



ALL INDIA INSURANCE PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

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President : Com Ashok Tiwari

Date : 27th December 2020

General Secretary : Com T K Chakraborty

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To

All Divisional/Regional/State units of AIIPA

Dear Comrades,

Re: LET THE NEW YEAR 2021 BE AN YEAR OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

AIIPA welcomes the New Year 2021, with a fervent hope that the period ahead will be covid-free and will bring forth peace and prosperity all around and warmly extends its Greetings for 'a Happy and Healthy Life to all Pensioners and their Families'.

Let the New Year 2021 be ushered in with our firm faith in struggles and with our strong conviction that we shall clear the dark clouds.

AIIPA also expresses its resolve and determination that in the New Year, it will, along with employees, agents, policyholders and the public, will continue to oppose and resist the ill-conceived moves of the Government, for an IPO in LIC and to come out victorious.

This Organisation, as has been its motto, will strive hard in the New Year, to bring forth improvements in Pensionary Benefits that have been denied to them due to the economic and political policies of the BJP-led Central Government.

The year, that will get into sunset in a short while from now, has been an year of aberration with an outbreak of pandemic all over the world and our country experiencing its ill effects in all spheres of life.

The decision of the Government for a complete lock down with only a few hours notice, without any concern for common man and workers/employees had caused closure of small businesses and factories, loss of jobs, dislocation of migrant labour, who had to trek long distances and some losing their precious life, in their journey to their native place etc.

Even before the onset of Covid 19, the economy of the country was in shambles and in an effort to maintain fiscal deficit GDP ratio, the Government came out with a biggest disinvestment target of Rs.2.1 Lakh Crores.

The Finance Minister, with an eye for achieving the ambitious target, announced in her Budget speech that Insurance Monolith, LIC of India will be listed in Stock Exchanges with an IPO. It is a happy augury that all stakeholders in unison, reacted against the move immediately. It looks as if the Government's intent for IPO before the year end, may not fructify, given the legal, actuarial and procedural issues involved.

The Government that has been able to garner only less than Rs.10000 Crores towards disinvestment proceeds till now, is trying to speed up the process in other sectors.

The figure of fiscal deficit up to October 2020, has already crossed 120% of the estimated fiscal deficit for the year and contraction in GDP has been 23.9% in first quarter and 7.5% in the second quarter. The short fall in GST collections and resultant non-grant of GST compensation to States has dried up states' finances and resistance by certain states against market borrowing had been witnessed.

The BJP-led Government has used its Parliamentary majority in Lok Sabha, even when the people were affected by the pandemic, to ram through three anti-labour codes designed to impose conditions of virtual slavery on workers. It is everybody's knowledge, how the Government, in violation of parliamentary and constitutional processes, amid protests by the opposition, passed three Farm Laws promoting corporate farming and contract farming and without legal guarantee for MSP. The Government has almost abandoned the process of consultation with stakeholders and most of the Bills were passed, without being referred to Parliamentary Committees as had been the norm earlier.

Merger of Public Sector Banks, write off of NPAs without any effort to recover them, has been the order of the day and a recommendation for launch of Banks by Corporates has been made and is to be considered by the Government.

The craze for privatisation has gone to the extent that maintenance of Thiruvananthapuram Airport has been awarded to Adani Group, though the Kerala Government was ready to undertake the job.

A New Education Policy, leading to wholesale privatisation of education and denial of opportunity to the poor and marginalised, has been put on board.

Undermining of elected governments with use of money power and central agencies like CBI, ED and poaching of legislators have been going on.

The social fabric of the society is sought to be infringed upon, with people who dissent, are implicated and labeled anti-nationals and arrest of Dr. Stan Swami aged 82, is a perfect example.

There have been increasing cases of assault against women and increasing public ire against and Hathras rape is a case in point.

While the Government is trying to impose its will on the people, there have been resistance struggles all over the country against the policies of privatisation and corporatisation. Electricity workers and coal workers have been on war path.

The massive General Strike on November 26, 2020, encompassing the demands of the workers and farming community and against the anti-workers, anti-farmers and anti-national policies of the Central Government had evoked huge response and has become a trendsetter.

The simmering discontent against the farm laws, took a concrete shape when farmers of Punjab and Haryana, supported by farmers all over, embarked on "Delhi Chalo". Draconian measures to prevent them from entering Delhi were unleashed by Haryana and UP Governments and failed. Farmers are in the borders of Delhi, braving cold weather and the protesting farmers demand repeal of the three laws but the government has refused to heed and even the suggestion of the Supreme Court, to keep the laws in abeyance has not been accepted by the Government. The Government tried to put pressure for moving to a designated place as a precondition for talks but could not stick to it. The Prime Minister accuses the opposition of misleading the farmers and some in the Government, attempt to discredit the movement as being led by Khalistanis. There has been overwhelming support, not only from the farmers all over, but from people from all walks of life and the movement is gaining strength. Now the Government has offered to discuss with open mind.

The Nation-wide strike by the workers and the Delhi protest by farmers have opened up a new chapter in the coming together of the working class and peasantry, against the policies of the Government.

This unity testifies for the ultimate triumph of the people over the ill-conceived policies of the Government.

The year 2020 had been a disappointing year for Insurance Pensioners, as there were no moves from the government for a favourable consideration of their demands, even in the backdrop of developments in RBI on updation of pension and even the increased Family Pension recommended by LIC Board, more than a year back to the government, was not notified.

Our legal pursuit could not fructify, with Supreme Court adopting virtual hearing of the cases in view of pandemic and our hope for an early hearing can materialise, only when physical hearing of cases starts.

The silver lining this year has been repeated focus on our issues by the Employees' and Officers' Organisation, with the management of LIC and inclusion of our demands, in their industrial actions.

The ensuing New Year 2021 opens up possibilities for a virulent campaign and struggle against IPO in LIC and its comprehensive win through public mobilisation, possibilities for a breakthrough on updation of pension, along with or subsequent to wage revision and possibilities of speeding up of judicial process and a culmination probably in our favour.

AIIPA reiterates its solemn assurance that it will continue to work for the progress of the Institutions and for the welfare of pensioners.

AIIPA once again warmly greets all pensioners and their near and dear, expresses its desire for a Safe and Happy Life with robust health and says 'let us move forward'.

AAJ PHIR JEENE KI THAMANNA HAI
KAL KE ANDHERON SE NIKALKE
DEKHA HAI AANKHEN MALTE MALTE
HO PHOOL HI PHOOL ZINDAGI BAHAR HAI

With Greetings,

Comradely yours



General Secretary