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AIEEA enters
75th Year
of its Glorious Existence



Let us
Pledge to continue to
popularise its noble values ..

- Spread the Fragrance of Love and Fight Hate . . .
- Rededicate ourselves to our Foundational Principles of Constructing a Fair, Just & Equal Society. . .



World's 4th largest
Economy means so
little to its people



Attack on
Freedom of
Expression

आर्थिकविषमता &
विश्व-युद्ध का
संकट



Onward to
GENERAL STRIKE on 9TH JULY 2025



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AIIEA ENTERS ITS PLATINUM JUBILEE YEAR

ढूढोगे अगर मुल्लकों मुल्लकों
मिलने के नही नायाब है हम

*Even if you search from Nation to Nation
You will not find me, for I am a Rare Jewel*

This one line by Shad Azimabadi beautifully describes the character and uniqueness of the AIIEA. It is unique as its foundation is laid on the basis of unity of diverse community of employees. It is a trade union which lifted the insurance employees from the gruelling life conditions while remaining steadfast to its social commitments to the Indian society. It taught the employees empathy and compassion and made it clear that to remain neutral in the fight for justice is to be on the side of the oppressor. It gave a vision to the insurance employees to understand the developments around them and make contributions to the construction of a society; fair and just to everybody. Indeed, it is rare to find such a trade union anywhere. This rarity and uniqueness have earned the AIIEA a pride of place in the comity of trade unions in India and great respect in the international trade union movement.

The All India Insurance Employees' Association will enter its Platinum Jubilee Year on July 1, 2025. It is a matter of great pride and happiness for every single insurance employee. The 75 years travelled by generations of insurance employees under the banner of AIIEA have been both inspiring and satisfying. The birth of AIIEA on July 1, 1951 was the realisation of the dream long cherished by the insurance employees. It was their firm belief that the collective strength of the employees embodied in AIIEA is the only hope for them to fight against horrifying working conditions and pathetic living standards and to secure a decent life standard. The AIIEA did not disappoint them. From the stormy centre of the sea, AIIEA successfully took the insurance employees to the safety of the shores.

But the journey of these 75 years has never been easy. The insurance sector before independence was dominated by the British and other foreign companies. These firms focused on insuring the lives and properties of Europeans in India and affluent Indians. Premiums were often remitted abroad, draining resources from India. The glorious struggle for freedom from British colonialism had strong and deep anti-imperialism roots. This gave birth to the idea of Swadeshi movement which helped the

Indian business houses to enter the insurance sector in the late 19th and early 20th century. However, the conditions of the insurance employees remained the same either with the foreign or indigenous insurance companies. The Declaration presented to the inaugural convention held on 30th June-1st July, 1951 described the life of the insurance employees as “The Present condition of the Insurance employees is too dreadful to contemplate. Denied a living wage, they had no opportunity for growth, no means to educate their children, no provision to fall back upon in sickness and old age. Barring a few big companies out of 341, the employers do not give regular salary grades, not to speak of other benefits, such as, leave rules, Gratuity, Provident Fund, Sick leave and the like. There are no standing orders; no security of service and the existence of the employees depend upon the sweet will of the employers.”

The insurance employees joined the national liberation movement hoping that the freedom from British colonialism will also result in their freedom from exploitation. But these hopes were belied. The post-independence governance came under the control of the big business houses and the landlords. The government failed to deliver on the promises based on which the mass upsurge against imperialism was mobilised. Independence came with a violent partition. This resulted in biggest migration in human history. The insurance sector could not remain unaffected due to these developments. With the companies doing business in Bengal and Punjab affected, the insurance sector also witnessed some migration of the workforce. The partition of the country, the brutal violence, mass migration admittedly had raised suspicions, doubts and hatred on communal lines.

It was under these difficult circumstances that insurance employees set about organising themselves in company-wise and regional federations. Despite great odds, these efforts fructified and dreams realised with the birth of AIIEA on July 1, 1951. The AIIEA achieved one milestone after another in its chequered history of 75 years. Insurance employees were fortunate that their movement was led by some brilliant and gifted leaders. There were thousands of cadres working tirelessly across the country imparting the noble values of AIIEA to the employees. The employees saw the benefits of their collective strength and pledged total loyalty to the AIIEA. Five names that immediately

come to mind for their brilliant contribution to the development of the insurance employees’ movement are Coms Chandrasekhar Bose, Saroj Chaudhuri, Sunil Moitra, NM Sundaram and R.P. Manchanda. This by no means underplay the magnificent contributions made by a number of other personalities, who are no longer with us, in taking the AIIEA to great heights. But their memories continue to live in the hearts of the insurance employees. Fortunately, many personalities who led the organisation brilliantly in the past continue with their guidance for the benefit of the movement. If the AIIEA today is great, it is due to the combination of many factors; unity achieved on the basis of principles, correct political understanding, brilliance of the leaders, commitment of the cadres and unflinching loyalty of the rank and file of the employees.

The AIIEA redeemed its promise to lift the insurance employees out from exploitative conditions at work place and improve their life standards. Today, the insurance employees enjoy one of the best wage and service conditions in the country. But these accomplishments of the 75 glorious years did not come easy. It must be remembered that AIIEA had to fight bitter battles to secure every single benefit. It had to confront powerful adversaries in the government and the management. It had to overcome divisions and disruptions engineered by its adversaries for partisan political considerations in total collaboration with the Indian ruling classes. The AIIEA came out stronger every time such efforts were made to disrupt the unity of the organisation.

The AIIEA also has the proud distinction of defending the unity of the country at times of crisis in Kashmir or Assam. It stood firm against the poison of communalism. It remained steadfast in defending the constitutional guarantees for the less privileged sections of the Indian society. It built solidarities with other sections of the working people through common struggles. Its demand for nationalisation was for the State to control the savings and direct them to areas that can improve the life of the people. Its magnificent struggle against privatisation remains without any parallel in the annals of the trade union movement. It is a matter of great pride that AIIEA has a glorious track of reaching out and helping people impacted by natural calamities. Its units at various places are working tirelessly in the fight against caste, social and gender discrimination. With such a

glorious record, what else but proud, can be the membership of AIIEA.

As we celebrate the 75 years of our beloved organisation, we are also aware of the enormous challenges of the present times. The Indian society was never polarised as it is today. The income and wealth inequalities continue to soar with national resources and wealth concentrated in few hands. Democracy and constitutional values remain under tremendous stress and strain. It is not wrong to say that the foundational principles of Indian nationhood - liberty, equality, fraternity and secularism are all under attack. The heart and soul of the Idea of India is bleeding with thousand cuts. There are clear signs of the emergence of fascist tendencies and the State in many cases is seen moving towards lawlessness.

The foundational principles of AIIEA were not just to secure improvements in working and living conditions of the insurance employees. More importantly, the AIIEA had the vision of constructing a fair, just and equal society. Such a society cannot be built without ending the exploitative capitalist order and bringing about a social change. Our vision and idea of the Indian society and nation is under attack. We must

defend this with all strength at our command.

We celebrate the glorious and chequered journey of AIIEA. We shall resolutely defend the unity of the working class. We will not rest on what is accomplished. Greater achievements and accomplishments await us. The AIIEA commits itself to continue the journey it began on July 1, 1951 in pursuit of a peaceful, just, fair and equal society.

We end this editorial note with two great lines penned by Shad Azimabadi:

लाखों ही मुसाफिर चलते हैं
मंजिल पे पहुंचते हैं दो एक
ऐ अहल-ए-जमाना कद्र करो
नायाब न हों कम-याब हैं हम

Millions of travellers walk,
only a handful reach their destination
O my contemporaries! Appreciate me,
For I am rare, if not elusive

As AIIEA enters its 75th Year of Glorious Existence, let us pledge to continue to popularise the noble values of AIIEA. Let us spread the fragrance of Love and fight hate.

Let us rededicate ourselves to the foundational principles and objectives of our beloved organisation.

July 1, 1951



PLATINUM
JUBILEE
YEAR



एआईआईईए:

प्लैटिनम जुबली वर्ष में प्रवेश



ढूंढोगे अगर मुल्कों मुल्कों
मिलने के नहीं नायाब हैं हम

(भले ही एक देश से दूसरे देश आप कितनी भी खोज कर लें।
आप मुझे नहीं पाओगे, क्योंकि मैं एक दुर्लभ रत्न हूँ।)

शाद अजीमावादी की यह एक पंक्ति एआईआईईए के चरित्र और विशिष्टता को खूबसूरती से बयां करती है। यह इसलिए अद्वितीय है क्योंकि इसकी नींव कर्मचारियों के विविध समुदाय की एकता के आधार पर रखी गई है। यह एक ऐसा टेड यूनियन है जिसने भारतीय समाज के प्रति अपनी सामाजिक प्रतिबद्धताओं पर अडिग रहते हुए बीमा कर्मचारियों को भीषण जीवन परिस्थितियों से उबाराने के लिए कर्मचारियों को सहानुभूति और करुणा सिखाई और यह स्पष्ट किया कि न्याय की लड़ाई में तटस्थ रहना उत्पीड़क के पक्ष में होना है। इसने बीमा कर्मचारियों को अपने आस-

पास के घटनाक्रमों को समझने और एक ऐसे समाज के निर्माण में योगदान करने का दृष्टिकोण दिया जो सभी के लिए निष्पक्ष और न्यायपूर्ण हो। वास्तव में, ऐसा टेड यूनियन कहीं और मिलना दुर्लभ है। इस दुर्लभता और विशिष्टता ने एआईआईईए को भारत में टेड यूनियनों के समुदाय में एक गौरवपूर्ण स्थान और अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय टेड यूनियन आन्दोलन में बहुत सम्मान दिलाया है।

ऑल इण्डिया इन्श्योरेन्स एम्प्लॉईज एसोसिएशन 1 जुलाई 2025 को अपने प्लैटिनम जुबली वर्ष में प्रवेश करेगा। यह प्रत्येक बीमा कर्मचारी के लिए बहुत गर्व और खुशी की बात है। एआईआईईए के बैनर तले बीमा कर्मचारियों की पीढ़ियों द्वारा तय किए गए 75साल प्रेरणादायक और सन्तोषजनक दोनों रहे हैं। 1 जुलाई 1951 को एआईआईईए का जन्म बीमा कर्मचारियों द्वारा लम्बे समय से संजोए गए

सपने को साकार करने वाला था। उनका दृढ़ विश्वास था कि एआईआईईए में समाई हुई कर्मचारियों की सामूहिक शक्ति ही उनके लिए भयावह कामकाजी परिस्थितियों और दयनीय जीवन स्तर से लड़ने और एक सभ्य जीवन स्तर हासिल करने की एकमात्र आशा है। एआईआईईए ने उन्हें निराश नहीं किया। समुद्र के तूफानी केन्द्र से, एआईआईईए ने बीमा कर्मचारियों को सफलतापूर्वक तट की सुरक्षा तक पहुंचाया।

लेकिन इन 75 सालों का सफर कभी आसान नहीं रहा। आजादी से पहले बीमा क्षेत्र पर ब्रिटिश और दूसरी विदेशी कम्पनियों का दबदबा था। ये कम्पनियां भारत में यूरोपीय लोगों और अमीर भारतीयों के जीवन और सम्पत्तियों का बीमा करने पर ध्यान केन्द्रित करती थीं। प्रीमियम अक्सर विदेश भेजे जाते थे, जिससे भारत के संसाधन बाहर चले जाते थे। ब्रिटिश उपनिवेशवाद से आजादी का शानदार संघर्ष काफी मजबूत और जड़ें गहरी साम्राज्यवाद विरोधी थीं। इसने स्वदेशी आन्दोलन के विचार को जन्म दिया जिसने 19 वीं सदी के अन्त और 20 वीं सदी की शुरुआत में भारतीय व्यापारिक घरानों को बीमा क्षेत्र में प्रवेश करने में मदद की। हालांकि, बीमा कर्मचारियों की स्थिति विदेशी या स्वदेशी बीमा कम्पनियों के साथ एक जैसी ही रही। 30 जून- 1 जुलाई 1951 को आयोजित उद्घाटन सम्मेलन में प्रस्तुत घोषणापत्र में बीमा कर्मचारियों के जीवन का वर्णन इस प्रकार किया गया था: बीमा कर्मचारियों की वर्तमान स्थिति इतनी भयावह है कि उसकी कल्पना भी नहीं की जा सकती। जीविका के लिए उचित वेतन न मिलने के कारण उनके पास विकास का कोई अवसर नहीं है, बच्चों को शिक्षित करने का कोई साधन नहीं है, बीमारी और बुढ़ापे में सहारे कोई प्रावधान नहीं है। 341 में से कुछ बड़ी कम्पनियों को छोड़कर, नियोक्ता नियमित वेतन ग्रेड तक नहीं देते हैं, अन्य लाभों जैसे छुट्टी के नियम, ग्रेच्युटी, भविष्य निधि, बीमारी की छुट्टी और इसी तरह की अन्य सुविधाओं आदि की तो बात ही छोड़ दें। कोई स्थायी आदेश नहीं है; सेवा की कोई सुरक्षा नहीं है और कर्मचारियों का अस्तित्व नियोक्ताओं की मर्जी पर निर्भर करता है।

बीमा कर्मचारी राष्ट्रीय मुक्ति आन्दोलन में इस उम्मीद से शामिल हुए थे कि ब्रिटिश उपनिवेशवाद से मुक्ति के परिणामस्वरूप उन्हें शोषण से भी मुक्ति मिलेगी। लेकिन ये उम्मीदें झूठी साबित हुईं। स्वतन्त्रता के बाद शासन बड़े व्यापारिक घरानों और जमींदारों के नियन्त्रण में आ गया। सरकार उन वादों को पूरा करने में विफल रही जिनके आधार पर साम्राज्यवाद के खिलाफ जन-आन्दोलन को संगठित किया गया था। स्वतन्त्रता के साथ ही हिंसक विभाजन भी हुआ। इसके परिणामस्वरूप मानव इतिहास में सबसे बड़ा पलायन हुआ। इन घटनाक्रमों से बीमाक्षेत्र भी अछूता नहीं रह सका। बंगाल और पंजाब में कारोबार करने वाली कम्पनियों के प्रभावित होने के साथ ही बीमा क्षेत्र में भी कर्मचारियों का कुछ पलायन हुआ। देश का विभाजन, क्रूर हिंसा और बड़े पैमाने पर पलायन ने साम्प्रदायिक आधार पर संदेह, अविश्वास और घृणा को जन्म दिया।

इन कठिन परिस्थितियों में ही बीमा कर्मचारियों ने स्वयं को कम्पनीवार तथा क्षेत्रीय संघों में संगठित करना प्रारम्भ किया। तमाम बाधाओं के बावजूद ये प्रयास सफल हुए और 1 जुलाई, 1951 को एआईआईईए के जन्म के साथ ही सपने

साकार हुए। एआईआईईए ने अपने 75 साल के इतिहास में एक के बाद एक मील के पत्थर हासिल किए। बीमा कर्मचारी भाग्यशाली थे कि उनके आन्दोलन का नेतृत्व कुछ नैसर्गिक प्रतिभाशाली नेताओं ने किया। देश भर में हजारों कार्यकर्ता अथक परिश्रम कर रहे थे और कर्मचारियों को एआईआईईए के महान मूल्यों से अवगत करा रहे थे। कर्मचारियों ने अपनी सामूहिक ताकत के लाभों को देखा और एआईआईईए के प्रति पूरी निष्ठा की शपथ ली। बीमा कर्मचारी आन्दोलन के विकास में उनके शानदार योगदान के लिए तुरन्त दिमाग में आने वाले पांच नाम हैं कॉमरेड चन्द्रशेखर बोस, सरोज चौधरी, सुनील मोडना, एन एम सुन्दरम और आर पी मनचन्दा। यह किसी भी तरह से एआईआईईए को महान उंचाईयों पर ले जाने में कई अन्य हस्तियों द्वारा किए गए शानदार योगदान को कम नहीं करता है, जो अब हमारे बीच नहीं हैं। लेकिन उनकी यादें बीमा कर्मचारियों के दिलों में अभी भी जीवित हैं। सौभाग्य से, अतीत में, संगठन का शानदार नेतृत्व करने वाले कई व्यक्तित्व आन्दोलन को आगे बढ़ाने के लिए अपना मार्गदर्शन जारी रखे हुए हैं। अगर आज एआईआईईए महान हैं, तो यह कई कारकों के संयोजन के कारण है; सिद्धांतों के आधार पर हासिल की गई एकता, सही राजनीतिक समझ, नेताओं की प्रतिभा, कार्यकर्ताओं की प्रतिबद्धता और प्रत्येक स्तर के सामान्य कर्मचारियों की अटूट निष्ठा।

एआईआईईए ने बीमा कर्मचारियों को कार्यस्थल पर शोषणकारी परिस्थितियों से उबारने और उनके जीवन स्तर को बेहतर बनाने का अपना वादा पूरा किया। आज, बीमा कर्मचारी देश में सबसे बेहतरीन वेतन और सेवा स्थितियों में से एक का आनन्द ले रहे हैं। लेकिन शानदार वर्षों की ये उपलब्धियां आसानी से नहीं मिलीं। यह याद रखना चाहिए कि एआईआईईए को हर एक लाभ को सुरक्षित करने के लिए कठिन संघर्ष करना पड़ा। इसे सरकार और प्रबन्धन में शक्तिशाली विरोधियों का सामना करना पड़ा। इसे उन व्यवधानों और विभाजनों पर काबू पाना था जो इसके विरोधियों द्वारा सत्ता तन्त्र के साथ साठगांठ करके राजनैतिक विचारों को पक्षपात पूर्ण तरीके से लाभ उठाने के लिए उत्पन्न किए जा रहे थे। जब भी संगठन की एकता को बाधित करने के ऐसे प्रयास किए गए, एआईआईईए और भी मजबूत होकर सामने आया।

