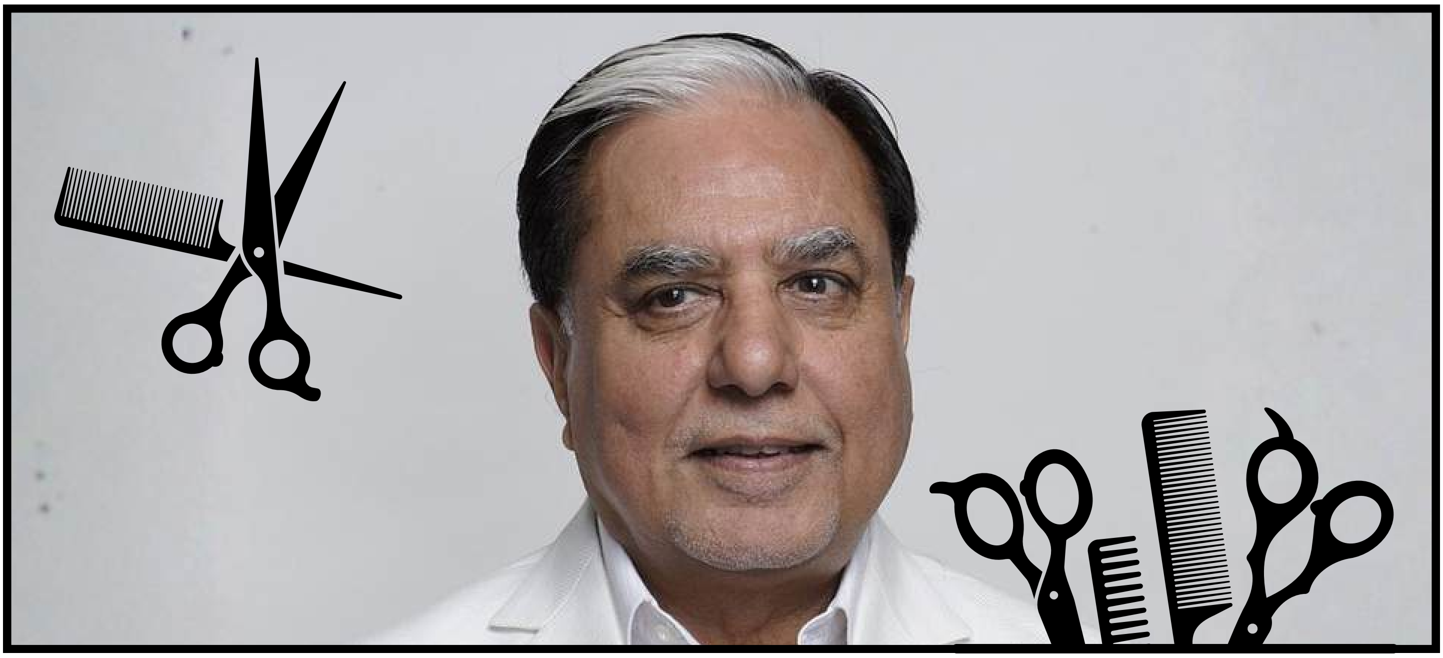
BANK BEATS
Fortnightly Magazine of the All India Bank Officers' Confederation
Volume 2 | Issue 2 | 31 Aug 2026

Outlandish Haircuts and the lopsided priorities of our financial policy makers | Editorial

Rupam Roy, General Secretary, All India Bank Officers' Confederation



We inhabit a time that is truly upside down. Today, the footsoldiers of financial inclusion - the hardworking employees of public sector banks - remain ignored, exploited and retrenched in the name of cutting costs. Those dealing with financial policies frown at overworked bank employees demanding a five day week. While on the other we make fancy salons where the super rich can go to get “haircuts” worth thousands of crores. That is what the Insolvency and Bankruptcy framework has been turned into.

