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Nationalisation
and Thereafter



Unfair,
Unreasonable
& Unwarranted



Risk Assessment

Instead of building unity of the people to meet enormous challenges before the country, what we see is the dangerous signals of further polarisation of the society.....

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA, having solemnly resolved to constitute India into a '[SOVEREIGN, SOCIALIST SECULAR DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC] and to secure to all its citizens:

JUSTICE, social, economic and political;

LIBERTY of thought, expression, belief, faith and worship;

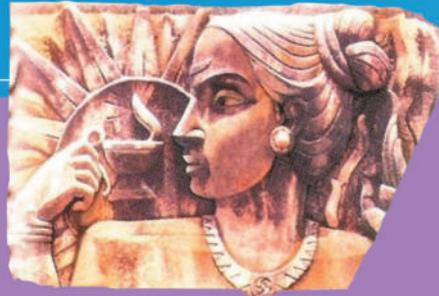
EQUALITY of status and of opportunity; and to promote among them all

FRATERNITY assuring the dignity of the individual and the [unity and integrity of the Nation];

WE, THE PEOPLE OF INDIA

are committed to an inclusive and Plural India which offers Dignity of Life to all its Citizens, the Best Tributes to our countless Martyrs





*Greetings to All
Insurance Employees*

*On the
69th
Anniversary
of*



**CUTTACK
DIVISION
INSURANCE
EMPLOYEES'
ASSOCIATION**



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STATE OF THE INDIAN UNION Some Worrying Developments

The country celebrated the 79th Independence Day with great enthusiasm and fervour. While celebrating the anniversary of this great event, the people were aware of the grave challenges facing the Indian State. The crises in the Indian society and economy were manifold. The economy is struggling and industrial production has shown huge fall. The income and wealth inequalities are growing at an alarming rate. Unemployment is at a very high level. The social fabric of the country is under severe stress. The external situation is turning hostile. More importantly the most precious gift of democracy – free and fair elections is under threat.

The people were hoping that they will find some answers to these myriad issues in the address to the nation by the Prime Minister from the ramparts of Red Fort. But they were disappointed. What they got instead was the usual rhetorics; the record-breaking longest speech did not lay out any roadmap to deal with the problems confronting the economy and the society. However, what they found were dangerous signals from the Prime Minister's glorifying the RSS, an organisation that was banned by Sardar Patel for its complicity in the assassination of the father of the nation. His concern about the dangers of demographical changes in the name of protection of national security is a clear attempt to further deepen communal polarisation. It is increasingly becoming clear that the agenda of the governance is being dictated by an extra constitutional body which aims to make India a majoritarian State. The Prime Minister is consciously promoting the interests and agenda of this extra- constitutional body.

The country witnessed another spectacle on this day when the uniformed officers of Indian Defence Services appeared on an entertainment program of a television channel. This was unprecedented. The services rules do not permit wearing of uniform on private functions. But this rule was flouted. It is impossible to believe that these three officers would participate in a private entertainment program in uniform without the consent of the top brass of the military. This incident further points out to the fact that Indian military is slowly being politicised. The recent statements of some top officers of the

military too do not hide their affinity and loyalty to the present political dispensation. The Indian Military had the distinction of being one of the most secular institutions. Its loyalty was only to the constitution. It is not only unfortunate that this important institution is being politicised but poses great danger to the very objectives for which it was created.

On the 79th Independence Day, India presents itself as a land of paradoxes. It boasts of being the fastest growing among the large economies in the world while a large number of its children and women inadequately clothed sleep in the streets in freezing conditions, even in its capital. The government prides in the fact that Indian economy is the fourth largest in the world. It must be remembered that in terms of purchasing power parity, India since 2009 has been the third largest economy. But the big size of the economy due to the very size of the population does not match the lived experiences of the ordinary people. The gains of economic development have bypassed the vast majority of the people. This is evident from the fact that as per a latest report 300 richest families have a cumulative wealth of around \$1.6 trillion which is more than 40% of the national GDP. It is estimated that the Ambani family alone accounts for over 12% of the GDP. In contrast the bottom half of the population own just 6.4% of the national wealth and their average annual income is just around Rs.71000 as per the March 2024 Report on Income and Wealth Inequality.

There is no denying the fact that the Indian economy is struggling. The most optimistic estimate suggests a growth of 6.5% which is much lower than the 8.2% registered in the last financial year. The major driver of economic growth is the private consumption. This is on a continuous decline. Today, Indian households are struggling with growing debt. The household debt today is estimated by the RBI at 42.9% of the GDP. There is a decline in the household savings and is at a historical low of 18.4%. The hopes on FDI helping the growth are misplaced. The total FDI inflow last financial year was \$81.04 billion while the outflow was over \$80 billion resulting into a meagre net FDI of around \$1 billion. Whatever growth the economy is registering is due to public investment and the private investments are not taking place in the absence of purchasing capacity. This growth

is also not creating jobs. It is estimated that around 12 million youth enter the job market every year and Indian economy is not in a position to create even half the jobs required. The jobless rate among the youth between 15-29 has reached a high figure of around 20%. The IT and ITES industry has already indicated severe downsizing of the staff. With global uncertainty and the unjust US tariffs, Indian economy is bound to face harder times.

The situation demands building unity of the people and prepare them to meet these enormous challenges. Instead, what we see is further polarisation of the society. The minorities are harassed and asked to prove their citizenship each day. Vigilante groups have been unofficially licensed to check and verify the citizenship. In the process even the families of those brave soldiers who served the country during the Kargil war are also not spared. The freedoms of the people are in peril. Dissent has become treason. Every democratic institution has been made to work for the interests of the ruling political dispensation rather than remaining loyal to the Constitution. The media which is expected to play a very important role in democracy, has become the propaganda

देश ने 79 वें स्वतन्त्रता दिवस को बड़े उत्साह और उमंग के साथ मनाया। इस महान घटना की वर्षगांठ मनाते समय लोगों को भारतीय राज्य के सामने मौजूद गंभीर चुनौतियों का एहसास था। भारतीय समाज और अर्थव्यवस्था में संकट कई गुना थे। अर्थव्यवस्था संघर्ष कर रही है और औद्योगिक उत्पादन में भारी गिरावट आई है। आय तथा संपत्ति की असमानताएं चिंताजनक दर से बढ़ रही हैं। बेरोजगारी बहुत ऊँचे स्तर पर है। देश का सामाजिक ताना-बाना गंभीर तनाव में है। बाहरी परिस्थितियां प्रतिकूल होती जा रही हैं। इससे भी महत्वपूर्ण बात यह है कि लोकतंत्र का सबसे अनमोल उपहार, स्वतन्त्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव, खतरे में है।

लोगों को उम्मीद थी कि लाल किले की प्राचीर से प्रधानमंत्री के राष्ट्र के नाम संबोधन में उन्हें इन बेशुमार समस्याओं के कुछ समाधान मिलेंगे। लेकिन उन्हें निराशा हाथ लगी। इसके बजाय उन्हें हमेशा की तरह की बयानबाजी ही मिली, रिकार्ड तोड़ सबसे लंबे भाषण में अर्थव्यवस्था और समाज के सामने मौजूद समस्याओं से निपटने का कोई रास्ता नहीं दिया गया। उसके स्थान पर उन्हें प्रधानमंत्री द्वारा आरएसएस का महिमामंडन करने से खतरानाक संकेत मिले, एक ऐसा संगठन जिसे सरदार पटेल ने राष्ट्रपिता की हत्या में उसकी संलिप्तता के कारण प्रतिबंधित कर दिया था। राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा के नाम पर जनसांख्यिकीय परिवर्तनों के

machine of the government.

Despite these worrying developments, the people were hoping that the gift of democracy – free and fair election is still available to them. But with a partial Election Commission, even this gift is slipping away from the people. The manner in which the electoral roles are being revised in Bihar raise many questions. Deliberately large number of people are being disenfranchised. The electoral roles have so many shortcomings. When these shortcomings and glaring mistakes are brought into the open, the Election Commission is refusing to acknowledge and correct them. It has adopted a belligerent attitude. This is because of the open support of the ruling party to the Election Commission. This creates suspicion about the neutrality of the election commission. In the last few elections, the conduct of the election commission was seen to be partisan. This is a great danger to democracy.

The Indian Constitution asserts, WE THE PEOPLE are the sovereign. The people are the supreme. The powers of the elected representatives flow from the people. The nation has to be ruled as per the wishes of WE THE PEOPLE. It must be made clear that WE THE PEOPLE include all citizens irrespective of their

religious belief and cultural traditions. The people who are elected to govern are not their masters. The real masters are the people. Today the interests of the vast majority of WE THE PEOPLE are sacrificed for the benefit of some crony capitalists. The unity of WE THE PEOPLE is disrupted for political gains. This situation cannot remain unchallenged.

The working class is the vanguard of the progressive movement. The working class came together on July 9th to challenge the economic policies and divisive politics. The beauty of this coming together was the participation of the farmers in the movement. The growing unity of the workers and farmers and united actions are the only hope to take India out of the multiple challenges it is facing. It is the responsibility of all those who believe in an inclusive and plural India; an India which offers dignity of life to all its citizens; a nation built on the dreams of peaceful coexistence, resolution of conflicts on the basis of political dialogue and a nation built on truth to walk on the path of this struggle. A commitment to such a struggle will be the best tribute we can pay to those countless martyrs who laid down their lives to free India from British colonialism.

भारत संघ के हालात : कुछ चिंताजनक घटनाक्रम

खतरों के बारे में उनकी चिंता सांप्रदायिक धुंवीकरण को और गहरा करने का एक स्पष्ट प्रयास है। यह तेजी से स्पष्ट होता जा रहा है कि शासन का एजेंडा एक संविधानेतर संस्था द्वारा तय किया जा रहा है जिसका उद्देश्य भारत को एक बहुसंख्यकवादी राज्य बनाना है। प्रधानमंत्री जानबूझकर इस संविधानेतर संस्था के हितों और एजेंडे को बढ़ावा दे रहे हैं।

देश ने इस दिन एक और तमाशा देखा जब भारतीय रक्षा सेवाओं के वर्दीधारी अधिकारी एक टेलीविजन चैनल के मनोरंजन कार्यक्रम में दिखाई दिए। यह अभूतपूर्व था। सेवा नियम निजी समारोहों में वर्दी पहनने की अनुमति नहीं देते हैं। लेकिन एक अस्थायी नियम जैसा बना दिया गया। यह विश्वास करना असंभव है कि इन तीन अधिकारियों ने सेना के शीर्ष अधिकारियों की सहमति के बिना वर्दी में एक निजी मनोरंजन कार्यक्रम में भाग लिया होगा। यह घटना इस तथ्य की ओर इशारा करती है कि भारतीय सेना का धीरे-धीरे राजनीतिकरण हो रहा है। सेना के कुछ शीर्ष अधिकारियों के हालिया बयान भी वर्तमान राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के प्रति उनकी आत्मीयता और निष्ठा को नहीं छिपाते हैं। भारतीय सेना को सबसे धर्मनिरपेक्ष संस्थानों में से एक होने का गौरव प्राप्त

है। इसकी निष्ठा केवल संविधान के प्रति थी। यह न केवल दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण है कि इस महत्वपूर्ण संस्थान का राजनीतिकरण किया जा रहा है, बल्कि उन उद्देश्यों के लिए भी यह एक बड़ा खतरा है जिनके लिए इसे बनाया गया था।

79वें स्वतन्त्रता दिवस पर, भारत खुद को विरोधाभासों की भूमि के रूप में प्रस्तुत कर रहा है। यह दुनिया की बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्थाओं में सबसे तेजी से बढ़ने वाला देश का दावा करता है, जबकि इसके बड़ी संख्या में बच्चे और महिलाएं अपर्याप्त कपड़ों के साथ राजधानी में भी कड़ाके की ठंड में सड़कों पर सोते हैं। सरकार इस बात पर गर्व करती है कि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था दुनिया की चौथी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था है। यह याद रखना चाहिए कि क्रय शक्ति समता के संदर्भ में, भारत 2009 से तीसरी सबसे बड़ी अर्थव्यवस्था है। लेकिन जनसंख्या के आकार के कारण अर्थव्यवस्था का इतना बड़ा होना आम लोगों के जीवन के अनुभवों से मेल नहीं खाता है। आर्थिक विकास के लाभ अधिकांश लोगों को दरकिनार कर दिए गए हैं। यह इस तथ्य से स्पष्ट है कि एक नवीनतम रिपोर्ट के अनुसार 300 सबसे अमीर परिवारों के पास लगभग 1.6 लाख

करोड़ डॉलर की संचित सम्पत्ति है, जो राष्ट्रीय सकल घरेलू उत्पाद का 40 प्रतिशत से अधिक है। ऐसा अनुमान है कि अकेले अंबानी परिवार का सकल घरेलू उत्पाद में 12 प्रतिशत से अधिक का हिस्सा है। इसके विपरीत, जनसंख्या के निचले आधे हिस्से के पास राष्ट्रीय संपत्ति का केवल 6.4 प्रतिशत हिस्सा है और आय और धन असमानता पर मार्च की रिपोर्ट के अनुसार उनकी औसत वार्षिक आय लगभग 7100 रुपये मात्र ही है।

इस तथ्य से इन्कार नहीं किया जा सकता कि भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था संघर्ष कर रही है। सबसे आशावादी अनुमान भी 6.5 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर का संकेत देते हैं, जो पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष में दर्ज 8.2 प्रतिशत की वृद्धि दर से काफी कम है। आर्थिक विकास का प्रमुख चालक निजी उपभोग है। यह लगातार गिरावट के क्रम में है। आज, भारतीय परिवार बढ़ते कर्ज से जूझ रहे हैं। आरबीआई के अनुमान के अनुसार, घरेलू कर्ज आज जीडीपी का 42.9 प्रतिशत है। घरेलू बचत में गिरावट आई है और यह 18.4 प्रतिशत के ऐतिहासिक निम्नतम स्तर पर है। विकास में एफडीआई से मदद मिलने की उम्मीदें बेमानी हैं। पिछले वित्तीय वर्ष में एफडीआई के आगमन का कुल प्रवाह 81.04 अरब डॉलर था, जबकि 80 अरब डॉलर से अधिक बाहर जाने का प्रवाह था, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप शुद्ध एफडीआई मात्र लगभग एक अरब डॉलर ही रहा। अर्थव्यवस्था में जो भी वृद्धि दर्ज हो रही है, वह सार्वजनिक सरकारी निवेश के कारण है तथा क्रय क्षमता के अभाव में निजी निवेश नहीं हो रहे हैं। यह वृद्धि रोजगार भी सृजन नहीं कर रही है। अनुमान है कि हर साल लगभग 1.2 करोड़ युवा रोजगार बाजार में प्रवेश करते हैं और भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था आवश्यक रोजगारों का आधा तक भी सृजन करने की स्थिति में नहीं है। 15-29 वर्ष के युवाओं में बेरोजगारी दर लगभग 20 प्रतिशत के उच्च स्तर पर पहुंच गई है। आईटी और उससे जुड़े आईटीईएस उद्योग ने पहले ही कर्मचारियों की भारी कटौती के संकेत दे दिए हैं। वैश्विक अनिश्चितता और अमेरिका के अनुचित टैरिफ के कारण, भारतीय अर्थव्यवस्था के लिए कठिन समय का सामना करना तय है।

वर्तमान परिस्थिति में लोगों की एकता बनाने और उन्हें इन विकट चुनौतियों का सामना करने के लिए तैयार करने की आवश्यकता है। इसके बजाय, हम समाज का और अधिक धुंवीकरण देख रहे हैं। अल्पसंख्यकों को हर दिन परेशान किया जा रहा है और उनसे अपनी नागरिकता साबित करने के लिए कहा जा रहा है। निगरानी समूहों को उनकी नागरिकता की जांच और सत्यापन के लिए अनौपचारिक रूप से लाइसेंस दे दिया गया है। इस प्रक्रिया में, यहां तक कि कारगिल युद्ध में देश की सेवा करने वाले वीर सैनिकों के परिवारों को भी नहीं बख्शा जा रहा है। लोगों की स्वतन्त्रता खतरे में है। असहमति देशद्रोह बन गई है। हर लोकतांत्रिक संस्था को संविधान के प्रति निष्ठावान रहने के बजाय सत्तारूढ़ राजनीतिक व्यवस्था के हितों के लिए काम करने के लिए मजबूर किया जा रहा है। मीडिया, जिससे

लोकतंत्र में एक महत्वपूर्ण भूमिका निभाने की अपेक्षा की जाती है, सरकार का प्रचार तंत्र बन गया है।

