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Assam's
Moment of Unity



बदनाम करो
- अकेला करो
- शिकार करो



"Atmanirbhar
Bharat"



After 2 years of war
200000 TON EXPLOSIVES
70000 PALESTINIANS DEAD
WORLDWIDE DEMONSTRATIONS
against GENOCIDAL WAR



PEACE or PAUSE in WAR?

WILL IT ENSURE SECURITY OF ISRAEL
while ACCEPTING LEGITIMATE DEMAND
of PALESTINIANS FOR HOMELAND ?



WASHINGTON CONSENSUS has collapsed;
The Alternative- a system that places
Well-being of PEOPLE before PROFITS
- A TASK FOR THE WORKING CLASS



**WE CONVEY OUR
REVOLUTIONARY GREETINGS
TO
ALL THE READERS OF
INSURANCE WORKER**



**SOUTH ZONE
INSURANCE
EMPLOYEES'
FEDERATION**

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Peace or Pause in War?

The Trump initiated peace has paused the war in Gaza. The initial stage of the peace plan has succeeded with the Hamas releasing all the 20 living hostages and the return of some dead bodies. Israel has released nearly 2000 Palestinians who were in its prisons. The ceasefire has helped the humanitarian aid enter Gaza and the return of significant number of Gazans. This is a welcome development as the genocidal war unleashed by Israel has not only flattened Gaza but has created conditions of acute famine. This conflict has left nearly 70000 Palestinians dead and large more seriously injured. It is estimated that over 2000 Israeli civilians and soldiers are also dead in this conflict which began with Hamas killing and abducting around 1200 Israelis on 7th October 2023. There can be no justification for this act of Hamas.

However, this war did not start on 7th October. It dates back to over 100 years when the British as a colonial power deciding to create a homeland for Jews in Palestine. It was a time when the Jews formed a small percentage of the population while the Muslim and Christian Arabs constituted over 90% of the then population. The seeds of discord were thus sown by the imperialist ambitions to control the oil rich region. The establishment of the State of Israel through UN Partition Plan 1947 further compounded the problems. This was the beginning of the first Nakba (catastrophe), in which it is estimated that around 700000 to 750000 Palestinian Arabs were forcibly expelled from their homes and land. This roughly constituted around half of the Arab population. Since then, there is a struggle of the Palestinians for a homeland and this period has also seen the continuous expansion of the territory by Israel with the fullest backing of imperialism. Today, what Palestinians are asking is an end to the occupation and conceding of their legitimate demand for a homeland.

President Trump is stealing the glory with both Israel and Arab kingdoms showering praises on him. His peace plan is heavily loaded in favour of Israel and does not have a roadmap for the establishment of a Palestinian State. Though the first phase was easy to implement, the going may not be so easy for the implementation of the other phases in this peace plan. Without a right to self determination and a sustainable homeland for Palestinians, the stalemate will continue and there cannot be any lasting peace in the region.

The United States and the other Arab countries that are engaged in ending this conflict must understand that any

Plan which heavily favours Israel overlooking its territorial expansion and does not lay the roadmap for a Two State solution would fail as the Oslo accord. The PLO under Yasser Arafat made massive concessions to secure a durable solution to this conflict but failed to achieve its objectives resulting in the Palestinians losing confidence in the Palestinian National Authority. The period after Oslo accords also witnessed continuous expansion of Israeli settlements in the Palestinian lands and effective annexation of West Bank. With the toothless Palestinian Authority under 90 year Abbas controlling West Bank, Gaza remained the epicentre of resistance against occupation.

The two-year genocidal war has lessons for all parties. Israel failed to achieve any of its political objectives. Despite dropping 200000 tonnes of explosives over Gaza and flattening residential buildings, Hospitals, Schools and killing thousands of women and innocent children, it could not make the Gazans surrender. Though Hamas is battered, it has retained its ability to lead the resistance. Hamas destroyed thousands of military vehicles and claimed the lives of hundreds of Israeli soldiers. Never after 1948, Israel had suffered so much as in the past two years. This speaks of the grit, determination and resilience of the Palestinians and their desire for a homeland where they could lead a peaceful life.

Internationally, Israel was totally isolated. Many countries in the West which were supporters of Israel were forced to take steps to recognise the State of Palestine. This was due to the massive protest from their people. The worldwide demonstrations in support of

Palestine and against the genocidal war were unprecedented. The workers of Italy went on two-day industrial action paralysing the economy. Workers in the entire world stood in solidarity with the cause of the Palestinian people. It was in this background that there was tremendous pressure on the US, Arab governments and other countries to take steps to end the war that Trump Peace Plan came into existence.

The 7th October 2023 and the events thereafter have exposed the failure of the Israeli intelligence and its military capabilities. The Palestinians have discovered their agency and capabilities of their resistance movement. One of the most important points of the Trump peace plan is the disarmament of Hamas. Not just Israel and US but the Arab countries too are keen on this as they see the success of the armed resistance has the potential to influence and spread to threaten and destabilise the autocratic and undemocratic regimes in the Middle East. The armed resistance of Palestinians cannot be outrightly branded as terrorism. This resistance is in response to unrestrained violence by Israel and has to be seen in the proper context. Therefore, implementation of any peace plan has to meet the reality of the situation – it should ensure the security of Israel while accepting the legitimate demand of the Palestinians for a State for them on the lines of borders that existed as on 1967. While the developments that led to the pause in war have to be welcomed, the international community should seriously continue to work to find a permanent acceptable solution to the conflict that is raging for nearly a century now.

Collapse of Washington Consensus

The tariff war unleashed by US President Trump has clearly signalled the death of Washington Consensus on the basis of which the world economy was operating for over three decades now. The Washington consensus was based on liberalisation of trade by reducing tariffs on imports and dismantling all barriers to the free flow of capital. This was the mantra for economic growth since the 1990s. The collapse of the socialist experiment in Soviet Union and East European countries led to claims that capitalism has triumphed over socialism as a better economic system. The policy of globalisation, privatisation and liberalisation were forced down on the nations that were in

need of assistance from the IMF or World Bank. They were asked to privatise the public sector, adhere to fiscal discipline by cutting welfare spendings and deregulate. It was under the belief that market knows the best and it will create efficiencies in the economy benefitting the people.

These neoliberal policies dominated the economic thinking and direction for decades thereafter. The first jolt came with the financial crisis of 2007-08 forcing the States to intervene to bail out the corporations. What has been the experience of the global working class during this period? The globe saw exponential growth in the

wealth creation but this remained concentrated in small section of the population. Wealth inequalities both between the nations and within the nations registered alarming increase. Economic crises and unemployment remained the concern. Neoliberalism failed to solve any of the problems of the global population. The greed for profit led to the degradation of environment and ecological disaster. The unbridled exploitation of nature has raised serious questions about the sustainability of the system and the survival of earth and human race.

Unfortunately, the Indian government continues to place its faith in the discredited neoliberalism. Though the Prime Minister is talking about swadeshi, his government is opening doors for foreign capital in every segment of the economy including Insurance and Banking. There are ongoing programs to privatise public utilities like water and electricity. The level of privatisation seen in health and education sectors is highly disturbing. The economy is dominated by 4 or 5 big corporations like Reliance, Tatas, Adani, Aditya Birla and Bharathi. The former Deputy Governor of RBI Viral Acharya raised concerns over this corporate concentration and had suggested the breaking down of these big corporations. Rather than accepting this advice, the government policies are further promoting crony capitalism. While the economy is registering growth, the benefits of this growth are largely concentrated and the poor and marginalised are bypassed.

Interestingly, today the countries that framed policies and demanded opening up of economies have become the most strident critics

of globalisation and are adopting policies of protectionism in order to save their domestic industries from global competition. There is a general consensus that neoliberalism has failed to solve any of the problem the world today is facing. There is a search for an alternative. It is reported that 55 globally renowned economists recently met at London to find an alternative to neoliberalism. They have broadly come to the conclusion that the policy of one size fits all of Washington Consensus has to be discarded. They prescribe that economic growth must concentrate on the wellbeing of the people and creating of decent jobs. They also advocate that the State must invest in health and education and also create confidence among investors who put their private and borrowed capital to risk.

A fast reading of the prescription suggest that reforms have to be brought within capitalism and a reformed capitalism could be the alternative to neoliberalism. Capitalism operates to maximise profits. Therefore, there cannot be any solution to the problems of humanity and nature within capitalism. The alternative has to be a system which places the wellbeing of people before profits. The global working class has been in struggle fighting against the hardships imposed by capitalism. The Indian working class in solidarity with the peasants by bringing the wheels of economy to a grinding halt on 9th July 2025 have shown their determination to develop such an alternative in the course of their struggle. Such an alternative that prioritises the wellbeing of the people and democratisation of the society has to be projected and campaigned. This is the task of the present times for the working class.

शांति या युद्ध में विराम?

ट्रम्प द्वारा शुरू की गई शांति ने गाजा में युद्ध को विराम दे दिया है। शांति योजना का प्रारंभिक चरण हमास द्वारा सभी जीवित 20 बंधकों को रिहा करने और कुछ शवों की वापसी के साथ सफल रहा है। इजराइल ने लगभग 2000 फिलिस्तीनियों को रिहा किया है जो उसके जेलों में थे। युद्धविराम ने मानवीय सहायता को गाजा तक पहुंचने और बड़ी संख्या में गाजावासियों की वापसी में मदद की है। यह एक स्वागत योग्य कदम है क्योंकि इजराइल द्वारा छोड़े गए नरसंहार युद्ध ने न केवल गाजा को तहस-नहस कर दिया है, बल्कि भीषण अकाल की स्थिति पैदा कर दी है। इस संघर्ष में लगभग 70,000 फिलिस्तीनी मारे गए हैं और बड़ी संख्या में गंभीर रूप से घायल हुए हैं। अनुमान है कि 7 अक्टूबर 2023 को हमास द्वारा लगभग 1200 इजरायलियों की हत्या

और अपहरण के साथ शुरू हुए इस संघर्ष में 2000 से अधिक इजरायली नागरिक और सैनिक भी मारे गए हैं। हमास के इस कृत्य का कोई औचित्य नहीं हो सकता।

हालांकि, यह युद्ध 7 अक्टूबर को शुरू नहीं हुआ था। यह घटना 100 वर्ष से भी अधिक पुरानी है, जब एक औपनिवेशिक शक्ति के रूप में ब्रिटिशों ने फिलिस्तीन में यहूदियों के लिए एक मातृभूमि बनाने का निर्णय लिया था। यह वह समय था जब यहूदियों की आबादी बहुत कम थी, जबकि मुस्लिम और ईसाई अरब उस समय की 90 प्रतिशत से ज्यादा आबादी का प्रतिनिधित्व करते थे। इस प्रकार, तेल-समृद्ध क्षेत्र पर कब्जा करने की साम्राज्यवादी महत्वाकांक्षाओं ने कलह के बीज बो दिए। संयुक्त राष्ट्र विभाजन योजना 1947 के माध्यम से इजराइल राज्य की स्थापना ने समस्याओं को

और बढ़ा दिया। यह पहली नकबा (आपदा) की शुरुआत थी, जिसमें अनुमान है कि लगभग 700,000 से 750,000 फिलिस्तीनी अरबों को उनके घरों और जमीन से जबरन बेदखल कर दिया गया था। यह संख्या अरब आबादी का लगभग आधा हिस्सा थी। तब से फिलिस्तीनियों का मातृभूमि के लिए संघर्ष चल रहा है और इस अवधि में साम्राज्यवाद के पूर्ण समर्थन के साथ इजरायल द्वारा क्षेत्र का निरंतर विस्तार भी देखा गया है। आज, फिलिस्तीनी लोग कब्जे को समाप्त करने तथा मातृभूमि के लिए अपने वैध दावे को स्वीकार करने की मांग कर रहे हैं।

राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प इजरायल और अरब देशों, दोनों की प्रशंसा से वाहवाही लूट रहे हैं। उनकी शांति योजना पूरी तरह से इजरायल के पक्ष में है और इसमें फिलिस्तीनी राज्य की स्थापना का कोई रोडमैप नहीं है। हालांकि पहले चरण को लागू करना आसान था, लेकिन इस शांति योजना के अन्य चरणों को लागू करना शायद इतना आसान न हो। आत्मनिर्णय के अधिकार और फिलिस्तीनियों के लिए एक स्थायी मातृभूमि के बिना, गतिरोध जारी रहेगा और इस क्षेत्र में स्थायी शांति स्थापित नहीं हो सकती।

संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका और अन्य अरब देशों को, जो इस संघर्ष को समाप्त करने में लगे हैं, यह समझना चाहिए कि कोई भी योजना जो इजरायल के पक्ष में है, उसके क्षेत्रीय विस्तार को नजरअंदाज करती है और जो दो राज्य समाधान के लिए रोडमैप नहीं बनाती है, वह ओस्लो समझौते की तरह विफल हो जाएगी। यासर अराफात के नेतृत्व में पीएलओ ने इस संघर्ष का एक स्थायी समाधान सुनिश्चित करने के लिए बड़े पैमाने पर रियायतें दी थीं, लेकिन अपने उद्देश्यों को प्राप्त करने में विफल रहा, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप फिलिस्तीनियों का फिलिस्तीनी राष्ट्रीय प्राधिकरण में विश्वास खो गया। ओस्लो समझौते के बाद की अवधि में फिलिस्तीनी भूमि पर इजरायली बस्तियों का निरंतर विस्तार और पश्चिमी तट पर प्रभावी कब्जा देखा गया। 90 वर्षीय अब्बास के नेतृत्व में दंतहीन फिलिस्तीनी प्राधिकरण द्वारा पश्चिमी तट पर नियंत्रण के कारण गाजा, कब्जे के विरुद्ध प्रतिरोध का केन्द्र बना रहा।

दो साल के नरसंहारी युद्ध में सभी पक्षों के लिए सबक हैं। इजरायल अपने किसी भी राजनीतिक उद्देश्य को प्राप्त करने में विफल रहा। गाजा पर 200,000 टन विस्फोटक गिराने, आवासीय भवनों, अस्पतालों और स्कूलों को ध्वस्त करने और हजारों महिलाओं और मासूम बच्चों की हत्या करने के बावजूद, यह गाजावासियों को आत्मसमर्पण के लिए मजबूर नहीं कर सका। हालांकि हमारा बुरी तरह पराजित हुआ है, फिर भी उसने प्रतिरोध का नेतृत्व करने की अपनी क्षमता बरकरार रखी है। हमारा ने हजारों सैन्य वाहनों को नष्ट कर दिया और सैकड़ों इजरायली सैनिकों की जान ले ली। 1948 के बाद से इजरायल को कभी इतना कष्ट नहीं सहना पड़ा जितना पिछले दो वर्षों में सहना पड़ा है। यह फिलिस्तीनियों के साहस, दृढ़, संकल्प और लचीलेपन और एक ऐसे देश की उनकी इच्छा को दर्शाता है जहां वे शांतिपूर्ण जीवन जी सकें।

अंतर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर, इजरायल पूरी तरह से अलग-थलग पड़ गया था। पश्चिम के कई देश, जो इजरायल के समर्थक थे, फिलिस्तीनी राज्य को मान्यता देने के लिए कदम उठाने

पर मजबूर हो गए। यह उनके लोगों के व्यापक विरोध के कारण हुआ। फिलिस्तीन के समर्थन में और नरसंहारी युद्ध के खिलाफ दुनिया भर में हुए प्रदर्शन अभूतपूर्व थे। इटली के मजदूरों ने दो दिवसीय औद्योगिक हड़ताल की जिससे अर्थव्यवस्था ठप्प पड़ गई। पूरी दुनिया के मजदूर फिलिस्तीनी जनता के साथ एकजुटता में खड़े हो गए। इस पृष्ठभूमि में, जब अमेरिका, अरब सरकारों और अन्य देशों पर युद्ध समाप्त करने के लिए कदम उठाने का जबरदस्त दबाव था, ट्रम्प शांति योजना अस्तित्व में आई।

7 अक्टूबर 2023 और उसके बाद की घटनाओं ने इजरायली खुफिया एजेंसियों और उसकी सैन्य क्षमताओं की विफलता को उजागर कर दिया है। फिलिस्तीनियों को अपने प्रतिरोध आंदोलन के तौर-तरीकों और क्षमताओं का पता चल गया है। ट्रम्प की शांति योजना का एक सबसे महत्वपूर्ण बिंदु हमारास का निरस्त्रीकरण है। न केवल इजरायल और अमेरिका, बल्कि अरब देश भी इसके लिए उत्सुक हैं क्योंकि उनका मानना है कि सशस्त्र प्रतिरोध की सफलता मध्य पूर्व में निरंकुश और अलोकतांत्रिक शासन को प्रभावित करने, धमकाने और अस्थिर करने की क्षमता रखती है। फिलिस्तीनियों के सशस्त्र प्रतिरोध को सीधे तौर पर आतंकवाद नहीं कहा जा सकता। यह प्रतिरोध इजरायल द्वारा अनियंत्रित हिंसा के जवाब में है और इसे उचित संदर्भ में देखा जाना चाहिए। इसलिए, किसी भी शांति योजना के कार्यान्वयन को स्थिति की वास्तविकता को ध्यान में रखते हुए इजरायल की सुरक्षा सुनिश्चित करनी होगी तथा की सीमाओं के आधार पर फिलिस्तीनियों की एक राज्य की वैध मांग को स्वीकार करना होगा। यद्यपि युद्ध में विराम लाने वाले घटनाक्रमों का स्वागत किया जाना चाहिए लेकिन अंतर्राष्ट्रीय समुदाय को लगभग एक शताब्दी से चल रहे संघर्ष का स्थायी स्वीकार्य समाधान खोजने के लिए गंभीरता से काम करना जारी रखना चाहिए।

"The All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA) lodges its strongest and unequivocal protest against the recent executive order issued by the Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) approving 'revised consolidated guidelines' for appointment of Whole Time Directors (WTDs), Managing Directors (MDs), Executive Directors (EDs) and Chairpersons in public sector insurance companies like the LIC and Public Sector General Insurance (PSGI) Companies and the Public Sector Banks including the State Bank of India.

