



**National Conference
All India Peace & Solidarity Organisation
20-21 January 2017
Thiruvananthapuram
(Trivandrum)**

Thiruvananthapuram Declaration

Thiruvananthapuram Declaration

1. It is with great sense of pride that this National Conference of the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) is being held here in Thiruvananthapuram, the capital of Kerala. This is the state with one of the finest histories in the country with the legacy of progressive economic, political, social and cultural traditions in the country. It is a state which has a splendid record of human development of advances in public health and education. It is a state which has created an environment for harmonious co-existence of diverse religious dimensions. It is a state which has taken steps to establish economic equality through agrarian and other economic reforms. It is a state where all-round cultural developments in the sphere of creative arts have attracted attention not just within the country, but the world over.

2. AIPSO is proud of its legacy of combining the best traditions of our anti-colonial national liberation movement and progressive internationalism. AIPSO imbibes the tradition initiated by Raja Rammohan Rai in the early 19th century to express solidarity with the Latin American people's struggle against Spanish colonialism led by Simon Bolivar. During the most part of our anti-colonial struggle, we did not flinch from supporting important national liberation and anti-fascist struggles, be it in Abyssinia or in Spain. Indian national movement set out an inspiring example of humanitarian solidarity with the Chinese peoples' struggle for national liberation by sending a medical mission while it was engaged against Japanese aggression. Importantly, in the 40s of the last century, the decision of the West to foist Israel on the Arab people in Palestine no less than Mahatma Gandhi had unambiguously opposed the move and supported the just struggle of the Palestinian people. India similarly made major contributions in the anti apartheid struggle of the South African people. Throughout the Second World War, the Indian national movement while waging its own struggle for emancipation did not abstain from supporting the global struggle against fascism and Nazism and extending its support to the Soviet Union. Within the country, the peace movement has played a crucial role in the consolidation of the process of national independence by throwing its weight behind the struggle for liberation Goa from Portuguese colonialists in 1961.

3. AIPSO also bears the legacy of the global movement for peace of intellectuals, which led to the World Congress of Peace Forces and the formation of the World Peace Council in 1950. Its first President, scientist Nobel Laureate Frederic Joliot Curie's simple but enduring observation – "Peace is everybody's business" – continues to be the moving spirit of the peace movement, here in India. AIPSO has continued to be inspired by the evolution of the same spirit throughout its almost five decades of existence since its formation in 1972 as an amalgamation of regional focused peace and solidarity bodies. The insight offered by Fidel Castro who is no more has further enriched our understanding – "Peace is not merely the absence of war, but an important pre-condition for development and realisation of the human potential".

4. AIPSO has been absolutely clear during its entire existence and its present thrust that peace is indivisible. Therefore, the struggle for peace has to be essentially a part of the global struggle against militarism and predatory wars. On the same breath, the AIPSO is also clear that the struggle for peace cannot be divorced from the struggle for solidarity with all those victims who suffer from the forces of aggression, domination and hegemony. It is this clarity that fires us to actively oppose imperialism, colonialism and hegemony because these constitute the biggest threat to peace and interests of overwhelming majority of the people of the world and here in India. Therefore, the slogan that we embrace is “think globally, act locally”.
5. The world has been witness to ravaging wars and destruction through centuries bringing untold suffering for the people by the forces which aim to establish hegemony and control by all means, particularly, through military aggression. Therefore, the AIPSO believes that the fight for just peace cannot be fought by only restricting its opposition to the military form of aggression; AIPSO is equally resolute in fighting all forms of exploitation and domination.
6. The contemporary world shows that without fundamentally eliminating structures of Empire and imperialist domination, just peace cannot be established or sustained. The First World War was a consequence of attempts to force a re-division of countries and colonies. It is in the final stages of that unacceptable consideration that the first socialist nation was born a century back. The Soviet Union was as much a result of a peoples’ urge for peace along with their quest for ‘a loaf of bread’, and ‘a piece of land’. In a sense, very formation of Soviet Union itself was a giant stride in the movement for enduring peace. The Second World War was again an outbreak of the same principle with the additional dimension of a fascist power and its design to dominate the world. The peace movement also had to evolve the additional dimension of imbibing an anti-fascist element in its efforts for establishing peace. The final outcome led, not only to the military defeat of fascism, but also a greatly weakened system of global imperialism. In the next phase, the hope of an enduring peace was dashed by the continuing efforts of imperialism to re-invent itself and carry on through newer instruments of neo-colonialism and subsequent neo-liberal globalization. This re-invention was complemented with the constant attempt to undermine socialism and efforts to end exploitation. The Cold War and the arms race was an inevitable outcome. This phase also saw the extension of the threat of war moving on to design and manufacturing of new armaments and setting out the course for nuclearisation of weapons. Extending chemical and biological warfare, inter-continental ballistic missiles taking aggression right into the outer space were additions to military arsenal. Therefore, the global peace movement, as well as, that in India, had to evolve immediate slogans for universal nuclear disarmament and limiting the specific episodes of escalation. This phase of, what came to be known as Cold War, came to an end with the collapse of Soviet Union. However, the peace dividend which was the ‘noble’ objective which the imperialist camp was projecting never fructified. Instead, the aggressive formation NATO continued with far greater aggressive. This Declaration, therefore, unambiguously demands dismantling of all military bases and universal nuclear disarmament.

