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To
All the Zonal /Divisional /State /Regional Units

75 YEARS OF INDIAN INDEPENDENCE – A GREAT MILESTONE
AIIEA ORGANISES A NATIONAL SEMINAR AT HYDERABAD
CELEBRATIONS ON 15TH AUGUST 2022 TO REKINDLE
NOBLE VALUES OF FREEDOM MOVEMENT

The nation is celebrating 75 years of India's independence from the shackles of British colonialism. 15th August 1947 marked the culmination of India's long and arduous struggle for independence. 15th August 2022 will therefore mark the 76th Independence Day- a great milestone. AIIEA units all over the country will celebrate this major milestone in the glorious journey of our nation with their family and friends. AIIEA has advised all its units to celebrate 15th August 2022 by holding cultural and educative programmes to mark the historical event. The AIIEA is organizing a National Seminar at Hyderabad on 6-7 August 2022 to deliberate on the various facets of our freedom struggle and the relevance they hold for India today.

The freedom movement of India was the biggest mass movement in the history of modern society. The freedom movement was a unique movement. It brought about a rare unity amongst millions of people with diverse faith, ideologies and class orientation. It was this unity that brought the mighty British Empire to its knees. The vision that guided our freedom movement was essentially democratic, civil libertarian and secular. Establishment of a self-reliant and egalitarian social order was one of the foremost objectives of the freedom movement. The strong civil libertarian and democratic tradition of the freedom movement was reflected in the Constitution of independent India. The intense debate and discussion that formed an important part of the national liberation movement had an important contribution to the evolution of a definitive economic ideology. While this economic ideology was essentially capitalist, it nevertheless modeled itself as a Welfare State. One important element of the economic ideology as it evolved was that it assigned a crucial role to the public sector in ensuring faster economic development.

The most important element of the freedom movement was of course its abiding commitment to secularism. With India's humongous diversity- linguistic, religious, ethnic, cultural, etc. - protecting and preserving unity was a herculean task. With over 1618 languages, 6400 castes, 6 major religions, 6 anthropologically defined groups, our forefathers had a daunting task to forge unity. The freedom movement was clear in its understanding that this unity can be built despite the immense diversity by strengthening the bonds of commonality in this diversity and not by imposing any uniformity. The commitment to secularism has helped the country to preserve her unity despite some blips here and there.

As the country prepares to celebrate the 76th independence day on 15th August 2022 after traversing a long journey of 75 years, AIIEA is of the opinion that we should not only join the celebrations in a big way; we must make an honest appraisal of the progress we have made as an independent nation and analyse the

challenges that lie ahead. The occasion should also be utilized to speak about the virtue of a inclusive society which alone can guarantee unity, integrity, progress and development.

There is no doubt that we have made huge progress as a nation in the last 75 years of our independent existence. Our biggest achievement is that we have been able to preserve, consolidate and strengthen our unity. The fact that we have succeeded in pushing forward the process of the 'nation-in-the making' by utilizing the nation state as an instrumentality of development is another landmark achievement. The large industrial base with huge infrastructure, world class educational institutions with a vast pool of skilled man power, a large base of technical knowhow, independent institutions, a functioning democracy with a parliamentary form and a strong public sector are the major contributions of independent India's march towards attaining the goals of the independence movement. The Public Sector made the biggest contribution to industrialization of the country.

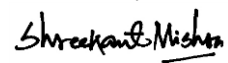
While acknowledging the progress, the failure to tackle issues like growing poverty, large scale immiserisation, unimaginably high levels of inequality, unacceptably high levels of unemployment and growing despondency of a large section of the people are causes of concern. The growing religious polarization and process of othering of the minorities is posing a big threat to our rich diversity. This has the potentiality to undermine the very foundations of the secular, democratic republic we have so assiduously built up. The growing attacks on the freedom of the press, right to dissent and on the independent character of democratic institutions are issues of major concern today. Of particular virulence is the concerted attempt to denigrate and destroy India's public sector undertakings that have played a commendable role in the development of the country for all these years.

We all know that the past, present and future are closely interlinked. We must therefore analyse the past to understand the present and chart our course for the future. With this understanding, the AIIEA is organizing a National Seminar at Hyderabad on 6-7 August 2022. Eminent speakers have been invited to speak on very relevant topics. **Prof. (Dr.) Indu Agnihotri** of the Centre for Women's Development Studies, New Delhi will speak on the topic "**Workers and Working Class in the Freedom Struggle: Reflections from the Contemporary Context**". **Hon'ble Justice (Retd.) H.N.Nagamohan Das** of Karnataka High Court will speak on the topic "**Working of the Constitution and the Challenges Ahead**". Eminent literary critic **Prof. Ganesh Devy** will speak on the topic "**Diversity, Federalism and the Republic: Reflections on the Present Condition of India**". **Com. Sitaram Yechury**, General Secretary, CPI (M) will speak on "**Idea of India: Vision of Just, Equal and Fair Society**". Over 200 activists of the AIIEA from across the country and leaders of fraternal organisations are likely to attend the Seminar.

The AIIEA conveys its Revolutionary Greetings to insurance employees, their family members and the people of India at large on the historic occasion of 75 years of Indian independence. The AIIEA rededicates itself to the noble values of the national liberation movement and commits to contribute to the construction of a Just, Fair and Equal Society.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary