

AGITATIONS OF THE WORKERS AROUND THE WORLD

AGITATIONS IN THE MINING SECTOR

In S.AFRICA : 30 thousand coal mine workers in S. Africa demanding rise in their wages went in to strike from Oct.6.(2015) onwards. Workers belonging to Anglocoal and Glencor companies too participated in the strike along with the workers of several other coal companies.

In PERUVIA : On October 30, mine workers employed in Dae Run Peru have carried out a 24 hours strike to demand that the government order the opening of the mine and approve a contract that respects worker's labour rights. Doe Run Peru' has been in bankruptcy proceedings since 2009.

In TURKEY : More than 300 miners at Turkey's largest copper mine in the Cayeli district in north eastern Turkey began an indefinite strike from October.30, in the Canadian-based First-quantum mine, which produces copper, zinc and gold. They are seeking a pay rise as a part of the new contract to be made for 3 years.

In S.AFRICA : 500 miners at ASA Metal's Dilkong Chrome mine near Burgersfort in Limpopo went in to a sit-in strike in the first week of November against management's threats and victimisation tactics against the union officials. They were demanding the removal of HRA manager, and to drop charges levelled against their union officers.

In NEW CALEDONIA : Several hundred workers at SLN nickel smelter in South Pacific French territory of New Caledonia are on strike in the last month of November, to protest the pending loss of 60 jobs. The workers picketed at SLN's plant in Nowmea, blocking entry to the site. They also protected against the parent company's decision to delay building a new coal-fired power plant for the smelter.

In QUEEN'S LAND : Miners at Anglo Americans Grasstree Coal mine in Queensland's central Highlands region walked off job on 2nd December over health concerns. The strike erupted after it was revealed that three cases of Black Lung had been detected in three months in the Coalmines. The union has called for a public enquiry and presented nine recommendations to the government including mandatory chest X-rays for mines.

AGITATIONS IN GARMENT AND TEXTILE SECTOR

In INDIA : Around 7,000 workers at AravindLtd's woven and knits division at Santej complex in Ahmadabad went in to a 3 day tool down strike from October 22, demanding an increase in wages and bonus.

In EGYPT : Textile workers working in the Holding company, working in spinning and weaving plant at Mahalla went in to a 11 day strike from October 25, after the company failed to pay them an agreed 10 percent bonus. In this state-owned company 17,000 workers are employed.

In BANGLADESH : The workers of Huda Winty Sweater Fashion company at Shabna, Gazipur demonstrated on Nov 19th for unpaid wages for the months of Sept, October and November and suddenly closing the factory without prior notice.

In VIETNAM : Nearly 1,000 workers at the Japanese-owned garment factory of MLB tenergy, in the north-central province of Nghe An walked out on Nov.13, protesting over poor quality lunches, no bonuses for national holidays and excessive overtime besides heavy deductions from their salaries for allegedly causing production faults.

In CAMBODIA : Hundreds of garment workers from factories in Phnom Penh and Kandal province are on strike from Dec.3, over fixed contracts and against poor working conditions and against managements' hostile attitudes towards unions. They are also demanding the managements to adhere to the labour law.

In BURMA : More than workers of Hterik Tan Myanmar Garment factory in Yangon went in to strike since Dec.7 to demand their full salaries for November, since the management docked the workers pay for 15 days alleging that they failed to meet the production targets.

In BANGLADESH : 2,000 workers of Alim Jute mill at Khulna have been demonstrating from November 10, against the closure and privatisation of the mill.

In INDIA : Thousands of Jute mill workers in West Bengal who lost their jobs this year as jute mills closed or restricted production have been protesting to reopen the mills and provide them jobs. On November 20 at least 16 Jute mill workers were hospitalised when police have attacked the protest demonstration of workers against closure of jute mills that caused the suicide of a fellow worker.

AGITATIONS IN THE TRANSPORT SECTOR

In LONDON : The workers of the Dockland Railway system in London went on 48 strike from Nov 3, over the transfer of DLR franchise from Serco to KedisAmey. The new owners are worsening the workers conditions. The management closed the system completely after the strike.

In FRANKFURT : The Cabin staff of German air-line Lufthansa went in to strike on Nov 7, over a dispute against savings aimed at fending off competition from low-cost rivals.

In USA : Workers belonging to 7 aerodromes in U.S.A went in to strike from November 19, opposing the threats, harassments and anti-worker policies of the managements. They also held protest demonstrations in the streets of New York, Chicago, Boston.

