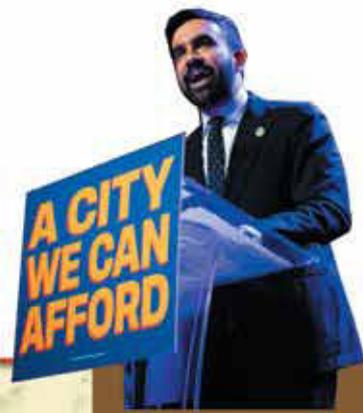


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Change is Possible
बदलाव संभव है



Neo-Liberalism
& Welfarism

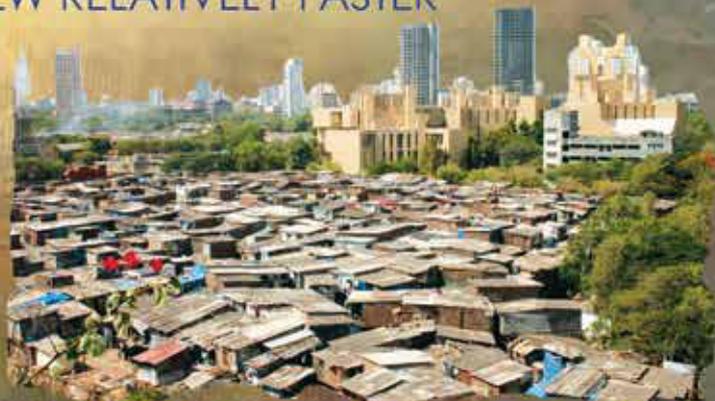


In the Long
Journey
for Justice



**“ SCALE OF INCOME &
WEALTH INEQUALITY IS
A GLOBAL EMERGENCY
TACKLE THIS INEQUALITY
ON A WAR FOOTING ”**

INDIA'S ECONOMY GREW RELATIVELY FASTER
BUT ITS INEQUALITY HAS
GROWN EVEN FASTER...



NOT ONLY DEMOCRACY, BUT EVEN ECONOMY IS BOUND TO SUFFER



END THE OBSCENE INEQUALITY & BUILD A BETTER FUTURE FOR INDIA & ITS CITIZENS

*Wishing The
Platinum Jubilee Year
27th General Conference of
AIIEA
A Magnificent Success*



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OUR PRIDE

**NORTHERN ZONE
INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
DELHI DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE 2**



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INEQUALITY A Global Emergency

The "Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts on Global Inequality" commissioned by President Cyril Ramaphosa for South Africa's Presidency of the G20 submitted its report on 4th November 2025. The Committee was headed by Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz with five other leading global experts including Smt Jayati Ghosh from India. The report was finalised after consultation with leading economists and inequality experts across the world. The Report termed the unprecedented concentration of wealth and the scale of income and wealth inequality as a Global Emergency. It called upon policymakers to tackle this inequality which has the potential to destabilise societies and economies on a war footing. The Committee recommended the creation of a new international and independent panel to monitor trends and evaluate policies for addressing inequality to help governments and policymakers to make necessary corrections.

Cyril Ramaphosa after receiving the report said: "This report, which is a blueprint for greater equality, supports the goal of South Africa's G20 Presidency to put inequality on the international agenda. Inequality is a betrayal of people's dignity, an impediment to inclusive growth and a threat to democracy itself. Addressing inequality is our inescapable generational challenge. This report lays out prudent and pragmatic steps we can take to reduce it". "I congratulate Professor Stiglitz and his Extraordinary Committee of such renowned experts for this effort. I am looking forward to discussing this report at the G20 Leaders' Summit in Johannesburg."

Some of the key findings of the Report are really alarming. The report points out to the fact that not only there is extreme poverty at the bottom and unbounded wealth at the top, but there is also evidence of a weakening of the middle classes. The Committee has pointed out that:

1. 83% of countries have high income inequality accounting for 90% of the world's population.
2. Globally, income inequality between every individual in the world has fallen since 2000, due largely to economic development in China, but continues to remain very high.
3. The bottom 50% of the world's population has seen their average real income increase by US \$358 over the last 40 years, while the income of the richest 1% has increased by US \$191,000 (in constant 2024 US\$) over the same period.
4. Wealth inequality is far higher than income inequality.

Between 2000 and 2024, the richest 1% captured 41% of all new wealth, in contrast to just 1% being captured by the bottom 50%. This means that the richest 1% have seen their average wealth increase by US \$1.3 million since 2000, while someone in the poorest half of humanity saw their wealth increase by an average of US \$585 over the same period (in constant 2024 US\$).

5. The top 1% increased their average wealth 2,655 times as much as the bottom 50%.
6. The wealth of the world's over 3000 billionaires is now the equivalent of 16% of global GDP, and the first trillionaire is expected within a decade. (It is reported that Elon Musk has already achieved that dubious distinction)
7. Countries with high inequality are seven times more likely to experience democratic decline than more equal countries.
8. 2.3 billion people face moderate or severe food insecurity, up by 335 million since 2019. Half the world's population is still not covered by essential health services, with 1.3 billion people impoverished by out-of-pocket health spending.
9. More billionaires have acquired their wealth through inheritance than through entrepreneurship. In the next 30 years, 1,000 billionaires will transfer more than US \$5.2 trillion to their heirs, largely untaxed, perpetuating intergenerational inequality. Overall, it is estimated that over \$70 trillion will be passed down to heirs over the next decade, undermining social mobility and equality of opportunity.

These findings are not surprising. The neoliberal era witnessed unprecedented creation of wealth and its concentration. This accumulation of wealth was the direct result of the States distributing its assets and natural resources to the capitalists while abdicating their responsibilities relating to equality in redistribution. Therefore, we see that the profits of the corporations rise exponentially, the wages of the workers stagnate resulting in deteriorating living standards for the vast majority of the global population. The wealthy use their clout and power to shape the economic policies undermining democracy itself. This economic discontent has given rise to authoritarian and fascist regimes in different parts of the world. These authoritarian regimes are diverting the attention of the people dividing them on the basis of race, religion and migration. But it is

also a fact that struggles are taking place in different parts of the globe against the neoliberal economic policies. The recent New York Mayor election has pointed out that if day to day problems and experiences of the working class are projected properly and they are mobilised, it is possible to defeat the money power of the billionaires, the hate campaign and politics of identity.

The Report has also pointed out that India's economy grew faster than most major economies but its inequality has grown even faster than the global trend. The top 1% has cornered 62% of the wealth created in the country between 2000 and 2023. This should not come as a surprise as the last 10 years have seen increasing distribution of national assets and critical natural resources to a select few corporate houses. Today we find that crucial sectors of the economy are being operated either by monopoly or duopoly. The corporate profits have jumped from Rs.2.5 lakh crore to over Rs 7.1 lakh crore from 20-21 to 24-25 according to RBI data. The same data points out that Personal Income tax rose from 38.1% to 53.4% while the corporate tax declined from 61.9% to 46.6% of the total taxes in the period from 2014 to 2024. The household debt rose to 42% of GDP

दक्षिण अफ्रीका के राष्ट्रपति सिरिल रामफोसा के जी-20 के अध्यक्षत्वाधीन काल द्वारा नियुक्त वैश्विक असमानता पर स्वतन्त्र विशेषज्ञों की अतिविशेष समिति ने 4 नवम्बर 2025 को अपनी रिपोर्ट प्रस्तुत की। समिति का नेतृत्व नोबेल पुरस्कार विजेता जोसेफ स्टिग्लिट्ज ने किया, जिसमें भारत की श्रीमती जयति घोष सहित पांच अन्य प्रमुख वैश्विक विशेषज्ञ शामिल थे। दुनिया भर के प्रमुख अर्थशास्त्रियों और असमानता विशेषज्ञों के साथ परामर्श के बाद रिपोर्ट को अन्तिम रूप दिया गया। रिपोर्ट में धन के अभूतपूर्व संकेंद्रण तथा आय और धन असमानता के आकार को वैश्विक आपातकाल कहा गया है। इसने नीति निर्माताओं से युद्ध स्तर पर इस असमानता से निपटने का आवाहन किया, जिसमें समाजों और अर्थव्यवस्थाओं को अस्थिर करने की प्रचंडता है। समिति ने रूढ़ानों की निगरानी करने और असमानता को दूर करने के लिए नीतियों का मूल्यांकन करने हेतु एक नए अंतरराष्ट्रीय और स्वतन्त्र पैनल के गठन की सिफारिश की।

रिपोर्ट प्राप्त करने के बाद सिरिल रामफोसा ने कहा: यह रिपोर्ट, जो व्यापक समानता के लिए एक खाका प्रस्तुत करती है, दक्षिण अफ्रीका के जी-20 प्रेसीडेंसी के उस लक्ष्य का समर्थन करती है जिसके तहत असमानता को अंतरराष्ट्रीय एजेंडे में शामिल किया जाना है। असमानता लोगों की गरिमा के साथ विश्वासघात है, समावेशी विकास में बाधा है और स्वयं लोकतन्त्र के लिए खतरा है। असमानता

up from 26% in 2015. The debt is increasing at double the rate over income rise. The loan against gold increased 122% in July 2025. A recent report suggests that India's top 300 family businesses control a combined value of approximately US \$ 1.6 trillion which converted into rupee will amount to over 135 lakh crore. Such massive concentration of wealth is more than the national GDP of many countries in the world. These are clear indications that the economic policies have created unimaginable prosperity to a few; while condemning the majority to miserable living conditions.

These wealthy families have acquired extraordinary power enabling them to force and shape economic and social policies that favour them. They own large number of media houses today in India. Through these captive media, they attempt to spread narratives that help them exploit the divisions in the society to earn greater profits. These media houses propagate the government narrative and avoid honest and critical reporting on the issues relating to the life and living of the people. The interests of these big business houses are touted as the interest of the country itself thus subjugating the legitimate aspirations of the common people resulting in subversion and undermining of

democracy.

The present levels of income and wealth inequality in India is unsustainable. Not only democracy but even the economy is bound to suffer due to such high levels of wealth concentration. If the issue of inequality is not addressed urgently, it is bound to lead to intensification of social conflicts. No economy can grow and sustain in the absence of social stability. The solution to the problem of inequalities and the future of humankind cannot be found in capitalism. The solution has to be found outside this exploitative system. The alternative should ensure that every citizen leads a life of dignity. The government must be forced to redistribute wealth and resources through a just taxation system. As the first step, India must introduce a wealth and inheritance tax on the super rich. The resources so mobilised should be used to provide education, health and other necessary public services by the State. The alternative clearly should be people over profits. It requires a unified struggle by the working class, peasantry and marginalised to mobilise the entire society and force such an alternative to end the existing obscene inequality and build a better future for India and its citizens.

असमानता – एक वैश्विक आपातस्थिति

को दूर करना हमारी अपरिहार्य पीढ़ीगत चुनौती है। यह रिपोर्ट उन विवेकपूर्ण और व्यावहारिक कदमों की रूपरेखा प्रस्तुत करती है जिन्हें हम इसे कम करने के लिए उठा सकते हैं। मैं प्रोफेसर स्टिग्लिट्ज और ऐसे प्रतिष्ठित विशेषज्ञों की उनकी अतिविशेष समिति को इस प्रयास के लिए बधाई देता हूँ। मैं जोहान्सबर्ग में जी-20 नेताओं के शिखर सम्मेलन में इस रिपोर्ट पर चर्चा के लिए उत्सुक हूँ।

रिपोर्ट के कुछ प्रमुख निष्कर्ष वाकई चिंताजनक हैं। रिपोर्ट इस तथ्य की ओर इशारा करती है कि न केवल निचले स्तर पर अत्यधिक गरीबी है और शीर्ष पर असीमित धन है, बल्कि मध्यम वर्ग के कमजोर होने के भी प्रमाण हैं। समिति ने बताया है कि:

1. 83 प्रतिशत देशों में आय असमानता बहुत अधिक है, जो विश्व की 90 प्रतिशत जनसंख्या को अपने प्रभाव में लेती है।
2. वैश्विक स्तर पर, वर्ष 2000 के बाद से विश्व में प्रत्येक व्यक्ति के मध्य आय असमानता में कमी तो आई है, जिसका मुख्य कारण चीन में आर्थिक विकास है, लेकिन यह अभी भी बहुत अधिक बनी हुई है।
3. पिछले 40 वर्षों में विश्व की जनसंख्या के निचले 50 प्रतिशत लोगों की औसत वास्तविक आय में 358 अमेरिकी डॉलर की वृद्धि हुई है, जबकि इसी अवधि में सबसे अमीर 1 प्रतिशत लोगों की आय में 1,91,000 अमेरिकी डॉलर

(अमेरिकी डॉलर के के स्थिर मूल्य पर) की वृद्धि हुई है।

4. सम्पत्ति में असमानता, आय असमानता से कहीं ज्यादा है। 2000 और 2024 के बीच, सबसे अमीर 1 प्रतिशत लोगों ने कुल नई सम्पत्ति का 41 प्रतिशत हिस्सा हासिल किया, जबकि सबसे निचले 50 प्रतिशत लोगों के पास सिर्फ 1 प्रतिशत सम्पत्ति का हिस्सा ही आया। इसका मतलब है कि 2000 के बाद से सबसे अमीर 1 प्रतिशत लोगों की औसत सम्पत्ति में 1.3 मिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर (अमेरिकी डॉलर के के स्थिर मूल्यपर) की वृद्धि हुई है, जबकि इसी अवधि में मानवता के सबसे गरीब आधे हिस्से की सम्पत्ति में औसतन 585 अमेरिकी डॉलर की वृद्धि हुई है।
5. शीर्ष 1 प्रतिशत लोगों की औसत सम्पत्ति निचले 50 प्रतिशत लोगों की तुलना में 2,655 गुना बढ़ी।
6. दुनिया के करीब 3000 अरबपतियों की सम्पत्ति अब वैश्विक सकल घरेलू उत्पाद के 16 प्रतिशत के बराबर है, और एक दशक के भीतर पहला ट्रिलियन (लाख करोड़ डॉलर) बनने की उम्मीद है। (खबरों के अनुसार, एलन मस्क यह अविश्वसनीय उपलब्धि हासिल पहले ही कर चुके हैं)
7. उच्च असमानता वाले देशों में अधिक समानता वाले देशों की तुलना में लोकतान्त्रिक पतन की संभावना सात गुना अधिक होती है।

8. 2.3 बिलियन लोग मध्यम या गंभीर खाद्य असुरक्षा का सामना कर रहे हैं, जो 2019 से 335 मिलियन अधिक है। दुनिया की आधी आबादी अभी भी आवश्यक स्वास्थ्य सेवाओं से वंचित है, 1.3 बिलियन लोग अपनी जेब से स्वास्थ्य पर होने वाले खर्च के कारण गरीबी में धकेले जा रहे हैं।

9. ज्यादातर अरबपतियों ने अपनी सम्पत्ति उच्चमिता से ज्यादा विरासत से अर्जित की है। अगले 30 वर्षों में 1,000 अरबपति अपने उत्तराधिकारियों को 5.2 ट्रिलियन अमेरिकी डॉलर से ज्यादा की राशि हस्तांतरित करेंगे, जिस पर ज्यादातर मामलों में कोई कर नहीं लगेगा, जिससे पीढ़ियों के बीच असमानता बनी रहेगी। कुल मिलाकर, अनुमान है कि अगले दशक में 70 ट्रिलियन डॉलर से ज्यादा की राशि उत्तराधिकारियों को हस्तांतरित की जाएगी, जिससे सामाजिक गतिशीलता और अवसर की समानता कमजोर होगी।

ये निष्कर्ष आश्चर्यजनक नहीं हैं। नवउदारवादी युग में अभूतपूर्व धन सृजन और उसके संकेन्द्रण का दौर देखा गया। धन का यह संचय राज्यों द्वारा अपनी सम्पत्ति और प्राकृतिक संसाधन पूंजीपतियों को बांटने और पुनर्वितरण में समानता सम्बन्धी अपनी जिम्मेदारियों से मुंह मोड़ने का प्रत्यक्ष परिणाम था। इसलिए, हम देखते हैं कि निगमों का मुनाफा तेजी से बढ़ता है, मजदूरों की मजदूरी स्थिर रहती है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप दुनिया की अधिकांश आबादी का जीवन स्तर गिरता जा रहा है। धनी लोग अपने प्रभाव और शक्ति का इस्तेमाल आर्थिक नीतियों को आकार देने के लिए करते हैं, जिससे लोकतन्त्र ही कमजोर होता है। इस आर्थिक असंतोष ने दुनिया के विभिन्न हिस्सों में सत्तावादी और फासीवादी शासनों को जन्म दिया है। ये सत्तावादी शासन जाति, धर्म और प्रवास के आधार पर लोगों को बांटकर उनका ध्यान भटका रहे हैं। लेकिन यह भी एक सच्चाई है कि दुनिया के विभिन्न हिस्सों में नवउदारवादी आर्थिक नीतियों के खिलाफ संघर्ष हो रहे हैं। हाल ही में हुए न्यूयार्क मेयर चुनाव ने यह स्पष्ट कर दिया है कि यदि श्रमिक वर्ग की दिन-प्रतिदिन की समस्याओं और अनुभवों को सही ढंग से प्रस्तुत किया जाए और उन्हें संगठित किया जाए, तो अरबपतियों की धन-शक्ति, घृणा अभियान और पहचान की राजनीति को पराजित करना संभव है।