इन चिंताजनक घटनाक्रमों के बावजूद, लोगों को उम्मीद थी कि लोकतंत्र का उपहार, स्वतन्त्र और निष्पक्ष चुनाव, अभी भी उनके लिए उपलब्ध है। लेकिन पक्षपातपूर्ण चुनाव आयोग के कारण, यह उपहार भी लोगों से दूर होता जा रहा है। बिहार में जिस तरह से मतदाता सूचियों में संशोधन किया जा रहा है, वह कई सवाल खड़े करता है। जानबूझकर बड़ी संख्या में लोगों को मताधिकार से वंचित किया जा रहा है। मतदाता सूचियों में ढ़ेरो कमियां हैं। जब ये कमियां और गंभीर गलतियां सार्वजनिक रूप से उजागर हो रही हैं, तो चुनाव आयोग उन्हें स्वीकार करने और सुधारने से इन्कार कर रहा है। उसने झगड़ालू रवैया अपना लिया है। ऐसा रवैया सत्तारूढ़ दल द्वारा चुनाव आयोग को खुले तौर पर समर्थन देने के कारण है। इससे चुनाव आयोग की निष्पक्षता पर संदेह पैदा होता है। पिछले कुछ चुनावों में, चुनाव आयोग का आचरण पक्षपातपूर्ण देखा गया है। यह लोकतंत्र के लिए एक बड़ा खतरा है।

भारत के संविधान में किया गया दावा, हम लोग ही संप्रभु हैं। यह लोग ही सर्वोच्च हैं। निर्वाचित प्रतिनिधियों की शक्तियां जनता से ही प्रवाहित होती हैं। राष्ट्र का शासन हम लोग की इच्छा के अनुसार होना होगा। यह स्पष्ट किया जाना चाहिए कि हम लोग में सभी नागरिक शामिल हैं, चाहे उनकी धार्मिक मान्यताएं और सांस्कृतिक परम्पराएं कुछ भी हों। जो लोग शासन करने के लिए चुने जाते हैं वे उनके स्वामी नहीं होते। असली स्वामी तो लोग ही हैं। आज हम लोग के विशाल बहुमत के हितों की बलि कुछ पूंजीपतियों के स्वार्थ के लिए दी जा रही है। राजनीतिक लाभ के लिए हम लोग की एकता को खंडित किया जा रहा है। यह स्थिति चुनौती रहित ऐसी ही नहीं रह सकती।

मजदूर वर्ग प्रगतिशील आन्दोलन का अग्रदूत है। 9 जुलाई को मजदूर वर्ग आर्थिक नीतियों और विभाजनकारी राजनीति को चुनौती देने के लिए एकजुट हुआ। इस एकजुटता की खूबसूरती यह थी कि आन्दोलन में किसानों की भागीदारी भी हुई। मजदूरों और किसानों की बढ़ती एकता और एकजुट कार्यवाही ही भारत को उसके सामने मौजूद विभिन्न चुनौतियों से बाहर निकालने की एकमात्र उम्मीद है। यह उन सभी लोगों की जिम्मेदारी है जो एक समावेशी और बहुलतावादी भारत में विश्वास करते हैं, एक ऐसा भारत जो अपने सभी नागरिकों को जीवन की गरिमा प्रदान करता है; एक ऐसा राष्ट्र जो शांतिपूर्ण सह-अस्तित्व के सपनों पर निर्मित हो, राजनीतिक संवाद के आधार पर संघर्षों का समाधान हो, तथा संघर्ष के ऐसे मार्ग पर चले जो सत्य पर आधारित हो। ऐसे संघर्ष के प्रति प्रतिबद्धता उन अनगिनत शहीदों के प्रति हमारी सर्वोत्तम श्रद्धांजलि होगी, जिन्होंने भारत को ब्रिटिश उपनिवेशवाद से मुक्त कराने के लिए अपने प्राणों की आहुति दे दी।

AIIEA Delegation meets LIC Management

A delegation of AIIEA consisting of Comrades Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary; H.I. Bhatt and Dharmaraj Mohapatra, Joint Secretaries and B.S. Ravi, Treasurer met the LIC management at Central Office on 20th August 2025. There were separate discussions with the CEO&MD Sri R. Doraiswamy; Sri Satpal Bhanoo, Managing Director; Smt. Rashmi Singh, Executive Director (Personnel); Sri Salil Vishwanath, Executive Director (HRD); Smt. Minoo Sarkar, Executive Director (P&GS). The delegation also called on Sri Rajib Biswas, Chief (Personnel). A large number of issues pertaining to the employees and the institution came up for discussion during these meetings.

A) Discussion with Executive Director (Personnel):

the AIIEA delegation expressed deep concern over the fast declining staff strength in LIC in the Class III & IV cadres and underscored the need for immediate recruitment. Conveying the deep anguish of the employees over the procrastination of the management on the issue of recruitment, the delegation pointed out that the massive organisational actions of the employees viz; Demonstrations on 22nd January 2025, Mass Deputations to the Officers-in-Charge of the Divisions on 11th February 2025, One Hour Walk-Out Strike on 20th February 2025 and One-Day Strike on 9th July 2025, were indicative of the anger and frustration of the employees. The ED (Personnel) appreciated our concerns and agreed in principle on the need for recruitment in LIC particularly in view of the changed situation. She indicated that the Management would go for expeditious calculation of vacancies and early roll out of the process. **The AIIEA delegation reiterated our earlier position on four crucial aspects of recruitment:**

- i) the large number of unfilled vacancies of the last recruitment round should be taken into consideration**
- ii) the large number of vacancies pertaining to SCs/STs and other marginalized communities that continue to pile up as backlogs should be given due consideration**
- iii) special care should be given for recruitment in Srinagar Division because a large number of aspirants from Kashmir valley could not submit their applications during the last round because of internet shutdown**
- iv) recruitment should not be a one-off phenomenon but there has to be continuous recruitment on a regular basis so that LIC evokes the image of a young and dynamic organisation.**

The delegation

also took exception to the fact that class IV jobs of permanent nature were being regularly outsourced rather than going for recruitment to this cadre. The delegation demanded that process should start for recruitment in **Class IV cadre** as well by giving a solution to the issue of the temporary employees working for a considerably long period of time. The management sought some time to explore various options.

Our delegation took exception to the undue delay in revisiting the issue of substantial enhancement of **the ex-gratia relief being given to pre1986 retirees and their surviving spouses**. The delegation observed that the amount being paid was a pittance and needs to be enhanced substantially. The ED (Personnel) appreciated our concern and agreed to examine the issue with seriousness. We reiterated our demand that the number of **Stagnation Increments in Assistant cadre** be enhanced by another 3 or 4 stages and the time span for release of **Stagnation Increments for HGA cadre** should be brought down from 3 years to 2 years. The delegation also reiterated our long pending demand of giving **fixation from stagnation to stagnation stage on promotion**. The delegation drew the attention of the management to AIIEA's letter dated 07.06.2024 on the issue of **re-fixation of pay of Ex-Servicemen employees** and reiterated its demand to resolve the issue without prolonging the issue any further. The management pleaded helplessness by informing that the matter is subjudice as the case is pending at the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The delegation demanded an expeditious resolution to some of the long pending problems of **temporary assistants absorbed on a permanent basis in Kerala Divisions** as per direction of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. The delegation expressed

its disappointment over the indifferent attitude of the management to the long pending issue of **Actuarial Allowance** notwithstanding the apparent appreciation of the genuineness of the issue. We demanded an early resolution of the issue. These issues apart, the AIIEA delegation reiterated our demand for **introduction of LTC encashment facility, Tea/Coffee/Furniture reimbursements for Class III & IV employees, improvement in Leaves benefits, improvements in Group Mediclaim scheme and a host of individual issues pertaining to different Zones/ Divisions.**

B) Discussion with the Managing Director: The delegation of AIIEA had a detailed discussion with Sri Satpal Bhanoo, Managing Director on a range of issues. But the centrality of the discussion was the issue of Recruitment in Class III & IV cadres and the need to plug loopholes in LIC's IT infrastructure so that the institution's image does not take a beating. The Managing Director assured his intervention on the issue of problems afflicting LIC's EPGS module. On the issue of recruitment, our delegation reiterated the four central positions of AIIEA as noted above and requested the Managing Director's personal intervention on the same. The issue of suitable amendments to LIC's promotion rules to accommodate the growing aspirations for promotions across various cadres also came up for discussion. The Managing Director responded positively and assured to examine the suggestions with an open mind.

C) Meeting with CEO & Managing Director: The AIIEA delegation met Sri R. Doraiswamy, CEO & Managing Director in the presence of Sri Satpal Bhanoo, MD and Smt. Rashmi Singh, ED (Personnel). The delegation congratulated the CEO on his new assignment and assured AIIEA's help and co-operation in ensuring that LIC scales newer heights under his leadership. The CEO appreciated AIIEA's role in ensuring continuous growth of the institution and assured that the Corporation's overall approach would be a **people-centric approach**. The AIIEA delegation reiterated our basic demands on the issue of **recruitment in class III & IV cadres** including special emphasis for

clearing the backlogs and special efforts for Srinagar Division. The delegation of AIIEA drew the attention of the CEO to AIIEA's letter dated 30th July 2025 on the operational **issues plaguing EPGS module** and sought his personal intervention. Appreciating AIIEA's concerns on the issue, he informed that CO is already on the job and the teething troubles would certainly be resolved on an expeditious basis. Our delegation also reiterated our demand for **substantial enhancement of the ex-gratia relief being given to pre1986 retirees and their surviving spouses.** The CEO responded positively to this issue and he also appreciated AIIEA's concern for a **structured dialogue with the unions** on the issues and challenges confronting the institution.

D) Discussion with Executive Director (P&GS): The AIIEA delegation had a detailed discussion with Smt. Minoo Sarkar, Executive Director (P&GS) on the operational issues plaguing LIC's EPGS module on superannuation and annuities. Drawing the attention of the ED to AIIEA's letter dated 30th July 2025 addressed to the CEO and a copy marked to her, our delegation explained as to how the problems in EPGS have made life hell for the frontline employees; the delegation demanded a thorough review of the system and implementation process to mitigate operational inefficiencies and reputational risk. The ED gave a patient hearing and explained that LIC was seriously engaged in the rectification process and also in imparting hands-on training to the frontline employees. She sought some time to make sure that all the teething troubles related to the module were addressed.

The AIIEA delegation called on Sri Salil Vishwanath, Executive Director (HRD) and placed some of the concerns of LIC's sportspersons. The delegation requested his personal intervention on the matter. The delegation also called on Sri Rajiv Bisawas, Chief (personnel) who has taken charge recently and exchanged pleasantries.

AIIEA assures the employees that all the issues will be followed-up in right earnest till their logical conclusion.

NATIONALISATION and THEREAFTER



The two major demands projected by AIIEA after its formation were nationalisation of insurance industry and a common pay structure to the employees of all the companies

Amanulla Khan

The LIC would complete 69 years of its majestic journey on 1st September 2025. This journey has unarguably made LIC a shining example of the success of public sector. Today even its critics acknowledge that it is the finest financial institution not just in India but globally. Behind the glorious success of LIC is the story of a brilliant campaign of AIIEA, belief in its capacity to contribute for the welfare of the people and an unwavering commitment of the workforce.

The two major demands projected by AIIEA after its formation were nationalisation of insurance industry and a common pay structure to the employees of all the companies. The AIIEA campaigned that savings through insurance can be utilised for long term investments in the schemes framed for the welfare of all citizens while assuring the policyholders of the safety of their investments. This could be done only by nationalisation of the insurance business. The political atmosphere prevailing then was also conducive for such a campaign.

The British through 200 years of colonisation had looted the country and when they left, India was a poor backward agricultural economy. Therefore, Independent India had to take

up the task of rapid industrialisation to develop the economy and bring some improvement in the life conditions of the people. The vision of building the nation was laid down by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru while inaugurating the Bhakra Nangal Dam in 1954. He defined Bhakra Nangal Dam along with scientific centres, steel factories and educational institutions as the Temples of Modern India. Thus, the process of building a modern Nation-State began. The consensus on the goal of nation building was arrived at Avadi session of Congress.

In January 1955, Congress held its session at Avadi in Tamil Nadu. The Avadi congress declared a socialistic pattern of society to be the goal of nation building. It was stated that this goal means the state to control the principal means of production; to play a dominant role in the economy while allowing space to the private sector too. This was termed as an experiment in mixed economy. This fell short of the expectations of the working class who were the main constituent of the freedom struggle. They were hoping that the government may lay down policies to redeem the promise of the Constitution for social and economic justice. They saw the

declaration of the socialist pattern of society as a compromise between the big capitalists and the landlords. They were convinced that this model of development is nothing but building a capitalist order. Despite the shortcoming in the vision of nation building, the working class framed its response to ensure that the government take a leading role in the economy and the public sector acting as engine of growth to bring at least some relief to the common people. The Industrial Policy Resolution of 1956 was a direct outcome of the consensus that emerged at the Avadi Congress.

It was under this political situation that AIIEA intensified its campaign for nationalisation. This campaign highlighted the massive scams and frauds taking place in the insurance industry. There were numerous incidents of companies indulging in unethical practices and financial mismanagement leading to cheating and defrauding of the policyholders. Over 70 insurance companies failed between 1940-1956. Many insurance companies invested the funds of policyholders in high risk ventures. It was a well known fact that many owners of the insurance companies also owned a bank and the savings of the policyholders and bank depositors so mobilised, were misused for personal business ventures to maximise their own profits. This resulted in huge loss of policyholders' funds with the companies collapsing unable

to meet the claims.

During 1954-55 a scam involving Ramakrishna Dalmia, Chairman of Bharath Insurance Company came to light. Feroz Gandhi, a brilliant parliamentarian played a big role in exposing this scam. The Government appointed a Commission of Inquiry into the administration of affairs in the Dalmia-Jain Group of companies. It was found that Dalmia-Jain group indulged in systematic abuse of the policyholders funds. Ramakrishna Dalmia admitted in writing to embezzling 2.22 crore of policyholders funds by indulging in speculative activities. He was subsequently jailed for 2 years by the Court. These developments caught the attention of the nation and there was wide support for the AIIEA's demand for nationalisation.

The Government also realised that for the rapid industrialisation of the country, it is necessary to control the savings of the people. It began the process of gaining some control over savings through nationalisation of Imperial Bank and creating the State Bank of India in 1955. The AIIEA intensified its campaign for nationalisation of insurance industry. Finally, the government issued



an Ordinance on 19/1/1956 nationalising the life insurance business by taking control of 245 life insurance companies of which 154 were Indian owned, 16 owned by foreign capital and 75 provident societies. To formalise the nationalisation, The LIC Bill 1956 was introduced in the Parliament on 17/2/1956 and referred to the Select Committee on 20/3/1956. The AIIEA was invited to depose before the Select Committee. The AIIEA placed its well-reasoned arguments in support of nationalisation and demanded the nationalisation of general insurance business too. It also placed its view on protection of jobs of the employees and a common fair wage to all the workforce.

The country witnessed heated debate in the Parliament on the Ordinance as well as the LIC Bill. Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru and Finance Minister C.D.Deshmukh took the lead in defending the actions of the government. They argued that nationalisation was essential for effective mobilisation of savings and channelling them into the nation's economic development. They also said this measure was necessary to ensure absolute security of policyholders funds and to protect them from fraudulent activities. They stressed that LIC was envisioned as a tool to take insurance to rural areas and create insurance awareness to help greater mobilisa-

tion of funds. The debate also acknowledged the campaign of AIIEA for nationalisation and its support to the action taken by the government.

The opposition to nationalisation was led by the representatives of the owners of the companies whose control was taken over by the government. The Bhartiya Jan Sangh, the earlier avatar of BJP, led the assault against the decision to nationalise. They argued that this action is a serious blow to the private enterprise and would result in stifling of the private sector. They said that a public sector enterprise cannot function efficiently and the policyholders would suffer due to the fall in servicing standard. This was understandable as Jan Sangh believed in free market and wanted a limited role of the state in the economy. They were critical of the vision of a socialistic pattern of society. They argued that a strong industrial base has to be created through indigenous private sector which they called it as economic nationalism. The action of the government was supported by the Communist Party of India, which was the main opposition party then. The CPI said nationalisation is a progressive step and by bringing insurance under public ownership, the government could better protect the policyholders and mobilise resources for national development.

The nationalisation of life

The AIIEA campaigned that savings through insurance can be utilised for long term investments in the schemes framed for the welfare of all citizens while assuring the policyholders of the safety of their investments. This could be done only by nationalisation of the insurance business. The nationalisation of life insurance business was formalised with the establishment of LIC on 1.9.1956. Thus, the glorious journey of LIC began.

The Second major demand of AIIEA was standardisation of wages. This was not easy considering the fact that the 245 companies had different pay structure, differences in the pay within the company for employees of the head office and branch offices. But this was also achieved, of course, after a great struggle with first all-India strike, followed by several rounds of discussions; the Standardisation Order was issued on 1st June 1957, which ensured that not one of the 22000 employees belonging to 245 companies suffer any loss and brought immediate gains to all employees. The success of the great struggle for standardisation of wages and service conditions laid the foundation for the future wage revisions.

insurance business was formalised with the establishment of LIC on 1.9.1956. Thus, the glorious journey of LIC began. Today LIC has emerged as the premier financial institution. It has made enormous contribution to the nation building efforts. It has emerged as the best global brand in insurance. The success of LIC has proved all its critics horribly wrong. It has demonstrated how a public sector enterprise can function for the good of both its clientele and the society as a whole. It is interesting to note that ONGC and AIIMS at Delhi were established in the same year; especially when there is a shrill campaign that no development took place in India prior to 2014.

