

UCO BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION



(Registration No.795 & Registered under Indian Trade Union's Act)
[Affiliated to Bank Employees Federation of India]
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Circular No.10/2025

16.04.2025

To All Members


Dear Comrades,

General Strike on 20 May 2025

We reproduce hereunder the full text of Circular No.21/2025 dated 14.04.2025, issued by General Secretary, Bank Employees Federation of India, for your information and necessary action for implementation of the programmes related to the Strike on 20th May 2025 as mentioned in the said circular.

With warm greetings,

Comradely yours,


(Prakash Chandra Ray)
General Secretary

Full text of BEFI Circular No.21/2025 dated 14.04.2025

Quote

Warm greetings on the occasion of Dr Bhimrao Ambedkar Jayanti. On his 135th birthday, let us get inspired from Dr Ambedkar's life in fighting for workers, women and oppressed populations of the country to eliminate social inequality.

In connection with the call of countrywide General Strike on 20 May 2025 from the National Convention of Workers organised by Joint Platform of Central Trade Unions and independent Federations/Associations, preparatory programme have started throughout the nation. This will be the 23rd General Strike since introduction of new economic policy in 1991.

The Strike will be observed on 17-point charter of demands. The focal issue, quite obviously, is against the Four Labour Codes, which, the NDA-III government is desperately trying to implement repealing 29 Labour Laws. The Labour Codes, enacted in 2019 (1 code) and 2020 (3 codes), could not be implemented due to sustained interventions and resistance from the working class at various levels – the workplaces, different sectors and at the national level. Implementation of Labour Codes is contemplated to impose conditions of virtual slavery on the entire working population.

The successive NDA governments, since 2014, are systematically weakening, demeaning, undermining the public sector enterprises including the financial institutions with ulterior motive of privatization of the entire public sector. At the behest of a handful big Corporate houses, the public properties, resources, financial assets are being handed over with throw away prices causing great losses to the public exchequer. The Labour Codes are meant to facilitate loot and plunder of our natural and public resources as well as cruel exploitation of the workers to allow profit maximization without any resistance.

The policies being pursued by the present government are having disastrous effect on the affairs of the banks and trade unions operating in the industry as well. Employment relations in the organised as well as unorganised sectors are being restructured to promote fragile and precarious Employment with no job security and social security. Permanent employment are reducing with every passing day, being replaced by large scale outsourcing, engagement of apprentices, trainees, interns etc. to keep a big section of workers outside the purview of labour laws.

In such a situation the General Strike on 20 May 2025 is important for the bank employees also. **BEFI have already decided to take part in the strike and advised all members to join the preparatory programme. We, once again, call upon our Units and Affiliates to organise intensive meetings including**

[P.T.O.]

committee meetings, cluster/zonal meetings; branch visits; seminars/conventions to reach every member with the issues of the Strike. We advise to send a report to the Headquarters on the programme immediately after the Strike for a review in our Central Committee meeting in Guwahati on 25 May 2025. The 17-point charter of demands is appended.

17 POINT DEMANDS OF CTUs & INDEPENDENT FEDERATIONS

1. Scrap the Four Labour Codes Now.
2. National Minimum Wage of Rs.26000/- per month for all workers including unorganised sector workers, contract workers and scheme workers.
3. No casualization of work in any form like Outsource, Fixed term employment, apprentices, trainees etc. under various schemes and pretexts. Implement Equal Pay for Equal work for contract workers immediately.
4. Ensure Minimum Pension of Rs.9000 per month and social security to all categories of workers including unorganised workers and agricultural workers. Workers such as Home-based Workers, Hawkers, Rag-Pickers, Domestic Workers, Construction Workers, Migrant workers, Scheme Workers, Agricultural Workers, Workers in Shop/Establishments, Loading/Unloading Workers, Gig Workers, Salt-pan Workers, Beedi Workers, Toddy-tappers, Rikshaw-pullers, Auto/Rikshaw/Taxi Drivers, Ex-patriate Workers, Fishing Community etc. be registered and given portability in comprehensive social security, including pension.
5. Restore Old Pension Scheme. Scrap NPS and UPS.
6. Removal of all Ceilings on payment and eligibility of bonus, provident fund; increase quantum of gratuity.
7. Compulsory registration of trade unions within a period of 45 days from submission of application; Immediate ratification of ILO conventions C87 and C98.
8. Control price rise, remove GST on essential items like food, medicines, agro-inputs and machinery; reduce substantially central excise duty on petroleum products and cooking gas. Guarantee Food Security and Universalize the Public Distribution System.
9. Stop privatization of Public Sector Enterprises, Government Departments. Scrap National Monetization Pipeline (NMP). Amend existing law on mining of minerals and metals and ensure 50% share of profits from mines including coal mines for upliftment of local communities, especially Adivasis and Farmers.
10. MSP @ C-2+50% for all farm produce with guaranteed procurement. Increase input subsidy to farmers on seed, fertilizers and electricity etc. with legal guarantee. Comprehensive Loan Waiver and Crop Insurance Schemes. Implement written assurances given by the Union government to the SKM based on which the historic Kisan Struggle was suspended.
11. Withdraw the Electricity (Amendment) Bill, 2022. Stop privatisation of Electricity. No pre-paid smart meters.
12. Right to work be made fundamental. Fill sanctioned posts and generate employment for the unemployed. Expand and implement MGNREGS (200 days per year and Rs. 600/- per day wage). Enact Urban Employment Guarantee Act.
13. Guarantee Right to Free Education, Right to health, water and sanitation for all. Scrap New Education Policy, 2020. Ensure housing for all.
14. Stringent implementation of the Forest Rights Act (FRA); Withdraw the amendments to Forest (Conservation) Act, 2023 and Bio-diversity Act and Rules that allow the union government to permit clearance of a forest without even informing the residents. Ensure land to the Tiller.
15. Give ESI Coverage to Construction Workers, with contributions from the Welfare Fund, also give coverage to health schemes, maternity benefits, life and disability insurance to all workers registered on E-Shram Portal. Ratify ILO Conventions on Domestic Workers and Home-based Workers and make appropriate laws. Make comprehensive policy on Migrant Workers, strengthen existing Inter-state Migrant Workmen (Regulation of Employment) Act, 1979 providing portability of their social security cover.
16. Tax the Super Rich; Enhance Corporate Tax; Re-introduce Wealth Tax and Succession Tax.
17. Stop attack on core values of the Constitution – freedom of expression, right to dissent, freedom of religion, diverse cultures, languages, equality before law and federal structure of the country etc.

Unquote