## GENERAL INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ALL INDIA ASSOCIATION



(Affiliated to Trade Union International) Regd.No.8531

e-mail address: - gieaia1971@yahoo.com, Sterling Cinema Building, Third floor, No.65, Murzban Road, Fort, Mumbai –400001

Working Office: 15-16, Scindia House, KG Marg, New Delhi-110001. Phone No. 011-43556959

CLASS 3-4 WING CLASS 1 WING

**CHAIRMAN: BINOY VISWAM, EX MP** 

**President**: AMARJEET KAUR

**Working President: R.SRINIVASAMURTHY** 

General Secretary: TRILOK SINGH E-Mail:trilokpundeer@gmail.com

Addl. General Secretary: A.KUMARAVELU

E-Mail: kumargieu222408@gmail.com

**CHIEF PATRON: BINOY VISWAM, EX MP** 

CHAIRPERSON: AMARJEET KAUR President: AR ANANDA JAWAHAR E-Mail: anandiawhar@gmail.com

Working President: D VIJAY KUMAR Secretary General: DARSHAN KR. WADHWA

E-Mail:darshankwadhwa@gmail.com

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Dear Comrades,

## Call for Solidarity and Participation in the 9th July 2025 National Strike to <u>Protect Public Sector and Employee Rights</u>

The Indian working class has played a historic and sterling role. Through its relentless struggles and countless sacrifices, it achieved hard-won trade union rights in the country. It was from this foundation that the public sector evolved, built from the public exchequer — the people's money. As a result, gigantic public sector undertakings came up in all core sectors, becoming the modern temples of India.

These public sectors not only contributed immensely to achieving self-reliance but also created millions of jobs for educated youth, built vast national infrastructure, and stood as symbols of national pride due to their invaluable role in the country's economic growth and development.

In the financial sector too, banks and insurance companies were initially in private hands, controlled by big capitalists and industrialists. As a result, public money and people's savings remained at the mercy of private interests, used not for national development but for expanding capitalist empires. This gave rise to the historic demand for nationalisation of banks and insurance companies "to build the nation," aligning with the constitutional objective of a socialistic pattern of growth and equitable development.

It is regrettable that instead of further strengthening these policies — which aimed to bridge the gap between the rich and the poor — the push for globalisation was imposed on our path, and since then, we have seen increasing attacks on the public sector. Similarly, in our industry we also witnessed the threats of privatisation, 100% foreign direct investment, limitless entry of private players and their often unethical roles, unmanageable workload due to sharp decrease in employee strength, resultant increase in unethical and unlawful working hours without proper benefits, delayed wage revision since the last charter and the current one yet to be settled, etc., etc.

These companies have been paying crores of rupees in dividends to the Government, while effectively implementing major social welfare schemes such as Ayushman Bharat, Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana, and many others. Despite facing adverse conditions and severe staff shortages — with nearly 20,000 posts in Class I, II, and III lying vacant — the employees and officers of PSGICs have shown remarkable dedication and resilience, and the PSGICs have reported commendable profits. Yet it is sorrowful/tragic that their legitimate demands remain unaddressed.

While we feel proud that India is among the fastest-growing economies, we cannot ignore the harsh reality: our country ranks 105 out of 127 on the Global Hunger Index and 93 on the Corruption Perception Index.

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The Indian trade union movement has always stood up to protect workers from exploitation and has secured various hard-earned labour rights. Today, these rights are under threat in the name of "labour reforms." While we support higher productivity, it is disheartening to see that although higher productivity has increased corporate profitability, it has failed to raise workers' wages. Even more worrying is the growing inequality: the richest 5% now own 70% of national wealth, while the bottom 50% own barely 3%. Over the past decade, poverty in India has increased by 17%.

Comrades, just as the working class played a crucial role in securing the country's political freedom, today it has an equally important duty to safeguard public sector enterprises and ensure pro-people economic policies. Across the country, the Indian working class is actively resisting privatisation, 100% foreign direct investment (FDI), and retrograde labour codes that threaten to roll back decades of hardwon rights, job security, and trade union freedoms.

In this national context, it becomes our patriotic duty to extend unwavering solidarity with the broader struggles of the Indian working class, and at the same time to press forward with our own just demands concerning employees, officers, retirees, pensioners and all other stakeholders of Public Sector General Insurance Companies (PSGICs).

## We therefore demand:

- ✓ Immediate settlement of the long-pending wage revision in PSGICs at par with LIC.
- Extension of the 1995 Pension Scheme to all; until then, ensure 14% employer's contribution in NPS.
- ♥ Uniform family pension at the enhanced rate of 30%.
- ✓ Adequate recruitment across all cadres to ensure efficient functioning.
- ✓ Immediate resolution of all pending non-core benefits.
- ✓ Merger of PSGICs to strengthen them as a united and resilient public sector entity.
- $\checkmark$  Strong opposition to privatisation, 100% FDI, retrograde labour codes, outsourcing, and contractual employment.

Comrades, we appeal to every employee and officer — regardless of class, caste or gender — to participate wholeheartedly in the **9th July 2025 National Strike**, to defend our rights, secure justice, and safeguard the public sector for the future of our nation.

In solidarity,

TRILOK SINGH GENERAL SECRETARY GIEAIA

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DARSHAN KUMAR WADHWA SECRETARY GENERAL GIEAIA CLASS 1