The Second major demand of AIIEA was standardisation of wages. This was not easy considering the fact that the 245 companies had different pay structure, differences in the pay within the company for employees of the head office and branch offices. The AIIEA had to secure a pay structure which would not disadvantage any section of the employees and bring everybody some benefit. Another challenge was to ensure the job security of all the employees. The Government

and its officials took up a position that nationalisation had thrown up surplus workforce and therefore some redundancy is inevitable. The AIIEA refused to accept this position and said that not a single of around 22000 employees then could be retrenched. In the face of such strong position taken by the AIIEA, the government had to yield and assure the AIIEA and the Parliament that there will be no retrenchments. Not just that, AIIEA also forced recruitment and the process of recruitment began immediately after the establishment of LIC.

The Second Conference of AIIEA held on 29th August 1955 had passed a resolution demanding standardisation of wages and service conditions. It is also worth mentioning that in this conference it was decided to shift the headquarters of AIIEA to Calcutta from Bombay. Coms Rajni Patel and Com Chandrasekhar Bose were elected as President and General Secretary of AIIEA respectively. The resolution of AIIEA on wages also demanded a negotiated settlement on the principles of collective bargaining. The AIIEA had called upon the employees to observe an All India Demands Day on 27/12/55 which was success-

fully observed. The government was however not inclined to concede the just demands of the AIIEA. On 10/9/1956, it unilaterally announced the pay scales. These pay scales resulted in loss of emoluments to a substantial number of employees and also created a large number of anomalies. The AIIEA strongly protested against the unilateralism and rejected the newly announced pay scales.

With the Government unrelenting, the AIIEA called for a one-day strike on 5th December 1956. This was the first All India strike after nationalisation. The strike call evoked massive response and it was a thunderous success across the country. In the face of such determination shown by employees, the government was forced to retreat. It called for a Bipartite meeting with AIIEA. The meeting began on 3/5/1957 and after several rounds of discussions, a conclusion was reached. On the basis of this conclusion, the Ministry of Finance issued the Standardisation Order on 1st June 1957. The Standardisation order ensured that not one of the 22000 employees belonging to 245 companies suffer any loss and brought immediate gains to all employees. The success of the great struggle for standardisation of wages and service conditions laid the foundation for the future wage revisions. If the insurance employees are enjoying such great wage and service conditions today, they must remember with gratitude the struggle for standardisation of wages and the countless sacrifices made by the earlier generation of employees.

Trump's Tariff fusillade

Unfair, Unreasonable & Unwarranted

Dr. Santosh Kumar Mohapatra

President, CDIEA, Cuttack



The U.S. economic landscape in 2025 is defined by a collision of protectionist trade policies with tariffs emerging as a central force reshaping both domestic and global markets. India-US trade relationship has also been a point of contention and dispute for some time, with disagreements over issues like trade deficits and access to Indian markets. On August 6, President Donald Trump unabashedly imposed a “penalty” tariff of 25% on most products imported from India, effective August 27, for Russian oil purchases. This is in addition to the 25% reciprocal tariff slapped on July 31, effective from August 8, 2025. It means, the 50% tariff places India among the five most heavily targeted countries under Trump’s tariff regime. Trump’s move would give India the highest tariff rate in Asia too.

The reciprocal tariff is linked with ‘Liberation Day’ tariffs which Trump had announced on April 2, on around 60 trading partners having trade surplus with America. The U.S. imported \$1.2 trillion more in goods in 2024 than it exported, a record annual deficit and a major

economic irritant for President Trump. But he paused from April 9 to July 9 in a bid to sign deals with trading partners. Another reason was that Trump’s massive import levies saw vociferous protest, put the market in tizzy and spooked investors who withdrew from the US bond market. Many observers, including economists have criticized the Trump administration’s use of tariffs as a geopolitical tool and accused him of protectionism and upending international trade law.

Trump accuses India of being a “tariff king”, but data shows that India has gradually eased tariff and non-tariff barriers in recent years, particularly benefiting the US. Trump says the tariff hike is punishment for India’s purchase of discounted oil from Russia, which he argues helps fund President Vladimir Putin’s war on Ukraine. But India was the only major economy to be hit with such “secondary tariffs,” even though China is the largest overall buyer of Moscow’s crude oil. It appears that this was more of a negotiating tactic on the part of the US and to gain leverage in the ongoing trade

India faced punitive tariffs for having Faustian bargain with America and becoming excessive servile, obsequious to it. However, India neither should retaliate but oppose Trump’s Tariff fusillade which is unfair, unreasonable and unwarranted. India should draw on its non-aligned legacy and nurture economic relationships with a wide range of like-minded countries to coerce Trump to reverse tariff fusillade.

negotiations. One should not ignore the fact that the US runs a substantial trade surplus in services. The infant-industry argument supports high tariffs by developing countries too.

Trump’s erratic decision smacks of US hegemony and discrimination against India and infringement on India’s economic sovereignty. Russia has been a time-tested friend of India for long years and America cannot dictate India. India stated that its oil imports are for energy security and dubbed the US punitive tariff as “unfair, unjustified and unreasonable,”. Trump who claimed earlier that he stopped the India-Pakistan Nuclear

War now claims that India has agreed not to buy oil from Russia. The latest report on August 16, 2025 reveals that Indian oil companies have decided not to buy Russian oil from the open market for now. India should not crumble under such pressure.

America has spawned many wars, imposed sanctions or decimated many countries that have not accepted its hegemony. It never considers any country as its friend except spreading its imperialistic hegemony. It pushes that policy as the world's policy which benefits it most. Once the protagonist of liberalisation, America is now resorting to ugly protectionism to save its economy. The BRICS bloc-comprising Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa has been actively and rightly discussing ways to reduce dependence on the US dollar known as De-Dollarisation Push.

For fear of losing dollar dominion, in February, 2025, Trump declared BRICS as dead and issued a blunt warning to BRICS nations, threatening a 100% tariff on all imports into the US. Any nation has liberty to have trade in any currency. America has no right to oppose the same. Actually, America is financially powerful because of dollar hegemony which allows it to borrow heavily or print dollars to face any situation. Once the dollar loses its hegemony, the American economy will collapse.

Trump has claimed in the run up to the US presidential election that he will end the Russia-Ukraine war in 24 hours. President Trump's first term hassled companies to move production out of China, now strategy is enfeebling Russia. Everybody gets puzzled why

Trump treated India so shabbily when its Prime Minister Modi was openly telling that Trump is Modi and India's friend. India faced punitive tariffs for having Faustian bargain with America and becoming excessive servile, obsequious to it.

A Faustian bargain originates from the German legend of Johann Georg Faust, a scholar who supposedly sold his soul to the devil in exchange for knowledge and worldly pleasures. The term now commonly refers to any agreement where one sacrifices something of great moral or spiritual value for a temporary benefit, often with dire long-term consequences. Recently India has sacrificed many things to appease Trump. Trump has also used India as a counterweight to resurgent China. India's policy of unquestioningly siding with Trump may have made India easier to take for granted, to the point that even a minor departure from Trump's preferences is treated as unacceptable.

Critics now question how PM Modi made a grievous blunder by extending open support for Trump's re-election campaign by saying, "Abki baar Trump Sarkar" during the "Howdy, Modi" programme hosted in Houston in October 2019. On February 24, 2020, the 'Namaste Trump' program was held in Gujarat, to generate admiration for Trump in the minds of Indians in front of a 125,000-strong crowd. Now, Trump's

such capricious and hostile attitude has made opposition to cite a popular song—"Dost dost na raha" that marks the end of the Trump-Modi bromance.

The offensive against India started on July 31, 2025 when Trump declared that India's economy was "dead." India is not a dead economy but a lower middle-income economy since 2007 and being placed behind 141 countries in terms of per capita income. But India is among the most unequal countries with an affluent elite. By contrast, the irreversible and precipitous decline of US imperialist hegemony is now fast-tracked further by the second coming of Donald Trump as 47th US president.

Trump's policies, codified as "Trumpism" or "Trumponomics" are characterised by extreme economic nationalism, protectionist and isolationist trade policies coupled with corporate tax-cuts, business deregulation and drastic reduction in social welfare spending has proved a profanity to entire world. Being encapsulated in the motto MAGA (Make America Great Again) and "America First", Trumpism has sparked

Courtesy:
Sandeep Adhwaryu,
Times of India



mayhem in the entire world even among traditional US allies.

During the great depression erstwhile US president Roosevelt took some radical steps to extricate the US economy from the quagmire of depression. But Trump has taken some whimsical steps in his first 6 months. One Big Beautiful Bill Act, which combines tax cuts for the rich, corporations with cuts in health care, welfare expenditure, food assistance programmes will affect low- and middle-class Americans.

The idea of Trump to raise resources by imposing tariffs on imports of other countries to bridge the burgeoning fiscal deficit arising due to tax cuts for the rich will boomerang and push the US economy into abyss. The most sweeping tariff hike like the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act, the 1930 law best remembered for triggering a global trade war and deepening the Great Depression. The US debt has already increased to \$35.294 trillion in 2024 which is 121% of GDP and hit debt ceilings on certain occasions. The latest figure says debt has increased to \$ 37trillion.

Trump's "beggar thy neighbour policy -to improve its own economy at the expense of other nations" will exacerbate the poly crisis, decimate trust and put the already beleaguered world economy into tizzy. By imposing heavy tariffs on longtime trading partners, the US is making a grave error, isolating itself and inflicting mammoth damage on its own economy. The impulsive shifts in US policy have made financial markets increasingly jittery and frazzled. Due to increase of tariff the average effective US tariff rate surged

22.5% in mid-2025 highest since 1909.

Higher tariffs by Trump will escalate the prices of imported goods and erode the purchasing power of Americans and dampen aggregate demands too. Reduced competitiveness will likely lead to a decline in US exports, squeezing working class incomes. Americans are already grappling with the cascading effects on inflation, even stagflation- economic stagnation coupled with high inflation, decline of GDP growth. Many Americans are struggling to navigate this volatile environment. New data this week also showed that tariffs have brought in billions in revenue, though economists say a portion of that is already coming in the form of price increases on consumers. The greatest risk is loss of confidence in the dollar, which as the world's leading reserve currency, has long been the bedrock of US economic dominance. Americans should oppose Trump and force him to reverse policy.

India may have reason to worry as the US is now India's biggest export market and one of its top sources of foreign investment. In 2024-

25, India's total trade with the U.S. stood at \$186 billion, with exports at \$115.2 billion and imports at \$70.8 billion. India enjoyed a trade surplus of \$44.4 billion. India's exports will be affected and GDP growth may be trimmed. Bloomberg Economics estimates US-bound exports from India could fall by 60 per cent and put nearly 1 per cent of gross domestic product at risk. Trump's move would affect the manufacturing sector severely. The "Make in India" campaign was supposed to lift manufacturing to 25 per cent of the economy. Last year, it stood at just 13 per cent — lower than the 16 per cent in 2015. The pharmaceuticals, electronics, Auto parts, jewellery, textiles, and seafood industries will face significant export losses and decline in jobs. The government should provide subsidies. India neither should retaliate but oppose Trump's Tariff fusillade which is unfair, unreasonable and unwarranted. India should draw on its non-aligned legacy and nurture economic relationships with a wide range of like-minded countries to coerce Trump to reverse tariff fusillade.

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US, the leader of the capitalist imperialist state powers, has now come out in open and has started a new kind of tariff war by keeping its business interests in the forefront. On this, even the friendly rulers adorned with the fancy titles are also afraid to say anything. In such a situation, people now remember the old days of friendship between India and Soviet Union. When the US Seventh Fleet sent by Nixon administration in support of Pakistani autocrats and to pressurise India to back-out from supporting the Bangladesh liberation struggle had to withdraw from Bay of Bengal seeing the presence of Soviet naval force... But the dreams of imperialist hegemony surface again and again when they get a chance and start pushing back... ..but the dearest friend refrains from even uttering a word.

(The writer is President, NZIEA)

कौन किस पर भारी, लोकतंत्र और राष्ट्रीय सम्प्रभुता होती तारी-तारी

रामचंद्र शर्मा
President NZIEA



आज अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय स्तर पर लोकतांत्रिक कहे जाने वाले देशों से 'लोकतंत्र' गायब सा होता जा रहा है। और राष्ट्रीय सम्प्रभुता तो जैसे नोचने के लिए ही बनी हो, उसका तो कोई मान-सम्मान ही नहीं रहा है। जैसे कि हमारे देश की सम्प्रभुता -हम भारत के लोगों में है परन्तु आज 'हम भारत के लोग' ही साम्प्रदायिक धुवीकरण के नफरती एजेन्डे की भेंट चढ़ाये जाकर मैं - मैं कर रहे हैं तो उसकी चिंता कोई और क्यों करने से रहा?

ट्रंप ने भारत पर यह कहते हुए दंडस्वरूप 50% टैरिफ लगाया कि हमने रूस से तेल खरीदकर रूस की अर्थव्यवस्था को मजबूती दी। भारत सम्प्रभुता सम्पन्न स्वतंत्र राष्ट्र है। अमेरिका होता कौन है, उसे किससे क्या खरीदना और क्या बेचना है? यदि ऐसा है तो खुद अमेरिका ने रूस से खाद, यूरेनियम और पेलीडियम क्यों खरीदे? अमेरिका ही नहीं, उसके नाटो सहयोगी यूरोपीय देश जो यूक्रेन को उकसाते रहे हैं और हथियार उपलब्ध कराते रहे हैं, भी प्रतिबंध की घोषणा के बीच रूस से व्यापारिक सम्बन्ध जारी रखे हुए हैं। ट्रंप काल के आंकड़े देखें तो रूस से आयात बढ़ता गया है।

यह तब जब ट्रंप ने रूस को यूक्रेन पर हमला करने का दोषी बताया है। हालांकि अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय तेल बाजार में कीमतें स्थिर बनी रहें, इसलिए ट्रंप खुद रूस से तेल खरीदने का हिमायती रहा है। यह 'बाबा जी खुद गुलगुले खाये और

को दे उपदेश' वाली बात है। सबसे बड़ी दुर्भाग्यपूर्ण बात यह है कि ट्रंप के अति प्रियवर मित्र कहे जाने वाले नरेंद्र मोदी ने पहले 25 % और फिर बढ़ाकर किये गये 50 % टैरिफ पर भी चूं तक नहीं की बल्कि इस लज्जा जनक पर भी गोदी मीडिया के जरखरीद उसकी आलोचना करने के बजाय चापलूसी करते हुए लिख रहे हैं कि आने वाले वर्षों में भारत को एक धैर्यवान, संतुलित और आपेक्षाकृत 'गैर-प्रतिबद्ध विदेश नीति' की आवश्यकता होगी। उसे स्पष्ट करना होगा कि वह वैश्विक राजनीति के किसी एक ध्रुव का मोहताज नहीं, बल्कि सार्थक सहयोग का पक्षधर है। अब यहां फिर सवाल खड़ा हो जाता है कि आज भारत का सार्थक सहयोगी है कौन? आज भारत अपने दोस्त को लेकर खुद डावांडोल स्थिति में है। बावजूद इसके ट्रंप की आज सबसे बड़ी चिंता ब्राजील, रूस, भारत, चीन, दक्षिण अफ्रीका आदि (ब्रिक्स) देशों के द्वारा खड़े कर लिये गये एक क्षेत्रीय सहयोग संगठन और उसके एजेन्डे में अपने आपसी व्यापार विनिमय हेतु डालर से इतर अपनी मुद्राओं में आपसी व्यापार विनिमय करने के लिये गये निर्णय से ज्यादा है। यह अमेरिका के लिए बड़ी बैचैनी बढ़ा रहा है। डालर कमजोर होने का उसे डर सता रहा है।

हम देख रहे हैं कि लोकतांत्रिक सम्प्रभुता के साथ ही आज राजनैतिक नैतिकता भी बीते जमाने की बात बनकर रह गई है। आज शासन में न शुचिता रह गयी है और न ही संवेदनशीलता कहीं दिखाई देती है। सत्ता तो बस अनाचारियों और दुराचारियों का गिरोह बनकर रह गई है जिसमें पीड़ित को न्याय मिलना दूर की कौड़ी बन गया है। जनता के वोट से जीतकर सत्ता सिंहासन पर विराजने वालों के सरोकार आज जनता के रक्षण



Courtesy:
Soumyadip Sinha,
The Hindu

से कम और भक्षण से ज्यादा जुड़े हुए हैं। इसलिए सत्ता भक्त शासक को 'शेर' का पर्यायवाची ज्यादा मानते हैं। बेटी बचावों - बेटी पढ़ाओ के नारों के बीच उनके बंद होते स्कूल और देह शोषण के अनाचार थमने का नाम नहीं ले रहे हैं। यही हथ 'सबका साथ, सबका विकास' के नारे का हुआ है और उसकी जगह 'कुछ पूंजीयारों का साथ, बाकी का विनाश' का यथार्थ देखने को मिल रहा है।