एआईआईईए को कश्मीर या असम में संकट के समय देश की एकता की रक्षा करने का गौरव प्राप्त है। यह सांप्रदायिकता के जहर के खिलाफ मजबूती से खड़ा रहा। यह भारतीय समाज के वंचित वर्गों के लिए संवैधानिक गारण्टी की रक्षा करने में दृढ़ रहा। इसने आम संघर्षों के माध्यम से मेहनतकश लोगों के अन्य वर्गों के साथ एकजुटता बनाई। राष्ट्रीयकरण के लिए इसकी मांग थी कि राज्य बचत को नियन्त्रित करे और उन्हें इन क्षेत्रों में निर्देशित करे जो लोगों के जीवन को बेहतर बना सकते हैं। निजीकरण के खिलाफ इसका शानदार संघर्ष ट्रेड यूनियन आन्दोलन के इतिहास में बेजोड़ है। यह बहुत गर्व की बात है कि एआईआईईए के पास प्राकृतिक आपदाओं से प्रभावित लोगों तक पहुंचने और उनकी मदद करने का एक शानदार टेक रिकार्ड है। विभिन्न स्थानों पर इसकी इकाईयां जाति, सामाजिक और लैंगिक भेदभाव के खिलाफ लड़ाई में अथक प्रयास कर रही हैं। ऐसे गौरवशाली रिकार्ड के साथ, एआईआईईए की सदस्यता पर

गर्व के अलावा और क्या हो सकता है।

हम अपने प्रिय संगठन के 75 साल पूरे होने का जश्न मना रहे हैं, साथ ही हम वर्तमान समय की चुनौतियों से भी वाकिफ हैं। भारतीय समाज आज की तरह कभी भी धुंवीकृत नहीं रहा। राष्ट्रीय संसाधन और सम्पत्ति कुछ ही हाथों में केन्द्रित होने के कारण आय और सम्पत्ति की असमानताएं लगातार बढ़ रही हैं। लोकतन्त्र और संवैधानिक मूल्य भारी तनाव और दबाव में हैं। यह कहना गलत नहीं होगा कि भारतीय राष्ट्रवाद के मूलभूत सिद्धांत, स्वतन्त्रता, समानता, बंधुत्व और धर्मनिरपेक्षता सभी पर हमला हो रहा है। भारत के विचार की आत्मा और हृदय को तार-तार किया जा रहा है। फासीवादी प्रवृत्तियों के उभरने के स्पष्ट संकेत हैं और कई मामलों में राज्य अराजकता की ओर बढ़ता हुआ दिखाई दे रहा है।

एआईआईईए के आधारभूत सिद्धांत केवल बीमा कर्मचारियों की कार्य एवं जीवन स्थितियों में सुधार सुनिश्चित करना नहीं थे। इससे भी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि एआईआईईए का लक्ष्य एक निष्पक्ष, न्यायपूर्ण और समान समाज का निर्माण करना था। शोषणकारी पूंजीवादी व्यवस्था को समाप्त किए बिना और सामाजिक परिवर्तन लाए बिना ऐसा समाज नहीं बनाया जा सकता। भारतीय समाज और राष्ट्र के बारे में हमारी दृष्टि और विचार पर हमला हो रहा है। हमें अपनी पूरी ताकत से इसका बचाव करना चाहिए।

हम एआईआईईए की शानदार और उतार-चढ़ाव भरी यात्रा का जश्न मनाते हैं। हम मजदूर वर्ग की एकता की दृढ़ता से रक्षा करेंगे। जो हासिल हो चुका है, हम उस पर आराम नहीं करेंगे। इससे भी और बड़ी उपलब्धियां और सफलताएं हमारा इंतजार कर रही हैं। एआईआईईए एक शान्तिपूर्ण, न्यायपूर्ण, निष्पक्ष और समान समाज की खोज में 1 जुलाई, 1951 को शुरू की गई अपनी यात्रा को जारी रखने के लिए प्रतिबद्ध है।

हम इस संपादकीय लेख का समापन श्राद्ध अजीमावादी द्वारा लिखी गई दो महान पंक्तियों के साथ करते हैं:

लाखों ही मुसाफिर चलते हैं
मंजिल पे पहुंचते हैं दो एक
ऐ अहल-ए-जमाना कद्र करो
नायाब न हों कम-याब हैं हम

(लाखों राही चलते जाते हैं, मगर केवल एकाध ही अपने गंतव्य तक पहुंच पाते हैं। हमारे हमराहियों हमारी सरहना करो क्योंकि हो सकता है कि हम अनोखे न हों लेकिन सफल हैं)

एआईआईईए अपने गौरवशाली अस्तित्व के 75 वें वर्ष में प्रवेश कर रहा है, तो आइए हम एआईआईईए के महान मूल्यों को लोकप्रिय बनाने का संकल्प लें। आइए हम प्रेम की खुशबू फैलाएं और नफरत से लड़ें। आइए हम अपने प्रिय संगठन के मूलभूत सिद्धांतों और उद्देश्यों के प्रति खुद को फिर से समर्पित करें।

July 1, 1951



PLATINUM
JUBILEE
YEAR



Com V.RAMESH,
PRESIDENT, AIIEA

1st July 2025 marks a historic milestone in the journey of the All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA) as it completes 74 glorious years of relentless struggle, unity, and progressive achievements.



Since its formation in 1951, AIIEA has been the torchbearer of workers' rights, social justice, and the collective strength of insurance employees in India. AIIEA's journey is a saga of struggle, sacrifice, and success. AIIEA is not just as an organisation, but as a movement—a movement that would redefine the insurance sector, fight for employees' rights, and stand as an unshakable fortress against exploitation.

The AIIEA's legacy is etched in the annals of India's trade Union movement. It played a pivotal role in the nationalisation of life insurance business in 1956 and General insurance business in 1972 ensuring that this vital sector served the people rather than private profits.

The struggles of the 1960s against automation, the fight for standardisation of wages, the historic bonus agitation, the resistance against the Split Bill in the 1980s, securing many economic demands including periodical wage revision stand testimony to the union's unwavering commitment to protecting employees' interests.

The AIIEA has not only defended jobs but also championed fair wages, dignity at work, and social security like mediclaim, pension etc., for generations of insurance employees. These victories were not gifted. They were won through the sweat, blood, and unyielding resolve of countless comrades who believed in the power of collective action.

AIIEA played an important role by extending its service by reaching the vulnerable during floods, earthquake and Covid Pandemic across the country. These activities of the organisation stand as a testament to solidarity and humanity in times of despair.

As we celebrate the Platinum Jubilee, we salute the countless leaders, cadres, activists, and members whose sacrifices and solidarity built this mighty movement. AIIEA's strength lies in its unity, democratic ethos and its unwavering commitment to justice. AIIEA strongly believe in steadfast faith in collective action.

From 1993 onwards, AIIEA has been at the forefront of the battle against privatisation, safeguarding public sector insurance as a pillar of India's financial security.

Today, as the public sector insurance faces new challenge in the form of corporate pressures, technological disruptions, and policy shifts—the AIIEA's role remains crucial. The union must continue to adapt, innovate, and resist anti-employees policies, while also engaging with younger employees to carry forward its legacy.

As we enter our 75th year, let us

- Reaffirm our commitment to working class unity;
- Rejuvenate our organization with fresh energy from young employees;
- Resolve to face future challenges with the same

revolutionary spirit that has defined us for 74 years.

Let this Platinum Jubilee be not just a celebration, but a renewal of our pledge to protect public sector insurance and fight for employees/workers' rights. The road ahead demands greater unity, stronger mobilization and smarter strategies.

Onward to Greater Struggles and Successes!

Long Live AIIEA!

Long Live Working-Class Unity!



**Com. SHREEKANT MISHRA,
GENERAL SECRETARY, AIIEA**



On the 1st of July 2025 the AIIEA enters its Platinum Jubilee Year. On this historic occasion, we extend Revolutionary Greetings to all our members, leaders, veterans and well-wishers of the AIIEA. The 1st of July 2025 marks not just the completion of 74 glorious years, but the beginning of the 75th year of a proud journey- a journey defined by unity, struggle, sacrifice and landmark achievements.

The AIIEA stands tall today as the oldest and largest trade union in India's insurance industry, a position earned through relentless dedication to the cause of the employees, unshakable commitment to democratic values and an unwavering resolve to defend public sector insurance industry. From its very inception, AIIEA has played a pioneering role in shaping the destiny of insurance employees in India. It has stood as a beacon of collective strength and working-class consciousness, inspiring generations of activists to unite and fight for their rights.

The Platinum Jubilee is not merely a celebration of longevity- it is a celebration of a legacy. A legacy born out of tireless and uncompromising struggles- against unjust policies, adverse working conditions, the threats of privatisation and against nefarious attempts to disrupt the unity of the people. A legacy built on the strength of solidarity-cutting across regions, languages and religions. A legacy rich with stories of courageous resistance, bold leadership and historic victories. Whether it was the struggle for nationalisation of insurance, standardisation of wages, realisation of bonus as a matter of right, against automation, against the infamous emergency and the heinous attempts to split LIC, realisation of pension as a retiral benefit, scores of wage settlements and the epic struggle against neoliberal ploy to privatise public sector insurance industry, AIIEA has always been at the

forefront. Nay, leading from the front.

As we set out to commemorate 75 years of this remarkable legacy, let us rededicate ourselves to the ideals and values that shaped the AIIEA. Let us pay heartfelt tribute to the founders, stalwarts and countless Comrades- men and women of extraordinary courage, vision, conviction and commitment- who laid the foundations of this mighty organisation and built it brick by brick with their sacrifices and visionary leadership. It is an axiomatic truth that we draw strength from their memory and resolve to carry their mission forward.

The challenges ahead are no less formidable. The public sector insurance industry continues to face policy onslaughts aimed at privatisation. Workers' rights are being sought to be curtailed under the garb of reforms. In these testing times when the collective ethical identity of our country is under stress, the legacy of AIIEA is not just relevant, it is absolutely essential. The Platinum Jubilee must become a launchpad for intensified struggles in defence of our industry, our rights and broadening our arena of struggle through building solidarities.

Let's make the 75th year of AIIEA a year of mass mobilisation, ideological renewal, organisational consolidation and collective pride. Let's make a collective effort to develop AIIEA 'as a people in conversation' dedicated to the cause of the employees, the institution, the people and the nation at large. With our heads held high and hearts filled with determination, we'll march forward- united, fearless and resolute.

Long Live AIIEA

Glory to 75 Years of Unity,

Struggle and Achievement

PLATINUM
JUBILEE
YEAR



Formation of All India Insurance Employees' Association



First Convention

(Excerpts from “The Short History of AIEEA” written by Com Chandrasekhar Bose)

All India Insurance Employees' Association was formed through a convention held on 30th June and 1st July, 1951 at Dhuru Hall of Dadar, Mumbai. Representatives of Insurance Office Employees' Association of West Bengal, Insurance Employees' Federation, Bombay, Madras Provincial Insurance Employees' Association, Bihar Insurance Employees' Association, Poona Insurance Employees' Union, Ahmedabad Insurance Employees' Union attended the convention. Com. Rajni Patel, President of the Bombay Insurance Employees' Federation presided over the convention. Com. P.T. Donde as the Convener of the Convention greeted the delegates. N.K. Patkar, Chairman of the Reception Committee, in his address, narrated contrasting roles of the Managements/Owners of insurance companies. While they were freely squandering people's savings for their own benefits, they simultaneously denied minimum living wages

and benefits to employees. National economic development was no consideration to them.

Sri Rajani Patel stated, “It was the bitter experience of life, it is the understanding of the various problems of insurance employees, it is the understanding of united strength of insurance employees that has brought us together today and this is going to unite us under the banner of the All India Insurance Employees' Association.” Sri Patel exposed in his address tricks that Managements used to play saying, “Insurance employees were rendering social service, so they should not demand increase in emoluments.” How brutally they bantered employees' right to decent life! They even used to go to the extent of retrenching employees on excuse of mounting expenses. No amount of social justice could they mete out to employees whom they described as social workers at occasions of their convenience. Avarice for amassing wealth created by working people

cannot provide security of what so ever nature unless faced by countervailing forces. Sri Patel voiced considered opinion of the convention and proclaimed; “Nationalisation of the insurance industry only can end present state of affairs and put the industry on a proper and sound footing. If nationalization comes to this industry, what would happen? The losses would go, their profits would go and the country will stand to benefit not only for our interest, but also to safeguard and further the interest of the people at large. The convention, therefore, demands nationalization.”

Thus, the All India Insurance Employees' Association was born in the city of Mumbai on the 1st day of July, 1951 with its first demand of nationalization of the industry as a whole.”

The convention further called on the Government to put down black marketing and check inflation and to bring necessary legislations to satisfy the following demands:

- a. Living wage guaranteeing

- a decent and civilized existence;
- b. Dearness Allowance which would fully neutralize the rise in prices;
- c. The security of service by forbidding retrenchment.
- d. Provision for adequate privilege, casual and sick leave with full pay and allowances;
- e. Retirement benefits like Gratuity, Provident Fund and Pension Fund;
- f. Unfettered Trade Union Rights including the right to strike and compulsory recognition of unions by employers;
- g. Working hours to be 6 hours on week days and 3 hours on Saturday;
- h. Overtime payment at double the normal wages and allowances;
- i. Adequate medical benefits including health insurance.”

That apart resolutions on Insurance Act, Retrenchment, Government Labour Policy, Unfair Labour Practice, Rising Prices, Unemployment, Charter of Demands were adopted.” Safety & security of people’s savings & protection of social security itself and investment of people’s savings in nation building activities took

importance in the deliberations of the convention.

The Conventon elected a working committee with Com Rajani Patel as President and Com P.T.Donde as the General Secretary. It was decided to have the headquarters of the newly formed All IIndia Insurance Employees’ Association at Bombay (Now Mumbai).

The formation of AIIEA was received with overwhelming joy and celebrations by the Open meeting of insurance employees held on 2nd July 1951 at Madam Cama Hall of Bombay.

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES’ CONVENTION at Bombay on 30th June and 1st July 1951

MEMORANDUM dated 28-5-1951 CIRCULATED FOR DISCUSSIONS IN THE NAME OF Com. P.T. DONDE, CONVENOR



Com. P.T. DONDE



WHAT WAS THE NEED FOR FORMATION OF ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES’ ASSOCIATION THE MEMORANDUM OR DECLARATION EXPLAINS IT ALL

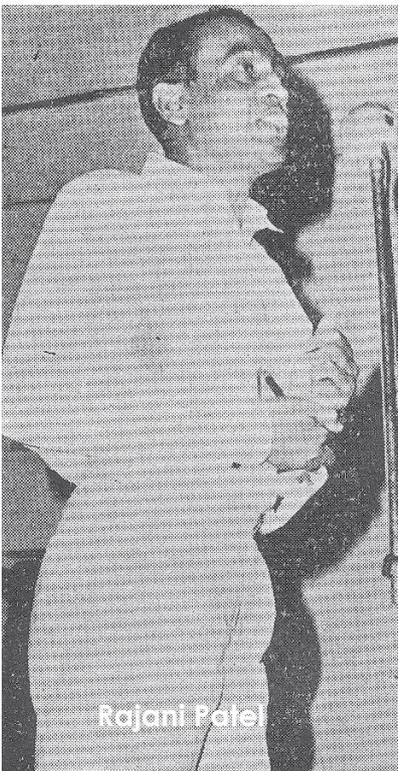
“The Present condition of the Insurance employees is too dreadful to contemplate. Denied a living wage, they had no opportunity for growth, no means to educate their children, no provision to fall back upon in sickness and old age. Barring a few big companies out of 341, the employers do not give regular salary grades, not to speak of other benefits, such as, leave rules, Gratuity, Provident Fund, Sick leave and the like. There are no standing orders; no security of service and the existence of the employees depend upon the sweet will of the employers.

It was during the war and the early postwar period that some of the insurance employees hard hit by the soaring prices

and goaded by inhuman service conditions found in organized trade union struggles their only hope of obtaining some relief. A number of trade union organizations arose and a number of struggles ensued. As a result of these struggles, many of the disputes were referred to Tribunals whose awards failed to give any relief to the employees.

On the contrary these awards have become weapons in the hands of employers in whose favour they are biased.

The main reason for the organization to achieve our minimum demands is that these struggles were waged in isolation and in the absence of a central organisation, the much needed co-ordination could not be established. Our



experience, therefore, points towards the need of a strong central organization on an all-India basis.

Insurance Employees have already moved in this direction. Federations of Insurance Employees have been established in Bengal, Poona, Bombay, Madras, U.P. and Behar. It now remains to co-ordinate the activities of these organizations and to widen the basis of the movement. Hence, an All-India Convention of Insurance Employees has been called in Bombay on 30th July 1951.

The main task before the Convention is to create machinery to co-ordinate the trade union activities of Insurance Employees, to mobilize mass sanctions behind their demands and evolve a uniform policy in regard to legislation. Adjudication Machinery and such organizational matters as

affect Insurance Employees as a whole. The convention will deal with the following subject:

1. The structure and functioning of our Central organization.
2. The Charter of Demands.
3. Legislation – legal or technical.
4. Propaganda, Press, Journal, Funds etc.

We give below our ideas and views on the above subjects.

(a) We should frame the constitution of our Organisation in such a manner as will retain the freedom of the present Provincial Federations and yet establish an effective co-ordination between them. Hence the organization shall have no mandatory powers. The Organisations will have Zonal Committees or Boards in control of their jurisdiction. There will be committees of experts on different subjects. There will be a Central Secretariat. Its duty will be to give advice and guidance to different Zonal Committees, to co-ordinate and bring about harmony between the movement of different centres, to obtain advice from the Experts' Committee, to create and mobilize sanctions behind disputes of struggles that may arise from time to time and attend to day to day affairs of the organization. The main object is to keep the provincial units strong and active. It will be seen that constitution of our Organisation will be a very loose body. But as it aims to keep the constituents active and free to play their independent roles, organizationally it will be a very powerful body.

With these ideas before us the constitution of the organisation will be drafted and it will be thoroughly discussed at the Convention.

