky and sound of heavy boots of marching contingents of police and military reverberated at

naggingly regular intervals. The whole country lied enveloped in fear and terror. It was darkness at noon, an unending night of the long knief. By Government reckoning about 1200 lives have been lost, about 10000 injured. Who can count the number of houses burnt down, shops looted and women molested! Quite naturally has since descended with bleeding gaping wounds mocking at everything that the nation claims to cherish and stand for. When these are being written, the air smells burning human flesh and smoke and gun powder. The last month of 1992 cannot but go down in history as a truly black month.

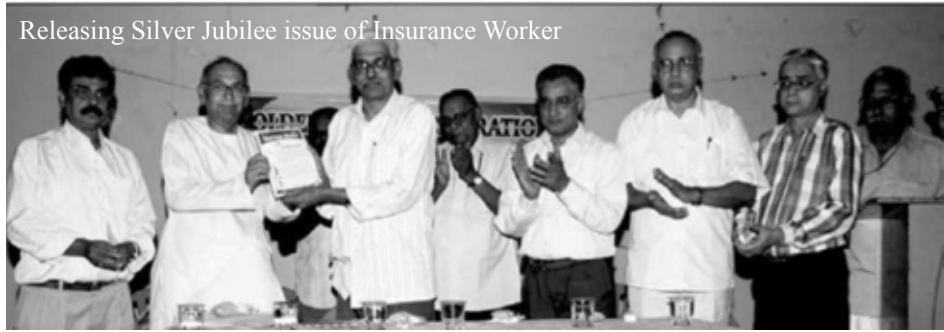
What lies buried today under



the ashes of burnt houses and huts and debris of looted shops is the country 's secular credentials; what is sought to be burnt out and reduced to cinders is rule of law and authority of judicial verdict; what is sought to be washed out in blood is the basic tenets of the country's Constitution; what went up in smoke is stature and standing of India in the comity of Nations; and what the dreaded sound of bomb blasts and rattle of fire arms proclaimed was the advancing footsteps of fascism that always needs the wings of fundamentalism.

Whatever the strategy the Central Government may now claim to pursue, whatever the promise to suppress religious fanaticism, both of the majority and minority communities, and to promptly remedy the situation, questions shall surely continue to be asked: was it a matter of unlimited faith of the government in the promises and assurance of a rabidly communal party and its front organisations or was it a desperate attempt to appease and placate them? Did the government have any secret understanding with these forces? Was the government secretly happy that the contentious structure is demolished? Was the threat to ban the communal organisations meant as an advance warning; was the trouble allowed to develop resulting in what has happened to divert public attention from mounting opposition to new economic and

Releasing Silver Jubilee issue of Insurance Worker



industrial policies and so on! These are other stark questions stare at the government for proper and adequate reply.

The grim and saddening turn of events have laid bare the vicious face of communalism of the majority community that has given a new fillip to minority community. The situation was reached by one compromise after another by the centre that allowed the dark forces of mediaeval barbarism to spread their poisonous tentacles. Even as the largest political party no attempt was made to discharge the responsibility of preserving the unity and integrity if the country.

The shameful chapter began long ago. But even if one does not delve that much into the past, unlocking of the gates of the mosque following decision of a local court without testing the judgment in higher courts, permission to allow the celebrated shilanyas and launching of the election campaign in 1990 from Ayodhya by Rajiv Gandhi with the avowed claim to bring Ram Rajya are recent to elude public memory. It is still a mystery as to why the highly sensible proposal of handing over 450 years old structure to Archaeological Survey an ancient monument was not accepted.

One feature of the carnage is that except in a few cases, the rural areas remained largely unaffected and the worst affected areas

were those of large cities, industrial areas and thickly populated urban fringes. The casualties were in Bombay and its sprawling industrial suburbs where people were lulled over the decades into the belief that the glamour and prosperity of the metropolis had rendered communal flare up impossible. That outlook and belief today lie in shambles.