7. It is this new phase which has seen the most blatant drive for establishing hegemony over global resources, particularly energy resources. This is accompanied by a new global economic and financial order ordained by international finance capital which is forcing country after country to subordinate national decision making sovereignty to the paradigm of neo-liberal globalization. Unprecedented growth of inequality, unemployment and poverty has been the obvious symptoms of this dehumanising project; so much so, that it raises a serious question mark on this trajectory itself. Therefore, the peace movement both inside the country ,as well as , globally had to respond by engaging in the struggle against this aggressive process of neo-liberal globalization and concretely mobilizing the people against military invasions in Iraq, Libya and Syria and the aggressive domination by the US-led West and Israel to deny and traumatize the people of Palestine. This phase has been also marked by encouragement, abetment and financing by the US-led imperialist camp to forces of sectarianism and fundamentalism to undermine and eliminate progressive and nationalist regimes in different parts of the world. Without the overt and covert involvement of US, Israel, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf monarchies, Taliban, Mujahedeen, Al Qaeda, Al Nusrah, Al Shadab, and Boko Haram could not have spawned, to finally emerge in creating the ultimate monster of extremist fundamentalism - Islamic state. The backlash of growing inequality and disempowerment along with the ugly rise of such retrograde identity assertions have been manifested in the victory of Donald Trump and Brexit. The dark forces of theocracy and fundamentalism are keen on imposing a medieval authoritarian theocratic caliphate in most of West Asia and Northern Africa. Therefore, the peace movement, today, has to contend with not just imperialism but this obnoxious offshoot of religious fundamentalism.
8. Imperialism's geopolitical strategy does not remain confined to the Middle East. After the debacle in Iraq and Afghanistan, where the forces that it had unleashed imperialism was in no position to completely eliminate violence. In a changed priority of geo-politics, it is now directing the re-configuration of its resources in Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe. The new direction obviously aims to undermine the growing economic influence of China in the Asia-Pacific and that of Russia in Eastern Europe. The new tensions in South China Sea and in Ukraine are ample testimonies of this new aggressive of US imperialism led west. These attacks force a convergence of these two who are unitedly confronting these unilateral attempts at curving out a unipolar world; and secure the process of multipolarism instead.
9. In Latin America as well, having suffered reverses, from forces that have doggedly fought neo-liberal camp followers in peacefully held elections in Venezuela, Bolivia, El Salvador and Nicaragua. Therefore, the attempt has been to undermine the legitimately elected popular regimes. The coup in Paraguay was a clear case in point. The existence of socialist Cuba and its continuing moral influence in inspiring the struggle for change in the other countries was sought to be undermined through the obnoxious blockade of the island nation. However, the great fight back of the Cuban people and the spirit of regional solidarity and cooperation has foiled most of the imperialist designs. The US administration had to finally accept partial

retreat and diplomatic ties had to be restored. But that imperialism is not prepared to reconcile with this immediate set back in the region is also clear from the staging of the coup in Brazil.

10. The changed emphasis of the imperial geo-strategy is now at work in the Asia-Pacific and South Asia. The obsessive drive by US imperialism in this theatre is dictated by its urgency to harness the comparative higher level of growth attained by this region. To ensure that objective, the Empire's strategy has to focus on containment of China. With reverses in the recent past, that pursuit depends crucially on alliance building. That has led to an aggressive drive to forge a US-Japan- India alliance, a shadow Asian version of NATO. This in its turn has necessitated, interlocking India as a subordinate ally. The signing of Indo- US logistic sharing arrangement and a joint defense partnership has institutionalised this framework. While one can understand US compulsions, India's abandoning of a non aligned and independent foreign policy position is shocking. Given this, in Asia-Pacific, the main theatre of tension is the South China sea where disputes between China and some of its neighbouring countries over the ownership of two islands was sought to be utilized by US and use the dispute to ensure aggressive naval movements threatening the peace and stability of the region. With signs of attempts to negotiate a reconciliation processes, this declaration hopes that the disputes are addressed and resolved through peaceful dialogue within the framework of international law. In South Asia, the Afghan situation has also stirred up the aggressive activities of fundamentalist forces spilling over generally to the region. The escalation of tension and war mongering in both India and Pakistan is causing grave concern. This tension is also mutually reinforcing divisive and sectarian forces further undermining the unity among the people and making it that much more prone to extremist violence. The rise of Islamic State has made countries with major Muslim population vulnerable to fundamentalist activity and violence.

