

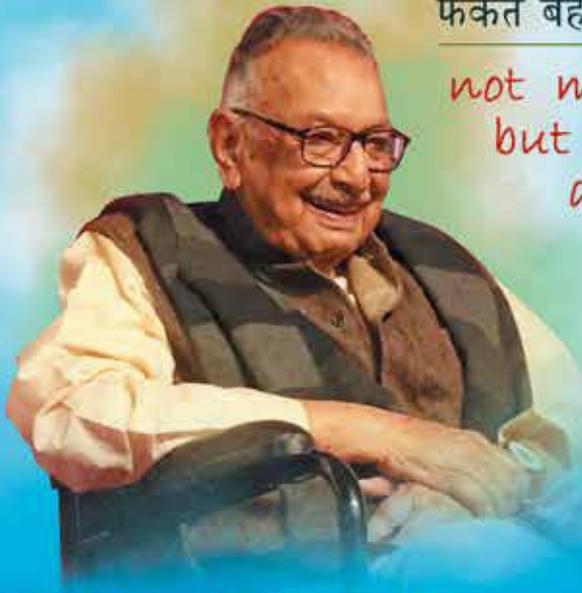
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फकत बहार नहीं हासिल ए बहार हो तुम
not merely SPRING,
but the very
attainment
of SPRING



COMRADE CHANDRASEKHAR BOSE (14.12.1922-16.01.2026)

END OF AN ERA



Window Dressing of GDP



Disgrace of Extreme Inequality



Right to Work?

**BUILD UP A MOVEMENT AGAINST
IMPERIALIST WARS & FOR PEACE**

**RECLAIM SHRINKING DEMOCRATIC SPACE
FROM EXECUTIVE OVER-REACH**





**COMRADE
CHANDRASEKHAR BOSE
RED SALUTE**





End of an Era

Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose is No More

With profound grief and a deep sense of irreparable loss we inform that Com. Chandrasekhar Bose, the doyen of the insurance employees' movement, founding member of the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA), and beloved leader of generations of insurance employees, passed away in the early hours of 16th of January 2026, at the ripe age of 104 years. He was ailing for sometime and was admitted to a private hospital in Kolkata. Despite sincere efforts of a dedicated team of doctors, his life could not be saved.

It is to be noted that at the extraordinary age of 104, he attended and addressed the Platinum Jubilee Year 27th General Conference of AIIEA at Bhubaneswar from 28th December 2025 to 1st January 2026. As he slowly ascended the five-foot-high stage, aided tenderly by a group of young volunteers, the entire hall erupted in joyous applause celebrating not just his arrival but a century of dedication, commitment, resolve, conviction and what not!

Com. Chandrasekhar Bose was not merely a veteran trade union leader; he was a living institution and the conscience of the insurance employees' movement in India. His life was inseparably intertwined with the history, growth, and victories of the movement. From the formative years of organizing insurance employees under extremely adverse conditions to shaping nationwide struggles that transformed their working and living conditions, Com. Bose's contribution is unparalleled.

A product of the national liberation movement and a committed believer in the ideology of the working class, Com. Bose dedicated his entire life to the cause of social justice and workers' emancipation. He played a stellar role in the formation of the AIIEA in 1951 and thereafter provided visionary leadership to the movement along with his comrades-in-arms Com. Sunil Moitra, Com. Saroj Chaudhury, Com. N.M. Sundaram, Com. R.P. Manchanda and countless others throughout the length and breadth of the country. Every major struggle of insurance employees-be it the struggle for nationalization of insurance, wage standardization, bonus, DA, pension, resistance to privatization, or safeguarding the public sector character of the insurance industry- carries the unmistakable imprint of Com. Bose's guidance and planning. His clarity of thought, strategic acumen, negotiating skills, and moral authority left an indelible imprint on all the movements led by the AIIEA.

More than his achievements, it was the strength of his character that set Com. Bose apart. A gentleman to the core, an inexhaustible reservoir of



patience, and a “leader of leaders,” he groomed and nurtured generations of activists and leaders, many of whom continue to shoulder responsibilities in the movement today. His life was a shining example of integrity, humility, and unwavering commitment to principles. Com. Saroj Chaudhury was perhaps echoing the sentiments of thousands of members of AIIEA across the country when he said, “Com. Bose has shown extraordinary skill in guiding towards the path ahead, and most of it has taken place away from the public gaze, where no cheap back patting was there, no roar of clapping out of enthralled wonder”.

No less significant was what Com. Sunil Moitra used to say about the strength of character of Com. Bose- “Even in the realm of thought, Chandrasekhar cannot be false. In my long and close association of 35-36 years with him I have not heard him speak untruth even once. By today’s standards, many may consider him outdated.” Com. N.M. Sundaram was a bit philosophical when he remarked: “Perhaps it would not be proper from the point of view of ideological purity to identify an organization with an individual. But there are times, when exceptions are compelled to be made by the sheer personality of the individual and the enormity of his contribution to the organization. If such an exception could be made, it could be in the case of Com. Bose. His personality has indeed become synonymous with the organization, AIIEA.”

शगुप्तगी का लताफत का शाहकार हो तुम,
फकत बहार नहीं हासिल ए बहार हो तुम,
जिसे तरंग में फितरत ने गुनगुनाया है,
वो भैरवी हो, वो दीपक हो, वो मल्हार हो तुम

-कैफ़ी आजमी

*You are the masterpiece
of grace and blossoming delight
Not merely spring, but the
very attainment of spring.
The melody that nature herself
has hummed in waves
Be it Bhairavi, Deepak, or Malhar,
that is you.*

-Kaifi Azmi

It would be a truism to say that the passing away of Com. Bose is an irreparable loss to our movement. Insurance employees’ movement has lost its tallest guiding light; but his legacy, however, will continue to inspire us, guide our struggles, and strengthen our resolve to carry forward the ideals he stood for. The AIIEA headquarters is flooded with messages of condolences from a wide spectrum of admirers- fraternal organisations, retired officers, fellow comrades and from top echelons of the management. Yesterday, Kolkata was awash in a sea of red as the mortal remains of Comrade Bose were brought from his home in Salt Lake to Hindustan Buildings via Pramod Dasgupta Bhavan. Hundreds of comrades—men and women, young and old, retired and in service—gathered to catch a final glimpse of him before his last journey. A poignant tribute of 104 red flags, marking each year of his life, created an emotional and stirring backdrop for the solemn procession.

The AIIEA conveys its heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family members, comrades, and admirers of Com. Bose. We dip our red flag in salute to this legendary leader and pledge to uphold and carry forward his glorious legacy.

*Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose Amar Rahe!
Red Salute to Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose!*



Fight against Imperialism and Shrinking Democratic Space is Inevitable

The Platinum Jubilee Year 27th General Conference of AIIEA held detailed, dispassionate and informed discussions on the challenges of times that we live in and laid down the task for the organisation. Of the many tasks, two came up for special discussion. They were the need to build solidarities to fight imperialism which has entered its most destructive phase and make contributions for development of a global peace movement; the second was to reclaim the fast-shrinking democratic space in our country and continue to campaign for the defence of the Idea of India as represented by the Constitution. The dangers of aggressive imperialism and the democratic backsliding in India, that were pointed out came true within days of the conclusion of the conference.

The United States launched a blistering attack on Venezuela with sophisticated weapons on 3rd January 2026 killing nearly 100 and abducting President Nicholas Maduro and his wife. The reason advanced is that Maduro was the kingpin of the illegal drug trade and has to be brought to face the trial in a US court. This was a total lie. The real reason was to capture the oil resources of the country for the benefit of the US Oil Corporations. Venezuela is estimated to have the largest oil reserves in the world. President Trump made it clear that he wants to run Venezuela, control its oil and would like to have a government friendly to the interests of the US imperialism. The attempt to take over Venezuela was not new. The US through an unsuccessful coup tried to topple the government of Hugo Chavez in the year 2002 because he dared to nationalise the oil industry.

The United Nations called the US aggression a violation of all international laws. A majority of the countries across the world condemned the US action. The BRICS nations with the exception of India were vocal in condemning the attack on a Sovereign Nation. But United

States which has got the most dreaded war machinery in the history of the world remained unmoved. President Trump has said that he is not bound by the international law and will do whatever he feels is morally right. This is a very dangerous doctrine, he is propagating. He is communicating in clear terms that the sovereignty of nations depends upon the sweet will of the US imperialism. This arrogance of power is threatening the independence and sovereignty of a number of nations in Latin America.

The Conference had underlined that imperialism is engaged in endless wars across the globe. The aim is to control the critical resources and establish its hegemony. The US imperialism has a dark history of indulging in covert intelligence operations through CIA and other agencies to overthrow the governments which are not to its liking in different parts of the world. It also has the record of direct military interventions in different parts of the globe; all in the name of protecting and advancing the interests of United States. These are the interests of the powerful corporations and the elites and do not align with the interests of the common people of the United States. The Harvard's Revista has noted that between 1898 and 1994, the US has successfully changed governments in Latin America 41 times through its covert and overt actions. The same study notes that since 1950, the US has engaged in nearly 250 military interventions in the globe. The destruction of Iraq, Libya, Syria and a host of other countries creating massive human sufferings, all indicate the brutality of the US imperialism. For Imperialism, human life and human rights are irrelevant and what matters is the maximisation of profits for its mega corporations.

The reaction of the Indian government to the US aggression in Venezuela is muted. It

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has refused to condemn this brutality of US imperialism. This is sad for a country whose moral standards were respected by the world during the Non-Aligned Movement. Today, it is said that India is being more pragmatic and is concerned about its own interests and taking up a moral stand is of no use. This stand is simply unacceptable. India must speak. India has a long history of relationship with Venezuela. Through this relationship, it has benefitted economically with investments in oil fields in that country. Venezuela has supported the stand of India in different international forums. India must understand that Sovereignty is the most sacred concept and no nation can arrogate to itself the right to attack the sovereignty of another nation. Fortunately, a large section of the Indian population has come onto streets to condemn this action and express solidarity with the people of Venezuela. Within the United States, demonstrations have taken place in over 70 centres opposing the action of their government. Even the US parliamentarians are challenging the power of Trump. In such a situation, the feeble and weak response of the Indian government is really unfortunate. The Conference rightly understood that imperialism is the greatest threat to humanity. Therefore, it has become urgent for the global working class to build up a movement against imperialism and for peace for the survival and progress of humanity.

The second danger that the conference pointed out was the democratic backsliding in our country. The Supreme Court judgement of 5th January 2026 denying bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam clearly indicates that the democratic space for protests in our country is fast shrinking. The reasoning of the Supreme Court in denying them bail are unconvincing and have been contested by large number of legal luminaries. The leading national dailies, Indian Express, The Hindu, Telegraph, Times of India, Deccan Herald have expressed serious concerns about this judgement. This unity in expressing concern itself is unprecedented. The Supreme Court is the custodian of the Indian Constitution and is entrusted with the responsibility to protect the citizens from the excesses of the Executive. Unfortunately, in this judgement, the Court seem to have abdicated this fundamental responsibility.

The Supreme Court has a number of times said that Bail is the rule and Jail is the exception. But in this case the Court despite the long 5 years of prison has not felt the need to

uphold the right to liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution with no sign of an early trial. The Court has granted bail in number of cases under UAPA citing the long delays as infringement of the rights under Article 21. Denying the bail in this case is totally inconsistent with this policy. The Court appears to have taken the prosecution's case at the face value to say that there is a prima facie case against these two accused. The Court has further distinguished the role of these two with the other accused as masterminds and merely followers of directions. This is unwarranted and totally unjustified. The Court which always insists that merits should not be discussed at the time of bail has precisely gone into this by fully accepting the government version. The judgement has come for wide discussions and we feel it not necessary to discuss all those issues here in detail. But it must be pointed out that the Supreme Court have ordered bail for gravest economic offenders and murder accused and the authorities have been generous in granting parole to well known convicts of heinous crimes. Therefore, the denial of bail to Umar Khalid and Sharjeel Imam appears to be a case of selective application of justice.

What concerns us is the broadening of the definition of terrorism by the Court. The Court has said that protests like road and rail roko that disrupts the civic life and the economic activity of the nation are also acts of terror. This effectively delegitimises all forms of democratic protests. The strike actions by the working class that naturally disrupt the economic activity has been bracketed as terror activity by the Court. This is a dangerous expansion of the definition of terror. The strike and democratic forms of struggles are the legitimate weapons of the working class and the Court giving the Executive to brand such actions as terror activity is unacceptable for the working class. The Indian Constitution has clearly separated the functions of various organs of the State. This is to ensure accountability and adherence to the democratic norms. Unfortunately, today all organs of the State have allowed the over-reach of the Executive. When the judiciary without any scrutiny accepts the verdict of the Executive, democracy undoubtedly suffers. The fear expressed by the Conference of the democratic backsliding is very real. The shrinking democratic space has to be reclaimed and there is no option but to build bridges with all progressive sections to defend democracy and the Indian Constitution.

साम्राज्यवाद और सिकुड़ते लोकतान्त्रिक दायरे के खिलाफ लड़ाई अपरिहार्य है

एआईआईईए के प्लेटिनम जुबली वर्ष के 27 वें महासम्मेलन में, हम जिस समय में जी रहे हैं, उसकी चुनौतियों पर विस्तार से, निष्पक्ष और जानकारी भरी चर्चा हुई और संगठन के लिए कुछ काज तय किए गए। कई कामों में से दो पर खास तौर पर चर्चा हुई। पहला था साम्राज्यवाद जो अपने सबसे विनाशकारी दौर में पहुंच गया है, उससे लड़ने के लिए एकजुटता बनाना, और वैश्विक शान्ति आन्दोलन के विकास में योगदान देना; दूसरा था हमारे देश में तेजी से सिकुड़ते लोकतान्त्रिक दायरे को वापस पाना और संविधान द्वारा दर्शाए गए भारत के विचार की रक्षा के लिए अभियान जारी रखना। भारत में आक्रामक साम्राज्यवाद और लोकतन्त्र के पतन के जो खतरे बताए गए थे, वे सम्मेलन खत्म होने के कुछ ही दिनों में सच साबित हो गए।

3 जनवरी 2026 को अमेरिका ने वेनेजुएला पर उन्नत हथियारों से जबरदस्त हमला किया, जिसमें लगभग लोग मारे गए और राष्ट्रपति निकोलस मादुरो और उनकी पत्नी को अगवा कर लिया गया। इसके पीछे यह कारण बताया गया कि मादुरो अवैध ड्रग्स व्यापार का सरगना था और उसको अमेरिका की अदालत में मुकदमे का सामना करने के लिए लाया जाना था। यह पूरी तरह झूठ था। असली कारण तो अमरीकी तेल कम्पनियों के फायदे के लिए देश के तेल संसाधनों पर कब्जा करना था। अनुमान है कि वेनेजुएला के पास दुनिया का सबसे बड़ा तेल भण्डार है। राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प ने यह साफ कर दिया था कि वह वेनेजुएला को चलाना चाहते हैं, उसके तेल को नियंत्रित करना चाहते हैं और एक ऐसी सरकार चाहते हैं जो अमरीकी साम्राज्यवाद के हितों के लिए दोस्ताना हो। वेनेजुएला पर कब्जा करने की कोशिश नई नहीं थी। अमेरिका ने 2002 में एक असफल

तख्तापलट के जरिए ह्यूगो शावेज की सरकार को गिराने की कोशिश की थी क्योंकि उन्होंने तेल उद्योग का राष्ट्रीयकरण करने की हिम्मत की थी।

संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने अमेरिकी हमले को सभी अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानूनों का उल्लंघन बताया। दुनिया भर के ज्यादातर देशों ने अमेरिका के इस कदम की निंदा की। भारत को छोड़कर ब्रिक्स देशों ने एक संप्रभु देश पर हमले की कड़ी निंदा की। लेकिन अमेरिका, जिसके पास दुनिया के इतिहास की सबसे खतरनाक युद्ध मशीनरी है, उस पर कोई अस्त्र नहीं पड़ा। राष्ट्रपति ट्रम्प ने कहा है कि वह अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून से बंधे नहीं हैं और वे वहीं करेंगे जो उन्हें नैतिक रूप से सही लगेगा। यह एक बहुत खतरनाक नीतिवाक्य है, जिसे वह फैला रहे हैं। वह साफ शब्दों में कह रहे हैं कि देशों की संप्रभुता अमेरिकी साम्राज्यवाद की मर्जी पर निर्भर करती है। ताकत का यह घमंड लैटिन अमेरिका के कई देशों की आजादी और संप्रभुता के लिए खतरा बन रहा है।

सम्मेलन में इस बात पर जोर दिया गया कि साम्राज्यवाद दुनिया भर में कभी न खत्म होने वाली लड़ाईयों में लगा हुआ है। इसका मकसद अहम संसाधनों पर नियंत्रण करना और अपना दबदबा कायम करना है। अमेरिकी साम्राज्यवाद का एक काला इतिहास रहा है, जिसमें उसने सीआईए और दूसरी एजेंसियों के जरिए दुनिया के अलग-अलग हिस्सों में उन सरकारों को गिराने के लिए खुफिया अभियान चलाए हैं जो उसे पसंद नहीं थीं। इसके पास दुनिया के विभिन्न भागों में प्रत्यक्ष सैन्य हस्तक्षेप का रिकार्ड भी है; यह सब अमेरिका के हितों की रक्षा और उन्हें आगे बढ़ाने के नाम पर किया गया। ये हित ताकतवर कम्पनियों और अमीरों के हैं और अमेरिका के आम लोगों के हितों से मेल नहीं