(b) A model Charter of Demands applicable to Insurance Employees in general will be adopted. Individual Unions shall have the freedom to make suitable alterations to suit their peculiar conditions. The main object is to create sanctions behind the Charter.

(c) The present Labour Courts and Conciliation Machinery of the Government are in our opinion definitely detrimental to the interest of the workers. We are of the opinion that a time has come to demand statutory provisions as regards the living wage, security of service, Trade Union rights etc. Nationlisation of Insurance Industry shall be one of our main demands.

(d) We cannot build up our organization without propaganda through the press, journals, leaflets etc. An Editorial Board shall be created for this purpose and funds raised from the Provincial Units.

The above is only a bare outline of what should be the main task before the Convention. We know that there is much talent in every Province and we shall be on the part of workers and employees to pool all your knowledge and experience at the proposed Convention in Bombay and arrive at decisions on every matter before us. Let us, therefore, come together with an open mind with determination to lay the firm foundation of our organization in which lies the hope of all Insurance

Employees.

The next question that arises is: Who should attend this Convention? We think that all Insurance Employees from every nook and corner of India should attend the convention. There are absolutely no restrictions as to the number of employees attending. They may come individually or as representatives of their unions or Provincial Federations. This being the first Convention it is not possible to put any restrictions as to representation.

Friends, this is only the beginning. Hard work remains ahead of us; A Central Organisation is not an end in itself. It is only weapon in our hands to achieve our main objectives – a better standard of living and better service conditions. It is only when we all unite behind this organization and faces our adversaries as one man that we shall be able to achieve our ends. Let us march confidently forward.”

FROM ISOLATION TO SOLIDARITY

THROUGH SOLIDARITY TO SUCCESS

LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF INSURANCE EMPLOYEES



Com. CHANDRASEKHAR BOSE

FOUNDING FATHER OF AIIEA

AIIEA – An essential chapter of Indian Working-Class movements



The formation of AIIEA was declared at the Cama Hall in Mumbai on 1st July 1951 after a two days convention of union leaders of all major insurance companies active at that time. So, rightfully this young organisation is celebrating the year-long platinum jubilee celebration throughout the country. AIIEA is young at mass and heart as it is vibrant, changing strategies and fearlessly fighting for protecting the interest of the insurance sector employees, ensuring timely pay revision while actively contributing for the LIC to break its own performance records year after year.

AIIEA's glory is unparalleled and manifold. I like to mention just three achievements.

The first ever one day India wide general strike (called by any organisation) was successfully observed on AIIEA's call on 5th December, 1956 forcing the Govt of India to withdraw the unilaterally declared pay package (of additional costing of Rs 15 lakhs) and implement a 5-fold enhanced package of Rs 75 lakhs for the 18,000 employees of newly formed LIC after hard bargaining and negotiations.

AIIEA though its bargaining and negotiation skills and aided with empirical data and reports generated by renowned Actuarial firms (hired by it) proved beyond doubt the paying capacity of LIC and secured 15% bonus and bipartite agreements were done in 1974. The Govt of India stopped payment. AIIEA fought a

protracted legal battle upto the Supreme Court to establish that the Government had no such power as per The LIC Act and won the verdict. Govt of India had to amend LIC act in the Parliament to assume sweeping powers just to deny LIC employees its rightful claim. Still, our own Com S N Bhowmick armed with the legal acumen and insight prepared the brief and Com Somnath Chatterjee, Bar-at Law argued in the Supreme Court and secured 15% bonus upto the date of the amendment.

Again, in 2020 AIIEA's movements and arguments succeeded in recruitment of nearly 6000 permanent employees in Class III and earlier through legal intervention had secured regularisation of thousands of IV employees, an unbelievable achievement to be clinched from the current dispensation at the centre. The list is practically endless and counting.

As the lone surviving witness of the magnanimous journey, I take pride to say that history of working-class employees' movement in India cannot be complete without devoting a chapter on AIIEA. It is really befitting to celebrate the 75th year of such an unparallel organisation which is time tested, hit by a split in 1972, still growing stronger and living upto the pride and affection of its current and retired members and ones who preferred promotion and have left for other jobs. To me AIIEA is a tradition. It is the symbol of trust and hope.

AIIEA is now under its 4th generation leadership and perhaps operating in the most difficult environment with a hostile Govt. at the centre, all round automation, tendency to outsource work and growing competition. To retain and enhance its leadership position and to protect industry and employees' interests, we must engage

actively towards satisfaction of policyholders and the agents. At the same time, we should pay close attention to our past victories and the sacrifices made by our predecessors. I wrote a book titled "A short history of AIIEA' on the occasion of AIIEA's silver jubilee conference in 1977. Also in 2016, I wrote another book "Smriti bismritir

katha" which got translated in English and Hindi. But all versions are out of print. If those books may be updated and reprinted, I trust the new comrades would be able to get a documented history of our rich heritage and can resolve more firmly towards a stronger organisation.



**'FROM ISOLATION TO SOLIDARITY
THROUGH SOLIDARITY TO SUCCESS
LONG LIVE THE UNITY OF INSURANCE EMPLOYEES'.**

These were the words on the pamphlet announcing the all India convention leading to the formation of AIIEA held on 30th June and 1st July, 1951, which gave birth to the ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION. When it was formed on 1st July 1951, it was represented by delegates from basically company based/province based unions and mostly from the bigger centres. Today the spread of AIIEA among the LIC and PSGI employees is literally from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Bhuj (Gujarat) to Arunachal Pradesh in the northeast. Over the years AIIEA achieved the unity of its members across the country in the understanding of the issues and in actions. The Inaugural Convention declared that, "nationalization of the insurance industry only can end the present state of affairs and put the industry on a proper and sound footing." Thus, the formation of LIC and PS General Insurance Companies were the products of AIIEA's vision and its struggles.

During 1967-69 LIC was trying to centralize policyholder servicing to state-level Regional Offices

through advanced automation, do away with divisional offices and reduce staff. Anti- Automation struggle was launched during 1967 to 1969 where the IBM computer which was to be installed in the ILACO building in Kolkata, was resisted through historic ILACO vigil and campaign across the country.

In 1983, Government introduced a Bill for splitting of LIC into five independent corporations on the basis of five Zones and abolition of the Central office. Com. Sunil Maitra led the struggle against this bill inside the Parliament and the leaders and cadres and members at various centres across the country led the campaign on the streets. Finally, Shri Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister informed Co. Sunil Maitra on 12th April, 1985 that the Government was not proceeding with the Bill. Thus, LIC remained a single monolithic organisation today capable of facing the challenges of the day.

Struggle against opening of Insurance Sector (including the mobilization of more than one crore signatures of the people

of the country) and struggle against the disinvestment of LIC have been testaments to the organization's perseverance in continuing the struggle over three decades. Struggles on wage revision including the historic 1974 struggle, struggles on recruitment and joining the united struggles of the working class in the nation-wide strikes right from 19th January 1982 have been hallmark of the vibrant organisation.

In all these struggles it was the members of the organisation who stood in total commitment with the calls given by the Organisation.

The Constitution of AIIEA was approved at its first Conference in 1953, detailing the structural arrangement of the Organisation. But organization, in real terms is the cohesion between the leaders, cadres and members which has built up a homogeneity across the AIIEA from Kashmir to Kanyakumari. Involving the women comrades in the functioning of the Organisation was one more notable aspect.

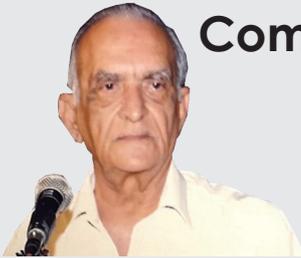
Com.K.VENU GOPAL
FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY,
AIIEA



All this was possible due to the continuous work done by the AIIEA across the generations. This Organisational work should continue.

I convey my greetings to all the comrades on this historic occasion of AIIEA entering the 75TH YEAR of its celebrated existence, and wish

that the Organisation will have many more victories to its credit.



Com. BHAGWAN SWAROOP SHARMA

former Vice-President AIIEA

AIIEA – OUR PRIDE



PLATINUM
JUBILEE
YEAR

AIIEA enters its Platinum Jubilee Year on the 1st July 2025. On this exhilarating and unique occasion, I convey my greetings to all and wish that AIIEA always succeeds in fulfilling its objectives & attain a pre-eminent position among the trade union fraternity of our country. From a seed sown on 01/07/1951, AIIEA has now grown into a mighty Banyan Tree, into a mighty and strong Association of insurance employees, protecting and promoting the interests of insurance employees overcoming many trials and tribulations. By sheer dint of unity and consistent struggles, AIIEA has achieved a lot for the insurance employees and has transformed their lives and living standards. Today, they enjoy enviable wages & other service conditions.

When we look back at the path traversed by AIIEA since its formation, we feel proud of its past and the assertive strategy with which it has travelled so far. AIIEA enters the 75th year of its purposeful existence with spectacular achievements, victories and successes which instantly flash across my mind like fleeting train of events. It is not possible to capture them all here but their recapitulation is necessary. "Sustained struggle and campaign for nationalization of insurance industry, standardization of wages

and other service conditions with uniform application to all the 20778 Class III & IV employees of 245 erstwhile insurance companies, establishing the right to bonus earlier denied on a specious plea that public sector employees were not eligible for bonus, Six bipartite settlements, protecting the right to bonus for seven years even after nullifying the provision of the bonus settlement by the Govt, right to pension etc. were some of the significant achievements. Successful struggle against automation, stiff-opposition to the policy of wage freeze, defeating of the lockout imposed on the LIC employees, prolonged and sustained struggle against unilateral imposition of bank pattern on our wage-revisions of LIC employees by the Government & our success in getting the wage revisions delinked from bank pattern are the high-watermarks of our achievements and victories." Securing absorption of thousands of Badli/temporary/ Part time employees in the service of LIC was another feather in AIIEA's Cap." The Ongoing struggle in defence of LIC and Public Sector General Insurance Companies is a reflection of AIIEA's commitment for retention of Public Sector identity.

Ever since its formation, AIIEA has been moving ahead with utmost clarity, conviction and determination. Every struggle

unleashed by AIIEA and every achievement signifies its right vision. The long catalogue of its struggles against all sort of attacks is a glorious saga and highly inspiring part of its history and onward march.

AIIEA has been nurtured on the basic tenets of trade unionism, for AIIEA the unity of the employees is a fundamental principle. Because of this steadfastness, the AIIEA could hinder, thwart and overcome all the attempts of disruptions triumphantly. Its vision and conviction has steered out on all the seemingly insurmountable situations. AIIEA could never be browbeaten or cowed into submissions.

AIIEA believes that we have a broader role to play and wider task to perform, AIIEA has always been indentifying itself more and more with the working class and get inspired by the working class ideology. AIIEA has always been an inseparable part of working class and it has never allowed itself to be isolated from the all India struggles of the trade union movement.

The glorious history of AIIEA is undeniably a great source of inspiration to all because it represents aspirations and struggles on which AIIEA has been built-up. To decide our future one should know the past which is replete with

Continued on page 14

Com.M.GIRIJA, JOINT SECRETARY, AIIEA

On July 1st, 2025, our great and mighty organization - AIIEA, enters its 75th year of existence. Just as human life is filled with ups and downs, joys and sorrows, the journey of our AIIEA has similarly traversed through varied experiences over the past 74 years. Nevertheless, through the strategic vision, organizational excellence, and unwavering persistence of our leadership, today we proudly step into our Platinum Jubilee Year.

Throughout these decades, AIIEA has made relentless efforts to achieve the noble objectives for which our founding leaders established this organization. We have waged uncompromising struggles not only to realize the economic demands of insurance employees, but also to protect the livelihoods of India's working people, safeguard our nation's economy, preserve our country's

democratic values, and strengthen the unity of our people.

Our success in moving forward has been driven by adaptively designed campaigns, creatively innovated tactics, strategic alliance-building during our struggles, and our ability to respond to adversaries while sustaining long-term organizational capacity. We have consistently campaigned for alternatives to the existing capitalist system in Indian society.

Through all these endeavours, insurance employees rallying under the banner of AIIEA have come to realize that they are not alone on this path of struggle. **They have discovered their potential to be part of something far greater than themselves. They understand their responsibility to recognize facts as they are, speak truth boldly, and take clear positions—regardless of the opposition or controversy they**



may encounter.

With this profound understanding, let us celebrate our organization's Platinum Jubilee with joy and cherished memories. Let us honour the long years of dedication and achievement by recalling the invaluable contributions made by our predecessors, and let their enduring legacy continue to inspire us as we advance toward our organization's cherished goals.

Let us pledge together to continue this remarkable journey of success, unity, and progress.



Com. GITA SHANT

Joint Secretary, NCZIEF

ईमानदार व प्यार से भरा
जिसमें जाति-धर्म-भाषा-
क्षेत्र-लिंग की कोई दीवार नहीं

AIIEA के प्लेटिनम जुबली वर्ष में प्रवेश के क्षणों में प्रथम नमन संघर्षों व बलिदानों के उस इतिहास को जिसके दम पर 1 जुलाई 1951 को AIIEA की स्थापना हो सकी। ज़ाहिर है उस इतिहास के पन्ने 1 जुलाई 1951 के बाद के पन्नों से ज़्यादा कठिनाइयों से भरे रहे होंगे।

मैंने अपने 34 वर्षों में AIIEA का जो सार समझा और महसूस किया है वह यह है कि AIIEA ने अपने गठन के समय जन व राष्ट्र कल्याण का जो उद्देश्य निर्धारित किया था, 74 वर्ष के लम्बे सफर में देश-दुनिया के तमाम राजनैतिक, आर्थिक, सामाजिक

परिवर्तनों, संगठन में सदस्यों व नेतृत्व की नई पीढ़ियों के बावजूद वह उद्देश्य सीप के मोती जैसा आज तक शुद्ध बना हुआ है। AIIEA की स्थापना का मूल उद्देश्य समाज के संसाधन समाज के लिए रहा है। बीमा क्षेत्र के राष्ट्रीयकरण की माँग की धुरी यही विचार रहा। जन कल्याण के पवित्र विचार में विश्वास की गहराई का सहज उदाहरण AIIEA है।

हमें गर्व है कि AIIEA ने ही तत्कालीन सरकार को पूरा मसौदा तैयार करके बताया था कि किस तरह देश के साधारण लोगों की छोटी-छोटी बचत से एक राष्ट्रीयकृत



बीमा संस्थान बनाकर व्यक्ति व परिवार को सामाजिक सुरक्षा प्रदान करने के साथ राष्ट्र के मूलभूत ढाँचे हेतु निवेश भी प्राप्त किया जा सकता है।

नाभिकीय संलयन (Nuclear Fusion) की ताकत को तो दुनिया जानती है मगर AIIEA ने आर्थिक संलयन की जिस ताकत को समझा व समझाया LIC के इतिहास ने उसे प्रमाणित कर दिया।

AIIEA ने यह करिश्मा अपने साथियों को दी गई इस बुनियादी शिक्षा से कर दिखाया कि पब्लिक सैक्टर की असली मालिक पब्लिक ही है। उससे ईमानदार व दोस्ताना व्यवहार रखो।

LIC में ईमानदारी दरअसल AIIEA का ही संस्कार है। हमने अपने शीर्ष नेतृत्व

के जीवन व घर देखे हैं और सीखा है कि संगठन का चरित्र ही संस्था का चरित्र बन जाता है। ईमानदारी व प्यार के इस संस्कार ने हम AIIEA के साथियों को मुकम्मल इन्सान बना दिया।

AIIEA में अपने 34 वर्ष के अनुभव को समेटकर मैं कहना चाहती हूँ कि मैं इस देश-दुनिया को AIIEA जैसा देखना चाहती हूँ। ईमानदार व प्यार से भरा। जिसमें जाति-धर्म-भाषा-क्षेत्र-लिंग की कोई दीवार

नहीं, एक-दूसरे के लिए प्यार-प्यार और बस प्यार।

AIIEA ज़िन्दाबाद

-गीता शान्त,महामंत्री,
बीमा कर्मी संघ बरेली डिवीजन



S.K.GEETHA,
Former Vice President, SCZIEF

AIIEA – a beacon of Hope

It is a joyous occasion for all of us that our beloved organisation is celebrating its platinum jubilee this year. 75 years of struggle, sacrifice and success is an occasion to be celebrated; to remember and rejoice the journey it has undertaken in all these years. The AIIEA has made a big difference to the lives of generations of employees who served LIC.

History of AIIEA cannot be separated from the history of LIC. Organisation that had cherished the dream of a self reliant country played a pivotal role in nationalisation and creation of gigantic financial institution LIC. We can legitimately take

pride not only to creation of LIC but also the way LIC has been contributing to the growth of Indian economy. This would not have been possible but for the commitment and dedication of generation of employees who served LIC. These qualities were imbibed because of organisation in each and every member. The sense of belongingness to the institution is the greatest strength in facing the competition.

LIC employees today enjoy many benefits. It has demonstrated that it is possible to achieve the impossible if people come together with a purpose, work together with commitment, for a cause. AIIEA

has not confined its' activities to employees' welfare alone it has built bonds with the other sections of the society, thereby making it's members realise the importance of solidarity with the fellow citizens. It has made them realise that they are just a small part of the society and their well being is dependent on the well being of the society itself.

Today, when the country is facing huge challenges it is not easy to run a trade union. The experience of AIIEA has shown the way that however powerful the ruling class, it is possible to stand up to it and fight for our rights awith unity and commitment. For all of us who are closely associated with AIIEA, it remains a beacon of hope and a source of inspiration to carry forward the legacy of struggles and sacrifice to make the world this world a better place for all its inhabitants to live in peace and dignity.



AIIEA – OUR PRIDE

Continued from page 12

innumerable attacks on employees and the struggles. Let us always remember that all the rights and privileges that employees enjoy today are the result of the sustained struggles and efforts of the AIIEA. One needs to realize this that to achieve further successes and

win new rights, it is imperative to preserve and protect the gains achieved so far.

The journey of the AIIEA in the last 74 years has been quite strenuous and challenging as well but certainly path breaking. Long Live AIIEA – Long Live Our Unity.