The situation demands that there should be proper initiatives from all countries of this region to maintain peace and good neighbourly relations. In this context, the urgent need is to take new initiatives for confidence building measures by India, China and Pakistan to address their concerns through dialogue for overcoming differences and conflicts.

11. The Asian Theatre looks tense with growing signs of multipolar assertion. The expanding Chinese economic and financial influence places imperialism under greater stress. That imperialism does not care for degenerating to depths where it can unleash forces of unabashed destruction can be seen from what happened in Libya, Iraq and Syria. Millions of people are forced to flee their home and their homeland. These hapless refugees attempting to migrate to safety in the European mainland are leading to the outbreak of obnoxious racism and neo-fascism.

12. That the global economic and financial order is aggravating the challenges of life and livelihood of the people is clear from the growing inequality with one percent of the global population cornering 53 per cent

of global wealth. This sense of insecurity is also reinforcing sectarian and divisive identity politics with huge swathes of territories being drawn into the quagmire of incessant violence.

13. On the other hand, this new phase is also characterized by an offensive use of new technologies in enhancing the lethal effectiveness of the aggressive military machine. Laser technologies for precision targeting, unmanned flying machines like drones, combination of newer communication and information technologies for launching cyber attacks and uncanny invasion into privacy of civilian population of target nations are threatening the basic premise of human rights as enshrined in the UN charter.
14. The development and concentration of powerful global corporate media is another ominous dimension of the emerging reality. The reach and the potential to influence global public opinion have assumed frightening proportion to drum up support for military invasions and politic projects for furthering designs of domination and hegemony. The potential of social media to throw up a challenge to posit alternative narratives exist; however, it is also sought to be severely undermined by giant information corporates like Google and Face book.
15. The unabashed quest for profits promoted by free markets by contemporary neo liberal globalisation has resulted in exploitation of natural resources and the global commons on a magnitude which threatens our environment and ecology to point of peril. Global warming and climate change is actually posing a huge question mark over the very survival of this planet. Accumulated evidence have unambiguously established that this course has directly triggered by the brazen pursuit of profit under imperialist tutelage, opening up the possibility of strong synergy between climate activism and the peace movement.
16. It is in this backdrop of resurgence of extreme rightwing violence and the specter of neo-fascist forces that the threat of a theocratic state looms large on the Indian landscape. The changes that we are witnessing in recent times is no ordinary change of government but a continued State-sponsored attempts to polarize the society and impose religious majoritarianism to fundamentally transform the secular democratic republic into a fascist 'Hindu Rashtra'. The political objective of Hindutva forces who spearhead this retrograde reversal are also brazenly attempting to impose a retrograde social order targeting social under castes and women, which is often resulting in aggression and violence.
17. The shadow of US imperialism looms in the background which has in the past attempted to destabilize the domestic situation in the country with marked efforts to undermine the progressive forces. It has also encouraged separatist and secessionist forces to balkanize and undermines our territorial integrity. In the present situation, the Empire finds itself emboldened with resurgence of right wing forces who happen to be its natural ally.

18. The situation is particularly vulnerable in the Kashmir valley of Jammu & Kashmir which has emerged as a continued hotspot threatening the borders with Pakistan. The continued cross border terrorism from Kashmir is exacerbating the deepening tension between two nuclear powers. Additionally, the attempted hegemony by the Hindutva forces through the often unconstitutional direction of its initiatives is also reinforcing the forces of fundamentalism and militarism across the border. The idea of a diverse but composite, plural, united and secular India will have to be protected. AIPSO and the peace movement have a great stake in this battle.
19. It is in this context that this Thiruvananthapuram Declaration wants to unambiguously issue a clarion call to our people for joining the battle for peace – within and the world over. This will require the most resolute broadening to embrace all sections who are vitally interested in enduring peace and harmony of the people. It has to also capture the imagination of all whose life, livelihood and dignity stands threatened by growing economic and social inequality. Therefore, the AIPSO would leave no efforts for an unprecedented broadening of its ranks to include all political forces, social movements of the peasantry, trade unions, intellectuals, cultural activists, progressive feminists fighting for gender justice , social justice forces and segments of the society who really strive for not just elimination of aggression and enmity ,but also for establishment of an environment for the fullest development of their potential for attaining a life of dignity.
20. Responding to the present daunting challenges to peace posed by militarism, fundamentalist violence and hegemony AIPSO has to enhance its capacity to address and appeal to far wider sections in a language which ought not to reflect partisan concerns. The AIPSO has to transform itself as a platform of peace activism which is youthful and dynamic. It is clear that with the growing threats which can tear asunder all that we cherish the youth face the gravest threat as they have a long active life to face these adverse conditions. So conversely, it is they who will gain the most if a peaceful order can be established both in India, as well as, the world. In evolving a new language of communication to enhance its outreach exponentially, AIPSO will have to make progressive use of cultural tools updating the glorious tradition of the yesteryears. Concerts for peace, Art for peace, literary, cinema and theater festivals, book publishing, culture jathhas, sports for peace and universal brotherhood in the tradition of the Olympics have to all become essential ingredients for infusing a new vigour and vibrancy into the peace movement.
21. Finally, this **Thiruvananthapuram Declaration** firmly resolves to initiate the process of mighty struggles for mobilization of the broadest sections of our people based on the broadest possible unity to fight for world peace and to extend its solidarity to all those countries and movements who are fighting for independence, democratic rights of the people and social justice. Changing India for the better, to revitalise the role it played in the past to lend its voice to millions in former colonies and the developing nations for a just and peaceful world order is the living essence of this **Thiruvananthapuram Declaration**. AIPSO will leave no stones unturned to create a truly powerful platform for just peace and addressing concerns for

