

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

(Registered under Trade Unions Act 1926-Regd. No. 6908)

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To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 32 dated 01.05.2023 issued by the General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation, the contents of which are self-explicit.

With revolutionary greetings,

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)

EVERY DROP OF MARTYRS SHALL HERALD A NEW DAWN

"Man is born free but everywhere he is in chains" The urge to break open and come out of the chains is the sparkle that ignited a wild fire all across the socialist minds during the later part of the 18th century in the United States of America. These socialists realised the importance of work life balance for the first time and organised a mass movement to break free from the atrocities, suppression and oppression that had been the order of the day.

2. The historical May Day traces its roots way back in 1884 when the American Federation of Organized Trades and Labour Unions demanded an eight-hour workday, to come into effect as of May 1st, 1886. This resulted in the general strike and the Haymarket (in Chicago) Riot of 1886. The first May Day celebrations focused on workers took place on May 1st, 1890 after its proclamation by the first international congress of socialist parties in Europe on July 14th, 1889 in Paris, France, to dedicate May 1 every year as the "Workers Day of International Unity and Solidarity". However, the first May Day celebration in India was organised in Madras by the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan on May 1, 1923. This was also the time when the red flag was first used in India, the symbol of struggle and sacrifices.

3. As we approach yet another May Day, it is imperative to reflect on the sacrifices made by those martyrs and retrieve and relive the spirit associated with it to draw the significance of a united struggle to restore our workplace dignity and strike a balance between hard work and our collective prosperity as a formidable workforce in the Banking Industry. As bank employees, we are all members of the working class, and our commemoration of May Day finds its relevance in our effort to pay homage to our predecessors who reminds us of the struggle and sacrifices made to improve the working condition of the laborers and to restrict the working hours to eight hours a day with the popular slogan "Eight hours for work, Eight hours for rest and Eight hours for recuperation". As Bankers we still find relevance of May Day in our struggle for a regulated working hour for officers as well as maintenance of work life balance along with sun set of all kinds of exploitation, suppression and workplace humiliations. It also remains a day to recognize and express solidarity towards the never-ending struggle to safeguard the interests of the working class as a whole in the face of changing economic and political environments prevailing all across the country where exploitation and extortion have become the order of the day to satiate the greed of the individual profit mongers.

4. We as Bankers have been facing many a challenge in recent years, including changes in government policies and in terms of threat looming large for privatization. These menaces if not fought at the right place, shall have the potency of putting our jobs and our livelihoods at stake with the propensity of clobbering on the gains we have achieved so far through collective bargaining and our all-out struggle to ensure a better work environment for a better life.

5. It is at this juncture; we need to draw strength from the spirit of May Day and resolve to thwart and dislodge any heinous attempt on the part of the protagonists directed towards disintegrating us and stopping us from restoring our hard-earned rights and make further improvement upon it. We must resist the onslaughts of different agencies, government policies, and management atrocities that are hellbent to strip us off from our basic rights and thus pave way for privatization of public sector banks. On this auspicious day, let us resolve and raise a collective voice to press our demand for restoration of our public sector fabric, to rejuvenate our energy in our demand for fair wages, ensure five- day work week, better work conditions, job security, adequate recruitment in the bank that remains the mother of all the troubles.

6. On this auspicious day of enormous significance, let us resolve to make this world a better place for the working class and strive hard restoring labour rights across the sectors and bent not to any pressure tactics and sharpen our arms to face any sort of challenges thrown against any collective struggle for a collective good. These if could be accomplished shall justify commemoration of May Day and paying real homage to those great martyrs who sacrificed their lives to ensure, we stay protected.

7. Wishing a revolutionary greeting on the Auspicious May Day to all our comrades across the Trade Union Fraternity and a respectful homage to the martyrs, who taught us once, - **never yield before you succeed.**

With Revolutionary Greetings,

Comradely yours,

Sd/-

(Deepak Kumar Sharma)
General Secretary



Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay

General Secretary

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