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खाते। हार्वर्ड्स रेविस्टा ने बताया है कि 1898 और 1994 के बीच, अमेरिका ने अपने खुफिया और खुले कारनामों से लैटिन अमेरिका में 41 बार सरकारों को सफलतापूर्वक बदला है। इसी अध्ययन में यह भी बताया गया है कि 1950 से, अमेरिका ने दुनिया भर में लगभग 250 सैन्य दखल दिए हैं। इराक, लीबिया, सीरिया और कई दूसरे देशों की तबाही, जिससे बड़े पैमाने पर इन्सानों का दुख झेलना पड़ा, ये सब अमेरिकी साम्राज्यवाद की क्रूरता को दिखाते हैं। साम्राज्यवाद के लिए, इन्सानी जिन्दगी और मानवाधिकार मायने नहीं रखते और जो मायने रखता है वह है अपनी बड़ी कम्पनियों के लिए ज्यादा से ज्यादा मुनाफा कमाना।

वेनेजुएला में अमेरिकी हमले पर भारत सरकार की प्रतिक्रिया बहुत मन्द है। उसने अमेरिकी साम्राज्यवाद की इस क्रूरता की निंदा करने से इन्कार कर दिया है। यह उस देश के लिए दुख की बात है जिसके नैतिक मूल्यों का गुटनिरपेक्ष आन्दोलन के दौरान दुनिया भर में सम्मान किया जाता था। आज कहा जाता है कि भारत ज्यादा धृष्ट हो रहा है और अपने हितों की चिंता कर रहा है और नैतिक रूख अपनाने का कोई फायदा आज रहा नहीं है। यह रूख बिल्कुल भी स्वीकार्य नहीं है। भारत को बोलना चाहिए। भारत का वेनेजुएला के साथ लम्बे समय से रिश्ता रहा है। इस रिश्ते से उसे उस देश के तेल क्षेत्रों में निवेश से आर्थिक फायदा हुआ है। वेनेजुएला ने अलग-अलग अंतरराष्ट्रीय मंचों पर भारत के रूख का समर्थन किया है। भारत को यह समझना चाहिए कि संप्रभुता सबसे पवित्र अवधारणा है और कोई भी देश दूसरे देश की संप्रभुता पर हमला करने का अधिकार खुद को नहीं दे सकता। सौभाग्य से, भारतीय आबादी का एक बड़ा हिस्सा इस कार्यवाही की निंदा करने और वेनेजुएला के लोगों के साथ एकजुटता दिखाने के लिए सड़कों पर उतरा है। संयुक्त राज्य अमेरिका के अन्दर, 70 से ज्यादा केन्द्रों पर अपनी सरकार की कार्यवाही का विरोध करते हुए प्रदर्शन हुए हैं। यहां तक कि अमेरिकी सांसद भी ट्रम्प की शक्ति को चुनौती दे रहे हैं। ऐसी स्थिति में, भारत सरकार की कमजोर और ढीली प्रतिक्रिया वास्तव में दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है। सम्मेलन ने यही समझा कि साम्राज्यवाद मानवता के लिए सबसे बड़ा खतरा है। इसलिए, मानवता के अस्तित्व और प्रगति के लिए वैश्विक मजदूर वर्ग के लिए साम्राज्यवाद के खिलाफ और शान्ति के लिए एक आन्दोलन बनाना जरूरी हो गया है।

सम्मेलन ने दूसरा खतरा हमारे देश में लोकतन्त्र के पीछे हटने को बताया। 5 जनवरी 2026 को सुप्रीम कोर्ट का उमर खालिद और शरजील इमाम को जमानत न देने का फैसला साफ दिखाता है कि हमारे देश में विरोध प्रदर्शनों के लिए लोकतान्त्रिक जगह तेजी से कम हो रही है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट के उन्हें जमानत न देने के तर्क भरोसेमन्द नहीं हैं और बड़ी संख्या में कानूनी जानकारों ने इस पर सवाल उठाए हैं। प्रमुख राष्ट्रीय अखबारों, इण्डियन एक्सप्रेस, द हिन्दू, टेलीग्राफ, टाइम्स ऑफ इण्डिया, डेक्कन हेराल्ड ने इस फैसले पर गम्भीर चिन्ता जताई है। चिन्ता जताने में यह एकता अपने आप में अभूतपूर्व है। सुप्रीम कोर्ट भारतीय संविधान का संरक्षक है। और उसे नागरिकों को कार्यपालिका की ज्यादातियों से बचाने की जिम्मेदारी सौंपी गई है। दुर्भाग्य से, इस फैसले में, कोर्ट ने इस मौलिक

जिम्मेदारी को छोड़ दिया है।

सुप्रीम कोर्ट ने कई बार कहा है कि बेल नियम है और जेल अपवाद है। लेकिन इस मामले में कोर्ट ने साल जेल में रहने के बावजूद संविधान के आर्टिकल 21 के तहत आजादी के अधिकार को बनाए रखने की जरूरत महसूस नहीं की, और शीघ्र सुनवाई का भी कोई संकेत नहीं है। इसी अदालत ने यूएपीए के तहत कई अन्य मामलों में लम्बी देरी को आर्टिकल 21 के तहत अधिकारों का उल्लंघन बताते हुए बेल दी है। इस मामले में बेल न देना इस पालिसी के बिल्कुल उलट है। ऐसा लगता है कि अदालत ने सरकारी पक्ष की बात को बिना सोचे समझे मान लिया है और कहा है कि इन दोनों आरोपियों के खिलाफ पहली नजर में केस बनता है। कोर्ट ने इन दोनों की भूमिका को दूसरे आरोपियों से अलग बताया है, एक को मास्टरमाइण्ड और दूसरे को सिर्फ निर्देशों का पालन करने वाला बताया है। यह गलत और पूरी तरह से अनुचित है। ये अदालत जो हमेशा इस बात पर जोर देती है कि जमानत के समय केस की मेरिट पर चर्चा नहीं होनी चाहिए, उसने ठीक यही किया है और सरकार के पक्ष को पूरी तरह से मान लिया है। यह फैसला काफी चर्चा में आया है और हमें लगता है कि यहां उन सभी मुद्दों पर विस्तार से चर्चा करना जरूरी नहीं है। लेकिन यह बताया जाना चाहिए कि सर्वोच्च न्यायालय ने सबसे गम्भीर आर्थिक अपराधियों और हत्या के आरोपियों को भी जमानत दी है और अधिकारियों ने जघन्य अपराधों के जाने-माने दोषियों को पैरोल देने में उदारता दिखाई है। इसलिए, उमर खालिद और शरजील इमाम को जमानत न देना न्याय के चुनिंदा इस्तेमाल का मामला लगता है।

हमें चिन्ता इस बात की है कि अदालत ने आतंकवाद की परिभाषा को और बड़ा कर दिया है। कोर्ट ने कहा है कि सड़क और रेल रोको जैसे विरोध प्रदर्शन जो नागरिक जीवन और देश की आर्थिक गतिविधियों में बाधा डालते हैं, वे भी आतंक के काम हैं। यह असल में सभी तरह के लोकतान्त्रिक विरोध प्रदर्शनों को गैर कानूनी ठहराता है। मजदूर वर्ग की हड़तालें जो स्वाभाविक रूप से आर्थिक गतिविधि को बाधित करती हैं, उन्हें कोर्ट ने आतंकवादी गतिविधि के दायरे में डाल दिया है। यह आतंकवाद की परिभाषा का एक खतरनाक विस्तार है। हड़ताल और लोकतान्त्रिक संघर्ष के तरीके मजदूर वर्ग के जायज हथियार हैं और कोर्ट द्वारा कार्यपालिका को ऐसे कामों को आतंकवादी गतिविधि बताने की इजाजत देना मजदूर वर्ग को मंजूर नहीं है। भारतीय संविधान ने राज्य के विभिन्न अंगों के कामों को साफ तौर पर अलग किया है। यह जवाबदेही और लोकतान्त्रिक नियमों का पालन सुनिश्चित करने के लिए है। दुर्भाग्य से, आज राज्य के सभी अंगों ने कार्यपालिका को अपनी हद पार करने की इजाजत दे दी है। जब न्यायपालिका बिना किसी जांच के कार्यपालिका के फैसले को मान लेती है, तो लोकतन्त्र को निश्चित रूप से नुकसान होता है। सम्मेलन द्वारा लोकतन्त्र में गिरावट के बारे में जताया गया डर बहुत वास्तविक है। सिकुड़ते लोकतान्त्रिक दायरे को वापस हासिल करना होगा और लोकतन्त्र तथा भारत के संविधान की रक्षा के लिए सभी प्रगतिशील तबकों के साथ रिश्तों को जोड़ने के अलावा कोई विकल्प नहीं है।

A Towering figure of the Indian Working Class movement

A Pioneer of the organised struggle of Insurance Employees
- CITU Homage

**We reproduce herebelow messages of condolence received
by AIIEA from CITU, NFIFWI, AILICEF & Class I Federation.**



The Centre of Indian Trade Unions (CITU) expresses its deep sorrow and profound shock at the passing away of Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose, veteran communist leader, founder leader of the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA) and the oldest living member of the CPI(M), who passed away today at his residence at Salt Lake City, Kolkata, at the age of 104.

Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose was a towering figure of the Indian working class movement and a pioneer of the organised struggle of insurance employees. He obtained the membership of the undivided Communist Party in 1944 in a unit at the State Centre on Bow bazar Street, Kolkata. His political journey began much earlier, when as a tenth-grade student he founded a unit of the All India Students' Federation in Khulna in 1936 and became actively involved in the student and peasant movements. He worked closely with eminent leaders such as Comrade Bagla Guha, Comrade Nepal Nag and Comrade Nivedita Nag, and emerged as a committed activist against exploitation and injustice.

While still in college, he joined Hindusthan Insurance Company and, drawing upon his experience in the student movement, became deeply involved from the very beginning in organising insurance workers. He was one of the founders of AIIEA and subsequently rose to its highest leadership. His uninterrupted association with AIIEA continued throughout his life, and even in his advanced age he

remained actively engaged with the movement. He attended the last All India Conference of AIIEA held at Bhubaneswar recently, inspiring comrades with his clarity of thought, firm convictions and optimism, and urging greater involvement in day-to-day union activities.

Comrade Bose was ailing for some time and had been admitted to a private hospital in Kolkata. He was discharged only yesterday evening as there were no visible signs of improvement despite the sincere efforts of a team of doctors.

The passing away of Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose is an irreparable loss to the entire Indian trade union movement, and particularly to the movement of insurance employees. His life was marked by unwavering commitment, exemplary integrity and selfless dedication to the cause of the working class. His contributions will be remembered with deep respect and gratitude, and his ideals and legacy will continue to guide the struggles of working people in the years to come.

The CITU dips its banner in respectful homage to this great leader and extends its heartfelt condolences to his son Comrade Somshankar Bose, his daughter-in-law Chandana Bose, grandson Surjyasekhar Bose, and thousands of his comrades and friends across the country. The CITU stands in solidarity with the bereaved family and the AIIEA in this hour of grief.

**Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose Amar Rahe!
Red Salute to Comrade Chandrasekhar Bose!**

MESSAGE FROM NFIFWI

“Dear Shri Shreekant Mishra Ji,

General Secretary, All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA)“The news of the demise of Com. Chandrasekhar Bose, Founder Leader of AIIEA, is deeply shocking and profoundly saddening. His passing is not only an irreparable loss to AIIEA but also to

the entire insurance employees' movement in the country.“Com. Bose's life was a shining example of unwavering commitment, integrity, and selfless dedication to the cause of insurance employees. His visionary leadership, sacrifices, and steadfast principles laid a strong and enduring foundation for the movement and

continue to inspire generations of trade union activists. "On behalf of the National Federation of Insurance Field Workers of India (NFIFWI) and on my own behalf, I extend our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved family and to all comrades of AIIEA in this hour of deep grief. We stand in solidarity with you and share your sorrow. "May the departed soul rest in peace, and may his ideals and legacy continue to guide and strengthen our collective struggles.

Com. Chandrasekhar Bose
Amar Rahe.

With profound condolences,
- **Vivek Singh**
General Secretary
NFIFWI

MESSAGE
FROM AILICEF

On behalf of AILICEF, I wish to express our profound sadness at the passing of Com. Chandrasekhar Bose. As a veteran of the trade union movement, his tireless advocacy and strategic leadership set a standard for labor relations in LIC. A life dedicated to the service of others is a life that never truly ends.

Our deepest sympathy.....
- **Rajesh Kumar**,
General Secretary

MESSAGE from
Class I Federation

We express our deep condolences on the sad demise of the veteran trade union leader

-**Rajkumar**,
General Secretary

March 2026 issue of
Insurance Worker,
will be dedicated to the
memory of Com. Bose.

Amanulla Khan

PLATINUM
JUBILEE
SERIES 7



The history of Indian Trade Union Movement suggests that it is precisely the unity of the working class built on clear political and class understanding, that the corporates, elite and their representatives fear most. The insurance industry could not remain immune to this. There were three attempts to disrupt the unity of the insurance employees built by AIIEA on the basis of class understanding..... AIIEA emerged stronger after each disruption. Remaining loyal to its founding principles, the AIIEA walked the arduous path to secure better working and living conditions for the insurance employees. It never compromised the interests of the employees In order to defend and advance the interest of the employees, it locked horns with governments of all political formations. It never made political compromises as the other unions do, depending upon which party is in government.

The greatest achievement of AIIEA is uniting the insurance employees belonging to diverse groups and communities. This unity was achieved on the foundations of the basic principles of the organisation. The AIIEA held the view that though India gained political freedom from British colonialism, in which a great role was played by the working class, the power after independence has gone into the hands of an alliance of big business houses and the rich rural landlords. As such, despite all proclamations of building a Welfare State, the dignity of the working class can be claimed only through class struggle. The Foundation Convention of AIIEA in 1951 clearly said that the organisation commits itself to improve the working and living conditions of the insurance employees. At the same time, it must make contributions to the struggles that fight the inequality, injustice and discrimination in the Indian society. In a society which is class divided and caste divided, the class struggle and the struggle against social discrimination is inevitable. A trade union necessarily has to be political and espouse the politics of the working class as against that of the ruling classes. The trade unions that want to be apolitical would not do justice to the cause of the working class and make compromises that would harm

AIIEA Defeats the forces of Disruption

DEFENDS UNITY THWARTING SPLIT ATTEMPTS

interests of workers. The insurance employees endorsed this understanding of the AIIEA and through their own lived experience saw the huge gains and advantages of the unity built on clear political and class understanding.

The history of Indian Trade Union Movement suggests that it is precisely this unity that the corporates, elite and their representatives fear most. It was for this reason that the unity built by All India Trade Union Congress founded in 1920 with Lala Lajpat Rai as its first President was disrupted by the Congress. Just before India gained independence, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel founded the Indian National Trade Union Congress on May 3, 1947. Sardar Patel justified the formation of INTUC saying that “workers in India are only a section of the people and not the class apart” and invoked Gandhiji’s philosophy of Trusteeship. This philosophy treats the employers and workers as partners in production where the employer is expected to take care of the welfare of the workers. The lived experience of the workers is totally different. By splitting the working class movement, the congress created a platform for the workers who would remain loyal to its economic and social policies.

Similarly, the RSS decided to organise the workers and founded the BMS on July 23, 1955. The objective was offering the workers a completely Bharatiya alternative to the

philosophies of AITUC and INTUC. It rejected both class struggle and the path of capitalist development, though it has now become the strongest supporter of neoliberalism. It said that industry is a family of employer and employee and strikes hurt the national economy. It rejected the concept of the international working class solidarity. Similarly Hind Mazdoor Sabha was formed on December 29, 1948 on the grounds that a trade union has to be apolitical. These developments led to fragmentation of the trade union movement and weakening of bargaining power of the workers while hugely increasing the power and influence of the employers in the decision-making processes of the State.

FIRST ATTEMPT TO SPLIT AIIEA SUCCESSFULLY DEFEATED

The insurance industry could not remain immune to these developments in the national arena. The AIIEA built the unity of the insurance employees working in both life and general insurance industries on the basis of class understanding. The first attempt was made to disrupt this unity after the

nationalisation of life insurance business and establishment of LIC. This disruption was caused by the leaders who were predominantly from the New India Insurance Company. These leaders right from the beginning did not believe in a class struggle and had advocated that a trade union should be apolitical. According to them the job of a trade union is only to bring welfare to the employees and problems of the society should not concern them. They had three major differences with AIIEA; that LIC is a State Enterprise and therefore, AIIEA should abandon the path of agitation for the solution of employees’ problems and grievances; second, the AIIEA should not have any outsider as its office-bearer and third the general insurance employees should not be in AIIEA since they work with private companies. The decision of the AIIEA to observe a day’s strike on 5th December 1956 to protest against the imposition of arbitrary service conditions came as an excuse for them to split away from the AIIEA and form the All India Life Insurance Employees’ Association (AILIEA) which is commonly called as life association. This split was

The first disruption was caused by leaders who right from the beginning did not believe in class struggle and had advocated that a trade union should be apolitical. These leaders ended up with a decision to have Madhu Dandavate, an outsider and a political leader as their President, exposing the hollowness of their understanding.

overwhelmingly rejected by the employees with massive participation in the 5th December strike and the AIIEA succeeded in securing the Standardisation of wages and service conditions to the satisfaction of employees. The hollowness of their understanding was further revealed when they decided to have Madhu Dandavate, an outsider as their President. This split did not have any impact on the unity of the employees under AIIEA and AILIEA is reduced to a fringe and insignificant organisation.