resolving issues of internal conflicts and discrimination, as well as, livelihood and survival imperatives. Therefore, this Declaration will actively promote independence and multiplicity of voices within the flexible framework of ever broadening unity. The Declaration, therefore, embraces the slogan of '**Diversity of thought, Unity of action**' as its moving spirit in the difficult but entirely possible endeavour that we will embark upon.

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Organisational Report

Part-I

Introduction

This national conference of All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation is taking place after four years and four months. The last conference was held in Puducherry. During this period, we have some achievements and some failures, particularly in responding to different political developments. Though our **Trivandrum declarations has explained our position on global issues and guide us about our future course** it will be important to make some comments on the situation we are living in and what should be our tasks in future to strengthen the peace and solidarity movement in our country.

International developments

After the Puducherry conference, the international situation has worsened further. The crisis of the capitalist system is deepening with its negative social consequences hurting the working people and masses badly along with rising geopolitical conflicts and increasing rivalry among the great powers and blocs. All those largely characterise the situation. The developments in the last three years have confirmed that imperialism is aggressively active to control everything. To realise its dream to be the boss of the world, it has increased allocations to its already huge military budget, has enhanced its military presence in all the continents and is trying to extend its area of influence over the markets and rich energy resources of Asia, Middle East, Africa and Latin America by using all kinds of conflicts and differences including internal disputes of nations and differences within the neighbouring countries. The latest developments are the victory of Donald Trump as President of USA, continuation of civil war in Syria, increasing terrorism of all kinds and the the expansion of NATO and encircling of Russia.

To keep its thumb everywhere, the US imperialists overtly or covertly have successfully floated and groomed different terror groups in West Asia, South Asia and Central Asia to destroy religious and ethnical unity of the people in different countries and are declaring all those countries which are not ready to accept the dictate from the empire as national security threats to USA. The project of “ISIS” is the other side of the same coin of the imperialist agenda in the region. It is aiming at controlling the spheres of influence and energy resources. It requires willing regimes and is ignoring the consequences for the people of the region. The crisis and instability created by the imperialists directly and indirectly through armed “**jihadist**” groups are being used now as valid pretext for new military operations and invasions in Iraq and Syria, having as ‘model’ the case of Libya which was bombed and cut into pieces.

Emergence of multi-polarity in international scene

During the last three years, developments also indicate that bid for a uni-polar world under the aegis of US seems to be frustrated by various international and regional groupings. Clear signs of multi-polarity are emerging. Formation of financial institutions like BRICS bank, Asian Infrastructure Bank and growing cooperation among the emerging and developing economies are significant developments in this regard. As well as other regional bodies like the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the Bolivarian Alliance for the Peoples of our America (ALBA), the Community of Latin American and Caribbean States (CELAC), and the Union of South American Nations (UNASUR) are contributing towards establishment of multi-polar world.

Moreover, during this period has witnessed emergence of different countries in the global scene undermining the authority of US domination. There are also growing differences between the USA and European Union as well as among the countries of EU on global issues undermining its authority as an institution.

In such a context, emergence of Russia and its policies on global issues particularly on Syrian conflicts put her as a force to be reckoned with. Today Russia along with China is trying their best to change the present international situation.

Situation in West Asia and Middle East

The situation is rapidly changing in the area particularly in Syria and Iraq. The liberation of the historic city of Palmyra and Aleppo is already weakened the IS and Western backed Jabhal Al Nusra terrorist group. Though the complete liberation will take more time the intervention of Russia and Iran has proved that the US and Saudi Arabia backed anti-Assad forces are not in position to dictate what should be future of Syria.