A recent National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) order has cleared the way for Zee Group founder Subhash Chandra to settle claims worth around Rs 22,006.57 crore for a mere Rs 6.5 crore, a recovery rate of roughly 0.03% of what creditors were owed. That amounts to a haircut of nearly 99.97% for lenders. The LIC Housing Finance is known to have objected to the approval calling the proposed payout "unviable and unlawful". But to no avail.

The IBC, enacted in 2016 supposedly to deal with the NPA crisis, has had an extremely controversial track record. It was created purportedly as a time-bound mechanism to deal with companies that fail to repay their loans, such that creditors could account for bad loans through a process of resolution and recovery. But recovery has been abysmally low. According to data available with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs, between the financial years (FY) 2021-22 and 2025-26, a total of 1,077 cases were resolved under the IBC, with average recovery of just about 29%. In FY26, in fact, the recovery against the admitted claims was as low as 20%. That is the lowest in the last five years. So, the same banks that are being advised by policy makers to shed weight and cut corners by retrenching and by not filling vacancies are on the other hand being deprived of legitimate recoveries of lakhs of crores of rupees from the big corporate lenders.

Despite undergoing many amendments, the IBC is still riddled with issues. The question is whether these issues are deliberate actions or procedural loopholes. According to the Parliamentary Standing Committee's 67th report, only 25 to 30% of cases are being resolved. Notably, some cases take more than two years to culminate, leading to the erosion of asset value. One of the key findings of the report highlighted the limited capacity of the NCLT, which was operating at only 50% capacity, with 34 out of 62 member positions vacant and over 20,000 cases pending.

The Subhash Chandra case is only one of a long list of rather mind-boggling haircuts and deals that have been cut out using the IBC framework. In December 2023, in the case of Rcom Vs. State Bank of India, the NCLT endorsed a resolution plan amounting to a mere Rs 455.9 crore. This figure starkly contrasts with the creditors' claims totalling Rs 47,251 crore, symbolising an astounding 99% reduction in the creditors' claims. At the time of its bankruptcy filing, RCom held a debt of Rs 46,000 crore from 53 financial creditors, including prominent Indian public sector banks such as State Bank of India, Syndicate Bank, Bank of Baroda and Punjab National Bank. For Videocon Industries Limited, creditors were forced to accept a whopping reduction of 95.85% on their outstanding loans. Twin Star Technologies, a subsidiary of the Vedanta Group, offered only Rs 2,962 crore for Videocon Industries in exchange for the claims of 64,938 crore. This represents only 4.15 % of all creditors' claims and a haircut of 95.85%. Similarly, Ruchi Soya, a prominent defaulter in the Reserve Bank of India's list, grappled with a massive debt burden, totalling around Rs 12,000 crore. Among its financial creditors, State Bank of India held the largest chunk of the debt at approximately Rs 1,800 crore (15% of the total debt), followed by Central Bank of India, Punjab National Bank and Standard Chartered Bank India. Patanjali Group acquired Ruchi Soya for a measly Rs 4,350 crore which is 36.25% of the total debt in 2019 through the insolvency process.

The Parliamentary Standing Committee report said, "The Committee found that the low recovery rates with haircuts as much as 95% and the delay in resolution process with more than 71% cases pending more than 180 days clearly points towards a deviation from the original objective of the code intended by the Parliament".

An article in Finance Matter had once said that "We should pity the fools Mallya, Choksi and the other Modi. They could have stayed here and gone to NCLT and the ruling party." Ironic that referring to the Subhash Chandra haircut, Mallya tweeted: "If true many congratulations to my friend Subhash. Banks and government have admitted having recovered Rs 14,100 crores from me against a Judgement debt of Rs 6203 crores. Many more borrowers have settled at a fraction. Indian Debt Resolution Justice I presume. No media questions."

When even absconders of the likes of Mallya start taking potshots at our so-called recovery mechanisms, we ought to know that there is something wrong with the systems and we need to fix accountability.

As we prepare for the agitation program demanding our rightful five day work week, let us point out such gross contradictions and misplaced priorities of our financial policy makers.