SECOND ATTEMPT TOO WAS FOILED

The second serious attempt to disrupt the unity was made by a section of the leadership of AIIEA mostly based in Bombay by breaking away to form the All India LIC Employees' Federation in 1972. Though the split was formalised in 1972, the disruptive activities date back to as early as 1966. This has clear relations with the political developments witnessed in India during this time. It was a result of the conflict between two opposing philosophies - class struggle and class collaboration. The Indian politics was going through a period of churning and this led to the split in the communist movement over the characterisation of the State and how to fight for the improvement in the living conditions of the workers and the marginalised. There was a flawed understanding that the Left must unconditionally support the big business houses and elites represented by the party led by Indira Gandhi with the belief that the national bourgeoisie led by Indira Gandhi through progressive measures will take the country towards

socialism. This philosophy also demanded that there should be no opposition to the policies of Congress headed by Indira Gandhi and infact these policies need to be supported by the working class. The AIIEA rejected this philosophy and said that it will never give up the path of class struggle and compromise with the interests of the employees. But a section of the leadership of AIIEA were deeply influenced by this philosophy.

There was intense struggle within the organisation over these issues. When the AIIEA mobilised the employees for a struggle against automation that sought to destroy jobs, this section of the leadership wanted the AIIEA not to agitate on this issue and tacitly allowed the installation of the computer in Bombay. They took up divergent views on many of the issues relating to employees such as Bonus and service conditions to project themselves as militants. This was just a guise to mislead the employees. The real reason was their following a political line of collaboration with the government. This attempt to split the organisation for partisan political reasons was defeated by the employees who overwhelmingly reposed faith in the AIIEA. Though initially the split had some minor impact in centres like Bangalore, Trivandrum, Indore, Lucknow; very soon the employees realised the correctness of the AIIEA. Majority of the employees who were misled returned back to the fold of AIIEA, especially after the end of Internal Emergency. Today in all these centres, the AIIEA commands support of overwhelming majority of employees. The AIIEA suffered some damage in Bombay but

the Federation which mobilised on chauvinist slogans, itself has been made a non-entity by ceding space to regional chauvinistic organisations.

The subsequent events exposed the hollowness of the claims of their militancy and their ability to defend the interests of the employees. In 1974 when the lockout was declared in 6 divisional offices, AIIEA challenged this attack with an indefinite strike call to all branch employees in those divisions, which was massively responded. The AILICEF did not have the courage to fight the lockout. Instead, it called upon its members in the branches to attend the offices. The reaction of other unions like AILIEA, INTUC and BMS was the same. They were too scared to confront the might of the government on this issue. It was the singular battle of AIIEA that could succeed in defeating the lockout, forced LIC to come to negotiating table and settle the demands of the employees.

This was the time when Indira Gandhi government launched unprecedented attacks on the hard-won rights of the employees. Democracy was sabotaged with the imposition of the Internal Emergency. The AILICEF supported every action of the government. They claimed that the gains of emergency would be thousand times greater than

The second disruption was a result of the struggle between two opposing philosophies - class struggle and class collaboration. The internal emergency exposed how misguided this class-collaborationist line is.

loss of bonus to the insurance employees. They acted as the vigilante groups of the government in LIC offices. Not just the insurance employees but the entire country replied back by voting out the Indira Gandhi led Congress in the elections held in 1977 after the lifting of the Emergency. More misguided employees realised their mistakes and returned back to the fold of AIIEA. The AIIEA yet again succeeded in defending the unity of employees.

THIRD ATTEMPT

The nationalisation of general insurance business in 1972 led to the walking away of a section of the leadership of AIIEA to form a separate union in the name of General Insurance Employees' All India Association (GIEAIA). The reason given for this split was that after nationalisation of general insurance business, the interests of the general insurance employees can be well served through a separate organisation. But significant sections of the General Insurance employees rejected this argument and chose to remain with the AIIEA. Despite being a minority, the AIIEA has emerged as the most influential and decisive force in the general insurance industry today.

The formation of INTUC and BMS cannot be technically termed as split. It was the result

Third disruption was following nationalisation of general insurance business in 1972 Here also AIIEA has emerged as the most influential and decisive force in the general insurance industry today.

of some disgruntled elements leaving the membership of AIIEA and subsequently forming these organisations. The INTUC was formed in 1957 as they did not want any struggle against the Congress Government. The BMS (NOIW) was formed in 1968 when AIIEA was leading massive struggle against automation and the wage revision that had fallen due on 1.1.1967. The AIIEA was also fighting against unprecedented punitive measures and victimisation resorted to by LIC. The BMS as mentioned earlier did not believe in class struggle and considered the industry as a family where differences will be resolved peacefully and amicably. The formation of both these organisations was not on any economic grievance but purely on political considerations.

AIIEA EMERGED STRONGER AFTER EVERY DISRUPTION

The AIIEA today commands the support of nearly 85% of the LIC employees and a significant section of employees in the general insurance industry. Remaining loyal to its founding principles, the AIIEA walked the arduous path to secure better working and living conditions for the insurance employees. It never compromised the interests of the employees even at the cost of losing recognition and the right to collective bargaining. In order to defend and advance the interest of the employees, it locked horns with governments of all political formations. It never made political compromises as the other unions do depending upon which party is in government. This is the reason why the insurance employees have unflinching faith and abiding

loyalty in AIIEA.

The Platinum Jubilee Year of the AIIEA gives an opportunity to the insurance employees to look back at the journey travelled these 75 years with pride and satisfaction. The AIIEA remained committed to the unity of the nation during the turbulent period witnessed in Assam, Punjab and Jammu & Kashmir. It remained committed to the Constitutional rights of the SC/ST communities during the agitation against reservations in Gujarat. It remained committed to the principles of secularism when the nation witnessed the harm and brutality of fanning majoritarianism in the name of correcting the historical wrongs. It is engaged in struggle against caste discrimination and its intervention to support the victims in Southern India is well appreciated. It has always stood in solidarity with those who were victims of natural calamities. This work is done because of its principled positions and class understanding. It is for this reason that the AIIEA occupies a pride of place in the comity of trade unions not just in India but is also highly respected in the global working class movement.

The Platinum Jubilee Year 27th General Conference of AIIEA took legitimate pride in the achievements of the organisation and its glorious journey. It committed itself to walk the path and not rest till we reach the destination; a society where no citizen suffers from want, lead a life of dignity, and insurance employees along with their fellow citizens make this country a place of noble values of fraternity, peace and prosperity.

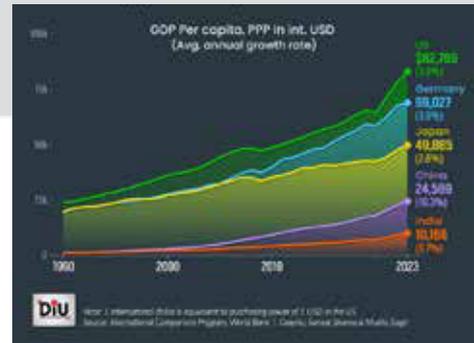
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At \$4.18 trillion, India has overtaken Japan and it seems likely that it would outstrip Germany in the next 2.5 to 3 years. And..... in 2025, our nominal GDP per capita was projected to be \$2818 at current prices. This pegs us at a lowly 146 out of 194 countries. As far as GDP per capita on PPP is concerned, we are at a lowly 127th in the world and 35th in Asia. Despite this, the government keeps repeating the same lines of a spurt in GDP. The government has an ideological mindset to "tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, hoping people will eventually believe it".

Govind Menon
LICEU, Kozhikode Division



The Window Dressing of GDP



Encomiums are being sung on India rising to be the fourth largest GDP on nominal basis, as per governments year end economic review. At \$4.18 trillion, it has overtaken Japan under the above metric and it seems likely that it would outstrip Germany in the next 2.5 to 3 years. However, these self-tributes, also come at a time when the IMF has given a C-grade for India's national account data and thereby credibility of its GDP. However, the government released the real GDP figures for the second quarter of this F.Y at 8.2%. Real GDP for the year is to grow at 7.4%, in the F.Y 2025-26. But a dispassionate analysis of these statistics, casts a deep shadow on these claims.

Taking the broad definition of GDP into account, GDP is the total monetary value of all final goods and services produced within a country, over a specific period of time. The GDP is calculated using three different methods that is the Expenditure, Income and Production (Value Added) method. The three methods theoretically must tally since the value of measure is being approached from three different angles. Therefore, purity of data is a prerequisite for any statistical calculation. In our nation's case, there is a huge controversy that our expenditure method and income side methodology do not tally. This obviously indicates that we have data

impurity of large proportions. Also, much of our production side GDP is unaccounted for and extrapolated. So, breaking down our GDP reveals more than what meets the eye.

The first shocker to our GDP estimates is the fact, that our data sets are old and relies on an old 2011-12 series. This ironically, the present union government did not accept in the beginning. But the bravado quickly took a U-turn, when it was seen that the UPA years had better GDP than the NDA era. So, the NITI Aayog which has no authenticity or expertise to handle GDP, was given charge to window-dress the GDP, based on the 2011-12 series itself, to give an impression that the GDP under NDA was thriving as never before. GDP

must go down if there is a dip in production. However, statistics never revealed this, despite the demonetisation fiasco, where 3 lakh shell companies out of 18 lakh companies were removed. Also, in the services sector 35% of the companies so listed had inaccurate addresses, but the GDP figures remained as it was. Therefore, all this meant that our GDP data sets were inaccurate.

Many economies in the world follow a five-year revision in its base year for its national accounts. But our nation follows a ten-year cycle, which albeit shifted to a five-year one intermittently. However, currently we have failed to revise our current economic data even after 14 years, which still is bench marked to 2011-12. This would practically be akin to judging the current traffic with that of a 2011 map.

Also, our country has 94% of the workers in the unorganised sector. The cruel blows of demonetisation followed in the next year by the GST and thereafter the NBFC shocks would have impacted them. However, our GDP figures ignore these torrents. Data from ILO indicates, that 1 in every 3 unemployed in

India is a youth. Many so called 'Employed', are in self-employment or in unpaid labour or low wage employees or in agriculture with little or no wages. Due to low nutrition, poverty, low wages, low skills we have low GDP per worker at \$10 per worker per hour, lower than many countries. These are not correctly imputed giving a puffed up figure.

So, a spurious measure to paint a rosy picture of the GDP is seen. The data for the organised sector was extrapolated to the declining growth in the unorganised sector. So as per noted economist Prof. Arun Kumar, the declining 5 to 9% unorganised sector is being overestimated through this method. Therefore, in direct terms, our GDP is being over estimated.

Millions of unincorporated businesses, self-employed and house-hold sector in our country do not have proper accounting trails. These sectors, many in the throes of desperation are measured inaccurately. Under the current "benchmark-indicator" method, the Gross Value Added in these sectors are benchmarked against the year 2011. This therefore means, that the GVA per worker, uses

old data and proxies it against the formal sector, thereby showing growth. This has a false assumption of relying on outdated productivity and employment benchmarks.

Another issue with our GDP statistics is the overestimation of our economic growth due to the deflator problem. Unlike in major economies our country lacks the Producer Price Index and relies wholly on the Wholesale Price Index. The weightage given in the WPI to certain items like oil and metals forces the same weight to be given to some sectors like services. This is fallacious. The WPI gives more substance to goods produced in the factories. Therefore, the WPI commodity-heavy index has its own risks when applying deflation to services sector, which are tertiary in nature and not factory based. This creates a mismatch, which inflates the real-growth rate of the services sector.

Our GDP also relies on the single-deflator model. However, world-over the double-deflator model is relied upon. This basically means that even though cost of raw materials fall, many corporates are loath to reduce their selling price.

IMF gives India a 'C' on its GDP and other national accounts data



Cartoons courtesy: Sajit Kumar, Deccan Herald

This is why real GDP must be read at constant prices for both raw materials and produced goods which are sold, which hardly happens in our estimates. Therefore, this inflates the profits and thereby our GDP.

Our fiscal federalism is currently under great threat. Even, the very basis of calculation of GDP comes under great threat, since the economic output of states or GSDP is currently calculated on a method called 'Apportionment'. This is a method that calculates the GVA for a specific sector at the national level and then slices it amongst the states, using proxy indicators like number of employees or consumption patterns in the state. This top-up approach does not reflect the ground-situation. Aggregate data for states and local bodies was last given in 2019, indicating the parody of our data.

The current GDP methodology has a base year, unchanged even after 14 years. In the first 50 years after independence, we had 5 changes and we had three changes in this century. This means that the current benchmark is outdated. The moot point is that, we are one of the only two most populous

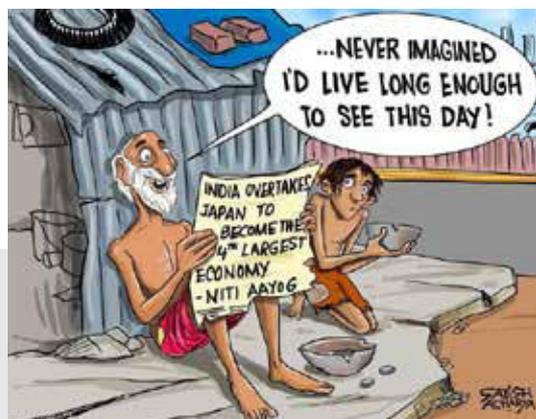
countries not to conduct our census, which was due in 2021. This is why the question of extrapolation of data becomes very serious. Wrong indices are quoted to portray that poverty has declined. Despite severe deprivations in 2019-20 and huge unaccounted deaths, the data of the year is extrapolated to 2023-24, which negates poverty estimates upside down and inflates the GDP.

Today, our whole GDP revolves around projections to keep the stock market happy. Despite about 6000 large companies, 6 lakh small as also medium companies and 6.5 micro units, only about 1500 companies have actively traded scrips. These companies are growing, cornering disproportionate amount of wealth. Much of our official statistics are masqueraded, though we have a deep paucity of data due to policy aberrations. Unlike other countries of similar size, we do not tax the rich enough. This leads to not only rising inequality but also a contraction of GDP.

The GDP is not a measure of the welfare of the people and this can be seen from the fact that none of the happiest countries in the world come in the top brackets of the nominal GDP. What really

matters, is how the GDP is actually distributed. According to the IMF (October 2025), our nominal GDP per capita for 2025, was projected to be \$2818 at current prices. This pegs us at a lowly 146 out of 194 countries. As far GDP per capita on PPP is concerned we are at a lowly 127th in the world and 35th in Asia. Therefore, the claims of India becoming the fourth largest economy is not reflected in the life standards of the people and indicate huge concentration of wealth at the top.

Despite these criticisms, the government keeps repeating the same lines of a spurt in GDP. The over reliance on FDI to propel our GDP, despite indications of a heavier outflow than inflow, suggests that these are all recipes for disaster. If indeed an economy is growing based on our GDP estimates, there should be a growth in formal employment and not 94% workers in poorly or unpaid unorganised sector. Also, the unemployment crisis exacerbates our social crisis. This is why economists like Prof. Arun Kumar, contend that our GDP, is only about half of the official figures, due to flawed figures and over estimation. Indications are there that a new GDP series is coming out in February 2026. However, the key point is whether the government will learn lessons from stark realities in our economy. The crisis in various sectors of our economy, the New Labour Codes and the abrogation of the MGNREGA evinces, that the government has an ideological mindset to "tell a lie big enough and keep repeating it, hoping people will eventually believe it".



Cartoon
courtesy:
Satish Acharya
@ facebook

The Disgrace of Extreme Inequality

Dr Santosh Kumar
Mohapatra



Economic inequality has long occupied the centre of debates on how societies are organised and how prosperity is shared. While disparities have always characterised the global economy, by 2025 inequality has reached levels that demand urgent moral, political, and economic attention. The gains from globalisation and economic growth have accrued disproportionately to a narrow elite, even as vast sections of the world's population continue to struggle for secure livelihoods, social protection, and basic dignity. These divides are neither accidental nor inevitable. They are the direct outcome of political choices, institutional arrangements, and entrenched asymmetries of power.

The World Inequality Report 2026 (WIR 2026), produced by the World Inequality Lab under the leadership of Lucas Chancel, Ricardo Gómez-Carrera, Rowaida Moshrif, and Thomas Piketty, offers one of the most comprehensive and rigorously documented accounts of the persistence-and intensification-of inequality in the twenty-first century. The third report in the series, following the 2018 and 2022 editions, draws on the work

of more than 200 scholars worldwide. Prefaced by Joseph Stiglitz and Jayati Ghosh, the report leaves no ambiguity: global inequality remains at historically extreme levels and is deeply multidimensional, spanning income, wealth, gender, climate vulnerability, and access to basic human capabilities.

A central message of the report is that inequality does not arise from the natural workings of markets alone. Rather, it reflects deliberate policy choices, entrenched institutional structures, and unequal distributions of economic and political power. Markets are embedded in social and political systems, and when those systems are designed to favour capital over labour, wealth over work, and elites over citizens, inequality becomes both persistent and self-reinforcing. Importantly, the report also demonstrates that because inequality is shaped by policy, it can be reshaped by policy.

The concentration of wealth has not merely persisted; it has accelerated at an alarming pace. Over the past three decades, extreme wealth inequality has intensified sharply. Since the 1990s,

Inequality is neither natural nor irreversible. It is a political choice, shaped by policies, institutions, and governance systems. Extreme inequality is economically inefficient, socially corrosive, and ecologically unsustainable. It weakens democracies, fragments social cohesion, erodes political consensus, and intensifies climate vulnerability—burdens borne most heavily by those least responsible. Yet the evidence presented in the report also shows that inequality can be reduced. Reducing inequality is not merely a matter of fairness; it is essential for economic resilience, democratic stability, and planetary survival.

the wealth of billionaires and centi-millionaires has grown at an average annual rate of around 8 per cent-nearly twice the growth rate experienced by the bottom half of the global population. While the poorest segments have registered modest improvements, these gains are overwhelmingly overshadowed by the extraordinary accumulation of wealth at the very top of the distribution.

In 2025, measured at purchasing power parity, the global top 1 per cent captured 23 per cent of total income and owned 38 per cent of total personal wealth. The top 10 per cent accounted for 53 per cent of global income and an extraordinary 75 per cent of global wealth. By contrast, the middle 40 per cent captured 23 per cent of income and owned 38 per cent of wealth, while the bottom 50 per cent received only 8 per cent of total income and owned a mere 2 per cent of global wealth. Such figures reveal an economic order that systematically concentrates resources upward while leaving the majority with little capacity for wealth accumulation.