These institutions are governed by Acts of Parliament- the LIC Act 1956, GIBNA Act 1972 and State Bank of India Act 1955. Their management structures, roles and appointment processes are clearly defined in these laws. The issuance of new guidelines without amending the enabling acts amounts to executive overreach and an undermining of parliamentary authority.

वाशिंगटन सहमति का अंत

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप द्वारा छोड़े गए टैरिफ युद्ध ने वाशिंगटन सहमति के अंत का स्पष्ट संकेत दे दिया है, जिसके आधार पर ही विश्व अर्थव्यवस्था तीन दशकों से अधिक समय से चल रही थी। वाशिंगटन सहमति आयात पर टैरिफ कम करके और पूंजी के मुक्त प्रवाह में आने वाली सभी बाधाओं को हटाकर व्यापार के उदारीकरण पर आधारित थी। 1990 के दशक से आर्थिक विकास का यही मंत्र रहा है। सोवियत संघ और पूर्वी यूरोपीय देशों में समाजवादी प्रयोग के पतन के बाद यह दावा किया जाने लगा कि पूंजीवाद ने समाजवाद पर विजय प्राप्त कर ली है और यह एक बेहतर व्यवस्था बन गई है। वैश्वीकरण, निजीकरण और उदारीकरण की नीतियां उन देशों पर थोपी गईं जिन्हें आईएमएफ या विश्व बैंक से सहायता की आवश्यकता थी। उनसे सार्वजनिक क्षेत्र का निजीकरण करने, कल्याणकारी व्यय में कटौती करके राजकोषीय अनुशासन का पालन करने तथा नियंत्रणों को समाप्त करने को कहा गया। यह इस विश्वास के तहत था कि बाजार सबसे अच्छा जानता है और यह अर्थव्यवस्था में दक्षता पैदा करेगा जिससे लोगों को लाभ होगा।

इसके बाद कई दशकों तक ये नवउदारवादी नीतियां आर्थिक सोच और दिशा पर हावी रहीं। पहला झटका 2007-08 के वित्तीय संकट के साथ लगा, जिसने सरकारों को निगमों को बचाने के लिए हस्तक्षेप करने पर मजबूर कर दिया। इस अवधि के दौरान वैश्विक श्रमिक वर्ग का अनुभव क्या रहा? दुनिया भर में धन सृजन में तेजी से वृद्धि देखी गई, लेकिन यह जनसंख्या के एक छोटे से हिस्से तक ही सीमित रही। राष्ट्रों के बीच और राष्ट्रों के भीतर भी, धन असमानताओं में चिंताजनक वृद्धि दर्ज की गई। आर्थिक संकट और बेरोजगारी चिंता का विषय बने रहे। नवउदारवाद वैश्विक जनसंख्या की किसी भी समस्या का समाधान करने में विफल रहा। लाभ के लालच ने पर्यावरण के क्षरण और पारिस्थितिक आपदा को जन्म दिया। प्रकृति के बेलगाम दोहन

ने इस व्यवस्था की स्थिरता तथा पृथ्वी और मानव जाति के अस्तित्व के बारे में गंभीर प्रश्न खड़े कर दिए हैं।

दुर्भाग्य से, भारत सरकार पहले से ही अप्रतिष्ठित नवउदारवाद में अपना विश्वास बनाए हुए है। एक तरफ प्रधानमंत्री स्वेदशी की बात कर रहे हैं दूसरी ओर उनकी सरकार बीमा और बैंकिंग सहित अर्थव्यवस्था के हर क्षेत्र में विदेशी पूंजी के लिए दरवाजे खोल रही है। पानी और बिजली जैसी सार्वजनिक सुविधाओं के निजीकरण के कार्यक्रम चल रहे हैं। स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा के क्षेत्र में निजीकरण का स्तर बेहद चिंताजनक है। अर्थव्यवस्था पर रिलायंस, टाटा, अडानी, बिडला और भारती जैसी चार-पांच बड़ी कम्पनियों का दबदबा है। भारतीय रिजर्व बैंक के पूर्व डिप्टी गवर्नर विरल आचार्य ने इस कारपोरेट संकेन्द्रण पर चिंता जताई थी और इन बड़ी कम्पनियों के विघटन का सुझाव दिया था। इस सलाह को स्वीकार करने के बजाय, सरकारी नीतियां मित्र पूंजीवाद को और बढ़ावा दे रही हैं। जबकि अर्थव्यवस्था में वृद्धि दर्ज की जा रही है, इस वृद्धि का लाभ बड़े पैमाने पर संकेद्रित हो रहा है और गरीब तथा हाशिये पर पड़े लोगों को नजरअंदाज किया जा रहा है।

दिलचस्प बात यह है कि आज वे देश, जिन्होंने यह नीतियां बनाईं और अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को खोलने की मांग की आज वे वैश्वीकरण के सबसे कटु आलोचक बन गए हैं और अपने घरेलू उद्योगों को वैश्विक प्रतिस्पर्धा से बचाने के लिए संरक्षणवाद की नीतियां अपना रहे हैं। इस बात पर आम सहमति है कि नवउदारवाद आज दुनिया के सामने मौजूद किसी भी समस्या का समाधान करने में विफल रहा है। इसके विकल्प की तलाश जारी है। खबर है कि हाल ही में लंदन में 55 विश्व-प्रसिद्ध अर्थशास्त्रियों ने नवउदारवाद के विकल्प तलाशने के लिए बैठक की। वे मोटे तौर पर इस निष्कर्ष पर पहुंचे हैं कि वाशिंगटन सहमति की एक

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AIIEA opposes appointment of Private Sector Candidates to the top Positions of LIC and PSGI Companies

This move strikes at the very ethos of nationalisation, which ensured that banking and insurance serve the public interest rather than private profit. The revised guidelines open the door for greater private influence and eventual privatisation of these eminently successful public sector financial institutions. These would threaten the economic sovereignty of the nation apart from endangering the security of people's savings. Public sector banks and insurance companies have been the backbone of inclusive growth and social security. Any attempt to dilute their public character or shift control away from Parliament and the people is unacceptable.

Opening the top-most positions of these vital institutions to outsiders from the private

corporate sector by way of lateral entry will demoralise the officers already giving their best to these institutions and will be fraught with the possibility of disrupting internal career progression. The removal of APAR- based merit evaluation and employing private HR agencies for behavioural assessment will fundamentally alter the appointment framework mandated by Parliament. The AIIEA therefore demands the immediate withdrawal of the revised guidelines and calls upon the government to uphold parliamentary procedures, public ownership and engage in transparent consultation before making any such far reaching policy changes."

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FROM THE IMPOSSIBLE TO GLORIOUS SUCCESS

AIIEA leads the General Insurance Employees to a Historic Wage Revision Victory

— G.ANAND, Vice-President, AIIEA —

“Once an idea captures the imagination of the masses, it becomes a material force.”

A truth that guided the General Insurance employees through their most inspiring wage revision struggle.

The Long Wait and the Challenge Ahead

The glorious struggle for wage revision of the public sector general insurance companies is reaching a successful conclusion. The notification on wage revision is expected any time and the fruits of the struggle will flow to the employees very soon. In the circumstances, it is necessary to briefly recapitulate the glorious struggle of the general insurance employees to secure this advancement.

The journey of the General Insurance employees' wage revision from 1st August 2022 is a remarkable saga of unity, determination, and leadership under the banner of the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA).

The last wage revision, due

from 1st August 2017, was notified only in October 2022 - ironically, after the next revision had already become due. The 2017 settlement also contained a controversial clause stating that the next wage revision would be linked to individual and company performance - a move that threatened collective bargaining and the unity of the workforce.

AIIEA immediately opposed this clause, declaring that wage revision cannot be conditional. On 28th December 2022, AIIEA was the first to submit the Charter of Demands for all employees, firing its first salvo against the unjust provision and setting the tone for the struggle ahead.

A Lone Battle Becomes a United Movement

In earlier times, the struggle for wage revision in General Insurance was primarily a confrontation with the Government. AIIEA, with the support of its Life sector counterparts, had always led from the front.

However, with the Life

Insurance sector's wage revision already settled, AIIEA found itself alone in the battlefield - facing not only the Government and management, but also to convince everybody else that a united fight is capable of achieving our legitimate demands.

It was then that AIIEA's organizational capability shone brightest. It took the initiative to unite all unions under one platform - the Joint Forum of Trade Unions (JFTU) - and emerged as the driving engine of the wage revision movement.

Strikes that Strengthened the Struggle

Under the banner of JFTU, General Insurance employees demonstrated their collective resolve through demonstrations, dharnas, delegation to top management and two one-hour strikes - in February 2024 and August 2025. These powerful and consistent actions reflected the rising determination among employees.

Further, AIIEA, along with another union, went on a one-

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ही नीति सबको फिट बैठती है और वो है कि इसे त्यागना होगा। उनका सुझाव है कि आर्थिक विकास को लोगों की भलाई और अच्छे रोजगार सृजन पर केंद्रित होना चाहिए। वे इस बात की भी वकालत करते हैं कि राज्य को स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा में निवेश करना चाहिए तथा उन निवेशकों में विश्वास पैदा करना चाहिए जो अपनी निजी और उधार पर ली गई पूंजी को जोखिम में डालते हैं।

इस नुस्खे का त्वरित अध्ययन यह सुझाव देता है कि पूंजीवाद के भीतर सुधार लाने होंगे और एक परिष्कृत पूंजीवाद ही नवउदारवाद का विकल्प हो सकता है। पूंजीवाद अधिकतम लाभ कमाने के लिए काम करता है। इसलिए, पूंजीवाद के

भीतर मानवता और प्रकृति की समस्याओं का कोई समाधान नहीं हो सकता। विकल्प एक ऐसी व्यवस्था होनी चाहिए जो लाभ से पहले लोगों की भलाई को प्राथमिकता दे। वैश्विक मजदूर वर्ग पूंजीवाद द्वारा थोपी गई कठिनाइयों के खिलाफ संघर्षरत रहा है। भारतीय मजदूर वर्ग ने 9 जुलाई 2025 को अर्थव्यवस्था के पहिए को रोककर किसानों के साथ एकजुटता दिखाते हुए अपने संघर्ष के दौरान ऐसा ही एक विकल्प विकसित करने का दृढ़ संकल्प दिखाया है। ऐसा विकल्प जो लोगों की भलाई और समाज के लोकतंत्रीकरण को प्राथमिकता दे, उसे प्रस्तुत और प्रचारित किया जाना चाहिए। मजदूर वर्ग के लिए यही वर्तमान समय का मुख्य काम है।

day strike on 9th July 2025, pressing for an early wage revision, opposing 100% FDI, and demanding the merger of the four PSGI companies. These actions strengthened the movement and proved that the employees were ready for any sacrifice to defend their rights and the public sector.

From Slogan to Mass Force

There is a saying: "Once an idea captures the imagination of the masses, it becomes a material force."

The slogan "Parity with LIC Pay Scales" became that material force - the rallying cry that united all sections of employees across the industry. All twenty unions under JFTU rallied around this unifying call, giving the campaign strength, focus, and a clear direction.

Negotiations and Persistence

There were five rounds of discussions with the management - three virtual and two physical meetings. The initial offer of a 10% loading on Basic + DA was firmly resisted. Through patient arguments, data-backed presentations, and strong reasoning, AIIEA ensured improvements - first to 12%, and finally to 14%.

All existing allowances, 14% contribution on Basic and DA for NPS subscribers and 30% family pension, technical qualification pay for officers were aligned with LIC, fulfilling a long-standing demand. These demands were could not be achieved easily. It required correct tactics, strategies and negotiating skills backed by organisational actions that were massively responded by the employees.

Winning Minds,

Strengthening Resolve

AIIEA's communication strategy played a crucial role. Articles in The Insurance

Worker, analytical write-up in Business Standard, and ten explanatory videos released through the Voice for Public Sector YouTube channel reached thousands of employees and the public. These efforts not only justified the wage demand but also built confidence and solidarity among the workforce

A Triumph Amid Adverse Times

This wage settlement has been achieved in a hostile socio-economic and political environment. The current Union Government's policies are openly anti-labour. The economy is reeling under crisis - unemployment is high, contract jobs are replacing permanency, apprentices are paid just ₹9,000 a month, and wage settlements are pending in many PSUs.

Yet, despite these odds, the PSGI employees- guided by AIIEA's leadership- achieved a historic and just wage revision. This stands as a shining example of the power of organized struggle and unity in adversity.

Towards a Stronger Future

The Public Sector General Insurance Companies are now showing improving growth rates and increasing market share as compared to their private counterparts - a trend unseen since the market opened to private players in 2000.

The PSGI companies' market share has risen continuously for all six months of the current financial year - a phenomenon that has never happened before. Moreover, their growth rate has outpaced the private sector's.

This wage revision will undoubtedly motivate employees to contribute even more, strengthen their morale,

and take the General Insurance sector to greater heights. AIIEA calls upon all employees to rise to the occasion, stay united, and face the challenges ahead with renewed commitment.

AIIEA's Role: Steadfast and Inspirational

AIIEA did not concentrate on monetary demands alone. During this wage revision struggle, it intervened and submitted a detailed note to the Government opposing 100% FDI, met Members of Parliament, wrote to MPs and GST Council members, and successfully got the GST removed for individual health insurance policies. AIIEA also wrote to the Government opposing the appointment of outsiders as CMDs of PSGI companies. These are unique initiatives, taken solely by AIIEA in the industry - reflecting its far-sighted approach and sense of responsibility towards both employees and the public sector.

The role of AIIEA in this entire struggle is not merely commendable - it is inspirational. It once again proves that unity, conviction, and clarity of purpose can overcome any obstacle.

The struggle for wage revision may have concluded, but AIIEA has already begun the next phase - the fight against 100% FDI, for the merger of the four Public Sector General Insurance companies, which remains the only panacea for their survival and strengthening and to bring all NPS subscribers under the old pension scheme.

From what once appeared impossible, AIIEA has led the General Insurance employees to a glorious success - a proud and defining chapter in the history of our movement.

PENSION CASE IN THE SUPREME COURT

- ARGUMENTS BEGIN

The AIIPA's Civil Appeal No.3465/2024 relating to the updation of Pension and uniform rate of DA was heard by the bench headed by Hon'ble Justices JK Maheswari and Vijay Bishnoi. After the Senior Counsel who opened the arguments on 18/09/2025 finished his submission, AIIPA's Senior Counsel Shri. Sanjay Hedge started his arguments on 8th October and concluded the same on 9th October 2025. He brilliantly placed our case before the Hon'ble Supreme Court Bench cited several case laws which had rejected the arbitrary and discriminatory practices adopted by the employers and government in dealing with the pension issues.

Shri Sanjay Hegde cited two Judgments of the Supreme Court on the subject matter and how the discrimination exist regarding the upgradation of pension for LIC Employees when Central Government Employees are extended the benefit with each wage revision and RBI employees were given upgradation of pension. we would like to share the submission which our Advocate placed before the Bench in support of our case, point wise.

1. LIC pension scheme like CCS (Pension) Rules does not have any provision for upgradation of pension. The Scheme framed on the basis of Central Civil Services Rules and introduced in 1995. When the scheme was introduced, there was no provision for upgradation

even in the CCS Pension Rules.

2. Section 56 of the Schemes makes it clear that in case of any ambiguity, the issue has to be resolved as per the CCS Rules.
3. The Board Resolution decided to do away with varied forms of DA and end the discrimination in 11/2001 and recommended for uniform pattern which was sent to government and there was no response from the GOI.
4. In interpreting Rule 55B and extending the benefit to one class of Pensioners is discriminatory on the ground that pension is paid from LIC pension fund at the rate allowed to Central Government employees (Chairman & MDs).
5. That the pension fund is fully funded and as on 31.3.2024 the fund balance is Rs. 1,28,717 Crores and the fund can be only used for payment of pension and family pension.
6. The cost of conceding pension updation to LIC pensioners can be absorbed by LIC, with growth of total premium income. It is historically proved that the cost of extending any new benefit is absorbed with the growth of premium income.
7. Since the Scheme is a closed one, the liability of the Corporation also decreases with significant number of employees retiring each year.
8. RBI is also fund managed

and is controlled by Board and the resolution of RBI Board has been accepted by GOI while it was not accepted for LIC.

9. LIC's Continuous growth in business can absorb the additional cost as the wages and pension cost is coming down over the years and will further come down.

Shri Sanjay Hegde replied to certain clarifications sought by the court about the remission of our case by the Apex court to Delhi High Court and about the first order of the Rajasthan High Court. The Court put a specific question to our Counsel whether there was any response by Union of India for the Board Resolution to which he answered as No. Even LIC advocate could not assist the Court on this point as there was no reply from Union of India.

Shri Sanjay Hegde, our Senior Counsel, presented our case in a professional way and forcefully. His submissions were impressive. He also referred to Article 43 of the Constitution that guarantee a dignified life.

After that, the Senior Advocate for Retired Class I officers presented his case and has made part submission. The court rose for the day at 12.15 pm posting the matter to 29/10/2025 for completion of arguments of rest of the petitioners. The next day LIC and GOI may submit their counter. It is expected that the matter will come to a successful end soon.

Amanulla Khan

The Brilliant Struggle of AIIEA against Split of LIC Succeeds in Retaining Monolithic Character of LIC



The LIC had been recording continuous progress since it was established. It was making all efforts to fulfil the objectives of the nationalisation. The government at different times had been appointing various committees to keep a track on the progress of the institution. The institution was also under close scrutiny of the parliament.

In 1979, the government appointed a committee headed by Shri Era Sezhiyan, MP to study the working of LIC and suggest steps to be taken to improve the efficiency in servicing, judicious investment of the funds and various other issues relating to the functioning of the institution. This Committee submitted its report to the government on 30th September 1980. The Committee recommended a number of steps to improve the functioning but its main recommendation was to split LIC and reorganise it in five independent corporations competing with each other.

While the Era Sezhiyan Committee was appointed by the Janatha Party government, the report was submitted to the Congress Government which secured over 350 Lok Sabha seats in the 1980 General Elections. Indira Gandhi took oath as the Prime Minister again on 14th January 1980. The LIC employees were engaged in massive struggles beginning from the early seventies against the policies of the government. The historic victory over lock out in 1974 and signing of a good settlement had made Smt Indira Gandhi unhappy. Her government had begun serious assaults against the economic gains secured by LIC employees through their struggle and on their trade union rights. The loss of the Congress in 1977 elections did not bring any respite to the LIC employees from the struggles. The Janatha Party Government of Morarji Desai continued attacks on economic benefits and trade union rights

of LIC employees. The Congress government after its return in 1980 continued to attack the LIC employees with greater intensity.

In this background, the Indira Gandhi Government came to the understanding that the recommendations of Era Sezhiyan Committee of breaking up LIC into five separate and independent corporations not only conform to its economic understanding, but it also gives an opportunity to subdue the AIIEA and its resistance. The LIC too made some internal assessment over the proposal to split and found that unitary structure is not a barrier for achieving the objectives of nationalisation. This internal assessment favoured decentralisation of functions rather than dismantling of the unitary structure to improve efficiencies and bring better results. The LIC took some steps in this direction. The existing mechanisation in the form of Bradma and Adrema machines

The struggle against the LIC split is yet another glorious chapter in the chequered history of AIIEA. It succeeded in protecting the monolithic character of LIC. The struggle was waged with the firm understanding that split of LIC will be a setback for resource mobilisation for national development and ultimately will lead to privatisation. If LIC has survived to become the finest financial institution in the country, it is due to the massive campaign and resistance of the AIIEA. The employees organised under the banner of AIIEA carried out this intense campaign across the country to protect and advance the interests of the public sector. It was their tireless efforts that saved the LIC from unimaginable disaster.

was well past its utility. Moreover, the manufacture of these unit record machines had been discontinued and there was no availability of spare parts for repairs. It was then decided to introduce micro-processors in LIC. LIC also engaged a management consultant Prof Ishwar Dayal on whose recommendations, the process of decentralisation of work began.

The AIIEA opposed the recommendation of split of LIC. It argued that creation of five regional corporations will dilute national character of the institution and will deprive it of the economies of scales and leveraging of the huge pool of skilled manpower. Despite these reasoned arguments, the government went ahead with its plan to dismember LIC. Shri R.Venkataraman, then Finance Minister, in the 1981 Budget Session of Parliament announced the decision to split LIC into five regional independent corporations. The AIIEA began mobilising the public opinion against this retrograde policy decision. It approached Parliamentarians and other opinion makers in the country and appraised them of the disastrous consequences of such a move. It argued that all regions of the country are not equally developed. There are regions which are economically advanced as also regions which are underdeveloped. The advantage of a unitary corporation in cross subsidisation will be lost and such a move will result in further regional imbalances. The AIIEA Working Committee was called in June 1981 at Trivandrum to decide the mode and format of the campaign and struggle. The AIIEA also organised a National Convention at New Delhi on 17th April 1982 to mobilise

support to its campaign. This Convention was participated by all central trade unions except the INTUC. It also had the participation of a number of parliamentarians, social activists, academia and eminent persons from different walks of life. There was total unanimity that the splitting of LIC will harm the national interests and will be a serious set back to the mobilisation of resources for national development. There was also an understanding that the splitting of LIC would ultimately result in the rollback of nationalisation.

The Government, however, remained unmoved by these developments. The Government introduced a Bill in the 1983 Winter Session of the Parliament to split LIC and create five independent regional corporations and the abolition of LIC Central Office. There was fierce opposition to the Bill in the Parliament but the Government had the massive majority to push forward to enact the Bill. The debate in the Parliament was illuminating. Fortunately for the LIC employees, they had Com Sunil Moitra as the MP in Lok Sabha. He was also the Chairman of the Public Accounts Committee. Com Sunil was the Joint Secretary of the AIIEA. While making a brilliant submission in the Lok Sabha, Sunil informed the house that nobody could claim to know the LIC better than him, for he was associated with the institution since its founding days. He traced the history of development of insurance in India, the problems prior to nationalisation and the massive progress registered by LIC since its establishment. He also placed before the house the disastrous consequences if the government proceeds with the legislation ignoring the

well-meaning reasons and in total opposition to the popular public opinion. The brilliant submission of Com Sunil and the fierce resistance from many of the opposition parties forced the government to refer the Bill for greater scrutiny to the Joint Parliamentary Committee.

There were also massive street mobilisation and industrial action. The AIIEA had organised a very successful two-day strike on 20-21 December 1983. The AIIEA campaigned that the unitary structure of LIC has been advantageous. LIC has been recording progress and it has been reaching the rural hinterland to cover the rural population. If there is any problem, it is the unnecessary intervention of the government bureaucracy in the functioning of LIC. Though LIC was said to be a Board run institution, there was practically no functional autonomy. The decisions are taken before hand in the government and they are pushed in the Board by the Members representing the government. Though Section 4 of the LIC Act 1956 provides for appointment of 16 Members to the Board, seldom the full strength is filled. In 1981, LIC Board had only 6 Members; in 1982 it had 5 Members, in 1983 there were 4 and in 1984, there were 8. The government shows no urgency in filling the position of even the Chairperson of the institution. It may be pointed out that after J R Joshi's resignation as Chairman, the LIC did not have a chairperson for 32 months. The Institution was managed only by the Current-in-Charge. Such practices continue even to this day. The AIIEA argued that LIC Board should be fully constituted and it must be given genuine functional autonomy for better results.

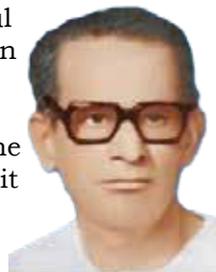
The Joint Parliamentary Committee visited many major centres in the country to collect opinion of the people on the proposed move to split LIC. It also invited some prominent citizens to make oral submissions to the committee on this subject. The AIIEA submitted a detailed note recording its opposition and giving its reasons for such opposition. It also warned of the disastrous consequences if the government moves ahead with the plan to split LIC. The AIIEA appeared before the Committee to give its oral submissions. The call of AIIEA to mobilise opinion and request prominent citizens to submit memorandums to the Committee galvanised the cadres and members of AIIEA across the country. Every unit of the AIIEA took up this task on a war footing. More than 2000 Memorandums from prominent citizens were mobilised and sent to the Parliamentary Committee. Shri J R Joshi, Chairman of LIC also appeared before the Committee to record his opposition. He subsequently resigned from LIC. Shri Ishwar Dayal, the management consultant who

implemented the scheme called Organisation Improvement Cell which decentralised functioning to Branch Offices, too appeared to oppose the government move. It came to knowledge that out of thousands of memorandums and a number of oral submissions, only 12 favoured the split and overwhelming number opposed the split of LIC.

In the meantime, the political situation changed in the country. Smt Indira Gandhi, unfortunately was assassinated by her own bodyguards at her residence on 31st October 1984. In the General Elections held in December 1984, the Congress secured a landslide majority and Rajiv Gandhi was elected as the Prime Minister. With the dissolution of the seventh Lok Sabha, the split Bill had lapsed. But unfortunately, in the very first session of the Eighth Lok Sabha, the Bill to Split was brought again. The AIIEA once again commenced its campaign. Com Sunil Moitra met Shri Rajiv Gandhi and placed forceful arguments against this Bill and followed it up with a letter requesting the Prime Minister to drop the idea of splitting LIC. Following this, the Rajiv Gandhi Government decided to drop the plan to split LIC.

The Prime Minister in his letter dated 12/4/1985 addressed to Com Sunil said: "I have your letter

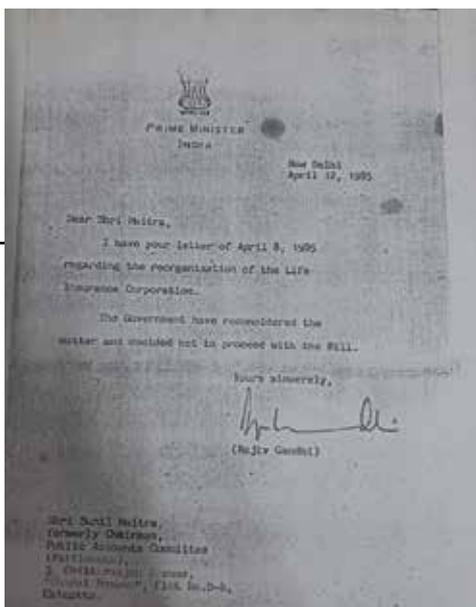
PM's letter to Com. Sunil Maitra brought to a successful conclusion the struggle against the Bill to split LIC.



of April 8, 1985 regarding the reorganisation of Life Insurance Corporation. The Government have reconsidered the matter and decided not to proceed with the Bill."

This brought to a successful conclusion the struggle against the Bill to split LIC.

The struggle of AIIEA succeeded in protecting the monolithic character of LIC. The struggle was waged with the firm understanding that split of LIC will be a setback for resource mobilisation for national development and ultimately will lead to privatisation. If LIC has survived to become the finest financial institution in the country, it is due to the massive campaign and resistance of the AIIEA. The employees organised under the banner of AIIEA carried out this intense campaign across the country to protect and advance the interests of the public sector. It was their tireless efforts that saved the LIC from unimaginable disaster. Had the government succeeded in its plan to split LIC, the consequences would have been unimaginable. Those who are occupying the top positions in LIC today and every single employee and officer must remain grateful to the magnificent struggle of AIIEA and the heroic resistance of the then employees to save LIC. This struggle against the LIC split is yet another glorious chapter in the chequered history of AIIEA. It is the responsibility of the present generation of LIC employees to carry forward this great legacy of struggle and continue to defend and advance the interests of LIC.





Dr Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

President, CDIEA, Cuttack

The Rhetoric of “Atmanirbhar Bharat”

Prime Minister Narendra Modi has consistently and repeatedly pitched for a Self-Reliant India, known as “Atmanirbhar Bharat”, during his public addresses on various occasions, including Independence Day 2025. He outlined a ‘Swadeshi’ path to developed India and urged Indian manufacturers and entrepreneurs to cut dependence on foreign markets and anchor their business models in “Make in India” and “Atmanirbhar Bharat”. The concept emphasizes reducing the nation’s dependence on foreign goods and strengthening domestic production, reducing dependency on imports, boosting domestic production, and integrating with global supply chains.

The critics are of the opinion that the current “Atmanirbhar Bharat” is a political blitzkrieg and propaganda and seems to be an illusion, delusion and a gimmick as the government’s policies do not always align with its self-reliance rhetoric. For instance, while promoting domestic industries, some contracts have still been awarded to foreign firms. What is reprehensible is that foreign goods are widely used by Indians, especially by the rich, wealthy, politicians, ministers, bureaucrats.

Further, possessing costly imported items is considered as a symbol of social status.

The “Atmanirbhar Bharat” requires promoting policies that involve fostering domestic production and exports, augmenting technological capabilities through investment in research and development (R&D) and education, and promoting inclusive, sustainable economic policies that benefit the entire population and build resilience against global shocks. Despite the push for self-reliance, India remains heavily dependent on imports for critical items like crude oil, high-end electronics, and key minerals. This compromises strategic autonomy, particularly when dealing with geopolitical shifts.

In reality, self-reliance is a wide-ranging, long-term national strategy focused on reducing dependence on external sources by addressing vital challenges rather than relying solely on market-driven growth. It is missing by big margin in India. One of the objectives of self-reliance is to have a trade surplus. But India is currently running a trade deficit where the value of its imports exceeds its value of exports. India’s trade deficit for the financial year 2024-25 was \$282.83 billion, compared

to \$241.14 billion in the previous year. This widening gap is mainly due to higher merchandise imports (\$720.24 billion) and lower merchandise exports (\$437.42 billion) during that period.

After a ferocious scuffle between Indian and Chinese forces in the Galwan River valley, there were many demands to boycott Chinese products. Despite the “Make in India” initiative, India’s imports from China are rising because Indian industries, including electronics, pharmaceuticals, and solar energy, heavily rely on Chinese components, raw materials, and technology, which often offer competitive prices and a wide range of availability. This is creating a cavernous problem in the supply chain instead of reducing dependency.

For example, India is a major mobile phone manufacturer, but it is heavily dependent on Chinese components. Over the past 15 years, the share of Chinese manufactured goods in India’s total imports has increased from 21% to 30%, with imports growing 2.3 times faster than India’s total exports. India’s imports from China have increased significantly since 2020. Total imports increased from \$70.3 billion in 2018-19 to \$113.5 billion in 2024-25.

The "Atmanirbhar Bharat" requires promoting policies that involve fostering domestic production and exports, augmenting technological capabilities through investment in research and development (R&D) and education, and promoting inclusive, sustainable economic policies that benefit the entire population and build resilience against global shocks. Despite the push for self-reliance, India remains heavily dependent on imports for critical itemsPM called for indigenous production of goods in various sectors, from "chips" to ships. This requires higher investment in Research and Development (R&D). But Gross our Expenditure on R&D varies from 0.6 to 0.7 % of its GDP, which is significantly lower than the global average of 1.22% ...

With exports just about \$14.25 billion, the trade deficit with China has reached a record \$99.2 billion in 2024-25.

While India became the fourth largest economy, in 2024 it was ranked only the 13th largest participant in international trade. Since 1950, India's share in world trade has been consistently below 2%. It is currently around 1.85% to 2.2%. India's share in world merchandise exports was 1.7% on average during 2016-20, and is expected to be 1.8% in 2023-24. However, its share in world services exports has increased from 3.3 to 4.3% on average during the same period.

Critics have also dismissed the campaign as a repackaging of the earlier 'Make in India' initiative, accusing it of being more of a political slogan than an economic strategy. The "Make in India" initiative as part of "Atmanirbhar Bharat". was launched on September 25, 2014, to promote manufacturing, innovation and entrepreneurship in India. The main objective was to raise the share of manufacturing in GDP from 14-15% to 25% by 2025 and create 6 crore additional jobs in the industrial sector to boost economic growth, employment and global competitiveness. The policy was similar to the New

Manufacturing Policy 2012, which was introduced but not implemented.

Despite numerical increases, the manufacturing sector's share in India's total employment has remained mainly stagnant over the past 50 years, failing to create enough jobs for the new entrants into the workforce each year. By contrast, the manufacturing sector that contributed 17.3% to India's GDP in 2013-14, a year before the "Make in India" initiative was launched, increased to a little over 18% in the next few years, reaching 18.5% in 2021-22, the year after the pandemic. Since then, the sector's share in GDP has declined for two consecutive years. It was 17.7% in 2022-23 and 17.3% in 2023-24. In fact, in the first quarter of 2024-25, it has declined further to 15.7%. The real gross value added (GVA) growth rate of manufacturing has also declined from 8.1% in 2001-12 to 5.5% in 2012-23.

Prime Minister Modi recently said that India's biggest challenge is its dependence on other countries, as he called for indigenous production of goods in various sectors, from "chips" to ships. This requires higher investment in Research and Development (R&D). But Indian companies have shown

very little interest in R&D, an important edifice for building a self-reliant economy. They did not attempt to develop indigenous technology, while preferring instead to import or collaborate. Without a determined effort in innovation, Indian firms will forever be dependent on global players for technology and will not be able to fight in the international arena.

What is worrying is that the government has not paid much attention to R&D. India spends very little on R&D to major global economies, with its Gross Expenditure on R&D varies from 0.6 to 0.7 % of its GDP. This figure is significantly lower than the global average of 1.22% and countries like Israel (5.4 %), South Korea (4.2%), Japan (3.4%), Germany (3.2%), the US (2.9%), China (2.4%), and Switzerland (2.83%). This lack of investment in R&D and a dependence on foreign technology continues to hamper true self-reliance. What is reprehensible is that a significant portion of India's R&D budget is also diverted to capital development such as infrastructure and land.

