



ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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TO ALL UNITS AND MEMBERS:

Dear Comrades,

MAY DAY - 2109

**THE DAY OF INTERNATIONAL WORKING CLASS SOLIDARITY
LET US BE COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE OF WORKING CLASS**

Greetings: On the eve of May Day, we convey our warmest greetings to all our unions and members. We also extend our revolutionary greetings to the working class of India as well as to the international working class. May Day is an occasion to look back at the struggles and sacrifices made by the working class to build up unity and solidarity of the workers all over the world. May Day is an occasion to take the pledge to renew our commitment to carry forward the struggle to end exploitation of man by man. May Day is an occasion to realise and deepen our conviction that there is no other alternative than to unite and fight against all the attacks on the working class.

The special significance of the May Day this year is that workers world over are fighting against massive attacks launched by employers, capitalists and pro-capitalist Governments on their basic and fundamental rights. India is no exception. We find increasing attacks on workers' interests and trade union rights.

Attacks on our trade union rights: The present NDA Govt. has launched an unprecedented onslaught on the trade union rights of the workers. The attack on the fundamental and basic rights of the workers has been going on in India for years together especially since neo-liberal economic policies were introduced in India. The labour laws are not being enforced properly. The Govt. even ignores violations. The present Government is the worst, perhaps darkest period as far as violation of basic and fundamental rights of workers are concerned.

Our rights not by anybody's charity: The present rulers should appreciate that it was through long, bitter and relentless struggles of the working class waged from the days of freedom struggle and during post-independence period, that working people were able to win for themselves some of the fundamental and basic rights such as freedom of speech and association, right to assemble and more importantly right to organise and form trade unions and join trade unions of your choice. The workers struggle for basic and fundamental rights developed in India as a part of freedom struggle of the Indian people.

Our rights are constitutional: It was therefore natural that when the Constitution of India was being framed in Constituent Assembly, provisions for some of these basic rights were made in the Constitution. Article 19 of the Constitution not only guarantees freedom of speech but also right to form trade unions and join trade union of your choice. The right to strike or right to any other form of protest follows as a natural corollary to the right to organize or right to form trade union. All these basic and fundamental rights are under very severe attack from the present NDA Govt.

Amendments to please the corporates: A spate of amendments to crucial labour laws by NDA Govt. have either been rushed through or are proposed to be pushed through soon in order to snatch away from workers their basic and fundamental rights and attempt to make labour market free run to exploit the workers ruthlessly and enrich themselves by loot & plunder. Attempts by the Central Govt. to curb some of these rights were determinedly resisted by the trade unions. But increasing grip of corporates on the national economy and social life is now more visible and pronounced. It is therefore they who influence and determine the policy of the Govt. It is a pity and betrayals of workers' interests that the Government is willing to surrender to the whims of the Corporates in order to facilitate their plan to amass wealth at the cost of the labour.

Unfair curbs to stop our protests : The arbitrary and frequent misuse of Section 144 Cr.PC. on trade unions is aimed at curtailing genuine and peaceful trade union activity and protest. It is used as an instrument by Govt. not only to curtail civil liberties but also curtail and prohibit democratic T.U. activity. This is being misused very frequently. In many States and cities, processions, Dharnas, etc. are not being permitted at all.

Beware, hire and fire is their agenda: If the Government succeeds in getting proposed amendments passed in Parliament, employers will have the freedom to shut down their companies without taking any permission of the Government. The result is that nearly 75% undertakings and companies in the country will be thrown outside the purview of the labour laws. This is what corporates have been wanting. It will make hire and fire easy. The Government wants to enact labour code which is a concerted attack on our basic rights.

Exploitation is their scheme: Since formation of NDA-BJP Government at the centre in 2014, far reaching changes have been made in some of the crucial labour laws such as, I.D. Act, Factories Act, etc. Anti-worker changes have also been made in Industrial employment (Standing Orders) rules, adding a new category of workmen to be known as "Fixed Term Employment Workmen". This category of workman will be worse than contract labour.

Social security will be a casualty: Two main pillars of the social security in India namely Employees State Insurance (ESI) Scheme and Employees Provident Fund (EPF) Scheme too are under attack. Attempts are being made to make them unviable so that Government may eventually justify their winding up.

Unilateralism is their way: All changes in labour laws were made without any consultation. The Tripartite Consultation Mechanism was not adhered to for changing important labour laws. No meeting either of Standing Labour Committee or Indian Labour Conference was convened. Fearing protests from trade unions, Government has cancelled the meeting abruptly.

We know how they are doing it: Central Trade Unions have strongly condemned the aggressive attempts of the Govt. to push out of the coverage of labour laws overwhelming majority of workers and drastically curb the trade union rights by using not only Central labour Ministry but also BJP Governments in States where they are ruling. Prime Minister's office has written to State Govt. to follow Rajasthan model in labour laws ! For development it is Gujarat model and for labour laws, it will be Rajasthan model and everyone knows what these models are.

Foreign Investments encouraged: It is not only anti worker amendments to labour laws but also Government's retrograde decisions to allow FDI in core sectors like Defence, Railways, Insurance, etc that need to be kept in mind. Opening the core sectors to indiscriminate foreign capital would obviously endanger the economic sovereignty of our country. Our struggles have to encompass these issues also.

Genuine demands are ignored: The 12 point charter of demands of the entire working class of the country was presented to the NDA govt. soon after it assumed office. The NDA Government is dealing with these demands with utter cynicism. The Trade Unions have shown exemplary patience and waited long in order to enable NDA Govt. to resolve issues. The 2 Days General Strike by more 200 million workers of India was a warning to the Government. But NDA Govt. is not inclined to resolve the issues. Instead they are more and more aggressively mounting attacks on the workers.

Take the pledge to fight back – Hit back at those who hit us: On May Day 2019 let us therefore take the pledge to intensify our struggle against all these attacks and emerging challenges. Let us remain an integral part of the working class.

With greetings,

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Yours Comradely



C.H. VENKATACHALAM
GENERAL SECRETARY.

AIBEA'S CLARION CALL
OBSERVE 1ST MAY AS "ANTI-OUTSOURCING DAY"