The scale of global concentration is even more striking when viewed in absolute terms. The global top 1 per cent-roughly equivalent in size to the adult population of the United Kingdom-controls about 37 per cent of total global wealth. This is more than eighteen times the wealth owned by the entire bottom half of humanity, a group comparable in size to the combined adult populations of China, India, the United States, Indonesia, Nigeria, Brazil, and Russia. These disparities underscore the magnitude of

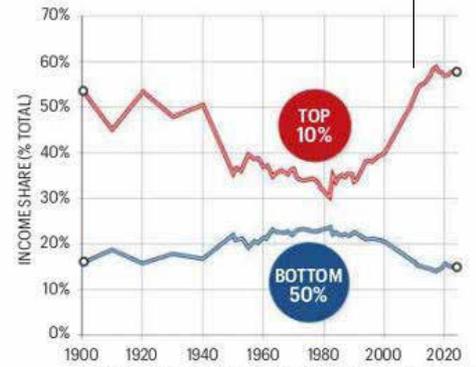
the global inequality crisis and the urgency of redistributive policy interventions.

India's experience mirrors these global patterns with particular intensity. Inequality in India remains deeply entrenched across income, wealth, and gender dimensions, revealing persistent structural divides within the economy and society. The report demonstrates how today's inequalities of opportunity-rooted in unequal access to education, health, assets, and social networks-translate into tomorrow's inequalities of outcomes, perpetuating cycles of exclusion across generations.

In 2025, the top 1 per cent in India captured 22.6 per cent of total national income and owned 40.1 per cent of total personal wealth. The top 10 per cent accounted for 57.7 per cent of income and 65 per cent of wealth. Although the middle 40 per cent received 27.3 per cent of income, they owned only 28.6 per cent of wealth, reflecting limited asset accumulation among large sections of the population. These trends represent a deterioration from already high inequality levels reported in the World Inequality Report 2022, which showed that in 2021 the top 10 per cent held 57 per cent of national income while the bottom 50 per cent received only 13 per cent. Economic growth has not translated into shared prosperity; instead, it has reinforced existing hierarchies.

Broader socio-economic indicators further underline the depth of structural inequality in India. Average annual income per capita stands at approximately

Income shares in India: 1900-2024



INTERPRETATION: THE TOP 10% INCOME SHARE IS EQUAL TO 58% IN 2024. INCOME IS MEASURED AFTER THE OPERATION OF PENSIONS AND UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE SYSTEMS AND BEFORE INCOME TAX. |SOURCES AND SERIES:WIR2026(WD,WORLD)METHODOLOGY.

Inequality outlook – India

Group	INCOME		WEALTH	
	Avg. Income (PPP €)	Share of total (%)	Avg. Wealth (PPP €)	Share of total (%)
Full pop.	6,224	100%	28,141	100%
Bottom 50%	940	15%	1,801	6.4%
Middle 40%	4,247	27.3%	20,120	28.6%
Top 10%	35,901	57.7%	182,913	65%
Top 1%	140,649	22.6%	1,128,435	40.1%

€6,200 (Purchasing power parity), which is roughly around Rs.665968. But the average income in terms of PPP of the bottom 50% of the population is just around Rs.100580. This indicates not only the high inequality in incomes but also the precarious living conditions of the vast majority of the people. Female labour force participation remains alarmingly low at just 15.7 per cent, showing little improvement over the past decade. As emphasised by Stiglitz and Ghosh, inequality in India is not confined to income and wealth alone but is deeply interwoven with gender, caste, region, and access to public services.

Gender inequality remains particularly pervasive. Women consistently work more hours than men when unpaid domestic and care work is included—on average 53 hours per week compared to 43 for men—yet their labour is

systematically undervalued. Excluding unpaid work, women earn only 61 per cent of men's hourly income; when unpaid labour is included, this figure falls to just 32 per cent. These disproportionate responsibilities constrain women's career trajectories, limit political participation, and severely restrict wealth accumulation, reinforcing inequality across generations.

The report also highlights the stark intersection between inequality and the climate crisis. The poorest half of the global population accounts for only 3 per cent of carbon emissions associated with private capital ownership, while the top 10 per cent account for 77 per cent. The wealthiest 1 per cent alone is responsible for 41 per cent of these emissions-nearly double that of the entire bottom 90 per cent. These findings underscore that climate inequality is driven less by consumption patterns and more by ownership of capital, making inequality not only a social injustice but also a central driver of ecological breakdown.

Inequality, therefore, is neither natural nor irreversible. It is a political choice, shaped by policies, institutions, and governance systems. Extreme inequality is economically inefficient, socially corrosive, and ecologically unsustainable. It weakens democracies, fragments social cohesion, erodes political consensus, and intensifies climate vulnerability-burdens borne most heavily by those least responsible. Yet the evidence presented in the report also shows that inequality can be reduced. Reducing inequality is not merely a matter of fairness;

it is essential for economic resilience, democratic stability, and planetary survival.

The World Inequality Report 2026 calls for renewed solidarity, stronger public investment, progressive taxation, and enhanced global cooperation. Stiglitz and Ghosh argue for the creation of an international panel on inequality, similar to the IPCC for climate science, to systematically monitor trends and guide evidence-based policymaking. The report also stresses the need to reform the global financial system, which remains structurally biased in favour of wealthy countries. Advanced economies can borrow cheaply and invest abroad at higher returns, effectively acting as financial rentiers. As a result, about 1 per cent of global GDP flows annually from poorer to richer countries through unequal income transfers-nearly three times the volume of global development aid. Reforms such as coordinated global taxation, corrective levies on excessive surpluses, and stronger international financial governance could significantly reduce these imbalances.

At the national level, regressive tax structures further exacerbate inequality. In many countries, elites pay proportionally less tax than lower- and middle-income households, depriving states of the resources needed for education, healthcare, social protection, and climate action. Progressive taxation-particularly wealth, inheritance, and capital gains taxes-alongside redistributive transfers and robust public investment, is essential to ensure that those with the

greatest means contribute their fair share. Evidence consistently shows that redistributive policies such as cash transfers, pensions, unemployment benefits, nutrition programmes, and childcare support can significantly narrow income gaps.

For India, one of the world's fastest-growing yet most unequal economies, these lessons are especially urgent. High wealth concentration threatens social stability and sustainable growth, while persistent educational, health, and gender disparities undermine the country's demographic potential. Although India's tax system appears moderate on paper, it remains weak in practice, particularly in taxing wealth. The absence of inheritance and net wealth taxes, combined with recent cuts in corporate tax rates, has sharply reduced progressivity even as the fortunes of the ultra-rich have expanded rapidly.

Greater transparency, stronger redistribution, and coordinated global action on taxation and capital regulation are therefore indispensable. As, Thomas Piketty has observed, the World Inequality Report 2026 arrives at a challenging political moment, but it is more essential than ever. Only by continuing the historic movement toward equality can societies confront the intertwined social and climate challenges of the coming decades and build more inclusive, democratic, and sustainable futures.

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अमेरिकी दादागिरी का एक और उदाहरण: वेनेजुएला संकट

रामचंद्र शर्मा



नये साल की शुरुआत में ही वेनेजुएला में 3 जनवरी 2026 को साम्राज्यवादी अमेरिका ने एक ऐसा दुष्कृत्य कर दिखाया, जिसने पूरी दुनिया का ध्यान खींच लिया। कभी लैटिन अमेरिका की सबसे समृद्ध अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में शामिल होने वाला वेनेजुएला अब इतिहास की सबसे घिनौनी राजनीतिक उथल-पुथल का गवाह बन गया। अमेरिकी सेना ने 'ऑपरेशन एक्सोल्यूट रिजॉल्व' के नाम से बड़े पैमाने पर हवाई हमलों के तहत राजधानी कराकस में कई सैन्य हमलों को अंजाम दिया। इस कार्रवाई में राष्ट्रपति निकोलस मादुरो और उनकी पत्नी सिलिया फ्लोरेस को गिरफ्तार कर अमेरिका ले जाया गया।

वेनेजुएला की सम्प्रभुता पर किए इस हमले की दुनिया भर के अनेक देशों के साथ अमेरिका की जनता ने भी कड़ी निंदा की है। अकेले अमेरिका में 26000से ज्यादा हुए रैली प्रदर्शन में 72 लाख से ज्यादा लोगों ने भागीदारी कर ट्रंप शासन द्वारा किसी स्वतंत्र देश पर हमला करने, उसकी चुनी हुई सरकार को अपदस्थ करने और उसके प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर कब्जा करने के दुष्कृत्य को अंतरराष्ट्रीय कानून, संयुक्त राष्ट्र संघ चार्टर और लोकतांत्रिक मूल्यों का खुला उल्लंघन करना बताया है। वेनेजुएला पर हुए हमले के मामले पर यह तथ्य अब पुरी दुनिया के सामने है कि ट्रंप प्रशासन ने अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानूनों का ही नहीं बल्कि अमेरिका के संवैधानिक प्रावधानों का भी खुला उल्लंघन किया है। हमले के संदर्भ में अमेरिकी कांग्रेस से मंजूरी लेना तो दूर की बात है, ट्रंप

ने कांग्रेस को सूचना तक नहीं दी। दुनिया में पेट्रोलॉलर का वर्चस्व बनाए रखने के लिए ट्रंप प्रशासन ने यह हताशापूर्ण गैर पारंपरिक कार्रवाई की है। लेकिन इस तरह की गई कार्रवाईयों से पेट्रोलॉलर के वर्चस्व को बनाए रखना अब अमेरिका के लिए संभव नहीं है। उल्टे दुनियाभर में इस तरह की कार्रवाई अशांति और अस्थिरता ही पैदा करेगी। क्योंकि ट्रंप ने उद्धोषित किया है कि अब उसके अगले निशाने क्यूबा, कोलम्बिया, मेक्सिको और ग्रीनलैंड होंगे। हालांकि ग्रीनलैंड को लेकर डेनमार्क ही नहीं बल्कि इटली, जर्मनी, स्पेन, इंग्लैंड आदि यूरोपीय देश व नाटो देशों ने किसी बाहरी हस्तक्षेप को अस्वीकार्य बताया है।

अमेरिका के लिए वेनेजुएला का पहला अपराध यह था कि उसने अपने प्राकृतिक संसाधनों पर अपने लोगों का अधिकार स्थापित करने की कोशिश की और तेल क्षेत्र का राष्ट्रीय करण कर उसे अमेरिकी कंपनियों से मुक्त करने की कोशिश की थी। उसकी नजर में दुसरा अपराध वेनेजुएला ने अंतरराष्ट्रीय बाजार में अमेरिकी डॉलर के एकाधिकार को चुनौती देकर और डॉलर से इतर क्षेत्रीय मुद्राओं में लेनदेन किया जो अमेरिका को बहुत नागवार था। ट्रंप शासन का यह कहना कि वेनेजुएला के राष्ट्रपति मादुरो ड्रग्स व्यापार में लिप्त थे और विरोधियों की लोकतांत्रिक गतिविधियों पर हमला

This kidnapping of elected President of a sovereign nation is the latest example in a series of nearly 600 military interventions carried out by the United States in various sovereign countries, demonstrating that it has no qualms about overthrowing the government of any country that does not comply with its demands or grant it unrestricted access to its natural resources. International law and national sovereignty hold no meaning for it. Yet, it has become a habit for the US to constantly lecture others on democracy. All of this is being done while masquerading as a champion of peace.



अकेले अमेरिका में 26000से ज्यादा हुए रैली प्रदर्शन में 72 लाख से ज्यादा लोग भागीदार हुए

कर रहे थे, इसलिए उसने वेनेजुएला पर हमला किया, यह पूरी तौर पर उसी तरह पाखंड था, जो कालांतर में मानव विनाश के रसायनिक हथियार होने के आरोप इराक के राष्ट्रपति सद्दाम हुसैन और लिबिया के गद्दाफी और सीरिया के असद पर चस्मा किये थे। जो बाद में खुद अमेरिका ने स्वीकार किया कि वहां उसे ऐसा कुछ भी नहीं मिला।

अमेरिका दुनिया भर में तानाशाही की सरकारों का समर्थन करता है और प्रत्यक्ष व अप्रत्यक्ष ढंग से ग्लोबल साउथ के देशों के संसाधनों पर कब्जा करता आ रहा है।

अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने दावा किया कि अब वेनेजुएला का प्रशासन अमेरिका संभालेगा। जबकि न तो वर्तमान कार्यवाहक प्रशासन और न ही वेनेजुएला की जनता अमेरिका के हस्तक्षेप को अस्वीकार करने की घोषणा कर रहे हैं। हालांकि इस घटनाक्रम ने एकबारगी वेनेजुएला की सत्ता को ही धक्का नहीं दिया बल्कि उसके तेल उद्योग को जबरदस्त झटका दिया है। जहां विश्व का सबसे बड़ा तेल भंडार है।

असल में वेनेजुएला में ह्यूगो शावेज़ को अपदस्थ करने की अनेक करतूतें कर चुका अमेरिका उस समय तो सफल नहीं हुआ परन्तु वर्ष 2013 में उनकी मृत्यु के बाद जब उनके उत्तराधिकारी निकोलस मादुरो सत्ता में आये। तब से अमेरिका उसकी सरकार को अस्थिर करने में सतत तौर पर लगा रहा है। वर्ष 2025 में अमेरिका ने मादुरो पर नार्को-टेरिज्म के आरोप चस्पाकर सैन्य दबाव का दायरा बढ़ाया। दिसंबर तक तेल भंडारों की ज़ब्ती की साजिशों के क्रम में अंततः 2026 की शुरुआत में यह खुली सैन्य कार्रवाई में बदल गया। आधी रात शयनकक्ष

से निकाल कर मादुरो को हथकड़ी लगाकर पत्नी के साथ न्यूयॉर्क ले जाया गया है।

अंतरराष्ट्रीय स्तर पर इस कार्रवाई को लेकर विरोध प्रदर्शन तत्काल शुरू हो गये हैं। संयुक्त राष्ट्र ने इसे खतरनाक मिसाल बताया, जबकि उत्तरी कोरिया, रूस, चीन, फिलीपींस और कई लैटिन अमेरिकी देशों ने अमेरिकी कदम की कड़ी निंदा की है।

दुनिया के सबसे बड़े तेल भंडार वाले वेनेजुएला का भविष्य अब अनिश्चित नजर आ रहा है। प्रश्न यही है कि अब इस देश में लोकतंत्र बहाल होगा या एक नये संघर्ष का जन्म होगा। लेकिन कार्यवाहक राष्ट्रपति डेल्सी ने हर हाल में अपनी सम्प्रभुता को बनाये रखने और अमेरिका के आगे समर्पण न करने का ठोस बयान दिया है और निकोलस मादुरो को ही वैध राष्ट्रपति माना है। वेनेजुएला की कार्यवाहक राष्ट्रपति डेल्सी रोड्रिगज के इस बयान पर अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप ने बोखलाहट भरी चेतावनी दी है। ट्रंप ने कहा है कि अगर उन्हें वेनेजुएला के तेल और देश में अमेरिका का एक्सेस नहीं मिला, तो उन्हें गंभीर परिणाम भुगतने पड़ सकते हैं। ट्रंप ने बहुत औछे शब्दों में कहा कि उसका मादुरो से भी बुरा हाल कर दूंगा। उधर अमेरिका की संघीय अदालत में मादुरो ने अपना पक्ष रखते हुए खुद को निर्दोष बताया।

अमेरिकी सेना द्वारा अपहरण किए जाने के बाद, वेनेजुएला के राष्ट्रपति निकोलस मादुरो और उनकी पत्नी सिलिया फ्लोरेस ने 6 जनवरी, 2026 को न्यूयॉर्क की एक अमेरिकी संघीय अदालत में मादुरो की तस्करी, नार्को-आतंकवाद और अन्य संबंधित कथित अपराधों के मनगढ़ंत आरोपों में खुद को निर्दोष बताया।

न्यायाधीश एल्विन हैलरस्टीन द्वारा मादुरो के खिलाफ 'नार्को-आतंकवाद की साजिश' सहित आरोपों को पढ़ने और उनसे जवाब मांगे जाने पर, मादुरो ने उत्तर दिया: 'मैं निर्दोष हूँ। यहाँ उल्लिखित किसी भी बात के लिए मैं दोषी नहीं हूँ।' मादुरो की पत्नी सिलिया फ्लोरेस ने भी अपना जवाब पूछे जाने पर अपनी निर्दोषता पर जोर दिया: 'दोषी नहीं। पूरी तरह निर्दोष,' बताया। मादुरो ने अदालत से यह भी कहा, 'मैं दोषी नहीं हूँ, मैं एक सभ्य व्यक्ति हूँ, मैं

अभी भी अपने देश का राष्ट्रपति हूँ।'

आप सबके संज्ञान में होगा कि विभिन्न सम्प्रभुता सम्पन्न देशों में अमेरिका द्वारा अब तक 600 के करीब किये जा चुके सैन्य हस्तक्षेप की कड़ी में यह एक ताजा उदाहरण है कि जो देश उसके अनुसार न चले, अपने प्राकृतिक संसाधनों के दोहन की अमेरिका को छूट न दे तो उसकी सत्ता को अपदस्थ करने में उसे कोई गुरेज नहीं है। उसके लिए अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय कानून और राष्ट्रीय सम्प्रभुता का कोई अर्थ नहीं है। परन्तु दूसरों को सदा लोकतंत्र का पाठ पढ़ाते रहना उसकी आदत बन गयी है। यह सब शांतिदूत का चोला पहनकर किया जा रहा है। आप सबने देखा है कि ट्रंप किस तरह से फिलिस्तीन के गाजा क्षेत्र को तबाह करने देने में इजरायली नेता नेतन्याहू के समर्थन में खड़ा रहा है और अब पुनर्निर्माण के कथित समझौते के नाम पर शांति के नोबेल पुरस्कार के लिए बेताब था परन्तु वेनेजुएला की विपक्ष की नेता जिस माचाडो को पिछले साल 2025 में शांति का नोबेल पुरस्कार मिला वो भी शांति की नहीं, बल्कि अशांति की दूत थी और जो मादुरो को गोली मारने की बात करती थी। ऐसे में ट्रंप खुद को नोबेल न मिलने को भूल गया और माचाडो की पीठ थपथपाई।