India is also placed at 36th position in the 2025 UNCTAD Tech & Innovation Report. India also ranked 38th out of 139 economies in the World Intellectual Property

Organization (WIPO)'s Global Innovation Index (GII) 2025. But in the 2025 Human Development Index (HDI), India is ranked 130th out of 193 countries. The World Bank's Human Capital Index (HCI) ranking measures the human capital potential of children born today, taking into account factors such as health and education. By 2023, India's position in the World Bank's Human Capital Index (HCI) ranking is 116 out of 195 countries.

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with PwC, has developed an "Atmanirbhar Index" to track India's progress toward self-reliance across different sectors. For the fiscal year 2021-2022, India had an overall "Aatmanirbhar index" value of 0.69, indicating it was not yet fully self-reliant across all sectors. An index value over 1.0 indicates self-reliance in a particular sector. As of 2021-22 only, eight out of 20 sectors evaluated were self-reliant, including: Animal products, Hides and footwear, Textiles, Iron and steel, Food products

India continues to be classified as a lower-middle-income country by the World Bank, a status it achieved in 2007 and has maintained since. India's gross domestic savings that spurs investment has plummeted from a high of 36.8 % of GDP in 2007-08 to about 30% in recent years. Within this, the net financial savings of households has seen the precipitous decline, from peak of 12.10% in 2009-10 to just about 5.1 % in 2023-24, a multi-decade low.

The simultaneous goals of attracting foreign investment while reducing reliance on imports are at odds with

each other. For example, welcoming foreign companies to manufacture in India does not guarantee the transfer of high-end technology, as companies may prefer to keep strategic technologies at their home base. The unfettered FDI is wearying self-reliance in India as too much reliance on FDI can hinder indigenous innovation and local economies, though the current economic climate and Indian companies' own investments abroad are also key factors.

The gross FDI remained elevated in 2024-25 with 13.7% year-on-year (Y-o-Y) growth to clock \$81 billion worth of flows. It was \$71.3 billion in 2023-24 and 71.4 in 2022-23. But net FDI in India crashed to more than 96% to \$0.4 billion dollars in 2024-25 from \$10.1 billion a year ago due to higher repatriation and rise of outward FDI. Net FDI was \$28 billion in 2022-23. The capital increasingly sees outward flow out of our nation seeking profits. Rupee sinks to record low in each day. The Indian rupee hit a fresh low of Rs.88.77 against the US dollar on October 8, 2025 from Rs. 58.39 on May 22, 2014. RBI intervening to contain volatility in the forex market. RBI net sold \$43 billion in the second half of 2024-25.

As of March 31, 2014, the central government's total debt was approximately 155.87 lakh crore. This figure increased to about 181.74 lakh crore by the end of March 2025, and is projected to reach Rs.196.78

lakh crore by the end of current fiscal. India's external debt was approximately \$461.9 billion at the end of 2014, increased to \$736.3 billion March 2025 and further to \$747.2 billion by June 2025.,

Many people think that a key element of "Atmanirbhar Bharat" (Self-reliant India) is to reduce imports and increase exports. In fact, this is wrong and if all countries try to reduce imports more, world trade will shrink. Because one country's exports are another country's imports and vice-versa. Global trade allows countries to specialize in what they do best. The theory of comparative advantage, developed by David Ricardo, suggests that countries should specialize in producing and exporting goods where they have a lower relative opportunity cost, even though they have an absolute advantage in all goods. This specialization brings benefits from trade for all countries involved, as they focus on their areas of comparative advantage and produce more efficiently and at lower cost.



Cartoon courtesy: Sandeep Adhwaryu @facebook

गीता शान्त

GITA SHANT
General Secretary,
Bareilly Division

सोनम वांगचुक व लद्दाख आन्दोलन के खिलाफ मोदी सरकार का षड्यन्त्र बदनाम करो – अकेला करो – शिकार करो

हम आह भी करते हैं तो हो जाते हैं बदनाम, वह कल भी करते हैं तो चर्चा नहीं होता।
सोनम वांगचुक ने अपने एक भाषण में अकबर इलाहाबादी का यह शेर सुनाया था।

सोनम वांगचुक समेत पूरे लेह-लद्दाख की आह यह है कि 2019 में मोदी सरकार ने खुद अपने घोषणा पत्र में लद्दाख को छठी अनुसूची व स्वतंत्र राज्य का दर्जा देने का जो वादा किया था वह निभाया नहीं।

2020 के स्थानीय चुनाव भी इसी वादे के साथ जीते गये मगर साल दर साल गुजरते गये लेकिन वादा, वादा ही रहा तब लद्दाख बेचैन हो उठा।

कहाँ तो छठी अनुसूची द्वारा स्थानीय लोगों को नीति निर्धारण में निर्णायक भूमिका देते हुए जमीन समेत सभी प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर अधिकार देने की बात कही गयी थी मगर वह तो दिया नहीं गया उल्टा धारा 370 हटाने का लाभ लेते हुए वहाँ की ज़मीनें व तमाम प्राकृतिक संसाधनों को बड़े पैमाने पर अडानी जैसे कॉर्पोरेट के हवाले करने का काम शुरू हो गया।

लद्दाखियों का भोलापन ही था कि वह मोदी सरकार के इस राजनैतिक एजेण्डे को तब नहीं समझ सके और

धारा 370 हटने का जश्न मनाने लगे। समझना था कि जिस सरकार ने पूरे कश्मीर को बन्धक बनाकर धारा 370 हटायी है न कि सहमति बनाकर, तो वह लद्दाख को जनतन्त्र देते हुए स्वतंत्र राज्य का दर्जा दे देगी?

ज़ाहिर है जब लद्दाख के लोगों को सच समझ में आया तब उन्होंने आन्दोलन की राह पकड़ी।

आन्दोलन वर्ष से शान्तिपूर्ण चल रहा था। अनेकों रैली-प्रदर्शन-अनशन से लेकर लेह से दिल्ली तक पदयात्रा इसमें शामिल थी। मगर सरकार ने एक न सुनी, सम्भवतः वह इन्तज़ार ही कर रही थी कि लोगों का धैर्य टूट जाये और उसे इस आन्दोलन को बदनाम करके कुचलने का मौका मिल जाये। यद्यपि अभी कहना मुश्किल है कि 24 सितम्बर 2025 की हिंसा आन्दोलनकारियों में मौजूद युवाओं का धैर्य टूटने से हुई या इसमें कोई अन्य साजिश है?

लद्दाख के आन्दोलनकारी कोई साधारण लोग नहीं हैं, वे पाकिस्तान व चीन के बार्डर की तमाम मुश्किलें व सख्त मौसम झेलने वाले फौलादी लोग हैं। पाकिस्तान व चीन के साथ हुए युद्धों में उनकी भूमिका भारत के लिए अत्यधिक सराहनीय रही है। इन

The recent Ladakh issue tells us: you may have once praised this government, but the moment you demand your rights from this government, when you become a hurdle in the path of its corporate friends, you will be declared a traitor, all government agencies will pounce on you and all facts, logic and truth will be killed.

आन्दोलनकारियों में वे तमाम लोग शामिल हैं जिन्होंने स्वये या परिजनों ने पाकिस्तान-चीन के साथ हुए युद्धों में भाग लिया है।

किसी को हक नहीं है कि वह ऐसे लोगों को देशभक्ति का पाठ पढ़ाये। यह देश उन पलों में शर्मिन्दा हो गया जब 24 सितम्बर 2025 को आत्मरक्षा के नाम पर एक ऐसे सैनिक के सीने में हमारी ही सेना ने गोली मार दी जिसने खुद व उसके पिता ने कारगिल युद्ध में भाग लिया था।

आत्मरक्षा में गोली पैर में मारी जाती है और मगर 24 सितम्बर 2025 को

सिर व सीने में मारी गई।

एक शान्तिपूर्ण आन्दोलन को 4 वर्ष तक अनदेखा करके हिंसा ज़मीन तैयार करने वाली सरकार अब सक्रिय हो गई। आन्दोलन के मुख्य नेता सोनम वांगचुक को 26 सितम्बर 2025 को देशद्रोह के आरोप में गिरफ्तार कर लिया गया।

इस गिरफ्तारी ने देश को बता दिया कि -

- ▶ -भले ही आप राजनीतिक व्यक्ति न हो, आप शिक्षाविद-वैज्ञानिक-पर्यावरणविद हों।
- ▶ -भले ही आपने देश व दुनिया के तमाम पुरस्कार जीते हों।
- ▶ -भले ही आपने अपनी सेना को ठण्ड से बचाने के लिए सोलर टैन्ट का आविष्कार किया हो।
- ▶ -भले ही आपने पहाड़ों में पानी की समस्या हल करने हेतु बर्फ स्तूप बनाये हों।
- ▶ -भले ही आपने नई तरह का विश्वविद्यालय बनाया हो जिसमें फेल बच्चों को कृषि द्वारा गणित, विज्ञान, कामर्स, अर्थशास्त्र पढ़ाया जाता हो जिसे दुनिया के तमाम देश सीख रहे हों।
- ▶ -भले ही एक समय में आपने इसी सरकार का यशगान किया हो।

मगर जिस पल भी आप इस सरकार से अपना अधिकार मांगेंगे, उसके कॉरपोरेट मित्रों की राह में रोड़ा बनेंगे आप देशद्रोही घोषित कर दिये जायेंगे। सारी सरकारी एजेन्सियाँ, मोदी मीडिया, टोल आर्मी आप पर टूट पड़ेगी। ऐसा शोर पैदा किया जायेगा जिसमें सारे तर्कों, तथ्यों व सत्य की हत्या हो जायेगी।

आज सोनम वांगचुक के वह फोटो देशद्रोही साबित करने हेतु सोशल मीडिया पर तैराये जा रहे हैं जब वह संयुक्त राष्ट्र की एक सभा में इसी सरकार द्वारा भारत का पक्ष रखने भेजे गये थे।

बांग्लादेश के मो0 यूनुस के साथ का वह फोटो जो तब का है जब यूनुस प्रधानमंत्री नहीं थे बल्कि एक नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता के रूप में एक कार्यक्रम में सोनम से मिले थे। हालांकि फोटो तो उनका पूर्व उपराष्ट्रपति श्री वेंकैया नायडू से पुरस्कार लेते हुए भी हैं जिसे टोल आर्मी दबा गई। उन सोनम को चीन का एजेण्ट बताया जा रहा है जिन्होंने गलवान की घटना के बाद चीनी सामान के बहिष्कार का पहला आह्वान किया।

मज़े की बात यह है कि यह सब वह सरकार व उसकी टोल आर्मी कह

रही है जो पाकिस्तान से क्रिकेट खेलने में अन्तरराष्ट्रीय मजबूरी जताती है। जो बांग्लादेश की अपदस्थ प्रधानमंत्री को अपने यहाँ पनाह देती हैं जिसके कारण बांग्लादेश से हमारे रिश्ते खराब हुए। जो खुद चीनी राष्ट्रपति को झूला झुलाती है और अब तो तालिबान से भाईचारा बना रही है।

गृहमंत्री द्वारा अब यह कहा जाना कि लेह-लद्दाख को छठी अनुसूची व राज्य का दर्जा नहीं देंगे क्योंकि वह संवेदनशील बार्डर है। यह चेतावनी हो सकती है भारत के सभी बार्डर क्षेत्रों के लिए कि इस नाम पर उनसे कभी भी जनतंत्र छीना जा सकता है।

सवाल केवल लेह-लद्दाख-कारगिल का नहीं है पूरे भारत का है। सभी को समझना होगा कि बार्डर क्षेत्र में सामाजिक अशान्ति का क्या अर्थ है? अन्याय लोगों को कहाँ तक ले जा सकता है? इस क्षेत्र में भयंकर बेरोजगारी है। 6 वर्ष से कोई रिक्रूटमेन्ट नहीं हुआ है। बार्डर क्षेत्र में भयंकर बेरोजगारी का क्या असर हो सकता है?

इस सबके साथ उनकी ज़मीनें छिन रही हैं, कॉरपोरेट के लिए चरावाहों के चारागाह छिनने से पशुमीना का पूरा उद्योग संकट में आ सकता है। पहाड़ खोदकर Rare earth Metal निकाले जा रहे हैं, अडानी के विशालकाय सोलर प्लान्ट बनाने से जो तापमान बढ़ेगा उससे ग्लेशियर पिघलने का खतरा है। कॉरपोरेट मुनाफे को समर्पित विवेकहीन विकास को हम उत्तराखण्ड-हिमाचल में त्रासदियों के रूप में देख रहे हैं। कॉरपोरेट मुनाफा और राजनैतिक दल चन्दा कमाते हैं, प्राकृतिक आपदायें आम आदमी झेलता है।

सोनम वांगचुक व लद्दाख के खिलाफ अपनाये जा रहे सरकार के रुख से साफ है कि वह बदनाम करो, अकेला करो, शिकार करो की अपनी राजनीतिक शैली से काम कर रही है।

सभ्यताओं के सफ़र में सत्ता का यह रुख नया नहीं है सुकरात से सोनम व लद्दाखियों तक जारी है। सुकरात की अमरता और शक्तिशाली शासकों की गुमनामी इतिहास का जवाब है। यही जवाब लद्दाख के आन्दोलन को भी मिलेगा क्योंकि दुनिया के किसी इतिहास में यह लिखा ही नहीं गया कि जनता अपने शासकों से न्याय के लिए लड़ी और हार गई हम जीतेंगे।

Zubeen Garg entered the music scene in Assam in the early 1990s when the Assam Movement, with all its violence and state repression, was still fresh in memory. That was a time when the United Liberation Front of Assam was at its peak, with a whole generation of Assamese youth - both men and women - taking up arms to demand a sovereign state. The Army's Operation Bajrang was just ending, leaving behind a trail of horror stories and a general sense of despair among the Assamese youth. There was violence in the air.

It was in that juncture that Zubeen Garg arrived with his melodies, changing - and slowly becoming - the rhythm of the Assamese society. In the three decades that followed, Garg ruled the world of Assamese music, and subsequently cinema, until he suddenly left his kingdom on September 19 at the age of 52, drowning in Singapore, as if to fulfill a premonition when he had sung, "Xagor tolit xubore mon" (I wish to sleep in the depths of the sea).

For days, life in Assam spontaneously came to complete standstill. The Assam government declared three days of official mourning. Millions poured in from across the state to get one last glimpse of their hero. Millions more participated in his funeral procession. The crowd sang together. Assam's sky reverberated with one of Garg's famous songs, *Mayabini*.

He was cremated on September 22 with full state honours and a 21-gun salute. As I write this piece, mourners are still gathering at the site of his cremation, singing and offering prayers.

What does Assam's Moment of Unity around Zubeen Garg's death mean in a time of divisive politics?

Mitul Baruah

Associate Professor of Sociology/Anthropology and Environmental Studies at Ashoka University

(Courtesy: Scroll 28/9/25)

What was this phenomenon called Zubeen Garg?

The artist

Popularly known as the "King of Humming" in Assam, Garg started learning the tabla at the age of three and went on to master more than a dozen instruments.

His debut in 1992, *Anamika*, was hailed as Assam's first rock album. With romantic tracks such as *Hahile Tumi Mukuta Moni Xore* (It Rains Jewels When You Smile), and soft melodies such as [Gaane Ki Ane](#) (What the Song Brings), it became an instant hit. There was no looking back.

Garg kept releasing album after album, each one creating a new record as he came to completely dominate the Assamese imagination.

Zubeen Garg wasn't just a rockstar. His music kept evolving, expanding into new genres, embracing new styles. As he once said, "An artist needs to be like a river, always flowing, meandering, and not a pond."

As a result, Garg became an icon for rock-crazy youth, folksong lovers, older listeners with a fascination for devotional music and Bihu-



Zubeen Garg was an icon. More than a million participated in his funeral procession from Airport to his residence. He was a great human being who declared that I don't have any god, any caste. I am free, as free as Kanchenjunga. He never hesitated to say that "I am a socialist Left". He died in mysterious circumstances. Therefore, this requires a high level impartial probe under a sitting/retired Supreme Court Judge.

– Editor

loving Assamese society as a whole. His music was rooted in Assam's soil and its rivers, but composed with a sensitivity to musical ears that knew no borders.

After spending roughly a decade in Bollywood from the mid-1990s where his career reached new heights, with popular tracks such as [Ya Ali](#), [Jaane Kya](#) and [Kafur](#), Garg chose to shift his base back to Assam, for Assam was, what German sociologist Max Weber would call, Garg's "calling".

Once back in Guwahati, Zubeen diversified his interest into film – as an actor, director, music director and scriptwriter. His directorial ventures such as *Mission China* in 2017

and *Kanchanjanga* in 2019 were box-office hits. At the time of his death, he was finishing a musical drama, the first of its kind in Assamese film, titled *Roi Roi Binale*, written by him. He also acted as a blind artist. The film is set to release on October 31.

In stage, Zubeen Garg was Freddie Mercury+, with a wry sense of humor, laced with a generous dose of Assamese slang that young people loved. In his three-decade career, Garg recorded more than 38,000 songs in 40 languages and was associated with dozens of films.

The rebel

Zubeen Garg wasn't like Chilean folk singer Victor

Jara or street-theatre master Safdar Hashmi or, for that matter, reggae star Bob Marley. That was because Garg never followed any playbook. He was a maverick and he redefined what it means to be a revolutionary artist.

He wasn't a card-carrying leftist. Instead, he described himself as a socialist. In one of his last interviews, he said Che Guevara was his idol while also denouncing politics of violence, like that of the ULFA's.

A Brahmin by birth, Garg spoke openly against casteism and all kinds of social discrimination. He famously threw away his "janeyu" (the sacred thread), using it, as he said, as a string for his mosquito net. At times, he called himself a Buddhist. It is now public knowledge that Garg quietly helped thousands of families by paying for their children's education, medical bills and so on. Every evening, people lined up outside his studio in Guwahati with applications for help, and Garg gave generously.

When mass protests took place in Assam in 2019 against the discriminatory Citizenship Amendment Bill, Garg did not shy away from his responsibility as being an artist for all. He took center stage, singing, *Politics Nokoriba Bondhu* (Don't Play Politics, My Friend). "Zubeen da" urged protestors to steer

clear of violence and, despite provocations, they did.

Garg stood for human rights and animal rights equally, protested tree felling and child labour and remained a conscience-keeper for many ordinary Assamese. In his iconic track, *Jontro*, he talked about alienation under capitalism – how we have all become machines – in a language that was accessible to ordinary people.

The question before Assamese youth today is: "Now what?" They will have to write their own answer, for this time, Zubeen da isn't around to give them a script.

We must recognise that in recent years, sectarian politics in Assam has been touching new lows. There is hatred in the air. Yet, in Zubeen Garg's death, Assam witnessed unprecedented solidarity. People from all walks of life, across classes, ethnicities and religions, came together to mourn the giant's death, for Garg belonged to all – he was a people's artist.

How might we, then, make sense of this moment of solidarity and the Assamese "oneness" in a time of divisive politics? One can only hope that this is a moment of re-awakening for Assamese society. Garg dreamt of a society devoid of violence and hatred, and he was able to bring people together both in life and in death.

The real test of the love Assamese youth have shown for Zubeen Garg will be whether they are willing to stand in solidarity against the communal forces that are taking away our humanity.

Cartoon courtesy: **Satish Acharya,** @facebook



India's foreign policy in the years after the Cold War and the era of liberalisation has, in its obsession with America and the West, abandoned the very idea of making common cause with nations of the Global South. Instead of a foreign policy based on solidarity with developing countries and their concerns, India chose a strategy of sanskritisation. By mimicking the rhetoric and the practices of the West's 'savarna' nations, Modi's government thought it could deal at the world's top table. This strategy predictably failed because in this epoch of climate change and immigration, a xenophobic West was never going to make room at the top for a country that housed the largest number of poor people in the world.... perhaps we could start over again?. We could begin by acknowledging that our future lies in coming to terms with the countries around us instead of shimmying for a West that doesn't care.



HEAVY RECOIL



Mukul Kesavan Eminent Historian (Courtesy: Telegraph 05.10.25)

When Nirmala Sitharaman observed in a speech on Friday that the “absolute dominance once enjoyed by a hegemon is now contested”, it was hard to miss the not-so-coded reference to the United States of America. The National Democratic Alliance government’s relationship with Trumpian America has clearly come a long way from the ‘Howdy Modi’ lovefest of 2019 in Texas where Narendra and Donald seemed like inseparable ideological twins. Modi went to the extent of breaching diplomatic protocol by openly campaigning for Trump with the slogan, “*Ab ki baar, Trump sarkar*”. ‘Be careful what you wish for’ ought to be an entry in Modi’s Little Orange Book of governing wisdom whenever it’s published.

How did India get here? ‘Here’ being a geopolitical moment where, in the aftermath of the skirmish that followed Pahalgam, Pakistan is feted by the US and China, both the hegemon in Sitharaman’s speech and its principal challenger; where the main object of Modi’s foreign policy affections, Trump, has punished India with the highest tariffs imposed by America on any nation; where India’s silence on Gaza has left it more acquiescent in Israel’s slaughter than that country’s

most devoted Western allies; where India’s South Asian neighbours are united in their hostility to the subcontinent’s Gulliver and where Modi had to visit China, despite that country’s consistent border aggressions, to signal India’s strategic autonomy.

A part of the answer to this question predates Modi and the NDA era that began with the 2014 election. After the end of the Cold War and the collapse of the Soviet Union, India’s foreign policy intellectuals began to push for the abandonment of non-alignment because there weren’t two superpowers to tack between. This was the unipolar moment, the end of history, the triumph of US-led liberal democracy, and India needed to get with the programme by cosying up to America.

This pivot was urged on by a chorus of experts who laid out the arguments for a tilt toward America that informed the foreign policy choices of both NDA and UPA governments through the new century. India’s trade surplus with America, the growing economic and political clout of India’s US diaspora, the willingness of the US to act in concert with India to constrain China, and the seemingly obvious advantage of riding the coattails of the hegemon

tempted Indian policymakers into what C. Raja Mohan, the doyen of this new tendency, described as pragmatic multi-alignment. The bedrock beliefs of this new stance were a) US economic and military supremacy in the

foreseeable future and b) the possibility of containing China in concert with the West

The Modi government brought to this growing foreign policy consensus an interesting ideological novelty. After Trump was elected in late 2016 and chose to make his majoritarian instincts the basis of US policy — the executive order banning travel to and from seven Muslim-majority countries was one such example — Modi’s government began to see him as an ideological soulmate. This is true more generally; Modi’s affinity for right-wing, post-fascist leaders like Giorgia Meloni is well-known and the feeling that under the pressure of immigration, politics in European countries was moving to the Right seems to have encouraged him to believe that there was a new concert of majoritarianism emerging in the West which would be a natural partner for Modi’s Hindu *rashtra* in the making.

To sum up, India was to project itself as the West’s democratic ally in the Indo-Pacific and its non-Muslim

counterweight in the global South. India's rock-solid partnership with Israel, for example, is based on both a strategic military relationship and, in the Modi era, a very close affinity with Likud's majoritarianism. This idea that the world was increasingly being shaped by a freemasonry of Western majoritarians seems to have seduced Modi's government into thinking of India as the West's indispensable partner.

We see this, for example, in S. Jaishankar's belief that India could continue to trade with Russia in the name of strategic autonomy without blowback or consequences. What he and his government forgot was just how ruthlessly self-interested US foreign policy has historically been till Trump's tariffs supplied a reminder. The irony of India's pro-US posture has always been that it was founded on the idea of unipolarity even as the unipolar moment was buried by China's rise. It also assumed that the US would be as invested in policing the world, and willing to underwrite the Western alliance, as it had been before.

It turned out that these were radically unsound assumptions. Trump has made it clear that the US is no longer willing to pay for NATO nor, more broadly, for the concert of the West. His reframing of the US security shield as a racket where client states pay for protection, his willingness to dump Ukraine, the increasing scepticism about whether the US is likely to enter into a full-blown war with China over Taiwan make the notion of the US as a reliable ally in the Indo-Pacific questionable. The Quad, always an unequal forum, now

looks delusional.

The open hostility towards India and Indian immigrants expressed by Trump's ideological allies in the US, the move to scrap the H-1B visa, shouldn't have taken the government by surprise. After Mexico and El Salvador, India supplies the third-largest number of undocumented people trying to cross into the US. In July this year, there was a series of attacks on Indians in Ireland, a country notable for its openness to immigrants. In a West that increasingly sees itself as a White island of prosperity besieged by legal and illegal migrants from, in Trump's phrase, "shithole countries", why did Modi imagine that India, the largest exporter of people in the world, would be exempt?

There were many justifiable critiques of non-alignment, among them its umbilical attachment to a Soviet Union that was dying. Another was the talking up of third world dictators who substituted anti-Westernism for progress and development. A third was an allergy to regional trading blocs like ASEAN. But the concept at least recognised that India was a part of what was then described as the third world, that it had something in common with the predicament of other, post-colonial countries. It was this sense of solidarity that led India to critique the US's wars in Indo-China, to boycott apartheid South Africa, to critique the expropriation of the Palestinians, and to condemn Britain's adventurism during the

Suez crisis.

In contrast, India's foreign policy in the years after the Cold War and the era of liberalisation has, in its obsession with America and the West, abandoned the very idea of making common cause with nations of the Global South. Instead of a foreign policy based on solidarity with developing countries and their concerns, India chose a strategy of *sanskritisation*. By mimicking the rhetoric and the practices of the West's 'savarna' nations, Modi's government thought it could deal at the world's top table. This strategy predictably failed because in this epoch of climate change and immigration, a xenophobic West was never going to make room at the top for a country that housed the largest number of poor people in the world.

India's foreign policy establishment is forever talking about the unsentimental realism of India's foreign policy after the era of non-alignment. Since Trump has shown us that this iteration of realism hasn't worked, perhaps we could start over again? We could begin by acknowledging that our future lies in coming to terms with the countries around us instead of shimmying for a West that doesn't care.



Cartoon courtesy:
Rakesh Ranjan
@molitics.in



7th General Conference of ECZIEA at Jamshedpur

The 7th General Conference of ECZIEA conference of ECZIEA was held in the Michael John Auditorium at the steel city of Jamshedpur on 20-21 September 2025. More than 300 delegates and observers attended the triennial conference with enthusiasm and zest.

The two-day conference commenced on 20th September 2025 with the hoisting of the red flag of the association by Com. Pradip Kumar Mukherjee, President, ECZIEA, amidst reverberating slogans in fond memory of the martyrs. This was followed by floral tributes at the martyrs' column. Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA, and Com. B. S. Ravi, Treasurer, were among the

notable comrades who paid tributes.

In his signature address, Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA, glued the audience to their chairs with a threadbare analysis of the current political and economic situation, with reference to the impact of the two ongoing wars in different regions of the globe. He congratulated the comrades of ECZIEA for being at the

forefront of a splendid campaign and struggle demanding complete withdrawal of GST on individual health and life insurance policies. Through the intense struggle, the entire opposition was united, while differences on the issue were visible among ruling ministers. He made special mention of comrades from Nagpur, who, through their arguments, were able to convince Shri Nitin Gadkari, a senior minister and prominent member of the BJP, to write to the Finance Minister emphasizing the demand of AIIEA. Also, Mrs. Supriya Sule from the opposition benches, raised the issue in Parliament with specific reference to AIIEA, which speaks volumes about the intensity and reach of our struggle on this singular issue.

He cautioned that the government is steadily advancing on its path to destabilize LIC by entrusting more powers to IRDA and clinging to dangerous reforms. He reminded comrades of the dangers of the proposed Insurance Laws (Amendment)





Bill, the increase in FDI limit to 100%, and the amendments to the Insurance Act, 1938. While the Minister of State for Finance replied in Rajya Sabha that FDI inflow to date is 32.7% against the present limit of 74% (an increase from 26% in 1999 in a phased manner), Com. Mishra wondered why there was a need to further increase FDI to 100%. Herein lies the demand of international finance capital for total abolition of the limit, besides the government's intention to offer an additional 6.5% of LIC's share capital, in addition to the 3.5% already diluted, thereby reaching the desired target of 10%. This attempt of the government, he urged, must be fought resolutely.

After the inauguration of the conference by the General Secretary, Com. Trinath Dora, General Secretary, ECZIEA, on behalf of the Working Committee, formally placed the triennial report, followed by the placement of accounts for the period 2022 to 2024 by Com. Sadhan Kumar Mishra, Treasurer, ECZIEA.

While placing the report before the house, Com. Dora briefly dealt with all the issues one after another. Starting from the international and national chapters to the tasks ahead, he aptly narrated subjects from

the working-class perspective. Every topic was relatable to the deteriorating living standards of the masses globally and in our country. The impact of various global events, the vast income and wealth disparity between developed and developing countries, and within countries themselves, is creating social divides leading to anger and unrest everywhere.

Dubbed the "election super year of the century," wherein, almost half of the countries went to the polls in 2024, with more than half of the global population participating. The eclipse of democratic forces was visible, with right-wing forces gaining dominance, though a few left-progressive alliances contained and defeated them to some extent. Centuries-long imperialist ambition and capitalist expansion have accentuated the climate crisis to an almost irreversible stage, requiring immediate gigantic-scale action. The advent of Artificial Intelligence has had mixed impacts across human life and social, economic, and political structures, which must be analysed from a working-class perspective in order to prepare for its onslaught.

Since 2014, when the far-right BJP came to power, the national situation has deteriorated considerably. Every walk of life is passing

through a harrowing experience. The government is pursuing its singular agenda of transforming a secular India into a rabidly intolerant Hindu Rashtra. Utilizing all constitutional organs at its disposal, the Sangh Parivar has made inroads into every aspect of the social fabric. Mob culture, patronized by the state, has become rampant. Whether in the matter of UCC, budgetary allocations to MNREGA, rewriting of history, temple inaugurations, the new Parliament, electoral bonds, "Operation Sindoor" in retaliation for the Pahalgam terrorist attack, electoral roll revisions, or reforms in the GST structure—the shadow of the Hindutva agenda is visible everywhere.

Twenty-four delegates participated in the discussions, following initiation by Com. Ramakanta Dash, General Secretary, BDLIEA. The lone female participant was Com. Sanghamitra Sarangi of SDLIEA. The deliberations exhibited maturity in understanding, particularly from relatively new comrades. Com. Vikram Kumar, Com. Gyanchand Gupta, Com. Umesh Panigrahi and Com. Alok Ranjan Panda deserve special mention for their clarity of thought and mature organizational understanding.



Intervening in between, Com. B. S. Ravi, in his inimitable style, explained the intricacies of wage revision and how AIIEA's tactics compelled LIC management to concede to justified demands. He lucidly explained on how every benefit was achieved



through prolonged struggles, not as benevolence from the management-government combine. He appealed to the younger generation to study the history of AIIEA, a saga of struggles and victories.

As many as 24 resolutions concerning various issues were placed and adopted unanimously, charting the guiding path of our future struggles. The report of the credentials committee justified the importance of our ongoing demand for recruitment and stressed the need for our best efforts in this direction.

Finally, a 20 member Secretariat and a 53 member Working Committee were elected with Com. Pradip Kumar Mukherjee, Com.

Trinath Dora and Com. Sadhan Kumar Mishra as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the ensuing term. Com. Amity Maity delivered the customary vote of thanks.

IEAJD lived up to its reputation for military preparedness. However big the challenges and however adverse the situation, the soldiers of AIIEA overcame them with all their might. Once again, valiant comrades of IEAJD continued this legacy. Each speaker lauded the exemplary job done by the volunteer comrades, whose dedication and commitment ensured the smooth and successful culmination of the conference.

24th Conference of WZIEA A Conference of Confidence, Commitment & Dedication

The 24th General Conference of the WZIEA held at Bhavnagar – Gujarat from 13th to 15th September, 2025 was an outstanding success.

The historic and memorable conference started with a rally in which more than 600 comrades participated covering a distance of 3 Kms. The rally which raised spirited slogans was greeted enroute by fraternal trade unions; CITU, AIBEA, Railways, AIDWA, Anganwadi and Asha Workers. The rally culminated at Com Sitaram Yechury Nagar, Town Hall where the flag of AIIEA was hoisted by Com. AG Dhokpande, President, WZIEA. Thereafter, floral tributes were paid to the martyrs' column.

INAUGURAL SESSION: The inaugural session commenced with **Com. Arun Mehta, Chairman of the Reception**

Committee delivering the welcome address. While welcoming the participants to this conference, he lauded the role of AIIEA and the challenges confronting the working class today. He gave a brief history of the city of Bhavnagar.

Com. Shree Kant Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA inaugurated the Conference. He elaborately dealt with the situation obtaining internationally and domestically and criticized the Central Government for their malafide intention to destabilize the Public Sector Insurance Companies. He informed the participants about the long





journey of the struggle of AIIEA on demand for removal of GST on Life & Health Insurance Premiums and the success of the organization achieved in this regard.

Com.R N Patne, Former President, WZIEA, Com. Dahyabhai Gajera (Kisan Sabha), Com. Ashok Sompura (CITU), Com. Jayesh Oza (AIBEA), Com. SK Srivastava (WREU – Railway Union) also greeted the inaugural session. Other unions from Bhavnagar also remained present on the occasion and conveyed their greetings to the Conference.

DELEGATE SESSION: The Delegate Session was held at Com. Sharad Choubal Manch, Com. Sitaram Yechury Nagar, Om Plaza, Bhavnagar. A total of **249** delegates and observers attended this session. Com. AG Dhokpande, President – WZIEA presided over the meeting.

Com. H I Bhatt, General Secretary, WZIEA placed Report on behalf of the Executive Committee for discussion. The Report extensively dealt with the international situation where the democratic decline and economic crisis is profoundly impacting the people. Dealing with the national situation, the report was highly critical of the economic policies leading to growing inequalities. The Report warned that polarising the society on religious and linguistic lines will harm the national unity. The Report highlighted the

brilliant performance of LIC and criticized the attempts to weaken this successful financial institution. The Report called upon the insurance employees to join the broader movement of the working class to defend national interests and protect the public sector insurance industry.