What is happening to Employment in India?

Avinash Kumar, CISLS/SSS/JNU

In the last decade, India's transition from jobless to jobloss growth has further worsened. Bourgeois economics that rely on unemployment rate as core indicator of the labor market, however, is regrettably obscured by narratives that celebrate the recent shift toward a self-employed workforce (from 52.2% in 2017–18 to 58.4% in 2023–24) as a burgeoning 'entrepreneurial spirit' among the masses. A careful analysis of the PLFS data indicates that this shift is driven not by the increase in the share of 'employers' or 'own account workers' what can be understood as 'informal enterprises', but by the increasing share of workers in the household enterprises (HHEs). While there is hardly any scope for net accumulation among those classified as OAWs, as they survive on self-exploitation without hiring any labor; those classified as helpers in household enterprises are mostly unpaid work.

Further, this rise in self-employment coincides with a stagnation, or even decline, in more formalized and secure forms of employment. Regular wage/salary employment, a marker of job security and access to benefits, has remained largely stagnant, hovering around 21 per cent. Much of this regular employment, over 71%, lacked written job contracts rendering it vulnerable despite its apparent formality. 53.4% of the 21.1% of the labor force in regular wage/salaried workers in 2023–24 did not receive any social security benefit. This means only 9.6% of all workers in this category were getting at least one form of social security. If we adopt a more stringent definition– wherein a worker must receive multiple or comprehensive protections to qualify for 'decent work', this number would shrink further to less than 4% of regular workers.

Even the so-called stable employment carries strong elements of informality. Most telling, however, is the steady decline in casual wage labor, from 24.9% in 2017–18 to 19.8% in 2023–24. While some suggest that as a positive sign of decline in the most precarious form of labor; some view it more likely as a reflection of the shift in the way informal work is performed, rather than a substantive improvement in job quality. In other words, workers previously classified as casual wage labor may now be doing similar and multiple work under more precarious conditions under different names, such as, helpers or part-time own-account workers etc.

Thus, the Indian labor market is undergoing a crisis produced by the logic of subsidiarisation—a production architecture where industrial and platform capital systematically externalize wage costs by fragmenting employment into multiple, underpaid nodes. Under this regime, the informal sector is mutating into a highly state-visible, digitally tagged space that remains profoundly precarious but highly surveilled.

The mainstream's attempt to romanticize the shift in India's employment structure toward a rise in stable entrepreneurship is only aimed at obscuring the reality that a rigorous deconstruction of Periodic Labor Force Survey (PLFS) data shows. The structural reconstruction of the labor market is actually geared toward a distress-driven concentration of work. Relying on a simplistic binary of "employed vs. unemployed" or "formal vs


IMG: India Today

informal" actively masks severe economic distress and hidden exploitation. The celebrated decline in India's official unemployment rate is largely a statistical sleight-of-hand. Individuals classified as "employed" are simply migrating into intermittent, low-quality work as a survival mechanism.

The PLFS data confirms that growth in Subsidiary Status (SS) work consistently and dramatically outpaces Principal Status (PS) employment across nearly all categories. Driven by this subsidiarisation of employment, workers are increasingly compelled to juggle multiple, precarious economic activities simultaneously just to sustain their livelihoods. And more importantly, this structural deformation is acutely gendered. Structural vulnerability ensures that women bear a disproportionate burden of this economic shift, leaving them heavily over-represented in unpaid family labor and the most invisible nodes of the informal pyramid. Thus, precarity, informality, and fragmentation are no longer transient, "passing phases" of the Indian developing economy. Instead, they have become permanent, structural features of India's capitalist development process itself and are constantly mutating. Confronting this fractured reality requires moving past outdated economic binaries and adopting a new theoretical vocabulary to recognize the true nature of work in India.

