



ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION

(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No.3427/Delhi)
C/o State Bank of India Officers' Association (North-Eastern Circle)
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To All Affiliates (Please Circulate)

Dear Comrades,

Celebrating May Day 2024: A Tribute to Workers' Resilience and Solidarity

"I am no longer accepting the things I cannot change. I am changing the things I cannot accept"

In the 19th century, a surge of revolutionary fervour ignited a movement that unified the working class, facilitating their assertion of rights and pursuit of dignified living conditions. The sacrifices of our predecessors etched a legacy of resistance to exploitation and unwavering solidarity among workers. Each May 1st, we commemorate this ethos, paying homage to the Haymarket martyrs and extolling the dignity of labour.

The genesis of May Day is intertwined with the struggle for reduced work hours, a pivotal demand resonating globally among workers. Initially propelled by the quest for higher wages, the emphasis on shorter work hours and the right to organize remained central to workers' protests against exploitation.

Today, as we observe International Workers' Day, we acknowledge the enduring challenges faced by workers worldwide. Speaking on behalf of the All-India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC), we salute their resilience and pledge staunch support for their rights and well-being.

As the preeminent Banking Sector Trade Union Organization globally, AIBOC recognizes its responsibility transcending sectoral boundaries. May Day serves as a poignant reminder to address broader workforce issues and uphold dignity across all sectors.

The pursuit of liberalization agendas has eroded labour rights and facilitated the privatization of public assets, resulting in a weakening of organized labour movements. Financial influence has swayed political decisions, ushering in anti-worker policies such as the labour code in India. Persistent income inequality sees a small fraction of families amassing vast assets while the majority struggle. May Day advocates for equitable wealth distribution and equitable wages for all workers.

The emergence of the gig economy and precarious work arrangements imperils the stability and welfare of workers. May Day underscores the imperative of job security and social protections for all, rejecting initiatives like contractual employment and championing universal social security.

Moreover, May Day serves as a platform to combat broader social injustices, including gender inequality, racial discrimination, and the rights of migrant workers. AIBOC is committed to combating discrimination in workplaces and broader society.

Technological advancements, notably AI, raise concerns about job displacement and the future of work. May Day reaffirms the intrinsic value of human labour and the necessity of ensuring workers are not marginalized by automation.

This May Day, we reaffirm the rights to education, dignified work, and a healthy work-life balance, opposing any form of worker exploitation. AIBOC endeavours to unite workers in demanding improved conditions and social justice.

May Day remains a universal rallying point for workers to articulate their demands and address contemporary workforce challenges. The struggle for labour rights endures, underscoring the imperative of collective action in shaping a more equitable future.

With greetings,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rupam Roy', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

(Rupam Roy)
General Secretary