रिपोर्ट में यह भी बताया गया है कि भारत की अर्थव्यवस्था ज्यादातर प्रमुख अर्थव्यवस्थाओं की तुलना तेजी से बढ़ी है, लेकिन इसकी असमानता वैश्विक रूढ़ान से भी अधिक तेजी से बढ़ी है। 2000से 2023 के बीच देश में सृजित कुल सम्पत्ति का 62 प्रतिशत हिस्सा शीर्ष 1 प्रतिशत लोगों के पास ही एकत्र हो गया। यह आश्चर्य की बात नहीं होनी चाहिए क्योंकि पिछले 10 वर्षों में राष्ट्रीय सम्पत्तियों और महत्वपूर्ण प्राकृतिक संसाधनों का वितरण कुछ चुनिंदा कारपोरेट घरानों की तरफ बढ़ा है। आज हम पाते हैं कि अर्थव्यवस्था के महत्वपूर्ण क्षेत्र या तो एकाधिकार या द्वैधाधिकार द्वारा संचालित हो रहे हैं। आरबीआई के आंकड़ों के अनुसार, कारपोरेट मुनाफा 20-21से 24-25 के बीच . लाख करोड़ रुपये से बढ़कर 7.1 लाख करोड़ रुपये से अधिक हो गया है। वही डेटा बताता है कि व्यक्तिगत

आयकर 38.1 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर 53.4 प्रतिशत हो गया, जबकि कारपोरेट कर 2014से 2024 की अवधि में कुल करों का 61.9 प्रतिशत से घटकर 46.6 प्रतिशत रह गया। घरेलू ऋण 2015 में 26 प्रतिशत से बढ़कर जीडीपी का 42 प्रतिशत हो गया। आय वृद्धि की तुलना में ऋण दोगुनी दर से बढ़ रहा है। जुलाई 2025 में सोने के खिलाफ ऋण 122 प्रतिशत बढ़ गया। एक हालिया रिपोर्ट बताती है कि भारत के शीर्ष 300 व्यावसायिक परिवार लगभग 1.6 ट्रिलियन डॉलर के संयुक्त मूल्य को नियंत्रित करते हैं, जो रूपये में परिवर्तित होने पर 135 लाख करोड़ से अधिक होगा। धन का इतना बड़ा संकेन्द्रण दुनिया के कई देशों के राष्ट्रीय सकल घरेलू उत्पाद से भी अधिक है।

इन धनी परिवारों ने असाधारण शक्ति अर्जित कर ली है, जिससे वे अपने पक्ष में आर्थिक और सामाजिक नीतियां लागू करा सकते हैं। आज भारत में बड़ी संख्या में मीडिया घरानों के मालिक वे ही हैं। इस गुलाम मीडिया के माध्यम से, वे ऐसी धारणाएं फैलाने का प्रयास करते हैं जिनसे उन्हें समाज में व्याप्त विभाजन का फायदा उठाकर अधिक लाभ कमाने में मदद मिलती है। ये मीडिया घराने सरकारी आख्यानों का प्रचार करते हैं और लोगों के जीवन और जीवनयापन से जुड़े मुद्दों पर ईमानदार और आलोचनात्मक रिपोर्टिंग से बचते हैं। इन बड़े व्यावसायिक घरानों के हितों को देश के हित के रूप में प्रचारित किया जाता है, जिससे आम जनता की जायज आकांक्षाओं को कुचला जाता है और परिणामस्वरूप लोकतन्त्र का हनन और अवमूल्यन होता है।

भारत में आय और सम्पत्ति की असमानता का वर्तमान स्तर असहनीय है। धन के इतने भारी मात्रा में संकेन्द्रण के कारण न केवल लोकतन्त्र, बल्कि अर्थव्यवस्था भी प्रभावित होगी। यदि असमानता के मुद्दे का तत्काल समाधान नहीं किया गया, तो सामाजिक संघर्षों का बढ़ना तय है। सामाजिक स्थिरता के अभाव में कोई भी अर्थव्यवस्था विकसित और टिकाऊ नहीं हो सकती। असमानताओं की समस्या और मानव जाति के भविष्य का समाधान पूंजीवाद में नहीं खोजा जा सकता। समाधान इस शोषणकारी व्यवस्था के बाहर खोजना होगा। वह विकल्प इस प्रकार का हो जो प्रत्येक नागरिक का सम्मानपूर्वक जीवन सुनिश्चित करे। सरकार को एक न्यायसंगत कराधान प्रणाली के माध्यम से धन और संसाधनों के पुनर्वितरण के लिए बाध्य किया जाना चाहिए। पहले कदम के रूप में, भारत को अति धनवानों पर सम्पत्ति और उत्तराधिकार कर लागू करना चाहिए। इस प्रकार जुटाए गए संसाधनों का उपयोग राज्य द्वारा शिक्षा, स्वास्थ्य और अन्य आवश्यक सार्वजनिक सेवाएं प्रदान करने के लिए किया जाना चाहिए। ये विकल्प स्पष्ट रूप से लाभ के बजाए जनता को ऊपर रखने वाले हों। इसके लिए मजदूर वर्ग, किसान वर्ग और हाशिए पर पड़े लोगों द्वारा एकजुट संघर्ष की आवश्यकता है ताकि पूरे समाज को संगठित किया जा सके और मौजूदा घोर असमानता को समाप्त करने तथा भारत और उसके नागरिकों के बेहतर भविष्य के निर्माण के लिए एक ऐसा विकल्प लागू किया जा सके।

LIC PERFORMS WELL IN THE HALF YEAR ending 30th SEPTEMBER 2025

The Profit After Tax (PAT) for the half year ended September 30th, 2025 was Rs. 21,040 crore as compared to Rs. 18,082 crore for the half year ended September 30th, 2024 registering a growth of 16.36%.

In terms of market share measured by First Year Premium Income (FYPI) (as per IRDAI), LIC continues to be the market leader in Indian life insurance business with overall market share of 59.41% for half year ended September 30th 2025 as compared to 61.07% for half year ended September 30th 2024. For the half year ended September 30th, 2025, LIC had a market share of 37.21% in Individual business and 72.74% in the Group business.

The Total Premium Income for six months period ended September 30th, 2025 was Rs. 2,45,680 crore as compared to Rs. 2,33,671 crore for the six months period ended September 30th 2024, registering a growth of 5.14%.

Individual New Business premium income for six months period ended September 30th, 2025 was Rs. 28,491 crore and as compared to Rs 29,538 crore for the six months period ended September 30th 2024, registering a decrease of 3.54%. The Individual Renewal premium income for six months period ended September 30th, 2025 was Rs. 1,22,224 crore as compared to Rs 1,15,158 crore for the six months period ended September 30th 2024, registering an increase of 6.14%. The Total Individual Business Premium for the six months period ended September 30th, 2025 increased to Rs. 1,50,715 crore from Rs. 1,44,696 crore for the comparable period of previous year, registering an increase of 4.16%. The Group Business total premium income for six months period ended September 30th, 2025 was Rs. 94,965 crore as compared to Rs 88,975 crore for the six months period ended September 30th 2024, registering an increase of 6.73%.

A total of 72,60,573 policies were sold in the individual segment during the six

months period ended September 30th, 2025 as compared to 91,70,420 policies sold during the six months period ended September 30th 2024, registering a decrease of 20.83%.

The Indian Embedded Value (IEV) as on September 30th, 2025 has been determined as Rs. 8,13,230 crore as compared to Rs. 8,21,716 crore as on September 30th, 2024 registering a decrease of 1.03% over the previous year.

The Solvency Ratio as on September 30th, 2025 increased to 2.13 as against 1.98 on September 30th, 2024.

For the six months period ended September 30th, 2025, the persistency ratios on premium basis for the 13th month and 61st month were 75.29% and 63.81%, respectively. The comparable persistency ratios for the corresponding period ended September 30th, 2024 were 77.62% and 61.46%, respectively.

For the six months period ended September 30th, 2025, the persistency ratios on number of policies basis for the 13th month and 61st month were 63.36% and 51.50%, respectively. The comparable persistency ratios for the corresponding period ended September 30th, 2024 were 67.23% and 48.92%, respectively.

The Assets Under Management (AUM) increased to Rs. 57,22,896 crore as on September 30th, 2025 as compared to Rs. 55,39,516 crore on September 30th, 2024 registering an increase of 3.31% year on year.

The Overall Expense Ratio for the six months period ended September 30th, 2025 decreased by 146 bps to 11.28% as compared to 12.74% for the six months period ended September 30th 2024.

The Yield on Investments on policyholders funds excluding unrealized gains was 8.90% for the six months period ended September 30th, 2025 as against 9.02% for six months period ended September 30th, 2024.

Nationalisation of General Insurance Business

A UNIQUE ACHIEVEMENT

Amanulla Khan

PLATINUM
JUBILEE
SERIES 5



The AIIEA right from the beginning had demanded the nationalisation of the entire insurance industry in India. The arguments and logic of such a demand are well known. The share of foreign companies in the general insurance business was much larger than that of life insurance. The AIIEA said that it is necessary to nationalise the entire insurance industry in national interests and orderly development of the economy. This demand had support of a number of parliamentarians and progressive sections. However, the government in 1956 decided to nationalise only the life insurance business and ignored the demand and suggestions for taking over the general insurance business.

The Finance Minister C.D.Deshmukh informed the Parliament the reason for the government not to nationalise the general insurance business. He said "I would also like briefly to explain why we have decided not to bring the general insurance business in the public sector. The consideration which influenced us most is the basic fact that general insurance business is part and parcel of the private sector of trade and industry and functions on a year to year basis. Errors of commission and omission in the conduct of the business do not directly affect individual citizens....the policyholders in general insurance are persons in commerce and industry who have given good evidence of being able to look

after themselves.... In general insurance, the policyholders belong to a class which is not in need of protection and assistance from the government".

These arguments were not convincing. The real reason was that general insurance business does not mobilise long term funds as the case is with life insurance business. The government was in need of funds to develop the infrastructure and the nationalisation of life insurance business perfectly fitted into their scheme of things. The government glossed over the fact that a stable and reliable general insurance industry is required to cover the risk of businesses including the funds invested in infrastructure projects. The government was reluctant as foreign companies were the dominant players in the general insurance business and did not want to create an impression that it is totally against the foreign economic activity on the Indian soil.

The reasons advanced by the government not to take over general insurance business were rejected by the AIIEA and it launched an unrelenting struggle demanding nationalisation. The AIIEA was aware that post nationalisation of life insurance business, the employees in the general insurance companies

were facing manifold problems. There were a large number of composite companies doing both life and non-life business and the mainstay of their business was life insurance. Unable to withstand the fall in business, a large number of them had to go out of business resulting in job losses, retrenchments and redundancies. There were also attempts by the bigger companies to reduce the jobs to increase their profits. The Third General Conference of AIIEA held at Madras in 1957 noted that "there had been many cases of closures, amalgamation and transfer of control from one group of owners to another without any job security and protection of the employees' rights. The Conference demanded immediate nationalisation of general insurance business and in advancement of this demand, it mobilised employees from both LIC and general insurance companies into struggle. The AIIEA gave a call for the observance of All India Demands Day in August 1959 and as a follow up the leadership met the Prime Minister and Finance Minister to impress upon the need for nationalisation. The AIIEA also met the Union Labour Minister Gulzarilal Nanda in October 1959 and sought the intervention of the government

The agitation and campaign of the AIIEA aided by the political developments helped achieve the demand for nationalisation of general insurance business which was taken over effectively from January 1, 1973. AIIEA had suggested the creation of a monolithic corporation on the lines of LIC rather than four companies competing with each other. The primary objective of nationalisation was declared as to serve the needs of economy, work in the interest of the community and spread the general insurance business into the rural areas. The nationalisation of insurance industry was a unique effort with no parallel in the world. The success achieved once again displayed the unique character of the AIIEA, which continues its struggle and campaign to mobilise larger public opinion in favour of consolidation and against privatisation. The employees of both LIC and PSGI companies must join this battle with courage of conviction.

to stop the retrenchments, harassments and exploitation of the general insurance employees. Demands were raised for standardisation of pay and ensuring a decent wage compensation to the employees. In May 1967, the AIIEA leadership met and submitted memorandums to the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, President and General Secretary of the Indian National Congress and demanded the government to take urgent steps to nationalise the general insurance business in the interest of the national economy and the welfare of the workforce. The government attempted to underplay this demand by bringing a Bill called Insurance (Amendment) Act 1968 as a legislative measure aimed at imposing greater social control over the private insurance companies. The AIIEA saw this as a diversionary tactic and deposed before the Select Committee and said; this Bill is not the solution as no regulation can prevent the frauds and exploitation of labour and the real solution is the nationalisation. The struggle was continuous and unrelenting and it involved employees of both the life and general insurance industries.

The Indian politics witnessed great turbulence with the Congress losing a number

of State elections in 1967. There was an inner struggle within the Congress to control the political organisation. This conflict came out into the open with Indira Gandhi as the Prime Minister refusing to endorse the candidature of Neelam Sanjeeva Reddy as President of India and instead chose to support V.V.Giri as an independent candidate who ultimately won the election on the basis of her support. Indira Gandhi in order to win over the popular support projected herself as the left of the centre leader and received support from the Young Turks in the Congress including Chandrasekhar. In order to prove that her policies favour the poor and the marginalised and she is fighting the vested interests, she abolished tax free annual payment guaranteed by

the government of India to the rulers of the former princely states in the name of Privy Purse. She also nationalised 14 banks in July 1969 saying it was necessary to promote equitable growth. She argued that if banks are publicly owned, they would give credit to millions of farmers, artisans and self-employed persons and not just to big business houses.

It is in the background of these political developments that the government took the steps to nationalise the general insurance business. The agitation and campaign of the AIIEA aided by the political developments helped achieve the demand for nationalisation of general insurance business. The enactment of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act 1972 ensured the take over of the



The enactment of the General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Act 1972 ensured the take over of the general insurance business...General Insurance Corporation of India was formed in November 1972 and the four companies as its subsidiaries to transact general insurance business in India. The AIIEA had suggested the creation of a monolithic corporation on the lines of LIC rather than four companies competing with each other, because a monolithic entity would be able to leverage both the physical and human assets to secure the objectives of nationalisation.....



general insurance business effectively from January 1, 1973. The government took over 107 companies of which 55 were Indian and 52 were foreign controlled. The General Insurance Corporation of India was formed in November 1972 and the four companies National Insurance Company Ltd, The New India Assurance Company Ltd, The Oriental Insurance Company Ltd and United India Insurance Company Limited were created as subsidiaries of GIC to transact general insurance business in India. The AIIEA had suggested the creation of a monolithic corporation on the lines of LIC rather than four companies competing with each other. The AIIEA had argued that a monolithic entity would be able to leverage both the physical and human assets to secure the objectives of nationalisation. The primary objective of nationalisation was declared as to serve the needs of economy, work in the interest of the community and spread the general insurance business into the rural areas. The nationalisation of insurance industry was a unique effort with no parallel in the world. The success achieved once again displays the unique character of the AIIEA.

The public sector general insurance industry made steady progress and reached the rural areas with innovative policies to meet the requirements of the rural and farming communities. However, it could not keep pace with the LIC as the asset owning citizens were limited. Prior to the nationalisation, the general insurance industry was catering to the needs of the big businesses and the rich. The total gross direct premium underwritten by the

107 companies in the year 1970 was Rs.130.35 crore. When the insurance industry was opened for competition through IRDA Act 1999, the public sector general insurance industry had underwritten a total premium of Rs.11335 crore for the financial year 2000-2001.

The Government accepted the Malhotra Committee recommendations on reforms in the insurance industry despite massive opposition. In November 2000, the government decided to delink the four subsidiaries from the holding company General Insurance Corporation of India. The four companies became independent with GIC role limited to reinsurance. This restructuring of the public sector general insurance industry was formalised with the passage of General Insurance Business (Nationalisation) Amendment Act 2002. The Insurance Laws Amendment Bill 2011 which was finally passed in the year 2015 further impacted the PSGI industry. The unique struggle of AIIEA against the so-called reforms in the insurance industry and against privatisation will be dealt with in a separate write up. The passage of this law empowered the government to divest up to 49% of its shareholding. With this enabling legislation, the government has disinvested 14.56% of its holding in the New India Assurance Company and 17.6% disinvestment has taken place in GIC-Re. The government has also ended the monopoly of GIC in reinsurance business with foreign reinsurers allowed to operate in India.

The Government lacks any coherent policy on public sector general insurance industry. Its flip flop actions

have created uncertainty in the industry. The AIIEA had been demanding consolidation of the four companies into a single monolithic entity to meet the demands of the competitive environment. These four companies not only have to compete among themselves but they also have to contend with more than 27 private companies. The government at one time took the decision to merge these four companies but gave up the idea after few years and instead decided to strategically sell atleast one company. Now again there is a talk of merger. Despite these uncertainties and fears of job and wage security for the workforce, the PSGI companies are doing well. Today the four companies together have a market share of 31.7%, an increase from 30.8% in September 2024. The New India Assurance Company continues to be the market leader with a share of 13.25%. The past one year has seen a steady increase in the share of PSGI companies.

The AIIEA continues its struggle and campaign for the protection of public sector insurance companies and has been heroically resisting the privatisation efforts of the government. The demand for consolidation and merger of the four companies makes great economic sense and would be beneficial to the entire economy. The AIIEA will mobilise larger public opinion in favour of consolidation and against privatisation. The employees of both LIC and PSGI companies must join this battle with courage of conviction.

The countdown has started and the curtain is going to be lifted in a couple of weeks for the Platinum Jubilee year conference of our dear organization, AIIEA. The rank and file of the Bhubaneswar Divisional Unit — the host Division, under the guidance of the leadership of East Central Zone, is making all-out efforts to make this Conference a resounding success. For an organization like AIIEA, a Conference is surely an occasion for an in-depth and incisive analysis of the events happening around us and to understand their import and significance. The conference provides an opportunity for the units to share their experiences of struggle and activities that were carried out during the intervening period of the two conferences and then formulate the future course of action. It is also an occasion to consolidate the Organisation so that our comrades can play their role in larger struggles which are aimed at putting an end to exploitation and ushering in equality in society.

Having a clear understanding of this, today when we browse the wall/page of our Comrades in social media, it can be seen that our Units are gearing up to discharge their responsibility in the ensuing Conference. When we could see that the ball has been set in motion for this historically important conference, my mind is lingering with the memories of the Conferences of AIIEA which I started attending since 1996.