Bombay or any other city, the fact remains that the trade union movement, except Calcutta, could not intervene as effectively as the situation demanded. This, if anything, points to the immediacy of shaking off the prevailing casual and cavalier attitude to the question of combating communalism of all hues and bring home the close relationship between imperialist machinations against India and fundamentalism on the one hand and struggle for national unity and preservation and promotion of workers' rights and interests on the other. Incidentally, the fundamentalists and religious obscurantists have been the most ardent supporters of military rulers in neighbouring Pakistan. Similarly, the saffron-clad party ruling 4 states including UP are supporters of the new economic and industrial policies dictated by IMF and World Bank, some faint occasional protest notwithstanding. Neither is it any accident that the segment of trade union movement owing allegiance to communal politics and trying to thrive on the dangerous divide has kept itself away from the broad mobilisation



Releasing 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary issue of Insurance Worker along with Com. N M Sundaram, 2011

of toiling people against the disastrous policies of the present government. Religious fanaticism and bigotry invariably depend on imperialist forces and their allies for support and sustenance. India cannot be an exception. Little wonder, the ugliest manifestation of communalism has taken place at a time when the economy is plunged into its deepest crisis and the country is being auctioned at the market place of international finance capital.

The Insurance employees led by the All India Insurance Employees' Association have attempted to play some part in

the anti-communal struggle. But it is far from adequate. Nor can they play their full part all alone. They must unite with all anti-communal progressive forces to force a decisive defeat of the dark forces threatening the national fabric. The toiling people and organised working class need national unity more than any other section, for the enemies of communal harmony are the ones who regale in the disruption of working class unity. Any advance by the working class is impossible when national unity and communal harmony are in peril.

At this hour of trial and

tribulation, sorrow and suffering, the trade union movement and all progressive parties must unite into one solid phalanx so as to tear asunder the fake religiosity of fundamentalists, their concern with externalities alone, restore secularism to its pre-eminent to the position in all walks of life, fight and root out the social conditions that foster fanaticism and allow the clear stream of reason, equality and tolerance to govern social behaviour, state policies and national objectives. It is a long and arduous struggle. But there cannot be any escape. The struggle must be waged and won.



## END OF AN ERA

Continued from P.36

and Gujarat units were very close as Central Office is situated at Mumbai. Earlier when continuous negotiations were taking place at Mumbai, the meeting of Office Bearers of our Zone were also arranged at our Union office, and we were fortunate to get information about the discussion first.

After issuing the circular of negotiations/discussion with the management they were leaving to their places from the Union office. He has visited all the Divisions of Western Zone several times during our struggle, particularly at the time of Bonus, Wage freeze, Split Bill of LIC and for introduction of Pension scheme.

In Western Zone during the political split of AIIEA he has several times visited Ahmedabad and Surat Divisions in Gujarat and due to his constant efforts Gujarat Divisions under the leadership of Com Kanakbhai Shah and Com Kapilbhai Purohit were not much affected by the split of AIIEA. He played an important role in our Zone and exposed splitters'

lies and false propaganda by publishing series of booklet by the name 'Splitters exposed'

During the agitation of Casteism, Communalism, and Anti reservation agitation in Gujarat he was very much concerned about the unity of employees and our Trade Union movement.

The 14 the General conference of AIIEA was delayed for almost 1.5 years from Dec 1992 to May 1994 because communal tension emerged in the country after demolition of Babri Masjid and during that period he used to guide our zonal leadership to explain the view point and stand of AIIEA. He was very courageous to explain his views at any time and in any adverse circumstances.

He remained Editor of Insurance Worker till it was published from Kolkata. During that period, he always used to encourage Divisional leadership to send reports of Union activities and also write articles in Insurance Worker.

After Nationalization of LIC, he has personally & also orga-

nizationally represented several times for introduction of Welfare schemes like Appointment on compassionate ground, Co-operative Bank, Co-operative society and store, Sports Club, Canteen and to give vacant plots for construction of Housing society and staff quarters for employees.

There were some occasions where I had to stay with him and discussed with him frequently on various issues.. During the AIIEA conference at Ahmedabad in 1994, I along with Com. Rajappa and Com Govindrajan, accompanied him to visit Akshardham at Gandhinagar. I remember that on that day he discussed in details on religion. He was happy and he liked the food "Acharya Khichdi".

