

**ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION**  
**LIC BUILDINGS SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD - 500 063**

Cir.No.17 / 2023

12<sup>th</sup> August, 2023

To  
All Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units,

Dear Comrades,

**MESSAGE OF 77TH INDEPENDENCE DAY**  
**PEACE AND UNITY ESSENTIAL FOR DEVELOPMENT**

India is set to celebrate its 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2023. We convey our revolutionary greetings to all insurance employees and fellow citizens on this occasion. The country made significant progress in the 76 years of independence in every sphere of life. But its greatest achievement is to remain united which many had doubted considering its huge diversities. We have also learnt that for the country to make fast progress in improving the life and living of the country, peace and unity is essential.

Independence came to us with the partition of the Indian Sub-continent into two different nation-states. This unfortunate partition not only divided the territory but also destroyed the unity and diversity of our national movement. The partition resulted in unimaginable sufferings for the people across the newly drawn boundaries. The partition marked the unimaginable scale of loot, plundering and killings the world had ever seen. The government document suggests that nearly a million people died in senseless sectarian violence. The Partition also saw arguably the largest human migration and forcible dislocation. The government records show that 6 million non-Muslims migrated from West Pakistan to Indian territories and 6.5 million Muslims moved out of Indian part of Punjab, Delhi and Uttar Pradesh to West Pakistan. Similarly 4 million non-Muslims migrated from East Pakistan to West Bengal and over 1 million Muslims migrated from West Bengal to East Pakistan. Three communities, Hindu, Sikh and Muslim equally suffered.

It is necessary to remember the disaster sectarian violence and hate can create. It turns human beings into beasts and what was witnessed during Partition was bestiality at its worst. It is important to draw lessons from the disaster of Partition in order not to allow such a situation to emerge again. The Government of India has decided to observe 14<sup>th</sup> August as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. If this is to sensitize the citizens about the dangers of religious violence and work for a country free from the politics of hate, it is a welcome step. But unfortunately, it is not so. The entire idea is to blame one community for Partition and its fall out in order to further polarize the society for political gains. It is in this background, we are alarmed with the enthusiastic manner in which LIC is organizing exhibitions on 14<sup>th</sup> August at the directive of the government to observe the day as Partition Horrors Remembrance Day. The LIC is a secular institution which secures business and serves all communities. Therefore, for LIC to become a part of this political game is really unfortunate.

The role of British, Muslim League, Hindu Mahasabha and the Indian National Congress in the Partition is well documented in history. It is another matter that today history itself is being re-written. It is not the intention to discuss in detail the role of all these players, so the analysis is brief. It is a fact that in the early years of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, deep divisions developed between Hindus and Muslims. But this did not prevent the Muslim League and Hindu Mahasabha to enter into alliance to jointly run provincial governments in Bengal, Sindh and North West Frontier Province. Both Muslim League and Mahasabha had identical ideologies and they converted communities into nationalities. Both stayed away from the national independence movement and collaborated with British Imperialism. Both were of the view that Hindus and Muslims are two different nationalities and they cannot peacefully co-exist. While Jinnah's Muslim League demanded a separate state for Muslims, the Hindu Mahasabha wanted to establish a Hindu Rashtra. They were both manipulated by the colonial power to its own advantage. These were the factors that led to partition. The role played by each of these actors has to be explained to the citizens while observing the partition horrors remembrance day.

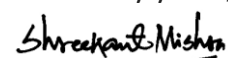
While Pakistan became a theocratic State, the leaders of our national movement committed India to be secular democracy. It is a fact that majority of the people in both communities were against partition and they played a glorious role in securing independence from the British colonial rule. The events since then have demonstrated that religion is not a unifier and the State which was carved out on the basis of religion disintegrated within 25 years with East Pakistan becoming an independent nation-state and naming itself Bangladesh.

Today, India is once again witnessing large scale violence. Manipur is virtually in a civil war. The communal violence has torn apart the Haryana society. In both these places, State if not complicit, is absent. The Supreme Court had to forcefully say that it has no confidence in the Manipur government and the Police. The Manipur Police and Assam Rifles are on loggerhead. The atmosphere in the entire country is filled with politics of hate. Caste and gender atrocities continue unabated. The diversity of India is sought to be converted into uniformity. Let us not forget that the recognition and respect for multi-religious, multi-linguistic identities and pluralities of culture had kept India united. The attack of these pluralities will harm the unity and integrity of the country. The lessons of Partition have taught us that hate and sectarian violence creates divisions and breeds separatism. Therefore, the Indian people have to remain vigilant to defend the unity of the country by fighting against divisive forces as well as hate politics.

On the 77<sup>th</sup> Independence Day, let us work to unite all communities to build India as a great nation. Let us pay our tributes to the martyrs of the national liberation and those millions who suffered the pangs of partition. Let us rededicate to work to reduce inequalities and create conditions for all Indians to lead a dignified life.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,



General Secretary.