Maiden Opportunity

It was the initial period when Comrades like me started associating ourselves with the day-to-day work of the trade union. We were then learning

M Girija
Joint Secretary, AIIEA

OUR AIIEA OUR PRIDE



from AIIEA that the Trade Union is an essential force not only to realize the economic demands of the workers, but also for social change. Without it, a semblance of a decent and humane society is impossible under the capitalist system. At that time, I got the maiden opportunity to attend the Conference of AIIEA held at Madurai in December 1996. The lively deliberations by the delegates and inspiring addresses by the leaders helped the then young delegates like me to broaden our understanding. As many as 11 women comrades participated in the debate and all of them were expressing their readiness to share higher responsibilities in the organization. And these were not mere lip service words, but from the bottom of their

hearts. That is why today we could see that in various tiers of the organization, many women comrades are discharging their organizational responsibilities.

Golden Opportunity

Commemorating the 50 years of purposeful existence of the organization, the Golden Jubilee year conference was held in Chennai in January 2001. Attending this conference was an emotional and touching experience for me. The former office bearers of AIIEA, whose noteworthy and emulable contributions to the growth of AIIEA were felicitated in this Conference. I got the golden opportunity of accompanying Com Neelima Maitra, who was felicitated on behalf of late Com Sunil Maitra. We were staying together, and each day after returning from

Each Conference of AIIEA has been a milestone in its onward march. The Conferences of AIIEA are known for debates, discussions, and arguments, ultimately leading to unanimous decisions. We are going to meet at Bhubaneswar when the crony capitalists as also the communal forces are hell-bent to disrupt our unity by playing divisive cards, and identity politics are serving them very well. And as in the past, this Platinum Jubilee year Conference would give a new hope, courage, and confidence

the Conference, she would be sharing the experiences of Com Sunil and herself in the Trade Union movement. Through those words, I could realize the invaluable services rendered by Comrades like Sunil, Saroj, and others to the Organisation. This conference gave a sense of commitment with added responsibility for Comrades like me.

Conferences of Confidence

When the neo-liberal policies started to be implemented in India since the early 90s under the Narasimha Rao government, supporters of these policies were saying there is 'no alternative'. With the promulgation of the IRDA Bill, opening up the doors of the insurance industry for private players, and allowing foreign direct investment in the insurance industry, many started to think that the days ahead were going to be the doomsday for LIC and the public sector General Insurance Companies. There were times when the recommendations of the committees like Booz Allen Hamilton and Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu were haunting the LIC employees. When 3.5% shares of LIC was divested, many started daydreaming that in this new setup, AIIEA is going to lose its sheen. But all these adverse situations could never be an obstacle for AIIEA in carrying forward its struggles.

The Conferences held at Madurai, Hyderabad, Chennai, Raipur, Bangalore, Kanpur, New Delhi, Nagpur, Ernakulam, Visakhapatnam, and Kolkata gave the confidence that by joining our hands with a broader section of the working class, we can fight resolutely

against these policies. These conferences resolved to firmly fight against the onslaughts and protect the LIC by forming People for India forums. They gave the confidence that by carrying forward our campaign both in the seat and the street, we can win over the confidence of various sections of the people. We can feel proud that all these years, through our relentless struggles against the ruling dispensation, we have protected the LIC and also the hard-earned rights of the employees. At the same time, by launching an uncompromising struggle, we have got the wage revisions fulfilling the aspirations of the employees.

Since its inception, each Conference of AIIEA has been a milestone in its onward march. The Conferences of AIIEA are known for debates, discussions, and arguments, ultimately leading to unanimous decisions. Definitely, the ensuing Conference, to be held at Bhubaneswar, is also not going to be different from this trend. We are going to meet at Bhubaneswar when the crony capitalists as also the communal forces are hell-bent to disrupt our unity by playing divisive cards, and identity politics are serving them very well. The Platinum Jubilee year Conference of AIIEA would show us the proper direction and set the right tone for further proceedings. And as in the past, we are confident that this Conference would give a new hope, courage, and confidence to those Comrades who are going to attend the Conference of our AIIEA for the first time.

Anusuya is a young girl from a Scheduled Caste community, belonging to the small village of Kollapuram in Udayarpalayam Taluk, Ariyalur district of Tamil Nadu. The relationship that developed between her and the TN units of All India Insurance Employees Association (AIIEA) did not arise from a moment of joy, but it has become something deeply moving.

Anusuya chose her life partner herself.

Subash (28), belonging to a Backward Class community, hailed from Arunapathi village near Uthangarai in Krishnagiri district. They fell in love. Facing intense opposition from Subash's family, the couple entered into an inter-caste marriage on 27.03.2023. Neither of them ever thought about each other's caste -love goes beyond such divisions. But only after their marriage, did they encounter the brutal face of caste society.

As Subash's parents refused to accept their marriage, the couple began living separately. Subash's grandmother, Kannammal, invited the newlyweds for a dinner. They went happily on April 14, 2023. This information reached Subash's father, Dhandapani. Blinded by caste hatred, Dhandapani arrived at his mother's home the next morning and brutally attacked the couple with a billhook. When the elderly Kannammal tried to intervene, he slashed her as well, ignoring that she was his own mother. Subash and Kannammal collapsed and Anusuya too received deep cuts. Subash and Kannammal succumbed to their injuries. Believing Anusuya to be dead as well, Dhandapani left.



Companions in the Long Journey for Justice Anusuya and TN units of AIIEA

K Swaminathan Former General Secretary, SZIEF

With no one to help, bleeding heavily, she crawled nearby burial ground and hid there till dawn in fear. She then received assistance from someone to reach the hospital and survived despite sustaining grievous injuries. They lived together for only 19 days. Before dawn on the 20th day, the couple was left drowning in a pool of blood, and one of their lives was brutally taken away.

Democratic movements across Tamil Nadu, including the Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front and the Communist Party of India (Marxist), launched statewide protests condemning this atrocity. A case was registered at the Uthangarai Police Station under the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act. The trial was conducted in the Krishnagiri District Court. It was at this stage that Anusuya came into contact with the All India Insurance Employees' Association, through the Tamilnadu Untouchability

Eradication Front.

Because of the severe injuries she had suffered, Anusuya had to undergo ten surgeries. She still requires continued treatment. She was pursuing a B.Ed degree and feared that her education might be interrupted. She needed security to travel for the trial hearings at the Krishnagiri court, as well as proper safe transport arrangements. The journey to seek justice, burdened with the grief of losing loved ones, caused wounds as deep as her physical injuries.

While she underwent surgeries at Salem Government Hospital, the Salem Division Insurance Corporation Employees Union took responsibility for her care. For her stay in Salem for a brief period, our union shouldered the responsibility. When she expressed her wish to continue her studies, the Chennai Division 2 and Vellore Division Insurance Employees Unions came forward. At the Vellore

The trauma faced by victims of "Honour Killings" & caste violence is immense, yet Anusuya confronted it with courage. The Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front and the AIIEA units in Tamilnadu which are associated with this movement, stood by her side. The journey to seek justice, burdened with the grief of losing loved ones, caused wounds as deep as her physical injuries. When the struggle for justice prevailed, Anusuya contacted the leaders of the AIIEA units in Tamilnadu and expressed her gratitude. At that moment, there was no emotional space to explain to her that a Trade Union's duty is not limited to fighting only economic exploitation, but also to fight gender and caste oppression.



.....while Salem Division union took up responsibility for her care and stay, the Chennai Division 2 and Vellore Divisions helped and supported her education. The justice secured by Anusuya marks an important milestone in the journey undertaken by the Tamil Nadu units of AIIEA.....

Women's Conference, a call was given and comrades from across the division contributed donations. During her stay in Chennai, the Chennai Division 2 union extended help and supported her education. The psychological trauma faced by victims is immense, yet Anusuya confronted it with courage. The Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front and the All India Insurance Employees Association which is associated with this movement, stood by her side.

After a trial that lasted two and a half years, judgment was delivered on 14.11.2025. The accused, Dhandapani, was sentenced to three life terms and an additional ten months of imprisonment. The struggle for justice prevailed.

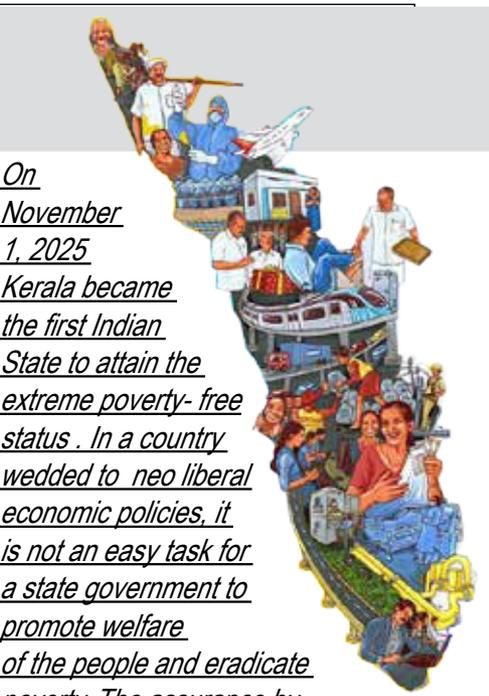
Anusuya contacted the leaders of the All India Insurance Employees' Association and expressed her gratitude. At that moment, there was no emotional space to explain to her that a trade union's duty is not limited to fighting only economic exploitation, but also to fight gender and caste oppression.

The LIC and Public Sector General Insurance units of the All India Insurance Employees' Association in Tamil Nadu have been continuously raising the demand -along with the Tamil Nadu Untouchability Eradication Front - for a special law to prevent caste honour killings, not only in the struggle for justice for Anusuya but in countless such cases. In the 400 km Salem-to-Chennai march held in 2016 on

that demand, 300 insurance employees participated for one or more days; five comrades walked the entire 400 km. Our cadres participated in many programmes on the issue in different parts of the state. As early as 2012, the Law Commission of India had recommended the need for a special law to prevent caste honour killings in its report No. 242. There were some attempts at Rajya Sabha as well as TN Assembly to enact such law through introduction of private member bills. The organisations like Dalit Shoshan Mukthi Manch and AIDWA prepared draft bills also. Due to persistent demands and programmes of TNUEF, the DMK government has constituted a commission led by Justice K.N.Basha to bring the special law. It is a great victory for the organisations including AIIEA which brought the issue to the fore in the political agenda.

Recently, Delhi High Court Justice Sanjay Narula observed in a case involving an inter-caste marriage: "Such unions (inter-faith & inter-caste marriages) are in the national interest and must receive firm protection from any familial or communal interference."

The justice secured by Anusuya marks an important milestone in the journey undertaken by the Tamil Nadu units of the All India Insurance Employees Association to protect the freedom of partners to choose their marriage and to eradicate caste discrimination.



On November 1, 2025 Kerala became the first Indian State to attain the extreme poverty-free status. In a country wedded to neo liberal economic policies, it is not an easy task for a state government to promote welfare of the people and eradicate poverty. The assurance by the State government that the eradication of poverty is the next agenda gives hope to the people, gives hope to those who fight for pro people policies alternative to neo liberalism. If a state government with much limited resources and limited powers can eradicate extreme poverty and dream to eradicate poverty why can't our Nation with vast resources and extensive powers? For this, policies committed to the people, to their welfare are required instead of those committed to the Capital, to its profit.; welfare policies as alternative to neoliberalism are required.; those in power should recognize the people's broader livelihood issues as more important than narrow divisive communal agenda. As The Economist said "Kerala can teach India a thing or two about social welfare".



P.P. Krishnan
President, SZIEF

Neo-Liberalism met with Welfarism

KERALA TEACHES INDIA about SOCIAL WELFARE

While entering into the 70th year of its formation, Kerala once again caught the attention of all with its declaration on November 1st, 2025 that the state has eradicated extreme poverty. Kerala becomes the first Indian State to attain the extreme poverty free status, second only to a very few lands like China and Scandinavian countries. With this the present Left Democratic Front Government fulfills one more promise it made to the people of Kerala while starting its tenure demonstrating its commitment to ensure welfare of the people. This declaration was welcomed by all and many media, including international media commented on this great achievement. The 'Economist' wrote, 'Kerala can teach India a thing or two about social welfare' and "Kerala is to Indian indices what Scandinavia is to the world". It described Kerala as India's development champion.

When the state was formed in 1956 more than 50% of the population was in poverty. In 60's and 70's also Kerala was one among those Indian states with high poverty rates. State interventions with a progressive outlook in various fields like land reforms, education, health care, public distribution, decentralization and women

empowerment initiated by the first Communist Government led by E M S Namboodiripad laid the foundations for a society with high social development. This was continued by the subsequent governments especially by those led by the Left. Poverty alleviation was one of the primary concerns of these state interventions. The influence of the left and democratic forces and struggles by the vibrant trade union movement which led to the implementation of various social welfare schemes including pension also contributed to the social development in Kerala with reduced poverty and improved living standards. Kerala is always known for its unique developmental experiences which helped the state attain global standards in many social indicators. This, referred to as the Kerala Model Development, is more unique especially because Kerala attained these standards even when its per capita income was lesser than many other states.

Earlier poverty was measured based on certain specific income levels. With low per capita income, Kerala suffered high rates of income poverty initially. In 1973 - 74 income poor in Kerala were 58.8% of its population, higher

than the national average of 54.9%, close to Bihar (61.9%) and higher than Uttar Pradesh (57.1%). With various social welfare measures, Kerala could improve the situation significantly and in 2011 - 12 the income poor in Kerala (7.1%) was much lesser than the national average of 21.09%. Later, in place of income criteria, Union Government put forth the concept of Multidimensional Poverty Index to measure poverty. According to estimates by NITI Aayog based on Multidimensional Poverty Index, in 2005 - 06, poverty in Kerala was 12.31%. This was reduced to less than 1% (0.55%) in 2019 - 21, lowest in India, against a national average of 15%. Whatever be the indicators used or methodology adopted to measure poverty, it is a fact that Kerala performed exceedingly well in reducing poverty, moving far ahead of even those states with much lesser poverty at the beginning.

Though the state could make commendable advancement in poverty alleviation, the fact remained that there were some extremely poor families who were deprived of basic needs and amenities of life. It was in this context that the LDF in their Election Manifesto in 2021 promised to address the issue of extreme poverty if voted back to power. So, the new LDF Government in its first cabinet meeting in May 2021 decided an Extreme Poverty Eradication Programme (EPEP) to make Kerala Extreme Poverty Free within next five years.

Through extensive research and surveys involving nearly 400000 persons as resource persons, volunteers etc. 64006 families (103099 persons) were identified as extremely poor based on deprivation factors like food, shelter, health care and

income. Separate micro plans were prepared for each family to address their specific livelihood requirements. These were implemented with the support of Local Self Government institutions, Kudumbashree, LIFE Mission, government departments etc. The collective efforts of the government and the society led to the eradication of extreme poverty in Kerala which gave a message (to quote Chief Minister Sri Pinarayi Vijayan) that “development leaving no one left out is possible”

The inherent character of capitalism is the accumulation of wealth in the hands of a few and pauperisation of the majority. The neo liberal economic policies added to this situation. In a country wedded to such policies it is not an easy task for a state government to promote welfare of the people and eradicate poverty as it has to work within the economic constraints resulting from those policies. Also, when state Government tries to evolve some alternatives those committed to neo liberal policies like Union Government, rightwing forces and media will jointly resist as is happening today. For the first time in history when voted back to power for a second term in succession the left front government got a chance to continue its alternative policies more effectively. The imagination and commitment of the present government in achieving this enviable status of extreme poverty free is commendable. At the same time, it is a continuation of the sustained pro people policies followed in the past. Even when the Nation witnessed a mad cry from the rightwing forces to go ahead with neo liberal economic policies as the only way forward, Kerala tried to evolve policies

alternative to it with a focus to meet the basic needs of the people and ensure their welfare.

The concept of social security pension to unorganized workers came in to practice in Kerala in 1980 with the then LDF Government led by E K Nayanar introducing a monthly pension of Rs.45 to agricultural workers. The political right and the economists having sympathy with them vehemently opposed this, terming it as unproductive and a burden on the exchequer. The Left justified this move as a much needed social security measure. Later this was expanded to other sections and amount was increased. Today 62 lakh people aged 60 and above are getting Rs. 2000 a month as social security pension. This helps them make their oldage active, healthy and dignified. Given their commitment to the social welfare, it is not surprising that 1900 out of this 2000 is contributed by various LDF governments. To respect the status of women and to empower them Government now decided to give a monthly pension of Rs.1000 to 31.34 Lakh women aged between 35 to 60, with no other social welfare benefits, as “Sthree Suraksha Pension”. Five lakh Job seeking youth aged 18 to 30 from economically backward sections who are preparing for competitive examinations or are pursuing skill development courses will get Rs.1000 a month as Connect to work scholarship.

When neo liberal policies tries to deepen the exploitation of workers, Kerala offers highest daily wages to workers, thanks to the vibrant trade union movement in the state. As per RBI data the daily wage in Kerala for unorganized workers

is more than double the national average. With a recent hike of Rs.1000 a month Kerala gives highest honorarium to the ASHA Workers. Similarly, in November 2025 honorarium to the Anganwadi workers and Helpers and Preprimary Teachers and Ayahs also were increased by Rs.1000 a month. School Mid Day meal workers will get a daily increase of Rs. 50 (Rs.1100 per month) in their remuneration. The Government through various Missions is trying to address the basic needs of the society like housing, education, healthcare etc. Through LIFE Mission within a period of 8.5 years it has provided shelter to 471442 families which means one house in 10 minutes. These are indicative of the social welfare measures of the government and the eradication of extreme poverty is an outcome of all such policies.

The assurance by the State government that the eradication of poverty is the next agenda gives hope to the people, gives hope to those who fight for pro people policies alternative to neo liberalism. If a state government with much limited resources and limited powers can eradicate extreme poverty and dream to eradicate poverty why can't our Nation with vast resources and extensive powers? For this, policies committed to the people, to their welfare are required instead of those committed to the Capital, to its profit. For this welfare policies as alternative to neoliberalism are required. For this, those in power should recognize the people's broader livelihood issues as more important than narrow divisive communal agenda. As The Economist said “Kerala can teach India a thing or two about social welfare”.