The assaults by the Iraqi army to liberate Mosul will further weaken the IS and other terrorist group.

While the situation is changing in Syria and Iraq major problems remain on the issue of democratic transformation of Syria and to accommodate the question of independent Kurd state in occupied Kurd areas where Turkish army is attacking Kurd resistance forces who are leading the battle against IS and other terrorist groups.

The situation in Yemen is pathetic. While the US and European countries are concerned about Syria, they prefer to remain silent on Yemen where Saudi led war backed by the US and NATO virtually destroyed that country. The same with the situation in Bahrain where people's aspiration for democracy is met by the inhuman attacks of the multi-national armies by Saudi led Gulf Council.

Latin America

Situation in Latin America is also getting very complex. The victory of right-wing candidate Mauricio Macri in Argentina's presidential election, and the victory of the right-wing Democratic Unity winning two thirds of the seats in Venezuela's National Assembly elections, the parliamentary kudeta in Brazil are the most negative developments in Latin America which have radically altered the political map in South America.

The historic victory has been achieved by Cuba in its battle against US imperialism with the US recognition of its policy's defeat against Cuba with the start of the process of normalisation of relations between two countries.

Now finally Colombian government and the FARC have decided for ceasefire and continue the dialogue for peaceful solution of five decades of insurgency. To redouble our solidarity efforts are essential in continuation of Bolivarian revolutionary process in Latin America.

Situation in Asia-Pacific Region

The situation in the area has remained complex and tense. The development in Asia-Pacific region becoming more complex and is passing through a very difficult phase linked with continuing deterioration in international situation. Unprecedented imperialist military build-up, plan for building up NATO like alliance in Asia with the increasing presence of US army, the stationing of nuclear weapons in South Korea, the build-up of these forces in South East Asia, the South Pacific, the South China Sea, the Indian Ocean, the Gulf and the Middle East and along with this, a number of regional conflicts are persistently exacerbating the situation in the region.

The problems in South Asia are deep rooted and linked with the British Colonial rule and their policy of 'divide and rule'. Whether it is the question of borders among the nations, water sharing, communications, refugees and many others are the issues to be settled. While above problems are there at the same time people of this area facing almost same and similar problems of immense poverty, illiteracy, deceases, malnutrition and underdevelopment and religious fundamentalism, extremism and terrorism.

The growing menace of terrorism in Bangladesh, Pakistan, Afghanistan and in India are matter of great concern. The situation is getting more complex with constant attack on Rohingya Muslims in Myanmar.

Where India stands today

While the international situation is marked by the imperialist and neo-liberal offensives and growing popular resistance and victories of the progressive forces in many areas, our country on the other hand is passing through a very critical situation. Our people are facing challenges from the newly elected government at the Centre which

represents the interests of the corporate capital, rightwing ideology coupled with the worst form of majoritarian communalism.

Our economy is in a very bad shape and is being made totally dependent on the International Finance Capital. Despite extending red carpet welcome to MNCs and FIIs with unheard of concessions, investors are not getting attracted towards India. Concessions after concessions are being granted to Indian corporate houses including a five per cent reduction in corporate tax. All those have only proved futile to ensure economic growth.

The Modi government is well aware of this and is still making all-out efforts to push the economy to Right by amending laws and allowing free hand to International Finance Capital to meddle with. As the failures mount another rightist offensive is also made to divide the people on religious, communal and casteist lines. All kinds of obnoxious and obscurantist methods are being resorted by BJP/RSS combine to divide the people and divert their attention from the real problems of daily life.

The period has been marked by a brazen Hindutva. The communal incidents from Dadri to Udampur, to Rohith Vemula's death in the University of Hyderabad, to the police assault on JNU on February 9, 2016, and the insertion of the sanghparivar activists in key positions while simultaneously banning secular school textbooks have raised a lot of alarm. Particularly their attacks on Dalits and Muslims on false charges of slaughtering and consuming beef in the name of protecting the cow, demolition of the Ambedkar Bhawan, incident in Una's minority communities, as well as on education, culture and academicians are deplorable. All these attacks are aiming at to sharpening communal polarisation and destroy our long inherited secular fabric of our society.

Generally, from AIPSO platform we do not discuss the issue of law and order problems of any particular state but the situation in **Kashmir** and to some extent the situation in **Manipur** are issues which cannot be ignored by AIPSO whose one of the main objectives is to defend India's integrity and sovereignty when these two borderline states are facing multiple problems.

The situation in Kashmir is getting more complicated since the killing of Burhan Wani. The killing led to huge protest which have not restricted to the only towns but spread to rural areas. More than seventy people have died in firing by the security forces and a few thousands have been injured. Due to the use of the Pellet guns by the security forces hundreds of youth became blind and disabled for life.

