

**ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION**  
**LIC BUILDINGS SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD 500 063**  
(E-mail: aiieahyd@gmail.com)

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To

All the Zonal /Divisional /State /Regional Units

**NATIONAL SEMINAR AT HYDERABAD ON 06-07 AUGUST 2022- A GREAT SUCCESS**  
**EMPLOYEES REITERATE THEIR COMMITMENT TO NOBLE VALUES OF FREEDOM STRUGGLE**

The National Seminar organised by AIIEA at Hyderabad on 06-07 August 2022 in commemoration of the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Indian independence was a huge success. Leadership of the zonal units of AIIEA from across the country, both from the life and general sector, as well as representatives of some fraternal organisations participated in the Seminar with great enthusiasm. Some eminent speakers threw light on various facets of the freedom struggle and their submissions were followed by lively interactive sessions. The two day Seminar not only set the ball rolling but also set the tone for the celebrations of the 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day by AIIEA units all over the country on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2022.

**Com. V. Ramesh, President AIIEA**, presided over the first session of the Seminar. The General Secretary of AIIEA briefly explained the idea behind organising the National Seminar as a part of celebrations of 75 years of Indian independence and exhorted the participants to take maximum benefit from the submissions of the galaxy of speakers. The first session of the Seminar started with a discussion on the topic **“Workers and Working Class in the Freedom Struggle: Reflections from the Contemporary Context”**. **Prof. (Dr.) Indu Agnihotri, former Director of the Centre for Women’s Development Studies, New Delhi**, was the Speaker of the session. Dr. Agnihotri gave a detailed account of how the working class emerged in India in the context of widespread famine, hunger, inequality and grinding poverty in British India. She said that the working class was basically drawn from the ranks of the poor and those facing ruination due to destruction of the artisanal industries. Workers and peasants therefore formed a significant component of the masses who struggled for independence and for the formation of the Indian nation state. They struggled to realise the aspirations and dreams of the people of India for a life with dignity, justice and equal citizenship, irrespective of caste, class, gender, ethnicity, region or religion. She said that apart from the Swadeshi movement in the early 1900s, the workers joined in the political hartal in Mumbai against Tilak's conviction. The Khilafat agitation, the Rowlatt Satyagraha and the Gandhi led Non Co-operation Movement, the protests against the Simon Commission, the Civil Disobedience, the Quit India movement in 1942 and the RIN mutiny in 1946, all saw workers take to the streets to confront the imperialist forces. She said that despite repeated attempts of the communal forces, the working class was not swayed by any sectarian, communal agenda and pursued their class issues on the basis of a broader understanding, focussing on their demands and opposition to imperialism.

As at the time of the freedom struggle, the actions of the working class in India remain critical to the present political context also, said Dr. Agnihotri. The Idea of India, as envisioned during the freedom

struggle, rested on principles of equality, liberty and democracy which embrace diversity in different fields and spheres. Today fundamentalisms of different hues seek to smash this vision, introduce a concept of differential, graded citizenship even as the nation and nationalism are being re-defined by those who disagreed with the basic values of modernity and secularism which were the core ideals upheld by those who struggled to build a new India. She called upon the members of AIIEA to consciously intervene to preserve and strengthen democracy while remaining committed to united struggles.

The second session of the first day took up the topic **“Working of the Constitution and the Challenges Ahead”**. **Com. A.K.Bhatnagr**, Vice President AIIEA, presided over the session. **Hon’ble Justice (Retd.) H.N.Nagamohan Das** of Karnataka High Court was the Speaker of the session. Speaking on the session, Justice Das said that India has the unique distinction of becoming Independent as well as Republic because of the Constitution it adopted in 1950. He said that the main provisions of the Constitution have been drawn from the noble values of the freedom movement and the hopes and aspirations of the people have found a profound expression in the Constitution. He gave a detailed account of the basic features of the Constitution and said that India had made tremendous progress since the adoption of the Constitution. Justice Das said that geographical unity, establishment of democracy, setting up of independent institutions, regular elections, independent functioning of the Executive, Legislature and Judiciary were all important contributions of the Constitution. He also said that the improvement in the living conditions of the women, backward classes, minorities, scheduled castes and scheduled tribes is a direct result of the constitutional order. He however said that despite our best efforts there are a large number of challenges which must be addressed in order to save and protect the Constitution. He said that apart from depoliticalisation, terrorism, communalism, Corruption, commercialisation and cultural degeneration there are some emerging challenges like blatant use of money power in elections, repression of democratic rights, severe undermining of rule of law, attack on the independence of constitutionally mandated institutions, fast disappearance of welfare state, growing irrelevance of social justice, progressive weakening of the federal structure etc.