When the power of money forces every political party to act in the same way, the path to power and the way to exercise it once it is achieved are the same in every polity, then contesting and winning elections based on one's core principles offers hope. Mamdani fought the election with strong principles. This fight shows the way for everyone. This isn't just a way to stop Trump; it's also a way to stop the next Trump.
CHANGE IS POSSIBLE

Sachin Jain, Former President, Aligarh Division

बदलाव संभव है

सचिन जैन

हम सब मिलकर बदलाव की एक नई पीढ़ी की शुरुआत करेंगे। और अगर हम इस साहसिक रास्ते को अपनाएं, बजाए इसके कि इससे भागें, तो हम कुलीन तंत्र और अधिनायकवाद का उसी ताकत से जवाब दे सकते हैं जिससे वह डरता है, न कि उस तुष्टीकरण से जिसकी वह लालसा रखता है। अगर किसी तानाशाह को डराने का कोई तरीका है, तो वह उन्हीं परिस्थितियों को खत्म करके है जिनके चलते उसे सत्ता हासिल करने का मौका मिला। (जीत स्वीकार भाषण का हिस्सा)

जोहरान ममदानी न्यूयॉर्क सिटी के मेयर के लिए 4 नवम्बर को हुए चुनाव में विजयी हुए। वे डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी से उम्मीदवार थे। उन्होंने निर्दलीय के रूप में लड़ रहे पूर्व डेमोक्रेट एन्ड्र्यू क्यूमो, जिन्हें डेमोक्रेट पार्टी के उम्मीदवार के आन्तरिक चुनाव में भी ममदानी ने हराया था, को 9 प्रतिशत वोटों के अन्तर से हराया। तीसरे स्थान पर रिपब्लिकन पार्टी के उम्मीदवार कर्टिस स्लिवा रहे। जोहरान ममदानी को 20.37 लाख कुल पड़े पॉपुलर वोटों में से 50.40 प्रतिशत यानि 10.36 लाख वोट मिले, निर्दलीय क्यूमो को 41.6 प्रतिशत के साथ 8.55 लाख वोट तथा रिपब्लिकन पार्टी के कर्टिस स्लिवा को 7.1 प्रतिशत के साथ 1.46 लाख वोट मिले। जोहरान ममदानी 1 जनवरी 2026 से न्यूयॉर्क सिटी सरकार के मेयर का पद संभालेंगे।

1 जनवरी 2026 से शुरू होने वाले कार्यकाल के लिए ममदानी ने डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी से उम्मीदवारी एक वर्ष पूर्व घोषित की थी। वे 2020 में हुए न्यूयॉर्क राज्य विधान सभा के सदस्य के रूप में 36 वें जिले का प्रतिनिधित्व कर रहे थे। लगातार 22 और 24 में हुए चुनावों में जीतते हुए वे इस समय भी विधानसभा सदस्य हैं। उम्मीदवारी घोषित

करते समय, कहा जाता है कि उनके जीतने की संभावनाएं एक प्रतिशत से अधिक नहीं थीं। अमेरिका के चुनावों में प्रमुख पार्टियों द्वारा अपने प्रत्याशियों का चुनाव भी वोटों और अन्य सार्वजनिक तरीके से किया जाता है। उनके साथ छह अन्य लोगों ने भी डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी की उम्मीदवारी के चुनाव में भाग लिया था।

डेमोक्रेटिक प्रत्याशी के चुनाव की दौड़ में एन्ड्र्यू क्यूमो मुख्य प्रत्याशी थे। एन्ड्र्यू क्यूमो खुद भी और उनके पिता भी, न्यूयॉर्क राज्य के गवर्नर रह चुके हैं। चुनावी राजनीति में धन बल का महत्व आज प्रत्येक चुनाव में होता है। डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी के अन्दर भी खरबपतियों की पहुंच और नीतियों को प्रभावित करने की क्षमता उतनी ही है जितनी किसी भी अन्य दल में। क्यूमो की फंडिंग संस्था ने 25 मिलियन डॉलर एकत्रित किए थे। अरबपति ब्लूमबर्ग ने 8 मिलियन डॉलर का चंदा क्यूमो की फंडिंग संस्था को दिया था। क्यूमो के खरबपति मित्रों की मदद भी उनके काम नहीं आई। धीरे-धीरे, घर-घर पहुंचकर, 1 लाख कार्यकर्ताओं की मदद से किए गये प्रचार और आम जनता के मुद्दों के बल पर, जून 25 में ममदानी पार्टी की ओर से अधिकृत उम्मीदवारी का

चुनाव जीते।

डेमोक्रेटिक पार्टी का प्रत्याशी चुनाव हारने पर भी क्यूमो नहीं माने और एक निर्दलीय उम्मीदवार के तौर पर चुनाव में खड़े हो गये। रिपब्लिकन पार्टी के अधिकृत उम्मीदवार पारम्परिक रूप से पिछड़े हुए ही थे, और भी पिछड़ जाते हैं। क्यूमो ने चुनाव के दौरान ममदानी पर कम्प्यूनिस्ट होने, कॉरपोरेट विरोधी होने तथा इस्लामिक जिहादी होने तक के आरोप लगाए। अंतिम समय में राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप ने अपनी पार्टी के उम्मीदवार को छोड़ क्यूमो को समर्थन दे दिया। मस्क ने भी क्यूमो को समर्थन दिया।

ममदानी की पहचान के उतने ही पहलू हैं जितने कि इस चुनाव में हार-जीत के हो सकते हैं। उनके पिता, मशूहर अकादमिक महमूद ममदानी जिनका जन्म मुम्बई में हुआ था, गुजराती मूल के खोजा मुसलमान हैं। खोजा मुसलमान समुदाय कच्छ और सिंध दोनों की मिली जुली संस्कृति वाला समुदाय है। उनके पूर्वज पूर्वी अफ्रीका में बस गये थे। 70 के दशक में उनके पिता अफ्रीकी देश युगांडा चले गये। 1991 में युगांडा में जोहरान का जन्म हुआ। हिन्दू पंजाबी मूल की उनकी मां, प्रसिद्ध सिने निर्देशक मीरा नायर हैं, जिन्होंने सलाम बॉम्बे सहित अनेक फिल्मों बनाईं। उनकी पत्नी सीरिया मूल की अमरीकी नागरिक रमा दुआजी हैं। उनकी 7 वर्ष की उम्र में उनके पिता अमेरिका आकर बस गए। जहां वे 2018 में अमेरिका के नागरिक बने। पेशे से हाउसिंग काउंसलर और

संगीतज्ञ रहे ममदानी 2020 में राजनीति में प्रवेश करते हैं और लगातार तीन वार से न्यूयॉर्क राज्य की विधायिका के सदस्य हैं।

ममदानी कई लोकतांत्रिक समाजवादियों की तरह दोहरी सदस्यता रखते हैं। वे एक डेमोक्रेट हैं और एक डेमोक्रेटिक सोशलिस्ट ऑफ अमेरिका (डीएसए) के सदस्य हैं, जो एक राजनीतिक दल नहीं है, बल्कि एक वकालत (एडवोकेसी) मंच और सदस्यता संगठन है। डीएसए से अपने 2025 के राष्ट्रीय अधिवेशन में वर्कर्स डिजर्व मोर शीर्षक से एक नया कार्यात्मक दृष्टिकोण अपनाया। यह कार्यक्रम लोकतंत्र की लड़ाई जीतने के लिए श्रमिकों को एक शक्तिशाली राजनीतिक आन्दोलन में एकजुट करने के अपने मिशन की घोषणा करता है, जिसका अंतिम लक्ष्य आनुपातिक प्रतिनिधित्व पर आधारित एक नए लोकतांत्रिक संविधान के माध्यम से श्रमिकों को सरकार का प्रभारी बनाता है जो राजनीति में धन की भूमिका को समाप्त करता है, जहां अरबपति आवास, स्वास्थ्य और शिक्षा जैसी बुनियादी आवश्यकताओं पर नियंत्रण रखते हैं और उससे लाभ कमाते हैं। डीएसए की सदस्यता 2014 की 6500 से बढ़कर आज लगभग 85000 हो गई है।

90लाख की आबादी वाला न्यूयॉर्क सिटी, न्यूयॉर्क राज्य का एक शहर है। उसकी आबादी अमेरिका के 40 राज्यों से भी अधिक है। यह दुनिया भर के पूंजीवाद की राजधानी है। टंप का पसंदीदा शहर भी यही है और मशहूर शेयर बाजार वॉल स्ट्रीट भी यहीं है। न्यूयॉर्क सिटी का बजट 100 बिलियन डॉलर का है और यह शहर अकेले 2.6

ट्रिलियन डॉलर (भारत की 4 ट्रिलियन डॉलर) की अर्थव्यवस्था रखता है। अमेरिका के कुल 916 खरबपतियों में से 123 न्यूयॉर्क सिटी में रहते हैं। इसी न्यूयॉर्क सिटी के 25 प्रतिशत लोग गरीबी से भी जूझ रहे हैं।

कहते हैं अमेरिका प्रवासियों का देश है, लेकिन न्यूयॉर्क शहर तो उससे भी कहीं अधिक है। 150 देशों के प्रवासी, 800भाषाओं में बोलने वाले लोगों में से 25 लाख तो ऐसे भी हैं जो ठीक से अंग्रेजी भी नहीं बोल पाते। दुनिया का ऐसा कोई धर्म नहीं है, नास्तिकों सहित, जिसके मानने वाले इस शहर में न रहते हों। दुनिया में इजराइल देश के बाद यहूदियों की सर्वाधिक आबादी वाली दूसरी जगह न्यूयॉर्क शहर है। यह ऐसा शहर है जहां मुसलमानों और यहूदियों की संख्या लगभग बराबर है।

न्यूयॉर्क सिटी और राज्य परंपरागत रूप से डेमोक्रेट्स का गढ़ माना जाता है। न्यूयॉर्क शहर के रजिस्टर्ड दो तिहाई वोटर डेमोक्रेट हैं। ऐसे शहर में ममदानी ने अपनी चुनावी लड़ाई के मुद्दे कुछ और बनाए। जिस शहर में 67 प्रतिशत आबादी किराये पर रहती है, और बढ़ते किरायों से परेशान रहती है, उनका वादा किरायों को बढ़ने से रोकना था। पब्लिक ग्रासरी जिसे यहां राशन की दुकान कहते हैं, उसका उन्होंने वादा किया। खराब और धीमी ट्रांसपोर्ट बसों को किराया मुक्त और तेज बनाने का वादा किया। यूनीवर्सल चाइल्ड केयर और किफायती आवास का भी उन्होंने वादा किया। उन्होंने श्रम कानूनों का भी मुद्दा बनाया।

समाजवाद और धर्मनिरपेक्षता के साथ लोकतंत्र के दुश्मन अनेक होते हैं। करोड़ों-अरबों डॉलर के बल पर नफरत की राजनीति को परास्त करना आसान नहीं होता। दक्षिणपंथ के पास डर और नफरत बेचने का फार्मूला तो है लेकिन गरीबी मिटाने का, सोशल जस्टिस लाने का और सभी नागरिकों को गरिमा प्रदान करने का कोई फार्मूला नहीं होता है। ममदानी दक्षिणपंथ

के खिलाफ अपने समाजवादी मुद्दों पर डटे रहे। उन्होंने आज के दौर में मुश्किल रास्ता चुना। एक ऐसे देश और शहर में जहां 24 साल पहले दुनिया का एक बड़ा आतंकी हमला हुआ और मुसलमानों सहित सभी दक्षिण एशियाई नागरिकों के खिलाफ नफरत फैलाई गई, उसी जगह ममदानी ने एक शानदार जीत हासिल की है। ममदानी की जीत कई धारणाओं को ध्वस्त करती है।

दुनिया में हर कोई विस्थापित है, किसी न किसी परिस्थिति में हर कोई अल्पसंख्यक है। ऐसी स्थिति में उन्होंने अपने आप को लोकतांत्रिक समाजवादी कहा। उनके मुख्य वादे मानव के वस्तुकरण को वापस मानवीय मूल्य देने वाले हैं। यह लोकतांत्रिक समाजवाद के सिद्धान्तों की कुंजी है, जिसका अर्थ है, आवश्यक मानवीय जरूरतों को निजी बाजार की आपूर्ति से हटाकर उन्हें सामाजिक अधिकार के रूप में मानना।

हालांकि जैसे उनकी पहचान के अनेक पहलू हैं- वैसे ही उनकी जीत का विश्लेषण विभिन्न पहलुओं से किया जा सकता है। लोकतांत्रिक समाजवादी विचारकों के लिए ममदानी की जीत इस सिद्धान्त को पुष्ट करती है कि ठोस सुधारों और संरचनात्मक परिवर्तन के लिए मजबूत यूनियनों, सामूहिक संगठनों और समाजवादी आन्दोलन का संयोजन जरूरी है। उनके पीछे जुटे एक लाख कार्यकर्ता इस बात की पुष्टि करते हैं कि उन्हें सत्ता तक पहुंचाने में एक आन्दोलन की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका थी।

डेमोक्रेटिक राजनीति का मूल ही सर्वसमाज को न्याय व गरिमा हासिल कराना है। जब धनबल की ताकत प्रत्येक प्रकार की राजनीति को एक ही तरह से चलने को मजबूर कर देती हो, सत्ता को हासिल करने का रास्ता और सत्ता हासिल करने के बाद उसे चलाने का रास्ता प्रत्येक राजनीति में एक जैसा हो, तब अपने मूल सिद्धान्तों पर चलकर चुनाव लड़ना और जीतना एक उम्मीद देता है। ममदानी ने चुनाव मजबूत सिद्धान्तों के साथ लड़ा है। ये लड़ाई सबको रास्ता दिखाती है।

यह सिर्फ ट्रंप को रोकने का तरीका नहीं है; यह अगले ट्रंप को रोकने का तरीका भी है।

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Satish Acharya
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THE MELTDOWN!





12th CZIEA CONFERENCE

Concludes with Unprecedented Confidence

The 12th General Conference of the Central Zone Insurance Employees Association was held on November 1-3, 2025 at Shahdol, with unprecedented organizational unity, confidence, and enthusiasm. The conference was organized by the Shahdol Division Insurance Employees Union in a region where large number of workers are from tribals, Scheduled Castes, and Scheduled Tribes, infused the insurance workers' movement with new energy, inspiration, and enthusiasm.

The entire city was decorated with flags, attractive banners, and festoons. The venue was named Com. B. Sanyal Nagar in memory of CZIEA's founding general secretary, Com. B. Sanyal. The Manch was dedicated to the memory of the country's renowned Left leader, Com. Sitaram Yechury.

Colourful Rally

The conference began with a massive public rally of delegates and observers from across the central zone, along with workers and peasants of Shahdol. The rally, adorned with posters, banners, and flags, was led by 12 women marching with red flags. The rally was led by a

troupe of local tribal folk dancers, performing the famous "Saila Nritya" dance. The rally was welcomed by local organizations at several locations in the city. The President, Com. Ajit Ketkar, hoisting the CZIEA flag amid thunderous chants, and the gathering offering floral tributes at the Martyrs' colum.

Open session voicing the voice of resistance:

The open session began with the laying of wreaths on the large portraits of Com. Sitaram Yechury and Com. B. Sanyal. Welcome and peoples songs presented by comrades from Shahdol were played.

Com. Dharmaraj Mahapatra presented the condolence resolution. Following this, the welcome address was delivered by the Chairman of the Reception Committee, Mr. Ghanshyamdas Jaiswal (Chairman of the Municipality of Shahdol). The presidential address was delivered by Com. Ajit Ketkar, President, CZIEA.

Com Biju Krishnan, General Secretary, All India Kisan Sabha inaugurated the conference. He made a scathing attack on the prevailing adverse conditions in the country, inflation,

unemployment, the imposition of labour codes, hate politics, atrocities against farmers, attacks on the Constitution, attempts to erode democratic foundations, and the privatization of key public sector units, including insurance and banks. **Com. Biju Krishnan**, invoked Brecht's lines: "Will songs be sung in times of oppression? Yes, songs of the times of oppression will be sung." In his powerful address, Com. Biju highlighted the resounding victory achieved in the farmers' movement, which lasted over 380 days, against the Modi government's proposed three agricultural bills, saying that this victory would not have been possible without the support of the working class. He thanked the





AIIEA which provided financial assistance of over 1.4 million rupees to the farmers movement. Com Biju appreciated the role of LIC in the national development and criticised the government for the steps taken to privatise this great institution.

The chief guest of the conference, AIIEA General Secretary **Com. Shreekant Mishra**, hailed the victory achieved after more than two decades of struggle in abolishing GST on insurance premiums. He described it as historic. He informed that LIC again made history by collecting premiums worth over 1100 crores on the first day of the GST repeal. Com. Shreekant opposed the proposed Insurance Amendment Bill seeking to hike FDI limits to 100% and other proposals designed to weaken the function of public sector insurance industry. FDI, saying that access to insurance is linked to the savings income of the general public. He strongly opposed the move to further dilute the government shareholding through disinvestment.

The open session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed

by **Com. D R Mahapatra**, General Secretary of CZIEA.

Delegate Session:

The delegate session began with the General Secretary of the CZIEA Com. D R Mahapatra presenting the General Secretary's Report on behalf of the Executive Committee. The report dealt with the international and national developments and the issues relating to the industry in a comprehensive manner. More than 53 comrades participated in the debate with significant participation from youth and women. During the three-day marathon debate, comrades from all eight divisions of the Central Region expressed complete agreement on the report's political and ideological content. The debate emphasized the need to enhance political education to strengthen the organization at every level. The General Secretary, CZIEA responded to the debate and clarified on the issues raised after which the report was unanimously approved. The conference also adopted unanimously the audited statements of accounts presented by Com Sandeep Soni, Treasurer, CZIEA.