वेनेजुएला में विश्व का सबसे बड़ा तेल भंडार ही नहीं बल्कि जिस चांदी के भाव द्रुतगति से बढ़े जा रहे हैं, उसके बड़े भंडार के साथ सोना और अन्य दुर्लभ धातुओं की भरपूर मात्रा है। तभी तो अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप वेनेजुएला में किये गए हस्तक्षेप को सही ठहराते हुए अपने एक उद्बोधन में अधिकारियों और जनप्रतिनिधियों को समझाने की कोशिश में कह रहे हैं कि सैनिक हस्तक्षेप पर खर्च हुई राशि हम उनके तेल व अन्य धातुओं से वसूल कर लेंगे। अमेरिकी कम्पनियों की पहुँच आसान बनाने के लिए किया गया यह सैन्य हस्तक्षेप से जारी मुनरो सिद्धांत का विस्तार है। अमेरिका को चीन और रूस के साथ उसके रिश्ते बर्दास्त नहीं है। इस सैन्य हस्तक्षेप के बाद दुनिया के सबसे बड़े कुबेर एलन मस्क ने वेनेजुएला को मुफ्त इंटरनेट सुविधा की पेशकश कर दी है। यह अंगुली रखने को जगह पाने जैसा है जो अवसर मिलते ही बाद में पौँचा पकड़ने तक चला जाता है।



Image courtesy: MAlI @facebook

हमारे देश के लिए यह कम दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण नहीं है कि अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति ट्रंप के द्वारा नियोजित वेनेजुएला के इस तख्त पलट पर वर्तमान सत्तारूढ़ मोदी सरकार से न तो अमरीका का नाम लिया गया और न ही उसकी निंदा की गई। बस केवल चिंता जाहिर करके औपचारिकता निभा दी गई कि बातचीत से मसला हल करें। जबकि भारत के अलावा सभी BRICS देशों ने अमेरिका का नाम लेकर कड़ी निंदा की है। यह स्थिति आज उस भारत की है जो हमेशा दम ठोक कर विश्व में अपनी बात कहता रहा है। तो फिर अब कथित 56 इंची सरकार को क्यों सांप सुंघ गया ? सच कहने को उसका कलेजा क्यों बैठा जा रहा है? BRICS देशों में शामिल होकर वैकल्पिक मुद्रा और रूस से तेल न खरीदने पर ट्रंप की धमकी पर भीगी बिल्ली बन जाना, विश्व में भारत की प्रतिष्ठा को धूलधुसरित कर देना है।

हम वही देश हैं, जिसने महाशक्तियों के दबाव को ठेंगा दिखा कर गुट-निरपेक्ष आंदोलन खड़ा कर दिया था। तब तो हम एक गरीब देश थे, नई नई आज़ादी मिली थी, फिर भी अलग चलने का दम था।

आज तो हमें बार बार बताया जा रहा है कि भारत परमाणु अस्त्र संपन्न, अंतरिक्ष सुपरपावर, आर्थिक महाशक्ति सब कुछ है, फिर उसकी नैतिक ताकत कहीं क्यों खो गई है? क्या आज की सत्ता झूठे और नक्कारों के हाथ अपनी पुरानी प्रतिष्ठा को नहीं खो रही है?



Cartoon courtesy:
Nala Ponnappa @facebook

आज के ये सत्ताधीश पूंजीयार अगर आज़ादी के तुरंत बाद सत्ता में आ गये होते तो क्या गुट निरपेक्ष आंदोलन शुरू करने या परमाणु कार्यक्रम, अंतरिक्ष कार्यक्रम शुरू करने की हिम्मत जुटा पाते ?

अगर ये सत्ता में होते तो इंदिरा गांधी की तरह अमरीका को आँखें दिखा कर बांग्लादेश बनवा पाते ? ये तो आज उस बांग्लादेश मुक्ति आंदोलन की उपलब्धि और भारत से उसके भाईचारे के संबंध को भी साल भर पहले बांग्लादेश की प्रधानमंत्री शेख हसीना की अपदस्थी में भी मौन धरे रहने से गंवा बैठे हैं जो उसके मुक्ति संघर्ष में भारत की महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका से हासिल की थी। क्यों कमजोर हो गए हैं हम ? क्यों जवाब नहीं दे पा रहे? क्यों अमेरिका के राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप आपरेशन सिंदूर के हुए विराम का बार बार श्रेय खुद लेते रहे हैं और हमारे इंची प्रधानमंत्री चूं तक नहीं करते हैं। वेनेजुएला में किये गए इस ताजा हस्तक्षेप के बाद ट्रंप फिर एक दूसरी बात प्रेस कॉन्फ्रेंस में बोल गए कि भारत ने अब रूस से तेल खरीदना कम कर दिया, क्योंकि मोदी मुझे खुश करना चाहता है। वो जानता है कि मैं उससे खुश नहीं हूँ और मुझे खुश करना जरूरी है। अगर मेरी बात नहीं मानी गई तो मैं बहुत जल्द 500% तक टैरिफ बढ़ा दूंगा, जिसका उन्हें नुकसान होगा। गौरतलब यह है कि ट्रंप के इस बयान पर भी हमारे प्रधानमंत्री का मुंह सिला रहा है। ट्रंप के मुताबिक, भारत ने रूस से तेल खरीदना इसलिए बंद कर दिया, क्योंकि अमेरिका ने भारत पर टैरिफ से दबाव बनाया। हर जनमानस में ये सवाल उठ रहे हैं कि क्या मोदी सरकार की विदेश नीति अमेरिका से तय हो रही है?

क्या रूस से तेल खरीदना इसलिए बंद हुआ क्योंकि ट्रंप को खुश करना था?

क्या कारण है कि ट्रंप कभी भारत - पाक के बीच युद्ध विराम कराने की बात कहते हैं, कभी रूस से तेल खरीदने पर रोक लगाने की बात करते हैं। बावजूद इसके प्रधानमंत्री मोदी चुप क्यों हैं? सवाल यह है कि आखिर ट्रंप से मोदी इतना डरते क्यों हैं?

The dismantling of the world's largest demand-based employment guarantee scheme, MNREGA, marks a shift from rights-based welfare programmes that value dignity of labour and responsibility of the state in providing employment to right-wing welfare schemes that invoke arbitrary discrimination and rest on feudal benevolence. The Viksit Bharat-Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) or the VB-G RAM G Act once again pushes the rural poor to depend on *Ram-bharose* instead of right to work as a democratic right that not only empowered them economically but also increased their bargaining power vis-à-vis the land-owning class. The withdrawal of MNREGA would increase the rural reserve army of labour that is likely to push down wages and rural incomes offering ease of exploitation to the rural rich who would have greater control over the labour market. As several studies have pointed out, MNREGA has not only increased incomes of the rural poor but ascertained a rural reservation wage or a floor wage and increased employment in rural India.

It is also well-documented that the greater gain of MNREGA came from indirect increase in income due to the tightening of the labour market caused by the programme rather than the direct gains of wages against work. For the past few years, we saw a deliberate attempt by the central government to reduce allocation for MNREGA and the final assault came without any discussion in Parliament. Also, for the past

Why Right-wing Governments are against Right to Work?

Sanjay Roy

(Courtesy: Peoples Democracy 11/1/2026)

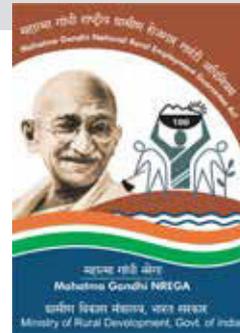
few years, there had been reports of misuse of funds and corruption in this project and such evidence helped diluting the importance of this project in public perception. This is despite the fact that empirical evidence of leakage in this large-scale programme was minimal and many state governments were introducing digital modes of payments to check leakages, significantly increasing the efficiency of the programme. However, instead of increasing the scope of the programme, the central government chose to withdraw it. Large scale corruption in many government projects and kickbacks from their cronies are generally ignored in India because they fulfil mutual interests of the rich and the powerful. And for such evidence we hardly see factories or businesses being closed. On the other hand, on issues of rights of the poor, corruption has always been blown out of proportion to destroy any existing right that creates hindrance to freedom of exploitation of labour.

Multiprong Attack

The withdrawal of MNREGA is a multipronged attack on the rural poor who will be losing their right to work, will be forced to accept lower wages, face discrimination by caste and gender in terms of employment

and wages and will be subject to feudal political and economic power to be negotiated through pre-modern loyalty. It also increases the responsibility of states in operating the rural employment programme and since most states would not have adequate funds, the scope of the supply driven employment scheme is bound to shrink. This essentially destroys the world's largest demand driven work programme and relieves both the central and state governments from the legal binding of job creation of at least hundred days for the rural poor. Moreover, the clause of prior notification of areas by the central government in which the new work programme would be operational is simply turning a welfare scheme into a tool of political control by the ruling party at the centre.

Destruction of rights of the working poor is a way of making them subject to discretion extended by the powerful. Disenfranchising right to work would blow up the rural reserve army of labour reducing their bargaining power vis-a-vis rural the employer class be it landlords, contractors, service providers or well-to-do rural households who would find cheap labour for their domestic work. This



The withdrawal of MNREGA is a multipronged attack on the rural poor who will be losing their right to work, will be forced to accept lower wages...

Right-wing governments favour extending support based on discretion rather than on rights.

Particularly for the State, acknowledging responsibilities of job creation as a mode of intervention to manage demand is inimical to neoliberal right-wing governments.

Most importantly, MNREGA was a combination of several things, namely, decentralised decision making, expansion of rights for the rural poor and state becoming answerable to the poorest of rural India who demanded work.

The new VB-G RAM G Act knocks down all at one go.

is going to increase migration to peri-urban and urban areas resulting in an expansion of the informal sector in non-agriculture. This will increase the rate of exploitation in urban low skill segments as migrants hardly have voice where they are politically and culturally out of place. Right to work through MNREGA was a matter of ensuring dignity of work independent of caste and gender and acknowledging the importance of decentralised decision making in building assets according to local needs. Once it is withdrawn, it brings back the evils of ascribed identities and hierarchies that comes into play by the revitalised feudal dominance in rural India. Retrogression of rights does not bring the matrix of power to the situation prior to implementation of right, in fact, it usually becomes worse than that, much more regressive as it celebrates the defeat of the powerless and reasserts the social norm that the destiny of the poor lies in the hands of the rich and powerful. This makes regrouping of the exploited and oppressed even more difficult. It is an assault on the class power of the rural poor.

Against

Work Related Rights

Right-wing governments favour extending support based on discretion rather than on rights. Particularly for the state, acknowledging responsibilities of job creation as a mode of intervention to manage demand is inimical to neoliberal right-wing governments. Most importantly, MNREGA was a combination of several things, namely, decentralised decision making, expansion of rights for the rural poor and state

becoming answerable to the poorest of rural India who demanded work. This new VB-G RAM G Act knocks down all at one go. It is important to note that most of the right-wing governments across the world and in India including some state governments have taken resort to a new breed of social welfare schemes, mostly delinked from work, of cash transfer to various segments of the population.

There is a general pattern in the reforms undertaken by neoliberal governments related to labour working in the factories as well as for other sections of the working poor. The general rule is dislodging all protective rights and existing institutional bargaining mechanisms of the working people related to their work, disempowering them by weakening class identities that naturally grow in their workplace due to shared experience of exploitation. This ensures absolute freedom of capital to exploit workers in their workplace. On the other hand, the state extends some minimalist relief through transfer of cash or kind to different segments of the poor identified not as workers but citizens of different categories such as women, girl child, forest dwellers, students from underprivileged background and so on. Such support marginally reduces the cost of living for the beneficiaries. And the right-wing governments often prefer such support to work related rights for the following reasons: First, this support although financed by the government revenue earned through direct and indirect taxes in which the poor also contributes, bears

a taste of favour to specific beneficiary groups vis-à-vis others. Studies show that such sense of gratitude usually brings higher political pay-offs than universal rights. Second, if the support is unrelated to work, not only the transfer is seen as a favour rather than a claim but also withdrawal of such support or reducing the scope or extent of real benefit would not create much political backlash as already individualised beneficiaries may be managed through some other benefit or at least through hopes of new benefits. Third, any demand related to work whether in terms of wages or working conditions attains social legitimacy because it is a demand for higher share on the social product in which the workers have contributed. On the other hand, any transfer from the government which is not related to work doesn't get social traction because it seen as a demand unrelated to any contribution to the social product, hence, can be easily ignored. The grand scheme is to subvert class formation and mobilisation at the workplace and displace the discontent by some minimalist transfers which help individuate the working people as dependent citizens without any claim. In the new employment scheme in which states or regions employment schemes will be operational, who will get the jobs and for what kind of work—all would be dependent on the discretion of the central government and would rest on the same patron-client relation where rights of workers will be replaced by 'favours' without a claim!

SALIENT FEATURES OF PROF. PRABHAT PATNAIK SPEECH IN 27th CONFERENCE



100% FDI in Insurance is not going to be a ‘game-changer’, as PM claims.....

Prof. Prabhat Patnaik gave a detailed critique of recent financial sector reforms in India, particularly the decision to allow 100 per cent foreign direct investment in the insurance sector. He took exception to the statement of the Prime Minister that 100% FDI in insurance was going to be a ‘game-changer’. Prof. Patnaik was categorical that the legislation allowing 100 per cent FDI in insurance marks the beginning of a broader process of financial liberalisation, long advocated by international financial institutions such as the IMF and World Bank as well as by the United States. While previous governments had resisted such pressures in the past, the present shift according to him, represents a significant departure from post-independence economic policy.

The core argument advanced by him was that financial markets are inherently incapable of distinguishing between productive investment and speculative activity. Finance, driven by profit motives, tends to flow wherever returns are highest, often favouring speculation over production. As a result, liberalised financial systems risk diverting national savings away from socially necessary sectors such as agriculture, small producers, and domestic industry. He

recalled India’s experience prior to bank nationalisation, when foreign-owned banks largely excluded Indian capitalists, farmers, and peasants from access to credit, thereby justifying the historical need for a predominantly state-owned financial sector.

Prof. Patnaik further highlighted the dangers of foreign dominance in finance, drawing on global examples such as the housing and asset-price bubbles in the United States. India, he argued, was relatively insulated from these crises precisely because much of its financial sector remained state-owned and avoided speculative overseas investments. Liberalisation, by contrast, exposes the economy to volatile capital flows, speculative bubbles, and sudden financial outflows that destabilise domestic development.

Criticising the official justifications for liberalisation—such as attracting foreign investment, strengthening the rupee, and expanding financial assets—he systematically refuted them. He pointed out that despite increased openness, the rupee has continued to depreciate, while capital outflows have far exceeded inflows. Such volatility, he argued, ultimately harms work-



ers, farmers, and peasants by increasing inflation, unemployment, and agrarian distress, including farmer suicides.

Prof. Patnaik situated these developments within the broader framework of neoliberal capitalism, where the livelihoods of millions are subordinated to the whims of international speculators. He emphasised that capital naturally gravitates toward the developed world, viewing it as its “home base,” leading to a persistent tendency for third-world currencies to depreciate. To counter this structural imbalance, he advocated strong capital controls, national ownership of finance, and prioritisation of production over speculation. He warned that that unchecked financial liberalisation not only undermines economic stability but also erodes democratic choice, as national policy becomes increasingly constrained by global finance rather than popular will.





IMPRESSIONS OF THREE FIRST-TIME DELEGATES

S.ADIL IMAM
PRESIDENT, SRINAGAR DIVISION



Attending the AIIEA conference for the first time was a valuable and enriching experience. The Conference provided a great platform to understand the vision, objectives and ongoing struggles of the AIIEA. Interactions with senior members and leaders were particularly insightful, as they shared their experiences, commitment and guidance for strengthening the organisation. Opportunity of meeting our Founder Leader Com Chandrasekhar Bose was a lifetime experience.

The sessions were informative and highlighted key issues related to insurance

industry; employees' rights and the role insurance employees should play in the transformation of society. It was motivating to see the participation of delegates from length and breadth of the country reflecting unity, discipline and collective responsibility.

The platform also gave me an opportunity to speak in front of a distinguished gathering and represent the Srinagar Division. The conference also helped me build new connections with fellow comrades, encouraging a sense of belonging and motivation to contribute to

the achievements of the goals set by AIIEA.

Overall, the experience was inspiring and has increased my awareness, confidence and commitment to work for the welfare of our employees and participate in the struggle to construct a society where everyone can live with dignity.

SAMYA S
BEGU MALLICK
GENERAL SECRETARY
HOWRAH DIVISION



In a time of transformative legal changes witnessed both by our country and by our industry the 27th General Conference of the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA), held in Bhubaneswar, from 28.12.25 to 01.01.26, marked a pivotal moment as it coincided with major structural shifts in India's legislative landscape. Celebrated during the Platinum Jubilee Year of the association, the delegates deliberated on pressing issues confronting workers in the public insurance sector.