He called upon the members of AIIEA to work ceaselessly for preserving both the Constitution and its aims and objects so that the promise of Justice, Equality and Fairness was redeemed successfully. He exhorted the house to remember the warning sounded by Dr. Ambedkar while presenting the Draft Constitution for acceptance **“however good a Constitution may be, it is sure to turn out bad because those who are called to work it happen to be a bad lot.”**

The first session of the second day was presided over by **Com. Amanulla Khan**, Editor Insurance Worker. **Prof. (Dr.) G.N. Devy**, eminent literary critic and Chairman, People’s Linguistic Survey of India, gave a brilliant lecture on the topic **“Diversity, Federalism and the Republic: Reflections on the Present Condition of India”**. Prof. Devy said that the idea of India emerged in the freedom struggle. This idea of India was not merely something about the nation and resistance to colonialism; it was something more than that. It was about the society that we dreamt to construct and also about access to the societal benefits by various sections of people particularly women, dalits and the poor. In order to provide that access our forefathers created the wonderful architecture of the Republic. This Republic, he said, was

created through the instrumentality of the constitution. At the heart of the Republic was the Federal Structure which allows multiplicity of cultures and multiplicity of languages. He said that our founding fathers deliberately created a federal structure giving primacy to diversity so that we may have the benefit of many world views in conducting our affairs. He however lamented that this architecture of the idea of India is being sought to be replaced now with a narrow and sectarian architecture of the idea of India based on an imagined past and a false sense of victimhood. Visibly sad, he posed a question as to why we seem to be moving away from the spirit of the Republic as we step into the 75<sup>th</sup> year of independence. Growing poverty and destitution, large scale unemployment, sharp increase in communal polarization and the process of othering of the minorities, hatred against the weak and feeble, growing commodification of women, progressive weakening of the federal spirit of the Constitution and the shrill cry to impose the majoritarian agenda of Hindi-Hindu-Hindutva were antithetical to the foundational objectives of the Republic, said Dr. Devy.

He concluded by giving a clarion call to the members of AIIEA to act in unity, act with courage and safeguard the diversities and federal structure of our country.

The final session of the two day Seminar dealt with the topic **“Idea of India: Vision of Just, Equal and Fair Society”**. **Com. K. Venugopal**, senior leader of AIIEA, presided over the session and **Com. Sitaram Yechury**, former Member of Parliament and General Secretary, CPI (M) was the Speaker. Com. Yechury said that the concept of the ‘Idea of India’ emerged during the epic people’s struggle for India’s freedom from British colonialism. This idea of India rested on principles of equality, liberty and democracy which embrace diversity in different fields and spheres. He said that given India’s humongous diversity, the freedom movement was clear in its understanding that this unity can be built by strengthening the bonds of commonality in this diversity and not by imposing any uniformity, as is being done by the right wing forces in India today. Com. Yechury said that a virulent attack was being mounted on the Idea of India at a time when India is celebrating 75 years of independence. These attacks were taking place in the form of rabid neo-liberal reforms, growing communal corporate nexus, loot of national assets, crony capitalism and legalizing political corruption. He said that there is a systematic effort to change the character of the Indian republic by assaulting the foundational pillars of Indian Constitution- secular democracy, federalism, social justice and economic sovereignty. Vicious authoritarian assaults on civil liberties and democratic rights are being mounted.

He concluded by saying that all patriotic forces must unite to save India today in order to change India for a better tomorrow.

The National Seminar in Hyderabad on 6-7 August 2022 was a huge success in all counts, in terms of attendance, participation and broadening of the horizon of understanding of our comrades. Apart from over two hundred participants of the Seminar, around 2500 viewers have watched the live streaming of the Seminar through the **Voice for Public Sector Channel of You Tube**. It will certainly help our activists in developing their understanding of the freedom movement in all its ramifications. More importantly, this will be immensely helpful in rekindling the noble values of the freedom movement in our cadres so that they will struggle to preserve and consolidate the Idea of India which has been so central to the idea of Indian nationhood.

Comrades of ICEU Hyderabad, Secunderabad and Hyderabad Region General Insurance Employees Association (HRGIEA) once again gave a very good account of themselves by successfully organizing the Seminar with meticulous planning and flawless execution. We convey our sincere thanks and gratitude to all the volunteer comrades who toiled day in and day out for the successful conduct of the programme.

**We are confident that our units all over the country will celebrate the 76<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> of August 2022 in a befitting manner.**

With Revolutionary Greetings to all insurance employees, their family members and the people of India on the occasion of 75 years of independence.....

Comradely Yours



General Secretary