Addressing the delegate session, AIIEA President **Com. V. Ramesh** called for broad unity based on livelihood, not on religion, caste, or language. In this Platinum Jubilee year, we must draw inspiration from our great leaders, Com. Chandrashekhar Bose, Com. Sunil Maitra, Com. Saroj Chaudhary, Com. N.M. Sundaram, and Com. B. Sanyal, and further commit ourselves to the organization. Beginning his speech with an emotional voice, Com. V. Ramesh called Com. B. Sanyal, a great leader of the insurance workers' movement, saying that he made invaluable contributions to the functioning of AIIEA by transforming CZIEA into a strong zonal unit. He was an exceptional leadership partner. His work will always remain a pillar of inspiration

for the insurance workers' movement. Com. V. Ramesh described the excellent wage revision achieved at LIC as a victory for AIIEA's strategic line, stating that



we are fighting to both save and expand the industry.

Intervening in the debate **Com. B.S. Ravi, Treasurer, AIEA** stated that the debate on the General Secretary's report was of a high standard, demonstrating the political and ideological maturity of its members. Despite being a small zonal unit, CZIEA ranks first in its activism. The zone's work on issues such as the GST memorandum to MPs, levy collection, insurance workers' subscriber numbers, trade union participation, and trade union returns is commendable. Com. B.S. Ravi assured the House that, due to AIEA's ongoing efforts, new recruitment will commence soon.

Com. S. R. Urdhvaresh, the founding president of CZIEA, said that AIEA addresses even the smallest issue in the interest of insurance workers and seeks solutions through discussions with management. However, political considerations are also essential to address economic issues. Com. Urdhvaresh, recalling the sacrifices made by Com. B. Sanyal and the older generation, said that the organization has reached this position by facing storms and hurricanes. Now, it is the responsibility of the new generation to bravely keep the AIEA's flag flying high.

Com. Shreekant Mishra enriched the debate through his intervention. He elaborately dealt with the developing situation internationally and in the national sphere. He traced the development of insurance employees movement and said AIEA stood in defence of national unity and secularism. Pointing out to the enormous challenges confronting the insurance industry, he said it is imperative to fight and win this battle to protect the economic sovereignty.

The conference Passed 14 resolutions including

recognition of AIEA, immediate commencement of recruitment in LIC, restoration of right to collective bargaining, withdrawal of 4 Labour code and comprehensive insurance reform proposal.

The conference unanimously elected a 41-member working committee with Com. Ajit ketkar, President, Com. D R Mhapatra, General Secretary and Com. Sandeep Soni as Treasurer.

Felicitations to former office bearers of SDIEU:

The Former office bearers of SDIEU Com. Ganesh Maravi, Rajkumar Shukla, Marco Anand Singh, Niranjana Tekam, Vijay Upadhyay were felicitated by the leadership of AIEA and CZIEA at the conference.

The Conference also elected 29 delegates for upcoming AIEA Conference.

Cultural Evening:

A spectacular orchestral performance by local artists from Shahdol was held in celebration of cultural diversity. A play based on the life of **Shaheed Bhagat Singh** was performed by Shahdol theatre artists. An impressive poster exhibition by local artists was also displayed at the conference venue. All the artists were felicitated by AIEA leaders

The conference also felicitated Com. T.P. Pandey, Satna, and Com. Usha Parganiha, Raipur, who were retired from the secretariat.

The Conference appreciated the efforts of Shahdol Division comrades led President Com. Abdul Hafiz Khan and General Secretary Com. Swarnendu Das and expressed gratitude to their tireless work and commitment to the organisation.

The conference came a successful close with Com. T.P. Pandey proposing the vote of thanks on behalf of the Presidium.

Karnataka Rajyotsava Award conferred on Com C.V. Kumar



Com C.V.Kumar, former President, COC Bank (LIC Employees' Bank), Bangalore and Trustee of Chaitanya Sinchana has been conferred with Karnataka Rajyotsava Award for Tumkur District for the year 2025-26. This award is in recognition of the work that is being done for the past 15 years by Chaitanya Sinchana, a Trust promoted by the COC Bank in helping the education of poor and marginalised in the rural areas. Com Kumar deserves this award as he has been leading the team of Chaitanya Sinchana tirelessly and with commitment. Insurance Worker congratulates Com Kumar and hopes that the Trust would continue its good work. Com C.V.Kumar is the Former Joint Secretary of ICEU, Bangalore Division.

33rd General Conference of EZIEA

A call for reinvigorating the fight against the challenges



It was a bright sunlit November morning when a huge colourful rally started approaching towards Comrade Biswanath Sanyal Nagar (Purbashree Auditorium, EZCC) from KSDO to inaugurate the 33rd General Conference of Eastern Zone Insurance Employees' Association on 9th November 2025. The rally paraded around 3 kilometers through Salt Lake City and was full of enthusiasm and exuberance spreading the ray of hope for a policy change on its way receiving fraternal greetings. After the rally, Comrade Dhrubajyoti Ganguly, President of EZIEA, unfurled the red flag of EZIEA amidst roaring slogans followed by floral tribute at the martyrs' column. The Comrades after entering the hall, stared in surprise at **Comrade Sambhu Dutta and Debasish Chatterjee Manch (stage) for its wonderful backdrop— a rarely seen design; creation of Comrade Raju Dev and Com Mrinmoy Ghoshal.**

Inaugural Session:

"The idea of AIEA was formulated, written and put in to action in the City of Kolkata"-

Com. Amanulla Khan started with these words to inaugurate the Conference. Our idea is about bringing a just and equal society; but social equality cannot come without economic equality, and to achieve that equality Class Unity is the pre-requisite. AIEA always succeeded because of the idea it practiced and today we are legitimately proud that AIEA is a trade union respected across the world. He explained the multiple challenges confronting the financial Sectors, including the PSU banks which are under

attack by the radical neoliberal policies of the Govt. He, expressed confidence that the tremendous success of the 9th July, 2025 Strike was indicative to the success ahead of us. He appreciated the strike performance of the LIC employees as the best in the country. Com. Amanulla Khan explained the doubts raised on the issue of the LIC's investments in the Adani Groups and said that AIEA was fighting the crony capitalism incessantly on the street but as LIC's investment was concerned, it is done with





prudence and so far could fetched gains for the policy holders. He, in his own lucid style set the task before the conference explaining the communal and divisive agenda of the present *neo-fascist* ruling dispensation. He affirmed that our fight against capitalism shall continue with much vigor and quoting Rosa Luxemburg, "socialism or barbarism", he asserted that our march towards socialism shall continue till the barbarism is defeated.

Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary of AIEA, while addressing the inaugural session explained the growing use of technology vis-à-vis impact on employment. He explained that the rate of employment in Public Sector in India was much less than even the developed Capitalist countries; and in LIC, the AIEA was committed to secure

the demand for recruitment. *Comrade Ziaul Alam, General Secretary CITU West Bengal*, greeted the conference. He urged for the unity of the workers in confronting the challenges posed by the neo-fascist regime and an authoritarian rule in the State of West Bengal. The conference was greeted by the leaders of **12th July Committee, WBSGIEA, BEFI and All India Bank Officers' Association**. **Com. Amitava Ghosh**, General Secretary summed up the session with the promise to fulfill the tasks laid upon the organisation by the various fraternal associations.

As an attempt to preach progressive cultures to deter the cultural hegemony of the ruling rights, the days of the conference started with the choir of one of the cultural teams of the four Divisional Units of Kolkata and Silchar rendering tribute to the musical maestro Salil Chowdhuri and Dr Bhupen Hazarika in their centenary year. On 10th November evening, the presentation by the famous progressive singer **Soumen Roy** rouse the fighting spirit of the audience. Singing, "Amar Sonar Bangla" in chorus, became wonderful protest against the fascistic gesture of the Chief Minister of Assam.

Delegate Session:

The Delegate Session was participated by 159 delegates

and 137 observers representing all the 12 divisional units of EZIEA in the State of West Bengal and 8 North Eastern states. *Com. Amitava Ghosh, General Secretary EZIEA* submitted abridged form of the report on behalf of the Working Committee while **Com. Shubhendu Chatterjee the Treasurer**, placed the Audited Accounts for the period under review.

It was an exhilarating moment that the first speaker of the delegate session was *Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose*, delegate from KDLIEA (KMDO-1). At the age of 103 years, he spoke for half an hour and peeped through the glorious past of AIEA during the difficult days of 1950s, 60s and the 70s. His speech and presence enthused the entire delegation and made the 70th year Conference of EZIEA a historic one.

Total 42 delegates including women comrades with their grass root experience participated in the lively debate on the report. The discussion, particularly by the younger comrades and women comrades were brilliant. In-depth ideological assertion, the day-to-day employees' issues, challenges confronting LIC, the gender and social issues and the growing unilateral attitude of the management were linked with the overall political developments. The lively



debate also seriously discussed the strengths and weaknesses of the organisation. The debate unequivocally asserted the need to play a decisive role in favour of the Left and Democratic forces in the ensuing elections in West Bengal and Assam.

Com. Amanulla Khan while addressing the delegate session explained the four challenges confronting LIC and urged the organisation to remain alert to launch a struggle to force recruitment in LIC as the pre-condition for the protection of the present jobs. **Com. Shreekanth Misra**, while explaining the struggle by AIEA to achieve the excellent wage revision, exposed the anti-people hypocritical policies of the Govt. He expressed confidence to clinch the demand for recruitment but explained why and how recruitment in the cadre of peon was extremely difficult. While explaining the role of the Govt, the General Secretary explained how hatred, disunity was being spread by compelling the PSUs to observe 'horror day' on 14th August rather than celebrating Independent Day! He urged the delegation to reach the members with the AIEA circulars and Insurance Worker to build a more living relation with AIEA. **Com. B.S. Ravi** while addressing the delegate session, explained the efforts of AIEA in resolving the pending issues including the recruitment and the fringe benefits.

Comrade **Amitava Ghosh**, General Secretary EZIEA summed up the debate with the tasks to continue campaign against 100 per cent FDI in insurance, over all govt policies and particularly on the demand of permanent employment. On the employees' issues and the attitude of the management he proposed to build sustained pressure upon the management from the branch level to zonal level. On the organisation, he called to continue with the trade union

classes, endeavor to forming readers' forum, and engage in serious efforts to help and guide the women sub-committees of the divisions and continue the efforts to develop new cadres and leaders for the future of the organisation. He concluded with the appeal to play decisive role in the ensuing assembly election as a part of the working class movement and work with the joint platforms like 12th July Committee and JCTU.

On 11th November evening a Seminar on, "India under Neo fascism- our tasks" was held, which was addressed by **Com. Shamik Lahiri** former member of Parliament and editor of Ganashakti. He explained the inherent crisis in the capitalist system and analysed the historical reasons for the rise of extreme right in the form of fascism. In the present global scenario of irrecoverable crisis and raising contradictions, the Capitalism is attempting to shift towards fascism and in India too the state has gained character of neo-fascism. He urged that it was the historical responsibility of the trade unions to build up a united resistance against this onslaught and lead the movement for a policy change.

It was a proud moment in the conference to confer respect and gratitude to the former leaders of the organisation with memento. *Comrade R N Mallick, R.K Dutta, Amitendra Chatterjee and Pranab Sarkar were present on the occasion and Comrade Mallick addressed the session.*

The Conference adopted 15 resolutions with an additional resolution against the Delhi Blast.

The conference unanimously elected a 45 member working committee of EZIEA with *Comrade Dhrubajyoti Ganguly as the President, Com. Amirava Ghosh as the General Secretary, and Com. Mousumi Banerjee as the Treasurer of the EZIEA.*

The 19th Triennial Conference of General Insurance Employees Association (South Zone) was held on 15th & 16th November 2025 at the Women's Association Hall Ernakulam. More than 100 delegates and observers attended the triennial conference with a palpable sense of excitement and energized participation.

The two days conference commenced on 15 Nov 2025 with the hoisting of the association flag by Com. Y Subbarao, President, GIEA (SZ), in the presence of Com V Ramesh, President AIEA, Com Sanjay Jha Standing Committee Secretary, Com G Anand Vice President AIEA & comrades cutting across affiliations amidst resounding slogans and homage was paid to the martyrs with floral tributes.

The Triennial conference was inaugurated by Com V Ramesh President AIEA. He elaborated the pivotal role played by the AIEA in the nationalisation of the insurance sector during challenging times. He also underscored the sacrifices made by the founding members and senior comrades of the Association, whose unwavering commitment significantly contributed to enhancing the standards and welfare of insurance employees. He stressed on the fact that the autonomy of public sector insurance companies must be safeguarded as a matter of utmost priority and asserted that the unnecessary external interference should be effectively curtailed to ensure that these institutions function with independence, integrity, and clarity of purpose. The pivotal role played by AIEA in establishing a joint forum of trade unions and associations, enabling a broader and more unified approach has



Triennial Conference of GIEA (SZ)

significantly contributed to achieving the present wage revision offer. He stressed the need for heightened vigilance to counter the growing onslaught in the insurance industry, particularly in the form of amending GIBNA act to bring in 100% FDI in the insurance sector.

The open session of the conference on the of the first day saw large scale participation of comrades cutting across affiliations reflected the dedicated efforts undertaken by the KSGIEU comrades through multiple seminars and effective campaign.

Com G Anand Gen Secretary GIEA (SZ) presented an eloquent report of 120 pages. The report extensively illuminated the predatory character of capitalism and the exploitative tendencies of imperialist nations, laying bare the systemic cruelty inherent in their pursuit of profit and domination. It incisively

highlighted the deepening economic challenges confronting the nation and sharply captured the characteristic reflexes of the ruling regime in responding to these crises. The report outlined the challenges encountered in securing the current wage revision offer in the PSGIC offer and underscored the strategic acumen demonstrated by AIEA in successfully negotiating and finalising it. The report highlighted the various activities undertaken by all the 8 regions and effectively undertaking every call given by the AIEA in a very impeccable manner.

Upon the culmination of the first day's proceedings of the conference, a seminar by eminent journalist Prof Dr Ramakrishnan on the topic of *Communalism and Capitalism* was held which was very informative and educative.

A total of 28 delegates participated in the discussion with many youngsters including

4 women comrades. Comrades who spoke were very analytical, informative, suggested valuable inputs and the debate was well appreciated by the house. The report was unanimously adopted after clarifying the points raised by the comrades.

Com Sanjay Jha Standing Committee Secretary in his address underscored the imperative of building a stronger, self-reliant India, affirming that a robust PSGI industry is integral to achieving such national self-reliance. He elaborated in detail on the comprehensive efforts undertaken by AIEA in unifying the Joint Forum of Trade Unions/Associations in the PSGICs and leading the struggle that culminated in the present wage revision offer with strategic acumen in overcoming numerous challenges. Further, he emphasized the Association's diligent and well-reasoned engagement with the authorities, articulating the necessity of pay parity with LIC, reflecting both professional insight and principled conviction of the AIEA. He reiterated that recruitment in PSGICs, workers welfare remains the sustainable pathway to strengthen the industry.

The GIEA SZ Triennial conference 2025, for the ensuing term elected unanimously Com Y Subbarao as President, Com R Muthukumaran as the General Secretary and Com N Karthik as treasurer.



15th Biennial Conference of North Eastern Region GIEA

The 15th Biennial Conference of the North Eastern Region General Insurance Employees' Association (NERGIEA) was held successfully on October 25, 2025, at the BSNL Multipurpose Hall in Pan Bazar, Guwahati. The event brought together delegates, leaders from fraternal trade unions, and key figures from the insurance sector to discuss critical issues facing the public sector general insurance industry, including threats of privatization, wage revisions, and policy reforms.

The conference commenced with the hoisting of the association flag by S.R. Dev, President of NERGIEA, followed by floral tributes to the martyrs' column. Leaders including Sanjay Jha, Secretary of the Standing Committee; G. Anand, Vice President of the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA); and Partha Ghosal, General Secretary of the Eastern Zone General Insurance Employees' Association (EZGIEA), along with other dignitaries, paid their respects.

Presided over by S.R. Dev, the inaugural session featured a unique tribute to the portrait of renowned artist Zubeen Garg, led by G. Anand, after which the assembly stood for the rendition of the song "Mayabini." Trailokya Kalita, General Secretary of NERGIEA, read the homage, followed by a moment of silent obituary for departed souls.

In his inaugural address, G. Anand highlighted the global economic scenario and the challenges posed by neoliberal policies to the insurance industry. He emphasized the threats of privatization to public sector general insurance (PSGI) companies and praised the role of AIIEA in the united struggle through the Joint Forum of Trade Unions (JFTU) for wage revisions,

Anand advocated for the merger of the four PSGI companies into a single entity as a key solution to strengthen the sector, delivering an insightful speech on the Indian economy and insurance landscape that resonated deeply with the audience.

Greetings and solidarity messages were extended by leaders from allied organizations, including Bhabendra Nath Kalita, Joint Convener of the Joint Council of Trade Unions (JCTU), Assam; Pitambar Rajbhandari, Secretary of Guwahati Divisional Insurance Employees' Association; R.K. Brahma, President of North Eastern General Insurance Pensioners' Association; Naren Sarmah, President of Bank Employees' Federation of India (NER); Dinesh Sarmah, President of LIC Pensioners' Association; Debajit Sarkar, Secretary of National Insurance Company Officers' Association (NER); and Atikul Hussain, Secretary of United India Insurance Companies' Officers' Association (NER). Garga Talukdar, Joint Convener of JCTU, Assam, attended as a guest.

Sanjay Jha, in his address, critiqued the government's pro-corporate policies, which he said have exacerbated inequalities and hardships for farmers, the working class, and common people. He updated the delegates on the impending government notification for wage revisions in PSGI companies,

assuring a favorable outcome due to sustained struggles. Jha underscored AIIEA's commitment to maintaining unity within JFTU and advancing demands such as enhancing the uniform family pension rate to 30%, increasing employers' contribution to NPS to 14%, merging the four PSGI companies, opposing 100% FDI in insurance, and ensuring adequate recruitment across cadres. He also noted AIIEA's pivotal role in gathering public opinion in influencing the government's decision to withdraw GST on individual life and health insurance policies and praised the role of NERGIEA in the call.