41 delegates took part in the debate on the Report and presented their views and suggestions on the report and also on how to take the organisation forward. The delegates were unanimous in their agreement to the submissions available in the report. The report was whole heartedly appreciated by the house.

The Conference unanimously adopted 14 important resolutions on certain national and industrial issues. They include the issues relating to Disinvestment of LIC, Absorption of Temporary Class 4 Employees, Recruitment in Class 3 Cadre, Recruitment in Class 4 Cadre, Promotion Policy, Unorganized Sector Workers, Government Policy on Pension, Improvements in Pension, Recognition of AIIEA, Collective Bargaining Right, Guest House Accommodation in Mumbai City, Inter Division Transfers, Cashier's Issue & Filling up Cashier Vacancies and Wage Revision of General Insurance Employees.

Intervening in the debate

by AIIEA leadership: The conference was enriched by the intervention of the AIIEA leadership which contributed to the better understanding of the issues and the situation of the delegates.

Com. V Ramesh, President – AIIEA detailed the efforts of AIIEA to secure a dignified life to the LIC employees. He said despite the unhelpful attitude of LIC management and a hostile government, the agitation of AIIEA to safeguard the LIC and its policyholders has earned enormous goodwill and this is the reason why LIC remains the market leader. He stressed on the importance of unity to fight against anti-people policies and defend LIC.

Com. Shreekanth Mishra – General Secretary, AIIEA commended the report by saying that the report was not only a main weapon in our hands for our struggle but also for satisfying our hunger and thirst for knowledge. The work of the Bhavnagar comrades had proved that if there is organisational commitment even the ordinary comrades have the capacity to do extra ordinary work. He spoke at length on the problems India is facing today and the challenges





AIIEA is confronted with in defending the institution. He expressed confidence that AIIEA cadre would definitely work towards Strong AIIEA – for Strong LIC, Strong LIC – for Stronger India.

Com. BS Ravi – Treasurer, AIIEA gave a picture of the AIIEA / WZIEA through facts and figures. He briefed the house about the membership and strike figures of the WZIEA. He elaborated on the role of the comrades in mobilising the cadre for our various campaigns and programmes for which understanding the struggle is important. Com. Ravi wanted each one of the participants to strive to work for the benefit of the society. He was happy to note that the WZIEA team had an important role in our victorious campaign over the years for removal of GST in Insurance.

Com. RN Patne, Former President, WZIEA said that the report was a research document. If the organisation has to be strengthened, then Divisional Units should be strengthened first. Apart from the Soft Copy Circulars and Online Meetings, Physical Circulars should be issued and read. Physical Meetings too should be conducted regularly thereby establishing one to one personal contact.

Com.H I Bhatt, General Secretary, WZIEA in his

summing up gave an account of how the WZIEA has evolved over the years. He mentioned how generations have come and gone during this long period and along with it the issues, challenges and problems have changed with each passing conference, for which apt decisions are taken based on logical assessment of the situation at hand. In this conference, we are worrying about our industry, the hostility of the Government and how their policies are going to affect our industry.

Com. Bhatt commended the comrades of Western Zone for working in very difficult situation and expressed the confidence that we will continue growing in the Zone. He also was pleased to announce that WZ was second in the GST campaign of meeting the MP's.



He said that our comrades should read more and also have political understanding as they were middle class opinion creators. Com.Bhatt thanked the house for making the report complete with the discussions.

4TH WOMEN'S CONVENTION OF WZIEA: The 4th Women's Convention of the WZIEA was held on 13.09.2025 from 6 pm to 9 pm. **64** women comrades, AIIEA leadership and male comrades from many divisions were witness to the convention. Com. Pragna Vasani and Com. Heena Jibhkate presented strong reports on the role of women, social status and organisational responsibilities. Com. Pradnya Tapre presided over the meeting. 11 women comrades from Nagpur, Ahmedabad, Pune, Rajkot, Surat, Bhavnagar, Nadiad and Thane spoke with confidence and enthusiasm. Com. Shreekant Mishra – General Secretary, AIIEA and Com. HI Bhatt – General Secretary, WZIEA gave their guidance to the Convention. The Convention resolved to the role of women in AIIEA struggles, ensure leadership participation and carry forward the revolutionary spirit of Bhavnagar.

AUDITED ACCOUNTS : The audited accounts for the years 2022, 2023 & 2024 was presented by Com. Dishant Patel and the same was approved by the house

unanimously.

CULTURAL PROGRAMME : A Cultural Programme was arranged at the Yashwantrao Natyagruh, Mahila College Circle on 14.09.2025, which showcased the various traditional folk dances, music and film songs, many of which were presented by our own Staff Members. The AIIEA leaders honoured the artistes on the stage.

The conference recorded its appreciation for the magnificent

commitment shown by Bhavanagar comrades to make it a grand success.

OFFICE BEARERS: The Conference unanimously elected a new set of office-bearers and executive committee members for the ensuing term with Com Sarjerao Y. Bhujbal as President, Com Harshad J Popat as General Secretary and Com Dishant Patel as Treasurer. The Conference also elected Coms Heena Jibhkate and Pragna Vasani as co-

convenors of Mahila Samithi.

The 24th General Conference was a grand success both in terms of participation and the level of debate. The decisions taken in the conference will strengthen and consolidate the organization. The Conference was a show of confidence, commitment and dedication and certainly the WZIEA will meet the challenges of our times through organizational consolidation.

69th Conference of DIEA, Jalpaiguri

The 69th Annual General Conference of DIEA, Jalpaiguri, was held in Jalpaiguri (Comrade Biswanath Sanyal Nagar, Comrade Debasish Chatterjee & Comrade Niranjan Chakraborty Mancha) on 13-14 September 2025. Holding the Conference itself was a defiance to the District Administration, who had asked to get permission from the District President of the ruling party to hold the Conference in the District Council Auditorium. The organization refused to succumb and took the challenge to host the conference.

The Conference of defiance to autocracy started with a big rally sending clear message to the rulers of the State and

Centre that the Insurance Employees bearing red flags were against the Corporate Communal Nexus and autocratic rule in the State.

Comrade Fullara Talapatra, President of the Organisation hoisted the Red Flag amidst cheering slogans, followed by homage to the Martyrs Colum. The cultural coir of the organization presented beautiful inaugural songs to set the voice of the Conference.

Com. Rajiv Nigam, Jt. Secretary, AIIEA, inaugurated the Conference. He explained in detail the real face of the Corporate-Communal Nexus from his own experiences in Uttar Pradesh. While he explained the victory of AIIEA

on the question of GST and expressed confidence to clinch recruitment in LIC, he said the strength of AIIEA was in its ideology. He explained lucidly the hollowness of the tall claims of development which were rejected by the 25 crore workers on 9th of July 2025. Com. Rajiv discussed the condition of West Bengal and explained how the state sponsored heinous crime took place in the RG Kar Medical College and gave a call to build united movement directed towards a policy change. Comrade Saikat Choudhury, General Secretary while extending vote of thanks assured that the Conference will take specific programme as suggested by the fraternal Tus. The inaugural session was participated and addressed by the representatives of CITU, BEFI, Constituents of the 12th July Committee, LICAOL, LIAFI, NFIFWI, LIC CLASS-I Officers' Federation & AIIPA Jalpaiguri Division.

Comrade Saikat Choudhury, placed the Report of the working Committee with the proposals of a set of programmes. **35** Comrades



participated in the lively debate on the report, initiated brilliantly by Com. **Asish Kumar Ghosh**. Many young comrades and 9 women delegates participated and enriched the report.

The delegate session unanimously condemned the Israel Genocide on Palestine and the increasing imperialist was as threat to human civilization. The debate expressed concern over the deepening crisis in the economy of India and raising authoritarian dictatorship with elements of new character of fascism. The discussion unequivocally condemned the policy which has resulted into rising unemployment and making permanent employment an issue of the past. The discussion objectively analysed the prevailing scenario in the State of West Bengal and explained how a corrupt and neoliberal Govt has created a complete mess in the State. The Industrial issues were discussed with all importance and it was decided to consolidate the campaign against further corporate



reforms in the Insurance Sector.

Com. Rajiv Nigam through his intervention in the Delegates Session enriched the debate and helped a better understanding of the issues.

Com. Dhrubajyoti Ganguly, President EZIEA addressed the delegates explaining the legacy of AIIEA and the ideology of AIIEA in particular, which satisfies the mind and soul of the employees through its variable activities.

A special session on the cultural tradition of North Bengal was addressed by Com. Santanu Biswas, Assistant Secretary of the Association. This speech was immensely

educative and gave the direction as to why we need to protect the basic tenets of the constitution. Com Mrinmay De Sarkar, newly elected General Secretary explained the industrial issues in detail.

Com. Saikat Choudhury, summed up the debate which was adopted unanimously. The 69th Conference of DIEA, Jalpaiguri unanimously elected Comrade Fullara Talapatra, Com. Mrinmay De Sarkar and Krishnendu Roy as the President, General Secretary and Treasurer for the year 2025-2026.

66th Conference of the Gauhati DIEA - A Grand Success

The 66th Annual General Conference of the Gauhati Division Insurance Employees' Association was held on 11th and 12th October, 2025, at Guwahati, amidst boundless enthusiasm and gusto. The red flag of the organisation was hoisted by Com. Ranjit Bhuyan, President symbolising the unity, struggle, and glorious traditions of the organisation. A floral tribute was offered to the martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of the

working class.

The inaugural session started with a chorus presented by the cultural troupe of GDIEA, after the Chorus all delegates, observers, and leaders sang the Mayabini song as a tribute to the legendary artist Zubeen Garg. The session was presided over by Com. Ranjit Bhuyan, President, GDIEA. Com. Bhabendra Kumar Kalita, Convenor, JCTU, Assam, inaugurated the Conference. In his inaugural



address Com. Kalita elaborated on the present challenges faced by the Life Insurance Corporation of India as a public sector institution in the context of the current socio-economic and political scenario.

Fraternal Trade Unions greetings were offered by representatives of Federation of LIC Class-I Officers' Association, NFIFWI, LIAFI-1964, LICA0, LIC Pensioners' Association, BEFNER, NERGIA, NERGIAPA, and other sister organisations, who expressed solidarity with the struggles of LIC employees and the working class as a whole.

As part of the inaugural session, former office bearers of GDIEA, who retired after rendering valuable service to the organisation, were felicitated with mementoes amidst warm applause from the house.

Com Rajiv Nigam, Joint Secretary, AIIEA delivered his speech as a chief guest. He said, "The aggressive policies of the present government aimed at privatisation and dilution of the public sector character of LIC through amendments various insurance laws and further disinvestment of LIC shares pose a serious threat to the very existence of the

Corporation as a social-security institution." He called upon LIC employees to resist these moves with unity and determination and to strengthen the movement for protecting the interests of policyholders and the people at large. The inaugural address also highlighted the need for broader unity of workers, employees, and peasants against anti-people economic policies and the divisive designs of communal forces.

The delegate session began in the afternoon. Com. Pitambar Rajbhandari, General Secretary, GDIEA, placed the Report of the Working Committee of GDIEA for the year 2024, reviewing the national, international, activities of the organisation and analysing the socio-political developments affecting the insurance industry and the working class. Com. Samirul Alam, Treasurer, GDIEA, placed the Audited Accounts Report, which were discussed and unanimously adopted. Com. Ranjit bhuyan, Com. Monoranjan Sarma, Com. Samiran Sarkar and Com. Diganta Sarma were in the presidium.

Twenty delegates from various branches actively participated in

the deliberations, sharing experiences and suggestions to further strengthen the organisation. Com. Rajib Nigam, Joint Secretary, AIIEA, and Com. Dhrubjyoti Ganguly, President, EZIEA, also addressed the session, emphasising the need for united struggle in defence of the public sector and for the restoration of the Old Pension Scheme.

After an hour long summing up by the General Secretary, the reports were adopted unanimously.

The conference elected a new Executive Committee with Com. Ranjit Bhuyan as President, Com. Pitambar Rajbhandari as General Secretary, and Com. Samiul Alam as Treasurer. The conference adopted a number of resolutions on various important issues.

In his presidential speech, Com. Ranjit Bhuyan expressed heartfelt gratitude to all comrades for making the conference a grand success.

After successful conclusion of the conference, an open meeting was held on 13th October '25 in front of divisional office during the lunch hour to report the deliberations and decisions of the 66th Annual General Conference. Com. Rajiv Nigam, Joint Secretary, AIIEA, addressed the gathering and delivered an inspiring speech highlighting the key points of the conference and the tasks ahead for the organisation.

The meeting was attended by a large number of members who enthusiastically participated in the discussion.



68th Conference of Kolkata DLIEA

The 68th Annual General Conference of Kolkata Division Life Insurance Employees' Association was held with much enthusiasm at Subarna Banik Samaj Hall, Kolkata on 12 & 13, September, 2025. Incidentally KDLIEA entered into its 70th year on 5th August, 2025. At the beginning, on behalf of the delegates, observers and guests of the 68th Conference Comrade Amitesh Sarkar, President, KDLIEA, offered floral tribute to martyrs' column. A condolence resolution with special reference to our departed leaders Com. B. Sanyal, Vice President, AIIEA and Com. Debashis Chatterjee, Asstt. Secretary, EZIEA was moved by the President and one-minute silence was observed.

The Conference was inaugurated by Com. Dharmaraj Mahapatra, General Secretary, CZIEA and Joint Secretary, who appreciated KDLIEA for its glorious existence and said that quite aptly it coincides with the platinum jubilee of AIIEA. He reminded us saying that AIIEA has been waging relentless struggles during these years against neo-liberal policies particularly for restoration of democracy and democratic rights of the working class of India. He reiterated that



the neo-liberalism does not go with democracy. He criticized the actions of the NDA government to encroach upon the functioning of the constitutional bodies called pillars of democracy including the Election Commission of India. He highlighted the success of 9th July nationwide strike of the working class. The issues related to recruitment, the demand of restoration of OPS, the pros and cons of the digital initiatives of the LIC Management and the struggle for withdrawal of GST on insurance premium was also discussed. He painstakingly narrated the chronology of struggle of insurance employees from pre-1956 to present phase of unified movement under

the consummate leadership of AIIEA. He also explained how inequality ignores the basic needs of millions and immense wealth is being concentrated among a handful crony capitalists.

Comrade Jyotirmoy Bhattacharjee, General Secretary, LIC Pensioners' Association, KMD-I greeted the Conference and stressed the need for a sustained movement against the forces which are determined to destroy the insurance sector and curb the rights of working class as a whole. The members of the cultural wing the Women Sub-Committee, KDLIEA performed a short mellifluous presentation in memory the immortal rebel poet Sukanta Bhattacharya and legendary musical maestro Salil Chowdhury to commemorate both of them in their birth centenary.

In the delegate session Com. Sujoy Sen, General Secretary, KDLIEA, placed the report on behalf of the Working Committee. Com. Nilava Moitra, Treasurer, KDLIEA, tabled the audited statement of accounts which was unanimously passed by the conference. 28 delegates



including 7 female comrades participated in the debate on Working Committee's' report. The Conference discussed the entire spectrum of events that are happening in the country and the world with special thrust on public sector insurance industry. The Conference discussed various issues of grave concern from the standpoint of working class, like poverty, unemployment, price rise etc. The conference also stressed upon the need to protect the socio-political amity of the country.

Comrade Ramkrishna Datta, former General Secretary and President, KDLIEA also participated in the debate and discussed range of issues with special emphasis on recent mass upsurge in neighboring

countries like Bangladesh, Srilanka and Nepal.

Comrade Dhrubajyoti Ganguly, President of EZIEA and Vice President of AIIEA was the special guest of the Conference. He discussed and analysed the various issues in delegate session and guided the Conference to success. He mentioned KDLIEA as one of the foremost forts of AIIEA that led the major movements of AIIEA before and after nationalization of insurance industry. While recollecting the history of anti-automation movement he described how comrades of KDLIEA foiled the attempts of the management to deploy machines in Ilaco Building during puja vacation and set an unparallel example of resistance. Com Mahapatra

intervened in the debate and enriched the same.

Comrade Sujoy Sen, General Secretary of KDLIEA summed up the debate which was unanimously approved. The Conference adopted 41 resolutions pertaining industry and on other socio-political issues of workers' interest.

The 68th Conference elected Comrade Amitesh Sarkar, Comrade Pradip Banerjee and Comrade Partha Pratim Ghosh unanimously as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the ensuing term, of KDLIEA for the year 2025. The 68th Conference has ended with a clarion call for struggle. We have to carry forward the message of the 68th Conference of KDLIEA in days to come.

Annual Conference of ICEU Bengaluru Divisions I & II

The Annual General Council Meeting of ICEU, Bengaluru divisions I and II gave a clarion call to LIC employees to prepare to face the challenges of post LIC IPO, to defend public sector LIC & GIC and uphold Unity of Working Class. The two-day conference was held at Bengaluru on 11th and 12th October 2025. The inaugural session was participated by over 300 delegates and observers apart from a large number of Pensioners and the past office-bearers of the organisations.

The Conference began with the hoisting of the flag by Coms PT Sathyanarayana and TPN Murthy, Presidents of the two divisions. The comrades from two divisions presented revolutionary songs. Floral tributes were paid to the

memory of Com B.Sanyal, Former Joint Secretary, AIIEA and Com T.Jagadeeshan, Former Treasurer of Bengaluru I.

