

EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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To
All the Members,

Adieu 2022 & Welcome New Year 2023

At the outset, ECZIEA wishes a very happy New Year to all the members and their family. We hope that the New Year 2023 would bring in good health, peace, progress and prosperity for everyone. The year 2022 has passed into history and a new year has dawned. The entire working class hopes for a decent life, a life free of war and hatred, a life filled with peace, love and mutual respect for each other. The year 2022 would always be remembered as the one when the lingering fear of Covid-19 took a back seat. The world moved into a post-Covid phase, where movies were released to full houses, stadiums had full attendance and people were able to roam around without wearing masks. However, the after effect of the pandemic was so severe that it snatched many beautiful lives from us and left crores of people across the globe jobless. The time line of the year 2022 would also be remembered by the humankind with despair due to the origin of never-ending Russia-Ukraine war.

The yesteryear has witnessed momentous developments. The unprecedented crisis of capitalism has pushed the entire world into a historical human crisis. The shadow of the deadly pandemic Covid-19 captured the initial months of the last year. Globally, 65 crore people were affected and 6.6 million people lost their lives. In our country, as per official figures, 55 million people were affected and 4.30 lakh people succumbed to the deadly disease. The WHO has already disapproved this figure and said it is grossly underestimated and many countries have falsified their figures. The pandemic has exposed the greed of maximization of profit by the corporates during serious human crisis and also the inadequate public health infrastructure. The capitalist countries like United States, Israel, New Zealand, Australia couldn't manage the COVID-19 properly, although they have a strong private health system. In sharp contrast to capitalist countries, socialist countries like China, Cuba, Vietnam set a different standard in management of the pandemic. The incentives granted by the government didn't benefit the working class and the poor, whereas it benefited the capitalist class resulting further accumulation of wealth. In India also, the pandemic has affected the livelihood of nearly 20 crore people and at the same time the Adani group, Ambani group and other big corporates increased their wealth quite a number of times. Therefore, our country became the most unequal country in the world as per the Global Inequality Report 2022.

The US imperialism has pushed Ukraine in to war and the country is facing the greatest human crisis. The bloodshed and sufferings of common innocent people challenged the existence of humanity as a whole. Both the US and NATO created an inevitable situation resulting in the war between Russia and Ukraine. Whatever would be the situation, the war should end and issues must be settled with discussions.

The global finance capital, which was facing severe economic crisis even before the pandemic, plummeted into further crisis, inequality and inflation. The world economic growth rate was nearly 2%. The US economy is clearly facing growing risk of recession and unemployment rate increased drastically. The Federal Reserve hiked the interest rate seven times throughout 2022 from 0.25% to 4.50%. In India too, it severely affected the entire economy. Moreover, the unemployment rate was the highest it has been in the last 45 years. The Indian rupee ends 2022 as worst performing Asian currency. The rupee finished at Rs 82.72 to the US currency down from Rs 74.33 at the end of 2021. The neo liberal economic policy has once again proved that trickle-down theory of LPG policy was unsuccessful and in no way improved the life of poor section of the society.

It is pertinent to note that, counter forces are growing to combat the imperialist and reactionary forces. The Latin American countries like Brazil, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Venezuela, Peru and Chile have developed anti-imperialist resistance. The democracy loving people gained hope with the election of leftist politician Lula da Silva as Brazil's next President. For the first time after 1959, Scandinavian and Nordic countries like Denmark, Finland, Norway, Iceland are either central democratic or leftist. It is also a concern that, during the last year, a rightward political shift has been noted in some countries like France, Italy and UK. In Italy, a neo fascist government has come under the leadership of Prime Minister Ms Giorgia Meloni. After three consecutive resignations, Mr Rishi Sunak became Prime Minister of UK. Much was made of his Indian origin, but he is the choice of global finance capital.

In the 76th year of our independence, we are facing an authoritarian, anti-people and pro-corporate government led by BJP. The government has assaulted all the basic features of our constitution, be it sovereignty, democracy, secularism, federalism or socio-economic justice. Rampant privatization, sale of national assets to corporates, 100% FDI in the area of national security like defense and space, gradual reduction of social security budgets, contractualisation of jobs, are the principal agendas of this govt. This govt. has been hostile to the interest of the working class.

This capitalist agenda has attacked MNREGA, hunger, poverty and unemployment. Our nation is no more a welfare state. The Prime Minister says that freebies will make great harm to the economy and therefore the government should revisit the "revadi" culture, undermining the directive principle of state policy that the common resources of the nation should be utilized to benefit the entire community. We are aware that 12% of global poor reside in India and schemes like Mid-day meal, MNREGA, free cycles to girl students has played an important role in building human capital.

In the run of selling assets under National Monetization Pipeline, our great institution LIC was disinvested, ignoring our struggle of last 28 years against disinvestment. The interest of the major shareholder i.e., the policyholder's 3.5% share was sold in throw away price by heavily underestimating its valuation. Although the value of the share is no way related to the performance of the institution, it is creating unnecessary confusion amongst our customers. The DFS is also continuously putting hurdles by bringing amendments in the Insurance Act 1938. We are pleased that despite all these moves, LIC is rising to new heights. LIC is our ideological commitment and we will continue our struggle to protect it.

Above all, the ruling party is continually advancing its communal agenda, destroying the unity of the people. On 15th August 2022, when the country was celebrating the 76th Independence day with great enthusiasm, the government of Gujrat released the 11 rape and murder convicts of 'Bilkis Bano' case by remitting their jail terms. The supporters of the convicts welcomed them and distributed sweets. This repugnant occurrence left a stain on our country's history.


As we enter into a new year full of challenges, the working class has to assess their movements to further unite for future struggles. It is also true that the working class of the whole world is fighting against imperialist forces. Moreover, the recent strikes in UK show the anger and desperation of the workers. The Kisan movement compelled the government to repeal the farm laws, which shows that unity is the only way to success. The four labor codes still exist and we have to fight against it. The anti-people agenda of the government can only be checked with united movement. To construct a just, fair and equal society is possible only when the entire working class will unite with students, farmers, peasantries and common man of our nation.

In the New Year, let us build our community with love, faith, humanity and respect for each other. This New Year brings a challenge to unite with correct political ideology, which will make a society free of exploitation.

LET US CHALLENGE THE CHALLENGES WITH THE IDEOLOGICAL MOORINGS OF OUR BELOVED ORGANISATION AIIEA AND MARCH ON THE PATH OF STRUGGLE.

With revolutionary greetings,

Comradely yours



General Secretary