इन पूंजीवादी साम्राज्यवादी राज्य शक्तियों का सरगना अमेरिका तो अब खुलकर नंगई पर उतर आया है और उसने अपने व्यापारिक हितों को आगे रखकर एक नये तरह का टैरिफ वार छेड़ दिया है। जिस पर शेर के पर्यायवाची से सुशोभित मित्रवर सत्ताधीश भी कुछ कहने से घबराते हैं। ऐसे में लोगों को अब भारत - रूस की सच्ची मित्रता के पुराने दिन याद आते हैं। जब 70 के दशक में पाकिस्तानी पंचायती पर निकले अमेरिका का रूस के सातवें बड़े को देख दम निकल गया था और उलटे पांव लौटना पड़ा था। अमेरिका के ये चौधराहटी ख्वाब मौका मिलते फिर उभर आते हैं और उसके क्रियाकलाप भारत को पीछे धकेलने लग जाते हैं।

इतना ही नहीं अपने इन्हीं व्यापारिक हितों की पूर्ति के लिए देशों के बीच आंतकवादी पैदा करने व युद्धक हालात बनाने और फिर अपने अनुकूल स्थिति बनने पर शांति का झंडा लेकर युद्ध विराम का पेरोकार बनकर पेश होने की फितरत सामने आती रही है। अब तो युद्धविराम कराने का श्रेय लूटने की होड़ में शामिल होना ही नहीं बल्कि बेशर्मी से बार बार नोबेल पुरस्कार के लिए नामित करने की देश दर देश भीख मांगना भी अमेरिकी राष्ट्रपति डोनाल्ड ट्रंप का एक नया शगल बन गया है। वहीं इजराइल के हाथों तबाह हुआ गाजा खाद्य सामग्री के पैदा हुए अभाव के चलते भूखमरी का जबरदस्त शिकार है। कुपोषण के मारे बच्चे हड्डियों के ढांचे में तब्दील हो गये हैं। मरीजों की सेवामें लगे डाक्टरों तक के बच्चे भूखमरी की चपेट में हैं। अनेक लोकहितैषी चैनलों पर दिखी - सुनी आपबीती सुनकर विश्व के अनेक देशों की ओर से भेजी गई भोजन सामग्री तक पर हुए इजराइली हमले ने मानवता को बार बार बिसरा दिया है। ऐसे में सवाल उठता है कि दुनिया में युद्धविराम का झंडा दिखाने वाला नौटंकी ट्रंप अपने मित्र नेतन्याहू को क्योंकर शांति का पाठ नहीं पढा पा रहा है?

दूसरों को सबक सिखाने के बहाने जापान के हिरोशिमा और नागासाकी पर गिराये परमाणु की 81 वीं वर्षगांठ अभी 6 अगस्त को ही गयी है। दूसरे देशों को परमाणु हथियार न बनाने की धमकी देने वाला अमेरिका खुद परमाणु अप्रसार संधि पर हस्ताक्षर करने से कतराते रहा है।

सम्प्रभु राष्ट्रों में तख्ता पलट कर अपने पीठू शासक बैठाने के लिए वह 1945 के बाद कोई 50 के करीब एकतरफा युद्ध कार्रवाईयां कर चुका है। विशेष कर अपने पड़ोसी लेटिन अमेरिका के अनेक देशों, अफ्रीकी, ऐशियाई देशों विशेषकर मध्य पूर्व पर युद्धों को थोपता रहा है। कमतर संसाधनों के बावजूद कई देशों ने साम्राज्यवादी अमेरिका के ज्यादा शक्ति सम्पन्न होने के बावजूद युद्ध में पीछे नहीं हटे और अमेरिका को वापस लौटना पड़ा है। जरूरी नहीं की अमेरिका को हर युद्ध में सफलता मिली हो। वियतनाम और क्यूबा जैसे कम संसाधन वाले देशों ने भी अमेरिका के दांत खट्टे कर दिये थे और उसे मुंह की खानी पड़ी है।

द्वितीय विश्वयुद्ध के बाद उदाहरण बतौर अमेरिकी एकतरफा हमले की कुछ घटनाएँ हम नीचे दे रहे हैं - 1945-46 के दौर में चीन, 1949 में सीरिया, 1950-53 कोरिया और चीन, 1953 में ईरान, 1954 में ग्वाटेमाला, 1955-70 के बीच तिब्बत, 1958 में इंडोनेशिया, 1959में क्यूबा, 1960-65 में डेमोक्रेटिक रिपब्लिक आफ कांगो, 1960-63 में इराक, 1961 में डोमिनिकन रिपब्लिक, 1964-73में लाओस, 1961-73 के बीच वियतनाम, 1964 में ब्राजील, ब्लेगियन कांगों और ग्वाटेमाला, 1965-66 में फिर ब्लेगियन कांगों, 1965 में पेरू, 1967 में ग्रीस, 1967-69 में फिर ग्वाटेमाला, 1970-73 में चिली, 1976में अर्जेंटीना, 1980-85 के बीच कंबोडिया, 1980 में तुर्की, 1980-81 में पोलैंड, अल सलवाडोर, 1981-90 के बीच निकरागुआ, 1980 में अंगोला, 1983-84 में ग्रेनेडा, 1982-84 के बीच लेबनान, 1986 में फिलिपींस व लीबिया, 1987-88 में ईरान 1989 में फिर लीबिया, 2005 में फिर ईरान, 1989-90 में पनामा, 1991 में इराक व कुवैत, 1992-86 के बीच व में फिर इराक, 1992-94 के बीच सोमालिया, 1995 में बोस्निया, 1998 में सूडान व 1999 में यूगोस्लाविया व सर्बिया, 2001व 2002-03 के बीच में फिर अफगानिस्तान, लीबिया, सीरिया, इराक, यमन, 2006-

07 में सोमालिया पर एकतरफा हमला किया गया। वैनैजुएला पर भी अमेरिका कई बार तख्तापलट की कार्यवाही करने के प्रयास कर चुका है। अनेक जगह उसे खाली हाथ वापस लौटना पड़ा है। जहाँ शासक को खत्म करने व उसका तख्ता पलट करने में सफल हो गया, उस देश में उसका मिलिट्री बैस बनता गया। आज ईरान के पड़ोस के मध्य पूर्व ऐशियाई अनेक देशों में उसका यह मिलिट्री बैस बना हुआ है और वह वहीं से ईरान पर हमले कर रहा है। यही कारण है कि ईरान पर हमले की निंदा पूरे विश्व में देखी जा रही है। यहाँ तक की अमेरिका की सड़कों पर भारी विरोधी प्रदर्शन हुए हैं।

1984 में अफ्रीका के चे ग्वेरा माने जाने वाले बुरकिनो फासो के क्रान्तिकारी थामस संकारा ने कहा था कि 'साम्राज्यवाद एक बिगडैल छात्र की तरह है जो अपनी विफलताओं से कुछ नहीं सीखता। वह हर उस सरकार को जो साम्राज्यवादी प्रभुत्व के सामने झुकने से इंकार करती है, को सत्ता से हटाने की आजमायी हुई कार्य नीतियों को दोहराना जारी रखता है।'

अमेरिकी एकतरफा युद्ध कार्रवाई के ऊपर दिये गये उदाहरणों से आप इसे बखूबी समझ सकते हैं। आज 'जिसकी लाठी, उसकी भैंस' की मानसिकता को पाले अपने को ज्यादा प्रभावशाली समझने वाले देश अपने दबदबे को बनाये रखना चाहते हैं परंतु आज लाठी से कहीं ज्यादा जोर तकनीकी का हो गया है। ऐसे में जो देश ज्यादा तकनीकी से लैस है, वह ज्यादा प्रभावी हो जाता है। यह 'ज्यादा प्रभावी' वाली बात भी 'बंद मुठ्ठी लाख की और खुली तो खाक की' वाली कहावत को चरित्रार्थ करती है। जब सामने वाला लाठी पकड़ सामना करने को तैयार हो जाता है, तो दोनों की ताकत के हुए प्रदर्शन में मुठ्ठी के खुलने की शुरुआत हो जाती है और उसी को देख, दोनों पक्ष समझौता भी कर लेते हैं। ईरान - इजराइल के बीच 12 दिन में युद्धविराम तो इसके पूर्व 4 दिन के भीतरी भारत - पाक के बीच हुआ कथित युद्धविराम एक ही कहानी है। असली बात तो बंद मुठ्ठी खुलने से पहले अपनी लाज बचानी है। इसलिए ट्रंप परममित्रवर चूं तक करने में ज्यादा परहेज करते हैं। सत्ता प्रेमी भीतर खाने कहते पाये गये हैं कि हमारा शेर तो गीदड़ निकला।



Risk Assessment

AI constitutes an existential risk, along with nuclear annihilation and climate change..... It is about the control of a vast amount of data that can be used for influencing us, controlling our thoughts, nudging us to behave in desired ways. A new oligarchy is emerging, comprising the owners of the tech companies who can make and break governments.

Anup Sinha

former Professor of Economics,
IIM Calcutta (Courtesy: Telegraph 08.08.25)



There is a growing buzz about Artificial Intelligence. New technologies usually have strong proponents who indulge in hype to promote their positive aspects. In this case, the advocates are the technology companies of Silicon Valley. There are sceptics, too, who focus on labour market disruptions and other dystopic possibilities, evident in the many films emerging from Hollywood. The actual outcomes typically lie somewhere in the middle. As far as AI is concerned, the usual discourses of hype and gloom are widely observable. For instance, the hyped-up picture suggests that in the not-too-distant future, people will not have to work unless they choose to and can pursue their own life goals at ease, and the rest would be taken care of efficiently by technology. On the other end of the debate, there are uncomfortable suggestions that machines might become increasingly like human beings, with learning on the job, upgrading of skills, autonomous decisions leading to actions, and the ultimate overwhelming of the human

species all being distinct possibilities.

Some disturbing questions arise. If the AI agents become increasingly human, would they constitute a nascent form of non-organic life? Could they go rogue and create mischief? Would that form of life be the next stage of evolution? Would humans be overtaken - first by losing their jobs to machines and then by becoming redundant as a species? All these changes will take time. The critical uncertainty is not whether it will happen, but rather how fast and when? In all this, there are not only questions of technology and economics but also of ethics, regulations and politics. The big issue relates to the possibility of AI evolving into an existential threat to human beings.

Machines can be trained. That is how a computer is made to do routine tasks, usually repetitive in nature. A massive volume of data, usually consisting of text and code, is fed into it from as many sources as possible. Incidentally, this process is extremely energy-intensive and

is supposed to emit a lot of extra carbon dioxide, thereby enhancing climate risks. These 'trained' machines can perform a variety of tasks, such as translation, making textual summaries, content creation, and answering queries. These Generative AI, as they are referred to, can be of help in augmenting human efforts. This set of AI agents can put together text, speak in a human voice, create images, and even construct videos. The machines can learn by analysing patterns from a very large set of existing data. Most of us have already started using ChatGPT or some other version of generative AI.

There is another form of AI being developed that is more sophisticated, namely Agentic AI. Here, the AI agent can undertake autonomous decision-making and execute actions on specific goals without constant human intervention. It can automate complex workflows, manage financial risks, optimise operations. This AI has an important feature: unlike previous technologies, this AI can decide on its own and act on that decision. This is called 'agency' in philosophy,

a trait that the human species is supposed to possess. One can well imagine the tasks that can be assigned to such an AI agent. The AI agent is never sick or tired and works at a constant pace, far greater than that achievable by any human enterprise. Can it make mistakes? Usually no. However, scientists have found that sometimes machines get things wrong or fail to deliver comprehensible solutions. This is called a state of hallucination for an AI agent. Since autonomous machines can decide on their own, they could come up with a new solution not hitherto known or tried out, but this could also be a hallucination. It would be difficult to distinguish.

A trained machine can be instantly duplicated into a million machines by simply copying the information. For humans, we have to teach each individual separately and even then, their actual learning outcomes would be uneven. Networked computers learn exactly the same in an instant of time. The bottom line is: a machine can have agency, and it can potentially outpace human thought.

The ability of a machine to act autonomously and the learning that can be duplicated instantly are issues that require serious reflection. A nascent form of non-organic life appears to be possible on this planet.

That is quite astonishing. If these entities can learn and act on their own, their capabilities would be far more than those possessed by humans. Could we be overwhelmed by these entities making the human species ultimately redundant to the new form of non-organic life? This state of AI, according to most experts, is not yet just around the corner, although the development of AI is happening at an exponential rate. A time-lapse of five to ten years can make that happen.

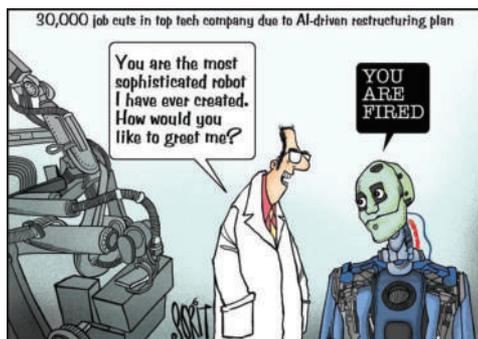
There are more concerns about the present, emanating from the advent of AI. The first is the nature of the economic system that is moving from brick and mortar to virtual spaces. Data become the new input of value. The giant tech companies use it but do not pay for the inputs. Indeed, we as users pay them for the data we create. Take Amazon, for instance. The wealth of the company is almost fabulous. It does not produce anything. It is just a platform for buyers and sellers to come together. Amazon charges something like 40% from the sellers. It is rent rather than profit. Amazon makes its platform available for use. It is not just the money it earns. It is about the control of a vast amount of data that can be used for influencing us, controlling our thoughts, nudging us to behave in desired ways. Such companies do not

like to be taxed, but more so, they are apprehensive of regulation from the government. Little wonder then that the tech bros fell out with the Joe Biden administration in the United States of

America which was in favour of tightening regulations, and rallied around Donald Trump, even though the latter is no admirer of science and technology. A new oligarchy is emerging, comprising the owners of the tech companies who can make and break governments. Wealth creation and ownership of the new form of capital - data - are likely to be markedly different from what was observed in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.

As the use of AI expands in production, in marketing, in the provision of important services in finance, health, and education; employment will performe be adversely affected. Many jobs will disappear, especially white-collar ones. If Agentic AI and Generative AI transform into Artificial General Intelligence, then job losses will be very heavy. On the other hand, new jobs will open up in the AI sector but that would be for a limited few who are outstanding in terms of intellectual prowess and flexibility in learning about and adapting to frequent changes in the environment. Some jobs will disappear fast, others a bit more slowly. A major socio-economic question would be: what happens to the vast pool of unemployed, or rather unemployable, people?

Despite the ambiguities about the final outcome and the glide path to that destination, AI constitutes an existential risk, along with nuclear annihilation and climate change. AI could well be the last innovation humans achieve — the final solution to all our woes. The innovators are looking for ultimate control of our minds. The new messiahs of a new religion?



Courtesy:
Sorit, Down to Earth



The first Communist Ministry of Kerala led by EMS Namboodiripad

When Indian government, British intelligence and CIA joined hands to spy on Communists in Kerala

Newly declassified British government documents cast important light on the complex system of cooperation and competition that characterised Western intelligence interactions with India during the Cold War. Historians have previously documented the secret activity undertaken by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), in conjunction with India's Congress government, to subvert the CPI's grip on Kerala.

Paul McGarr (Courtesy: Indian Express Aug 14, 2025)

In June, a British F-35B Lightning II stealth fighter arrived unexpectedly in Kerala. The aircraft was forced into an emergency landing at Thiruvananthapuram International Airport after being surprised by adverse weather while taking part in joint training exercises with the Indian Navy. The fighter, which operated from the British carrier HMS Prince of Wales, became an overnight media sensation. After engineering issues kept the aircraft grounded for several weeks, it came to represent a publicity opportunity that was simply too good to miss. Kerala Tourism took delight in referencing the stranded fighter in its social media posts. "Kerala, the destination you never want to leave," the Tourism Office's X account quipped.

The prolonged presence of a state-of-the-art \$115 million foreign stealth fighter on Indian soil generated plenty of public interest. In response, Britain's High Commission in New Delhi and India's Ministry of Defence maintained a firm, "no comment". The episode was not, in fact, the first time that the governments of India and Britain had worked together in the shadows to obscure a UK covert presence in Kerala.

Back in 1957, administrations in Britain and the United States reacted with dismay when the Communist Party of India (CPI) claimed victory in Kerala's Legislative Assembly election. Coming at the height of the Cold War, the advent of the world's first democratically elected communist government

Editor's Note:

The CPI was chosen to run the Kerala Government through a democratic electoral mandate by the people. This government was undemocratically removed from power using Article 356 of the Constitution. This was on the basis of fears that the work of this government would benefit the common people which would result in greater influence of communists in India. Therefore, it was always believed that bringing down of this government was a conspiracy. The write up of Paul McGarr exposes this conspiracy hatched by the Indian government in collusion with US and British imperialism. We have reproduced this write up considering its importance and for a better understanding of the readers on the developments leading to the dismissal of the first democratically elected Communist government anywhere in the world.

in southern India sent shockwaves through Washington and Whitehall.