Trailokya Kalita presented the working committee report and accounts, which were discussed by 11 members and unanimously adopted by the house. Partha Ghosal delivered an address, reinforcing the discussions on regional and sectoral challenges.

The conference culminated in the unanimous election of a new committee: S.R. Dev as President, Trailokya Kalita as General Secretary, and Khagen Basumatary as Treasurer. Following the presidential speech and vote of thanks, the event concluded on a high note, with delegates committed to ongoing struggles for the welfare of insurance employees and the public sector.

NERGIEA remains dedicated to safeguarding the interests of general insurance employees in the North Eastern Region, advocating for fair policies, and opposing measures that undermine public sector institutions.



26th Conference of HRGIEA

The 26th General Conference of Hyderabad Region General Insurance Employees' Association held at Com.Sugunakar Rao Bhavan, Hyderabad on 18th October 2025. The Conference proceedings commenced with flag hoisting by Com.Celam Raju, President, HRGIEA. The conference venue was named as Com.Sitaram Yechuri nagar.

The conference was inaugurated by Com. Sreekant Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA. In his address, he elaborated on the policies of the Central Government and their adverse impact on public sector institutions. He criticized the government for introducing GST, thereby extracting huge amounts from the public, and now pretending to have achieved a great feat by marginally reducing the GST rates. He also highlighted AIIEA's

achievements in securing wage revision for employees.

Com. Paladugu Bhaskar, General Secretary of CITU,

addressed the gathering. He spoke about the anti-worker and anti-people policies of the BJP government across the country. He emphasized that the government is trying to divide workers and employees on the basis of religion and caste, and called upon all to unite and resist such divisive policies.

Com. G. Anand, Vice President of AIIEA, in his speech, explained in detail how the long-pending wage revision (due from 1.8.2022) was achieved, stressing that it was no small victory. He assured that employees would soon receive the benefits of this revision.

Com. K.V.V.S.N. Raju, former Vice President of AIIEA, and Com. K. Vijayabhaskar Reddy, GIPA Pensioners' Leader, also addressed

the conference.

The conference was presided over by Com. Celam Raju, President of HRGIEA, and Com. Y. Subba Rao, General Secretary, offered the vote of thanks.

Com.Y.Subba Rao, General Secretary placed the working committee report in the conference. The Report and Audited Accounts for the years 2022-24, were unanimously adopted by the house. The Conference elected Com.Celam Raju, Com.Y.Subba Rao and Com.MSVS.Deepak as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the ensuing term. The Conference was a grand success which resolved to carry forward the struggle against disinvestment & privatisation move of the Government and demanding merger of four PSGI Companies.



51st Conference of ICEU Visakhapatnam

The 51st Conference of the ICEU Visakhapatnam Division was held on 2-11-2025 at Palasa amidst great spirit and enthusiasm.

The Conference began with the flag hoisting by Com M Kameshwari, President, ICEU, Visakhapatnam Division, amidst revolutionary slogans, followed by paying tributes to the martyrs. The conference venue was named as Com B Sanyal Manch

as a mark of respect for the departed leader. The garlanding of the photos of Com Sanyal and Com VGK Murthy was done by the ICEU leadership.

Comrade T. V. N. S. Ravindranath, General Secretary of SCZIEF, inaugurated the conference.

Comrade K. Venugopal, former General Secretary of AIIEA, attended as a guest of honour.

Com TVNS Ravindranath congratulated the Visakhapat-





nam Division for conducting the conference with great discipline and high standards and appreciated the young comrades of Palasa base unit who took up the responsibility of hosting the conference. He said it was special that this conference was being held during the special occasion of AIEA's Platinum Jubilee celebrations. He described the removal of GST on insurance premiums as an extraordinary achievement of AIEA. He noted that many leaders at the national, zonal and divisional levels were nearing retirement and urged young comrades at the base-unit level to step forward and take up leadership responsibilities. He appreciated the Visakhapatnam Division for bringing many young comrades into leadership positions across branches. He congratulated the division for displaying excellent strike performance during the nationwide strike on July 9 and for advancing with commitment.

Com K. Venu Gopal, attending as a Guest of Honour, congratulated every comrade who attended the conference in Palasa, regardless of the distance. Referring to the report on LIC published in the *Washington Post*, he said there were deliberate attempts to tarnish LIC's reputation and weaken public trust in the institution. Since its inception, LIC has faced several attacks, but AIEA had repelled them through united struggles and protected the institution. He stressed the need to confront cur-

rent attacks in the same manner, joining hands with other unions. He said that recruitment for Classes 3 and 4 should be achieved at the earliest and emphasized updating technology as the way forward.

The Senior Divisional Manager Mr. Sarada Prasad Das, greeted the conference and leaders of fraternal unions and associations in LIC also greeted the conference.

Comrades who emerged winners in the Division-level sports competitions and qualified for the Zonal level were felicitated.

The delegate Session began with the homage resolution placed by Com P Purnima, Vice President, and the General Secretary Com G. Vara Prasad placing the report. The report dealt in detail on the international scenario, the national situation, the significance of the AIEA's Platinum Jubilee year, the 51-year journey of ICEU Visakhapatnam Division, and the current economic, political, and social

conditions under which the conference was being held. Com AVRK Murthy, Assistant treasurer, placed the audited accounts for the year ending December 2024. Com M. Jitendra from Rajam initiated the debate on the Secretary's report. Delegates from all branches of the division participated in the debate, discussing the Secretary's and Treasurer's reports in detail and also suggested various ways to strengthen the organisation and also LIC. A total of 20 delegates participated in the debate. The report and the audited accounts were accepted and tasks drawn out for the ensuing year.

The conference decided to hold monthly online study circles, establish **Insurance Workers Readers' Forums** in all branches, Organise leadership workshop to ensure better functioning of base units, and expand the PFI activities to Vizianagaram, Anakapalle, and Gajuwaka.

The conference elected Com M Kameshwari as president, Com G Varaprasad as General Secretary and Com N Srinivas as Treasurer for the ensuing year.

YV Satish, Joint Secretary and Com GSRK Govinda, Joint Secretary invited the chief guests and representatives of fraternal unions to the dais. The conference was presided over by Com M kameshwari, President, and Com G Siddardha, Vice President, proposed a vote of thanks.

November 14 observed as Public Sector Protection Day in Kozhikode Division

LIC Employees' Union, Kozhikode Division observed the Birth Anniversary of our first Prime Minister Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru on November 14 as "Public Sector Protection Day"

All Base Units under the Division held meetings on the day. All the units were addressed through an online meeting by Com. M.G.Aji (Convener, Central Public Sector Co-ordination Committee, Kerala)

Com. K.Bahuleyan, President of Divisional Union presided over the meeting.



Conference of ICEU Hyderabad & Secunderabad

The 24th Combined Annual General Conference of Insurance Corporation Employees' Union, Hyderabad and Secunderabad Divisions, was successfully held on the 25th and 26th of October 2025 at Hyderabad. The two-day conference deliberated on various national, international, and industrial issues and resolved to strengthen the Life Insurance Corporation of India (LIC) against any challenges — whether from private competitors or through policy measures such as amendments to insurance laws.

The conference was inaugurated by Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary, AIEA. Among the distinguished participants were Com. K. Venu Gopal, former General Secretary, AIEA, Com. V. Ramesh, President, AIEA, Com. P. Satish, President, SCZIEF and Com. T.V.N.S. Ravindranath, General Secretary, SCZIEF along with other office bearers of AIEA and SCZIEF. More than 500 comrades from both divisions attended the inaugural session.

In his inaugural address, Com. Shreekant Mishra congratulated members on AIEA entering its Platinum Jubilee year and lauded the organization for leading employees' struggles to protect LIC while keeping them

united. He also commended the sustained struggle that led to the government's withdrawal of GST on individual and health insurance premiums—describing it as yet another chapter in AIEA's "history of victory after victory." Criticizing government policies aimed at systematically weakening the public sector, he remarked that the ruling dispensation, now in power for the third consecutive term, continues to promote pro-corporate measures detrimental to PSUs and to the common people. While high economic growth is projected as an achievement, he pointed out that wealth remains concentrated in the top 1% of the population, while the majority is

being pushed into poverty due to falling real incomes.

He expressed concern over rising unemployment, inflation, and communal disharmony, warning that declining purchasing power would inevitably impact the insurance industry. Referring to the proposed Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, which aims to increase FDI in the insurance sector to 100%, he urged employees to remain prepared for future struggles to protect the public sector character of LIC. On a positive note, he expressed confidence that recruitment for Class III and IV cadres in LIC would take place soon. Regarding the long-pending issue of the 1996 batch recruits,



he assured that AIEA would ensure the applicability of the LIC Pension Scheme, 1995 to all of them and called for patience and faith in the organization.

Com. K. Venugopal and Com. V. Ramesh, addressing the conference in their characteristic style, urged participants to further strengthen both LIC and AIEA. Com. P. Satish, speaking at the delegate session, emphasized the need for unity and collective struggle among LIC employees in the days ahead — in defence of the public sector in general and LIC in particular. Com. G. Thirupathiah, Joint Secretary, SCZIEF; Com. P. Sujatha Vice President, SCZIEF and Com. V. Mythily, WWCC, Telangana State guided the delegate session.

Addressing the delegate session, Com. T.V.N.S. Ravindranath, General Secretary, SCZIEF, congratulated the newly elected office bearers of ICEU Hyderabad and Secunderabad

Divisions and discussed several important issues concerning employees. He highlighted the AIEA's strategic and successful struggle on the GST issue and reaffirmed its commitment to securing pensions for employees recruited under the 1996 notification through ongoing judicial efforts, expressing confidence in a favourable outcome soon. He also informed that Class III recruitment would materialize shortly due to AIEA's continuous follow-up with the management and urged comrades to be ready for further action, including strike, if necessary. He assured that pending vigilance cases at the Central Office were being actively pursued for resolution. Com. Ravindranath also advised members to maintain strict discipline concerning leave, password security, and workplace conduct. He cautioned employees to prepare

for the implications of 100% FDI in the insurance sector, expected to be introduced in the forthcoming Winter Parliament Session. Finally, he urged members to remain vigilant against the divisive agendas pursued by vested political interests.

The Report and statements of accounts presented to the conference were debated enthusiastically and finally approved unanimously.

The conference unanimously elected Coms P.Sujatha, L.Maddileti and Y.Yadagiri Rao as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively of ICEU, Hyderabad Division. Similarly, the Conference unanimously elected Coms S.Gunasekhar, D.S.Raghu and Vivek Koushik as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively of ICEU Secunderabad Division for the ensuing term.



PPP in Government Medical Colleges Roundtable Meeting at Visakhapatnam

PeopleForIndiaVisakhapatnam Forum organised a Round Table Meeting on the topic " PPP model in Government Medical Colleges & ill effects" on 4/10/25. It was addressed by Prof KS Chalam, former Vice Chancellor and UPSC board member, Sri MVS Sarma, Former MLC, Sri A Aja Sarma, General Secretary Uttarandhara Abhivruddhi Vedika.

Speaking on the occasion, Prof KS Chalam said that the Public Private partnership model in medical education is nothing but handing over the public assets to a few private entities. The private entities will strive for greater profits, thereby distancing the poor and the middle classes from medical education. The present state Government plans to lease out these premises to private entities for a 60 year period. This is nothing

but handing over the lands and buildings as also the education to private players in a platter. The private medical colleges across the country are already extracting huge amounts of fees from the students, which makes medical education inaccessible for the poor and middle classes . There have been several complaints registered against the private colleges. The students , political parties and all peoples' organisations are fighting against the decision of the Chandrababu naidu Government to privatise medical education. Similar protests were held against the N Janardhana Reddy Government, which was compelled to withdraw its decision, in the erstwhile united Andhra Pradesh. Now protests are being organised across the state against the decision of the Government to hand over

17 medical colleges to private partners in the PPP model.

Health and medical education must always remain in the public sector. Affordable medicine and medical education is possible only if the sector is totally controlled by government.

The round table meet unanimously demanded that the State Government desist from the proposal of introducing PPP model in Government medical Colleges and continue to fund the colleges wholly.

MVS Sarma, A Aja Sarma, G Varaprasad, General Secretary,

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Com Pradip Kumar Mukherjee retires from LIC



A function to felicitate Com. Pradip Kumar Mukherjee, President, ECZIEA and Vice-President AIIEA was organized on 8th November 2025 at Michael John Auditorium, Jamshedpur on his retirement from the services of LIC on 31st October 2025.

A sizeable number of leaders and comrades alike from almost all the Divisions across the zone participated in the felicitation meeting, besides comrades from the local branch units. Representatives of various other fraternal trade unions too were present.

Speaking on the occasion Com Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA reminisced huge contributions made by Com Mukherjee to strengthen the organization. Right from his joining in LIC on the 6th August 1986 at the Chakradharpur branch as an Assistant, he was attracted to the philosophy of the AIIEA and continued to uphold the noble values of AIIEA. It is the ideologi-

cal understanding and commitment that drives comrades like Com Mukherjee to work tirelessly, he underlined. He was confident that Com Pradip Mukherjee would continue to work for the organization and inspire young leaders to stepping into his shoes.

Com. Dharmaraj Mahapatra, Jt. Secretary, AIIEA said living true to the principles and objectives of our organization, Com Mukherjee actively involved himself in various struggles in the public domain, contributing to the society at different levels. His passion to work for the upliftment of the downtrodden and other deprived sections of our society is exemplary.

Com Trinath Dora, General Secretary, ECZIEA, spoke about his commendable ideological commitment and how he has remained a guiding spirit since his elevation as President of ECZIEA in the year 2016 at the 4th Zonal conference of ECZIEA held at

Jamshedpur. Following his being elected as the President of the organization, ECZIEA has been transformed into a leading as well as strong unit in the entire country.

The function was presided over by Com. Amit Maity, President, IEAJD. After welcoming the guests and participants, Com. Subhash Karna, General Secretary, IEAJD, through a written leaflet, gave a brief account of nearly four decades of historic journey of Com Pradip Mukherjee, his life and work in strengthening the organization, especially in its formative years. He too mentioned about some lesser known facets of his personality.

He was felicitated along with his wife Com (Mrs) Annapurna Mukherjee. Everybody spoke of her continuous support and encouragement without which perhaps Com Pradip would not have been what he is today. The organization sincerely record the sacrifices made by both the comrades. His daughter Ms Purna was also present on this occasion.

In his acceptance speech Com Mukherjee with all humility expressed gratitude to the erstwhile leaders who moulded him with an ideological orientation. He shared his long experiences working for the organisation and the pleasure he derived being a member of the AIIEA. He thanked his family, especially his wife Com Annapurna Mukherjee (also a retired employee of LIC) to be supportive enough to carry out his organizational functioning without any hindrances.

Before the formal conclusion of the meeting, Com. Sukanto Sharma, Joint Secretary, ECZIEA & Joint Secretary IEAJD rendered vote of thanks.





Com S.K. Geetha felicitated on her Superannuation

Com S.K. Geetha, former Vice President of SCZIEF and first woman General Secretary of a divisional unit of AIIEA retired from the services of LIC on 31st Oct, 2025. She led the ICEU, Bangalore DO-I for 20 long years as the General Secretary. Com Geetha has contributed to the organisation and the working class movement with enormous commitment for nearly four decades. She has earned love and affection from not only the cadres of AIIEA but from other trade unions across the country for her humility, simplicity and also with her oratory and literary skills. A felicitation program was held to honour Com S K Geetha on 15th November at Bangalore.

Com Amanulla Khan, former President, AIIEA said Com Geetha by becoming the first General Secretary of Bangalore DO-I united all the comrades and has inspired the women comrades to come forward to take up organisational responsibilities. Braving the challenges, Com Geetha has stood up with conviction and came out successful in every difficult situation. In a highly unequal, male dominated society, comrades like Geetha are making their own contribution with selflessness trying to bring some comfort to the marginalised section, particularly women, he said.

Com. K Venugopal, former General Secretary, AIIEA lauded the tremendous contribution made by Com Geetha to the organisation and the society as a whole. After becoming the General Secretary of DO-I women comrades could come and discuss their issues comfortably with her. She united both men and women employees and took forward the movement. She also has developed the cadre to lead the divisional leadership after her retirement. He wished Com Geetha will continue to actively involve in working class struggles and in bringing the change in the society. He also lauded the support of her family members in her successful journey.

Com P Sathish, President, SCZIEF called Com Com Geetha, a leader with commitment and compassion. Com. TVNS Ravindranath, General Secretary, SCZIEF appreciated and thanked Com Geetha's contribution to the Zonal Federation in its functioning all these days.

Com. Bhaskar Somayaji, Joint Secretary, AIIPA recalled his association with Com Geetha when he was the President of ICEU DO-I, terming the period as very successful. Com. K Swaminathan, Former General Secretary, SZIEF, Com Dr. K Prakash, State Secretary, CPIM and many leaders of unions in LIC and Banking sector, Central and State Govt Employees associations spoke and lauded her contribution to the working class and democratic movement in Karnataka. They all wished Com Geetha, a very healthy and purposeful retired life.

Com. S K Geetha accepting the felicitation with all humility, said she always considered AIIEA as her first love as it has nurtured her as a successful human being enabling her to contribute in whatever way possible to the society. She thanked all the leaders, cadres and her family members for the support given to her all these years. She also said she will continue to work for the working class movement and contribute to the society.

The felicitation function was presided over by Presidents of both divisions, Com PT Sathyanarayana and Com TPN Murthy. Com Shantha LK Rao, Convenor, WSC, DO-I welcomed the gathering and Com HKN Murthy, Jt Secretary, DO-II proposed vote thanks.

The felicitation program had massive participation from employees, retired employees, leaders from divisions in Karnataka, Andhra, Telangana and leaders from fraternal trade unions and other mass organisations. It was a very successful program befitting the stature of Com Geetha.

(Report: HKN Murthy)





Working Women Convention of Visakhapatnam Division

The 27th LIC Working Women Coordination Committee Convention was held in Rajam away from Headquarters on 20/09/2025 was great success.