Time to take Inequality seriously as we approach BRICS summit

Anirban Bhattacharya, Centre for Financial Accountability (CFA)

One of the byproducts of the era of big tech is extreme inequality. While almost all of the major players - Google, Meta, Apple, Amazon, or Microsoft - are all based in the US, the Global South countries constitute a major share of their market. So, even though the digital giants may not have a lot of physical footprint in terms of their establishment in the country where they operate, these countries are where they may be generating most or a major share of their profits. As such, why should the country of residence pocket all the taxes? Are they not robbing us of our legitimate taxes? Similarly, by simply offshoring their profits to a sister company housed in a low-tax jurisdiction, they are able to avoid paying legitimate taxes in the developing countries. This, in other words, is just pure loot.

The age of Artificial Intelligence is only going to further worsen this crisis and aid in concentrating resources in the hands of a few. Developing countries have long relied on taxing labour and wages, and in India, income tax has now overtaken corporate tax collections for the first time. As AI replaces jobs, that labour tax base will keep shrinking, even as profits concentrate in a handful of AI firms that pay almost nothing. Palantir, the AI firm that has been aiding Israel in its genocide in Gaza, posted a 93% revenue jump in early 2025 with a global effective tax rate of just 1.4%. Some countries are looking for new answers. South Korea, for instance, has floated a "national dividend," taxing AI-driven corporate profits to fund basic income, pensions, and support for workers displaced by automation.

But what about global tax justice? There are three big questions at the heart of today's global tax fight: where should companies pay tax? Where they're headquartered, or where they actually earn money. How do we stop them hiding profits in tax havens? And who gets to decide the rules? A rich-countries' club like the OECD, or every country as equals? The OECD, after years of foot-dragging, has failed to yield anything substantive. Even the 15% global minimum corporate tax has been sidestepped by the US, as it has browbeaten others into not taxing its MNCs. This was called the "Side-by-Side" package. Frustrated with the OECD, developing countries pushed tax talks to the UN, where every country gets an equal vote instead of rich nations calling the shots. The US walked out on day one, in February 2025, refusing to even participate. Some, in fact, thought it was “good riddance”.

What has been the role of BRICS? Well, it has backed the UN process politically, welcoming it as a more democratic site. At the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro, July 2025, the leaders' declaration welcomed a BRICS Joint Statement in support of the United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation, issued by the BRICS Finance Ministers. But at the same time, unlike the African nations, it hasn't really proactively committed to or pushed any specific fix like unitary taxation or a global wealth tax. India's own position has been blatantly contradictory. It champions fair global taxation at the UN, arguing that source countries deserve their due. And yet at home it scrapped its own "Google tax" 2024-25 in the face of US tariff threat. And then handed foreign cloud and

IMG: The Times of India

AI companies a 21-year tax holiday running from 2026 to 2047! This isn't just declining to tax foreign digital revenue; it's actively subsidizing it via forgone tax on AI/cloud infrastructure investment.

In an Age of Inequalities, we cannot afford to have such self-defeating and lukewarm approaches. What we need is a fundamental challenge to a system that thrives on extraction and exploitation at one end and concentration at the other. The Independent Commission for the Reform of International Corporate Taxation, led by economists including Joseph Stiglitz, Thomas Piketty, and Gabriel Zucman, has proposed taxing multinationals as one single global company so that they cannot park their wealth at tax havens. They have proposed splitting profits by where real economic activity happens instead of the home country of MNCs, alongside a 25% global minimum tax and a 2% wealth tax on billionaires and the ultra-rich!

If we do not take immediate action to combat inequality globally and in our own respective countries, it will not only condemn the millions at the bottom to precarious lives, but will also corrode democracy and accountability. The Wealth Tracker India 2026 underlined how the super rich in India are amassing wealth at an astronomical rate while the other India is struggling with stagnating incomes, rising debt, and joblessness. We must demand that the super-rich and the corporates be taxed such that we can spend more on health, on education, on social welfare, on climate adaptation, and public infrastructure.