At the time of CORONA in 2020 his grandson was working in Gandhinagar and during that period also he was frequently talking with me.

The Insurance Fraternity mourns the end of an era. His memories will always remain in our hearts and our minds and continue to guide our struggles for years to come.

# The Last Speech by Com. Chandrasekhar Bose

delivered on 30<sup>th</sup> December 2025 at the 27<sup>th</sup> General Conference of AIIEA

**M**y dear Comrades. I am very happy that I am able to come here and participate in the Platinum Jubilee Year Conference of the AIIEA. As you all know I had been hospitalized for ten days. And after relief I could come over here. Because you see when I was in the day-to-day activities of the AIIEA, when everyday all the comrades who are at that time with me, many of them are not living now. Only some comrades are still here. I am glad that I could see them.

Now comrades, when we are meeting here, we are having this very big show but we have to understand that we are in a very difficult position. Because we see that in the Life Insurance Corporation, we have united employees before it has become a company. All the independence, all the offices of the Life Insurance Corporation have been taken away by the government of India. This is why I was thinking, when we asked something, we are told that the Life Insurance Corporation Amendment Act, 1981 has taken away all the powers from the Life Insurance Corporation as well as the employees' bargaining right, the fundamental right was taken away. Even then our leaders are trying their best to have a very good service condition of the employees. But the point is, if the government can spend 30,000 crores of the Life Insurance Corporation's fund to Adani Group, then why they are not in a position to give two hundred rupees to the employees because they say that in the act, it is a problem for the Chairman of the Life Insurance Corporation to give anything.

And now we are in a very difficult situation. But at the same time, you see that our fight, our fight for GST and other demands, now it is taken by the country at large. Then all major media wings, political parties in Parliament as well as outside, they are now supporting the demands that are being raised by the AIIEA. Now,



it has been decided that in the month of February, there will be a one-day strike throughout the country. And I believe that at the same time when we are fighting for that, but the main question is this; are we ready for that. Because now our life style has little changed. Because we are getting a very good salary. Because we are getting so many benefits. So, there may be some hesitation on our part to take part in the day-to-day campaign or the struggle of the employees. But I see unless and until we fight within ourselves to overcome our weakness, it will be difficult for the others to follow us.

So, I feel that in this conference we are gaining a very good account of ourselves and with the self confidence that at the call of the AIIEA throughout the country, so many comrades are assembled here. I am also a part of the movement and a part of the AIIEA and I am very glad that I am in a position to come here and to greet you. And I want you to know that the small plant which was planted there in 1951 in Bombay, now it has become a very big Banyan tree and giving so many benefits to the comrades.

Comrades, now please carry on the banner of the AIIEA and through you the country at large, they are shown the Red Flag. Because you see that before nationalization of the Life Insurance Corporation many of the parts of the country, they did not know about the Red Flag.

Our branches, everywhere in the country, they first carried on the Red Flag of the AIIEA and now everywhere you see that the militant organization of the AIIEA both in Life and in General and with this I feel that we shall be in a position to win over our demands and also, we shall be able to change the despotic government. And this should be the call of the house or the conference.

Thank you, Comrades.  
Many Thanks.



Releasing Tamil book on Illaco Vigil - Vishakapatnam



Vellore

At Souharda, Bangalore



Inaugurating Sugunakar Bhavan at Hyderabad



Fading day helpless could be, but not the rising  
March tirelessly, not far is destination of new dawn  
- Sahir Ludhiyan



Nagpur

23<sup>rd</sup> General Conference

January 20-24, 2014 NAGPUR

BHARAT RATNA Dr. NELSON MANDELA SABHAGRUHA  
COMRADE R. P. MANCHANDA NAGAR,  
LADIES CLUB LAWNS, CIVIL LINE, NAGPUR

Delegates Session  
Jan. 21<sup>st</sup> - 24<sup>th</sup> 2014





".....I want you to know that the small plant which was planted there in 1951 in Bombay, now it has become a very big Banyan tree and giving so many benefits .... now please carry on the banner of the AIIEA and through you the country at large....."

