



# BANK EMPLOYEES FEDERATION OF INDIA

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**Press Statement issued by Shri Pradip Biswas, General Secretary,  
Bank Employees Federation of India on today's All India Bank Strike.**

“At the call of United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU), the umbrella organisation of 9 Unions of Workmen and Officers of the Banking Industry of the country, the Workmen and Officers of Banks all over the country, including those of Regional Rural Banks & Co-operative Banks, struck work today to ventilate their unequivocal protest and opposition to the neo-liberal reform of the Banking Sector being pursued by the Central Government. The strike was total throughout the length and breadth of the country. Employees of Reserve Bank and NABARD organised tiffin time solidarity demonstrations at all centres.

The strike was observed **opposing** Banking & Labour Law Reforms, infringement of Trade Union rights, outsourcing of permanent jobs and **demanding**, mainly, legitimate compensation to employees and officers for extra hours of work due to demonetisation, removal of ceiling for payment of gratuity, adequate recruitment in all cadres, implementation of Compassionate Appointment Scheme, improvements in Pension Scheme and extension of defined benefit Pension Scheme in banks in lieu of NPS, stringent measures to recover bad loans and fixing accountability of top executives of banks, criminal action against wilful defaulters of bank loans, initiation of process for next wage revision, introduction of 5-Day banking & others.

The adverse effect of demonetisation on the economy has resulted in decline in the growth rate of GDP. The demonetisation has taken away the lives of more than 100 innocent citizens of our country including more than ten bank employees. Government did not find time to even express sorrow for such deaths. The bank employees, including women, who had to work beyond normal working hours, even till midnight on some days during the months of November and December 2016, have not been paid their due compensation in terms of their service conditions.

The declared objectives of demonetisation, viz. fighting black money, circulation of counterfeit notes and funding for terrorists, having been proved to be nothing but **gimmicks**, the government is now talking of **digital payments**. The hidden agenda behind this is to cater the needs of corporate service providers like Paytm, Jio Money etc. A tailored report has been presented recently by a government appointment committee headed by Sri Ratan Watal, former Finance Secretary of the country. Its recommendations, if implemented, will ultimately ruin the public sector banks' domain in our country's banking structure that could save our economy from a disaster emanating from the impact the global meltdown of 2008.

STRIKE TODAY is an undisguised warning to the Central Government that Bank Employees and Officers are united and in its firm resolve to wage and undertake the fight against its anti-people, anti-labour and pro-corporate policies.

While congratulating the Bank Employees and Officers for making the strike today a huge success, we thank the banking public for kindly bearing with us despite some inconveniences for which we sincerely regret.”

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To  
The News Editor/Chief Reporter  
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For favour of circulation/broadcast through your esteemed media please.

Jaydeb Dasgupta,  
Secretary.