Comrade P.Satish, President SCZIEF inaugurated the General Council. Analyzing the national situation, Com Satish was very critical about the aggressive pursuing of

neo-liberal policies and also attempts to polarize the society on communal lines. The unemployment situation is deteriorating alarmingly and inequality and concentration of wealth is increasing at a very fast rate. He condemned the genocidal war in Gaza and said that a strong movement for peace must be developed.





He lauded the performance of LIC during last financial year as phenomenal and its contribution to the Nation building activities are enormous. He was appreciative of the struggle fought by AIIEA on the issue of GST. More than 400 MPs were met during the last few months and removal of GST is the singular achievement of AIIEA. He explained about Insurance Laws Amendment Bill 2024 and Central Government proposing 100% FDI in the insurance Industry, the dangers of IRDA master circular and various other proposals of IRDA and its impact on LIC. He expressed confidence that we would be in a position to have Recruitment in LIC and get recognition to AIIEA through persistent and united struggle.

Com Amanulla Khan, Former President, AIIEA recalled his glorious association with the LIC employees' movement in Bangalore Divisions and took pride in the magnificent achievements of AIIEA in the last 75 years. He said these historical achievements give confidence to the movement that the present-day challenges can be met successfully with courage of conviction. Com Aman said that the victory of

our campaign against GST on life and health premium have to be understood in the proper context. This struggle was waged on the ground that while the government is abdicating its constitutional responsibility of providing health care and social security, its action of imposing GST on the premiums was totally immoral. He pointed out that the entire issue of resource mobilization through indirect taxes and the inequality and unfairness inherent in it was brought by AIIEA to the centerstage of Indian political discourse by the campaign of AIIEA. This helped not only removal of GST on life and health premium, but also provided some relief to the people in other spheres too. He said the challenges today to the institution in the form of FDI, privatization, job security and the new guidelines for appointment of Managing Directors and CEO are of high stake and they have to be met with greater unity of the organization and the working class as a whole.

Com Suhas Adiga, General Secretary, Karnataka IT & IT enabled Services Employees Union (KITU) greeted the conference and thanked the AIIEA for the support extended

to his union. He said KITU was the first IT Employees Union to be registered in the country. He lauded the role played by Com Amanulla Khan in the formation of the union and his guidance to their movement as the founding President of KITU. He explained the problems the IT employees are facing and the struggles of KITU and requested for continued support of insurance employees to further broad base the organization.

Com Bhaskar Somayaji, Joint Secretary, AIIPA, Com M Ravi, Vice President, SCZIEF, Com. SS Nagesh, General Secretary, ICEU, Mysore Division greeted the General Council. Com. M Chandan and Com S Sridhara, General Secretaries, ICPA Bangalore & Mysore respectively, graced the occasion.

As a part of Platinum Jubilee Celebration of AIIEA, former Office bearers and former Convenors, WSC of ICEU, Bangalore DO I & II were felicitated in the inaugural session. Com. Bharathi Deshpande, Treasurer ICEU DO I welcomed the gathering and Com. B N Yashoda, Treasurer, ICEU DO II proposed vote of thanks.

In the delegate session, the report of the executive committee was presented and as many as 31 delegates participated in the discussion including 13 women comrades. The discussion was very educative and also with high intellectual inputs. Comrades who spoke analysed developments in the international, national, insurance industry, our organization including the problems they face in their respective base units while servicing the policyholders. The active participation of young

comrades in the debate was well appreciated by the house. Coms Amanulla Khan, P Satish, and M Ravi, Vice President, SCZIEF intervened and guided the deliberation. Com.K. Gopal, General Secretary, ICEU DO II while summing up the debate called for consolidation of unity under the banner of AIIEA and preparations to defend public sector insurance

industry and also to strengthen the organization to face the contemporary challenges. The report was unanimously adopted after clarifying the points raised by the comrades. The statement of accounts presented by Com BS Ashok, Asst.Treasurer, Bangalore I and Com BN Yashoda, Treasurer, Bangalore II were unanimously approved.

The conference unanimously elected Coms. PT Sathanarayana, R Padmanabha and Bharathi Deshpande as President, General Secretary and Treasurer of ICEU, Bangalore Division I and Coms. TPN Murthy, K Gopal and B N Yashoda as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively of Bangalore Division II for the ensuing year.

Com. Sunil Moitra Remembrance Day

LIC Employees Union, Kozhikode Division observed the “29th remembrance day of Com.Sunil Moitra”, who was the Joint Secretary of AIIEA for a long period.

In the meeting held at LIC, Divisional Office, Kozhikode, Com.P. P. Krishnan, Vice President, AIIEA spoke about Com.Sunil Moitra’s exceptional tenure as MP and also as Chairman of the Parliament’s Public Accounts Committee, his contributions to the society as a whole and to the Insurance Industry and AIIEA in particular. The success of the struggles led by the leaders like Com. Sunil Moitra has laid the foundation for the present day dignity and



status of LIC employees. The struggles against splitting of the Corporation ensured the competitiveness of LIC in facing Opening up of the insurance sector.

Members of other 25 base

units under Kozhikode Division attended the meeting through Online platform.

Com. M.J.Sreeram, General Secretary, LICEU, Kozhikode Division presided over the meeting.

TU Class for Women held at Kozhikode

A Trade Union Class exclusively for the women cadres was held at Kozhikode on 27.09.2025 at Saroj Bhavan.

Com.T.Narendran (Former State President, BEFI) took the class on the topic “Changes in Employment Sector and Responsibilities of Women”. Com.T.Bindu (Convenor, Women’s Subcommittee, LICEU, Kozhikode Division)



presided over the class, while Com.M.J.Sreeram (General Secretary, LICEU, Kozhikode Division) welcomed the participants in the presence of Com.K. Bahuleyan (President, LICEU, Kozhikode Division) who was also present on the dias throughout the Class.

Com. P.M.Athira (All India Lawyer's Union, Kozhikode) took the second class on the subject "Women oriented Laws:

Possibilities and Limitations"

Com. I.K. Biju, (Joint Secretary, South Zone Insurance Employees' Federation) summed the discourse and the interactive responses.

Com.A.D.Poornima (Joint Convenor, Women's sub Committee, LICEU, Kozhikode Division) presided over the Second Class. Com.K.P.Bindu, Joint Convenor, Women's

Sub Committee welcomed the gathering and Com.C.H.Sapna, Joint Convenor, Women's sub Committee proposed the Vote of Thanks.

A total of 57 women comrades from 5 districts of the Division participated in the Trade Union Class. The classes were very educative and highly beneficial to the participants.

"Employment right is our Fundamental right" Special Convention at Sivagangai

A special convention on the topic "**Economic right is our Fundamental right**" was organised at **Sivagangai** on 24.09.2025 under the banner of **People for India** forum on behalf of Madurai Division. The convention was presided by Com **S.Dharneesh Raj**, Branch Secretary of Sivagangai Unit and the Secretary of People For India forum Sivagangai.

Com **S.Nagarajan**, Joint Secretary, ICEU welcomed the gathering and dignitaries which include Sri **S.Kannappan**, Chairman, People for India, Sivagangai, Sri **P.Sureshkumar**, Branch Manager, Com **Senthilkumar**, NFIFWI, Com **S.Marialuis**, President, LIAFI and Com **K.Mahalingam**, LICAUI.

Special address on the topic was delivered by Com **K.Swaminathan**, Former General Secretary, SZIEF. In his special address, he dealt in detail the role played by trade union movement in ensuring Economic rights of the working class. The conviction shown by our organization and its committed struggle not only ensured the benefits to our employees but also



helped us to understand that the Economic right is our fundamental right for the entire working class. Though the entire trade union movement is under attack in the neo liberal regime, the ruling class is very particular in attacking the trade unions which are having the understanding that fundamental rights must include basic economic rights. That's why, trade unions like AIIEA are always attacked. The recent such advancement is the encouraging victory we had in scrapping GST on insurance premiums. Its really the demand helpful for the common people of the country, policy holders, prospective policy holders and also the entire insurance industry, but was ensured by the united

struggle initiated by AIIEA. He called upon entire trade union movement to be united with the understanding that the economic right must form part of the fundamental rights and AIIEA to take a lead role in this task so that we could win over the rights of entire working class in this country.

The Special convention passed resolution to withdraw Insurance Law amendments 2024 and its proposals to increase FDI limit to 100% in insurance, to further disinvest the Government share in LIC and to introduce composite license and also weakening the public sector agency force thru IRDA impositions, proposed by com **S.Muthukumarasamy**, Jt.



Sect, ICEU and seconded by Com **M.Ganesan**, AIIPA.

A resolution insisting the Tamilnadu state Government to resolve the demands of Tamilnadu state transport employees both in service and retired who have been agitating for over one month, which was proposed by Com **R. Veeraiah**, CITU and seconded by Com **Rathakrishnan**, TNGEA was unanimously approved.

As an enlighten moment of this convention, Com **N. Gowtham**, Assistant Treasurer, ICEU, Madurai division handed over the form of Cadaver donation to Com **AR.Mohan**, Sivagangai district Secretary, CPI(M). Com N.Gowtham's response to the call given to public to cadaver donate on the first memorial day of Com Sitaram Yetchury is wholly appreciated in the Convention.

The convention was participated by large number of insurance employees including the women, AIIPA cadres, Agents, Development officers. It is worth mentioning that the entire leadership of Sivagangai district trade unions took part in this convention as special invitees.

Com **N.Gowtham**, Asst. treasurer delivered vote of thanks.

ETERNAL TRIUMPH IN PRAISE OF AIIEA

Tuba Fathima
D/o Mallick Rahman,
Chennai I
Student of Std XII



The storm, the struggle, fierce and vast,
Not foes to fight, but comrades steadfast. We
moved in tune with thunder's song,
Each step declared: We still stand strong.

With every stumble, we found our pace,
With every fall, we claimed our place.
From humble roots, a force steadily grown
A family strong, a name well known.

Together we saw the grey skies Turning
them pleasant to eyes
Soaring so high with our countless feats
Rising victoriously like the sun from the east

Today, we cherish, we cheer, we shine,
This story of ours it's yours and mine.
For we are the spark, the flame, the light...
A union soaring into flight!

Our dedicated pioneers who endured the pain
Saroj, Sunil, Bose, Sundaram the train
Driven by purpose, powered by persistence, The
architects of sincere resilience
Your fireless efforts did not go in vain.

For your devotion, etched in time Lives on
in our hearts and legacy
Your work worth every honest dime
Crafted with care and ignited with supremacy

We promise protection, a shelter, a shield,
Through chaos and losses, our strength is
revealed.
Yet life has its humour, both bitter and true Insurance
endure, when nothing else will do.

AIIEA, the pillar of might and grace,
A shining example none can replace.
With vision unmatched, you lead the way,
A crown of success you wear each day.

A mark of honour you've surely made,
The relentless campaign and your strength displayed,
By strong-willed members, bold in their quests.
For over two decades, your success brightly shone
Relieving the people from GhoST'S heavy stone.

We turned every trial into triumphs grand, Expanded
our reach across this land.
From countless claims to trust we've secured, Our
name now stands honoured, respected, and pure.



Limitation Act & Rule 48 LIC (Employees) Pension Rules, 1995

The law of Limitation is one of the essences of Basic law, which pervades through all Branches of Civil Law. The Limitation Act provides for the time limit within which action/claim/right needs to be initiated ensuring that disputes are not kept in suspense indefinitely. The object is of a timely resolution to uphold the principles of "*interest reipublicae ut sit finis litium*" translates to "it is in the interest of the state that there be an end to litigation". The law relating to Limitation in India is the Limitation Act, 1859 and subsequently Limitation Act, 1963. Law does not protect people who are careless and not vigilant about their rights (equity aids the vigilant and not the indolent). The Suits cannot be filed beyond the limitation period as stated in The Limitation Act, 1963

With these fundamental understanding on limitation let us read the provisions of Life Insurance Corporation of India (Employees) Pension Rules, 1995, hereinafter referred as Pension Rules with reference to Law of Limitation. As far as LIC Pensioners are concerned the only point of dispute will be recovery of Pension invoking Rules 45, 46, 47 and 48. The most relevant provision will be Rule 48.

In recent period many instance of recovery proceedings being initiated and recovery ordered from the Pension in many Divisions. In some cases recoveries are made even from family pensions. The reasons may be excess payment while settling the death/survival Benefits, wrong payment to policy holders without verifying correct Bank details, implementing court directions etc. These come to knowledge while internal Audit Department conducting its regular Schedule Audit of branch workings.

It is admitted fact that every year audit is being conducted and any fraud/mistake/excess payment has to be detected if any and follow-up action needs to be taken. The scrutiny may relate to previous year the year in which Audit is conducted. In many cases the internal audit fails to notice the happenings for more than two or three years. Based on the report the office tries to make recoveries. In the case of pensioners only the recovery can be made as question of disciplinary proceedings under staff Rules does not arise. In such situation Limitation takes very important Role.

Invoking the civil procedure only recoveries can be made by filing a suit after paying required Court fees. But the corporation is making recoveries from pension by just giving intimation. Two important

points' needs to take into account before initiating recovery. The first one is time when the cause of action arose and whether the Rules provide for such an action. A clear understanding of the Pension Rules will avoid lot of future litigation between LIC and its Pensioners.

The Rules which deal with these aspects are 43, 44 45 and 48. Now let us briefly deals with these Rules and how they affect the pensioners. The first three mentioned regulation are outcome of a judicial finding and is after a full fledge trial where the pensioners has right to defend himself, is heard and opportunity is given to place his defense. Regulation 44 is about where a pensioner is convicted of a serious crime by a Court of Law, the competent authority is vested with the power to take action in the **light of the judgment** of the court relating to such conviction. It is important to note here that orders can be passed by LIC only on the basis of the Judgment, if there is no direction for recovery by the Court no further order can be passed by LIC.

Rule 48 require little more attention. The right to recover pecuniary loss caused to the Corporation. It is clear from this rule only when a pensioner is found guilty of grave misconduct or negligence during the period of his service provided the proceedings were instituted when pensioner was in service and continued even after superannuation.

In cases where no departmental or judicial proceedings were there while the pensioner was in service, shall be instituted in respect of a cause of action which arose or in respect of an event which took place more than four years before such institution. Here the period of initiation is mentioned as four years, which is contrary to law of limitation as for any recovery the period of Limitation as per Limitation Act is fixed as 3 years while the provision of Rule 48 fixes 4 years which runs contrary to Parent Act which calls for Judicial scrutiny of the said rule.

The Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances & Pension had issued certain instruction regarding recovery of wrongful/excess payments in the light of land mark Judgment of Hon'ble Supreme Court. LIC Pensioners can also take advantage of this citations¹ and Instructions of Government while defending their case.

¹ *Chandi Prasad Uniyal & Ors Vs State of Uttarakhand & Ors (2012) 8 SCC 417*
State of Punjab & ors Vs Rafiq Masih CA 11527.2014
Arising out SLP(C) 11684/2012 decided on 18/12/2014

INSURANCE NEWS IN BRIEF

● **A.M. KHAN**, Dharwad

The global [health insurance](#) market is projected to grow from about \$2.2b in 2022 to \$3.6b by 2031, reflecting a compound annual growth rate of 6.4%, according to DataM Intelligence. Asia-Pacific is amongst the fastest-growing regions, driven by rising incomes, expanding middle-class populations, and higher healthcare spending. China, India, and Japan are key contributors, with digital health and telemedicine supporting wider insurance access. Individual health insurance remains the largest segment globally due to flexible and customised coverage, whilst corporate health insurance is gaining traction in emerging markets as employers expand health benefits. Rising chronic disease rates, higher medical costs, and growing awareness of financial protection are driving global demand. In emerging economies, government initiatives and national health programmes are further boosting adoption.

Public Sector, General Insurance Corporation of India (GIC Re), a leading global reinsurer, has received an affirmation of its Financial Strength Rating (FSR) and Long-Term Issuer Credit Rating (ICR) from AM Best, a globally recognized credit rating agency. AM Best has affirmed GIC Re's FSR at "A-" (Excellent), Long-Term ICR at "a-" (Excellent), and India National Scale Rating (NSR) at aaa.IN (Exceptional). The outlook for all ratings remains stable.

"Some of the names where the government will like to disinvest include a few PSU banks like UCO Bank and Bank of Maharashtra and Life Insurance Corporation of India and GIC Re." says Department of Investment and Public Asset Management Secretary, Arunish Chawla. **LIC has posted a consolidated net profit of Rs 10,957 crore in the April-June quarter (Q1) of FY26, a 3.91 per cent increase compared to the same period previous year 9Q1 FY25).**

To retain their profit margin! After passing on the full benefits of removal of 18 per cent GST to their retail health insurance customers since Sept 22, many general insurers and health insurers particularly from the private sector have decided to reduce their commission to brokers, agents, bancassurance partners by as much from Oct 1 to compensate their losses in the absence of input tax credit (ITC) on such premium.

Slow poisoning of public sector insurance sector! The Appointments Committee of the Cabinet (ACC) headed by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, from time to time, has approved appointment private sector professionals as Whole-Time Directors on the board of public sector insurance companies from private

sector. One post of Managing Director in LIC and all the posts of CMDs of Public Sector General Insurance companies are open for outsiders with this guidelines.