Without addressing the main reasons of such revolt the Modi government and Hindutva communal forces are trying to find solution by using maximum security forces. The peace and solidarity movement demands the maintenance of the special status accorded to Jammu & Kashmir under Article 370 and for the provision of maximum autonomy and initiate dialogue with all stake holder in Kashmir.

The situation in Manipur is almost same. The frequent economic blockade imposed by the United Naga Council and also the counter blockade by other extremist groups are creating havocs for both Manipur and Nagaland and for the whole nation. Appropriate steps have to be taken by the state and central government to overcome the situation.

Reverse trend in foreign policy

In this period the rightwing drift in Indian foreign policy is getting further filip in last two years. India had a history from the days of the independence movement to support all freedom struggles throughout the world. This also became the cornerstone of the post-independence foreign policy. The non-aligned movement was not just an expression of not aligning with either of the two power blocs in the world but also a dynamic one of seeking complete decolonisation of the world.

It is this independent foreign policy that India has been changing in the last two decades. Starting with the shift to neoliberal policies in the economic sphere, there is also the strategic shift towards aligning with the US. It is this strategic shift that has seen a series of military and security ties being created between the US and India.

First time any Indian Prime Minister did not attend the Non-Aligned Summit in Venezuela just to please the US and acquired the junior ally of US to fulfil its geo-strategic goals. The finalization of the Major Defence Partner designation to India by the US, signing of the Logistic Exchange Memorandum of Agreement (LEMOA) are nothing but acceptance of our sovereignty to USA. At the same time there is a move to build up a common strategic objective with USA in Asia-Pacific region. The relations with neighbouring countries are also not getting improved.

The one-eyed policy towards Pakistan has not yield any result. Rather the new alliance among China-Russia and Pakistan is emerging in backyard of our country which once again proved the failure of our foreign policy.

No need to mention the shameful position of Indian government towards Palestine issue. There is emerging trilateral partnership of India, US and Israel and unfortunately it started with the Congress government and got momentum as there is less difference between the two major political parties position that such kinds of understanding are mutually beneficial forgetting our long standing support to the Palestinian cause from our pre-independence period.

Thus the present situation in our country demands more responsibility from AIPSO to mobilise the Indian masses around the issues of secularism, democracy, economic and social justice as well as the issues of Independent foreign policy and the issue of Peace and anti-imperialist solidarity.

Challenges for AIPSO

At present we are facing twin attacks from imperialism and its neo-liberal economic offensive in our country and the situation demands that we have to take proper political and organisational steps to meet these challenges. Forces for peace in India have therefore to bring together the various forms of resistance that is springing up and relate their specific struggles to the larger struggle for peace in a sustainable way. It is not possible to fight for peace in isolation from the other struggles that are taking place in the country and elsewhere.

This demands the broadest unity to be built on the issues of resistance to war, assault on the livelihood of the people and on the environment. It is important therefore that the peace movement in the country brings together forces not only within political parties that are seeking to combat the forces of war and plunder, but also forces that are outside the political parties that are in the same struggle for a just society based on sustainable development. We have to reach out to the all sections of the society and their respective organisations like women, youth, student, workers, peasant, intellectual, cultural activists, writers to strengthen our capacity as peace warriors.

In this context it is utmost important to understand that the broadening of our organization remains one of the key tasks. It needs proper political understanding among our leadership. They should understand that this is not a joint political platform of different parties on the issue of peace and solidarity, rather it is the organisation of common Indian people who are ready to carry forward the ideals of anti-imperialist solidarity, peace, democracy, secularism and believe that India as a peace loving country with its size, diversity, pluralism and its deep-rooted democratic institution can play the leading role in shaping the present world into a world of peace, cooperation, stability and development.

Part II

Organisational issue

The political and organisational documents approved by the Puducherry conference had placed before AIPSO members the future tasks. There are positive responses from many states. There are lot of activities held at state level. But that is not enough to address the present challenges faced by our nation.

This time when we are meeting for the national conference, the state conferences are held in 11 states. They are **Chhattisgarh, Uttrakhand, Punjab, MP, Bihar, Kerala, West Bengal, Puduchery, Rajasthan, Telengana and Tamilnadu**. Except MP and Tamilnadu, all state conferences were successful with broad participation of all sections of the society. A good number of delegates were there in majority of the states on the basis of their memberships. Many important personalities from the Chief Minister to important Writers, Advocates, Social activists and political leaders from different political parties attended the conferences.

There are positive responses also from other states like **Tripura, Himachal Pradesh, Maharastra, Haryana** to have AIPSO units there. We have to take appropriate initiatives to see that we can form good units in all states of India.

But what is common in majority of the states there are no district level organization excluding in Bihar, Telengana and Kerala. In future we have to overcome these weaknesses.

