

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD 500 004
(E-mail: aiieahyd@gmail.com)

Cir. No. 19/2025

June 30, 2025

To,
All the Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units

Dear Comrades,

1st July 2025: 75th Foundation Day of AIIEA
This Platinum Jubilee Year Let's Rededicate Ourselves to Spreading the Fragrance of Love

On the 1st of July 2025 the AIIEA enters its Platinum Jubilee Year. It is on this day 74 years ago – 1st July 1951- that the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA) was formed in the city of Mumbai (then Bombay). On this historic occasion, we extend Revolutionary Greetings to all our members, leaders, veterans and well-wishers of the AIIEA. The 1st of July 2025 marks not just the completion of 74 glorious years, but the beginning of the 75th year of a proud journey- a journey defined by unity, struggle, sacrifice and landmark achievements.

The birth of the AIIEA was the realization of the long cherished dream of thousands of insurance employees slogging in grueling working conditions of over two hundred private companies. The memorandum placed for discussion in the foundation convention of AIIEA in 1951 gave a graphic account of the pitiable conditions the employees were in. No living wage, no means to educate the children, no provision to fall back upon in case of sickness and old age, no leave rules, no PF, no Gratuity, no sick leave- the memorandum aptly described the situation as too dreadful to contemplate! Today's generation of insurance employees would probably look at this description in disbelief with mouths wide open; because it's a truism to say that the insurance employees today enjoy one of the best service conditions in the organised public sector in the country. One must not forget that this has been possible because of the relentless struggle of the AIIEA and the unflinching loyalty of the members to the AIIEA.

The AIIEA stands tall today as the oldest and largest trade union in India's insurance industry, a position earned through relentless dedication to the cause of the employees, unshakable commitment to democratic values and an unwavering resolve to defend public sector insurance. From its very inception AIIEA has played a pioneering role in shaping the destiny of insurance employees in India. It has stood as a beacon of collective strength and working-class consciousness, inspiring generations of employees to unite and fight for their rights.

The Platinum Jubilee is not merely a celebration of longevity- it is a celebration of a legacy. A legacy born out of tireless and uncompromising struggles- against unjust policies, adverse working conditions, the threats of privatisation and against nefarious attempts to disrupt the unity of the people. A legacy built on the strength of solidarity- cutting across regions, languages and religions. A legacy rich with stories of courageous resistance, bold leadership and historic victories. Whether it was the struggle for nationalisation of insurance, standardisation of wages, realisation of bonus as a matter of right, against

automation, against the infamous emergency and the heinous attempts to split LIC, realisation of pension as a retiral benefit, scores of wage settlements and the epic struggle against neoliberal ploy to privatise public sector insurance industry, AIEEA has always been at the forefront. Nay, it's been leading from the front.

With an abiding commitment to the philosophy of the working class, AIEEA has an uncanny knack of foreseeing events, an ability to look into the future, an ability to see the dangers on the horizon before they strike at our roots, analyse the upcoming challenges dispassionately in all their social, political and economic ramifications and then evolve the correct tactical line to jump onto struggle. The AIEEA is adept at making correct political and ideological decisions and then framing its response accordingly. This again is possible because of the correct understanding of the class character of the government and proper drawing of lessons from ground realities. A supreme faith in the future and capacity of human beings to struggle have propelled AIEEA to undertake difficult tasks and emerge victorious even in the face of most challenging odds.

The challenges ahead are formidable. The public sector insurance industry continues to face policy onslaughts aimed at privatisation. Workers' rights are being sought to be curtailed under the garb of reforms. The foundational values of our country are being sought to be turned upside down by utilising communalism as a political mobilisational strategy. In these testing times when the collective ethical identity of our country is under stress, the legacy of AIEEA is not just relevant, it is absolutely essential. The Platinum Jubilee must become a launchpad for intensified struggles in defence of our industry, our rights and broadening our arena of struggle through building solidarities. The Platinum Jubilee must also become an occasion to spread the fragrance of love and fight the menace of hatred.

*"In the fell clutch of circumstance
I have not winced nor cried aloud.
Under the bludgeonings of chance
My head is bloody, but unbowed.
I am the master of my fate
I am the captain of my soul."*

William Ernest Henley ("Invictus")

Let's make the 75th year of AIEEA a year of mass mobilisation, ideological renewal, organisational consolidation and collective pride. Let's make a collective effort to develop AIEEA 'as a people in conversation' dedicated to the cause of the employees, the institution, the people and the nation at large. With our heads held high and hearts filled with determination, we'll march forward- united, fearless and resolute.

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely yours

Shreekanth Mishra

General Secretary