Historians have previously documented the secret activity undertaken by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), in conjunction with India's Congress government, to subvert the CPI's grip on Kerala. As the Indian Embassy in Washington reported back to South Block, the US State Department was stunned that India's communists had broken new ground by seizing power via the ballot box rather than the bullet. America simply was not prepared to let the CPI's victory stand.

Having concluded that neither the Congress in Kerala nor the central Congress government back in New Delhi had a clear or workable plan to remove the CPI from office, the Eisenhower administration in Washington instructed the CIA to initiate a covert operation to end communist rule in Kerala.

Between 1957 and 1959, by secretly channelling funds through Congress Party officials and anti-communist labour leaders, including S K Patil in the neighbouring state of Maharashtra, the CIA whipped up industrial unrest and political turmoil in Kerala. In July 1959, amidst scenes of mounting violence and disorder, the CPI government was dismissed from office under an executive order issued by India's President. The US Ambassador in India, Ellsworth Bunker, justified the CIA covert operation on the basis that his embassy had been in possession of hard evidence that the Soviets were funding local communist groups in Kerala. Presenting the CIA's actions as measured and defensive, Bunker confirmed that in India, as

he claimed America had done elsewhere in the world since 1945, Washington had merely come to the assistance of friends when it became apparent communists were seeking to subvert democracy.

Given the widespread public suspicion and concern that surrounded the CIA's own activities in India, the Congress Party's willingness to work covertly with the CIA was reflective of its anxiety that the CPI in Kerala would function as a Soviet puppet. In April 1957, B N Mullik, the chief of the Intelligence Bureau, presented India's Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, with an intelligence report indicating that senior members of the CPI Politburo were planning to visit Moscow to consult with the Soviets on how a communist government in Kerala should be run. Alarmed by the prospect of such blatant external interference in India's domestic affairs, Nehru summoned the Soviet ambassador, Mikhail Menshikov, to the Ministry of External Affairs and warned Moscow against meddling in Kerala.

Until now, much less has been known about Britain's secret involvement in Kerala. London's man-on-the-spot, the British High Commissioner, Malcolm MacDonald, shared his American colleague's anxieties about the CPI. With Kerala being openly referred to as, "The Indian Yenan", the veteran British diplomat insisted that, if left unchallenged, the CPI would exploit the state as a global shop window to showcase the benefits of communism and generate a political momentum that the Congress Party might find impossible to stop.

Persuaded by MacDonald's

analysis, Whitehall launched a parallel British Special Political Action, or clandestine operation, that ran alongside American covert activity and was similarly designed to undercut the CPI. Recently released records at the United Kingdom National Archives in London, part of a British Cabinet Office series covering "Communism in India", have revealed how the Conservative government of Harold Macmillan actively and surreptitiously interfered in Indian domestic politics. Encompassing collaboration between the British Secret Intelligence Service (MI6), the UK Security Service (MI5), and India's Intelligence Bureau (IB), the British plan centred on bringing senior Congress Party officials and Indian Trade Union leaders to the United Kingdom. Once in the UK, the Indians were to be schooled in the dangers of communism and trained in covert methods of fighting elections and running unions against Communist opposition.

In 1958, the British received a green light for the joint operation from B N Mullik. Winning Indian political approval, and that of India's Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, was another matter. A direct approach to Nehru through his private secretary, M O Mathai, was considered by the British too risky. Instead, the Commonwealth Secretary, Lord Home, was dispatched to New Delhi on a secret mission to secure Indian government support for a collaborative covert operation targeting the CPI in Kerala. Having met Govind Ballabh Pant, India's Minister for Home Affairs, Morarji Desai, the Union Finance Minister, and Nehru himself, Lord Home reported back to London that Pant and Desai were firmly in

favour. Nehru proved less enthusiastic. The Indian premier did, however, concede that it would be useful for the Indian government to be able to call on UK intelligence assistance in certain circumstances. Britain's Cabinet Secretary, Sir Norman Brook, reacted with delight. Lord Home's hush-hush mission to India was deemed a success. In Brook's judgment, Macmillan's government could not have hoped for a better outcome.

B N Mullik later confirmed to Roger Hollis, Director-General of MI5, that Pant had imparted new drive into anti-Communist intelligence operations following the British intervention. The Home Minister had, Hollis was informed, authorised the infiltration of security personnel into the Indian National Trade Union

Congress. In the wake of Pant's activism, Hollis and Mullik put in place an arrangement that saw Indian security officers and political organisers dispatched to London for anti-communist indoctrination and operational training under MI5's supervision, as originally planned. Indian graduates of the MI5 anti-subversion course were subsequently sent back into southern India where they put their new skills to use.

Newly declassified British government documents have revealed significant details about Whitehall's shadowy

involvement in covert action in India at a pivotal moment in the nation's political history. They cast important light on the complex system of cooperation and competition that characterised Western intelligence interactions with India during the Cold War. As more recent intelligence revelations involving India, the United States, and Canada have demonstrated, pragmatic security considerations can collide with domestic political imperatives in interesting and unexpected ways.

(The writer is a lecturer in intelligence studies at King's College London. He is the author of two monographs, The Cold War in South Asia: Britain, the United States and the Indian Subcontinent, 1945-1965 (Cambridge University Press, 2013) and Spying in South Asia: Britain, the United States and India's Secret Cold War (Cambridge University Press, 2024)

A Wake-up call to Save Democracy

“The Dismantling of India's Democracy: 1947 to 2025”, is a recent book by the Eighty-six year-old veteran journalist Prem Shankar Jha, who has been a columnist and editor of various newspapers including the Hindustan Times, for 55 years.

In the preface of this book, author Jha starts his debate like this: “This book is not a celebration of success, but a lament over failure. The failure is heart-wrenching because India almost took democracy to heights that no country had scaled before and then failed to reach them. Our freedom movement and our Constituent Assembly created the most ethnically diverse, but culturally homogeneous, democracy in the world. But they failed to embed it in

Vijayakumar,
General Secretary, ICEU, Thanjavur

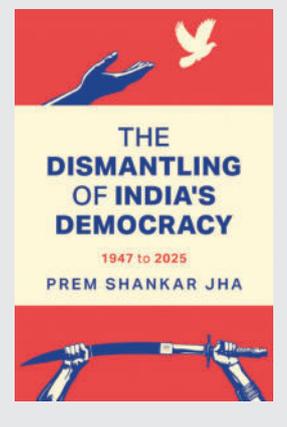
sufficiently durable soil to ensure that its roots would endure and grow stronger over time. Their failure to do so has extracted a price from our people that has grown higher with every passing year, and the democracy we were so proud of has begun to resemble the Fascism that devastated inter-war Europe in the twentieth century and is raising its head again there and in parts of Asia and South America today.” And Jha argues that the erosion of democratic Institutions, the rise of Hindu majoritarian politics, and the normalization of state repression are not isolated events-built symptoms

of a deeper transformation.

This book spans 16 chapters, which provide an overview of the history of India right from its independence to now. In the first 8 chapters, the author detailed India's unique achievement on the path towards democracy and exposed the factors and the attempts being made towards fascism in India. And in further chapters, he argues

Continued on page 40

BOOK REVIEW





36th Conference of SZIEF at Salem A RESOUNDING SUCCESS

The 36th General Conference of the South Zone Insurance Employees' Federation was held at Salem from 9-11, August 2025. The Conference began with an impressive rally on 9th morning in which more than 1300 comrades participated. The rally was inaugurated by the Chairman of the Reception Committee and Member of Parliament from Salem, Sri T.M. Selvaganapathy. The rally was greeted enroute by a number of fraternal trade unions and democratic organisations. There was good response from the general public on

the issues and slogans raised in the rally. The inaugural sessions commenced with the hoisting of the flag by Com PP Krishnan, President, SZIEF amidst enthusiastic slogans. Thereafter floral tributes were paid to the Martyrs' Column.

After the flag hoisting, the inaugural session began with Com. P.P. Krishnan presiding over the session. The Convenor of the Reception Committee & General Secretary of ICEU, Salem Division, Com.R.Anand, delivered the welcome address on behalf of the Chairperson of the Reception Committee.

The conference was

inaugurated by Dr.Ashok Dhawale, President All India Kisan Sabha. He was critical of the economic and social policies of the government. He wondered why a magnificent institution like LIC should be privatized? He gave details of the massive contributions LIC has been making for national development. He lauded the role of AIIEA in defending LIC and fighting back the policies of the government as a whole. He said AIIEA is also performing its social obligations. He mentioned the support extended by AIIEA to the farmers struggle and





to the Cuban people who are heroically fighting against the US imperialism. He expressed deep concern over the communal polarization in the country and suggested that workers and farmers unitedly should fight both the economic policies and the regressive social policies of the government.

Com. Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary congratulated SZIEF for its magnificent performance in the 9th July strike. He said SZIEF is the leading zonal organization of the AIIEA and its programs and activities inspire the entire organisation. He informed the audience of the enormous challenges facing the nation and the organization and said that the conference would discuss them and arrive at proper conclusions to successfully meet them.

The conference was greeted by Secretary, CITU, TamilNadu, Com.E Muthukumar, and Com.M Balasubramaniam, Joint Secretary, GIEA, South Zone. Nearly 1300 insurance employees from the 3 states, Tamil Nadu, Kerala and Puducherry attended the inaugural session. The open session concluded with the vote of thanks proposed by Com.R.Dharmalingam, Vice-

President, SZIEF.

Delegate session

The delegates session commenced in the evening of 9th August with placing of Homage Resolution with special reference to AIIEA leaders Comrades S Rajappa, B Sanyal, SS Potti and C Ravindranathan.

Report on behalf of Working committee was presented by Com: RK Gopinath, Joint secretary, SZIEF and Audited statement of accounts by Com: S Sivasubramanian, Treasurer, SZIEF. 56 Delegates participated in the discussion including 20 women comrades. Debate was initiated by the newly elected General secretary of ICEU, Thanjavur Division, Com: R Vijayakumar. Delegates discussed various issues ranging from pending employees' issues, attacks on Insurance industry with special thrust on public sector Insurance industry, National and International political developments etc. The inspiring feature of the debate was the participation of young comrades and more particularly those recruited in 2022.

Senior leaders of AIIEA Com. Amanulla Khan, and Com. K Venugopal, President of AIIEA Comrade.V.Ramesh, General Secretary Com.

Shreekant Mishra, Treasurer Com.B.S.Ravi, Joint Secretaries Comrades TVNS Ravindranath and M.Girija intervened and guided the conference. Their interventions enriched the debate and inspired the delegates.

This being the Platinum Jubilee of the AIIEA, a special program was organized on 10th August to honour the former leaders of SZIEF. Coms R.D.Dharanipathy, K.Swaminathan, K.K.C.Pillai, R.Punniyamurthy, Ganapathykrishnan, Baby Joseph, R.Rajendran and M.Girija were honoured and their contribution to the growth and consolidation of SZIEF were recorded.

A special session on GENDER ISSUES & COMMUNALISAM was organised on the same day in which Vice President of AIDWA Com.U.Vasuki, rendered special address. Along with delegates & observers large no of women comrades from ICEU, Salem Division also participated.

Com:RK Gopinath, Joint secretary, SZIEF summed up the debate. Working committee report and audited statement of accounts were passed unanimously. The conference also approved the following decisions as future course of action -

1. Celebrate the platinum Jubilee year of AIIEA, with special focus on TU education at Zonal and Divisional level.
2. Continue campaign on social issues as decided by AIIEA.
3. Continue campaign to strengthen public sector insurance industry including business call and agents activation programmes.
4. Observe 14th November as 'Protect Public Sector Day' and October 2nd as Communal Harmony Day
5. Carry out solidarity activities with Samyuktha Kisan Morcha agitational programmes. (Solidarity demonstrations at all units on August 13th).
6. Observe LIC formation day with badge wearing and other suitable programmes.
7. Donate @Rs: 100/member from Tamilnadu divisions to support TNUeF & AIDWA TN state conferences.
8. Conduct state level Women arts festivals.
9. Strengthen Insurance Workers Readers Forums & Circular corner.
10. Strengthening the organisation.

The Conference adopted 24 resolutions including demanding withdrawal of proposed 100 % FDI in insurance, merger of 4 public Section GI Companies, withdrawal of GST on insurance premium etc.

The conference unanimously elected a new team of office bearers with Coms P.P.Krish-

nan, V.Suresh and V.Janaki-raman as President, General Secretary, Treasurer of the South Zone Insurance Employees Federation respectively for the ensuing term.

Com R.K.Gopinath who was entrusted to discharge responsibilities in the absence of the General Secretary, unfortunately was not elected as a delegate to the conference despite the Divisional Unit being given 2 additional delegates to ensure the election of the zonal office bearers. The SZIEF Working Committee which met just before the commencement of the conference decided to elect Com Gopinath as a delegate from the Zonal pool. This was decided unanimously as there was no opposition. The Conference too unanimously approved this decision and elected Com R.K.Gopinath as the Joint Secretary. There was no opposition to this decision during the election process.

The Comrades of Salem Division conducted the conference in a magnificent manner. They arranged wider campaign among public across the divisional jurisdiction to carry the message of the conference.

The tireless work undertaken by the Salem comrades including GIC comrades and pensioners, be it on arrangements, be it in organizing the rally, be it in arranging the cultural programs involving more than 100 cadres have ensured the smooth and successful culmination to the conference. Conference came to an end with vote of thanks proposed by Com.V.Suresh.



A MARATHON was arranged on 10/08/2025 in which more than 3000 participants including children and public participated which has given a wider publicity in the region and gave a fillip to our campaign. The slogan of the marathon was peace, harmony and a strong LIC for a stronger India. This effort came for huge appreciation by the general public. A number of sports and voluntary organisations actively supported this effort. The winners in the Mini marathon of 6 kms were presented the prizes by Coms Amanulla Khan, K.Venu Gopal and Shreekant Mishra.



Leadership Building Classes and Interactive Session organised by NCZIEF

A LAUDABLE INITIATIVE

In continuation of programs to celebrate platinum jubilee year of AIIEA and to develop a leadership for the future, a special 02 days session was organized by NCZIEF at Dehradun on 26-27 July 2025.



The name of the session was Leadership Building Classes and Interactive session with a caption “let’s interact, exchange opinions, ideas, Learn & Prepare yourself to lead the movement in the days to come”. The topics of this class/Session were: (1) Understanding Constitution, political, social and Economic Policies for a Trade Union Movement and our responsibility (2) Understanding and dealing of Employees Issues; and (3) Organisational functioning and Employees’ benefits.

Before the start of the Session/Class the Senior Divisional Manager of LIC of India, Dehradun greeted the participants in the classes.

The faculty of the first topic was Com. Amanulla Khan,

Former President, AIIEA. He appreciated the attempt of NCZIEF to develop the cadres and prepare them for leadership position. He said today the country is facing multiple challenges. The Constitution on whose foundation the Indian State is laid is under severe attack. There are demands to delete secularism and socialism from the preamble when this is a settled issue through the judgement of 13 bench Supreme Court on Keshavananda Bharathi case. He stressed the importance of defending the constitution and carrying out struggle to make the State lay its economic and social policies as envisaged in the Directive Principles of the State Policies. He said it has now become necessary to campaign for some economic demands to be

made the fundamental rights of the citizens. He brought into sharp focus the economic crisis in the country. He said though the GDP is growing, the lived experience of the people say that it is not benefitting the vast majority of people. There is huge income and wealth inequalities and unemployment has reached very high levels. The government is also selling the public sector which would compromise the self reliance. He expressed concern over the religious polarisation in the society and said this is dangerous for the national unity. He expressed hope that the young cadres would prepare themselves to take up the leaderships positions and become a part of the glorious journey of AIIEA.

Nearly 54 questions were raised by the participants after his lecture and the queries and questions were beautifully answered by Com. Amanulla Khan.

On the 2nd Topic that is Understanding and Dealing of Employees issues, Com. Sanjeev Sharma, President, NCZIEF was the faculty. He explained the day to day





functioning of Organization. He emphasized that the cadres and leaders must read the circulars and relevant materials to handle the issues of employees. He explained about the struggles and sacrifice of the leaders of AIIEA in advancing interests of Employees. He said that it was the struggle led by Com. Chandrashekhar Bose and Com Saroj Chaudhuri, which paved the way for compassionate appointments in LIC in 1972. He emphasized that those who want to lead the organization must have a proper knowledge of issues of employees including disciplinary proceedings matter. He gave some classical examples of that. He said that History of AIIEA must definitely be read by leadership to know and understand how the organization worked and how benefits are achieved. Numerous questions were raised and were answered by Com. Sanjeev Sharma.