RBI considering Plastic Currency

The RBI is moving closer to introducing polymer (plastic) banknotes, initially likely for ₹10 and ₹20 denominations. Its currency-printing subsidiary, BRBNMPL, has invited bids for around 68,000 reams of polymer substrate with built-in security features, and both Indian and foreign companies have responded. Because currency production is considered strategically sensitive, bidders must ensure that their India operations are completely separated from those in China and Pakistan, while also certifying that the polymer contains no animal tallow or its DNA. The polymer notes are being considered because they are more durable and harder to counterfeit than conventional paper notes.

RBI Bulletin: Global uncertainties

The RBI State of the Economy report states that the global economy is still growing, but the environment remains fragile and uncertain. The renewed conflict in West Asia could disrupt supplies of oil and other important commodities, pushing up prices and affecting global supply chains. It is also making businesses more cautious about investment and expansion. At the same time, new US tariffs have created further uncertainty around international trade. Despite these challenges, it said that the global economy continues to expand, although inflationary pressures remain a concern.

RBI, Revolving Loans & NBFCs

. The Finance Industry Development Council (FIDC), which represents India’s non-bank finance companies (NBFCs), has asked the RBI to reconsider its proposed restrictions on revolving credit. Unlike a normal term loan, revolving credit allows a borrower especially a small business)to borrow, repay and borrow again within an approved limit, making it useful for managing working-capital needs. The RBI is concerned that such facilities could encourage borrowers to remain in a cycle of debt, but NBFCs argue that banning them would make credit less accessible and more expensive for MSMEs that already struggle to get bank loans.

Fixed deposit rules

RBI has revised the rules governing fixed deposit interest rates, effective October 1, 2026, through the Commercial Banks – Interest Rate on Deposits Second Amendment Directions, 2026. The key change is that banks must now offer the same interest rate to all depositors putting in the same amount on the same day, no matter which branch they use, ending the practice of quoting different rates depending on which branch a customer visits. Banks must also publish their rate schedules in advance on their websites, so depositors can check the actual applicable rate before opening an FD instead of relying on what a branch tells them. The rules apply across commercial banks, small finance banks, regional rural banks, payment banks, and urban cooperative banks, giving everyday depositors clearer, more comparable information before they invest. Banks have been given greater flexibility in pricing bulk deposits of ₹3 crore and above, based on the Liquidity Coverage Ratio framework, even as the new rules bring more uniformity and central oversight to how retail deposit rates are set and disclosed.

Echoes of the Past

August in Workers Calender:

12–16 August 1946, South Africa

Over 60,000 mine workers on the Witwatersrand went on strike demanding better wages and working conditions. The strike was brutally suppressed: at least nine workers were killed and over 1,200 injured. Though crushed, it marked a turning point in South Africa's labor and anti-apartheid struggles.

14–31 August 1980, Poland

Workers at the Gdańsk Lenin Shipyard, led by Lech Wałęsa, struck after Anna Walentynowicz was fired. By 31 August, the Gdańsk Agreement was signed, recognizing independent unions and laying the foundation for Solidarity, a movement that reshaped Polish politics.

26 August 1913–18 January 1914, Ireland

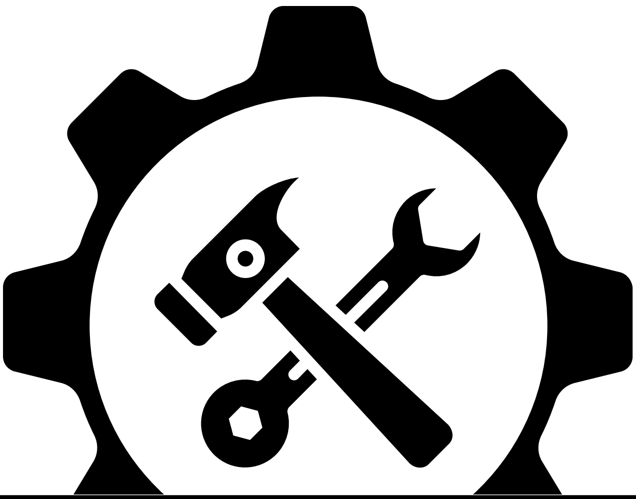
The Dublin Lock-Out saw 20,000 workers strike against 300 employers for union rights and better working conditions. Although it ended without major victories, it spurred the creation of the Irish Citizen Army and strengthened unionism.