Insurance Samadhan in its Q 2 2025 Trends Report reveals that there is a growth of 45 per cent in number of insurance complaints – Mis-selling of insurance products increased by 11.2 per cent compared to Q 2 2024, while the total value of such disputes grew by 10 per cent. Health insurance comprised almost 68 per cent of complaints, 25.5 per cent being life insurance and general insurance at 6.9 per cent.

In the April-September period of FY26, non-life insurers record Rs 1.53 trillion in premiums, up 7.32 per cent YoY. General insurers posted 5.27 per cent YoY growth to Rs 1.31 trillion, while SAHIs registered 7.72 per cent YoY growth to Rs 19,623.95 crore. Premiums by specialised insurers rose 66.43 per cent YoY to Rs 7,378.17 crore.

The Association of Healthcare Providers of India (AHPI) on Thursday held a meeting with the General Insurance Council (GIC) to explore ways to enhance patient experience, streamline hospital processes, and improve coordination between healthcare providers and insurers. Both sides agreed on several measures to make the patient journey smoother, including pre-authorisation within one hour and discharge within three hours. There was also strong consensus on the need for a single empanelment process, where once a hospital is empanelled with one insurer, it would automatically be accepted by all participating insurers at the same tariff.

During the April-September period of FY26, life insurers' cumulative premiums grew by 7.6 per cent YoY to Rs 2.04 trillion. LIC collected Rs 1.21 trillion, while private insurers collected Rs 82,660 crore. However, the number of policies sold by life insurers fell by 14.31 per cent to 11.46 million during the same period. LIC's market share with regard to premium stands at 59.41 per cent and with regard to number of policies it is 63.44 per cent.

IRDA has issued new guidelines for insurance companies to strengthen systems against fraud and strengthen cybersecurity. According to these guidelines the insurance companies have to target a zero tolerance for fraud and put in place an appropriate risk management framework. The companies are also expected to have a board approved anti-fraud policy, which includes red flag indicators, adequate procedures to deter, prevent, detect, report and remedy fraud, among others.

WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE

● S. SRIDHARA, Mysore

MORE THAN 100,000 PUBLIC SECTOR WORKERS IN NEW ZEALAND including teachers, nurses, doctors and other healthcare workers are preparing to strike on October 25, in what is expected to be New Zealand's largest industrial action in more than 40 years. The simultaneous strikes, involving about 20 percent of the total working population and one in five public sector workers, reflect deep anger over the National Party-led coalition Government's relentless attacks on public services, jobs, wages and working conditions. As is happening internationally, workers in New Zealand are being driven to the left and into significant struggles. The country's ruling elite is responding to a historic economic downturn by seeking to intensify the exploitation of the working class, while funnelling billions of dollars to the armed forces to prepare them to join US-led wars, especially against China. The immediate issue in the so-called "mega strike"- which follows previous strikes by nurses, doctors and teachers is the government's determination to cut wages and set a benchmark for similar attacks on other workers. Those striking next include more than 36,000 public hospital nurses and healthcare assistants, 4,000 senior doctors and dentists, 11,500 allied health professionals, 1,700 health policy, advisory and IT support workers, and about 60,000 teachers and other school staff. Separately, 2,000 firefighters held a nationwide strike for one hour on October 17. In each dispute, workers have been offered wage deals below the 2.7 percent rate of inflation and even further below the actual increase in the cost of living (food prices are up 4.1 percent annually). These offers have been rejected by the workers.

TENS AND THOUSANDS OF WORKERS IN BELGIUM brought the country to a standstill through a General strike on 14th October in protest against the austerity measures of the Government. The strike totally paralysed the public transport, airports and ships. According to the police, over 800,000 workers held massive demonstration in the Belgian capital.

ITALIAN WORKERS STRIKE IN SUPPORT OF PALESTINE.

Workers in Italy joined a massive national strike on 3rd October not on better pay or conditions, but in solidarity with the people of Gaza. Large

crowds took to the streets of multiple cities amid a growing wave of protest across Europe at Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. Italy's interior ministry says that upto 400,000 protestors held demonstrations in 29 different locations. The trade unions claim that the number of demonstrators were more than four times the official figure.

FRENCH WORKERS held massive protests across the country on 2nd October against the attack on wages, pensions and the implementation of austerity measures by the government. Protests were organised in more than 200 towns and cities across the country. The protests forced the closure of the landmark Eiffel Tower.

IRANIAN PROTESTS CONTINUE OVER PENSIONS, WAGES AND WORKING CONDITIONS:

Strikes over unpaid wages continue to break out across Iran. At the Bandar Abbas Star Oil Refinery last week, workers refused to leave their project dormitories, awaiting payment of four months salaries. In Ilam, municipal service workers employed by a contracting company went on strike demanding immediate payment of three months' unpaid wages and arrears for workers. Retirees across Iran continue to demonstrate over poverty, rising prices, insecurity and living conditions.

INDEFINITE STRIKE BY OVER 1000 WORKERS AT MADRAS TYRE FACTORY (MRF):

Rubber Factory (MRF) plant in Tiruvuttiiyut, Tamil Nadu, were on an indefinite strike. The MRF is a tyre manufacturing company with ten manufacturing plants spread across India. The MRF workers at various plants, especially in Tamil Nadu, have been striking against an utterly dictatorial management. For the past 25 years, the company has constantly victimized and harassed workers fighting for union recognition, decent pay and working conditions. The Tiruvottiyur plant workers were making minimal demands. The company management with the support from the state administration is making efforts to sabotage the strike.

ECONOMIC NOTES

● J. SURESH, Mysore

- ▶ Larry Ellison, the founder and CEO of software company, Oracle saw his wealth rise by \$100 billion in a single day making it one of the largest one day wealth increase of any person in human history. Ellison's increase in wealth on a single day is equivalent to the annual economic output of Kenya, a country of 51 million people. It is also equivalent to what 2 million typical US household make in a year. The vast increase in Ellison's fortune embodies the growing social inequality under the Trump administration. His wealth saw rising four-fold during the Biden administration. Ellison owns 41% of Oracle, the fourth largest software company in the world. Oracle stock surged over 40% after announcing a series of massive deals including one with ChatGPT maker Open AI to provide server infrastructure for Open AI's expansion plans. Artificial technology, which has immense potential, is being used by capitalism to initiate widespread restructuring and mass layoffs. Ellison's wealth briefly eclipsed that of Elon Musk up to that point the world's richest man before settling into second place. The vast surge in Ellison's wealth followed the Wall Street Journal's report that Oracle signed a deal to sell Open AI approximately \$ 300 billion in computational power over a period of five years. The ability of Oracle to provide this massive computational infrastructure is likewise dependent on a vast debt load. Its debt-to-equity ratio is 427 %, compared to 32.7% for Microsoft.
- ▶ In London, it takes four incomes to afford a two-bedroom apartment. The high and ever rising cost of housing is pushing the people into poverty and homelessness. Many of those made homelessness are families with children. According to the affordability rule, rent should not exceed 30-35 percent of gross household income. Yet two nurses earning 38,000 pounds each will struggle to pay the average rent in London in even half of London's boroughs. So , without an income well above average or access to subsidised housing, two incomes are essentials and even then, location matters enormously. As a result, about one quarter of London's population and one in three children are living in poverty and are struggling to meet basic living costs. In the poorer countries the situation is far worse. More than 1 billion people, one seventh of the world's population live in informal housing which includes unplanned,

squatter and marginal settlements, unconventional dwellings, non-permanent structures, inadequate housing, slums, and housing not in compliance with planning and building regulations. According to data from the office of national statistics, the real estate sector has, since 1990, been the single most significant contributor to the

UK's economic growth. Its Gross Value Added stood at 270 billion pounds in 2024, up from \$40 billion in 1990, the largest for any single sector, including Britain's much vaunted financial sector.

- ▶ According to the latest study on Social Justice -A work in progress published by the International Labour Organisation (ILO) recently, despite major gains in education, poverty reduction and productivity over the past three decades, entrenched inequalities, fragile trust in institutions and slow progress in key areas continue to hold back social justice worldwide. The report notes that key achievements since 1995 has made the world wealthier, healthier and better educated than in 1995 but the benefits have not been evenly shared and progress in reducing inequality has stalled. Key achievements since 1995 include halving the rate of child labour (amongst 5 to 14 year olds) from 20 to 10 %, reducing extreme poverty from 39 to 10 %, raising primary school completion rates by 10% points and achieving, for the first time, social protection for over half of the world's population. However, the report highlights stark and persistent deficits: * 71 % of a person's earnings are still determined by circumstances of birth such as country and sex; * Informality has fallen by only two percentage points in two decades and still affects 58% of workers.
- ▶ The gender labour force participation has narrowed by just 3 percentage points since 2005 and remains at 24% - at current rates it will take a century to close the global gender pay gap. Trust in institutions has been declining worldwide since 1982, reflecting growing frustration that effort is not being rewarded fairly, says the report. The ILO warns that unless action is taken to strengthen the social contract, this erosion of trust could undermine the legitimacy of democratic systems and global cooperation.

FOR OUR FIELD FORCE

● **A. ARIVUKKADAL**
Thanjavur

LIC & GST: LIC received over Rs.1,100 crore in inflows on the first day after the GST was scrapped on individual traditional life insurance policies. This sharp rise comes in contrast to the Rs.5,000 crore of monthly premium income from retail policyholders seen in August 2025.

Banks & insurance: A writ petition filed by All India Punjab & Sind Bank Officers Union documented how Insurance policies were being bundled with loans, often without informed consent, how Officers were pressured to meet sales targets, compromising their fiduciary role and how Incentives were being paid in violation of the Banking Regulation Act, IRDAI norms, and RBI circulars. The RBI's submission also confirmed that these incentives breached the Banking Regulation Act. The writ also highlighted how officers who resisted were penalized with Transfers, poor appraisals, and isolation. The pressure wasn't just financial—it was psychological and in some cases, a fatal one. Officers from Bank of Baroda, Union Bank, and State Bank of India have also **committed suicide because of this insurance selling pressure.**

Mis-selling & banks: India's top 15 banks earned Rs.21,773 crore in commissions in FY24 from selling insurance and other products. HDFC Bank led with Rs.6,467 crore, followed by SBI(Rs.3,893 crore) and Axis Bank(Rs.3,320 crore). Axis Bank earned 25.2% of its income from commissions, IDFC First 23.6% and Yes Bank 23.3%. **Experts say this creates an incentive to push products, often at the cost of customer interest.** Worryingly, 20% of life insurance grievances in 2022-23 were related to unfair business practices, largely mis-selling. A deeper look reveals that 58% of all entertainable complaints before the ombudsman in 2022-23 were linked to mis-selling.

Commissions & IRDAI: IRDAI asks insurers that commissions need to come down and asked them to explore a model similar to mutual funds' Total Expense Ratio(TER) cap. Insurers are likely to submit a presentation on adopting a TER-like framework and have suggested disclosing commissions on policy documents for greater transparency. IRDAI is expected to form a sub-committee to recommend ways to lower costs.

Commission reduction: Following a reduction in GST rates on individual health insurance premiums to nil from 18%, and changes to input tax credit(ITC) norms with effect from October 1, 2025, some of the non-life insurers like ICICI Lombard General Insurance, Care Health Insurance, and Aditya Birla Health Insurance have reduced their commission payout to distributors on retail health insurance policies.

GST Effect: The implementation of zero GST on individual health and life insurance policies has not

led to a major surge in sales, as most recent ones have stemmed from pent-up demand and policy issuances that were postponed between the announcement of the GST exemption and its implementation. The industry, however, believes that it is too early to see a proper trend.

Claim fraud: Madhya Pradesh has witnessed a surge in road accident insurance claims, but investigations

reveal that many of these claims may be part of a well-orchestrated racket **involving brokers, police, and even doctors.** An agent from Indore explained that he works with police, doctors, and families to manage claims, ensuring that payouts are secured without legal interference. For accidents involving unknown vehicles, the agent takes 40–50% of the claim, while known vehicle claims involve 15–20%. He confirmed that fake vehicles can be used if required and that police and insurance officers are often complicit. He also described a written agreement with the victim's family on stamp paper, ensuring that commission disputes do not arise after claims are processed.

Grievance platforms: More and more policyholders are bypassing official grievance channels, turning instead to private platforms that promise faster, simpler resolutions. Distrust is growing in formal systems like the IRDAI's Bima Bharosa portal and the Insurance Ombudsman, which many find confusing and slow. Awareness of these official channels, however, remains low. Those who try often face delays or procedural hurdles.

Hospitals Regulator: Association of Healthcare Providers, India(AHPI) has recommended to create a professional regulator for hospitals like what IRDAI for insurers. This can settle issues like costing and other aspects based on scientific grounds. AHPI has suggested this to Niti Ayog and considering to make a formal proposal to the government.

Bima Sugam: IRDAI has launched the official website of Bima Sugam India Federation(BSIF). Bima Sugam is a digital platform designed to bring all insurance services under one roof. It will allow users to browse and choose from a wide range of life, health and general insurance plans offered by different companies.

Cannot Rewrite: Insurance contracts are contracts of indemnity, and liability arises strictly within the boundaries of the policy terms, said the Supreme Court of India. Courts cannot, on sympathetic considerations, enlarge the scope of an insurance policy to cover losses that the contract expressly excludes. The Supreme Court observed that the lower forums misconstrue the exclusion clause.



EYE CHECKUP AND BLOOD DONATION AT ULUBERIA

The PFI, Uluberia unit of Howrah Division organised Eye Camp this year on 22.06.25 at a Mohalla of Basudevpur, Howrah where large number of marginalised people live. 85 people had their eyes tested of which 19 were prescribed spectacles which were donated by PFI. 10 persons were identified for cataract operation and PFI also covered the cost of cataract operation. Beside this PFI supplied required medicine also.

On 8th August '25, PFI organised a Blood Donation Camp at 'Chetana' involving the about local people and guardians of students of 'Chetana'. This is the consecutive third year. Before the beginning of the camp, a procession with students went around the neighbourhood.

Dr. Arun Jasu, vice president of PFI, inaugurated this camp. The number of blood Donor was 27 in total. Out of 27 only 5 (five) donors were Licians. Most significant was that 25 female Guardians spontaneously came for Blood Donation who are actually living from hand to mouth, of which 15 were found eligible for blood donation. The PFI felicitated all Blood Donors. Com. Subrata Bose donated Rs. 60000/ (Sixty thousand) to PFI Uluberia unit in memory of his mother.

46 students are studying at Chetana. On 20th September '25 PFI distributed pant and shirts and a Food Packet to all the students of Chetana on the eve of Durga puja. In this function a lecture was organised on the subject

RESPONSE



The October 2025 issue of Insurance Worker is excellent. The Editorial and articles are very educative. the article on the new technology of artificial intelligence elaborates extensively on the fundamental differences between humans and machines, as well as on performance, prompting the reader to think deeply. The write up on Kerala exposes the conspiracy against the first democratically elected communist government in the world. The Book review by Com Vijayakumar is excellent. Thanking you Editorial Team for the excellent work.

P. MUTHUKUMARAN,
Tiruvannamalai Branch

“The mother’s role in Child Educational development. The speaker was Dr.A.H.Molla, President of PFI

The presence and interest of the parents along with local people was impressive. The PFI a,so felicitated three mothers of students of Chetana for their role in making their Mohallas free from plastic pollution.

DONATIONS

to INSURANCE WORKER

Com. Hiren V Mehta, Anand Branch 1	Rs.2000
Com. Atul Sarawate, pune	1250
Com. Vilasini, Bangalore DO-1	2000
Com. A.V.Akash kumar, Trissur	5000
Com. Krishna Das, Trissur	10000
Com. Bhagirathi Tudu, SDLIEA	5000

Insurance Worker heartily thanks these comrades for their love and affection.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Month	Base 2016	2001	1960
Mar 2025	43.0	411.84	9400.62
Apr	143.5	413.28	9433.49
May	144.0	414.72	9466.36
June	145.0	417.60	9532.10
July	146.5	421.92	9630.70
August	147.1	425.09	9703.02

Base 1960=Base 2001x22.8259

Base 2001=Base 2016x2.88



ON TO THE

**27TH PLATINUM JUBILEE YEAR
CONFERENCE OF AIIEA**

FROM 28TH DEC 2025 TO 01ST JAN 2026

@ BHUBANESWAR

March on Comrades !

With Greetings

**SOUTH ZONE INSURANCE
EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION**

With Best Complements From

LIC Employees' Co-operative Stores Ltd. No. D-2027.

LIC Buildings, LIC Road, Kozhikode 673001, Kerala.
Phone : 9495721579, 8547373520

**Going Past The GOLDEN JUBILEE Milestone
(1974 - 2024)**

- Provide Groceries, Consumer Durables and Toiletries.
- Accepts PLUXEE meal card.
- Promotes thrift through Group Deposit Schemes
- Provides Hire Purchase Loan & Credit Facility

**Offers New GDS Scheme in 2025
15,000 X 20 = 3,00,000.00**

T.P. Sandhya
(President)

S. Brinda
(Vice President)

K. Shaju
(Secretary)

C. Sheeba, C. Raveendran, T.C. Basanth & E. Ganesan
(Directors)