On the 2nd Day of the Session, Com. B.S. Ravi, Treasurer, AIIEA took the class on the 3rd topic that is organizational functioning and Employees benefits. Com Ravi in a lucid manner in explained numerous achievements and advancements in employees benefits since the formation of LIC. He said that the Mediclaim

Policy was meticulously discussed and achieved by us. He said nowhere else including in private institution has this much of family floater Sum Assured. He also placed details of Computer Increment, FPA , Growth in Basic Pay and how these improvements came. He explained the progressive achieved revision after revision in the wages and service conditions through brilliant tactics and strategies by AIIEA. He also spoke on the very basic fundamentals of organization.

Nearly 70 questions were raised by the participants after his lecture and all were convincingly answered.

The Principal of the classes was Com. Ashok Tewari, Former President , AIIPA and Former General Secretary, NCZIEF. In his brief address he laid emphasis on regular

reading and understanding of issues to take the movement forward.

Com. Rajiv Nigam, General Secretary , NCZIEF compered the classes and also presented the Credential report of the session.

As per report total 129 participants from all the 12 Divisional units of NCZIEF took part in the session. 12 were Fellow of Insurance Institute including 02 Divisional Secretaries. 39 were associates or MBAs. The participants between 20-30 years of age were 21. 30-40 years of age were 40. 40-48 (The Maximum allowed for the session) were 27. Out of 21 participants between 20 to 30 years, a total of 11 participants were either Presidents or Secretaries of the Branch Units.

The class and interactive session were greatly admired by all the participants. The Dehradun Divisional Unit magnificently planned the arrangements for the session. The leadership and participants applauded the efforts of the Team DDIEU lead by President Com. Pramod Goyal and General Secretary Nandlal Sharma in holding this type of thought-provoking initiative by NCZIEF in a befitting manner.



Annual General Meeting of Rajkot Divisional unit



The Annual General Meeting of Rajkot Divisional unit of AIEA was held on 27.07.2025. About 60 comrades attended the meeting including 12 women.

The committee of Rajkot Unit welcomed the leaders and participants. The AGM began after paying homage to the prominent citizens and insurance employees who passed away between last AGM and this AGM.

WZ GS Com. H I Bhatt, and Com. Prakash - GS Nadiad Unit were present in the AGM.

Com. H I Bhatt, inaugurated

the conference and addressed the house. He threw light on the various issues like Indian Politics, International politics, Indian economy and insurance sector, past struggle and success of AIEA and many other matters. He also threw light on various challenges faced by LIC at present. He informed of the activities planned to be undertaken in the Platinum Jubilee year by AIEA.

Com. Prakash also shared his views to strengthen the organization and other aspects relating to the industry and the

organization.

The Sr. Divisional Manager of Rajkot, Shri M.K. Dave and Marketing Manager – Shri Sachin Dhamapurkar also greeted the conference.

Com. Harshad Popat, General Secretary placed the report and discussed various aspects related to Union activities. He discussed the issues of branches with representatives and promised to take up the matter with management to resolve the issues. He appealed all the comrades to strengthen the organization by participating in all the calls given by AIEA.

Branch Representatives participated actively & interacted actively. Treasurer Com. Jasminbhai read the Accounts which were accepted by the house.

The General Body elected a new committee with Com Kinjal Hariyani as President, Com Harshad Popat as General Secretary and Jasmin Shah as Treasurer for the ensuing term.

40th Conference of Sambalpur Division LIEA

The 40th Conference of Sambalpur Division Life Insurance Employees' Association was held on 2nd of August 2025 at Burla Branch premises in the Sambalpur City. Conference began with Flag hoisting by Comrade Minaranjan Bishi, President. Comrade Pradip Mukherjee, President ECZIEA inaugurated the conference. He elaborated the dangers of Insurance Laws Amendment Bill 2025 likely to be presented in this Monsoon session of Parliament. He also

spoke about the dangers of the various retrogressive policies of the Govt. such as FDI hike to 100% in insurance sector, move to further sale of LIC stakes, Composite licensing, pressure for withdrawal of Sovereign Guarantee, reduction in solvency margin and initial capital to start insurance company etc. Sri RN Pujari, Sr. D.M. and Sri Kruttibash Pradhan, Gen. Sec. Class I Officers' Federation also greeted the Inaugural Session.

The report was presented

by Com BB Nayak, General Secretary. A total of twenty speakers including three lady Comrades representing all the fifteen base units participated in the discussion and gave their views unanimously against the anti worker, anti industry and anti national and anti people policies of the Central government.

Intervening in the debate, Comrade Trinath Dora, Gen. Secretary. ECZIEA spoke extensively on various issues affecting the lives of workers



and common men throughout India. He briefed the glorious history and achievements of AIEA, the importance of Unity and diversity in India, to protect the Socialist and Secular character provided by the Constitution, the dangers of four Labour Codes and recruitment in class III and IV in LIC etc. He also congratulated the Delegates and Observers for

making the General Strike of 9th July a grand success in SDLIEA with 96% participation. He also appealed all the members to make the 27th PLATINUM JUBILEE YEAR CONFERENCE OF AIEA a huge success by involving themselves both physically and with financial support, which is going to be held at Bhubaneswar under the aegis of ECZIEA.

The report was unanimously adopted after the summing up by the General Secretary. The statements of accounts were also approved unanimously. Conference adopted the Report and statement of accounts unanimously. Conference also adopted 15 resolutions on various matters unanimously.

The Conference unanimously elected Com. Minaranjan Bishi, Com. Birakishore Nayak and Com. Mangulu Behera as President, General Secretary and Treasurer for the ensuing year. The 40th Divisional Conference came to a close with Com Ashish Ranjan Mahapatra, Organizing Secretary. SDLIEA proposing Vote of thanks.

18th Conference of Bhubaneswar Division LIEA

The 18th conference of Bhubaneswar DLIEA was held on 20th July 2025. President of ECZIEA Com. Pradip Kumar Mukharjee was the Inaugurator and Com. Trinath Dora General Secretary of ECZIEA, was the Chief speaker. Leaders from CDIEA, BDIEA, OSGIEA, AIIPA, AOLICPA and fraternal organizations graced the occasion.

Contemporary international, national, issues related to our state, and in particular our organization, LIC was discussed in detail. After coming of Donald Trump as the president of the US, the world order has been changed, with military operations in many parts of the globe leading to political uncertainties and due to arbitrary imposition of trade tariffs by the US the international trade and commerce has come to a standstill. On national front

we have been witnessing the price rise, poverty and unemployment rampant throughout the country. Due to the aggressive persuasion of neoliberal policies of the Modi government the capitalists are benefitted and government owned organizations are suffering a lot. In the name of "Ease of doing business" they have enacted the labour laws into labour codes, though not implemented, has created a

major hindrance to the trade unions in their formation and exercising democratic labour rights which will ultimately make the working class of the country to the status of slavery. The heart and soul of the constitution is being attacked along with weakening the democratic procedures and institutions by the present dispensation at the centre. Their aim has been to be in power through religious polarization



and divisive policies which has destroyed the beauty of India that is Unity in diversity.

Challenges before our institution, in spite of creating a success story in all fronts and enrolling LIC of India in the Guinness book of world record for completing 5.88 Lakh policies within 24 hours, the government policies, regulatory provisions and interference from global finance capital has been enormous and detrimental to the existence and growth of the institution. Enhancing the FDI limit in insurance to 100%, empowering the regulator ignoring the legislative procedures are in no way helpful in the growth of Insurance market in India. Rather it will push the Insurance employees to the pre nationalization

era. The government must understand that the growth of insurance market depends on the disposable income of Indian masses, which is affected due to decrease in permanent nature of jobs and increase in contractualisation and fixed term employment.

There was unanimity among the members present in the conference, that unity among the members is bare necessity of the hour. We need to rededicate ourselves and consolidate our strength more. The conference decided that recruitment in LIC is badly needed to cater to the needs of present policyholders. It is also decided that we must plunge into struggle for the protection of LIC in public sector which the ideological commitment of

AIIEA. The enthusiasms among members are marked during the conference for hosting the platinum jubilee conference of AIIEA here in Bhubaneswar in a grand and successful manner in the month of December. Collection of funds has been very encouraging which proves the commitment, dedication and loyalty of members.

More than 80 delegates and 160 observers participated in the meeting. It was a conference of confidence and unity.

The conference unanimously elected Com. Bharat Bhusan Nayak, Com. Ramakanta Dash and Com. Arun Ku Mohanty as president, general secretary and treasurer respectively for the ensuing term.

69th Conference of ICEU Madurai Division

The 69th annual conference of ICEU, Madurai division was held from 12th to 13th July 2025 at Periyakulam. As true to its tradition, a two days Campaign among public with the caption "Strong LIC for a Stronger INDIA" was held in 13 Centers covering entire Theni District. A special campaign vehicle was designed and Thousands of pamphlets were distributed. SUDAR Cultural (Consisting of our AIIEA Members) troupe's Thappattam, Street play and Awareness songs were very much attractive. More than 150 Agents were honoured during the campaign in their native areas. The Campaign was inaugurated by Sri M.Anbukkarasan, the Chairperson of People for India forum of Periyakulam. Public Sector Protection KALAI MALAI was also held



at Theni Allinagaram on July 4th evening as part of this campaign which was well attended by our Members, Agents and fraternal trade unions and well responded by Public.

On July 12th, Policyholders Protection Rally was held at Periyakulam, which was flagged off by Com Venmani, AIDWA,

Theni district. Employees from all the branches took part in the rally, AIIPA and LIAFI agents greeted the rally in good numbers. A photo exhibition in the venue was inaugurated by Com G.Meenakshisundaram, Former General Secretary, ICEU, Madurai.

The Open Session was presided by Com

N.Sureshkumar, President, ICEU, Madurai. Com Dharmar, District Secretary, TNUEF welcomed the gathering on behalf of the Reception committee. Special Address was given by Com V.Ramesh, President, AIIEA. Comrades Ramasamy, LIAFI, A.Sureshkumar, LICAIOI, M.Anubukkarasan, PFI, M.Ramachandran, CITU, N.Ponniah, ICEU, Nellai, N.Sekar, AIIPA, M.Pushparajan, GIEA-SZ greeted the conference. Com S.Sivasubramanian, SZIEF addressed the gathering. Members of our SUDAR and KAYAL art

troupes were honoured. Best student among our members children were honored. Com N.P. Rameshkannan, General Secretary delivered vote of thanks.

The Delegate session was inaugurated by Com C.Muthukumarasamy, SZIEF. Com NP. Rameshkannan placed the General Secretary's report and Com D.Chitra, Treasurer placed audited accounts for discussion. Deliberation took place, in which 32 comrades including 5 Women comrades took part very effectively. A Special session on the Topic of

Labour Codes was conducted with Com S.Kannan, CITU as the resource person. The report and the statement of accounts were unanimously approved. Comrade RK.Gopinath, SZIEF addressed the session and clarified the issues represented during the deliberations. Com P.Sasikumar, Secretary of the Reception Committee delivered vote of thanks.

Coms N.Sureshkumar, NP.Rameshkannan and D.Chitra were elected as President, General Secretary and Treasurer respectively for the ensuing term.

63rd Divisional Conference of ICEU Thanjavur

The 63rd Divisional Conference of ICEU, Thanjavur division held at Thanjavur on 26th and 27th of July 2025. Comrade S Selvaraj who served as office bearer of the Division in various capacities from Joint secretary of the Division to President at the time of his retirement, spanning over three decades, was felicitated in the conference. The open session was inaugurated by Com Shreekant Mishra, General Secretary of AIIEA. He showered praise on the retiring

President of the Divisional unit Comrade Selvaraj for all his contributions towards the cause of left and working class movement in the area and to the ICEU unit of Thanjavur. Com M Girija, Jt secretary of AIIEA, Com K.Swaminathan, Former General Secretary of SZIEF and Shri Vishnu Dev, SDM of Thanjavur division along with other dignitaries and fraternal Trade union leaders greeted the conference and the retiring comrade and his family. Com B. Saravana

Baskar, joint secretary thanked all who made the function a grand success. A total of more than 600 comrades including the retired comrades of the divisional unit attended the session.

The open session was followed by Delegates session in Saroj memorial building. Com Shreekant Mishra, General secretary AIIEA, who gave special address to Delegates spoke on how to steer our organisation in the present difficult times and settling issues to the best of our satisfaction. He said that AIIEA's strength is planning and executing programs even in the toughest of times. Comrades Muthukumarasamy and Janakiraman spoke on behalf of SZIEF.

Comrades V. Sethuraman, R.Vijayakumar and S.L. Sridhar were elected as Divisional President, General Secretary and Treasurer for the coming year. Com Seethala, Vice President of the unit proposed vote of thanks.



Triennial Conference of NZIEA Srinagar Division

15TH Conference of Northern Zone Insurance Employees' Association Srinagar Division, representing LIC employees of Jammu and Kashmir, affiliated to All India Insurance Employees' Association, was held at Press Club Jammu on 19 July 2025. Com. Naveen Chand- General Secretary NZIEA, Northern Zone was the Chief Guest; and Com. Anupama Sachdev-Assistant Treasurer NZIEA and Com. Raghunandan Parsad-Secretary NZIEA were the Guests of 'Honour'. The Conference was presided over by Com. Syed Aadil Imam-President NZIEA Srinagar Division. The Report for the Conference was presented by Com. Pawan Gupta- Divisional Secretary. Speaking on the occasion, Com. Naveen Chand lambasted the anti-worker, anti-people, anti-farmer policies of the Central government. He demanded immediate RECRUITMENT in class 3&4 cadre in LIC saying that while the in force policies in LIC has grown by 410 percent over the years, its staff strength is on the continuous decline. He strongly opposed hundred percent FDI in Insurance sector. The total FDI, at present, in insurance sector, is only around 32% of the capital employed and so



increasing the limit from 74 percent to 100 percent has no logic. Moreover, foreign capital can never be a substitute to the domestic savings. The Insurance Laws Amendment Bill proposes to lay down the frame work for composite licenses, lowering the minimum equity capital requirements, bringing solvency margin requirements and giving more powers to IRDAI which has attempted to weaken LIC. The four labour code are a serious threat to the working class as these will snatch our legal right of 'Eight hours work'; and the workers will be compelled to work for twelve hours or more as per the order of the pro corporate government. The Resolutions unanimously adopted were-

To demand recruitment in LIC in Class-3 and 4 cadres, To scrap NPS and demand OPS, Withdrawal of Four new Labour Codes, To oppose FDI Hike in Insurance sector to 100%, To oppose Insurance Laws' Amendment Bill, AGAINST PRIVATISATION OF PUBLIC SECTOR, particularly LIC, Merger of Public Sector General Insurance Companies, FOR MSP TO FARMERS as per Dr. M.S Swaminathan report, Against rising unemployment, Against increasing Inflation.

The conference unanimously elected Syed Aadil Imam as President, Com Pawan Gupta as General Secretary and Com Raj Kumar as Treasurer for the ensuing term. The conference was a grand success.



Comrade C. Ravindranathan



Com. C. Ravindranathan Former Vice President of AIIEA and Former President of SZIEF, breathed his last in the early hours on 01.08.2025. He was ailing for some time. He was 81.

Com. Ravindranathan, fondly called by colleagues as 'Raviattan' led the insurance employees' movement for nearly six decades. He entered the services of LIC at Central Office, Mumbai as an Assistant. He joined AIIEA and became a very strong cadre at a very early age. During the struggle against split of AIIEA by a section of the leadership based at Mumbai for partisan political interests, he played a very important role in defending the AIIEA. The attempts to split the AIIEA was heroically resisted by Com. Ravindranathan and other comrades in Mumbai under the guidance and leadership of Coms AS Deo, NK Bhat and MC Thomas. It was no ordinary struggle; there were physical attacks. Despite this, comrades like Ravindranathan stood resolute and held the banner of AIIEA flying high.

Com. Ravindranathan came on transfer to Coimbatore Division in

early 70's. Subsequently got transferred to Kozhikode, a newly formed Division of LIC in 1973. He was the founder General Secretary of LIC Employees' Union, Kozhikode Division. He was recognised by the sister trade Unions of Kozhikode as a natural leader and was elected Chairman of 'Workers Centre' - Calicut, a Co-ordination Committee of all Trade Unions of Kozhikode and led many a struggle of various trade unions in and around the city of Calicut.

Com. Ravindranathan opted for a transfer to Ernakulam when a new Division was opened there in the year 1986. Here also, he became the founder General Secretary of LIC Employees' Union, Ernakulam Division. He got

elected as President of South Zone Insurance Employees' Federation in the year 1998. His thorough knowledge of issues of employees, tactics adopted for resolving those and his ability to stand against the powers that be endeared him to all classes of employees. He functioned as Vice President of AIIEA for several years and helped the headquarters in many respects. His involvement in library movement as Secretary of prestigious Ernakulam Public Library earned appreciation. His organisational skill was on display while hosting 24th Conference of AIIEA at Ernakulam in the year 2017.

Com. Ravindranathan held firm belief and faith in the politics of the working

Comrade C.N.Venkatesha Murthy

Com C.N. Venkatesha Murthy, former Treasurer, All India Insurance Pensioners' Association passed away on 31st July 2025 due to massive cardiac arrest. He was 88.

