

ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION
LIC BUILDING SECRETARIAT ROAD HYDERABAD 500 004
(E-mail: aiieahyd@gmail.com)

Cir. No. 16/2025

May 05, 2025

To,
All the Zonal/Divisional/State/Regional Units

Dear Comrades,

Joint Circular by AIIEA/ AIBEA/ BEFI/AIBOA/AILICEF/AINLIEF (INTUC)

We give herein below the Joint Appeal issued by the major unions in the financial sector viz; All India Insurance Employees' Association (AIIEA), All India Bank Employees' Association (AIBEA), Bank Employees' Federation of India (BEFI), All India Bank Officers' Association (AIBOA), All India LIC Employees' Federation (AILICEF) and All India National Life Insurance Employees' Federation (AINLIEF- INTUC)- regarding the 20th May 2025 countrywide General Strike as per the call of ten major central trade unions and a large number of independent Federations/ Associations. The contents are self-explanatory.

We request our units to take the message of the Strike to each and every employee of LIC/ PSGI companies. **We request our units to plan Joint Demonstrations on 8th of May 2025 and 19th of May 2025, in co-ordination with the above Unions.**

March On to 20th May 2025 One Day Strike.....

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours

Shreekanth Mishra

General Secretary

ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION - AIBEA
ALL INDIA INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION – AIIEA
ALL INDIA LIC EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION - AILICEF
ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION - AIBOA
BANK EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION OF INDIA - BEFI
ALL INDIA NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE EMPLOYEES' FEDERATION – AINLIEF (INTUC)

5th May, 2025

To

All our Unions & members,

Dear Comrades and Friends,

Fight back the offensive of privatization and disinvestment
Fight back the offensive on Banking and Insurance industries
Join hands to push back policies inimical to the interest of the working class
Make the General Strike on 20th May 2025 a big success in the financial sector

We are happy that AIBEA, AIIEA, AILICEF, AIBOA, BEFI and AINLIEF (INTUC) have given the call for joining the countrywide General Strike on 20th May 2025 as per the call of 10 central trade unions and other independent trade unions/federations in various sectors including our banking and insurance industries. This Strike will be a major struggle in opposition to the pro-corporate and anti-people economic policies of the government. More than 200 million workers from across the country are expected to participate in this strike.

The Indian economy is in a severe crisis. Despite tall claims of India being the fastest growing major economy in the world, India is at 143rd position out of 194 economies in terms of GDP per capita. Stagnant wages, growing indebtedness of the average households and rising prices have spelt disaster for the common man. Poverty, hunger, unemployment, joblessness and inequalities are on the rise. The ILO says that 83 per cent of the unemployed in India are youth. The percentage of unemployed people with secondary or higher secondary education has nearly doubled since 2000. Many experts believe that India's unemployment situation is as ferocious as a ticking time bomb about to explode. The blind pursuit of neoliberal economic policies has meant that a vast majority of Indians are groaning under poverty and destitution while a miniscule minority is wallowing in stinking luxury. The share of wages in the net value added declined from 18.9 per cent in 2020 to 15.9 per cent in 2023. In the same period, share of profits rose from 38.7 per cent to 51.9 per cent.

The government seems to be in an overdrive insofar as privatizing India's public sector is concerned. The National Asset Monetisation Pipeline is a blueprint for privatizing the public enterprises. The Public Enterprises Survey 2023-24 brought out by Department of Public Enterprises, Ministry of Finance reports that the overall net profit of the operating CPSEs during the financial year 2023-24 stood at ₹ 3.22 lakh crore as against ₹2.18 lakh crore during the financial year 2022-23, showing an increase of 47.42 per cent. Similarly, the dividend declared by the operating CPSEs in financial year 2023-24 stood at ₹1.23 lakh crore against ₹1.05 lakh crore in financial year 2022-23 showing an increase of 16.31 per cent. Notwithstanding the significant strides made by India's public sector enterprises, the government continues to defame and denigrate the public sector pitching for their outright privatization. The recent Union Budget has fixed a target of ₹47,000 crore in the financial year 2025-26 to be mobilized from disinvestment of PSUs.