PLATINUM JUBILEE
YEAR



9TH TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE OF AIIPA - A MAGNIFICENT SUCCESS

The Ninth Triennial General Conference of the All India Insurance Pensioners' Association (AIIPA) took place, as scheduled, at the historic city of Mysore (Karnataka) on 2nd - 4th June, 2025 amidst tremendous zeal and enthusiasm. The Conference got off to an inspiring start on the morning of 2nd June with the unfurling of the flag of the Association by Com Satanjib Das, President, AIIPA in the midst of full throated slogans. The inspiring revolutionary chorus songs sung by the women comrades of Mysore preceded the programme and lent it a unique dimension. Thereafter, floral tributes were

paid to the Martyrs' Column.

INAUGURAL SESSION

Inaugural session of the Conference began at the spacious hall of Hotel Rio Meridian which was packed with thousand plus strong assembly. Smt. Sabiha Boomi Gowda, former Vice Chancellor of Karnataka State Akkamahadevi University for Women and Chairperson of the Reception Committee delivered her welcome address, which while giving an outline of the specialities of Mysore and its historical background called for 'struggle against 100% FDI hike in insurance sector and privatisation of Public Sector

General Insurance Companies'.

Dr. R Ramakumar, Professor, Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai inaugurated the Conference. In his hour-long brilliant inaugural speech he laid bare the miserable condition of the elders and senior citizens of our Country. He said that due to the aggressive pursual of the neo-liberal economic policies by the present ruling dispensation, the social Security network in the country today lies in shambles. Overwhelming majority of the work-force of the country today stand deprived of any social security let alone pension. Fifteen to eighteen thousand elderly



Flag hoisting



Smt. Sabiha Boomi Gowda



Dr. R Ramakumar



people commit suicide every year in this country due to lack of any social support system. Fifty two percent of the elderly women in the country are widows without any income or savings. How can they sustain without State support, he asked. He underlined that such miserable plight of the elderly population of our country is a testimony of utter violation of the Article 41 of the Indian Constitution that mandates the State to make effective provisions for public assistance in case of old age. In such a context, Prof. Ramakumar strongly pleaded for a non-contributory universal pension scheme that ensures price index linked pension of at least Rs.3,000/- per month to all post-sixty citizens, irrespective of APL or BPL, who are not covered by any worthwhile pension schemes. He asserted that not only such a scheme

but some of the basic rights of the people like the right to food, to employment, to education, to housing etc. can be ensured if only 2% wealth tax and 33% inheritance tax are imposed on the top one percent of the population who are super rich. He questioned that if the advanced capitalist countries like USA, UK, Japan, South Korea etc. can have inheritance tax and wealth tax, why the ruling dispensation in India shies away from imposing such taxes? He strongly called for a National Elderly Rights Act and a Universal index linked pension scheme as mentioned earlier.

Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary, All India Insurance Employees 'Association also addressed the inaugural session and greeted the Conference. He congratulated the AIIPA for realising the long pending

demand of a uniform rate of family pension at 30% of the last pay drawn for LIC pensioners and hoped that for PSGI pensioners also it would soon become a reality. Dwelling upon the dangers posed to the public sector insurance by neo-liberal economic policies pursued so aggressively by the present government, he called for a united struggle of the insurance employees and pensioners in league with other sections of the working masses to protect the public sector insurance in particular and the public sector in general. In this regard, he underscored the importance of making the nationwide industrial strike on 9th July called by Central Trade Unions and national federations including AIIEA a total success.

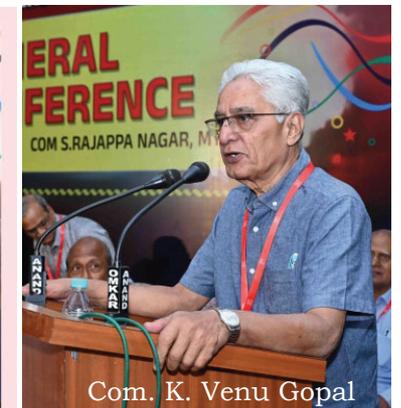
Com. K. Venu Gopal, former General Secretary, AIIEA in his brief address while greeting



Com. Shreekant Mishra



Com. V Ramesh



Com. K. Venu Gopal

the Conference laid before it precisely the challenges that confront the insurance pensioners in particular and the pensioner community in general. He pointed out that one of the biggest casualties of the neo-liberal economic policies is the social security and pension. Hence, the fates of the pensioners are inextricably bound with the wider movement of the working people for reversal of these pro-corporate and anti-people economic policies. In this context, he called upon the insurance pensioners to join in right earnest the ongoing campaign to make the nationwide industrial strike action on 9th July a total success.

Com. J Gurumurthy, Vice President, AIIPA briefly addressed the inaugural session. He criticised the government for not issuing notification yet to provide increased family pension at the rate of 30% to PSGI pensioners, despite the fact that the government accepted the demand in principle. He called for strengthening the AIIPA in all respects to defend the interests of the insurance pensioners. He also emphasised the importance of making the 9th July industrial strike action a grand success.

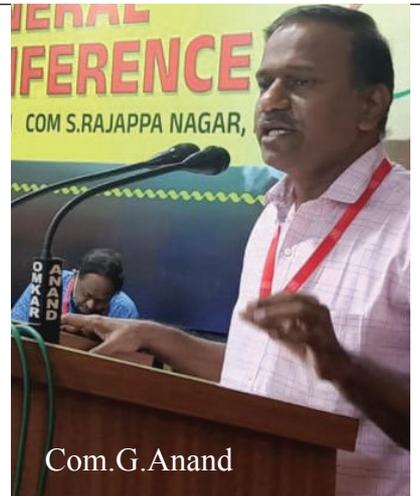
Leaders of several fraternal organisations that included Coms. G. Krishnaswamy, President, All India Retired Insurance Employees' Federation, B.S.Narasimha, Vice President, Federation of Retired LIC Class I Officers' Associations, Girish Khurana, National Convener, JFTU of PSGI Companies, Shivakumar from National Confederation of General Insurance Officers' Associations greeted the Conference. All of them and the inaugurator as well as Chairperson of the Reception Committee were felicitated in the inaugural session.

Com. M.Kunhikrishnan, General Secretary, AIIPA proposed vote of thanks while Com.S.Sridhara, Convener, Reception Committee also spoke some valedictory words.

The inaugural session came to a close with the brief presidential speech of Com. Satanjib Das.

DELEGATES SESSION

The Delegates session of the Conference began in the afternoon of 2nd June and closed at 02.30 pm on 4th June. 409 out of 440 elected delegates attended the Conference. Of the attending delegates ten were women comrades. 128 delegates belonged to the general insurance sector while



Com.G.Anand

281 were from the life sector.

A Presidium consisting of President and all Vice Presidents of AIIPA presided over the Delegates session. Com. Satanjib Das moved a condolence resolution paying homage to many illustrious personalities of our country and abroad who enriched humanity by their contributions. The house adopted the resolution by observing a minute's silence.

Com. M Kunhikrishnan, General Secretary, AIIPA placed the forty one page Report of the Central Committee before the Conference while Com. P Manoj Kumar, Treasurer presented audited statement of accounts of the Association for the years 2022, 2023 and 2024. The report discussed the problems and issues confronting both the LIC and PSGI pensioners



Com. J Gurumurthy



Com. M Kunhikrishnan



Com. Satanjib Das

vis-à-vis the interventions by AIIPA both at the level of the Central government and the managements of LIC and GIPSA in order to redress these. All these were, however, discussed in the context of a brief analysis of the important developments that took place in the international, national arena as well as in the public sector insurance industry. The report also made a proper scrutiny of the organisation and laid out the tasks ahead. The Report while expressing satisfaction at the realisation of the demand of family pension at an increased and uniform rate of 30% for LIC pensioners expressed serious concern at the non extension of this benefit to the PSGI pensioners though the Joint Secretary, Dept. of Financial Services informed the delegation of AIIPA on 27th March, 2025 when they met him at New Delhi, that the government had accepted the demand and would issue the notification in this regard soon. The report also discussed many other burning issues of the pensioners in both life and general sector.

ON ORGANISATION

On organisation, the Report noted with some sense of satisfaction, the remarkable growth in membership since the last Conference held three years ago. The membership has grown at a rate of 39.03% altogether and congratulated all the Units and Comrades for this spectacular achievement. It, however, warned that there is no room for complacency as a vast number of insurance pensioners is still out of our fold. The Report also identified some areas of organisational weaknesses which needs to be overcome soon.

DISCUSSION & ADOPTION

Sixty five delegates including two women comrades took part in the discussion on the Report for more than nine hours and enriched it with their live experience at the grass-root level. They also put forward several suggestions to improve upon the Report and also the functioning of the organisation. All of them, however, were unanimous on the basic formulations and directions of the Report.

The General Secretary summed up the discussion on the Report and accepted some of the suggestions made by the delegates. Following this, the Report was adopted unanimously by the house. The audited statement of accounts of the Association also likewise accepted unanimously by the Conference. Thereafter, Com. KS Murthy, Convener, Credential Committee placed the Report of the Committee.

PROGRAMME OF ACTIONS

In course of his summing up, the General Secretary put before the Conference a programme of actions to be carried out in the coming days. This was accepted unanimously by the Conference. The programmes are as follows:-

- 1). Observe All India Demands Day on 4th July, 2025 on pending issues through gate meetings/demonstrations and adoption of resolutions during lunch recess hours before Divisional Offices of LIC and Regional Offices of PSGI Companies. The resolutions are to be sent to the CEO & MD of LIC, Chairman, GIPSA and Secretary, DFS.
- 2). To join in right earnest the campaign to make the nationwide Industrial Strike

Action on 9th July called unitedly by Central TUs/ National Federations a total success.

- 3). To intensify and broaden the campaign for Universal Social Security and Pension. Units that are yet to hold Conventions/ Seminars on this issue must do so without delay. Other TUs/ social organisations/eminent personalities are to be involved in such programmes.

RESOLUTIONS

The Conference adopted unanimously the following resolutions:

- a. Against the government's move to weaken and privatise Public Sector and Public Sector Insurance.
- b. On updation of pension.
- c. Demanding Universal Social Security and Pension.
- d. On resolving pending issues.
- e. Demanding scrapping of NPS/UPS and restoration of OPS.
- f. In support of the nationwide general industrial strike on 9th July, 2025.
- g. On organisation.

As decided by the Conference, a letter was sent to the Secretary, DFS from the Conference itself demanding immediate notification of increase in family pension to PSGI pensioners at a uniform rate of 30%.

ADDRESS BY

AIIEA LEADERS.

Coms. G Anand, Vice President, AIIEA and V. Ramesh, President, AIIEA addressed the Delegates session of the Conference. While Com. Anand briefed the Conference about the details of the developments in the PSGI companies, Com. V Ramesh explained the multiple

challenges that lie ahead and the way to move forward.

**ELECTION OF
OFFICE BEARERS AND
CENTRAL COMMITTEE**

The Conference unanimously elected a 79 member Central Committee of the AIIPA with the following Office Bearers for the ensuing term:

President:

Satanjib Das, Guwahati

Vice Presidents:

T K Chakraborti Nagpur,
V K Malajpure Jabalpur.
M M P Varma, Patna
Debprasad Gayen ,Kolkata,
R Punniamurthy, Thanjavur,
B Jayaraju Hyderabad,
V P Arora Delh,
RK Upadhyay Varanasi,
J Gurumurthy, Chennai,
Priyabrata Bagchi, Kolkata,
D Krishnamurthy Mumbai

General Secretary:

M Kunhikrishnan,
Kozhikode

Joint Secretaries:

V S Nalawade Satara,
K K C Pillai Kozhikode,
Bhaskar Somayaji,
Bangalore,
Atul Deshmukh Raipur,
P K Sharma Gorakhpur,
Amitendra Chatterjee,
Kolkata,

RC Sharma , Jaipur,
Mana Gobinda Barik
Cuttack,

P V Subbarao

V isakhapatnam,
S Jagannathan, Delhi,
Mrinal Kanti Mitra , Kolkata

Treasurer:

P Manoj Kumar, Kozhikode

Asst. Treasurer:

T C Jagadish Kozhikode

The Conference placed on record its deep appreciation of the contributions made by the outgoing office bearers and CC members and expressed the

hope that they would continue to guide the organisation. It also decided that Com. M L Setia, the outgoing Vice President, will continue to remain as signatory to AIIPA's, Civil Appeal in Supreme Court and would be invited to the CC meetings, whenever required, as a special invitee.

CURTAIN FALLS

The Conference came to a successful conclusion at 02.30 pm on 4th June. By all accounts it was a well organised, well attended and purposeful Conference. It was a Conference with a difference. It brought into display the grit, determination and the confidence of the organisation to meet the challenges ahead and move forward.

CULTURAL EVENING

On 3rd June, after delegates session, a colourful cultural evening was organised that enthralled the delegates. The local folk dance was indeed enlivening.

DONATION TO

INSURANCE WORKER:

The hosts donated Rs,50000/- to Insurance Worker.

RED SALUTE,

RECEPTION COMMITTEE

The Reception Committee of the Conference deserves wholesome praise and kudos for the splendid and foolproof arrangements it made to host the Conference in a befitting manner from organising seminars in the run up to the Conference to hosting the three day mega event. The Reception Committee left no stone unturned to hold the Conference in a magnificent manner. Hundreds of Volunteers of ICPA, Mysore, GIPA, Bangalore Region and ICEU, Mysore Division worked round the clock tirelessly for successful conduct of the Conference. All kudos to them. The participation of women pensioners as volunteers was remarkable. The Conference will remain etched in the memories of all the delegates as a memorable and purposeful event for a long time to come and will constitute an important milestone in the onward journey of AIIPA.

LONG LIVE

THE 9TH TRIENNIAL

CONFERENCE OF AIIPA.



The one-day countrywide strike on 20th May 2025 called by the joint platform of Central Trade Unions and Independent Sectoral National Federations/ Associations representing all sections of the working people of our country was postponed following the dastardly terror attacks in Pahalgam and the subsequent standoff between India and Pakistan. The Central Trade Unions met in New Delhi on 15th May 2025 and deferred the Strike Action to 9th of July 2025. Our Units all over the country were in the thick of preparations for ensuring all-round success of the Strike on May 20th. We are confident that equally hectic preparations and campaign are underway to ensure massive success of the strike action on 9th of July.

There is no letup in the attack on public sector insurance industry. The government seems bent upon introducing the Insurance Laws Amendment Bill in the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament (July 21 to August 12). The framework of the Bill is based on a November 2024 proposal of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) to bring amendments to three laws- the Insurance Act 1938, the Life Insurance Corporation Act 1956 and the Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority Act 1999. As per media reports, the Bill intends to raise FDI limit in the insurance sector from the existing 74 to 100 per cent. The proposed amendments are also expected to laydown the framework for composite licenses, lowering the minimum equity capital requirements, bringing down the solvency margin requirements and giving more powers to the regulator IRDAI. Besides these, the Bill also intends to bring down the net-owned funds requirement for foreign reinsurers from ¹ 5,000 crore to ¹ 1000 crore. These proposals have the potential to throwback public sector insurance industry to the pre-nationalisation days. The Department of Investment and Public Asset Management (DIPAM) Secretary Arunish Chawla has recently said that the government plans to divest a further 6.5 per cent stake in the LIC in the coming months by way of Offers for Sale (OFS). Similarly, privatization of public sector general insurance companies also seems to be very much on the table of the government. In fact, privatization of a PSGI company is now a relatively easy proposition because Parliament has already amended the General Insurance Business Nationalisation (GIBNA) Act, enabling the government to reduce its stake in a general insurer below 51 per cent.

Onward to ONE DAY STRIKE on 9TH JULY 2025

a unique opportunity for us to give a far greater amplitude
to our issues than our numerical strength would permit



While privatization is very much on the cards, the proposal of Union Budget 2018-19 to merge National Insurance, Oriental Insurance and United India Insurance is lying in cold storage. The refusal of the government to consider merger of PSGI companies defies comprehension. If operational efficiency and costs reduction can be the argument for merger of public sector banks and the recent merger of regional rural banks, why can't the same yardstick be applied to PSGI companies? The considerations appear to be more political and less economic. In the meanwhile, the legitimate aspiration of employees in PSGI companies for a decent wage revision has not been conceded till now.

The government's obduracy to hike FDI in insurance from 74 to 100 per cent is simply not understandable. Foreign insurers are not evincing any great interest in India's insurance sector. As a result, actual FDI in the insurance industry is only around 32 per cent against the mandated 74 per cent. In fact, a large number of foreign players including New York Life, ING, AIG, Old Mutual, and Royal Sun Alliance have already exited the Indian insurance market. Recently, Germany's Allianz Group ended its two-decade old joint venture with Bajajfinserv; Axa sold out 49% of its stake to Bharti group and Standard Life exited HDFC. Altogether 9 foreign insurers have exited India's insurance market repatriating around ¹ 64,780 crore (78% of total FDI) leaving Indian policy holders high and dry. The May 2025 edition of RBI's monthly

bulletin shows that net FDI into India plunged by more than 96% to just \$353 million in 2024-25 compared with the previous year. So, where the net FDI figure stood at \$44 billion in the pandemic year of 2020-21, it fell to \$38.6 billion the next year, \$28 billion in 2022-23, \$10 billion in 2023-24 and finally to just \$353 million (\$0.4 billion) in 2024-25. In such a situation, increasing FDI in insurance to 74% would only amount to a reverse flow of our hard-earned domestic savings.

Recruitment to Class III & IV cadres in LIC is an issue that has been crying for a solution since long. There is an alarming decline in the overall staff strength of LIC. But the decline is much more drastic in the class III and IV strength. While the in-force policies in LIC between the period 31.3.1995 to 31.3.2024 grew 410%, the class III and IV strength has come down by a whopping 49%! A realistic assessment suggests that by 31.3.2028, the total number of Class III employees will come down to just around 26000. We must therefore step up our campaign and struggle on the demand of recruitment to Class III and IV cadres in LIC. Insurance employees have to realise that their struggle on the issue of recruitment has to be integrated with the general struggle of the working class against unemployment and jobless growth. One must remember that neoliberalism essentially believes in creating huge unemployment to keep down the wages and reduce the bargaining power of trade unions thereby ensuring greater profits for the capitalists. Neoliberalism in fact believes in

the removal of all restrictions on the functioning of big capital so as to ensure greater profits for them.