16–18 August 1946, India

The All Hyderabad Trade Union Congress (AHTUC) was founded in Secunderabad under N.M. Joshi and Makhdoom Mohiuddin. It became central to the Telangana Rebellion and was quickly repressed by the Nizam's regime.

August 2020, India

The All-India Gig Workers Union (AIGWU) emerged during protests by app-based delivery workers, especially at Swiggy, against pay cuts, marking a new chapter in organizing gig economy labor.



Why are the Bank Unions going on a Strike?

Seven bank unions have come together as the United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU) to announce a nationwide strike on the 11th of September, 2026, followed by a three-day strike later in September and an indefinite strike from October 26 if the following demands are not addressed.

- 5-day weeks, as promised in the 8 March 2024 Settlement/Joint Note, with already a two-year delay in implementation
- Immediate scraping of a Performance-Linked-Incentive (PLI) Scheme that favours top executives over general workers.
- Any such schemes should be implemented only after dialogue with the union, and not unilaterally imposed on bank workers in the future.
- Immediate resolution of the long-pending pension issues, starting with the standardisation of the Dearness Allowance (DA) formula for all pensioners, allowing employees to be enrolled under the National Pension System (NPS), with the option to switch to the Old Pension Scheme (OPS).

Read More.

IMG: The Sen Times

Government Employees' Strike in Punjab

Over 3 lakh Punjab government employees and 3.5 lakh pensioners are in an escalating standoff with the AAP-led state administration over ₹15,000 crore of unpaid Dearness Allowance arrears and demands for the Old Pension Scheme. Following a massive statewide "Maha Hartal" on August 27, 2026, the government initiated disciplinary action and issued show-cause notices to workers who were absent. In response, employee unions launched the "Secretariat to Satauj Vapsi" campaign, giving the state until September 7 to withdraw the notices. If ignored, workers plan a mass casual leave on September 8, culminating in a two-day statewide strike on October 21–22.

Read More.

Gurgaon Sanitation Workers' Ongoing Strike

Sanitation workers, sewer workers, and fire department personnel in Gurgaon have extended their ongoing strike until the 30th of August, warning of an indefinite strike if their primary demand of regularised jobs, instead of contractual work, is not met. Despite reaching a formal settlement on the 13th of May, the workers explain that none of the assurances was met. The current demands include:

- Regularisation of all contractual sanitation workers, sewer workers, and fire personnel. To stop the outsourcing of sanitation and sewerage work and to fill vacant posts through regular recruitment.
- The reinstatement of all previously retrenched workers, which includes around 3,480 employees in Gurgaon.
- To implement the Old Pension Scheme and ensure that contract workers receive minimum wages, medical facilities, and labour-law benefits until they are officially regularised.
- To provide a ₹5,000 monthly risk allowance for sanitation workers, along with uniform and risk allowances for fire personnel.
- To provide ₹50 lakh in financial assistance and a guaranteed regular job to the dependents of any employee who dies in the line of duty.

Read More.

Conflict in Andhra between the Government and the Government Employees' Union

The Andhra Pradesh government and APJAC Amaravati (an umbrella employee union body) are locked in a severe conflict over unpaid dues estimated between Rs 40,000 crore and Rs 45,000 crore. APJAC has launched a phased protest campaign titled "CM Sir... Give us our money," demanding:

- **Clearing of Accumulated Dues:** Releasing the pending Pay Revision Commission (PRC) arrears, Dearness Allowance (DA) instalments, gratuity, leave encashment, and surrendered-leave payments.
- **Immediate Administrative Relief:** Appointment of a new PRC Commissioner, grant immediate Interim Relief (IR), and list pending individual arrears explicitly on employee payslips.