India's public sector financial institutions, banks and insurance in particular, have come under increasing attack. It is to be noted that Public Sector Banks in India have achieved a remarkable milestone by recording their highest ever aggregate net profit of ₹1.41 lakh crore in the financial year 2023-24. Their dividend payments have also jumped by 33 per cent from ₹20,964 crore in the financial year 2022-23 to ₹27,830 crore in the financial year 2023-24. The commendable role played by India's Public Sector Banks in expanding financial inclusion in the hitherto unbanked areas of the country needs no elaboration. Rather than strengthening these institutions, the government has been taking covert and overt steps to privatise India's public sector banking industry. While the government has written off NPAs of the big corporates and industrial houses to the tune of a staggering ₹16.35 lakh crores in the last ten years, usurious service charges are being collected from ordinary customers under the plea of non-maintenance of minimum balance, additional ATM transactions and SMS services.

The public sector insurance industry in India has been doing very well. The Life Insurance Council estimates that nearly 70 per cent of the insurable population has been covered by the industry, thanks to the massive reach of LIC. The life insurance penetration in India compares favourably with many rich western countries like US, Canada, Germany and Spain. General insurance penetration is also reasonably well given the fact that a vast majority of the population do not own any assets because of huge inequality. The LIC's contribution to the national developmental effort is all too known to be repeated here. But despite this sterling performance, the government is bent upon diluting its equity in LIC beyond the 3.5 per cent disinvested in 2022. There are reports that the government is planning to introduce a Bill in the monsoon session of Parliament incorporating therein provisions to raise FDI limit to 100 per cent, introduce composite licenses, allow insurers to offer multiple categories of insurance under a single license, empower IRDAI to specify lower entry capital and a host of issues portending danger for public sector insurance industry. There are also moves underway to privatise one of the Public Sector General Insurance Companies. The government has been maintaining a deafening silence on the demand to merge the PSGI companies and derive economies of scale for further strengthening these companies. GST on insurance, especially life and medical insurance is utterly immoral. Despite the demand of an overwhelmingly large segment of the population, the government is refusing to withdraw GST on life and medical insurance premium.

India is staring at a huge unemployment crisis. But regular, permanent and perennial jobs are being replaced by casual, temporary, contractual and fixed term jobs. From job-oriented growth, it went on to become jobless growth. Now the situation has further degenerated to job-loss growth. Banking, Insurance and the entire financial sector, which represent the bulk of national savings and cater to the basic financial needs of a vast majority of the population, are going through a period of acute shortage of staff. Recruitment has become an absolute necessity to meet the rising customer expectations.

‘Ease of doing business’ has become an alibi to dole out further concessions to the rich. 29 labour laws were amalgamated into 4 labour codes to suit the requirements of the employer class to the detriment of the working class. Hard-won trade union rights are being diluted and weakened in the name of labour reforms. While profiteering by the greedy employers is being encouraged, reasonable demands of the working class like scrapping the NPS and restoring the Old Pension Scheme (OPS) is not being considered.

It is in this background that the Central Trade Unions have taken the initiative, organized the Convention and have given the call to unitedly resist and repulse these offensives on the working people and general masses. As inseparable part of the general trade union movement and working class of our country, we have given the call to join the General Strike on 20th May 2025. We should make the strike a total success in the banking and insurance sector.

As a pre-strike preparatory programme, we call upon all our units and members in all centers to hold joint demonstrations on 8th and 19th of May 2025.

With Greetings,

Sd/-

C.H. VENKATACHALAM
GENERAL SECRETARY
AIBEA

Sd/-

RAJESH KUMAR
GENERAL SECRETARY
AILICEF

Sd/-

DEBASISH BASU CHOUDHARY
GENERAL SECRETARY
BEFI

Sd/-

SHREEKANT MISHRA
GENERAL SECRETARY
AIIEA

Sd/-

SANJAY KUMAR KHAN
GENERAL SECRETARY
AIBOA

Sd/-

SANJAY CHAKRABORTY
GENERAL SECRETARY
AINLIEF (INTUC)