Against a backdrop of heightened labour reform and proposed changes in the insurance regulatory framework, the conference reaffirmed AIIEA's long-

standing commitment to safeguarding workers' rights and championing public sector interests. The union's deliberations centred on two defining developments, the implementation of the four consolidated labour codes by the Government of India, and the implications of the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025 for India's insurance workforce and public sector institutions. The role of Identity Politics also came into discussion which is being deliberately propagated by the Government to break the unity amongst the working class.

Parallel to labour reforms, the conference also took up the Insurance Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2025, which proposes significant changes to existing

statutes governing the insurance industry including raising the foreign direct investment (FDI) cap from 74% to 100%. The delegates voiced strong opposition to the proposal. In its final resolutions, the Bhubaneswar conference called for collective action to ensure that reforms do not come at the cost of workers' rights and social justice. The delegates emphasised the need to organize widespread protest movement and robust resistance to unilateral policy impositions by the Government. The Conference called for reinforced solidarity amongst the working class

of our country. As India navigates these regulatory transitions, the 27th General Conference underscored the enduring role of trade unions as key stakeholders in shaping equitable labour and industry policies.

Attending the 27th General Conference as a first-time delegate was a deeply moving experience for me. What I witnessed was the heartbeat of a proud organisation shaped by decades of sacrifice, struggle and solidarity.

Listening to veteran leaders narrate past struggles, I felt the weight of history and the responsibility of the future

at the same time. Their words were not speeches, they were lessons, passed on with humility and conviction, ensuring that the ideology of our organization is carried forward without distortion. The seamless continuity of leadership, rooted in collective wisdom rather than individual prominence, left a lasting impression on me.

As a newcomer, I felt welcomed, guided and inspired. I return with a renewed resolve to uphold the values of AIEA and contribute, in my own small way, to this great collective journey.

शिल्पी लहारिया, कानपुर मंडलीय इकाई

AIEA का 27 वां प्लैटिनम जुबली वर्ष अधिवेशन के सदस्य के रूप में मेरे लिए एक गौरवशाली अवसर था, जब कानपुर मंडलीय इकाई की तरफ से एक ऑब्ज़र्वर के रूप में इस अधिवेशन में सम्मिलित होने का मौका मिला।

पूर्व राज्यसभा सांसद एवं CITUके महासचिव कॉ. तपन सेन के संबोधन से प्रतिनिधि सत्र का प्रारंभ हुआ। कॉ. तपन सेन के भाषण में हमें देश में व्याप्त हर तरह की समस्या को विस्तार से जानने का अवसर मिला। दोपहर भोजन के पश्चात् एक भव्य रैली तथा खुले सत्र का आयोजन किया गया। कॉन्फ्रेंस की रैली के बारे में साथियों से बहुत कुछ सुन रखा था। मैंने अपने जीवनकाल में इतना बड़ा और व्यवस्थित जुलूस पहले कभी नहीं देखा था। रैली में comrades का जोश, विविधता में एकता दर्शाते देश की विभिन्न भाषाओं में जोशीले नारों व भाषाई व क्षेत्रीय विविधता से ओतप्रोत परन्तु एकता को दर्शाती इस रैली में मुझे ऐसा लग रहा था कि पूरा भारत एक साथ देख रही हूँ। यह एक ऐसा रोमांच था मेरे लिए जो किस तरह से परिभाषित करूँ यह मुश्किल है और यह इस बात से समझ सकते हैं कि यह 2 किलोमीटर तो मुझे ऐसे लगे जैसे 200 मीटर।

खुले सत्र की शुरुआत होते ही एक बड़े economist प्रभात पटनायक जी, जिनका नाम बहुत सुना था उनको सुनना और इकोनॉमिक्स के गूढ़ मुद्दों को सरलता

से कह देने की उनकी कला ने शुरू से ही एक नई ऊर्जा दे दी।

30 दिसंबर को सम्मेलन में अति ऊर्जा का आगमन तब हुआ जब 104 वर्षीय के संस्थापक सदस्य कॉ. चंद्रशेखर बोस जी अधिवेशन में उपस्थित हुए। अपने founder member कॉ. चंद्रशेखर बोस जी को पास से देखना, सुनना मेरे लिए एक स्वप्न से कम नहीं था और एक जीवन भर न भूल पाने वाला पल है। यद्यपि अब हमने उन्हें खो दिया है पर अधिवेशन का उनका संदेश और चुनौतियों से लड़ने के लिए को मजबूत करने का आह्वान हमेशा मन में रहेगा और उस पर अमल करने का भाव भी।

प्लैटिनम जुबली वर्ष के फेलिसिटेशन प्रोग्राम में कॉ. चंद्रशेखर बोस समेत वर्तमान में मौजूद सभी वरिष्ठ साथियों को सम्मानित किये जाने के समय पूरे हॉल में गूंजती तालियों के शोर ने एक शानदार अनुभव और इन सीनियर साथियों के योगदान को समझने का अवसर दिया।

इस महाधिवेशन में अपने सीनियर लीडर्स कॉ. अमानुल्ला खान जी, कॉ. वेणुगोपाल जी सहित प्रोफेसर राजेन्द्र छेनी व कॉ. श्रीधर के लेक्चर्स से उन सभी विषयों पर सोचने का और समझने का एक नया नज़रिया मुझ जैसे अन्य नए साथियों को दिया है जिससे एक बेहतर समाज के निर्माण में हम अपनी जागरूक भूमिका निर्वहन करने की ओर बढ़ सकें। अधिवेशन



में deliberations की विविधता लेकिन अपने लक्ष्य के लिए विचारों की एकरूपता ने मुझे प्रभावित किया।

मेरे लिए इस अधिवेशन ने मुझे एक बेहतर इंसान, बेहतर ट्रेड यूनियनिस्ट, बेहतर भारतीय बनने की प्रेरणा देने का काम किया और चुनौतियों से निपटने के लिए व्यापक रूप से कर्मचारियों व जनता की एकता के साथ लोकतंत्र और भारत की विविधता में एकता की रक्षा सुनिश्चित करने के लिए जागरूकता के साथ काम करने की समझ भी।

यह मेरा दृढ़ विश्वास है कि अपनी वर्ष से अधिक की शेष नौकरी में यह कॉन्फ्रेंस मेरे लिए प्रेरणा का काम करेगी व इस मूवमेंट में कुछ बेहतर योगदान कर पाऊंगी।

Long Live AIEA !

Long Live Unity of People !



WORKING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Elected in 27th Conference of AIIEA at Bhubaneswar on 01.01.2026
Panels for both LIC & General Insurance were proposed by Com. Sreekant Mishra and seconded by Com. B S Ravi.

ZONE	S.NO.	DIVISION	NAME
CENTRAL	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	VACANT
	2	BHOPAL	Com.SANJAY MISHRA
	3	BILASPUR	Com RAJESH SHARMA
	4	GWALIOR	Com BRIJESH SINGH
	5	INDORE	Com C.S. CHOUHAN
	6	JABALPUR	Com HEERALAL KUSHAWAHA
	7	RAIPUR	Com SURENDRA SHARMA
	8	SATNA	Com D.S.BHAGEL
	9	SHAHDOL	VACANT
EASTERN	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com AMITESH SARKAR
	2	ASANSOL	Com KOUSHIK MAJI
	3	BONGAIGAON	Com BABUL CHANDRA SINGHA
	4	BURDWAN	Com ANIRBAN MONDAL
	5	GUWAHATI	Com PITAMBAR RAJ BHANDARI
	6	HOWRAH	Com SOWMYA SANKAR BASU MALLICK
	7	JALPAIGURI	Com MRIMOY DE SARKAR
	8	JORHAT	Com DIBYAJYOTI BARUAH
	9	KHARAGPUR	Com SANKHA DEB DUTTA
	10	KOLKATA - I	Com PRADIP BENERJEE
	11	KOLKATA - II	Com UDAY SHANKAR ROY
	12	KOLKATA SUBURBAN	Com AYAN DATTA
	13	SILCHAR	Com RAGHUNANDAN BHATTACHARJEE
SOUTH	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com V. SURESH
	2	CHENNAI - I	Com S. RAMESH KUMAR
	3	CHENNAI - II	Com R. SARVAMANGALA
	4	COIMBATORE	Com K. THULASITHARAN
	5	ERNAKULAM / KOCHI	Com T.J. MARTIN
	6	KOTTAYAM	Com V.K. RAMESH
	7	KOZHICODE / CALICUT	Com I.K. BIJU
	8	MADURAI	Com N.P. RAMESH KANNAN
	9	SALEM	Com R. ANAND
	10	THANJAVUR	Com V.SETHU RAMAN
	11	THIRUVANANTAPURAM	Com O.H. SAJITH
	12	THRISSUR	Com DEEPAK VISHWANATH
	13	TIRUNELVELI	Com C. MUTHUKUMARA SWAMY
	14	VELLORE	Com S. PALANI RAJ
NORTH	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com RAKESH KANAUIYA
CENTRAL	2	AGRA	Com RAJESH SHARMA
	3	ALIGARH	Com LALIT SHARMA
	4	ALLAHABAD	Com SANTOSH VISHWAKARMA

	5	BAREILY	Com	GEETA SHANT
	6	DEHRADUN	Com	NANDLAL SHARMA
	7	FAIZABAD	Com	R.S. CHATURVEDI
	8	GORAKHPUR	Com	RUPESH PANDEY
	9	HALDWANI	Com	D.K. PANDEY
	10	KANPUR	Com	MANOJ KUMAR
	11	LUCKNOW	Com	ALOK TIWARI
	12	MEERUT	Com	ANURAG SHARMA
	13	VARANASI	Com	SUMANT KUMAR
SOUTH CENTRAL	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com	G.THIRUPATAIAH
	2	BANGALORE - I	Com	R.PADMANABHA
	3	BANGALORE - II	Com	K.GOPAL
	4	BELGAUM	Com	K.R.BHATT
	5	DHARWAD	Com	NAGARAJ KAMAT
	6	HYDERABAD	Com	L.MADDILETTI
	7	KADAPA	Com	A.RAGHUNATHA REDDY
	8	KARIMNAGAR	Com	V. VAMAN RAO
	9	MACHILIPATNAM	Com	G.KISHORE KUMAR
	10	MYSORE	Com	S.S. NAGESH
	11	NELLORE	Com	D. PRASAD
	12	RAICHUR	Com	M.RAVI
	13	RAJAHMUNDRY	Com	M.KODANDA RAM
	14	SECUNDERABAD	Com	D.S. RAGHU
	15	SHIMOGA	Com	S.A.RAVI
	16	UDUPI	Com	K. VISHWANATH
	17	VISAKHAPATNAM	Com	G. VARA PRASAD
	18	WARANGAL	Com	SRI HARI
EAST CENTRAL	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com	SANJAY KUMAR
	2	BEGUSARAI	Com	Md. PARWEZ ALAM
	3	BERHAMPUR	Com	SANTOSH KUMAR RATH
	4	BHAGALPUR	Com	RAJESH
	5	BHUBANESHWAR	Com	RAMAKANT DASH
	6	CUTTACK	Com	ABHAY KUMAR DAS
	7	HAZARIBAGH	Com	J.C. MITTAL
	8	JAMSHEDPUR	Com	SUBHASH KARNA
	9	MUZAFFARPUR	Com	SANTOSH KUMAR
	10	PATNA - I	Com	ANIL KUMAR
	11	PATNA - II	Com	VISHAL SHARAN
	12	SAMBALPUR	Com	BIRA KISHORE NAYAK
WESTERN	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com	DISHANT PATEL
	2	AHMEDABAD	Com	CHETAN MAKWANA
	3	AMRAVATHI	Com	VIJAY BHUYAR
	4	AURANGABAD	Com	UMESH KULKARNI
	5	BHAVNAGAR	Com	KAMLESH BHATT
	6	GANDHINAGAR	Com	G.I. ANAND

		7	GOA	Com ASHOK BANDEKAR
		8	KOLHAPUR	Com NARENDRA PHADKE
		9	MUMBAI -I (incl WZO+CO)	Com PRAHLAD PAWASKAR
		10	MUMBAI - II	Com PRADIP SHINDE
		11	MUMBAI - III	Com SANJAY KUMAR
		12	MUMBAI - IV	Com ABHAY MORE
		13	NADIAD	Com PRAKASH McWAN
		14	NAGPUR	Com Y.R. RAO
		15	NANDED	VACANT
		16	NASHIK	Com AJAY DOLAS
		17	PUNE - I	Com C.R. TIWARI
		18	PUNE - II	Com PRADNYA TAPRE (F)
		19	RAJKOT	Com KINJAL HARIYANI (F)
		20	SATARA	Com YOGESH PHADNIS
		21	SURAT	Com H.N.PATEL
		22	THANE	Com NANDKUMAR Y.CHAVAN
		23	VADODARA	VACANT
NORTH		1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com BHANU PRATAP SINGH
		2	AJMER	Com TEJ SINGH
		3	AMRITSAR	Com SUNIL KUMAR
		4	BIKANER	Com SHAUKAT ALI
		5	CHANDIGARH	Com RAJEEV SEHGAL
		6	DELHI - I	Com RAHUL KAUSHIK
		7	DELHI - II	Com RAGHUNANDAN PRASHAD
		8	DELHI - III	Com KULDIP SHARMA
		9	JAIPUR - I	Com SUMIT KUMAR
		10	JAIPUR - II	Com LOKESH SHARMA
		11	JALANDHAR	Com PANKAJ BHARADWAJ
		12	JODHPUR	VACANT
		13	KARNAL	Com NEERAJ ARORA
		14	LUDHIANA	Com MAAN SINGH
		15	ROHTAK	Com OM VEER SINGH
		16	SHIMLA	Com PRADIP MINHAS
		17	SRINAGAR	Com PAWAN GUPTA
		18	UDAIPUR	Com MAHESH BADLANI

GENERAL SECTOR

SECRETARY, STANDING COMMITTEE

Com SANJAY JHA

ZONE	S.NO.	DIVISION /REGION/STATE	NAME
GIEA - SZ	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com R. MUTHUKUMARAN
BRGIEA -BENGALURU	2	BANGALORE REGION	Com N. MAHESH
ChRGIEA - CHENNAI3		CHENNAI REGION	VACANT
CRGIEA - COIMBATORE	4	COIMBATORE REGION	Com S.V. SANKAR
HDRGIEA - DHARWAD	5	DHARWAD / HUBLI REGION	VACANT
HRGIEA - HYDERABAD	6	HYDERABAD REGION	Com Y. SUBBA RAO

KSGIEU - ERNAKULAM	7	KERALA STATE	Com. M.U. THOMAS
MRGIEA - MADURAI	8	MADURAI REGION	Com. D. PRABHU
VRGIEA - VIZAG	9	VIZAG REGION	VACANT
WRGIEA	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com. M.T. SUSEELAN
GSGIEA - SURAT	2	GUJARAT STATE	VACANT
MPCGIEA - BHOPAL	3	M.P. & CHATTISGARH	Com. RAJESH KUMAR GUPTA
MSGIEA - MUMBAI	4	MAHARASHTRA STATE	Com. JITENDRA GADGE
EZGIEA	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com. PARTHA GHOSHAL
BJSGIEA - PATNA	2	BIHAR-JHARKHAND STATE	Com. DEEPAK KUMAR
OSGIEA - CUTTACK	3	ODISHA STATE	Com. DEBASHISH NAYAK
NERGIEA - GAUHATI	4	NORTH-EASTERN REGION	Com. S.R. DEV
WBSGIEA - KOLKATA	5	WEST BENGAL STATE	Com. SHYAMAL DAS
NZGIEU	1	ZONAL REPRESENTATIVE	Com. REENA MISHRA
CRGIEU - CHANDIGARH	2	CHANDIGARH REGION	Com. MANJIT SINGH
DSGIEU - NEW DELHI	3	DELHI STATE	Com. SURAJ PRAKASH
RSGIEU - JAIPUR	4	RAJASTHAN STATE	VACANT
UP-UGIEU - KANPUR	5	U P & UTTARAKHAND	Com. AJAI SHANKAR NIGAM

RECRUITMENT OF CLASS III & IV STAFF AIIEA WRITES TO LIC CEO ON 12/1/26

We have been regularly drawing attention of the LIC management to the acute shortage of Class III and Class IV employees in the Corporation. The shortage has reached alarming proportions and is seriously affecting policy servicing and day-to-day operations of LIC.

This is acknowledged by the government in Parliament in an answer to the question raised. The total staff strength of all classes of employees as on 31.3.1995 was 121410 when the number of in-force policies were 6.55 crore. Thereafter, one can observe sharp decline in the staff strength with each passing year. The staff strength sharply declined to 98661 as on 31.3.2024 which is a reduction of 22749 in the total strength compared to 31.3.1995. The number of in-force policies as on 31.3.2024 grew to

26.85 crore. This means that the in-force policies between the period 31.3.1995 to 31.3.2024 grew 410% while the staff strength came down by nearly 18.74%. The fall is much more drastic in the class III and IV strength.

From 89,856 as on 31.3.1995 to 45,762 as at 31.3.2024. This shows an overall reduction of 44,094 translating to a sharp decline of over 49%. A realistic assessment suggests that by 31.3.2028, the total number of Class III employees will come down to just around 26000. Despite the existence of such a large number of vacancies, it defies all logic as to why the LIC is procrastinating on the issue of recruitment.

This situation has created industrial unrest and the AIIEA had to call the employees to register their protest against this delay in recruitment through a number of struggles, including the One Hour Strikes on 10th January 2024, 20th February 2025 and the One Day Strike on 9th July 2025. It is to be noted that the AIIEA deferred the proposed Strike Action in the month of March 2025 at the request of the then management when an indication was given that the process of recruitment would take place in the upcoming financial year. In the last round of discussions

that we had in Central Office in the month of August 2025, we were given an indication that the process would start by the end of December 2025. However, no such notification has been issued so far, causing widespread resentment and disappointment among employees.

