



**CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
OF BANK, INSURANCE & FINANCE
UNIONS (CC BIFU)
(Joint Platform of AIBEA, AIBOA, GIEAIA & AILICEF)**

Dated : 1st January 2018

- ◆ **Tallest leader of Indian Working Class Com. Gurudas Dasgupta becomes AITUC's Senior Vice-President and Com. Amarjith Kaur gets elected as the General Secretary**
- ◆ **For the first time in the trade union history of India, a woman comrade becomes the General Secretary of AITUC – the foremost and the oldest central trade union of the country. AITUC marching ahead.**



AITUC's General Council meeting was held at Ranchi, Jharkhand's capital from 9th to 11th December 2017. It was an emotional event as well as a historic session. After 15 years at the helm, **Com. Gurudas Dasgupta** stepped down voluntarily as AITUC's General Secretary and the ever mercurial **Com. Amarjith Kaur** got elected in his place, as the new



General Secretary. The baton is passed on. For the first time in the history of Indian Trade Union movement, a woman was elected as the General Secretary of AITUC. In another two years, the AITUC will be celebrating its centenary. It will be a proud moment for the working class in India, that Com.Amarjith Kaur will be leading the

AITUC during the Centenary Year. AITUC is marching on.

AITUC was founded in the year 1920, long before India attained independence. It was the first and the foremost trade union. It had deep roots in the country's freedom struggle. Stalwarts like Father of the Nation **Mahatma Gandhi**, Lion of Punjab **Lala Lajpat Rai**, **Jawaharlal Nehru**, **Nethaji Subhash Bose**, **Com. S.A. Dange**, to name only a few, were the tall leaders of the AITUC. From the inception, AITUC was in the struggle against the exploitative system. It fought relentlessly in defence of the workers and against the anti-worker policies of the Government and the capitalist system. AITUC has a history of nearly one hundred years.

Today the nation is at the cross roads. The moribund capitalist system is serious crisis in every continent. Yet, our Government is pursuing the same neo-liberal economic policies in the name of reforms. For well over a quarter of a century, we have been witnessing the results of the policies of Liberalisation, Privatisation and Globalisation (LPG).

Congress and BJP have the same economic agenda. While Manmohan Singh said that India is for sale, Modi says 'Make in India', opening up India's rich resources for plunder and loot by the international finance capital. Both are same.

It is against these reckless economic reforms that AITUC under Com. Gurudas Dasgupta was fighting without respite.

Factories have been shut. Millions of jobs were destroyed. Mass jobs are getting steadily downsized. Public Sector is under attack. Banks and Insurance are no exception.

Contractualisation and casualisation are increasing as never before. It is "hire and fire". Out-sourcing is another menace. On the one hand we were witnessing "feminization" of labour. At the same time, the women workers were crudely exploited and they were denied even the existing benefits granted by labour laws.

All this required a collective movement – united struggles by the entire working class in India. It is here, that Com. Gurudas Dasgupta played the pioneering, stellar and catalytic role.

It is under his sagacious leadership that the Central Trade Unions formed the Joint Front and launched a counter attack against Government's anti-worker and anti-people policies. Numerous all India strikes were successfully observed. There were morchas and March to Parliament. The workers were galvanized and hurled into action. That has been the singular contribution of Com.Gurudas Dasgupta to the trade union movement in India.

We find, ever since Narendra Modi ascended the throne as the Prime Minister of India, fascist-like tendencies are found to be on the rise. Right to free speech or dissent is labelled as 'anti-national'. The media is under attack. Political activists and rationalists are facing threat to life. Many have already victims. Fascist-like tendencies manifest in different ways. There is attack on economic self-reliance.

We all witnessed the catastrophic negative impacts of Demonetisation and GST. Now, FRDI Bill is getting fine-tuned to be rushed through in the Parliament at the earliest. It is bailing out the corporate criminals who have not repaid

their Bank loans, by (mis)appropriating the depositors money in the Banks and in the end, privatizing the PSBs. Two fruits with a single stone!

There is attack on our composite culture evolved over hundreds of years. We find simultaneously market fundamentalism and religious fundamentalism operating. And there is total centralization of power in Modi.

This is the backdrop in which Com. Amarjith Kaur has taken over as the General Secretary of AITUC. A tall order. None the less, we all will march behind AITUC and Com. Amarjith Kaur. Tomorrow is ours.

We the Bank and the Insurance employees have our own affinity towards Com. Gurudas Dasgupta and Com. Amarjith Kaur. Com.Gurudas Dasgupta has been the President of All India LIC Employees' Federation and General Insurance Employees' All India Association. It is under his brilliant leadership that the employees in the financial sector won index-linked pension scheme during 1994-95 period when Dr Manmohan Singh was the Finance Minister. During our wage

revision struggles, Com Gurudas has stood by us and lent his helping hand in reaching settlements.

Bank and Insurance employees observed numerous heroic struggles against the determined moves to privatise public sector banks, LIC and the general insurance companies. Today, the financial sector constitutes the country's economic backbone.

Com. Amarjith Kaur has been associated with bank and insurance employees movement for more than three decades. She was associated with the 1986 All India Youth Festival held at Bangalore, organized by the All India LIC Employees Federation. Again, she was associated with AILICEF's All India Womens Convention held at Hyderabad in 1991, along with thespian Akkineni Nageswara Rao. She has participated in all the Women's Conventions organized by the AIBEA. Thus we can proudly pat our own backs that we, the Bank and Insurance employees have marched behind AITUC, in perfect rhythm, on the basis of the people's agenda. Our struggle is continuous. Now we have two tall leaders, Com. Gurudas Dasgupta and

Com. Amarjith Kaur leading us. Our inspiration is doubled.

Narendra Modi, during these three years, is searching for the 'elusive' black money! There are the Panama Papers and the Paradise Papers. Let Modi continue his search! Let us, in the financial sector, struggle, with all our mite and conviction, to transform into reality our slogan "People's Money for People's Welfare".

We wish Com. Gurudas Dasgupta long life. We wish Com. Amarjith Kaur an eventful and successful innings.

Happy New Year – 2018. Let us welcome the new year as a year for unflinching loyalty to our organizations, for greater unity and intensified struggles to march forward.