The Rajam Unit played an inspiring role in making the event a grand success. Comrades Prabhakar and Jitendra shouldered the entire responsibility and led the program in an exemplary manner, while the base unit members worked together with remarkable unity.

The convention included a Trade Union class by Com. S.K. Geeta, former Vice-President of SCZIEF, on the *Technological changes and impact of Artificial Intelligence on Women* giving live examples in this background on women's empowerment.

Com. Sudharani, WWCC Convenor, CITU (Vizianagaram Dist), spoke on how government schemes often remain on paper without reaching common women. A surprising guest, Shri Sarada Prasad Dash garu, SDM, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the strength of women and made an appeal to co-operate on 22/09/2025 nation-wide big business day.

Com. G. Varaprasad, General Secretary, ICEU stressed that women comrades are the backbone of ICEU, Visakhapatnam calling for collective preparedness in the face of changes in LIC.

Com. M. Kameshwari,

Zonal Vice-President and ICEU President, congratulated the women participants and suggested that ideological classes be conducted online across divisions to strengthen awareness.

The convention felicitated Com.SK Geetha on her retirement.

The convention also featured vibrant cultural and interactive sessions by our own women comrades including a quiz program, tricky questions posed to all, and a satirical skit titled "Prabhutva Ranga Vadha" highlighting government policies

wherein the public sector is being deliberately privatised and a group dance that engaged everyone present. Women members of the Rajam Unit contributed actively — both in spirit and financially — making the event even more remarkable.

The convention elected Com G Suryaprabha as convenor, Com Lakshmi Prasanna, Com Harijyothi, Com A Ramya, Com Kusuma Shanti, Com Swarnalatha, Com Vyjantimala as co-convenors for the ensuing year. The convention concluded on a high note, proving once again the collective strength of women comrades and a resolution to strengthen AIIEA further, by involving young comrades.

Women Convention in Vellore Division

The working women's conference of ICEU, VELLORE DIVISION was held in two phases at Neyveli on 01.11.2025 and at Vellore on 08.11.2025.

Comrades of ICEU, Neyveli Unit made all arrangements in excellent manner for smooth and successful conduct of the conference. Around 40 women comrades and 25 male comrades attended the conference from various branches located in the southern part of the division. The meeting was presided over by Com. S. Jayashree, Joint convenor of women's sub-committee along with Com. Revathi and Com.

Yuvarani district convenors. Special address was delivered by Com. G. Pramila, State President, AIDWA.

The sub-committee report was presented by Com. S. Jayashree, Joint convenor. 5 women comrades took part in the debate. The conference was greeted by Com. S. Raman, Working committee member, AIIEA and Com. P.S. Balaji, President, ICEU, Vellore Division.

Com. S. Palaniraj, General Secretary while consolidating the discussion on the report answered the various questions raised by the comrades. The meeting came to an end with

vote of thanks by Com. Sumathi, Treasurer, ICEU, Neyveli Unit.

The second phase of women's conventon was held at Vellore; the arrangements were made by ICEU, Vellore Divisional Unit. The conference started after flag hoisting by Com. G. Radha, Senior comrade and P.S. Balaji, President, ICEU, Vellore Division.

Comrades of ICEU, Vellore Branch performed a skit demonstrating the current situation and the difficulties faced by women in their work places in comparison with the situation in LIC and various benefits secured by AIIEA for women comrades. A song was also sung by comrade of Tirupattur Unit. The meeting was presided over by Com. S. Neela Guhesh, Joint convenor along with Com. T. Kamsala and Com. P Gangadevi District convenors. Special address was delivered by Com. Sarvamangala, Joint Secretary, SZIEF and General



Secretary, ICEU, Chennai Division-2.

The report of the sub committee was presented by Com. R, Amutha. 13 comrades took part in the debate on the report. Com. S. Raman, Working Committee Member, AIIEA and Com. P. S. Balaji, President, ICEU, Vellore Division greeted the

conference. Com S. Palaniraj, General Secretary ICEU, Vellore Division replied to various questions raised by the comrades while consolidating the debate.

The meeting came to an end with vote of Thanks proposed by Com. V. Haripriya, of Polur Unit.

LIC Pensioners Association conducted its 26th Annual Conference on September 20 at Pattom in Trivandrum.

Dr A. Sampath, former M P inaugurated the meet. He spoke about the present political circumstances by connecting with his own experience in the Parliament. Power is more concentrated in the Centre and federalism is being attacked and threatened. The Govt is trying to sell LIC and weaken the public sector. But in Kerala the left Government is trying to strengthen the public sector and even purchased the PSU which has been sold by the Central Government. LIC pensioners has a dignity and respect in



public life. They should utilize their skill and service for the upliftment of the common man.

P G N Varma, former Central Committee Member of AIIPA greeted the conference. He deplored the attitude of the LIC management and the Government towards pensioners. The pensioners are being discriminated on exgratia and mediclaim and even denied updation of pension. V Andrew, President of LIC Employees Union, Trivandrum division also greeted the conference. Comrades G Narasimhadas and G. Sreekumara Warriar, the most senior pensioners who had attained the age of ninety were

felicitated By Dr. Sampath.

The Annual report presented by Secretary Ganapathy Krishnan and the annual accounts by treasurer K K Sujatha were unanimously approved by the Conference. Com. P N. Sukumaran, Vice president of the Association placed the resolutions on improvements in mediclaim, withdrawal of Pension law amendment, withdrawal of increase in FDI in insurance, giving social security and pension to all senior citizens and recruitment in LIC. which were later passed and approved. The meeting was chaired by V Gopalakrishna Pillai, the President, and welcome address by the Secretary, Ganapathy Krishnan and thanks giving by Ananthakumary A, joint secretary of the association. A large gathering of pensioners and union members attended the conference.

LICPA Thanjavur Division Conference

The 12th conference of LIC Pensioners' Association, Thanjavur Division was held at Hotel Sangeetha, Trichy on 07.10.2025. Nearly 250 Comrades attended the Conference.

The Conference was inaugurated by Com. S.V. Venugoplan, Writer and former Deputy General Secretary, Indian Bank Employees Association (TN). In his speech he dealt with several issues like Gaza, National Unity, Karur Accident etc.

Dr. Fazal Ilahi, M.D., D.M., (Neurology) from Apollo Hospital, Trichy, gave a talk on Stroke and allied issues. Shri Harihanth from MD India TPA gave clarifications and guidance on Mediclaim.

The Conference was presided over by Com. T.Rajasekar, President, LICPA, Thanjavur Division. Com. M. Asokan, Vice president welcomed the gathering and Com. Maheswari Pandian, Joint Secretary proposed vote of Thanks.

The Secretary Report presented by Com. R.Punniyamoorthy and Account Statements submitted by Com. P. Periyasamy, Treasurer were adopted.

Com. R. Vijayakumar, General Secretary, ICEU, Thanjavur Division, Com. P. Chandrasekar, General



Secretary, NFIFWI and Com. G. Venkatasubramanian from LIC Class -I Officers Association greeted the Conference.

The conference unanimously elected Coms T.Rajasekar, R.Punniyamoorthy and Periaswamy as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the ensuing term.

27 Resolutions proposed by Com. M.Ravishankar were adopted. Eye check up and Health check up were done by Max Vision Eye Hospital and Apollo Hospital, Trichy. Senior Comrades Com. V. Jayaraman (90) and R. Rajagopalan (88) spoke emotionally. Comrades who crossed 75 years (more than 25) were honoured by the Association.

Workshop for Pensioners' at Bangalore

The WORK SHOP for Office-bearers and Executive Committee Members of the Insurance Corporation Pensioners' Association (ICPA), was held on 28th October, 2025 at Souhardha Union Office, Bangalore. This was also extended to the Office-bearers of the AIIPA Units in Karnataka and the comrades from Udupi, Raichur, Belgaum, Shivamogga and Mysore Divisional representatives attended the same.

The Work shop was conducted by Com.S.Sridhar, General Secretary, ICPA, Mysore Division. He covered the topics ranging from Pension fixation, calculations, Family Pension fixation, calculations of Dearness Relief, Gratuity, Mediclaim benefits, through PowerPoint presentation. He also explained in detail the Leave Encashment, GTIS, GIS, GSLI and other benefits. While explaining the calculations of all the above benefits, he mentioned the efforts of the AIIPA in achieving these benefits. The workshop really benefited the participants in getting more clarity on these aspects.

Earlier Inaugurating the Work Shop, Com.B.Bhaskar Somayaji, Joint Secretary, AIIPA, spoke on the necessity of such a class for the leadership of the Organization. He explained how the clear-cut understanding of these issues will help in guiding the pensioners on all the above subjects and



also in getting the benefits to the Pensioners that are achieved through struggles of the Organization.

The work shop was concluded after lively interaction from the members and com.Sridhar giving clarifications on various doubts raised by the members.

After the Work Shop, Com.Amanulla Khan, former President of the AIIEA and the Editor of Insurance Worker, briefly explained the developments regarding the Court Case on the question of Updation of Pension and Uniform DA for those retired prior to 1.8.1997. elaborated how the Advocates representing the AIIPA placed their arguments effectively.

He also dealt at length on the recently publicized investments by LIC in the Adani Group of Companies and he allayed the fears expressed in certain quarters and said that LIC's Investments are very safe and that the Funds of the policyholders are also safe as they have the Sovereign guarantee of the government. He requested the employees not be swayed by the false propaganda regarding the LIC's investments.

Com.C.R.Krishnamurthy, Central Committee Member of the AIIPA presided over the meeting as Principal. Com.M.Chandan, General Secretary, ICPA welcomed the participants and Com.V.Latha, Joint Secretary proposed vote of thanks.



Trade Union Workshop at Kozhikode

As per the decision of the 53rd Annual Conference of LIC Employees' Union, Kozhikode Division and the decision for intensive trade union education among our members during the Platinum Jubilee year of AIEA, the LIC Employees' Union, Kozhikode Division conducted a Full Day "Trade Union Workshop" on 25.10.2025 (Saturday) at Saroj Bhavan, Calicut for the leadership of Base Units.

President, Secretary, General council member/s, Treasurer and young comrades including new recruits from various Base units attended the workshop apart from the Divisional EC members. The Workshop started at 10.00 am and ended at 4.30 pm. 85 comrades participated in the TU Workshop.

With a brief introduction about the session Com.P.P.Krishnan (Vice President, AIEA) inaugurated the Workshop.

In the first session, Com. I.K.Biju (Joint Secretary, SZIEF) took a class on "The History of AIEA". The Second Class was taken by Com.P.P.Krishnan, on the topic "Organising the Organisation". Both topics were excellently presented.

At the beginning a Questionnaire regarding day-to-day functioning of the union, its activities, etc., were given to the participants. Their answers were analysed separately to enable the branch leadership understand better their strengths and weaknesses. After the two presentations the participants were divided into five groups and were asked to frame their responses

to certain suggested topics, regarding recent developments which are likely to affect the future of our organisation and the industry. Leaders of each Group presented the group's views on the topics discussed. Com.P.P.Krishnan reviewed the discussions and responded to the observations of the groups.

Com.K.Bahuleyan (President, LIC Employees' Union Kozhikode Division) controlled the TU workshop. Com M.J.Sreeram (General

Secretary, LIC Employees' Union Kozhikode Division) welcomed the participants. Com. A.D.Poornima (Joint Secretary, LIC Employees' Union, Kozhikode Division) proposed the Vote of Thanks.

The participants returned to their respective base units with renewed energy which the workshop gave. As a next step, the Divisional Union plans to conduct Trade Union Class for all members of the division on a Cluster basis.

Educative Campaign in Kozhikode Division

The Washinton Post report on LIC's investment in Adani Port through Non-Convertible Debentures of around Rs.5000 crore created lot of confusion among the insuring public. The LIC claimed the allegations made in the report as baseless. However, the clarifications given by Com Amanulla Khan cleared many of the doubts and created the necessary confidence. The LICEU, Kozhikode division took a decision to widely circulate the interview of Com. Amanulla Khan (Former President, AIEA) by the Youtube Channel, 'The News Minute'. As per this decision, the interview was played in all base units in Kozhikode Division on 31.10.2025, Friday during lunch recess.

All comrades in the base units sat together during lunch recess to watch the interview. Units were advised to invite all classes of employees and agents to watch

the interview. In many base units, Officers, Agents and Contract workers joined our members to hear our great leader's views and analysis. In the Divisional Office base unit, Calicut, the video was screened on a big screen using projector. Here a significant number of Class I Officers too joined our members.

The interview gave clarity to the issue of LIC of India investing its money in Adani group's Debentures which the media reported in a misleading way. Com. Amanullah Khan's answers to the questions raised by the interviewer gave viewers a clear picture of the issue, thus enabling them to defend our institution among the Public and to give confidence to the policy holders. The interview as well as our Units' efforts to popularise the same were well appreciated by the participants.



Dr.P Ravishankar

The Contract Labor (Regulation and Abolition) Act 1970

It can be seen from the title of Act that intention of the legislatures was not only to Regulate Contract Labor but also for abolishing in certain circumstances. In the Second Five year plan the planning commission made certain recommendations, namely undertaking of studies to ascertain the extent of problem of contract labor, progressive abolition of the system and improvement of service conditions of contract labor where the abolition is not possible. It was agreed in tripartite committees between the interested parties that the system should be abolished. The act was passed in the year 1970 (Act 37 of 1970). Fifty years have passed since then but the position of labor continues to be same.

In Life Insurance Corporation of India also no better situation prevails. The tender dated 04/03/2024 floated by Vizakapatnam Division for Housekeeping and Office upkeep service, Chennai Division I and by South Central Zonal Office for three posts of Driver clearly shows that the culture of out sourcing is slowly getting its roots in LIC of India. There are many instances of outsourcing in many in other Zones also. The tender clearly states the number of persons and the hours of work, in all most all places the work has to be completed before 10.A.M. In some places there is requirement to carry out the work in the Lunch time also. This clearly gives an impression that it is only Housekeeping and office upkeep. Tender does not mention that the working hours is from 10.30 to 5.30.

In earlier days apart from Class I, II, III and IV there was one another job description called part time sweeper on the rolls of LIC of India. This Job description came to be abolished few years back. This was because of the observation made by Justice.M.S.Jamdar while delivering CGIT award 27/1991 way back in 1987 where by LIC agreed to abolish the post of Part-time sweepers in phased manner which is a very positive gesture. Now it may be the necessity of the day for engaging Contract Laborers' for Housekeeping and Office Upkeep; if it stops with this there is no issue.

There is possibility of extending the concept of out-sourcing for engagement of services for class-IV duties. In many Divisions where there are no permanent sub-staff, still the work of class IV is going on. Some of Divisions the post is managed by engaging the services of Daily wagers and many of them have approached the court and obtained stay and continuing due to court intervention. There are some divisions where the litigation has come to a logical end (Coimbatore for example). Without any recruitment Class IV work is going on smoothly. Only in such cases it becomes suspicious whether Class-IV posts are managed by out sourcing by invoking Contract Labor Act. Smooth and effective functioning of Class-IV work in many Divisions gives support for such thinking.

If it is true, such acts can be construed as violation of many provisions of labor Statues like Industrial Disputes Act, Employers compensation Act, Contract

Labor (Regulation and Abolition) Act, Industrial Employment Standing Order Act etc. If such engagement class IV is continued to be allowed and treated as legal during the presence of such post in the Staff Regulations then there should not be any reservation in engaging other cadres too. The Contract Labor (Regulation and Abolition) Act requires for Registration under the Act by the principal employer and also by the contractor and strict compliance of Rules and the direction of the Appropriate Government. In many Divisions in South Zone and South Central Zone out sourcing has become one of way to manage the Class-IV requirement

If we come to the legal position on the topic of welfare of labor there seems to be violation of law in some aspects. Section 2(r) (a) of Industrial Disputes act defines Unfair labor Practice as any of the practices specified in Fifth Schedule. Entry No 10 will be very relevant. To employ workmen as badlis, casuals or temporaries and to continue them as such for years with the object of depriving them of the status and privileges of permanent workmen. This may be applicable to daily wagers and temporary hands.

On the other hand if Class-IV post work is managed through our sourcing or Contract labour it will be against the rules and statutes unless such kind of engagement is made transparent. It always better to set the house in order before the issues go out of hand as the Corporation is answerable to the new entrants namely the shareholders.

INSURANCE NEWS IN BRIEF

● **A.M. KHAN, Dharwad**

- ▶ Health insurers are evaluating a premium increase as claims linked to rising air pollution across the country have climbed significantly. Treatment costs for pollution-related illnesses have also increased, adding pressure on insurers. Companies are therefore assessing location- and season-based risk variations to determine corresponding premium adjustments.
- ▶ IRDAI data shows that as of FY24, foreign investment accounted for only 29.26 per cent of the life insurance segment. So far, only two insurers—Italy's Generali, the UK-based Aviva, Ageas Federal Life Insurance and Aviva Life Insurance — have increased their stakes in Indian joint ventures to the permitted 74 per cent. Recently, the IRDAI chairman noted that total foreign investment in the insurance sector amounts to just Rs 80,000 crore, emphasizing that the industry requires significantly more capital and that foreign investment alone cannot meet these needs. The total capital of the insurance industry is around ₹ 3.5 trillion out of this the FDI is somewhere between ₹ 80,000 to ₹ 90,000 crore. Yet, the Government of India proposes to seek Parliament's approval for the Insurance (Amendment) Bill, which allows 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in the sector in the ensuing Winter Session of the Parliament. Government is trying hard to justify this move by saying —“Raising the FDI limit from 74% to 100% for insurance companies is expected to unlock the sector's untapped potential, which, as per the estimates, is set to grow at 7.1% annually over the next five years”. With this hike the need for foreign investors to secure Indian partners for the remaining 26% will eliminate. And assuming pride in this the Government of India says “This will simplify operations and lead to proliferation of insurers in the country!
- ▶ Besides FDI increase, the Bill introduces composite licensing—allowing a single entity to offer life, general, or health insurance. It also relaxes restrictions on dividend repatriation and key management personnel for foreign-owned firms, further enhancing ease of doing business. The government believes that the sector needs capital inflows to expand and boost insurance penetration and removing the FDI cap will draw stable, long-term foreign investment, heighten competition, enable technology transfer, and deepen market reach. **But what about the unhealthy competition that will creep in, what about the hard-earned savings of the people of India, which will be gobbled up by the foreign insurance companies?**
- ▶ General Insurance Corporation of India, a public sector undertaking, has registered net profit of

Rs.2873.54 crore a 54.85 % rise in the quarter ended September 2025 over Rs.1855.71 crore as at September 2024. Sales rose 0.44% to Rs 8925.33 crore in the quarter ended September 2025 as against Rs 8886.45 crore during the previous quarter ended September 2024.