The recently concluded 27th General Conference of the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA) has taken strong exception to this inordinate delay and expressed serious concern over the Management's continued inaction on this critical issue. The Conference has categorically resolved that immediate steps

must be taken to initiate large-scale recruitment to ensure smooth functioning of the Corporation and proper servicing of policyholders.

In view of the above, we once again urge you to initiate the recruitment process for Class III and Class IV employees without any further delay and announce a clear timeline for the same. We wish to make it clear that continued neglect of this long-pending and vital issue will leave the employees with no option but to resort to organisational struggles and agitations to safeguard the interests of the Corporation, its policyholders and its workforce."

Restore Increment deferred for Strike Participation: AIIEA writes to CEO LIC on 12/1/2026

"This has reference to our letter dated 8th October 2025 on the captioned subject matter.

The Class III & IV employees of LIC had gone on a Strike Action on 9th July 2025 as per the call of the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA) on issues pertaining to the institution and the employees. A Notice to this

effect was served on 23rd June 2025.

Increments of some of the employees have been postponed as a result of their participation in the strike. We request you to kindly restore the increment postponed due to participation in the said Strike Action."

Wage Revision in General Insurance CLC Proceedings

The notification on wage revision, enhancement of family pension had been pending for over two months. The JFTU had given the call for One day strike on 9th January 2026 demanding immediate notification on wage revision and its speedy implementation. The Chief Labour Commissioner had called for a conciliation on 8th January. In these proceedings of the CLC, the CMDs/ EDs of companies were present. The Chairperson, GIPSA assured the Associations that there was no let up in efforts on their part on pursuing the issue of early notification.

However, the JFTU insisted on a definite

timeline for notification. Subsequently on the request of GIPSA and officials, the Joint Secretary, DFS joined the proceedings through VC and informed the Associations that the notification on agreed terms on all three issues would certainly be issued within 15.02.2026. The JFTU demanded fixing of the deadline to an earlier date. Considering the views of all parties, the CLC advised that the same be notified within 31.01.2026.

In the backdrop of the above development, the one day strike of 09.01.2026 stands deferred as decided by the JFTU.

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**insurance
worker**

Kozhikode Division : 34th Women's Convention

34th Women's Convention of LIC Employees Union, Kozhikode Division was held at Saroj Bhavan, Kozhikode on 29.11.2025. Dr. Shilujas, Professor in Department of Social Sciences, Farook College inaugurated the Convention. In her captivating speech, she said that the current volatile political environment in the country is de-politicising the society and this is helping the spread of communalism and belief in superstitions. She pointed out that although life expectancy of women has improved a lot in Kerala, lifestyle diseases are more prevalent here. To overcome this challenge, women have to adopt healthier eating habits and make life more meaningful by devoting time for physical fitness programmes and participating in organizational and political activities.

Addressing the convention, AIIEA Vice President, Com. P.P. Krishnan said that the Comprehensive Insurance Law Amendments scheduled to be introduced in the winter session of Parliament will have a major impact on the industry. The bill will take the insurance industry back to the pre-nationalisation period. The policies of the Central Government is not evaluated on the basis of its policies, but on the basis of many emotional issues such as caste, religion and customs.

The meeting honoured Com. Bindu K Saritha who won the bronze medal in the National LIC Chess Tournament held in Bhubaneswar. SZIEF Joint Secretary, Com. I.K. Biju honoured Com. Bindu K Saritha by draping a golden shawl.

Com. T. Bindu, Convenor



of Divisional Women's Sub Committee presented the Annual Report. In the debate that followed, 10 comrades from various base units participated. Com. M.J. Sreeram, General Secretary, LICEU, Divisional Union summed up the discussion.

The Convention elected as Convenor, Com. T. Bindu (Kozhikode) and as Joint Convenors:- A.D. Poornima, C.H.Sapna, V. K.Shahana, M.Chitra (Kozhikode), Preetha Thomas (Ramanattukara),

K.Shylaja (Kasaragod), V. Thanooja (Thalassery 2), K.P. Bindu (Kalpetta), K.Shylaja (Perinthalmanna).

Com. C.H. Sapna, Joint Convenor, Women's Sub Committee delivered the welcome speech. Presidium comprising Joint Convenor Comrades, A.D. Poornima, P.K. Bhagia Bindu, K.P. Bindu and V.K. Shahana conducted the proceedings of the Convention. Meeting concluded with the vote of thanks by Com. V.K. Shahana.

'Constitution: Soul of India, Protect It' State-Level Seminar at Cuttack

A State-Level Seminar on the theme "Constitution: Soul of India, Protect It" was held on 13th December 2025 at the Biju Patnaik Institute of Film and Television, Cuttack. The seminar was convened on the call of the All-India Insurance Employees Association (AIIEA) and jointly organized by all Divisional Units of Odisha AIIEA, including OSGIEA.

The programme commenced with an introductory address by Comrade Abhay Kumar Das, General Secretary, CDEIA. The Chief

Speaker, Prof. Bijaya Bohidar, eminent professor and educationist from Odisha, delivered a thought provoking keynote address. Prof. Bohidar emphasized that the Constitution is not merely a legal document but the moral and philosophical foundation of the Indian Republic. He underlined that its core values—justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity—are under severe strain in the present regime and must be defended not only in courts but also in everyday social and workplace practices. He warned that the



four pillars of democracy are crumbling, particularly due to the subversion of media, and cautioned that weakening constitutional institutions ultimately weakens democracy itself.

The seminar was graced by distinguished guests of honour, including Com. Shreekantha Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA; Com. B. S. Ravi, Treasurer, AIIEA; Com. Pradeep Mukherjee, President, ECZIEA; and Com. Trinath Dora, Gen-

eral Secretary, ECZIEA. In his address, Com. Shreekantha Mishra called upon progressive forces, including trade unions, to act as vigilant custodians of constitutional ethics. He stressed that protecting the Constitution is synonymous with protecting the dignity, rights, and unity of the people of India.

Other speakers included Com. Santosh Kumar Rath, General Secretary, BDLIEA Berhampur, and Com. Bira

Kishore Nayak, General Secretary, SDLIEA. Before the start of the programme, the oath on the Preamble of the Constitution was solemnly administered by Com. Ramakant Das, General Secretary, BDLIEA Bhubaneswar.

The meeting was jointly presided over by Com. (Dr.) Santosh Kumar Mohapatra, President, CDIEA Cuttack, and Com. Manas Ranjan Pattanaik, President, OSGIEA. The programme concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Com. Debashis Nayak, General Secretary, OSGIEA.

A large number of employees, leaders of fraternal trade unions, and pensioners attended the seminar. Presidents and General Secretaries of all AIIEA units in Odisha were present on the dais and actively participated, making the seminar a meaningful and collective reaffirmation of commitment to constitutional values.

Commemorating Milestones through Social Solidarity A Celebration of Service by IEA, Asansol

The Insurance Employees' Association (IEA), Asansol under the banner of the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA) has concluded a series of impactful social welfare programs. These initiatives were organized to mark a Triple Milestone: Platinum Jubilee (75 years) of AIIEA, and the 70th anniversaries of both the Eastern Zone (EZIEA) and the IEA, Asansol.

Rather than traditional festivities, the Association chose to honor these decades of struggle and success by reaffirming its commitment to

the marginalized segments of society.

A program titled Empowering Tribal Education (Adra) was organised on November 4, 2025 by Raghunathpur Base Unit. The outreach focused on supporting girls from Grade 1 to 10 belonging to economically marginalized tribal communities. The program involved Distribution of essential educational materials and a shared community midday meal. Through this action the Association aimed to bridge the educational gap for those facing significant social hurdles, fostering a sense of dignity and

encouragement for first-generation learners.

The second program to Support the 'Overlooked' Students was organised on December 12, 2025 by Raniganj Base unit. This initiative targeted 35 children who attend schools with insufficient government grants, identifying those who often fall through the cracks of the public welfare system. The program involved distribution of comprehensive "Student Kits" (Books, notebooks, pencil boxes, color pencils, and stationery) along with tiffin packets. The program

transformed the Platinum Jubilee into a mandate for social justice, ensuring that economic hardship does not hinder a child's fundamental right to education.

The celebrations culminated in a massive Voluntary Blood Donation Camp, symbolizing the ultimate gift of life to the community. This program was organised by the headquarters along with Kulti, Chittaranjan, Raniganj and Ukhra units on December 17, 2025.

64 Units of blood were collected. 12 brave individuals who stepped forward but were unable to donate this time due to health precautions. This event showcased a powerful display of humanity. The 64



units collected serve as a critical reserve for medical emergencies in the region, turning an organizational milestone into a literal lifeline for the public. The primary goal of these initiatives was to prove that a trade union's strength lies not just in its internal unity, but in its ability to serve the broader human cause.

From tribal education in Adra to life-saving blood donation in Asansol, the Insurance Employees' Association, Asansol has set a benchmark for social responsibility.

Red Salute to all donors, volunteers, and medical teams who turned these milestones into a movement for the betterment of social welfare.

PFI Vizianagaram organises seminar on Labour codes

ICEU Visakhapatnam Division has formed a new people for India Forum at Vizianagaram district, with Sri Cheekati Diwakar a renowned progressive writer as the chairperson and com DS Prasad as the convenor. The committee was formed involving retired employees, teachers, bank employees, poets and many more locally prominent people.

A seminar was organised on the topic "Labour Codes and impact on working class" at Vizianagaram. The seminar was addressed by com MSVasa, convenor forum for Development of North Andhra.

The meeting was presided over by Sri Ch Diwakar, chairperson. Com DS Prasad, convenor, com AVRK Murty, co convenor, PFI Vizag forum, com G Siddardha, vice president ICEU also spoke. Com J Ranga Sai, PFI co convenors, com

MV Sarath Kumar, Secretary, ICEU Base Unit, Vizianagaram and Com DRajesh, President Vizianagaram Base unit also participated. A large number of agents, class 1 officers, teachers, writers, pensioners also participated.

People For India Vizianagaram and Anakapalle Forums Formed

ICEU Visakhapatnam Division has formed two new People for India Forums, one in Vizianagaram District and another in Anakapalle District.

Anakapalle forum was formed with Com GS Kameswara

Rao as the Convenor and Com NK Sastry as the chairperson. The forum committee was formed with 8 members prominent in different walks of life. The inaugural meeting was held at Anakapalle on



1.12.2025 and it was decided to organise seminars on contemporary issues across the district. Two seminars were organised, one at Anakapalle and another at Chodavaram, on the impact of new labour codes on the working class of the country. Com Aja Sarma,

General Secretary, Forum for Development of North Andhra dealt on the subject in both seminars. ICEU vice president com JN Sastry ,

PFI Vizag forum CO-Convener com N Ramakrishna, ICEU base unit leaders A

Srinivas, Com B Srilatha, com B Appa Rao also participated. Teachers, postal employees, lawyers , retired employees, state government pensioners also participated. The seminars were widely covered by press and electronic media.

Golden Jubilee Conference of IEU Indore

The historic Golden Jubilee Conference of Insurance Employees Union, Indore, was held on January 17 and 18, 2026, in a highly enthusiastic and dignified atmosphere. The two-day conference included extensive discussions on the organization's 50-year glorious journey, struggles, achievements, and future challenges. The presence of hundreds of members made every stage of the event historic.

The conference began on the morning of January 17, when Divisional President Mr. Anil Surwade hoisted the Union flag in the presence of more than 100 members. Loud slogans and a spirited atmosphere energized the ceremony. The members reiterated their

dedication and commitment to the organization.

The inaugural session commenced with paying tribute at the martyrs' column. This was followed by honouring all the members present with bouquets. A revolutionary song presented by the women members created an inspiring atmosphere.

The session was presided over by Divisional President Comrade Anil Surwade. He outlined the conference agenda, the organization's struggles, and the significance of the Golden Jubilee year.

The conference was formally inaugurated by Mr. Dharmaraj Mahapatra, President of AIIEA. In his powerful and analytical speech, he expressed his views

in detail on many important topics such as: the impact of 100% FDI in the insurance sector, government's intentions regarding labor codes, need for new recruitment in LIC in the coming years, role of our movement to abolish GST. He also spoke about the rich historical legacy, unity, and future direction of the organization. He also spoke about the impact of the government policy on insurance industry.

Senior Divisional Manager Mr. Prabhat Kumar Sahu extended his best wishes to the conference and praised the discipline and efficiency of the employees. Mr. Sandeep Behere - Secretary, Class 1 Federation, Mr. Rakesh Dixit -



Class 2 Development Officers Federation, Com Prakash Sharma BSNL Employees Union and senior leader and guide Com Sudhakar Urdhwarsheji greeted the conference. The inaugural session was skillfully conducted by Com Chandrashekhar Chauhan.

The delegates' session began with the presentation of report and statements of accounts. More than 20 delegates from various branches shared their views and discussed several important issues relating to the employees and the institution.

Com Dharmaraj Mahapatra

made an effective intervention in the debate. He spoke about a host of issues and communicated as to how the international and national events impact the life of the insurance employees. He pointed out to the challenges before the organisation and demanded total unity and ideological commitment to successfully facing these challenges

The Report and the statements of accounts were unanimously approved. The Conference unanimously elected Com Anil Surwade as President. Com Chandrashekhar Chau-

han as General Secretary and Com Ashok Singh Sisodia as Treasurer for the ensuing term.

The two-day Golden Jubilee Conference was extremely successful in its objectives, enthusiasm, and discipline. The continuity, unity, fighting spirit, and preparedness to face future challenges of the organization were clearly evident at this conference. There was a total consensus that organisation has to be strengthened and consolidated as "The strength of the organization is the guarantee of employee interests."

Garividi unit organises Agents' Motivational Meet

Insurance Corporation Employees' Union Garividi Base Unit under Visakhapatnam Division organised a motivational meeting for all the agents under the branch. The meeting was presided over by Com MVSL Komali, president of the base unit. The meeting was addressed by Com D Venkatesh, secretary of the Base Unit. Com Venkatesh dealt at length on the issue of the IRDAI regulations and the NDA government's attitude against the public sector insurance. The challenges confronting the public sector LIC, the field force and the employees also is huge and needs to be fought unitedly. The recent move to hike FDI in Insurance from 74 % to 100% is very much against the interests of the public sector insurance Industry



and the national economy at large, he said. Com Venkatesh also motivated the agents by highlighting the plans and innovative combinations of plans for the benefit of the agents.

Sri B Srinivasa Rao, Development Officer, Sri R Narayana Rao, President, AOI, com K Narayana Rao, Secretary AOI, Com KSN Murthy, senior lead-

er, also addressed the agents. The meeting was attended by a large number of agents, who expressed gratitude to AIIEA for the initiative to motivate agents and also extending support to their agitation against the modifications in their commission structure. Com G Siddardha, Vice President, ICEU, also addressed the agents.

INSURANCE NEWS IN BRIEF

● **A.M. KHAN**, Dharwad

The year 2024-25 has seen LIC writing a total premium of ₹1,48,88,848.92 which is 55.19 per cent of the total for the industry which is ₹1,85,771.73 crore.

Life insurance industry's operating expenses came down by 13.14 percent, while LIC's operating expenses came down by 26.40 percent to ₹35,415.20 crores from ₹48,121.68 crore of previous year 2023-24. The investment income of the industry as a whole registered a negative growth of 10.86 percent. While LIC marked a growth of 4.44 percent- from ₹3,82,286.19 crore during the year 2023-2024 to ₹3,99,277.60 crore which is 72.39 per cent of the life insurance industry's total of ₹5,51,599.57 crore.

LIC's profit after tax rises by 15.52% over the previous and that of the industry as a whole growth is 15.35%. LIC's profit after tax figures at ₹48,151.17 crore which forms 85.97% of the life insurance industry's which is ₹56,006.24 crore. Life fund of LIC as at 31-03-2025 is ₹31,29,514.79 crore forming 79.80 per cent of the total of life insurance industry - ₹39,21,782.92 crore.

All the four public sector general insurance companies have registered a positive growth in gross direct premium over the last year. The gross direct premium garnered by the non-life industry, apart from Stand-alone health insurance companies is ₹1,62,897.68 crore while that of the four public sectors is ₹99,225.31 crore.

The number of lives covered under health insurance by general and health insurers rose to 580 million in FY25 from 573 million in FY24, even as the number of policies sold declined to 26.5 million from 26.8 million. Premiums collected under the health insurance segment grew 9.12 per cent year-on-year to ₹1.17 trillion. In FY25, general and health insurers covered 580 million lives under 26.5 million health insurance policies, excluding policies issued under personal accident and travel insurance.

A report by Policybazaar says "India's personal finance choices in 2025 reflected a clear shift towards higher protection, longer-term planning and digital-first payments. From health and term insurance to investments and travel cover, consumers appeared more deliberate, better informed and increasingly willing to pay for stronger financial security".

Following the notification allowing 100 per cent foreign direct investment (FDI) in the insurance sector, the Finance Ministry has revised norms

to remove the requirement that a majority of directors and key management personnel in an insurance company with foreign investment be Indian residents. However, the revised rules stipulate that at least one of the top leadership positions - chairperson, chief executive officer (CEO) or managing director - must be held by an Indian resident.

In the Financial Stability Report, the RBI says premium growth has been increasingly driven by high-cost, distribution-led strategies rather than operating efficiency. It also noted that growth in the sector largely reflects higher spending by existing policyholders rather than a broadening of the insured base. The RBI report further elicits - there is a stronger focus on expense management and a flat commission structure despite growing premiums by public sector life insurers, compared to a steep rise in commission payouts by private sector life and non-life insurers, with operating expenses remaining higher and sticky. In contrast, private life insurers show a steep increase in commission pay-outs, particularly surging from 2022-23 onwards, indicating business acquisition at higher marginal cost. Their operating expenses have also remained higher and sticky private non-life insurers exhibit a more aggressive cost-growth dynamic. Their commission expenses have escalated sharply. This points to a high-cost, distribution-led growth strategy, potentially impacting underwriting margins.