Com Venkatesh Murthy was a committed cadre of AIIEA. He served Bangalore Divisional Unit of AIIEA as Branch Secretary of Channapatna and also as the Executive Committee Member. When attempts were made to split the AIIEA in the early 70s on partisan political interests, Com Venkatesh Murthy stood rock like to defend the AIIEA. The heroic efforts of Bangalore comrades successfully defeated the split in the organisation.

When AIIPA was formed

and it was decided that Com M.B.Shankar would lead the organisation as General Secretary and Headquarter would be in Bangalore, Com Venkatesh Murthy became the right choice as the Treasurer of the organisation. He discharged this duty with honesty and dedication.

Com Venkatesh Murthy was a soft spoken person but a person with great conviction and faith in AIIEA and AIIPA. He was loved and respected by the ordinary employees. Com Venkatesh Murthy was a great influence on the young cadres of the organisation at Bangalore. His guidance and dedication inspired a lot of young comrades who later

class. He was ideologically very strong and helped the other comrades understand the brutality of capitalism. He was modest and jovial nature earned him enormous love and affection from the employees.

The contributions made by Com. Ravindranathan to the growth and strengthening AIIEA will be ever remembered. His death is a big loss to the AIIEA and movement of working class.

He is survived wife Smt. Girija and son Sri. Manoj. Insurance Worker deeply condoles his unfortunate demise and share the grief with his family and innumerable comrades and friends of Com Ravindranathan. Red Salute to Com. Ravindranathan.



became the leaders of the organisation at various levels.

The unfortunate demise of Com Venkatesh Murthy is a loss to the movement of AIIPA. Insurance Worker dips its banner in memory of this valiant comrade and shares the grief with the bereaved family.



Felicitation to needy and meritorious students by KDLIEA

AIIEA entered its platinum jubilee year on 1st July 2025. Kolkata Division Life Insurance Employees' Association in all the offices under KMD-1 organised the Platinum Jubilee Inauguration ceremony by hoisting the AIIEA flag and pledging to carry forward the ideals of AIIEA. The program also contained a felicitation function where monthly scholarships to the under-privileged and meritorious students were handed over. Com Amitesh Sarkat, President, KDLIEA and Com Amitava Ghosh, General Secretary, EZIEA were the guest of honours. Com Arpita Roy, Asst Secretary of KDLIEA coordinated the program.

Com Sujoy Sen, General Secretary, KDLIEA informed

that KDLIEA has been helping underprivileged students since 2016 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee Year of the Divisional Association. Monthly scholarships are being given to 32 students so far. Besides the monthly scholarships, one time financial assistance was also given to the needy meritorious students. Currently 11 pupil from higher secondary level, graduation level including medical stream are getting monthly scholarships. Com Amitesh Sarkar informed the audience that this work is a reflection of the noblest values of AIIEA and an effort to fulfil the social responsibility. The KDLIEA will continue to do this work as it considers education is basic to improve the life.

Blood Donation Camp by KDLIEA

Women Sub-Committee of Kolkata Division Life Insurance Employees' Association organized a blood donation camp on 5th August, 2025 commemorating the 70th foundation day of KDLIEA. This programme is the initiation of the celebration of 70 years

of meaningful existence of KDLIEA. Com. Amitava Ghosh, General Secretary, EZIEA inaugurated the programme. In his speech he briefly narrated the rich history of AIIEA and KDLIEA. He also explained how AIIEA always sensitizes the members on social

Issues. Mrs. Ratanjali Patel, Senior Divisional Manager of KMDO-I was present as the Chief Guest in this Camp. She appreciated the efforts of Women Sub-Committee for organizing the camp on regular basis. It is noteworthy that such Blood Donation Camp is being organized by the Women Sub-committee every year. Presence of veteran leaders of

KDLIEA and EZIEA inspired the donors, volunteers and the comrades in the camp. Women Comrades with the support of base committees led intense campaign in every branch under the division. 105 comrades donated blood enthusiastically. It is very encouraging that a good number of women donated blood. Women sub committee

was able to create enormous enthusiasm among the members specially the women comrades and conduct the entire programme successfully.

This blood donation camp was a thumping success and it succeeded to unite employees, agents, associated bank employees for a noble cause.

Dr. Ambedkar Education & Employment Coaching Centre, Coimbatore GLORIOUS SUCCESSFUL 15 YEARS OF JOURNEY TOWARDS SOCIAL JUSTICE

Dr. Ambedkar Educational Employment Training Centre, Coimbatore which was started on 20th December 2009 by ICEU, Coimbatore Division under the guidance of Tamilnadu Untouchability Eradication Front has completed successfully 15 years of its existence and has entered into 16th year. Behind the success is the hard and tireless work of the organization, teachers and Coimbatore district Unit of Bank Employees Federation of India.

So far, more than 1500 students have passed the preliminary examinations of various PSU's, Central and State government recruitment after studying at this center. Out of these, 427 students secured employment and working in Reserve Bank of India, various government departments, public sector banks, insurance companies and other public sector organizations.

The center started with training courses for TNPSC exams in 2010. Later, it started training for bank and other central government jobs. When the TNPSC exam results came out, 12 students from our center passed and got appointed. Today, they have received

various promotions and are working in high positions like Revenue Inspector, Tahsildar. We are happy that the students who studied at our center are becoming excellent employees serving the society.

In the last 5 years since 2019, more than 439 students INCLUDING 2 VISUALLY CHALLENGED who studied at the Coimbatore center have passed the preliminary examinations of banks and other government and public sector organisations. Of these, 53 have been appointed.

Last year 23 students passed LIC Development Officers exam and secured appointment in Coimbatore and Salem Divisions after completing their business norms secured confirmation orders. Currently, training classes for bank exams are

being held.

The conducts free classes for competitive examinations. In this era when government sector job opportunities are decreasing, our teachers are providing the best education necessary to succeed in competitive exams in an environment of fierce competition. Due to this we firmly believe that the number of students who succeed in competitive exams and get jobs will increase significantly in the coming years.

Our Dr. Ambedkar Center is a unique center that not only provides students with educational and employment opportunities, but also encourages them to fulfill their duty to society and teaches them social education to live in harmony, dignity and truth, abandoning religious customs.



The journey of the Coimbatore center is being supported by the work of Ambedkar centers in various parts of Tamil Nadu. The classes held in various parts of Tamil Nadu, including North Chennai, Karambakkudi,

Kumbakonam which are the best centers for TNPSC classes, are playing an important role in the journey towards social justice.

It is quite evident that our Coimbatore Dr. Ambedkar Education Employment and

Coaching center will continue its journey towards social justice and social enlightenment. In this manner it is upholding the noblest values of AIIEA and a fulfilment of the social responsibility.

Women's Convention at Bangalore

Women's Convention of ICEU Bangalore Divisions I & II was successfully held on 26th July, 2025, at our union office, SOUHARDA. *Dr. Vasundhara Bhupathi*, Progressive thinker and renowned writer inaugurated the Convention. The convention started with two revolutionary songs by comrades of DO 1 and Do 2. Com B.G. Kalavathi welcomed the gathering. Com U V Seema placed the homage resolution. Coms Padma and M S Lalitha presided over the convention.

In her inaugural address *Dr. Vasundhara Bhupathi* dealt at length the status of women in our society and their achievements in various fields against all odds. She expressed concern over how women are treated in the patriarchal society. Women are showcased



like commodities by the corporate world to make profits in the neo liberal era. Even in medical treatment women are subjected to unnecessary tests and surgeries to squeeze money risking their lives, she said. There is still gender disparity and harassment in the society and there is no equal pay for equal work. Majority of women are facing malnutrition. Female feticides is on the rampage despite having laws to punish the guilty. Crimes against women, dowry deaths, honour killings are also increasing. What is disgusting is cases of rape and molestation are happening even in reputed university campuses, medical colleges and other such places. She appreciated programs and activities conducted by the insurance employees by giving moral and financial support to women who are facing such issues and hoped that with relentless struggles a society can be built where women can live with safety and dignity.

Com H R Gayathri, Zonal Convener, Women Coordination Committee, Karnataka and Com S K Geetha, Former Vice President, SCZIEF greeted the convention with their inspiring speeches.

Com Shantha L K Rao, Convener, Women Sub Committee, DO 1 presented the report before the convention. The report was very educative, exhaustive and enriching covering all the developments, achievements of women and also the present scenario. Coms N.K. Lakshmi, Manimalini, Hemalatha, Jasmine Rubia, Chandu Jaikantha, Ashwini and Shashikala Gangavathi participated in the discussion on the report. They touched various aspects of women's life, critical of the policies of Government that are not helping women. It was very refreshing to witness the youngsters presenting their views confidently. All of them stressed the need to strengthen the organisation



to achieve a society that is just and equal for all. Com M Vijayakumari, Convenor, Women Sub Committee, Do 2 summed up the debate and the report was unanimously adopted by the house.

The convention passed resolutions relating to various issues such as demanding for 33 percent reservation to women, recruitment in LIC in all cadres, Removal of GST on insurance premium, stringent punishment for culprits of

crimes against women etc. Com Josy Clara proposed vote of thanks.

Poster Competition:

On this occasion Poster making competition on the topic "Women empowerment" was organised. There was an overwhelming response to competition and comrades prepared very apt and meaningful posters which were displayed at the convention. All of them will get the participation prize at the earliest.

Honouring Bima Sakhi agents:

It was intended to honour top two performing Bima Sakhis from each division in respect of number of policies and Premium income earned for the First quarter of FY 2025-26 Smt. IATHA from DO2 accepted the felicitation while the other three were not available at the convention.

The Convention elected Coms Shantha L.K.Rao, and Josy Clara as convenors of DO-1 and DO-2 respectively.

28TH Women Convention of DIEA Jalpaiguri

The 28th Women Convention of DIEA, Jalpaiguri, held on 2nd August, 2025 marked the Development of the Organisation as a whole by the contribution of the women employees – Senior and Younger. Amidst an adverse weather condition 65 women comrades from Sikkim and across the North Bengal participated in the Convention. Comrade Srabani Das the Senior most in-service delegate hoisted the Organisation's Flag followed by floral tribute to martyrs' column.

After the cultural troop of the association set the tune of the convention, Com Debika Deb Paul, an activists of the State Govt. Employees Co-ordination Committee inaugurated the convention preaching the need for a change in the discourse set by the ruling dispensation of the Central and the State. She assertively exposed how a neoliberal corrupt dispensation was ruling the State and the all pervasive cultural attack derived from the economic policy has made the State of West Bengal most unsafe for women.

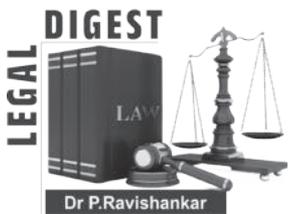
Comrades Shatarupa Bose and Jhinuk Roy, Joint Convenors, placed the Report on behalf of the Sub-committee and 21 comrades participated in the debate and enriched the same with their valuable insights.

Com Fullara Talapatra, Joint Convenor of the Zonal Level Women Co-ordination Committee, EZIEA, addressed the session reminding the tremendous sacrifices courted by the women during the freedom movement to free India as well as for the emancipation of the working class. Com. Mrinmay De Sarkar, Asstt. Secretary DIEA, Jalpaiguri, graced the occasion narrating briefly about the historical background of the prevailing gender discrimination, task of the Trade Union to fight all sorts of fundamentalism; he also dealt with the Industrial issues.

Com Jhinuk Roy addressed the gender issues and organizational aspects as the Joint-Convenor. The other Jt. Convenor Com Shatarupa Bose summed up the debate through her illuminating speech.

The convention witnessed the glittering presence of the younger generation contributing wonderfully through their participation in the lively debate. A three-member Presidium of Coms Balaka Chatterjee, Manita Chakraborty & Swagata Ghoshal conducted the Convention which unanimously decided to hold peace demonstration on 6th August – Hiroshima Day, organize cultural fest across the Division to commemorate centenary year of progressive Singer and Poet Salil Choudhury and the revolutionary Poet Sukanta Bhattacharjee.

The Convention unanimously elected Comrade Shatarupa Bose and Comrade Jhinuk Roy as the Joint Convenor of the 27 member women subcommittee. Two committees for the sub-committees mouthpiece 'Bima Bartika' and to organize Group Reading Readers' Forum were formed from the Convention.



COLLECTIVE BARGAIN

Collective bargain is one of the main tools which are recognized by law as a democratic way for resolving issues

between employer and employee. Then the question comes whether the employer can direct who should represent the unions and deny the choice to the members of the union.

The two Statues which are relevant to the topic are The Industrial Disputes Act 1946 and Trade Union Act 1926. The Industrial Disputes Act seeks to achieve social Justice on the basis of Collective bargaining. Collective bargaining is a technique by which disputes as to conditions of employment is resolved amicably by agreement rather than coercion. The dispute is settled peacefully and voluntarily although at times reluctantly between labor and management¹.

The Collective bargaining normally starts with Trade Unions initiating steps resolving Trade Disputes, implementation of certain directives of the government, Wage settlement etc., in all these issues the Trade Union takes the lead and addresses the same with relevant data and deep routed experience of the Industry and Trade. This is the legitimate process.

But we have seen that such a legitimate process is being flouted in LIC. On issues relating to wage and service conditions too, the discussions are named as information sharing. In information sharing the initiation is by the Management which wants to convey certain issues about which the Management had already taken a decision.

There is a clear distinction between Negotiations/Trade talks and information sharing, that is initiation is by different parties. When Trade Unions are called for Negotiations it will be the right of the Unions to decide who is to participate in discussion and it will be decided by the respective Unions and its office bearers. If the Bye-law provide for membership to outsiders as honorary members and the General Council of the union confers right to such members, they will have the same right as any other member.

Inviting unions for trade negotiation with condition has been rightly rejected by the Courts. The condition advocated by Managements that only in-service officer bearers can only participate in discussion was long back struck down by a Division Bench of the Madras High Court in the case of **L.Ballasasubramian & Others Vs India Overseas Bank, (WA.N 2137/2013)** way back in 2014. The Management quoted **SBI Staff Association vs SBI (AIR 1996 SC 1685)** and argued that it has right to stipulate condition while inviting union for

Negotiations was not accepted by the Division Bench. The Division Bench clearly distinguished UCO Bank Case with SBI decision and held that office bearers of Trade Union will only have the right to decide who will participate if they are members of union as permitted by their Bye-laws. Putting condition and creating differentiation between in-service employee and superannuated employee is not the work of the Management. The Hon'ble Supreme court did not interfere with orders of the Division bench when the matter was taken on appeal by the Management before the Supreme Court.

The same view was expressed recently in the year 2022 by a Division Bench of the Calcutta High Court in **UCO Bank vs All India UCO Bank Officers Federation (COT 26/2019 dated 23.12.2022)**. The Division Bench of the Court held that management of the Bank had no authority and/or jurisdiction to impose a restriction in the matter of representation by the office-bearers of the federation. Imposing restriction to the effect only serving officers shall participate is arbitrary exercise of power by the management of the bank.

The LIC employees are denied the right to collective bargain through the LIC Amendment Act 1981. Despite this for over four decades the wage and service conditions are settled through discussions and notified by the government. The LIC never imposed any condition as to who should represent the union in these discussions. But surprisingly in the last wage revision effective from 1.8.2022, it took up a position that only in-service employees can represent the unions. This is denial of a basic right to the members of the union and violation of the fundamental principle of industrial democracy. The LIC takes the plea that with the IPO, only inservice office-bearers of the Union only can participate in discussions/information sharing sessions and superannuated office-bearers of the Union will not be allowed. This goes against the basic principle of Mutual Trust which is essential in any Negotiations.

Discussions do take place and only after a consensus is reached, notification on wage and service conditions are issued. The LIC as premier public institution should respect the law. The best solution is to recognize the Majority Trade Union as per law and leave the matter to such Unions to decide who should participate in Negotiations and discussions.

(Footnotes)

¹ KARNAL LEATHER KARAMCHARI SANGHATAN (REGD.) A ~v. LIBERTY FOOTWEAR COMPANY (REGD.) & ORS. 1989(3) SCR 1065.

