



ALL INDIA BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION

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To ALL UNITS AND MEMBERS:

Dear Comrades,

**From the pages of history – the seed of solidarity sown 67 years ago
Unforgettable Solidarity Strike by BPBEA on 17th August, 1948
AIBEA means one for all and all for one**

As most of us are aware that in those days, there was no system of collective bargaining or system of Bipartite Settlement. When Unions went on agitation and strike demanding improvement in service conditions, the issues were referred by the Government to Tribunals for adjudication. Hence there were as many tribunals and awards as there were agitations and strike actions by bank employees.

In this background, when Central Bank employees in Calcutta were on agitation, their demands were referred to S K Sen Tribunal. This Tribunal gave an Award on 8th March, 1948 extending some benefits to the employees. But unfortunately, Central Bank management (which was very notoriously anti employees in those days) refused to implement the Award and extend the benefits to the employees.

Hence Central Bank employees in Calcutta had to start an agitation again and launched an indefinite strike, demanding the implementation of the Award. The strike continued for 19 days as the Central Bank management was adamant and took an illegal stand they would not implement the Award.

At that time Com Prabhat Kar was the General Secretary of Bengal Provincial Bank Employees' Association. He saw Central bank employees fighting alone and the management of the Bank was adamant. He felt that other bank employees should go in support of the Central Bank employees. The call was given by BPBEA to go for Solidarity Strike by all bank employees in Calcutta on 17th August, 1948. The strike was a grand success which compelled Central Bank management to implement the SK Sen Award.

But then, while Central Bank employees got the benefit of the Award, the Lloyds Bank management prosecuted Com Prabhat Kar for giving the call for illegal strike on 17th August, 1948. It is a known history to all of us that as a result of this, Com Prabhat Kar was convicted by the Court and Lloyds Bank dismissed Com Prabhat Kar from the services of the Bank.

Com Prabhat Kar lost his job at a very young age and had to undergo great sufferings in his life but the message of solidarity action was sown signifying the philosophy of AIBEA 'All for one and one for all'.

While recalling this historic Solidarity Strike on 17th August, 1948 organised by Com Prabhat Kar, let us try to inculcate, instill, imbibe and implant in ourselves this sense of solidarity which is the secret of the success of AIBEA.

With greetings,

Yours Comradely,



**C.H. VENKATACHALAM
GENERAL SECRETARY**



**MARCH ON TO 2ND SEPT. 2015 NATIONAL GENERAL STRIKE
BY 100 MILLION WORKERS OF INDIA**

**EXPRESS YOUR SOLIDARITY
AND MAKE THE STRIKE A GLORIOUS SUCCESS.**