



THE SHIELD

A Monthly Magazine from

State Banks' Staff Union (Chennai Circle)



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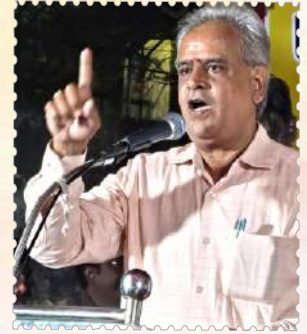
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My dear Colleagues,

Dear comrades,

I am very happy to meet you all through this in house e-magazine.

As we welcome the New Year, we do so with a sense of commitment, responsibility and hope. However, for bank employees across the country, this New Year arrives with serious challenges that directly affect our working conditions, our hard-earned rights and our future in the banking industry.



The first major challenge before us is the **changing framework of labour laws as labour codes**. Bank employees have always discharged their duties with discipline, integrity and dedication within a regulated system. Today, there is growing concern that the new labour codes weaken job security, restrict the scope of collective bargaining and reduce the strength of organised labour. For us, labour protections are not privileges or concessions. They are essential safeguards that enable employees to serve the public efficiently and honestly, without fear, insecurity or undue pressure.

The second major concern is **privatisation in the banking sector**. Public sector banks were built with public money and strengthened by the tireless efforts of generations of employees. These institutions have played a crucial role in financial inclusion, rural development and social justice. Privatisation threatens the public character of banking by shifting the focus from service to profit, increasing job insecurity and weakening accountability to the common citizen.

Another serious issue confronting bank employees is the **consolidation and mergers of banks**. While mergers are projected as reforms to strengthen the banking system, employees experience their impact daily. Branch rationalisation, staff shortages, excessive workload, extended working hours and frequent transfers have become routine. One employee is often expected to shoulder the responsibilities of many, leading to stress, fatigue and declining morale.

In this challenging environment, our demand for **five-day banking** is fully justified and long overdue. Bank employees work far beyond official hours, often without adequate compensation, under continuous pressure to meet targets and comply with regulatory requirements. A five-day work week will help improve efficiency, reduce stress and ensure better physical and mental wellbeing and more focused employees.

Even while facing these challenges and pursuing our legitimate demands, bank employees continue to uphold social and cultural values. **Pongal celebrations**, held across offices reminded us of gratitude, hard work and collective prosperity. They strengthened bonds among employees and reaffirmed our connection to the people we serve, especially farmers and rural communities who depend on public sector banking.

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Similarly, the observance of **Republic Day** serves as a powerful reminder of our constitutional values of justice, equality and fraternity. As bank employees and union members, we draw strength from the Constitution, which guarantees the right to organise, to express dissent democratically and to work with dignity. Our struggles are firmly rooted in these democratic principles.

Our **demonstrations for five-day banking and fair policies** are disciplined, democratic and peaceful. They represent the collective voice of bank employees who have stood firm even during economic crises, pandemics and periods of great uncertainty, ensuring stability in the financial system.

We are not opposing change or reform. We are demanding reforms that are **consultative, humane, and worker-friendly**. The banking system cannot be strengthened by weakening its workforce. A strong banking system requires secure, respected, and motivated employees who are treated as partners in nation-building.

As a union, let us remain united, disciplined and determined. Let this New Year, enriched by the spirit of Pongal and guided by the ideals of Republic Day, mark not the erosion of our rights but the renewal of our collective resolve. Together, we shall continue to fight for dignity in work, fairness in policy and a sustainable, people-oriented future for banking in India.



V.SRIDHARAN
GENERAL SECRETARY

NEW YEAR GREETINGS TO OUR FORMER GENERAL SECRETARY AND PRESIDENT

Our General Secretary and President of SBSU(CC) Visited all former Presidents & General Secretaries to extend warm new year wishes on jan 01, 2026



NEW YEAR WISHES BY MEMBERS

On **1st January**, comrades from various units visited our Union Office to extend New Year greetings to our beloved **President, Com. Khaja Fakrudheen**, our dynamic **General Secretary, Com. V. Sridharan**, and other office bearers. Comrades exchanged their views on the present challenges faced by bank employees, including issues arising from mergers, privatisation and increasing workload.

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The interaction strengthened our collective spirit and reaffirmed our unity and determination to intensify the union's struggles, particularly for the implementation of **five-day banking** and the strengthening of the public sector banking system. Our General Secretary appreciated our comrades' commitment and called upon all members to remain united and vigilant in the days ahead.