The three infamous farm laws which the government was forced to withdraw after a yearlong farmers' protest and the four Labour Codes enacted by the government by merging 29 existing laws are a part of the overall strategy of transferring resources from the ordinary people to the rich. One has to note carefully that the three farm laws came into being around the same time as the labour codes (2019-20). While the farm laws sought to handover peasant-based agriculture to the corporates, the labour codes are intended to ensure greater profits for the rich by taking away whatever limited rights labour has acquired through struggle. Peasants and workers constitute an overwhelming majority of Indian people. These two laws in effect constitute an onslaught on a vast majority of the poor working people just to ensure greater profits for the rich. This is the class conspiracy which one has to understand.

The 9th July 2025 Strike action is going to be a historic struggle. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha and a host of other organisations have already declared their support. The Strike offers a unique opportunity for us to give a far greater amplitude to our issues than our numerical strength would permit. AIIEA calls upon all insurance employees to join this patriotic struggle and ensure massive success of the strike action. ●

AIIEA Delegation meet GIPSA Officials

A delegation of AIIEA comprising of Com. Sanjay Jha (Secretary Standing Committee), Com. G. Anand (Vice President), Com. Reena Mishra, and Com. Suraj met the *Chief Executive (CE) of GIPSA on 26th May 2025 to discuss key concerns regarding the delay in wage revision negotiations and the issuance of notifications on agreed improvements in Family Pension and NPS.

The delegation emphasized that the dedication and contributions of employees, who have been instrumental in the growth and strengthening of Public Sector General Insurance (PSGI) Companies, must not be taken for granted. Their legitimate issues should be resolved expeditiously and satisfactorily to

maintain their motivation and morale.

The CE acknowledged our concerns and assured us that GIPSA is actively pursuing the matter in consultation with the Department of Financial Services (DFS). She indicated that an early settlement is expected after the respective company boards adopt their annual results and the DFS completes its review by this weekend.

Additionally, the AIIEA delegation felicitated the outgoing CE, Smt. Madhumitha Jena and welcomed the incoming CE, Smt. Anita Gupta. We also raised several other industry and employee-related issues and requested GIPSA to convene a meeting for further discussions. Both CEs responded positively and assured prompt follow-up.

AIEA writes to Chief Executive, GIPSA

on 6/6/25 TO EXPEDITE WAGE REVISION AND OTHER RELATED ISSUES

“This is further to our representation made to the Chairperson, GIPSA on 20.05.2025 on the captioned subject. You are aware that in the last meeting held at Delhi on 30.04.2025, All Check off Recognized Associations turned down the wage offer of GIPSA i.e. twelve percent loading on Basic and DA as on 01 .08.2022. There was a united demand by the Associations for improvement of the offer maintaining public sector insurance parity i.e. parity with the LIC, to be more specific.

Our demand is based on the rationale that irrespective of their varied sizes or financial strengths, each and every nationalized Insurance Company (Including specialized insurers and GIC:Re) plays a significant role in the economy of the country. While the LIC- apart from extending financial protection to the family of a deceased policyholder- is mobilizing resources for investment in development projects, these are the Nationalized General Insurers and reinsurers which help in smooth running of the projects by providing them with the financial protection against any unforeseen losses. In addition, the Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs) further give financial protection to people during health emergencies and loss of their physical assets due to various fortuitous events.

In short, nation-building and well-being of its people is the driving force behind working of these companies unlike the private insurers who operate with the sole motive of profits. Hence, our demand for a common pay structure with that of LIC is founded on the solid reasoning.

Even if the PSGI Companies are judged on the basis of their performance, one should not forget that out of six GIPSA Companies, three Companies, viz. New India, GIC:Re and AICIL have always been in profit and registered a healthy growth in business in the last decade confronting cut-throat competition from the private insurers. Other three companies, Oriental Insurance, united India Insurance and National Insurance had somewhat weak

performances during the last few years because of enormous uncertainty at the policy level of the Government and certain mistakes by the higher Management. However, the financial years 2023-24 and 2024-25 have been years of spectacular turnaround for all these companies. The four PSGICs registered a growth of 5.5% which is more than the growth rate of the private insurers which is 5.03% (Except SAHI). Apart from New India, GIC;RE and AICIL, which have been throughout registering profit, Oriental Insurance returned with a net profit of 18 Cr. in 2023-24 which has been further consolidated to Rs. 144 Cr. in 2024-25. Similarly, United India logged a profit of Rs. 154 Cr. in 2024-25. National Insurance which has been in profit in Q2 and Q3 has shown some loss for the year 2024-25. This appears to be more due to certain technical issues in accounting process rather than performance issues, we firmly believe.

Now the question arises how much is enough for GIPSA to call Associations for further discussion on wage revision conclude at the earliest? What stops GIPSA from taking DFS to proceed with notification on the agreed issues of improvements in FPS and NPS? Is GIPSA not aware of the financial hardships faced by Family pensioners and enormous amount of loss being incurred by the NPS employees due to the non-notification of the changes.

The PSGI Companies have demonstrated spectacular turnaround and entered into further consolidation phase. Hence , GIPSA should make sincere efforts to resolve legitimate demands of employees which are :

- * Recommence wage talks with an objective to reach a finality maintaining parity with LIC and without further loss of time.
- * Immediate notification of agreed improvements in FPS and NPS.

In the above backdrop, we request you to kindly take up with the Ministry appropriately for expediting resolution of the above long pending issues.”

Outstanding Performance by LIC in the Financial Year 2024-2025

PRESS STATEMENT OF LIC DATED MAY 27th 2025 (EXCERPTS)

1. The Total Premium Income for year ended March 31st 2025 was Rs. 4,88,148 crore as compared to Rs. 4,75,070 crore for the year ended March 31st 2024. The Total Individual Business Premium for the year ended March 31st 2025 increased to Rs. 3,19,036 crore from Rs. 3,03,768 crore for the comparable period of previous year. The Group Business total premium income for year ended March 31st 2025 was Rs. 1,69,112 crore as compared to Rs. 1,71,302 crore for the year ended March 31st 2024.
 2. In terms of market share measured by First Year Premium Income (FYPI) (as per IRDAI), LIC continues to be the market leader by market share in Indian life insurance business with overall market share of 57.05%. For the year ended March 31st 2025, LIC had a market share of 37.46% in Individual business and 71.19% in the Group business.
 3. A total of 1,77,82,975 policies were sold in the individual segment during the year ended March 31st, 2025 as compared to 2,03,92,973 policies sold during the year ended March 31st, 2024.
 4. On an Annualized Premium Equivalent (APE) basis, the total premium was Rs 56,828 crore for the year ended March 31st 2025. Of this 67.25% (Rs. 38,218 crore) was accounted for by the Individual Business and 32.75% (Rs. 18,610 crore) by the Group Business. Within the Individual Business, the share of Par products on APE basis was 72.31% (Rs. 27,636 crore) and balance 27.69% (Rs. 10,581 crore) was due to Non Par products. The Non Par APE has increased from Rs. 7,041 crore for the year ended March 31st, 2024 to Rs. 10,581 crore for the year ended March 31st 2025 registering a growth of 50.28%. Therefore, on an APE basis, our Non Par share of Individual business, which was 18.32% for the year ended March 31st, 2024 has grown to 27.69% for the year ended March 31st, 2025.
 5. The Value of New Business (VNB) for the year ended March 31st, 2025 was Rs. 10,011 crore as compared to Rs. 9,583 crore for the year ended March 31st, 2024, registering a growth of 4.47%. The net VNB margin for the year ended March 31st, 2025 increased by 80 bps to 17.6% as compared to 16.8% for the year ended March 31st, 2024.
 6. The Assets Under Management (AUM) increased to Rs. 54,52,297 crore as on March 31st 2025 as compared to Rs. 51,21,887 crore on March 31st, 2024 registering an increase of 6.45% year on year.
 7. The Overall Expense Ratio for the year ended March 31st, 2025 decreased by 315 bps to 12.42% as compared to 15.57% for the year ended March 31st, 2024.
 8. The Yield on Investments on policyholders funds excluding unrealized gains was 8.65% for the year ended March 31st, 2025 as against 8.93% for year ended March 31st, 2024.
 9. The amount of bonus allocated to policyholders is Rs. 56190.24 crore for the financial year 2024-25 as against Rs. 52,955.87 crore for the previous financial year 2023-24.
 10. The Solvency Ratio as on March 31st 2025 increased to 2.11 as against 1.98 on March 31st, 2024.
 11. The Profit after Tax (PAT) for the year ended March 31st 2025 was Rs. 48,151 crore as compared to Rs. 40,676 crore for the year ended March 31st 2024, thereby registering an increase of 18.38%.
 12. The Board of Directors have recommended a final dividend of Rs. 12/- per share for the financial year 2024-25 subject to approval of shareholders.
 13. LIC has achieved **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS Title** for the **“MOST LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES SOLD IN 24 HOURS”** by selling 5,88,107 policies across India on 20th January, 2025.
- The AIIEA congratulates TEAM LIC for this magnificent achievement.



India is world's
4th largest
Economy

But means
so little
to its People

V.Sridhar

The tom-tom of India's arrival as the fourth largest economy sits exactly right with the Modi regime's obsession with its own image rather than the fate of the Indian people. This occasion, like every other celebration of this regime, is just as utterly vacuous. First, inter-country comparisons based on the dollar value of national incomes is deeply problematic, especially, when we know that the dollar has slid sharply against most major currencies. Two other factors matter even more - the per capita income and the question of inequality.

The author is a Senior Journalist & former Associate Editor, Frontline

Data, and its quality, have been one of the prime casualties of India under Narendra Modi. Soon after assuming power in 2014, the change in the methodology to estimate national Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which has been challenged by a number of renowned economists, was followed by the suppression of data on consumption, the shameless suppression of data on the value of new currency notes printed in the wake of the blunder of demonetisation in 2016, the suppression of data on consumption; and, who can forget the gross suppression of the magnitude of fatalities in the pandemic? The suppression of data and the damage caused to the integrity of India's statistical system, historically acknowledged as a pioneer among developing countries, has been almost fatal. This is best highlighted by the long delay in conducting the national Census, long overdue since 2021.

The latest instance of misrepresentation of data is the celebration of India's status as the fourth largest economy in the world. The CEO of the Niti Aayog – whose creation

was incidentally one of the first moves by the Modi regime – claimed in May that India had emerged as the fourth largest economy on the world. Citing the latest economic growth projections of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), he said India would overtake Japan to occupy fourth place. Of course, this was based on the projection for 2025-26; India is not yet there, but will soon be, he implied.

For the record, the IMF estimates that India's GDP in 2025-26 would be \$4.187 trillion; Japan's is projected to be marginally lower, at \$4.186 trillion. Naturally, acolytes of the Prime Minister have attributed this improvement in rank to the Modi's leadership qualities. And, the regime's publicity mangers who do not miss opportunities such as these, claimed that this improvement in rank would serve as the platform to attain the goal of *Viksit Bharat*. Does India's promotion in rank among nations in terms of size of its national economy, a cause for celebration?

This claim is vacuous and deeply offensive to common intelligence for several reasons. First, inter-country

comparisons based on the dollar value of national incomes is deeply problematic. For instance, we know that the dollar has slid sharply against most major currencies since Donald Trump assumed office as US President early this year. Does this automatically imply that the GDP of these countries has increased simply because of this factor?

But two other factors matter even more in demolishing the infantile claim that the improvement of the size of India's economy is a cause for celebration. First, common sense would tell us that what matters is not the overall size but what it offers for *each* Indian. In other words, what matters is the level of per capita incomes. But even this is insufficient as a measure of national well-being because it raises the second issue – the question of inequality. This is because per capita incomes are an average – total GDP divided by the population of a country. And, as we know, all averages mask the extent of inequality in societies, especially our own.

But let us take the question of size. Does it matter at all? Of course, it does, for the simple reason that what happens in India or China has consequences for the world, simply because they constitute such a large proportion of the world's people. But this is very different from making the claim that the size of their economies means that their people are faring well.

Let us take an example to illustrate that size is not everything by taking the case of global milk production. India has the largest cattle population in the world – more than 300 million – and produces about 230 million metric tonnes, the

highest output by any country in the world. India has come a long way in two decades, largely led by the efforts of the late V. Kurien who launched India's White Revolution, but should we gloat about this?

Not if we place these statistics alongside other facts from India as well as other countries. India's per capita milk availability is about 160 kg per person per annum; every single country among the top 10 milk producing countries in the world betters India in terms of per capita availability of milk. For instance, New Zealand, the ninth largest producer of milk has a per capita availability of 4300 kg per year, more than 26 times higher than India. Each head of cattle in New Zealand produces 3.67 metric tonnes of milk in a year, compared to just 0.75 metric tonnes in India. So, who is the world champion: India, the largest producer of milk, or New Zealand, which produces far more efficiently and which makes far more milk available to its people (the country is also one of the biggest exporter of milk)? The purpose of this digression into the global milk economy is to demonstrate the utter silliness of celebrating size as a marker of success.

Now, let us consider GDP in per capita terms, notwithstanding for the moment the shadow cast by the extent of inequality. India may soon be the fourth largest economy, but when we consider the other countries in the top 10 in terms of the size of their GDP – US, China, Germany, Japan, Britain, France, Brazil, Italy and Canada (in that order of size) – India stands apart at the bottom when compared in terms of its GDP in per capita terms. Canada,

the smallest in terms of GDP size (\$2.14 trillion), has a per capita GDP of \$53,100 per person, while India's is just \$3,100 per person. Seen from this perspective, India's GDP provides just one-seventeenth of what the Canadian economy provides on average to each of its citizens.

Even China, which has kept a frenetic pace of growth over an extended period of more than two decades ranks only 60 among countries in terms of per capita national output. But then, unlike the Modi Government, it has never pretended to be a *vishwaguru*. If anything, it has always reiterated its status as a developing country, and admits that there is a long road ahead before it reaches developed country status. In fact, even Brazil, the other developing country in the Top 10 countries with the highest GDP, is ranked 80 when reckoned in terms of per capita GDP. India is again at the bottom of the pile, ranked 140 in terms of per capita GDP. This rank would place India at the bottom of countries that are defined as "lower middle income" countries. To even assume that this could be a launchpad for a *viksit Bharat* by 2047, when Modi has promised developed country status, can only be a pipedream.

Now, let us look at the biggest reality staring us in the face as Indians, the question of inequality. India is, perhaps barring South Africa, one of most unequal countries in the world. This makes a mockery of even the per capita incomes we have just considered. The top one per cent of India's population commands about 40 per cent of national wealth. At the other end of the scale, in contrast, the bottom 50

per cent of the population has access to just three percent of India's wealth. These figures from the World Inequality Report 2022 illustrate how even the sputtering Indian growth engine is primed to generate even more inequality.

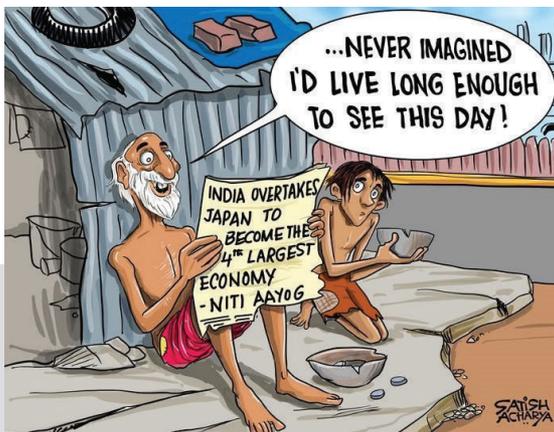
In fact, if one removes the top 1 per cent of India's population (which controls more than 40 per cent of national wealth), the per capita GDP of the rest of the population falls from about \$3,100 per person to a little less than \$1700. This is what is available to about 1.4 billion Indians. Further, removing the top five per cent of Indians – who control a little less than two-thirds of national wealth – implies that their average (or per capita) drops to about \$1,100, or about Rs. 95,000 per annum.

Quite apart from all this looms the question of the credibility of India's GDP estimates. One of the major quarrels economists have had concerns the quality of the data estimates pertaining to the unorganised sector. The lived reality of most Indians, especially since the triple strike of demonetisation (2016), the fractures caused by the Goods and Services Tax (GST) regime (since 2017) and the pandemic of 2020-22, has been the serious

impact caused on livelihoods and incomes in the informal and unorganised sector. The simple point is that these three events – among the many others – particularly hit these sectors hard. More importantly, the recovery has not just been slow, but also uneven. Economists have alleged that the “reconfigured” GDP formula for estimating the output in the unorganised sector is based on outdated linkages. This results in over-estimates of the portion of GDP emanating from the unorganised and informal sectors.

Notice for instance the boom in corporate profits during the pandemic and its aftermath, precisely the period when the vast majority of Indians were without jobs or incomes. Since then, the economy has veered towards what economists refer to as K-shaped “recovery”, one characterised by widening inequalities in not just incomes but also consumption. That explains why the demand for luxuries like Apple's iPhones are booming even as demand for Parle G biscuits are faltering.

The tom-tom of India's arrival as the fourth largest economy sits exactly right with the Modi regime's obsession with its own image rather than the fate of the Indian people. This occasion, like every other celebration of this regime, is just as utterly vacuous and needs to be exposed as such.



Cartoon courtesy:
Satish Acharya
@ facebook

An “orchestrated assault” is continuing unabated on press freedom, civil liberties and freedom of expression under the Narendra Modi-led BJP government. Efforts for criminalizing journalism and cultivating an atmosphere of fear and submission through a series of legislative, administrative and extra legal measures are being made systematically, on a regular basis. Free Speech in India has sunk into a perilous abyss and the downslide in press freedom indices (ranked 151 out of 180 countries) underscore the dangers of crossing a line that is becoming increasingly contentious.