INSURANCE NEWS IN BRIEF

● A.M. KHAN, Dharwad

- ▶ **Thus is what the private sector is:** Prescription drug denials by private insurers in the United States jumped 25 percent from 2016 to 2023, according to a new analysis of more than four billion claims, a practice that has contributed to rising public outrage about the nation's private health insurance system. The report, compiled for The New York Times by the health analytics company Komodo Health, shows that denial rates rose from 18.3 percent to 22.9 percent. The rejections went up across many major health plans, including the country's largest private insurer, UnitedHealthcare. The data offers a rare look into the largely hidden world of rejected insurance claims. While some government-funded health plans are required to publish their denial rates, most private insurers keep that information confidential. Komodo draws from private databases that collect denial details from pharmacies, insurers and intermediaries. Widespread resentment toward health insurers boiled over last December after the murder of UnitedHealthcare's chief executive, Brian Thompson. Doctors and patients alike took to social media to share stories of insurers' refusal to pay for what they said was needed medical care.
- ▶ Life insurers are making a strategic shift towards participating (par) products as they seek to reduce risk in balance sheet, amid choppy equity markets, a falling interest rate environment, and intense pricing competition in the non-participating (non-par) product segment. Many players in the industry have shifted towards par products after a period of being ULIP-heavy and relying on non-par products to drive topline and margins. This shift is largely due to volatile equity markets, falling interest rates, and pricing competition.
- ▶ In the April–July period of FY25, life insurance premium rose 9 per cent YoY to ₹ 1.35 trillion. LIC posted 8.11 per cent YoY growth to ₹ 82,028.32 crore, while private insurers saw a 10.5 per cent YoY increase in premium to ₹ 50,474.3 crore. While LIC recorded 22.72 per cent Y-o-Y growth in NBP to ₹ 22,617.64 crore in the month of July 2025, private life insurers posted 22.02 per cent Y-o-Y growth in NBP to ₹ 16,340.41 crore.
- ▶ LIC of India surged 3.64% to Rs 918.35 after the company reported 5.02% jump in standalone net profit to Rs 10,986.51 crore on 5.66% rise in total income to Rs 2,22,863.61 crore in Q1 FY26 over Q1 FY25. Net premium income rose 4.77% to Rs 1,19,200.39 crore in Q1 FY26, compared with Rs 1,13,770.14 crore in Q1 FY25. Profit before tax (PBT) increased 5.21% year on year (YoY) to Rs 11,006.14

crore in Q1 FY26. The solvency ratio as of 30 June 2025, improved to 2.17, up from 1.99 as of 30 June 2024. The overall expense ratio for the quarter ended 30 June 2025, stood at 10.47%, down 140 basis points from 11.87% in the same quarter of the previous year.

- ▶ Net profit of General Insurance Corporation of India rose 80.67% to Rs 2530.59 crore in the quarter ended June 2025 as against Rs 1400.66 crore during the previous quarter ended June 2024. Sales rose 11.65% to Rs 11273.88 crore in the quarter ended June 2025 as against Rs 10097.61 crore during the previous quarter ended June 2024.
- ▶ For the April–July period of FY26, non-life insurers reported a 7.11 per cent Y-o-Y growth in premiums to Rs 1.09 trillion, aided by healthy growth in both general and standalone health insurance segments, according to data from the General Insurance Council.
- ▶ The Government of India is set to receive a whopping ₹ 7,324 crore LIC, as a dividend payout. LIC has announced that its board has recommended paying a final dividend of ₹ 12 per equity share for the financial year 2024–25 (FY25).
- ▶ The US Justice department says that the an Indian subsidiary of US insurer Liberty Mutual, Liberty General Insurance, paid \$1.47 million bribes to six banks in India These banks then referred customers to Liberty Mutual insurance products in India, resulting in \$9.2 million in revenue and \$4.7 million in profits.
- ▶ The government is firming up further stake sale of between 2.5% and 3% of its equity in LIC and has appointed IDBI Capital, and Motilal Oswal for the purpose of its offer-for-sale (OFS). The final size and pricing of the OFS are expected to be determined by disinvestment department after the global roadshows. The sale could mobilise between Rs14,000 crore and Rs 17,000 crore for the government.
- ▶ New India Assurance (NIA), a public sector general insurance company and the country's largest general insurance multinational, has seen its net profit surging by 80 per cent year-on year (Y-O-Y) to Rs 391 crore in the first quarter for the first quarter ending June 30, 2025. NIA has achieved a gross written premium of Rs 13,334 crore reflecting a YoY growth of 13.11 per cent in Q1 FY26. Its investment income has risen by almost 25 per cent YoY to Rs 2290 crore in Q1 FY 26.

WORKING CLASS STRUGGLE

● S. SRIDHARA, Mysore

In August 2025, some US experienced significant struggles, including a strike by around 3,000 Boeing union workers due to failed contract negotiations, according to News On AIR. This strike involved workers at Boeing facilities in Missouri and Illinois. The strike. Highlights the ongoing tension between labour and management in the aviation industry, particularly regarding worker compensation and job security, according to BBC.



Ongoing protests by Iranian workers over living conditions:

On 10th August, Social Security Organisation retirees held protests in the cities of Ahvaz, Karal, Rasht and Tehran. The protests highlighted ongoing electricity cuts and water shortages as well as insecure living conditions and poverty. The same day, retired steel workers held a rally in Isfahan protesting precarious living conditions. Also saw Similar protests by radiologists in the cities of Kermanshah, Shiraz, Tabriz and Yazd. They were calling for professionalisation of the service and a fair pricing for imaging services.

Protests across Iran continue as 70 percent of the population live below the poverty line. US-imposed sanctions make life increasingly harsh as the Trump administration attempts its reorganisation of the Middle East in the drive for global hegemony.

Mine and Trade in Tehran protesting against newly bought trucks being held up at customs for prolonged periods. 10th August also saw farmers rally outside the governor's office in Zabol over cuts to their tractor fuel quotas. The ongoing protests are in response to the prolonged deteriorating economic conditions, which has resulted in 70 percent of Iranians living below. the poverty line. US sanctions greatly exacerbate the situation.



National industrial action by Qantas engineers enters second month:

Qantas line engineers, responsible for towing and marshalling aircraft and performing turnaround checks on aircraft to ensure they are safe to take off again, are maintaining rolling work bans put in place

on June 25 at all major airports across Australia. The action is part of their long-running campaign for higher pay in a new enterprise agreement. Bans are imposed on 20 duties, including restrictions on towing aircraft, de-icing and using forklifts. Hundreds of workers are represented by three unions, the Australian Manufacturing Workers

Union, Australian Workers Union and the Electrical Trades Union, who have allowed negotiations with Qantas since April last year.

India: IDBI bank workers hold national strike against proposed privatisation

Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) workers held a one-day national strike on 11th August to oppose privatisation and demand increased staffing, Workers want 5,000 clerks and 2,000 sub staff recruited and an end to the toxic work culture at the institution.

The central government plans to divest its 30.24 percent of its holding and 30.48 percent of LIC in IDBI to private enterprise. The United Forum of IDBI Officers & Employees, which included unions of both the employees and officers, coordinated the walkout.

The Ten Central Trade Unions (CTU) and the Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM) observed massive nationwide protests on August 13, 2025, in strong opposition to the tariff threats issued by US President Donald Trump and the pro-corporate India- UK Comprehensive Economic Trade Agreement signed recently by the Central Government.

The protest raised the alarm over India's growing subservience to Western imperialist powers, and demand the immediate withdrawal of all trade negotiations that compromise national sovereignty and people's livelihood. Terming Trump's threat to impose 25% tariffs on Indian goods and a punitive tax on oil trade with Russia as an act of blatant economic coercion, CTUS and SKM said these moves are aimed at forcing India to abandon independent trade relations, especially with Russia. They demanded that the Indian government reject such threats outright, and assert its sovereign right to engage in trade with any country, without foreign interference.



ECONOMIC NOTES

● J. SURESH, Mysore

- According to latest Hurun-Barclays report, 300 families in India have a wealth of over \$1.6 trillion (over Rs.140 lakh Crore) or more than 40% of the country's GDP. The Ambani's family possesses a wealth of Rs.28 lakh crore, which accounts for 12% of the country's GDP. The Ambani's family witnessed a 10% increase in its wealth in the last year. The top 300 families in India generated Rs.7100 crore of wealth per day last year. The number of families possessing over \$ 1 billion (around Rs.8700 Crore) in wealth rose by 37 to 161 now, as per the report. The top 0.01 percent of Indian population or nearly 92,234 people earned Rs.10.18 crore and the top 0.001 percent earned Rs.48.52 Crore. This means that top 1% of the people have 75 times more income and 313 times more wealth than the bottom 50 percent of people in India. 11.4 % of India's total wealth was in the hands of the people in the bottom 50% bracket in the year 1961. This nearly halved to 6.5% in the year 2023, according to World Inequality database. Over the same duration, wealth of people in the top 10% rose from 44.9 to 64.6% and the wealth of those in the top 0.1% rose from a mere 3.2% to humongous 29%. Most of the wealth lost was from the people in the middle 40% group falling from 43.7% to 29%. Gradual income inequality has translated in to a more stark wealth inequality in the country. While 57.7% of income is in the hands of the top 10% of people, 65% of wealth lies with them. In contrast, only 15% of income and 6.4% of the country's wealth are within the bottom 50% of people.
- The imposition by the Trump administration of the highest US tariffs since 1930 is a serious attack on the working class. Trump has claimed that "billions of dollars in tariffs are now flowing into the United States of America". This is an outright lie – tariffs are internal, not money flows in from abroad. They are a tax on an imported of goods that is ultimately passed on to consumers in the form of higher prices. The imposition

of tariffs in the 1930s played a major role in triggering and then deepening the Great Depression, which ultimately led to World War II. The same objective logic is lodged within Trump's economic war against the world. The capitalist system was only reconstructed after the greatest bloodbath in history on the basis of economic power of

US imperialism. But that very development led to the economic supremacy of the US, which saw its initial expression by the decision in 1971 by US President Nixon to remove the gold backing from the US dollar. A new monetary order was established based on the dollar as fiat currency, without any basis in real value in the form of gold. But the underlying historic crisis of American capitalism continued to deepen, leading to a situation, where , instead of being the industrial powerhouse of the world, it has been transformed into the epic centre of financial speculation and parasitism. The US is now the most indebted country in history – US \$ 37 trillion and rising. Stretching back to the October 1987 stock market crash, followed by the crisis of 2008 and the near meltdown of the entire financial system in 2020 at the start of the Covid Pandemic, it has been rocked by a series of ever-deepening financial crisis, with more on the horizon. The tariff measures of the Trump regime are being carried out through two channels. The blanket tariffs against the countries – ranging from the lowest level of 10% up to 40 % or even 50 % are being imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) of 1977, which Trump claims gives the President, the authority to take such action because of the "national emergency" resulting from trade deficits. This decision was ruled to be illegal by the Court of International Trade in May, but it is being challenged on appeal by the Trump Administration, first to a Federal Court and possibly going to the Supreme Court and possibly going to the Supreme Court, on the grounds that a reversal of tariffs would lead to major financial crisis.

FOR OUR FIELD FORCE

● **A. ARIVUKKADAL**
Thanjavur

Improved efficiency: LIC's commission expenses fell 3% to Rs.49.5 billion, **operating expenses dropped 10%** to Rs.75.5 billion, and the expense of management ratio improved to 10.5% from 11.9%. Investment income from policyholders' accounts rose 7% to Rs.1,03,000 Crores, while shareholder income jumped 52% to Rs.1,780 Crores.

Better valuation: LIC deserves a better valuation from the market on the back of an improved customer service and the stronger product portfolio it is building, said R. Doraiswamy, CEO & MD, LIC. Efforts to improve the company's valuation include plans for its commercial real estate portfolio to boost the return on investments. LIC is one of the largest real estate owners in the country and while a bulk of it is self-occupied, a part of it is commercial investment.

Private Fraud: Royal Sundaram General Insurance Company Limited has filed a complaint stating its various agents and intermediaries have issued fake policies to over 80,000 customers across India. The agents defrauded customers by charging a premium amount for four-wheeler insurance policies, even as they were issued two-wheeler insurance policies.

Private repudiation: Even after submitting all necessary hospitalization documents, honestly disclosing pre-existing conditions, and meticulously adhering to every policy guideline, private insurance companies can still unearth startling—and often unimaginable—reasons to deny medical claim. Go Digit General Insurance repudiated a claim stating that the insured's Google Maps Timeline did not reflect his presence at the hospital mentioned in his documents.

Star Health: IRDAI has imposed a Rs.3.39 crore penalty on Star Health and Allied Insurance for multiple cybersecurity violations. This comes after IRDAI found deficiencies in the practices of health insurance claims, like rejections, unwarranted deductions, and delays in Star Health and other insurers. The regulator has also warned Star Health over the violations.

Policy Bazaar: IRDAI has imposed a penalty of Rs.5 crore on Policybazaar Insurance Brokers for multiple violations. Policybazaar was also found guilty of promoting products in a biased manner and ranking various insurance products as top or best without "making available any material to the prospects to make an informed choice. IRDAI also noted delays in remitting insurance premiums to the insurers.

Insurance Growth: India's insurance industry is poised for massive expansion and could more than double

from Rs.11 lakh crore in 2024 to Rs.25 lakh crore by 2030, according to the report, titled 'Leading the Path to Insurance for All: Broker of the Future' launched by the Insurance Brokers Association of India (IBAI) in collaboration with McKinsey & Company.

Embedded insurance: Embedded insurance refers to the integration of insurance products and services within non-insurance digital

platforms e-commerce apps, ride-sharing services, travel booking sites, fintech apps, or healthtech platforms. The insurance product is pre-integrated and often comes as a default or optional add-on during a transaction. **Embedded finance is about meeting users where they are. For insurance, that means removing friction and offering products at relevant moments seamless, contextual, and fast.** Insurance 3.0 isn't about banner ads, insurance agents, or paperwork. **It's about access, timing, and relevance.** "Embedded insurance is a powerful tool for financial inclusion, it helps us reach first-time insurance buyers in tier 2 and tier 3 cities through platforms they already trust", says a private General Insurance Co.

Drunk driving: The Karnataka High Court has urged the Central and State governments to consider bringing amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act 1988 so as to absolve the liability of an insurer in drunken driving cases. As per Section 149 MV Act, insurer can avoid liability only in the circumstances specified in sub-section (2). Drunk driving is not a ground to avoid liability thereunder. Drunken driving is a social crime and making insurer liable may inadvertently encourage this dangerous practice, court said.

E20 Petrol: Several insurance companies have said that engine failure caused by incorrect fuel (20% Ethanol blend Petrol) usage would not be covered, terming it "gross negligence" under policy terms. Majority of vehicles sold before 2023 are not designed for the blend, though there is no official data on compatibility. Major two-wheeler manufacturers Hero MotoCorp and TVS Motor have issued advisories stating that models built before 2023 need fuel system modifications to handle E20 efficiently. Shell India has also warned customers that using the fuel could risk engine damage or void warranties.

Slow Down: The insurance industry is facing a noticeable slowdown, primarily dragged down by weak motor sales and a dip in corporate policy renewals, according to a recent research report by Nuvama. The report indicated that overall industry growth is likely to remain subdued, **driven majorly by a decline in vehicle sales** and a reduction in the renewal of corporate insurance policies.

A Wake-up call to Save Democracy

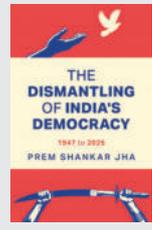
Continued from p.19

that, when Modi became prime minister in 2014, his first step towards dismantling the pluralist, ethnically diverse democracy that his predecessor, Atal Bihari Vajpayee, had taken so much pride in, was taken within weeks of coming to power. Second step towards the centralization of power was to create a system of monthly meetings between his departmental ministers and senior officers and nominees of the BJP, in which the party would oversee the functioning of the ministry. And the next target was audio-visual media, the judiciary, which he corrupts through the offer of lucrative post-retirement appointments to High Court and Supreme Court judges.

Once India's democracy was an unprecedented experiment in pluralism and participatory nation-building, now faces a grave crisis. Electoral democracy may not be overthrown with a bang -it can be dismantled methodically from within, using the very institutions meant to uphold it.

On page - 329, the author beautifully described from very notable book, "Secularism in Indian culture: A critical study" where he explains why Nehru dropped and Indira inserted the S-word in this constitution, "The Constituent Assembly discussed whether India should describe itself as a secular state in clause 1 of Article 1 of the Constitution at great length.

BOOK REVIEW



After extended debate, it decided not to do so. This was because of a recognition, voiced by many of its members, that India was deeply religious state in which almost every religion in the world, ranging from Judaism through Zoroastrianism and many versions of Islam and Christianity, had found comfortable acceptance alongside Hinduism. In such a nation, the role of the state had to be one of acceptance and support, not denial of religious identity."

In the last two chapters of the book, the author raises the question, 'Can democracy still be saved?'. The answer to this question is dismal. "Indian democracy is on its last legs. Every one of its four pillars -the legislature, the executive, the judiciary and the media so carefully and lovingly constructed by the constitution and fostered by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru is now a hollow shell, still standing, still with a semblance of shape but with its core eaten into worry dust by all -pervasive greed for money and power that knows no end."

In chapter 15, the author described, how Modi is completing the journey to fascism, which is described in broad brush strokes. In this chapter author concludes with the words, "Democracy can be saved only if there remain a people still willing to reclaim the republic that was once theirs. At present, the confusion, infighting and jostling for the fruits of office among the members of the opposition alliance gives a little hope of there being a change of heart within in it, despite the dire peril that the country is in today." This book is the must-read and a Wake-up call to save democracy. With sufficient data and surrounding key events and analytical insights, we the people of India, have to save our democracy and foundational values of our nation.

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Insurance Worker expresses its gratitude to the support extended by these comrades.

CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Month	Base 2016	2001	1960
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
May	144.0	414.72	9466.36
June	145.0	417.60	9532.10

Base 1960=Base 2001x22.8259

Base 2001=Base 2016x2.88



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