Activities at the National Level

Since the last national conference, AIPSO leadership organised many events and activities. The secretariat also extended its support and cooperation to other organisations particularly on the issue of solidarity with the people of Palestine, Cuba and Syria and participated in all the joint activities and took part in many international events.

We also organised an international conference on Palestine and the executive meeting of World Peace Council in Goa. One of our most successful activities is to organize India-Vietnam People's Festival. Already eight festivals were organized – four in Vietnam and four in India. Many activities were also organized on the issue of defending the secular democratic character of our country in many states on their own independent initiatives.

To chalk out our plan of activity, Office bearers, Executive and General Council meetings were held but the presence from different states were not up to the mark. The conference should take serious note on this issue.

Function of the Secretariat

Last conference also elected 38 office bearers and 11-member Secretariat. Looking at the composition of the present Secretariat one can easily understand how difficult it is to hold a meeting of these members on day today basis. So it was through consultations by telephones/fax/emails majority decisions were taken. Now we have to change the situation for better functioning. In this respect proper amendment to the constitution will be placed at the conference

Relations with other organisations

AIPSO is the Secretary and important regional member of World Peace Council and Afro-Asian People's Solidarity Organisation. In both organizations AIPSO has played an important role in the past. But now Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council (NPSC) became the Regional Coordinator for Asia-Pacific Region and we have to play a more active role to support NPSC for improving the working of the regional coordination. We have to regularize our contacts with the member organizations of AIPSO and WPC.

During the period the leadership took many initiatives to strengthen its relationship with Peace & Solidarity organizations in other countries. We have established once again our contacts with almost all member organizations of WPC and AIPSO.

Peace and solidarity

This journal was playing a useful role in propagating our views on different issues and subjects. But unfortunately after Patna national conference not many issues have appeared and eventually stop its publication due to acute financial crisis. We have to plan in proper way so that our journal comes out regularly.

Propaganda

At present we do not have any propaganda mechanism. We should opt for better technologies available today for mass campaigning and projecting our views to grassroots level. We have to take seriously having our own website in near future. We must intervene on the social media.

Finance

The finance is very important for the organisation like AIPSO to carry its day-to-day work as well as to organise its activities. The new committee has to discuss the issue seriously. During these years' experience shows that we can mobilise funds if we are active. The audited account will explain our income and expenditure in detail. At the same time, the positive development is that many of our state committees have started paying their membership fees. But it is not enough. We have to take different measures to collect at least 50 lakh within this year (2017) through different activities.

The problems we are facing today are;

1. Entire leadership of AIPSO is involved in the organisation on a part-time basis. From centre not all leaders are available as full-time workers for this organization. More over those who are there in the leadership are politically overloaded.
2. State level too the same problem is there. In different states we have offices with all facilities but failed to run as a state centre.

3. All our activities are being organised in capital cities, in the form of seminar, meetings etc. No initiative is there to build the organization as organisation of mass movements.
4. No serious efforts are made for mass membership campaign, consistent campaign on different issues for which our organisation stands for. Moreover, wherever there are state committees, hardly they met on a regular basis.
5. Acute shortage of funds also limits our day today activities and our mobility on national and international levels. AIPSO is a secretariat member of WPC and AAPSO. There is a big expectation from our member organisation about our leadership. But due to financial crisis we are not in a position to meet the expectations of our friends.

We have to overcome these difficulties for building a strong peace and solidarity movement as decided by the Puducherry conference. And for that we have to change our working style and have to overcome our casual approach towards the organisation and movement itself. From now within year we have to take corrective measures at all levels so that we can overcome the above problems and move forward.

To realise the main objectives, AIPSO needs broad participation of individuals, political and social organisations. Recognizing the diverse views and positions of different political tendencies, we have to go forward with broad approaches as our **Thiruvananthapuram Declaration** emphasizes this issue.

Political Tasks

1. To take more political and organisational initiatives to keep and enhance the broad character of AIPSO. The pluralistic character of our organisation should be reflected in electing the leadership and also in the decision making process at all levels.
2. To organise various forms of struggle against the fascist communal forces in defence of the secular democratic fabric of our society and Indian Constitution.
3. To redouble our solidarity activities with the people of Palestine, Cuba, Venezuela, Syria and Vietnam.
4. To take appropriate forms of activities to build friendly relations with neighbouring countries.
5. To organize yearly cultural festival involving cultural organisations devoted to the issue of Peace and Solidarity.
6. To have more joint activities with likeminded organisations on issues affecting common people.
7. To play a more active role in WPC and AAPSO in their activities. To organise and co-organise more activities in India and the region under the slogan 'Hands of Asia'. Also to plan the regional peace march from Lahore to Dhaka under the slogan "for peace, harmony and better neighbourly relations".