The Digital Personal Data Protection Act (DPDP) 2023, with rules formulated in 2025 and framed under the pretext of data privacy, aims to suppress whistle blowing and restrict journalistic access to public-interest data. This state-led campaign for a “Data Mukta Bharat”, denies the citizens access to information, so that they can't speak truth to power and, thereby, making the right to expression, meaningless.

The recorded data on free speech issues clearly shows that while openly partisan sections of dominant media echo a dangerously divisive agenda with immunity, independent media faces punitive action and struggles to be heard. While rational and accountable voices are marginalised, media outlets promoting bigotry enjoy protection, patronage and platforms. This inversion of the media's role is dangerous for democracy. The systemic corrosion of journalistic ethics and editorial independence is witnessed, with the state-favoured “Godi Media” turning into propaganda outlets that

Throttling Press Freedom and the Attack on Freedom of Expression



TVNS Ravindranath, General Secretary, SCZIEF

glorify sectarian politics, indulging in hate speech, manufacturing communal narratives and even celebrating violence in the name of nationalism while branding critics as anti-national. During the recent military tensions with Pakistan, these channels have crossed all ethical lines, turning a sensitive geopolitical crisis into a jingoistic spectacle, making not just the Indian media but the country itself, a laughingstock globally.

The Free Speech Collective's (FSC) Tracker reveals that the first four months of 2025 have not boded well for the freedom of speech and freedom of expression in India. Two journalists – Mukesh Chandrakar and Raghvendra Bajpai – were killed, four were attacked, and six were arrested while there were at least five instances of threats and harassment. 'Lawfare' or the strategic use of laws to impede media freedom continued with at least five cases lodged against journalists while two independent media portals found their non-profit status revoked by Income Tax authorities, severely crippling their economic independence. At least two YouTube channels were blocked. The unrolling of government regulations detrimental to media freedom, continued.

Mukesh Chandrakar was a lively and passionate chronicler of the people of Bastar, who ran a popular YouTube Channel, 'Bastar Junction', from Bastar in Chhattisgarh. He was brutally killed, for reporting on the prevailing poor road conditions that angered the contractor. The snuffing out of his life exemplifies the tenuous state of press freedom in India as journalists in small cities and towns continue to publish reports of the powerful nexus between corrupt local business and political administration.

Two journalists arrested under the draconian Unlawful Activities Prevention Act (UAPA)– Rupesh Kumar Singh of Jharkhand, arrested on April 11, 2022 on charges of supporting Maoist activity and Irfan Mehraj of Kashmir, a prominent journalist and researcher, arrested on March 20, 2023 on charges of terror funding; Mahesh Langa, Senior Journalist with The Hindu, arrested on October 9, 2024 under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA) and Tushar Kharat of Maharashtra arrested on March 10, 2025, under criminal defamation charges

Freedom of expression is a foundational necessity for a just and vibrant democracy. Journalism, academia, literature and artistic expression must function independently as pillars of democratic life. Freedom of expression shall not be sacrificed at the altar of authoritarianism. The peoples' right to speak, question and resist shall prevail. It is only by cultivating a robust democratic culture – through institutions, public awareness and courage – can India's democratic ethos be defended in these challenging times.

Cartoon courtesy-
Sajith Kumar,
Deccan Herald



under 'Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita' 2023, for airing allegedly defamatory content against rural development minister Jaya Kumar Gore in his Marathi YouTube channel 'Lay Bhari' continue to remain in custody. All of them have been denied bail by various Courts. Dilwar Hussain Mozumdar, a reporter with the independent news outlet, *The CrossCurrent*, was arrested in Guwahati for reporting on a protest about financial irregularities in the state run Assam Cooperative Apex Bank. Assam Chief Minister, Himanta Biswa Sarma, is the director of the bank and its chairperson, Biswajit Phukan, is a MLA of BJP.

All the journalists arrested this year are associated with independent YouTube media channels, an indicator of the shift of independent news publishing to digital and social media platforms. But, the challenge to secure recognition and legitimacy remains. The denial of recognition to independent news media continued in other forms, too. The Reporter's Collective and Bengaluru based Kannada website, *The File*, both investigative news media portals registered as non-profits, found their non-profit status revoked by Income Tax authorities, severely crippling their economic independence. The reason given by the authorities is that their "journalism did not serve any public purpose".

In the aftermath of the tragic terror attack in Pahalgam, which left 26 civilians killed, pertinent questions about intelligence failures and security lapses posed by journalists and social media commentators were sought to

be criminalized and blocked. Two YouTube channels – *Knocking News* and *4PM News* – and *The Wire* were abruptly blocked, on the grounds of national security. They were subsequently unbanned through court intervention. The assault and castiest abuse of four journalists in Bhind, Madhya Pradesh, after they exposed police extortion networks, is yet another example of the oppression of journalistic freedom.

Meanwhile, the unrolling of government regulations detrimental to media freedom continued, with the Maharashtra government pushing its draconian 'Maharashtra Public Security Bill', despite protests from journalists and civil society organizations. More than 12 organisations submitted objections to the bill, stated that its broad definitions for alleged unlawful activity were liable for misuse against legitimate journalistic work and criminalise journalists.

The precarious state of press freedom must also be seen in the context of the general deterioration of free speech in India, with vandalism and criminal complaints lodged by politically motivated sections of society that targeted academics, students, stand-up comedians and satirists, actors and film makers. At least 329 instances of free speech violations were tracked against citizens cross all categories by Free Speech Collective, in the first four months of the year, of which a whopping 283 instances were of censorship of both journalists and other citizens, in academia, the arts and in digital media.

The targets ranged from stand-up comedians like Kunal

Kamra, satirists and political commentators like Neha Singh Rathore, Madri Kakoti (aka Dr. Medusa) and Shamta Yadav (aka the ranting gola) under the draconian sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS).

The arrest of Ashoka University faculty Prof. Ali Khan Mahmudabad, for a mild social media post, is yet another classic example. The Haryana State Women's Commission issued a summons to Prof. Mahmudabad, for two of his social media posts, alleging that he made statements that allegedly "disparaged women officers in the Indian Armed Forces and promoted communal disharmony". Prof. Ali Khan Mahmudabad is an associate professor and the head of the Department of Political Science at Ashoka University. He is a historian and a well-known writer, columnist and poet.

The Commission took suo-motu cognizance of his social media posts on May 8 and May 11, a day after Operation Sindoor, wherein he referred to the optics of the media briefing by the two women officers, Colonel Sofiya Qureishi and Wing Commander Vyomika Singh, as important but added that it would be "hypocrisy" if it didn't translate to reality on the ground. On his Facebook page, Prof. Mahmudabad said he was "very happy to see so many right-wing commentators applauding Colonel Sofiya Qureishi but perhaps they could also equally loudly demand that the victims of the mob lynchings, arbitrary bulldozing and others who are victims of the BJP hate mongering be protected as Indian Citizens. His other post titled "The blind bloodlust for

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आर्थिक विषमता और विश्व-युद्ध का संकट

रामजी तिवारी



हिंसा और युद्ध ने हमारी दुनिया को अपने आगोश में ले लिया है। इनमें से कुछ तो छिटपुट संघर्ष हैं, जो दुनिया के विभिन्न हिस्सों में दिखाई दे रहे हैं। जबकि कुछ ने दुनिया के समक्ष विश्वयुद्ध का खतरा उत्पन्न कर दिया है। मसलन रूस और यूक्रेन के बीच चल रहे युद्ध ने अब चौथे वर्ष में प्रवेश कर लिया है, जिसमें लाखों लोगों ने अपनी जान गंवाई है। वहीं दूसरी तरफ मध्य-पूर्व में फिलिस्तीनी जनता की कहानी भी बहुत व्यथित करने वाली है। लगभग दो वर्ष पहले आरम्भ हुए हमास और इजराइल के संघर्ष के बाद इजराइल द्वारा की जा रही बमबारी ने गाजा की जनता के अस्तित्व पर ही संकट पैदा कर दिया है। इधर ईरान के ऊपर इजराइल के हालिया हमले ने इस पूरे हिस्से को और अधिक विस्फोटक बना दिया है। सनद रहे कि एक तरफ ईरान के परमाणु कार्यक्रम पर बातचीत चल रही थी, वहीं दूसरी तरफ इजराइल ने अमेरिका की सहमति से ईरान के शीर्ष नेतृत्व को ही खत्म करने का षडयंत्र रच डाला। जाहिर है, ईरान भी अपनी संप्रभुता की रक्षा के लिए मजबूती से मुकाबला कर रहा है।

ध्यान से देखने पर पता चलता है कि ये युद्ध अचानक से पैदा नहीं हुए हैं। बल्कि इनके फैलाव का एक कारण दुनियावी नेतृत्व की अस्थिर भूमिका भी है, जिनके लिए लोकतंत्र, सहिष्णुता और सह-अस्तित्व जैसे मूल्य बेमानी हो गए हैं। अब वे अपनी महानता के किस्से गढ़ रहे हैं। आत्ममुग्धता की इबारत लिख रहे हैं। सबक सिखाने की धमकियाँ दे रहे हैं। और कुल मिलाकर एक अस्थिर और कट्टर व्यवहार को ही मूल्य के रूप में स्थापित कर रहे हैं। जाहिर है दुनिया का सबसे शक्तिशाली देश अमेरिका इन सभी विचलनों की अगुवाई कर रहा है। विश्व व्यापार में दादागिरी से लेकर युद्धों

तक में उसकी भूमिका को साफ़-साफ़ देखा जा सकता है। लेकिन बात सिर्फ राजनीतिक महत्वाकांक्षा की नहीं है। इस संकट की जड़ें अर्थव्यवस्था के भीतर भी दिखाई देती हैं। हम जानते हैं कि मध्य पूर्व में अस्थिरता का सीधा सम्बन्ध तेल की अर्थव्यवस्था से है। जबकि यूक्रेन में खनिज भंडारों की विशाल उपलब्धता भी हमें इसी तरफ खींचती है। और फिर दुनिया में जिस तरह से टेरिफ-युद्ध का सिलसिला शुरू हुआ है, वह बताता है कि विकासशील देशों के साथ-साथ, बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं के भीतर भी सब कुछ ठीक-ठाक नहीं चल रहा है..

इस परिप्रेक्ष्य को समझने के लिए हमें 1990 के शुरूआती दशक की तरफ रुख करना होगा। जब पूरी दुनिया को निजीकरण, उदारीकरण और वैश्वीकरण का सपना दिखाया जा रहा था। मानिंद अर्थशास्त्री तर्क दे रहे थे कि इसी एलपीजी के साथ ही हमारी दुनिया की प्रगति और विकास का रास्ता जाता है। इसमें सरकारी क्षेत्र की भूमिका को अत्यंत सीमित माना गया और बाजार आधारित मुक्त अर्थव्यवस्था की प्रधानता स्वीकार की गयी। साथ में यह तर्क भी दिया गया कि सोवियत संघ के विघटन के बाद समाजवादी व्यवस्थाओं का दौर जा चुका है, इसलिए हमें भी उसका मोह छोड़ देना चाहिए। कहना न होगा कि इस सिद्धांत का पूरी दुनिया पर असर भी हुआ। तीसरी दुनिया के देशों ने भी अपने बाजार खोले, सरकार की भूमिका को सीमित किया और निजीकरण की राह अपनाई। जाहिर है, उसका कुछ लाभ इन देशों को मिला भी। अर्थव्यवस्था के इस नए प्रतिमान ने पूरी दुनिया में एक ऐसा वर्ग तैयार किया, जिसके जीवन में चमचमाते शापिंग माल, शानदार एअरपोर्ट, फर्रटिदार एक्सप्रेस वे, महंगे

What happened to the 'benefits' of "privatization, liberalization and globalization", that in today's world every nation is calling to protect its greatness and its economic interests? In fact, for the last three decades, the capitalist 'free' economies have not brought about the promised changes in the lives of the common people giving rise to a kind of discontent with demands for dignified employment, good education and better health facilities and the need for a liberal political system, which solves basic problems of common people. History tells us that the greatness of a country does not come from its dominance, but from taking everyone along. There can not be peace otherwise...

The writer is an activist of Varanasi Division Insurance Employees' Association

ब्रांड्स के आउटलेट्स, शेयर बाजार की चकाचौंध और रियल स्टेट का फलता फूलता बाजार दाखिल हुआ।

लेकिन ठहरिये. किसी भी समाज की प्रगति का आधार इस बात से तय नहीं होता कि उसके शीर्ष पर बैठे लोगों का जीवन-यापन कैसा है. यदि इसी आधार को मानक के रूप में स्वीकार किया जाय तो भारत में अंग्रेजी शासन काल को भी स्वर्णिम कहना पड़ेगा. क्योंकि उस दौर में भी कुछ राजे-रजवाड़े ऐसे जरूर थे, जिनके जीवन में सब कुछ चमकता हुआ दिखाई देता था. वे न तो तो बंगाल के अकाल से प्रभावित हुए और न ही उनके जीवन में विभाजन की त्रासदी का कोई असर पड़ा, जिसमें लाखों-करोड़ों लोगों ने अपनी जान गंवाई. उसी तरह इस वर्तमान विकास की सच्चाई भी एकतरफा और भयानक रही है. यह विकास सबको साथ लेकर चलने वाला विकास नहीं है. इसका पहला सीधा अनुभव वर्ष 2008 में विश्वव्यापी मंदी के समय दिखाई दिया. और तब पता चला कि इस व्यवस्था में जब लाभ लेने के बारी आती है तो निजीकरण, उदारीकरण और वैश्वीकरण को उचित ठहराया जाता है. लेकिन जब संकट आता है तो उसे आम मेहनतकश जनता पर धकेल दिया जाता है. मसलन जब की आर्थिक मंदी अमेरिका में शुरू हुई तो उसकी जद में आम-सामान्य जनता के साथ बड़ी-बड़ी बहुराष्ट्रीय कंपनिया भी आयीं. ऐसे में सरकार ने क्या किया. सरकार ने सभी बड़ी कंपनियों को धन उपलब्ध कराया, जिससे वे अपनी देनदारियां चुका सकें. इस प्रक्रिया को बेलआउट कहा गया.

लेकिन जब अमेरिकी जनता का वह पैसा सरकार ने इन कंपनियों को मुहैया कराया तो क्या आप जानते हैं कि उन्होंने इसका पहला उपयोग क्या किया ...? उन्होंने इस धन का पहला उपयोग अपने शीर्ष पर बैठे लोगों की चमकदार जरूरतों को पूरा करने पर खर्च कर दिया. और फिर से सरकार के सामने खड़े हो गए कि हमें और बेल-आउट चाहिए. सरकार ने उन्हें पुनः बेल आउट दिया. हमारी और आपकी आलोचनाएँ धरी रह गयी, क्योंकि इन्हीं बड़े लोगों के नियंत्रण में वहां के अखबार और टीवी चैनल थे, जिन्होंने इनके कुकृत्यों को सही ठहराया. उन्होंने निर्लज्जता से कहा कि अमेरिकी अर्थव्यवस्था को संभालने के लिए बड़े लोगों के पास पैसा होना जरूरी है.. वाह ...क्या तर्क था.

इस बात को गुजरे हुए एक दशक से अधिक का समय हो गया है तो संभव है कि यह सब हमारी स्मृतियों से निकल भी गया हो. लेकिन हम कोरोना समय की कहानी को तो याद रख ही सकते हैं, जब हमारे अपने देश में मंदी की आहट को ध्यान में रखते हुए सरकार ने अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए कुछ कदम उठाये थे. वे शायद बीस लाख करोड़ के भारी भरकम कदम थे. लेकिन उन कदमों का क्या असर हुआ ...? यही कि भारत में अरबपतियों की संख्या और बढ़ गयी. कोई अरबपति एशिया का सबसे अमीर व्यक्ति हो गया. और कोई दुनिया के अमीरों से टक्कर लेने लगा. जी हाँ... कोरोना समय का प्रभाव हमारे देश के उद्योगपतियों पर नहीं पड़ा, क्योंकि सरकार ने उन्हें कई तरह से आर्थिक मदद पहुंचाई. जबकि अपने पसीने की कमाई पर जीने वाली करोड़ों मेहनतकश जनता को उसकी भारी मार झेलनी पड़ी. कहना न होगा कि पांच वर्ष बीत जाने के बाद भी उसकी कठिनाईयाँ कम नहीं हुई हैं. रोजगार का संकट आज भी उनकी जिन्दगी के सामने विकराल रूप से खड़ा है.

दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण तथ्य यह है कि ऐसा पूरी दुनिया में हुआ है. और इसका बड़ा दुष्परिणाम भी दुनिया के सामने दिखाई देने लगा है. एक तरफ पूरी दुनिया में चकाचौंध और समृद्धि के छोटे-छोटे गुच्छ तैयार हुए हैं. वहीं दूसरी तरफ पूरी दुनिया की बृहत्तर आबादी का जीवन-यापन आज भी गरिमापूर्ण होने से काफी दूर है. इस मामले में अमेरिका, यूरोप, एशिया और अफ्रीका की कहानी एक जैसी ही है. आर्थिक असमानता विकराल रूप से बढ़ी है. और उसी अनुपात में सामाजिक उथलपुथल भी अपने उरूज पर है. लोगबाग धार्मिक, नस्लीय, जातीय और क्षेत्रीय आधारों पर पहले से अधिक विभाजित दिखाई देते हैं. और इनका सबका प्रभाव दुनिया भर की राजनीतिक व्यवस्थाओं पर भी दिखाई दे रहा है. वह चाहें अमेरिका और पश्चिमी यूरोप जैसा विकसित समाज हो, या भारत और ब्राजील जैसे विकासशील समाज. लगभग हर जगह हार्डलाइन नेतृत्व की आमद हुई है.

