

# EAST CENTRAL ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

Jeevan Deep Buildings (First Floor), Exhibition Road, Patna - 800001

[www.ecziea.org](http://www.ecziea.org)

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To

All the Members,

## **Two-Day Trade Union Classes of ECZIEA** **at Jamshedpur- A Whopping Success**

Responding to the call given in the 26<sup>th</sup> General Conference held at Kolkata during the month of January 2023, a Zonal level trade union class for the comrades joined as Assistants in LIC of India in the year 2020 was organized under the aegis of Insurance Employees' Association Jamshedpur Division (IEAJD) on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> April 2023. Young comrades numbering 140 out of which 19 were lady comrades comprising 11 divisions of ECZ had made their lively participation in the TU classes. Topics befitting to the contemporary political, economic as well as social situation were covered in three sessions spreading over two days. The overall objective was to educate these new brigades, how to connect themselves with the world outside from the working-class perspective. **Com. Shreekanta Mishra, General Secretary AIIEA, Com. Dharmaraj Mahapatra, Jt. Secretary AIIEA and Com. B. S. Ravi, Treasurer AIIEA**, were the distinguished faculty for the classes. **Com. Pradip Kumar Mukherjee, President ECZIEA** acted as the Principal for the classes.

The topic for the 1<sup>st</sup> session on the 29<sup>th</sup> was **"The present situation and need for the working-class unity"** on which Com. Dharmaraj Mohapatra, Jt. Secy, AIIEA, rendered a brilliant exposition. He gave a nuanced definition of "class" and "worker". Whosoever earns a living in exchange of labour power is a worker. Those who thrive on the labour power of others belong to the capitalist class. And irrespective of social divisions on the basis of caste, religion, sex, colour *et al*, all the workers belong to the same class as the "working class". In a democracy the state or the elected government are more inclined to the capitalist group rather than adhering to its constitutional duty to make laws for providing means of a decent living to its citizenry. So as a class the workers have to fight to claim their right and it is all the more imperative when a fascist regime like the present BJP government is at the centre. Quoting from Com B. T. Ranadive he told that, AIIEA is the education centre of the Indian working class and our political understanding should be based on our working-class perspective. He appealed to the young

brigades of our Zonal unit not to be beguiled by the false propaganda and fake news and they must be very much conscious and cautious to the dubious political narrative.

In the 2<sup>nd</sup> session after lunch on the same day Com B S Ravi, Treasurer, AIEA dealt with the topic **“Employees’ welfare and the role of AIEA.”** Briefly touching upon the pre-nationalization era of Insurance industry, his presentation was in such a flowery manner which the young comrades found quite interesting. Whatever tangible and intangible benefits that have flown down over the years were only due to the relentless visionary struggle of our organization. The term welfare is not confined to the salary or the associated pecuniary benefits that we are enjoying. Rather we must understand that the nationalization of insurance industry and formation of the LIC was in itself the most important welfare measure for the employees. Apart from the periodical struggle for realizing our charters, each of the struggle on issues relating to our industry and beyond, centered on realizing the benefits for our employees. Citing example, he said, the famous anti-automation struggle in the 60’s was based on the twin objectives of protecting the then existing jobs as well as keeping the door of our industry open for future recruitment. Similarly, the struggle for ensuring absorption of a family member of an employee deceased during service, was to protect the family from acute distress arising out of the untimely death of the employee concerned. In fact, whatever benefits our employees, particularly the young ones, are enjoying today are made possible only due to the sustained struggles of our beloved organization AIEA. Throughout his one and a half hour long deliberation, he emphasized the role of AIEA in realizing the benefits for our employees and concluded that the younger generation of our comrades will be leaders of tomorrow and carry forward the legacy of our struggles, not only in realizing newer benefits but also struggle even harder to protect the existing benefits.


The topic of the only session of the 2<sup>nd</sup> day i.e., on the 30<sup>th</sup> was, **“Neo-liberal reforms and Insurance industry”**. Affectionately addressed as the Dean of AIEA, Com. Shreekanta Mishra, General Secretary presented a succinct as well as incisive analysis on the subject. He started with an interesting manner picking subjects from a couple of Indian cinemas and how earlier they dealt with the socio-political questions of post-independence era. Earlier movies centered on depicting peasant-workers struggle and pathetic socio-economic situation of the people as whole. The post neo-liberal economic reforms have changed the entire narrative and present-day movies have drifted far away reflecting from the harsh realities people facing at present. People from every walk of life participated in the Indian independence struggle, though the objective of the then capitalist class was different from the ordinary people. The first three decades following independence somehow was marked by people-centric policies. Since eighties onwards tilting of policies in favour of the capitalist class was observed by the successive ruling classes and it became decisively pro-capitalist since nineties onwards when our country embraced neo-liberal economic reforms. Class conflicts became acute and one by

one all the industries felt in the altar of LPG policies. Simultaneously, our industry was affected though belatedly, thanks due to the stiff resistance put forward by our organization AIIEA. Since 2014, following the BJP reigning at the center, the privatization spree as gone wild and as such we have to meet the challenges of the right-wing forces. He cautioned how the big hawks are constantly eyeing upon the vast amount of small savings in various banks, insurance, mutual funds, post offices etc and we have to be more resolute in protecting them. Our own insurance industry is not immune to the attack which is quite evident from the listing of LIC in the Stock Market and it is the same policies of the government which has destroyed the other sectors, which may affect our industry too if not resisted, he cautioned. After his almost two and half an hour speech, the young Comrades enthusiastically engaged in a lively interaction with our General Secretary seeking clarification on a number of interesting and important issues. The experience was absolutely rewarding.

In the evening of 29th, a colourful cultural program of song and dance was presented by the cultural team of IEAJD. The Comrades attending the trade union class, actively participated in this cultural program. There was unanimous appreciation for the classes and the overall feedback is very encouraging. The trade union classes of the young assistants will definitely create new leadership in the organization. The session was concluded in the afternoon, by Com Pradeep Mukherjee, President ECZIEA.

With revolutionary greetings,

Comradely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Trinath Dora". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

General Secretary