- ▶ During FY25, general and health insurers have settled 3.26 crore health insurance claims and paid ₹ 94,247 crore towards the settlement of health insurance claims. Overall, the insurance industry settled claims worth ₹ 8.36 trillion in FY25. During the same period, the industry collected premiums to the tune of ₹ 11.93 trillion, of which the life insurance sector accounted for nearly ₹ 8.86 trillion, and the rest was by general and health insurers.
- ▶ IRDAI Chairman highlights that in the past year, 257,000 policyholder grievances were registered through the Bima Bharosa platform, and a vast majority of these were resolved, with the industry's resolution rate at nearly 99 per cent.
- ▶ Policybazaar says that a sharp rise in demand for bigger covers and comprehensive protection after the zero GST on individual health insurance policies. It affirms that a) The average sum insured has jumped 38 per cent, from Rs 13 lakh to Rs 18 lakh; b) Nearly half of all new buyers (45 per cent) now opt for policies in the Rs 15–25 lakh range; c) Only 18 per cent are sticking with smaller covers below Rs 10 lakh; and d) Millennials and mid-aged consumers are driving this shift, showing growing awareness of health and financial risks.
- ▶ **Ms.K Nitya Kalyani, a business journalist specialising in insurance & corporate history**, after a study, thus writes - “As medical costs soared, insurers created closed networks of hospitals with negotiated package rates to contain pricing discrepancies. But this arrangement often left the policyholder stranded — hospitals charged one rate, insurers reimbursed another, and the patient quietly bore the difference. Eventually, hospitals began protesting too, citing delays in updating tariff agreements and in receiving claim payments from TPAs. Many took to demanding full advance payment from patients to be reimbursed when the insurer/TPA pays out the claim, subverting the very concept of cashless treatment! In recent months tensions have escalated, with insurers and hospitals blacklisting each other and patients caught helplessly in between. As it is, hospitalisation insurance has been topping the list of general insurance complaints before Insurance Ombudsmen for decades now.”

WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE

● S. SRIDHARA, Mysore

Fifty-thousand resident doctors employed by the National Health Service (NHS) in England began a five-day strike from 14th November in pursuit of a pay increase. The strike is the 13th walkout since the doctors first took action in March 2023 against the then Conservative government to address years of pay erosion, with the lowest paid doctors on just £14 an hour.

The resident doctors (previously known as junior doctors) also demand an adequate number of training places be made available by government, with 30,000 doctors applying for just 10,000 places this year. Health Secretary Wes Streeting's offer of just 1,000 more training places means that thousands of qualified doctors will still not be able to get an NHS job.

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More than 3,000 aerospace workers at weapons manufacturer in UK's Leonardo struck work on 12th and 13th November after rejecting a revised pay offer. The Unite members struck at sites in Yeovil, Laton, Basildon, Newcastle and Edinburgh. Further strikes are being held to November 28.

The strikes went ahead eight days after Unite called off action, just hours before an initial round of strikes were to go ahead from November 5. Workers were originally offered a pay deal of just 3.2 percent from Leonardo, a company raking in huge profits-with the CPI rate of inflation at 4 percent and RPI at 4.5 percent. Unite gave no details at the time of the "improved offer" under which it tried to end the dispute. It was no such thing, as Leonardo workers proved in rejecting it. The initial pay offer was for just 3.2 percent for Year 1 and 3 percent for Year 2 with a potential RPI trigger to 4 percent (below where RPI is at now!). The second offer was just 3.6 percent for Year 1 and 3.75 percent for Year 2. This equates to a pay deal of under 3.7 percent for each year, well below rising inflation. As action began, Unite had to backtrack declaring that the latest offer was not improved at all.

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THOUSANDS Of administrative and call centre workers employed by UK-based financial services outsourcing firm Diligenta, walk out on November 18, against a pay award imposed in June which is a real-terms wage cut. The 2-3 percent "increase, graded by salary level, falls well below the Retail Price Index (RPI) inflation rate in the year to September of 4.5 percent. The strike will involve Unite union members across five sites Liverpool, Reading, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Stirling-working in call centres, back-office administration and customer

complaints for major finance houses Lloyds, M&G, Aviva and Phoenix. These corporations outsource operations to Diligenta to cut costs and boost shareholder returns. The company's efficiency drive has been built on suppressing wages and intensifying workloads for its 5,000 UK employees. Unite's November 12 press release announcing the strike noted Diligenta's massive

profits: an average of £82,000 per staff member, pre-tax profits rising from £27.1 million in 2025 to £28.9 million in 2024, and revenues of £606 million. In 2024, the company paid a \$14 million dividend to its parent, Tata Consultancy Services (TCS)-a global IT and outsourcing conglomerate worth over £120 billion. Unite General Secretary Sharon Graham responded with her familiar rhetoric: "Diligenta is a profitable business making millions... yet disgracefully denying workers a fair pay deal."

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In November 2025, Indian working-class struggles focus on protesting government policies, particularly the new labor codes and privatization of public sector undertakings (PSUs). Key issues include demands for higher minimum wages and pensions, better job security through expanded government employment programs like MGNREGA, and protections against rising prices and the perceived privatization of essential services like water and electricity. Recent organized protests have highlighted the growing unity and participation of various sectors, including women and young workers, across the country. Core demands and issues are Labor rights: Repealing the four new Labour Codes and rejecting the militaristic "Agnipath" scheme. Wages and social security: Ensuring a minimum wage of ₹ 26,000 per month and a pension of ₹ 10,000 for all workers, including scheme workers. Job security and employment: Expanding the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA) to 200 days with a daily wage of 600 and creating an urban employment guarantee act. Price control: Demanding withdrawal of GST on food items, reducing excise duty on fuel, and halting price increases for essential goods like cooking gas. Privatization: Opposing the privatization of PSUs and public services, including the National Monetisation Pipeline (NMP). Rural and agricultural support: Demanding guaranteed Minimum Support Price (MSP) for all farm produce, loan waivers for farmers, and pensions for agricultural workers over 60.

ECONOMIC NOTES

● J. SURESH, Mysore

- The Financial Times has warned that there are unmistakable signs that conditions are maturing for another economic crisis due to private credit wobble. "The looming private credit sector is inspiring a rich lexicon of alarm and for sometimes market watchers have described the alternative asset class - which has grown to around \$ 3 trillion globally as a "ticking time bomb". The boom in private credit markets " has its roots in the tighter regulation placed on banks following the global financial crisis. That has channeled more credit through the less transparent and has regulated shadow banking systems", An economy and financial system based on private ownership, private profit and the anarchic market relations arising from it cannot by their very nature, be subjective to conscious control. This means that attempts to contain the destructive efforts of the private profit market system by closing one door means that sooner or later they will come in through another. The call from those expressing concern about the role of the private credit market, and what is universally described as its opacity, is for greater oversight and regulation.
- In September, India's total exports to the US contracted by 119%, falling to \$ 5.5 billion and while they rose to \$ 6.3 billion last month, they were still down 8.6% from October 2024. Numerous Indian industries including textiles and garments, gems and jewellery and shrimp raising hatcheries - have been plunged into crisis by the Trump Administration's imposition of 50% tariff. So serious has been the tariff's impact, the Indian government has cobbled together a bailout package of Rs.450.6 billion (\$ 5.2 billion), equivalent to about 1.3% of total central government programme spending. The bailout package includes collateral free loans for enterprises with cash flow problems and access to trade finance. Notably, the bailout includes no funds to assist laid off and furloughed workers, even though the poverty wages that these workers earn when they are employed are generally barely enough to support them and their families. Whatever reduction the Trump regime is offering to India, the US tariffs on Indian goods will almost certainly remain at 25% or higher even if Washington and New Delhi conclude a deal. Exports to the US are critical to many Indian industries and the overall Indian economy. The US has been India's largest export market in recent years,

accounting for 20% of India's export income. In 2024-25, total exports to the US amounted to \$ 86 billion of this, an estimated \$ 50 billion worth of goods are now subject to 50% tariffs, making them much more expensive for American consumers. Less than three months into Trump's economic war on India, the consequences have been severe: factory closures, mass

unemployment, reduced working hours and indefinite furloughs, further impoverishing already poverty stricken working class families.

- Hungry India is home to about one quarter of the world's hungry people ,with over 190 million undernourished.Thus, we witness that hidden hunger, a silent epidemic, perpetuates the cycle of poverty, poor nutrition, lost productivity, and dismal economic growth. The other end of the malnourishment spectrum is caused mainly by excessive intake of calories. It is called obesity, meaning that a person's weight is much too high for his/her height. It speaks volumes of the prevailing inequality in our society
- The painful paradox is that while wedding halls and restaurants see food wastage every single day, children in classrooms struggle to focus with their empty stomachs and hunger pains. According to the National Family Health Surveys, India has constantly been flagged as a country where nutrition gaps remain alarming despite it being one of the largest producers of food in the world. According to the World Bank, a major percentage of India's population continues to earn below Rs. 100 per day. With rising inflation and job insecurity, the majority of households are feeling constrained to survive. Access to healthy food is necessary to tackle existential and economic challenges of a malnourished generation.
- GHI 2025 marks an anniversary by taking stock of two decades of evidence-based recommendations: moving from productivity-focused agriculture toward right-based, inclusive and resilience-oriented approaches. India ranks 102nd out of 123 countries in the 2025 GHI report with a serious GHI score of 258. To achieve SDG-2 (no hunger) in India. existing programmes must be thoroughly implemented. Nobel laureate Norman Borlaug said: "The most essential component of social justice is adequate food for all mankind. Food is the moral right of all who are born into the world."

FOR OUR FIELD FORCE

● **A. ARIVUKKADAL**
Thanjavur

LIC's Assets: LIC's assets under management (AUM) expanded 3.31% year-on-year (YoY) to Rs.57.23 lakh crore. It's more than 15% of India's estimated nominal GDP of Rs.366.47 lakh crore for the current year. The total expenditure of the Govt. of India for the year 2025-26 as per budget documents is Rs.50.65 lakh crores. One can understand how big is the asset size of LIC, by comparing it with the

size of our country's budget. On the asset quality front, LIC saw a sharp improvement, with net NPAs for policyholders' funds dropping to Rs.3.94 crore, from Rs.6.17 crore a year earlier. That means, LIC's NPA is just 0.0001%.

LIC's profit: LIC reported a 32% YoY rise in its standalone net profit at Rs.10,053.39 crore for the second quarter of FY26, compared to Rs.7,620.86 crore in the same period last year. For the first half of FY26, LIC's profit after tax rose 16% YoY to Rs.21,040 crore, while total premium income increased 5% to Rs.2,45,680 crore.

LIC's expenses: Overall expense ratio for first half of FY26 improved by 146 basis points to 11.28%, compared to 12.74% in the same period last year, reflecting continued focus on cost optimisation.

LIC & GST: Retail life and health policies have been exempted from GST from 22 September, as against a tax rate of 18% earlier. While this is expected to encourage retail purchase of insurance policies, it has also raised expenses for insurers due to the loss of the benefit of input tax credit on such policies. Some reports had suggested that LIC stands to lose Rs.5,000 crore of ITC benefit due to the GST exemption. While some private insurers have reduced commission payouts to agents and brokers to pass on some of the hit from the loss of input tax credit, LIC's management said it is "very clear" that it will pass on the entire benefit to customers on premiums, and won't pass on any of the GST liability to intermediaries.

Commission cut: Private insurance companies in India have begun reducing the commission payouts to distributors and online aggregators such as PolicyBazaar by approximately 18%, in response to recent GST changes.

Zero-rated GST: Insurance sector's intermediaries are voicing for a 'zero-rate' GST structure. A zero-rate means no GST is charged on the output, but credit can still be claimed for the tax paid on the inputs—removing the extra layer of tax that is currently building up through the value chain. This treatment would allow insurers and intermediaries to

claim input tax credit on expenses including broker commissions.

Equity investment: Insurance companies and the National Pension System (NPS) have emerged as major sources of domestic liquidity in Indian equities, collectively investing over Rs.1 lakh crore so far in 2025 — the highest ever contribution by these segments in a single year.

Data shows that insurance firms have deployed Rs.56,821 crore in equities in 2025 to date, while NPS investments stand at Rs.51,308 crore — both record highs.

Health Claims: "In health insurance, we continue to see gaps- while the number of claims settled is high, the amount settled, especially in full, is sometimes lower than expected. This is an area we are monitoring closely", Ajay Seth, chairman, IRDAI, said. The insurance regulator expects insurers to be prompt, fair, and transparent in claim settlement as anything less will weaken the trust in the insurance sector, he said.

Policyholders' views: Insurance policyholders' opinion must be considered when regulations are being made for the sector, said Ajay Seth, chairman of IRDAI. "While views of the insurance industry get well-articulated, we need to find ways to bring in expectations of policyholders, both current and potential, in a more structured and extensive manner", he said.

Uniform policy: The Supreme Court has asked IRDAI and 22 Insurance Companies to explore the possibility of having a Uniform Insurance Policy to better protect people in motor accident cases.

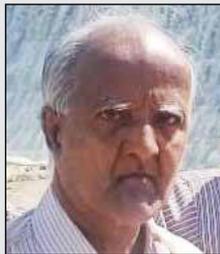
Courts on insurance: *The Kerala High Court has ruled that an insurance company cannot reject a claim merely because the buyer of a vehicle has not completed the registration transfer. *The NCDRC ruled that Bajaj Allianz General Insurance could not repudiate claim merely because the deceased's driving licence was not produced, noting that it was lost in the accident and that the insurer had failed to make any effort to verify its validity with the regional transport office (RTO). *The Supreme Court has said that insurance companies cannot deny compensation to accident victims merely because there was deviation in route of the vehicle involved and that it was in violation of the permit. *The Supreme Court has strongly criticised insurance companies for their growing tendency to file unnecessary appeals on hyper-technical grounds, observing that such conduct delays justice and deprives claimants of timely compensation.

OBITUARY



Com P. Bhaskaran, Former President, LICEU, Kozhikode Division breathed his last on 7th November 2025. He was ailing for some time. Com Bhaskaran had served the LICEU as its General Secretary for a long time. He also discharged responsibilities as the Vice-President of LICPA Kozhikode Division. He made enormous contribution to the growth and development of the organisation in the Kozhikode Division.

Com HS Krishnamurthy, Organising Secretary, GIPA, Bangalore Region passed away on 12th November 2025 at the age of 66. He was ailing for some time. Com HS Krishnamurthy had discharged responsibilities as the General Secretary of Bangalore Region General Insurance Employees' Association for a long time. He made immense contribution to strengthen the AIEA in General Insurance Industry. He had retired from United India Insurance Company and was actively involved in various progressive and democratic movements.



Com I.K. Vijayan, Former Vice-President, LIC Employees Union, Kozhikode Division passed away on 27th October 2025 due to old age related issues. He was 90. He served the organisation with dedication and commitment.

Insurance Worker condoles the sad demise of these militant soldiers of AIEA and share the grief with the bereaved families.

Roundtable Meeting at Visakhapatnam

⇒ Contd from page 28

Insurance Corporation Employees Union, Visakhapatnam Division, LJ Naidu, SFI General Secretary, Ajay, SFI President, V Mary, General Secretary, ASHA workers union, P Mani, Anganwadi workers union President, Com RKS V Kumar, CITU general Secretary, Sagar, BSNL Union, K Satyanarayana, Girijan Sangham Zonal president, Vasantha Rao, AIBEA, Praja Arogya Vedika President T kameswara Rao, ICREA General Secretary, BB Ganesh participated and discussed the issue. Members from different organisations, medical students also attended. The meeting was presided over

by M kameshwari Convenor, People For India, Sri AVRK Murty, Co-Convenor welcomed the gathering and N Ramakrishna, Co-Convenor, proposed a vote of thanks.

Response

The Editorial *Democratic backsliding and Institutional Collapse* is highly educative besides being informative. It is most relevant to the present situation. My congratulations to the Editorial Team of Insurance Worker.

Bhagwan Swaroop Sharma, Former Vice-President, AIEA

The Article on the struggle against LIC Split Bill by Com Amanulla Khan is simply brilliant. It is an education and information to the present generation of employees and even those who are occupying top positions in LIC. It was the brilliant struggle of AIEA that could protect the monolithic character of AIEA.

H.I. BHAT, Joint Secretary, AIEA

Splendid issue. I particularly liked the selection of the piece by Mukul Kesavan. He writes less but more insightful pieces reflecting a more principled mind. Thanks

V.Sridhar, Senior Journalist

DONATIONS

Com. Ranjit Rai, Amritsar DO Rs.2100
Com. S.K.Geetha, Bangalore DO-1 25000

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Month	Base 2016	2001	1960
Apr 2025	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	423.65	9670.15
September	147.3	424.22	9683.29

Base 1960=Base 2001x22.8259
Base 2001=Base 2016x2.88



*Onward to
The Platinum Jubilee Year
27th General Conference of
AIEA*

28th December 2025 to 1st January 2025

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DELHI DIVISIONAL COMMITTEE 1





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- ◆ CONTRIBUTING SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE PROGRESSIVE MOVEMENT MARCHING TOWARDS ANOTHER MILESTONE



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BHUBANESWAR

28 DECEMBER 2025 TO 1 JANUARY 2026

*Greetings to all Insurance Employees
and wishing the Conference a great success*



NORTHERN ZONE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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