CALENDER DISTRIBUTION BY OUR GENERAL SECRETARY & PRESIDENT @ ALL MODULES



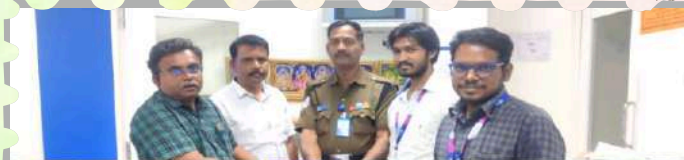
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BRONZE MEDAL BY GAYATHRI.M @ NATIONAL KALA UTSAV-2025

Miss. Gayathri M, a talented and well trained violinist, The daughter of Com. Mali B, Senior Associate of Reddiarpalayam Branch, Pondicherry, participated in National Kala Utsav - 2025 held at Yashwantrao Chavan Academy of Development Administration, Pune and won Bronze medal in Group instrumental music category. Miss. Gayathri, a student of 10th class, is learning music for the past five years. In the short span of two years itself she competed and won Best Children in strings instruments category for 2022. This was awarded by Dept of Education, Pondicherry State Government. She took part in the group instrumental music category under the banner of her school. The students who won state level competitions



Miss. Gayathri

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were participated in this event. a total of 37 teams with 1020 members participated under 12 different categoris. In that grand musical event, she came up with flying colours. we wish all the children in the group, all the best for their bright career ahead.

ONLINE MEMBER'S MEET

Our Coimbatore Module conducted a very meaningful online meet through MS Teams for members who joined the Bank after 2020. The meet witnessed enthusiastic participation of more than 200 members, which clearly shows the growing interest and involvement of our young comrades.

I, along with our beloved General Secretary, participated in the meeting, supported by the office bearers of Coimbatore Module. The meeting started at 7.00 pm and went on smoothly till 10.45 pm, reflecting the keen interest of our members.

During the meet, members were apprised of the recent developments in the banking sector. Special emphasis was laid on the history, formation and role of our Trade Union SBSU, our Federation and NCBE, highlighting their continuous efforts in safeguarding the rights, benefits, protection and welfare of employees. Members were also briefed on their eligibility for loans and advances and about the functioning of our co-operative society. Further, guidance was provided on the importance of strictly adhering to systems and procedures in our day-to-day work life.

Many members raised their doubts and queries, which were patiently answered and clarified then and there, making the session very interactive and informative.

I place on record my appreciation and congratulations to the Coimbatore Module, especially Deputy General Secretary Com. Senthilkumar, for taking up this wonderful and timely initiative aimed at empowering our comrades with knowledge. Such efforts will definitely strengthen our organisation and help in building strong future leadership.

Kudos to the entire team. Keep up the good work Coimbatore

With warm regards

*President

*SBSU, AISBISF, NCBE - Zindabad

UFBU- AGITATIONAL PROGRAMMES FOR FIVE-DAY BANKING

As part of the united and sustained struggle for the implementation of **five-day banking**, the **United Forum of Bank Unions (UFBU)** successfully carried out a series of agitational programmes at the all-India level during the month of January.

The agitation commenced with a **dharna and demonstration on 6th January 2026**, which were held at various centres across the country. Large numbers of bank employees participated and raised their voices against excessive workload, staff shortages, and prolonged working hours, while strongly demanding the early implementation of five-day banking.

In order to take the issue to a wider audience, a nationwide Twitter campaign was conducted on 18th January 2026. The campaign received an overwhelming response and **trended at No. 1 across India**, helping to bring widespread public attention to the genuine demands of bank employees. It successfully highlighted the urgent need for better work-life balance and improved efficiency in the banking sector.

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Subsequently, on **20th January 2026**, bank employees across branches and offices participated in a **badge-wearing programme**. The programme symbolised unity, solidarity and collective resolve and served as a visible reminder of the ongoing struggle for five-day banking.

As the culmination of these agitational programmes, an **All India Bank Strike was observed on 27th January 2026**. The strike witnessed massive participation from employees across the country and demonstrated the unity and strength of the banking workforce. The strike was organised in protest against the continued inaction of the authorities and to press for action on the long-pending demand for five-day banking.

The successful conduct of all these programmes clearly reflected the determination, discipline and unity of bank employees under the banner of UFBU. The agitation reaffirmed the collective commitment of the workforce to continue the struggle until justice is achieved and five-day banking is implemented.



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