आजकल हर दूसरा देश महान बनने का दावा ठोक रहा है. मसलन अमेरिका में डोनाल्ड ट्रम्प के नारे को याद कीजिये, जिसमें वे कहते हैं कि मेक अमेरिका ग्रेट अगेन. और बात सिर्फ नारे तक सीमित नहीं है, वरन खुलेआम

धमकी तक जा पहुंची है कि हम दुनिया के तमाम देशों पर अतिरिक्त कर लगायेंगे. यही कहानी रूस और चीन की भी है, जो अपने-अपने देशों की महानता के नारे उछाल रहे हैं. और इन नारेबाजियों में अपना देश भी विश्वगुरु बनने की चाह लिए डंका बजा रहा है. अर्थात् के दशक का उदारवाद अब न तो राजनीतिक व्यवस्थाओं में दिखाई देता है, जिसमें तब कहा जाता था कि सबको साथ लेकर दुनिया में आगे बढ़ना चाहिए. और न ही उसका प्रभाव अब आर्थिक व्यवस्थाओं में दिखाई दे रहा है, जिसमें तब कहा जाता था कि मुक्त बाजार में ही सबकी भलाई है. इसके बरक्स आजकल लगभग हर दूसरा शासक अपने देश की महानता का आह्वान कर रहा है. और समृद्ध देशों की तरफ से नए ट्रेड बैरियर की धमकियाँ मिल रही हैं.

तो फिर निजीकरण, उदारीकरण और वैश्वीकरण से होने वाले लाभों का क्या हुआ, जो आज की दुनिया में सब लोग अपनी महानता और अपने आर्थिक हित को संरक्षित करने का आह्वान कर रहे हैं. दरअसल गत लगभग तीन दशकों से चल रही पूंजीवादी मुक्त अर्थव्यवस्थाओं ने आम-सामान्य जनता के जीवन में वह परिवर्तन नहीं किया गया है, जिसका उसे सब्जबाग दिखाया गया था. ट्रिकल डाउन थियरी के अनुसार उसके पास कुछ लाभ रिसकर जरूर पहुंचे हैं. लेकिन वे ऐसे नहीं हैं, जिनके साथ वह अपने जीवन-स्तर को गरिमापूर्ण बना सके. ऐसे में उसके भीतर एक तरह के असंतोष पैदा हो रहा है, जिसकी मांग है कि हमको भी रोजगार चाहिए. अच्छी शिक्षा चाहिए. बेहतर स्वास्थ्य सुविधाएँ चाहिए. और उदार राजनीतिक व्यवस्था चाहिए, जो हमारे मूलभूत सवालों का समाधान करे.

दुर्भाग्यवश पूंजीवादी व्यवस्थाओं के पास आम जनता के ऐसे सवालों के उत्तर नहीं होते. क्योंकि उनका आधार ही श्रम के शोषण और अधिक मुनाफे पर टिका हुआ होता है. आप इनफ़ोसिस के संस्थापक नारायणमूर्ति के बयान को याद कीजिये, जिसमें वे काम के घंटे को और बढ़ाने की वकालत करते हैं. यदि ऐसे में कोई भी शासक जनता के जेनुइन सवालों का समाधान खोजने लगेगा, तो पूंजीपतियों की निगाहों से गिर जाएगा. अब चुकि इन व्यवस्थाओं में पूंजीपतियों के पास ही समाचार माध्यमों का मालिकाना हक़ होता है, इसलिए वे अपने विरुद्ध जाने वाले

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NZIEA – ROHTAK CONFERENCE

The 6th Triennial conference of NZIEA, Rohtak Divisional Committee was successfully held on 24-25 May, 2025 at Rohtak. The Conference was presided over by Com Trilok Bansal. Com. Jitender Parik, Organising Secretary, NZIEA inaugurated the conference. The other prominent personalities from among the NZIEA leadership who also graced the occasion were Com. RC Sharma, President, NZIEA and Com. Ravinder Sharma, Chief Treasurer, NZIEA. Com. Jitender Parik, with his oratory skills, fact and figures captivated the

imagination of the gathering by presenting a precise account of current political scenario and the challenges before LIC of India in general and AIIEA in particular. Com RC Sharma and Com Ravinder Sharma also addressed the gathering. By touching the various aspects of the current scenario, they enlightened the whole assemblage.

Com Pawan Malik, Secretary NZIEA, Rohtak presented the Report. 25 delegates from all the units under Rohtak Division put forth their views on the report and appreciated the efforts put in by the Divisional Committee in the last term and assured the leadership of their commitment and cooperation for any cause and call of the “Higher Leadership”. Com Pankaj Suri, Treasurer,

NZIEA Rohtak tabled the Accounts for the last term and the same were unanimously passed by the delegates. Thereafter the old body of the Divisional Committee was dissolved and the new body was formed unanimously. Coms Trilok Bansal, Omveer Singh and Pankaj Suri were elected as President, General Secretary and Treasurer for the ensuing term.

The message of the conference is that “To read history is good, but even more interesting and fascinating is to help in making history.” It is important to note that the attacks on our industry and our living standards emanate from the neo-liberal policies of the Government. These policies have to be resisted by building common bonds with the other sections of the toiling and working people.

The 6th Conference of Rohtak Divisional Committee of NZIEA ended with renewed enthusiasm and commitment.



34th Conference of LICEU, Kottayam Division

The 34th conference of LIC Employees' union Kottayam Division was held on 24 & 25th of May 2025 at Kottayam. Conference began with Flag hoisting by Com. K.Suresh, President. General conference commenced with a welcome song presented by our comrades. Com. V N Vasavan, Hon. Minister, Govt. of Kerala inaugurated the conference. He stated that both public sector and labour laws were surrendered by NDA government before big corporates. He further warned

that various retrogressive policies such as FDI hike to 100%, move to further sale of LIC stakes, composite licensing etc, would spell doom for LIC.

Com.Shreekanth Mishra, General Secretary, AIIEA spoke extensively on various issues affecting the lives of workers and ordinary people across the spectrum. He said the real

aim of terrorists who killed 26 innocent people in Pahalgam was to create division among the people on religious lines and to destabilise the country. But it was heartening to see



the people of the country stood together in challenging times. If we examine the current sequence of events happening globally and nationally, it could be seen that country is buckle under pressure by U.S on various issues including FDI hike and Sovereign guarantee for LIC policies. He further said that in such an alarming situation to safeguard the interests of public sector and working class, it is our bounden duty to make the national strike on 09 July 2025 a grand success.

Com. K.Suresh, President LIC EU Kottayam Division presided over the meeting. Com. PP Krishnan (Vice President, AIIEA), Com.S Ramesh Kumar (Jt.Secretary, SZIEF), Com. Binu Abraham (FSETO), Com. Baby Joseph (President, LICPA) greeted the conference. Com.P B Bindu, General Secretary LICEU Kottayam Division

welcomed the gathering. Com. Dileep Jacob Sam (Jt.secretary LICEU) proposed vote of thanks.

Delegate session began in the afternoon and was inaugurated by Com.S Ramesh Kumar (Jt.Secretary, SZIEF). 23 comrades including 5 women were participated in the discussions.

There was a special session on topic **global situation and Indian economy**. The session was handled by prominent economist Com.VK Prasad. He said global capitalism is undergoing a deep crisis and the entry of **Trumpism** is part of that. Principles of an egalitarian society are being challenged by handful of corporates through huge centralisation of wealth in their hands. Though there is only marginal increase (11%) in real wages from 1968 to 2024, gains by capitalists are phenomenal during the period. The session

was highly informative and also a captivating experience for delegates.

Com P.B. Bindu General Secretary, LIC EU summed up the discussions held in the delegate session.

Conference adopted the report and statement of accounts unanimously. Conference also adopted 12 resolutions on various matters unanimously. Com. Shreekanth Mishra, Com. PP Krishnan intervened in the delegate session.

Conference unanimously elected Com. K Suresh, Com. PB Bindu, Com.Santhosh Ninan Zachariah as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the ensuing year. 34th divisional conference came to a close with Com. T Balakrishnan (Jt. Secretay, LIC EU) proposing vote of thanks.

A talk on “Economic Rights as Fundamental Rights” held at Kannur

A talk on “Economic Rights as Fundamental Rights” was conducted on 31.05.2025 at Kannur as part of the Annual Conference of LIC Employees’ Union Kannur - Kasaragod Co-ordination Committee. Talk was organised as per the call of Chennai AIIEA Secretariat Meeting.

Com. C. Rajeevan (All India Vice President, BEFI) inaugurated the Conference and delivered the talk.

Com. M.J. Sreeram, (General Secretary, LICEU, Kozhikode Division) delivered the introductory speech. Com. K.Bahuleyan (President, LICEU, Kozhikode Division),

Com. M.K.Balakrishnan (Joint Secretary, LICPA Kozhikode Division) offered felicitations.

Com. M.K.Premjith (Convenor, LICEU, Kannur - Kasaragod Co-ordination Committee) welcomed the gathering. Com.K.Aravindan

(Joint Convenor, LICEU, Kannur - Kasaragod Co-ordination Committee) presided over the meeting. Com.C.C.Vinod (Joint Convenor, LICEU, Kannur - Kasaragod Co-ordination Committee) proposed Vote of thanks.



Convention at Dindigul on the Protection of the Public Sector and Workers' Rights

In the wake of the Central Trade Unions' call for a nationwide strike against the Central Government's anti-worker and anti-people policies, the General Insurance Pensioners' Association (Madurai Region), in collaboration with the Joint Council of Central Trade Unions (Dindigul District Committee), organized a convention on May 17 in Dindigul, a key district headquarters of Tamil Nadu. The event focused on the critical theme of *Protecting the Public Sector and Safeguarding

Workers' Rights*.

The convention witnessed the active participation of both in-service and retired insurance employees, along with workers from various other sectors. Spearheaded by insurance pensioners and strengthened by the support of city trade unions, the gathering saw a remarkable turnout, further amplifying the movement's momentum and significance.

Distinguished speakers at the event included Dindigul Constituency Member of Parliament R.

Satchidhanandam, Madurai Division President of the Insurance Corporation Employees Association N. Sureshkumar, and All India Vice President of AIIEA G. Anand. Their compelling addresses resonated deeply with attendees, evoking an enthusiastic response.

The convention also received strong support from the Council of City Trade Unions and garnered considerable media attention.

TRADE UNION CLASS at DHARWAD



A Trade union class at Dharwad was organised on 8th June 2025, for newly Recruited Assistants and those appointed on compassionate ground. The class was attended by 51 comrades along with some senior comrades. Com. N.K.Kamat, General Secretary, welcomed Com. P. Satish and Com. K Gopal and all the participants.

Com. P Satish, President, SCZIEF, and Com. K. Gopal, Joint Secretary, SCZIEF were the faculty for the class. Com. P Satish dealt with the

topic 'Aims and objectives – Relevance of Trade union at present situation'. He dealt with subject in detail right from the evolution of mankind to the present conditions. He also taught how the mankind developed from slavery to the capitalist system which the county is facing today. He also dealt with industrial revolution, how the social sector came into being. Com. Satish told the history of how the 8 hours work a day has come into being.

Com. K Gopal explained the benefits and service conditions

of employees and the role of AIIEA in achieving these benefits. He dealt the subject from 1951 to 2025 and how AIIEA struggled in getting each benefit to the employees. He also appealed to the employees to be in readiness to make the one day strike on 9th July 2025 a grand success, which will help in strengthening the LIC as well as in protecting our benefits.

Com. B N Poojary, General Secretary of LIC Retired Employees' Association, Dharwad Division, greeted the participants of the class. Com. Sanjeev Vaidya gave a feed back and also thanked Insurance Employees' Union, Dharwad Division, for organising the Trade Union Class and made an appeal that such classes be organised very often. Com. Uday Gadagkar, President, proposed Vote of thanks and the class came to an end with a positive note.

Importance of Cultural Diversity and Unity-A talk at Tirur

A talk on “Importance of Cultural Diversity and Unity” was held at Tirur on 24.05.2025 at the Annual Conference of LIC Employees’ Union, Malappuram District Co-ordination Committee.

Dr. Unni Amaparakkal (President, Progressive Art and Literature Group, Malappuram District) inaugurated the Conference and delivered the talk on “Importance of Cultural Diversity and Unity”.

Com.K.Bahuleyan (President, LICEU, Kozhikode Division) delivered the Introductory speech. Com. M.J.Sreeram ,

(General Secretary, LICEU, Kozhikode Division) greeted the meeting.

Com. P. Rajeesh (Joint Convenor, LICEU, Malappuram District Co-ordination Committee)

presided over the meeting. Com. K.V.Anil Kumar (Convenor, LICEU, Malappuram District Co-ordination Committee) welcomed the gathering and Com. C.Vineeth (Secretary, LICEU, Tirur Base Unit) delivered the Vote of thanks.



TU Class for Women in Vellore Division

A one-day Special Trade Union Class was arranged for women comrades of Vellore Division on 17.05.2025 at Tiruvannamalai.

More than 30 women comrades and 25 men comrades participated in the trade Union class.

Com. Gangadevi, Vice President, ICEU, Vellore welcomed the gathering.

Morning session was presided over by Com. Amutha,

Convenor, Women’s Sub-committee and handled by **Com. Swaminathan, former General Secretary, SZIEF on the topic Caste... Religion... Women...** It was an excellent session, which inspired all the comrades. All comrades were very attentive, and more than 15 women comrades took part in the discussion on the topic after the session.

The afternoon session was presided over by Com. Neela

Guhesh Joint convenor and **Com. Girija, Joint Secretary AIIEA handled the topic Women’s contribution in Today’s Political and Economical scenario...** It was a highly informative and eye-opening session. All the comrades actively took part in the post class discussion.

Com. P. S. Balaji, President, and Com. S. Palaniraj, General Secretary ICEU, Vellore Division greeted the comrades on this occasion.

The trade union class came to an end with vote of thanks proposed by Com. Jayashree, District convenor Women’s Sub-committee.

In total the trade union class was truly an eye opener which helped the participants to widen their thoughts beyond our limits and gave confidence to over come our future challenges.





Fundamental Duties-Article 51A

Dr P Ravishankar

The Indian Constitution guarantees essential human rights under Part III of the constitution and directive principles of State Policy are dealt under Part IV which is fundamental in governance of the Country. The fundamental rights cannot be taken away by any legislation; legislation can only impose reasonable restriction on exercise of the right.

Part IV-A which was inserted by Constitution (Amendment) Act 1986 is about certain Duties which is expected from Indian Citizens. They are Fundamental duties, as defined in Article 51A, are not made enforceable by a writ of court just as the fundamental rights are, but it cannot be lost sight of that duties in Part IVA - Article 51A are prefixed by the same word fundamental which was prefixed by the founding fathers of the Constitution to rights in Part III. Fundamental duties, though not enforceable by a writ of the court, yet provide a valuable guide and aid to interpretation of constitutional and legal issues. Some of the important fundamental duties are, It shall be the duty of every citizen of India—

(a) to abide by the Constitution and respect its ideals and institutions, the National Flag and the National Anthem; (e) to promote harmony and the spirit of common brotherhood amongst all the people of India transcending religious, linguistic and regional or sectional diversities; to renounce practices derogatory to the dignity of women; (f) to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture; (h) to develop the scientific temper, humanism and the spirit of inquiry and reform; (j) to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievement.

The citizen it is expected should be his own mentor, while exercising and enforcing his fundamental rights, reinforcing that he owes the duties specified in Article 51A to the state and that if he does not care for the duties he should not deserve the right. The duties as such are not legally enforceable in the court, if the state makes any law to prohibit any act or conducts in violation of any of the duties the court will uphold that. Fundamental duties provide a valuable guide aid to as per protection of constitution and legal issue. Constitutional enactment of fundamental duties has to have any meaning must be used by the courts as a toll for tab even a taboo on the state action drifting away from the constitutional value.

Every citizen of India is fundamentally obligated

to develop the scientific temper and humanism. He is fundamentally duty bound to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavor and achievements. In the era of globalization, where the nation as a whole has to compete with other nations of the world so as to survive, excellence cannot be given an unreasonable go by and certainly not compromised in its entirety.

It may be necessary to enact suitable legislation wherever necessary to require obedience of obligations by the citizens. If the existing laws are inadequate to enforce the needed discipline, the legislative vacuum needs to be filled. If legislation and judicial directions are available and still there are violations of Fundamental Duties by the citizens, this would call for other strategies for making them operational. The element of compulsion in legal sanction when combined with the natural urge for obedience of the norms to attract social approbation would make the citizens willing participants in the exercise.

Article 51A of the Constitution speaks of the fundamental duties of every citizen of India. In this context, we may refer to the various clauses of Article 51A and specifically clause (j) which exhorts every citizen "to strive towards excellence in all spheres of individual and collective activity, so that the nation constantly rises to higher levels of endeavour and achievement." It is, therefore, necessary that there should be a system of awards and decorations to recognize excellence in the performance of these duties.

The fundamental duties, more importantly, emphasize on harmony, fraternity and respecting the composite culture. These noble ideals today are being violated.

To conclude it can be stated that when rights are enjoyed it will be duty to obey the noble objectives of the Constitution in respect of Duties also. Because both the right and duty emanate from the same source, it will be just and proper to take a principle stand by every citizen to enjoy both rights and Duties equally.

Reference:

- State of Gujarat Vs Mirzapur Moti Kuresh Kasab Jamat & Ors AIR 2006 Supreme Court 212.*
Balaji Ragavan Vs Union of India, (1996) 1 SCC 361
Nob'ble.Sri.Ranganath Mishra Vs Union of India, 2003 (7) SCC 133,
AllIMS Student Union vs AllIMS (2002) 1 SCC 428,

MOST OF U.S WORKERS SAY THEY HAVE UNPREDICTABLE, INFLEXIBLE SCHEDULES

Almost two-third of US Workers struggle with volatile, inflexible work schedules: According to a new national Gallup survey, called the State of American Jobs Study, published on 10th June. Meanwhile, workers with predictable schedules enjoy more financial security, better work-life balance and more overall satisfaction with their jobs, according to the survey of 18,000 employees.