The APJAC maintains that the Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu's white paper assertion that salaries and pensions consume 95% of state revenue is mistaken, citing CAG data showing that employee costs account for only 37.41% of total revenue expenditure.

Read More.

IMG: The Hans India

Even Boeing's White-Collar Workers are Predisposed to Falling Real Wages.

Around 17,000 Boeing engineers and technical workers, represented by the company's largest white-collar union, SPEEA, rejected a proposed 4-year labour contract and voted to authorise a strike when their current agreement expires on October 6. The conflict arose when Boeing capped wage increases at 3% per annum. Since Seattle's local Consumer Price Index shows a 4.5% year-on-year average inflation rate, workers argued that accepting a 3% cap effectively guarantees a pay cut relative to the cost of living. While manufacturing unions (like the IAM) frequently strike, recently halting Boeing factories for seven weeks in 2024, white-collar engineering strikes are rare. SPEEA members last walked out in 2000 for 40 days. A work stoppage would further delay Boeing's already backlogged certification campaigns for the 737 MAX 10 and 777-9, both of which are years behind schedule. With no formal negotiations scheduled, the union plans to survey its members to define clear counter-demands. At the same time, Boeing prepares for potential disruption if a compromise isn't reached before the October 6 deadline.

Read More.

Victory for Hyundai Workers in South Korea

With approximately 40,000 members in its fold, the Hyundai Motors workers' union reached a tentative agreement with the firm after going on a rare full-day strike. The terms of the agreement include a basic, monthly raise of around USD 72, with a performance bonus equivalent to 4 months of base salary, the age of retirement being increased from 60 to 65 years (once South Korea's legislation on this passes) and an exemption from the "wage peak system" — which progressively cuts salaries for senior employees in their final working years) Following the retirement age extension. Union members will vote to officially ratify or reject the deal on the 31st of August.

Read More.

Chilean CCU Delivery Workers Protest Wage Cut

Under tumultuous geopolitical circumstances and rising food and fuel prices, a beverage company in Chile, CCU, recently reduced the wages of its delivery drivers with their own vehicles by 50%. Such a step, taken by a company owned by Grupo Luksic, one of the richest corporations in Chile, with a wealth equivalent to $52.6 billion US dollars, consequently drew large-scale outrage and protest among the workers on the 20th of August.

Read More.

IMG: ekosistemltd

Contractualisation is Precaritising Workers Everywhere — Protests in Bangladesh

With increasing privatisation, states are taking a step back from actual governance, by treating as few employees as possible, as their own. By doling out contracts and going the public-private partnership route, even essential service workers are being hired through third-party contractors by auctioning vendorship tenders. The Bangladesh Outsourcing Employees Welfare Council has been resisting this, particularly with their most recent protest in Dhaka on the 22nd of August. They formed a human chain, and conducted a protest march, while raising seven demands: A national pay scale for daily-wage and project-based workers, a minimum monthly wage of 30,000 taka ($US244), reinstatement of dismissed workers, payment of arrears and abolition of the contractor system.

Read More.

Sugar Factory Workers go on a Strike in South Africa

Sugar factory owners in South Africa, offered a wage raise of 5.4%, which was deeply distressing to the workers who were demanding a 13% wage increment. The workers were also seeking a basic housing and travel allowance. However, this is happening at a time when the sugar industry is already under pressure from cheap sugar imports, undergoing financial difficulties. are refusing to accept that the crisis should be imposed on their living standards.

Read More.


IMG: Farmers weekly

Kenyan Nurses Continuing on a Nationwide Strike

Kenyan Nurses, in defiance of court orders, are continuing with the nationwide strike since the 29th of July, until their demands are met with on-ground-implementation. They are demanding the full implementation of the 2017 Return-to-Work Formula, and an immediate approval of their stalled 2025–2029 Collective Bargaining Agreement to upgrade salaries. Additionally, the union insists on absorbing over 7,600 Universal Health Coverage healthcare workers, whose contracts expired on June 30, into permanent, pensionable positions.On August 22, KNUNM gave the Salaries and Remuneration Commission seven days to approve pending CBAs, threatening to extend the stoppage to national referral hospitals.