Organisational Tasks

1. To organise local conference annually, district conference every two years and state conference every four years on the basis of mass membership.
2. To have more frequent meetings of the Secretariat and other leading bodies of AIPSO at all levels.
3. To guarantee regular publication of "Peace and Solidarity" with useful content. To initiate a planned subscription campaign so that within six months we can have minimum five thousand subscribers.
4. For better coordination, the central office has to be upgraded with staff and modern office Equipment.
5. To select some comrades from now who will be ready to work full time for the organisation in all levels so that they can get some responsibility in the organisation after the next state and national level conference.
6. To take seriously the membership campaign not only in the cities but also district level so that we can expand our organization.
7. **To have more diverse forms of activities involving all sections of the society in public places so that our message may reach to the wider masses.**
8. To change the attitude towards organisation to limit it works in the four walls of seminar hall. We have to build this organization **as organization of mass movement.**
9. **To mobilize 50 Lakh as the central fund before 31st of December 2017.**

Office Bearers elected at the Thiruvananthapuram Conference

Presidium

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| 1. D.Raja, MP | Centre | |
| 2. M.A. Baby | Centre | |
| 3. Yadav Reddy | Telengana | |
| 4. Ashoke Nath Basu | Centre | Former Vice-Chancellor, Jadavpur University |
| 5. Braj Kumar Pandey | Bihar | |
| 6. Lalit Surjan | Chhattisgarh | |

Vice President

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|-----------------------------|--------------|--|
| 7. Binoy Viswam | Centre | |
| 8. C.P. Narayan | Kerala | |
| 9. Kamal Chenoy | Centre | |
| 10. Probodh Ch. Sinha | Centre | |
| 11. G. Devarajan | Centre | |
| 12. Monoj Bhattacharaya | Centre | |
| 13. Dr. Shakeel Ahamed, MLA | Bihar | |
| 14. Smt. Puspa Devi Singh | Chhattisgarh | |
| 15. Nara Singh | Manipur | |
| 16. Dr. Srikumar Mukherjee | West Bengal | |
| 17. Ms. Jyotirmoyee Sikdar | Centre | |
| 18. Ms. Noor Zaheer | Centre | |
| 19. G. Raghupal | Telengana | |
| 20. R.L. Mudgil | Punjab | |
| 21. Y.V. Rao | AP | |
| 22. Prof. Rajiv Gupta | Rajasthan | |
| 23. Hafiz Alam Sairani | Centre | |

General Secretaries

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|----------------------------|------------|--|
| 24. Pallab Sengupta | Centre | |
| 25. Nilotpal Basu | Centre | |
| 26. Didi Sudhakar | Telengana | |
| 27. K. Lakshiminarayan | Puducherry | |
| 28. Smt. Prof. Sonia Gupta | Centre | |

Deputy General Secretaries

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|-------------------------|--------|--|
| 29. Rabin Deb | W.B. | |
| 30. Arun Kumar | Centre | |
| 31. Harchand Sing Bhatt | Punjab | |

Secretaries

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|-------------------------|-------------|--|
| 32. A.A. Khan | Centre | |
| 33. Adv.V.B.Binu | Kerala | |
| 34. Soumendra Nath Bera | WB | |
| 35. K.V.L | Telengana | |
| 36. Indukuri Bayyanna | AP | |
| 37. Dipak Rai | Bihar | |
| 38. P. Khagendra | Manipur | |
| 39. Zeevanandan | Puducherry | |
| 40. N.S. Negi | Uttarakhand | |

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| 41. Ramesh Sharma | Rajasthan |
| 42. Treasurer | VACANT |
| 43. Biswarup Adhikary | Office Secretary |

Working Secretariat

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|--------------------------|------------------|
| 1. D. Raja | Centre |
| 2. M.A. Baby | Centre |
| 3. Binoy Viswam | Centre |
| 4. Pallab Sengupta | Centre |
| 5. Nilotpal Basu | Centre |
| 6. Prof. Sonia Gupta | Centre |
| 7. K. Lakshinarayan | Puducherry |
| 8. Didi Sudhakar | Telangana |
| 9. Arun Kumar | Centre |
| 10. Rabin Deb | West Bengal |
| 11. Harchand Singh Bhatt | Punjab |
| 12. A.A. Khan | Centre |
| 13. N. S. Negi | Uttarakhand |
| 14. Rajiv Gupta | Rajasthan |
| 15. Dipak Rai | Bihar |
| 16. Treasurer | Vacant |
| 17. Biswarup Adhikary | Office Secretary |

Please take note that Post of Vice Presidents are Vacant for Goa, Assam, J&K, Odisha, Tamil Nadu, MP, Maharashtra and Tripura and Post of Secretaries are Vacant for Delhi, UP and Himachal Pradesh

At the time of full secretariat meeting which includes all Secretaries, all the members of the Presidium, and Vice Presidents living in Delhi and around states will be invited on a regular basis.