One of the biggest questions on people's minds right now is, even though unemployment is fairly low, why are millions of workers still feeling so disillusioned and disengaged and struggling to get by?" said Rachel Korberg, executive director and co-founder of the Family and Workers Fund, which partnered to create the survey. "We need to shift from a conversation that's just about job quantity to a conversation also about job quality."

Most notably, about 41% of those surveyed said they had little to no control over how many hours they work, what days they work or when they can take time off. Additionally, more than one quarter of workers said they don't know their schedule two weeks or more in advance.

Workers' rights collapse across the world: ITUC Global Rights Index 2025

Workers' rights are in free fall across every continent, according to the 2025 ITUC Global Rights Index, with Europe and the Americas recording their worst scores since the Index began in 2014. Just seven countries now have the top rating of 1 for their respect for workers' Rights, compared with 39 rated 5.

Key findings include: Three out of five global regions saw conditions worsen; the Americas (3.68) and Europe (2.78) hit their worst scores on record. Europe continued a rapid deterioration from 1.84 in 2014-the biggest decline seen in any region worldwide over the past 10 years. Only seven out of the 151 countries surveyed (fewer than 5%) earned a top-tier rating of 1-down from 18 a decade ago.

The 10 worst countries for workers are: Bangladesh, Belarus, Ecuador, Egypt, Eswatini, Myanmar, Nigeria (NEW), the Philippines, Tunisia, and Türkiye. The worst region in the world for working people is the Middle East and North Africa, with an average rating of 4.68. Deaths of trade unionists were recorded in Cameroon, Colombia, Guatemala, Peru, and South Africa. 87% of countries violated the right to strike; 80% violated the right to collective bargaining. Workers' access to justice was restricted in. 72% of countries, the worst level ever recorded.

India: Jammu and Kashmir power workers strike for higher pay

Over 10,000 workers from the Power

WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE

● **S. SRIDHARA, Mysore**

Development Department in Jammu and Kashmir began an indefinite strike on 11th June 2025 to demand implementation of the Common Wages Act, permanent jobs and payment of pending wages. The walkout followed anti-privatisation protests and the use of private contractors, with workers demanding suspension of all outsourcing by Jammu Power Distribution Corporation Ltd.

Government workers, midday meal and ASHA workers in Punjab protest unmet promises:

Teachers, ASHA (rural health) workers, midday meal workers and other government employees protested on 10th June 2025 in Ludhiana. They were demonstrating over unfulfilled promises made by the AAP-led Punjab government who came to power three years ago. These included commitments for permanent jobs, salary increases and other benefits. Despite pre-election assurances to double allowances, many honorarium workers earn a meagre 3,000 rupees monthly (₹35). They are also demanding pending incentives, minimum wage honoraria, free insurance and annual promotions. Protests and rallies are planned with a march scheduled in Ludhiana on June 16.

Meanwhile, Anganwadi (childcare) workers protested in Ludhiana on June 4 and 6, demanding better remuneration, improved infrastructure and recognition for their role in childcare and community health. They criticised inadequate pay, lack of proper equipment, poor beneficiary food quality, and issues with mobile face recognition systems.

Workers also raised concerns about unreleased central funds and the impact of opening pre-primary classes at Anganwadi centres. Police stopped protesting workers' attempts to meet the chief minister on 10th June.

MNREGA workers in Punjab demand more work and safety measures

Workers employed under the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MNREGA) protested on June 7 at the Tarn Taran District Administrative Complex to demand full implementation of the employment agreement. They accused the ruling party of political interference in work allocations. Protesters said workers from Sursing, Narli, Dialpur, Thathian Mahantan, Kirian, Van, Bhojian, Thatha and other villages had reported being denied the full 14 days of work each month. The protesters, who are members of MNREGA Workers' Union, called for work estimates to factor in extreme-heat conditions and for basic safety measures such as cold water and first-aid kits at work sites. Protesters submitted a memorandum to the deputy commissioner.

ECONOMIC NOTES

● J. SURESH, Mysore

▶ According to an article published in the Wall Street Journal, the 19 richest households in the United States increased their wealth by \$ 1 trillion in 2024. Their combined wealth rose from \$ 1.6 trillion to \$ 2.6 Trillion, a staggering 62.5 increase in a single year. The smallest fortune in this group is \$ 45 billion. It took four decades for the share of the wealthiest 0.00001% of Americans in total US household wealth to increase from 0.1% in 1982 – when 11 households comprised this exceptional group to 1.2% in 2023. In one year, at the end of 2024, the share of total US household wealth for the modern 0.00001% - those 19 households – climbed to 1.8%, or about \$ 2.6 trillion. This is the largest single year increase ever recorded, according to Wall Street Journal. According to an estimate, if the \$ 1 trillion increase in wealth for 19 households is taken over by the government, could abolish poverty, hunger and homelessness in USA. It could give every American worker \$ 7000 pay rise. It could more than double the budget for K-12 public education. Trump's second election represented “ the violent realignment of the American political superstructure to correspond to the actual social relations that exist in the United States.” Trump, himself a billionaire, runs a government of the financial oligarchy, with the world's richest man, Elon Musk, who has until recently part of DOGE, overseeing measures to cut spending of \$ 1 trillion by laying off federal workers and reducing federal benefits. To counter these measures and to construct a more equal society, the entire wealth of the 2000 billionaire needs to be expropriated to provide the basic necessities to the entire population. This tiny parasitic layer dominates every aspect of American society – economic, politics and media. The capitalist system determines the standard of living of the working class, which constitutes the vast majority of population, with corporate elite deciding jobs, wage rates and working conditions, exploiting the labour which needs to be reversed through struggles.

▶ According to the United Nations World

Food Programme (WFP), nearly one-third of the population in six frontline regions of Ukraine is suffering from food shortages. According to data collected by the WFP, millions of people are resorting to coping mechanisms, sacrificing their own meals so their children can eat. Others are going into debt to buy enough food to feed their families.

Families in frontline regions are struggling to get enough food to eat, forcing them to make heart breaking choices just to survive. As we yearn for lasting peace in what is considered one of the world's historical breadbasket regions, we must face the reality that humanitarian aid continues to be a life line for millions of people. Where supermarkets are accessible and stocked, many families cannot afford to buy nutritious food. The cost of basic food, items has increased by 25% over the past year. Some staple vegetables have more than doubled in price. The Kherson region is most affected by insufficient access to food, affecting 54% of people living there. In Zaporozhye and Donetsk regions, two out of five people, or 43% and 39% respectively, have insufficient access to food. In 2024, prices for baked goods such as bread, a staple food in Ukraine, rose by more than 20%. The same trends are expected to continue in 2025. Prices are expected to rise by another 20% this year. In other words, about 1.5% to 2% will be added to the current price each month. Vegetable prices rose by about 30% during the year. The unemployment in Ukraine is like in poorest countries in Africa, where the majority of population lives from subsistence farming, and more than 50% of non-agricultural employment is in shadow economy. In Ukraine, almost all resources for normal social life have been exhausted (either monopolized or destroyed over time), the ruling class create nothing but consumes the remnants of natural resources and condemns future generations to poverty with unbearable foreign debts. Thus, the people in Ukraine are living a miserable life and the Russia – Ukraine war has devastated the lives of millions of people.

FOR OUR FIELD FORCE

● **A. ARIVUKKADAL**
Thanjavur

★
No.1 PSU: LIC has emerged as the highest profit-making company among public-sector undertakings(PSUs) in the March 2025 quarter.

★
BSI Certification: LIC has been awarded the ISO 22301:2019 Business Continuity Management System(BCMS) certification from the British Standards Institution(BSI). ISO 22301:2019 is an international benchmark for business continuity management, focusing on minimizing operational disruptions and ensuring swift recovery in times of crisis.

★
Guinness Record: On January 20, a total of 4,52,839 agents of LIC successfully completed and issued an astounding 5,88,107 life insurance policies across India. This monumental effort established a new global benchmark for agent productivity in the life insurance industry in 24 hours and it was recognised as a World Record by Guinness.

★
LIC's performance: LIC has reported a 13.79% year-on-year **increase in group premium** for May this year. In the Individual Premium category, LIC posted a slight decline of 0.69%. Total policies issued by LIC during May this year stood at 10.68 lakh compared to 12.51 lakh.

★
Entering GI: New-age life insurers Acko, Go Digit and CreditAccess, all of whom received life insurance licences in 2023, are betting on group products to drive premium collection and the business. For products like life, customer trust is the key, building that takes time, hence **one way of getting into the market is through employer-employee products where consumers will get to know the brand**, experience the claims settlement process and eventually start trusting the brand.

★
Faster Growth: The Indian life insurance market is anticipated to grow at a compound annual growth rate of 10.5%, significantly higher than the global average of approximately 5% as stated in the recently published Allianz Global Insurance Report.

★
Gig workers: According to the India Protection Quotient survey, only 69% of gig workers own life insurance against a national urban average of 78%.

★
No opening: The government is likely to drop a key proposal that would have allowed individual insurance agents to tie up with multiple insurers. LIC, which holds around 58% of the life insurance market, had strongly opposed the proposal. The company relies heavily on its agency network, with 94% of its total premium income generated through individual agents. SBI Life also depends on individual agents for 21% of its total premiums.

★
Banks mis-selling: India's leading 15 banks generated an astounding Rs.21,773 crore in commissions from the sale of life insurance, mutual funds, and other financial products in FY23-24. The report indicated that **banks receive commissions that are 2 to 11.3 times higher on life insurance policies compared to mutual funds**, fostering a powerful reason for them to promote insurance products vigorously, often without

considering consumer necessity or appropriateness. One of the most concerning statistics is that 43.3% of all benefits disbursed by the top-10 life insurance companies stem from surrendered, withdrawn, or lapsed(SWDL) policies, suggesting that a considerable portion of customers either regretted their decision or were unable to keep up with premium payments.

★
(Mis-)sell insurance: The Department of Financial Services(DFS) has directed Public Sector Banks(PSBs) to place greater emphasis on distributing insurance products, especially in Tier II and Tier III cities. This marks a shift from the Finance Ministry's earlier stance, which had encouraged PSBs to focus primarily on their core banking operations.

★
HI claims: With complaints from the public rising for claims rejection on flimsy grounds, Health insurance companies hiking annual premiums unfairly even amid low claims settlement ratios will likely face strong penal action by the IRDAI. The regulatory crackdown on a couple of private insurers, who have already been identified to have indulged in such practices, is expected in a month.

★
Insurance fraud: Uttar Pradesh's Sambhal district has emerged as the epicenter of one of India's most disturbing financial crimes. A massive insurance scam involving fraudulent policies, fake documents and even killings carried out to claim insurance money has surfaced there, with the estimated fraud amount crossing Rs.100 crore. So far, 52 people have been arrested in connection with the case, while around 50 accused are still absconding. Three of the accused have surrendered in court. The Enforcement Directorate(ED) has also taken interest in the case and sought related documents and FIR copies from the local police.

★
Police warning: The Delhi Police has a public advisory warning citizens about a surge in insurance-related phone scams. These frauds typically involve callers pretending to be officials from insurance companies or regulatory bodies like LIC or IRDAI, and attempting to extract personal and financial information from unsuspecting policyholders. Kolkata city police also issued an advisory regarding insurance scams.

Throttling.....Freedom of Expression

Continued from page 28



war!" was an impassioned comment about the futility of war as a solution.

Film Censorship, pushed through by both the authorities as well as vigilante groups, continues. The enforced self-Censorship of films like *Empuraan* and *Phule*, with crucial scenes and dialogues cut on the eve of, or after the film's release, make a mockery of the certification awarded by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC). The multiple cuts suggested for *Punjab 95*, the cuts on foreign films screened for Indian audiences on OTT platforms and the flat denial of CBFC certification for award winning films like *Santosh* are other alarming signals of excessive regulation. The violence that broke-out in Nagpur, after the screening of the film *Chhava* or even the attack on Dalit Journalist Sanjay Ambedkar while attempting to take audience reviews of the film *Phule*, in Prayagraj, for his YouTube channel Bheemraj Dastak, are all the indicators of the growing vandalism and criminal assaults being launched against freedom of expression, by politically motivated goons.

In the face of this rampant censorship and clamping down on inconvenient truths that do not fit the official narrative, the pushback by civil rights organizations, journalists' unions and associations has been encouraging.

The constitutionally guaranteed right to freedom of speech and expression has occupied center stage of public discourse, prompting much needed responses from a range of citizens.

Freedom of expression is a foundational necessity for a just and vibrant democracy. Journalism, academia, literature and artistic expression must function independently as pillars of democratic life. Freedom of expression shall not be sacrificed at the altar of authoritarianism. The peoples' right to speak, question and resist shall prevail. It is only by cultivating a robust democratic culture – through institutions, public awareness and courage – can India's democratic ethos be defended in these challenging times.

विश्व-युद्ध का संकट

Contd from page 30

शासको के खिलाफ निंदा का अभियान शुरू कर देते हैं. जाहिर है, उसका असर जनमत पर होने लगता है. और आम सामान्य जनता उनके खिलाफ होने लगती है. इसके बरक्स इन पूंजीवादी व्यवस्थाओं के समाचार माध्यम लगातार ऐसे फर्जी नैरेटिव गढ़ते रहते हैं जिससे कि आम जनता के मन-मिजाज को डाइवर्ट किया जा सके. उन्हें उनके मूलभूत सवालों से दूर किया जा सके. आज पूरी दुनिया में जो टकराव और तनाव की स्थिति दिखाई दे रही है, दरअसल वह पूंजीवादी व्यवस्था के भीतर के गंभीर संकट को ढकने का प्रयास है. आम मेहनतकश जनता को उसकी मूल समस्याओं से डाइवर्ट करने की चाल है.

जबकि इतिहास हमें बताता है कि किसी देश की महानता उसकी दबंगई से नहीं, सबको साथ लेकर चलने से आती है. समाजवादी और लोककल्याणकारी नीतियाँ ही किसी देश की आम जनता के जीवन स्तर को उठा सकती हैं. जाहिर है इन्हीं के जरिये दुनिया में अमन और शान्ति भी आती है.

DONATIONS

TO INSURANCE WORKER

Com. C.Gangarevanna,		
Bangalore DO-1	Rs.2,000	
Com. S.Malini, Bangalore DO-1		5000
Com. R.Pattan, Tirunelveli DO		10000
Com. N.L.Srinivasan Bangalore DO-1		3000
Com. Valsa David Thrissur 1		10000
Com.Rekha R Prabhu DO Thrissur		5000
Com. Mary Mathai Thrissur 1		10000
Com. T D Sreelatha Kunnamkulam		5000
Com. K P Aliamma Chittur		3000
Com. Roy K Jacob DO Thrissur		3000
Com. Alleykutty T S DO Thrissur		5000
Com. A K Marees DO Thrissur		5000
Com. C S Umadevi Mannarkad		10000
Com.cM M Sareena Palakkad 1		5000
Com. C S Sheena Ottapalam		10000

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

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Month	Base 2016	2001	1960
Oct 2024	144.5	416.16	9499.23
Nov	144.5	416.16	9499.23
Dec	143.7	413.86	9446.64
Jan 2025	143.2	412.42	9413.77
Feb	142.8	411.26	9387.47
Mar	143.0	411.84	9400.62
Apr	143.5	413.28	9433.49

Base 1960=Base 2001x22.8259

Base 2001=Base 2016x2.88



With Best Wishes from

रायपुर डिवीजन लाईफ इंश्योरेंस
एम्पलाईज को-आपरेटिव सोसायटी लि०

रायपुर





दि इंश्योरेंस एम्प्लॉईज क्रेडिट को-ऑपरेटिव सोसायटी लिमिटेड, भोपाल

पंजीयन क्रमांक मुख्यालय/शहरी साख/2025/288 दिनांक 04.02.2025

पंजीकृत कार्यालय : भारतीय जीवन बीमा निगम, मण्डल कार्यालय परिसर, 60-ए, अरेरा हिल्स, जेल रोड, भोपाल (म.प्र.)

वेबसाइट : <http://ieccsbhopal.org>, ई-मेल : ieccsbhopal2015@gmail.com, फोन : 0755-2558388

संस्था की योजनायें

जमा योजनायें

सावधि जमा योजना

- एफ.डी.आर. की अधिकतम राशि - रु. 30 लाख
- ब्याज की दरें - दिनांक 01.12.2023 से -
- 30 दिन से 120 दिन तक - 3.10%
- 121 दिन से 364 दिन तक - 5.10%
- एक वर्ष - 7.50%

आवर्ति जमा योजना

- न्यूनतम राशि - रु. 1000/- प्रतिमाह
- अधिकतम राशि - रु. 40000/- प्रतिमाह
- ब्याज दर - 7.50%

क्र.	ऋण का नाम	राशि	अधिकतम क्विशत अवधि	क्विशत मूलधन+ब्याज	समायोजन अवधि
1.	इमरजेन्सी ऋण	30,000.00	20 माह	1,500+144	समायोजन नहीं
2.	कन्टिनजेन्सी ऋण	1,00,000.00	50 माह	2,000+372	12 माह
3.	उपभोक्ता ऋण	4,00,000.00	100 माह	4,000+1,473	24 माह
4.	रेग्यूलर ऋण	4,00,000.00	100 माह	4,000+1,473	12 माह
5.	शिक्षा /चिकित्सा /विवाह ऋण	5,00,000.00	125 माह	4,000+1,838	24 माह
6.	स्पेशल ऋण	5,00,000.00	150 माह	3,333+1,835	24 माह
7.	व्हीकल ऋण	13,00,000.00	84 माह	15,476+4,111	समायोजन नहीं
8.	सोलर ऋण	2,50,000.00	60 माह	4,167+3,177	समायोजन नहीं

- अधिकतम ऋण राशि रु. 34,80,000.00
- ब्याज की दर - 8.75%

विशेष उपलब्धियां वर्ष 2025

- राज्य स्तरीय सोसाइटी के रूप में पंजीकृत
- सेवानिवृत्त सदस्यों की सदस्यता नियमित रहेगी उनकी सभी सुविधाएं आम सदस्य के समान आरम्भ रहेगी।