During the April-December period, non-life insurers collected ₹2.50 trillion in premiums, registering 13.7 per cent Year on Year (YoY) growth. General insurers accounted for ₹2.10 trillion, up 7.4 per cent YoY, while standalone health insurers (SAHIs) posted a robust 17.12 per cent YoY growth to ₹31,286.97 crore. Premiums of specialised insurers rose 10.06 per cent YoY to ₹9,001.21 crore.

During the month of December 2025 LIC new business premium surged 57.45 per cent Y-o-Y to ₹21,293.9 crore from ₹13,523.9 crore in the same period a year ago. Meanwhile, private insurers reported a 24.93 per cent Y-o-Y increase in premiums to ₹20,856.9 crore, compared with ₹16,694.85 crore a year earlier. LIC's largest segment—group single premium business—rose 75.9 per cent to ₹14,730.93 crore from ₹8,373.11 crore in the year-ago period. Premiums from individual business grew 27.4 per cent to ₹6,562.96 crore. For private life insurers, individual business grew 20.39 per cent to ₹14,387.15 crore, while group business increased 36.35 per cent to ₹6,469.74 crore.

WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE

S. SRIDHARA, Mysore

Windsor Titan Tool and Die lockout hits 150 days:

Hundreds of locked out Titan tool and die workers in Windsor, Ontario saw no end to the dispute in sight. The workers are members of Unifor. Their dispute is the longest the union has been involved in against an employer in the Windsor automotive industry, far surpassing the landmark 99-day Ford strike of 1945.

Since the lockout began in late July 2025, workers have fought against the company's removal of materials from the Titan plant and have sustained injuries from trucks running their picket line. In late April, 2025 even prior to the beginning of the dispute, after the union blocked a truck from carrying materials out of the premises, the company quickly secured a court injunction allowing them to move material from the plant. In late August, management removed much of the remaining raw materials, product and essential equipment from the plant, transferring the materials to the company's facility in Michigan.

After the lockout was announced, Unifor officials responded by pleading for a negotiated plant closure agreement. Instead, company negotiators presented a new contract proposal that sought to obliterate virtually every significant clause in the previous agreement. The concession demands include a three-year wage freeze, a new permanent lower wage grid for new hires, complete elimination of cost-of-living and lump sum wage supplements, the massive slashing of the pension scheme that would cost workers \$13,500 over the life of the contract, mandatory overtime, removal of seniority rights and elimination of retirement health benefits for many workers.



Thousands of doctors across Spain went on a 48-hour strike to demand statutory changes to their terms and conditions that will recognise their responsibilities as professional physicians and the unique demands put upon them. 175,000 doctors participated in strike across the country, holding demonstrations and protest marches in Madrid, Asturias, Galicia, Murcia, Valencia, Catalonia, the Basque Country, Navarra and many other autonomous communities.

The doctors want statutory recognition of their profession through improved salaries, a 35-hour working week and for hours above that to attract the same pension and holiday payments as basic hours. They also want their civil servant professional classification to consider the extra years of training and specialisation beyond that required of other graduates. The General Secretary of the Medical Union told press, "We are not recognised as a high-risk profession, despite the fact that we are the group with the highest cancer rate, the highest suicide rate, and

one of the highest rates of assault."



ARGENTINE PENSIONERS' PROTESTS CONTINUES :

On January 7, Argentine pensioners carried out their first protest march and rally of 2026. The demonstrators are demanding an end to cuts in their pensions and medical and food allowances, and the restoration of those payments, adjusted for inflation to what they were previous

to the Milei administration.

In response to Argentina's extreme debt crisis, the government is planning even more cuts



In India, the farmers and workers collectively took the New Year's Pledge to continue united struggles against the anti-farmer, anti-worker and pro-corporate policies of the BJP-led NDA government.

On the call of the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), All India Resistance Day was observed across the country on 16 January 2026, with large-scale participation of farmers, agricultural workers, rural workers and the wider working people. The day marked an important step in building a sustained, united, pan-India movement to defend the legislations.

Village-and tehsil-level meetings, demonstrations and gatherings were organised across India to oppose the Seeds Bill 2025, Electricity Amendment Bill 2025, VB-GRAMG Act 2025, and the four Labour Codes. Together, these legislations threaten farmers' livelihoods, workers' rights, food security, employment guarantees and the federal rights of states. Pledge-taking programmes, protest actions, meetings and demonstrations were successfully held in several states, including Punjab, Haryana, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Telangana, Gujarat, Rajasthan, Kerala, Tripura and West Bengal, with enthusiastic participation at village, block and district levels.

The major demands projected were a law for MSP at C2+50% with guaranteed procurement for all crops Announces a comprehensive loan waiver to end peasant and daily worker suicides and rural indebtedness. Fully implements the LARR Act, 2013 Protects the federal rights of states Restores taxation powers of the states and allocation 60% of the funds from divisible pool to the states.

SKM states that the widespread, disciplined participation across states reflects the growing unity and determination of the working people of India to defend their rights and livelihoods. All India Resistance Day marks an important milestone in strengthening a consistent, united, pan-India movement to force the repeal of these laws and to secure MSP with guaranteed procurement, employment security, social Justice and federal rights.



ECONOMIC NOTES

J. SURESH, Mysore

China's trade surplus for 2025 is at \$ 1.25 trillion, the largest level ever recorded for any country with no indication that it will fall in the coming period despite the tariff barriers erected against it by Trump Administration and the other threats. The record surplus, up from \$ 993 billion in 2024, was achieved despite a 20% fall in exports to the US which was more than compensated for by the increase in exports to the rest of the world. Exports for the month of December increased by 6.6% in dollar terms, which was more than double the Bloomberg forecast of a 3.1% rise and well above the growth rate for November of 5.9%. For December alone, the trade surplus was \$ 114 billion; the third highest monthly level eclipsed only by the surpluses for January and June last year. The Chinese surplus is higher by an order of magnitude than anything seen before in modern economic history. Japan's surplus peaked in 1993 at \$ 96 billion, equivalent to \$ 214 billion in today's money and Germany's surplus reached a sum equivalent to \$ 264 billion in 2017. China has become the world leader in a growing array of commodities including Cars, batteries and solar panels. It is the world's major producer of Steel, and its ship building capacity dwarfs that of the US. According to IMF, China is simply too big to generate much growth from exports and continuing to depend on export-led growth risks furthering global trade tensions. In other words, if the export surge continues, other countries will hit back with tariffs and other restrictions. The USA had used every economic measure at its disposal – tariffs, export controls, bans on the use of Chinese technology in US and globally – to try to block the growth of China as it is considered as the chief threat to the global dominance of US. But as the trade numbers reveal, these efforts of US are failing, and the US influence is steadily eroding. This situation has resulted in US imperialism turning to war as it strives to maintain its economic dominance.

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*According to Bureau of Labour statistics of USA, the US economy added only 50000 jobs in December. This brought an end to a year which saw jobs bloodbath carried out by Corporate America, with all indications that the assault on jobs will accelerate in the New Year. According to the latest figures, the labour share

of income from the nonfarm business sector dropped sharply in the third quarter to its lowest level ever of only 53.8%. In 1990, by comparison following a decade of unprecedented plant closures and deindustrialization, it was 67.9%. According to CNN, 2025 marked the worst year for USA in job growth outside of an official recession since

2003, with only 5,84,000 jobs created during the year. The unemployment rate was at 4.4% compared to 4.5% of the previous month. A separate unemployment report by the human resources firm ADP showed that employment declined in professional and business services, information and manufacturing. The ruling class is imposing on the backs of the working class the costs of unsustainable levels of debt and a massive, brewing economic crisis. This is being carried out through mass unemployment and for those workers who remain employed, levels of exploitation are not seen in generations. While artificial intelligence has the potential to vastly reduce the burden of work and improve the quality of life for billions of people, Wall Street views it as a weapon for mass unemployment and deploying it as such.

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In the First Advance Estimates (FAE) if GDP for 2025-26, the Government of India has estimated that real growth in GDP would be at 7.4% in the current financial year, up from 6.5% recorded previous year. The government also said that nominal growth would be at 8% this year. The RBI had said that the GDP growth in 2025-26 would be 7.3%, with Q3 growing at 7% and Q4 at 6.5%. These projections came at a time when India's economy is facing several headwinds. The 50% tariff levied by the US on imports from India has hit several labour-intensive sectors such as apparel, textiles and engineering goods. The government has tried to boost consumer demand through both direct tax and indirect tax rate cuts, but the data shows it nevertheless expects Private Final Consumption Expenditure, a metric that captures consumer spending, to grow at 7% in 2025-26, marginally slower than the 7.2% recorded last year. The IMF has estimated India's GDP growth at 7.3% this year but predicted a big drop in GDP growth next year forecasting that it will decline to 6.4%.

FOR OUR FIELD FORCE

● **A. ARIVUKKADAL**
Thanjavur

Premium Growth: LIC's premiums surge 57.45% Y-o-Y in December 2025 and, private insurers reported a 24.93% Y-o-Y increase. LIC's largest segment—group single premium business—rose 75.9% and individual business grew 27.4%.

Mutual Fund: LIC mutual fund plans to increase its digital and physical presence to raise its AUM. After decades of allowing its mutual fund venture to take a back seat, LIC, it appears, is finally giving it the attention it deserves. To achieve its Rs.1 trillion AUM target, it plans to, among other things, use LIC's vast network of insurance agents to sell mutual funds. LIC Mutual Fund has so far empanelled 6,200 LIC insurance agents as active distributors.

Phone Calls: IRDAI has advised all insurance companies and intermediaries that **all service and transaction calls must come only from 1600-series numbers by February 15, 2026**. After this date, no such calls are allowed from any other number, even if the customer has given consent. This move is meant to make it easier for people to identify genuine calls from insurers. IRDAI listed clear steps that insurers and intermediaries must follow. **Entities that do not follow the rule may face action under TRAI's rules for unregistered telemarketers.**

Vehicle Insurance: The road transport ministry has proposed amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act that will allow enforcement agencies to seize vehicles found without valid insurance coverage. Currently, the law permits detention or seizure only for vehicles without registration or permit, or those violating permit conditions. The draft changes, shared with state transport ministers and commissioners this week, aim to address the alarming number of uninsured vehicles on Indian roads, which the Supreme Court recently flagged at 56% of the total vehicle population.

Driving Points: The Indian government is set to introduce a negative points system for driving licenses. Drivers will earn negative points for traffic violations, and accumulating too many points will lead to license suspension or cancellation. According to the new rules, vehicle insurance will also be linked to the driving license, and insurance companies will consider drivers with high penalty points as 'reckless drivers', resulting in higher premiums. The implementation is expected within the next two months, pending amendments to the Motor Vehicles Act.

Commission Ceiling: Agent commissions rose sharply across India's insurance industry in 2024-25, growing significantly faster than premium collections in both life and non-life segments, according to the latest annual report released by IRDAI. In the life insurance segment, commissions grew at 18% year-on-year while premium grew at 6.73%. At the industry level, total operating

costs, including commissions, are estimated at 4% of assets under management for private life insurers, levels analysts say are uncomfortably high. IRDAI may propose a return to segmental commission caps, similar to the older regulatory framework. This would mean setting separate commission limits for different insurance categories such as motor, health, term life, and other life and general insurance

segments. In addition, the regulator is expected to further rationalise the Expense of Management (EoM) limits, under which commissions are included. The current caps on expenses are likely to be tightened further, effectively lowering the permissible ceiling.

Health Gap: IRDAI highlighted that the health insurance protection gap remained significant, particularly in individual coverage, despite premium growth. IRDAI observed that premium growth alone does not ensure adequate financial protection if coverage limits, exclusions, and claim settlement experiences do not keep pace with rising medical expenses.

Monoline Insurers: IRDAI is likely evaluating the introduction of monoline or sector-specific insurance licences for allowing insurers to operate in a single line of business, such as health, crop, motor or regional general insurance while complying with lower capital requirements than those applicable to full-fledged general or composite insurers.

Misselling grievances: Grievances registered against life insurers due to misselling rose 14.3% year-on-year to 26,667 in FY25 from 23,335 a year earlier, according to the IRDAI annual report for FY25. However, overall grievances against life insurers declined marginally to 120,429 in FY25 from 120,726 in the previous year.

IRDAI Penalties: *IRDAI has imposed a Rs.1 crore penalty on Reliance General Insurance for violation of norms, particularly huge wrong commission payouts. *IRDAI has slapped a hefty Rs.1 crore fine on Care Health Insurance for serious lapses in claims settlement. IRDAI observed that when grievances were not resolved in favour of policyholders, Care Health failed to inform complainants about their right to approach the Insurance Ombudsman. Instead, grievance closure and claim repudiation letters only included customer care contact details.

Private Pensionbazaar: PFRDA has joined hands with PB Fintech(Policybazaar) for expanding pension coverage beyond government employees through the new Pensionbazaar.com platform. The platform will enable pension funds to partner with Pensionbazaar.com and launch their products, giving people the option to choose from multiple funds based on their preferences. The initiative permits individuals aged 85 or younger to purchase pension policies.



Com.Sudip Dutta Com.Elamaram Kareem Com.G.N.Saibabu



CITU Conference elects new Office-bearers

The Centre of Indian Trade Unions held its 18th All India Conference in Visakhapatnam from December 31, 2025 to 4th January 2026. The Conference elaborately discussed the situation arising out of the imperialist aggression and the dangers it poses to the survival of humanity. It also discussed

the criticised the economic and social policies of the BJP led government. It denounced the decision to implement the four labour codes and called upon the working class of India to lodge a strong protest with a nationwide general strike on 12th February 2026. It condemned the repeal of the MGNREG Scheme and demanded its restoration with improvements as desired by the working class. The Conference decided to work for the intensification of united struggles and to build unity between workers and peasants.

The Conference elected a new team of Office-Bearers with Com Sudip Dutta as President, Com Elamaram Kareem as General Secretary and Com G.N.Saibabu as Treasurer for the ensuing term.



Response



It is really amazing that within two days of the conclusion of the 27th General Conference of AIIEA, the Insurance Worker covering comprehensively all aspects of the conference was brought out. Hats off to the Editor and his team.

Satanjib Das,
President, AIIPA

The coverage of 75th Platinum Jubilee Year General Conference of AIIEA was excellent. The write up of the magnificent struggle against lockout and the successive achieved is truly inspiring. It would have been helpful if the editorial on four labour codes had also spoken about the alternative.

P. Muthukumar
TIRUVANNAMALAI

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Month	Base 2016	2001	1960
July 2025	146.5	421.92	9630.70
August	147.1	423.65	9670.15
September	147.3	424.22	9683.29
October	147.7	425.38	9709.59
November	148.2	426.82	9742.46

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

DONATIONS

INSURANCE WORKER

Com. Vivienne Fernandes, Udupi DO	Rs.2000
Com. Harini, Hosur Branch	5000
Com. Balasundaram Venkita Subbarayan	5000
Com Malkhan Singh, NC Zonal Office, Kanpur	21000

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



COM. A.G. DHOKPANDE
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT



COM. AMANULLA KHAN
FORMER PRESIDENT



COM. ASHOK TEWARI
FORMER JT.SECRETARY



COM. ANIL BHATNAGAR
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT



COM. CHANDRASEKHAR BOSE
being felicitated



COM. J.GURUMURTHY
FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT



COM. JAVANTO MUKHERJEE
FORMER JT SECRETARY



COM. K.NATARAJAN
FORMER SECRETARIAT MEMBER

FELICITATION TO FORMER LEADERS OF AIIEA

The 27th Conference of AIIEA at Bhubaneswar had the inspiring presence of Com Chandrasekhara Bose, the 104 year old founder member of the AIIEA along with 20 Former Office-Bearers and Secretariat Members of the AIIEA. The conference expressed deep gratitude for their contributions and the hall witnessed unforgettable moments of emotions when they were felicitated.



COM. K.SWAMINATHAN
FORMER SECRETARIAT MEMBER



COM. K.VENU GOPAL
FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY



COM. K V V S N RAJU
FORMER JT SECRETARY



COM. M.KUNHIKRISHNAN
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT



COM. N.CHAKRABORTHY
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT



COM. NALVADE
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT



COM. P.BAGCHI
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT



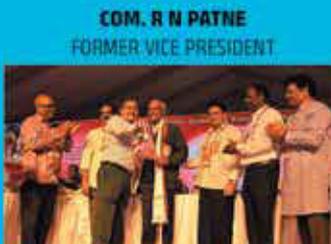
COM. P.V NANDA KUMAR
FORMER ASST. TREASURER



COM. R.D.DHARNIPATHY
FORMER JT.SECRETARY



COM. R.N.MALLIK
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT



COM. R N PATNE
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT



COM. S R URDWARESHE
FORMER VICE PRESIDENT



COM. V.D SOMASUNDARAM
FORMER ASST.TREASURER



COM.V V R SASTRY
FORMER VICE-PRESIDENT



Leaders of the fraternal organisations, who greeted the 27th Conference of AIIEA at Bhubaneswar :

Com. M Kunhikrishnan,
General Secretary, AIIPA

Com Debasish Basu Choudhary,
General Secretary, BEFI

Com S B Yadav,
General Secretary,
Confederation of Central
Government Employees and
Workers

Com. A Sreekumar,
General Secretary,
All India State Government
Employees Federation

Com B P Singh Chavan,
President,
Federation of LIC
Class I Officers' Association

Com Umakanth Behera,
President, NFIWFI,
East Central Zone

Com Rajesh Kumar,
General Secretary,
AILICEF



Com. M Kunhikrishnan



Com. Debasish Basu Choudhary



Com. S B Yadav



Com. B P Singh Chavan

Com. A Sreekumar



Com. Umakanth Behera



Com. Rajesh Kumar

