



BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION OF INDIA

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To all Units, Office Bearers, CC & GC Members

Dear Comrades,

**NATIONAL CONVENTION OF WORKERS
CALLS FOR
TWO DAYS' ALL INDIA GENERAL STRIKE
ON 08TH & 09TH JANUARY 2019**

The 5th NATIONAL CONVENTION of the Central Trade Unions and All India Federations of Employees, including ourselves, was held on 28th September 2018 in New Delhi. While congratulating the employees and workers for successful implementation of the various action programme, including All India General Strikes, declared from the earlier four National Conventions, the fifth Convention expressed its anguish at the total indifference and apathy of the Central Government, towards the 12-Point Charter.

Unabated price rise of all daily necessities, including that of foodstuff, aided and abetted by ever increasing prices of petro-products, almost on a daily basis, have made lives miserable for the common men. With no avenue for job creation, the problem of unemployment has assumed unprecedented proportions. Contractualisation of jobs, across sectors including the PSUs, has just compounded the problem; the outsourced workers have no defined terms of employment, no social security, not even security of tenure and are being subjected to hire and fire at the whims of the employers. A recent survey has revealed that more than 82% of the males and more than 92% of the females amongst the outsourced workers are paid less than Rs.10,000/- a month.

Central Government has been on a frenzied rush to dismantle the Public Sector, more particularly the Public Sector Banks and Insurance Companies, altogether; off-loading of Government holding, public issue of shares and direct privatisation are some of the mechanism followed in this direction. Public Sector Banks, in particular, have been made target of a three-pronged attack - legislative, administrative and political. With a view to downsizing of Branch-network and of human resources, a self-destructive merger plan, for PSBs, has been undertaken; there is a deliberate negligence and apathy in recovering bad loans, etc. aimed at appeasing big corporate; and last, but not the least, safe passage out of the country is being ensured for the fraudsters looting the PSBs of thousands of crores. While the powerful united opposition of Bank-employees and other sections of workers have forced the Central Government to withdraw the obnoxious FRDI Bill, a new scam has surfaced in the form of Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code whereby corporate loan defaulters would be granted huge write offs of their defaulted loans, through a subterfuge euphemistically called "hair cut", at the cost of the public funds at the disposal of the Banks.

Labour Laws are being subjected to insensate retrograde amendments to further empower the employers at the cost of hard earned rights of the workers.

To disarm the working people of its unity to fight out all the aforesaid evils arising out of the policy decisions of the Government, venomous communal and religious hatred are being deliberately cultivated, overtly as also covertly, by the ruling dispensation at the centre and its various outfits.

The NATIONAL CONVENTION took stock of the aforesaid and such other developments in recent times and decided to carry forward the struggle, on the one hand, against the evil machinations and anti-people-pro-corporate policies of the Central Government and, on the other, to further press the 12 point charter of demands formulated from the earlier Conventions.

With that in view, the NATIONAL CONVENTION, held on 28th September 2018, chalked out the following programme of action:

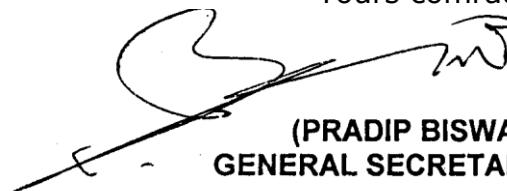
- i. October & November 2018 : Joint Convention at State & District Levels;
- ii. November & December 2018 : Sector-wise Gate Demonstration;
- iii. 17th – 22nd December 2018 : Joint Rallies & serving of Strike Notice;
- iv. 08th & 09th January 2019 : ALL INDIA GENERAL STRIKE.

Units (our state-level affiliates) are advised to work out, in consultation with other partners of the NATIONAL CONVENTION, the details of the programme to be adopted and observed depending on the ground realities in their respective areas, and to gear up the organisation for successful implementation of the aforesaid programme including the **ALL INDIA GENERAL STRIKE ON 08TH & 09TH JANUARY 2019**.

ON TO ALL INDIA GENERAL STRIKE ON 08TH & 09TH JANUARY 2019.

With greetings,

Yours comradely,



(PRADIP BISWAS)
GENERAL SECRETARY