Read More.

IMG: Daily Nation

Bank News

Bank unions threaten nationwide strike on September 11 to press for 5-day banking, other demands

August 24th, 2026, The Economic Times

Link:https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/bank-unions-threaten-nationwide-strike-on-september-11-to-press-for-5-day-banking-other-demands/articleshow/133451625.cms

Bank unions will strike nationwide on September 11 due to unresolved demands. This action follows a government 'negative attitude' towards key union proposals. The strike will impact banking services for four days, including holidays. Further strikes are planned for September 28 and an indefinite one from October 26. Unions seek five-day banking, pension improvements, and a uniform incentive scheme.

Gold loan portfolio to surpass Rs 1.5 lakh crore by FY27-end: Indian Bank MD

August 23rd, 2026, The Economic Times

Link:https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/gold-loan-portfolio-to-surpass-rs-1-5-lakh-crore-by-fy27-end-indian-bank-md/articleshow/133436694.cms

Indian Bank expects its gold loan book to surpass Rs 1.5 lakh crore this financial year. This growth will be driven by increased loan volumes and robust demand for gold loans. The bank also reported significant CASA deposit growth in the first quarter. It has successfully raised USD 400 million through overseas bond issuance. Further foreign currency inflows are anticipated from FCNR(B) deposits.

LIC gets RBI nod to raise stake in HDFC Bank to nearly 10% from 4.11%

August 20th, 2026, The Economic Times

Link:https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/lic-gets-rbi-nod-to-raise-stake-in-hdfc-bank-to-nearly-10-from-4-11/articleshow/133362845.cms

Life Insurance Corporation of India received approval from the Reserve Bank of India. This allows LIC to increase its stake in HDFC Bank to 9.99 percent. Currently, LIC holds 4.11 percent of HDFC Bank's total share capital. The approval grants LIC flexibility to raise its investment in the lender. This development strengthens LIC's financial services sector exposure.

No takers: Public sector banks put ₹39,000 cr of bad loans up for sale again

August 20th, 2026, The Economic Times

Link:https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/no-takers-public-sector-banks-put-39000-cr-of-bad-loans-up-for-sale-again/articleshow/133358198.cms

Public sector banks offered many bad loans previously for sale. Nearly eighty percent of these loans were repeat sale attempts. Indian Overseas Bank and Indian Bank led these repeated offerings. Private sector banks showed a sharp contrast with few repeat sales. This highlights challenges in selling large legacy corporate accounts.


IMG: Mint

Top 10 private banks cut over 10,000 jobs in FY26 as AI reshapes hiring

August 19th, 2026, The Economic Times

Link:https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/top-10-private-banks-cut-over-10000-jobs-in-fy26-as-ai-reshapes-hiring/articleshow/133330763.cms

India's top private banks are reducing their employee numbers significantly. This workforce contraction occurred after substantial hiring in the previous fiscal year. Technology-led efficiencies are enabling banks to expand operations without increasing staff. Some midsize lenders, however, have increased their headcount during this period. Banks are accelerating AI and automation deployment across their operations.

Govt to constitute high-powered panel to review banking sector: Nirmala Sitharaman

August 17th, 2026, The Economic Times

Link:https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/banking/finance/banking/govt-to-constitute-high-powered-panel-to-review-banking-sector-nirmala-sitharaman/videoshow/133295239.cms

Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has announced that the government will soon set up a high-powered committee to examine banking sector reforms and help shape India's banking framework for Viksit Bharat 2047. Speaking at the PSB Conclave 2026, she highlighted record-low NPAs and called for fresh recommendations from banking leaders.

All India Bank Officers' Confederation
Phone / Tel : +919957563825
Email : gs@aiboc.org