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General Secretary

# BSNL EMPLOYEES UNION

Central Head Quarters

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BSNLEU/102 (Circular No.01/2022)

06<sup>th</sup> January, 2022

To,

The Circle Secretaries,  
Central office-bearers  
and District Secretaries.

Dear Comrades,

## **Observe the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first General Strike.**

**Organise district level conventions. Collect Rs.5/- per member  
as donation for the Agricultural Workers Union.**

It was on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 1982, that the first ever General Strike was organised by the Indian working class, against the anti-worker and anti-people policies of the government. The strike was organised by the Sponsoring Committee of the Central Trade Unions and National Federations. The opposition parties, including the Janata Party, BJP, CPI(M), CPI, Lok Dal, Forward Block, RSP, etc., issued a statement in support of the General Strike. Undoubtedly, that strike was a huge success and became an important landmark in the Indian trade union movement.

It is already 40 years since that first General Strike has taken place. Now, the 22<sup>nd</sup> General Strike is going to be organised on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022. It is very important to note that, the charter of demands of the 1982 General Strike not only contained demands of the workers, but it also included the demands of minimum wages for the agricultural workers and remunerative prices for the peasants. Together with the workers, the agricultural workers also joined that 1982 General Strike. Ten workers were killed by police brutalities on the day of that strike. Among them, many were agricultural workers.

It is very important to note that, the organisers of the 1982 General Strike have emphasised the need of building the worker peasant unity in our country. India is a country with a huge number of agricultural workers. Without building the unity of the urban workers and the rural agricultural workers, it will be very difficult to defeat the pro-corporate and anti-people policies of the government. This is the message of the General Strike of 1982. The recent success of the Kisans' struggle has also proved the strength and the fighting potential of the farmers.

19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, is the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic first General Strike held in 1982. The All India Centre meeting of BSNLEU, held online on 05.01.2022, has decided to observe this 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary in a befitting manner. The meeting has decided that district level conventions should be organised throughout the country on 19<sup>th</sup> January, 2022, to observe the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first General Strike. Leaders of the Central Trade Unions and other Fraternal Organisations can be invited to address this convention. Apart from recollecting the significance of the first General Strike, this convention should also be utilised to campaign against the National Monetisation Pipeline and for mobilising BSNL employees for the two day General Strike to be organised on 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> February, 2022.

The All India Centre has also decided to collect Rs.5/- from each employee. This amount will be handed over to the All India Agricultural Workers Union. This will be our token of support to the agricultural workers. **The All India Centre has decided that this amount should be directly collected from the employees and not to be paid from the funds of the circle or district union.**

All the circle and district unions are requested to successfully implement the decisions of the All India Centre. Photos and report of the district level conventions may be sent to the CHQ.

Thanking you,

Yours fraternally,

**[P. Abhimanyu]**  
General Secretary