In ONTARIO : The bus and train mechanics at Ontario Northland Transportation Commission, who were locked out illegally by the management occupied the company's motor coach repair center for one day in the third week of November, in North Bay, Ontario, 200 miles north to Toronto.

In INDIA : Hundreds of workers sacked in 2012 from Maruti Suzuki's Manesar plant in Haryana protested on November 27 in Gurgaon demanding the acquittal of their colleagues who have been in jail for over two years. They also demanded for the withdrawal of arrest warrants against 66 co-workers. Union leaders from Hyundai, Ford, Toyota and Hindustan motors attended the protest demonstrations.

In NEW SOUTHWALES: Transport workers belonging to several unions of Rail, tram and Bus unions demonstrated in Newcastle on December 1 to oppose the planned privatisation of the city's public transport.

AGITATIONS IN OTHER SECTORS

In INDIA : A group of former workers from Nestlé's food processing factory at Bicholim in Goa have been on a hunger strike outside the factory since October 20, to demand reinstatement.

In BELGIUM : Protesting against the austerity measures taken up by the government, a nation wide one day strike was conducted on Oct 7, by all the trade unions throughout Belgium.

Demanding job security, rise in salaries, better working conditions and equal opportunities to women employees on par with male employees went in to indefinite strike from October 7, employees belonging to 10,369 branches of government and private banks throughout Belgium had participated in the strike.

Protesting and opposing against the attempts of selling of the assets and reducing the capital by the Petro Masal Brezelia Company, workers belonging to 12 branches went in to indefinite strike from November 1.

In ARGENTINA : The Employees of Argentina's largest state-run bank known as the BANCO NACION, held a work stoppage on November 4 and 5, to protest a 'profit tax' imposed in 2013 upon monthly incomes over 15,000 pesos. They demanded the refund of the "confiscatory tax", which amounts to over a third of their income.

In INDIA : Over 3,000 workers at the Baglihar power project were on strike from Nov 10 to demand their employer Jayaprakash Associates pay wages totaling 650 million rupees which were due. The management sacked thousands of workers were not paid termination entitlements and the company has reneged on agreements made in 2008. During the period of construction of the project 400 workers had lost their lives and their families have not been paid with any compensation.

At the Essar's Paradip unit at Bhubhaneswar of Odisha workers went in to sit-in strike from November 9 before the plant's gate demanding payment of wage arrears and other benefits not paid for 5 months.

In PAKISTAN : Water and Power Development Authority workers went in to a 5 day national strike on Nov 16 in protesting against privatisation of the state-owned enterprise, at the behest of I.M.F and World Bank.

In USA : 2,100 workers at Kohler workers in Wisconsin went on strike from Nov 15, on the issue of a two-tier wage system and increased health care costs being pushed on workers by plumbing product manufacturer

In CALIFORNIA : Nearly 1,800 workers for Solano County, California conducted a one-day strike on Nov 17 over wages, pensions and health care benefits.

In BURMA : Around 1,000 workers at a Chinese-owned Tai Yi shoe factory in Hlaing industrial zone of Rangoon division went in to an indefinite strike from Nov 20, on several issues including the right to have their union recognised. Workers were also protesting outside the factory. They are protesting against unfair dismissals, low daily wages and for a wage increase.

In CHICAGO : Drivers, Warehouse and production workers at the Chicago-area Coca-Cola plants went on strike on December 3, demanding the maintenance of benefits and a modest rise in wages. They also complain and protest against “intimidating workers in the work-place with baseball bats” and “threatening workers with job loss for engaging with the union”.

In PAKISTAN : Power loom workers in Faisalabad held a protest march on December 11, demanding wages, safety and provision of social security cards. They were also demanding that the owners to employ additional workers to oil, clean and load the machines according to the mandate of the legal agreement made with the union.

In GREECE : Public and private sector workers walked off the job on Dec 3, in Greece’s second 24-hour general strike in a month against new austerity measures.

In QUEBEC : Over 40,000 public-sector workers walked-off the job on December 9 across the province of Quebec opposing the government cuts and austerity measures.

In LONDON : Demanding fair pensions for all the employees of Financial Times on Dec 17 went into strike in London; on the eve of its new Japan management company’s board meeting at Tokyo.

In ZIMBABWE : 16,000 workers at TongaatHulett Sugar plantation and refinery in Zimbabwe have been on strike from Nov 27, demanding pay parity across company’s operations in the area.

In BANGLADESH : At least 15,000 workers from the British owned Chandrapore Tea estate in Habiganj district have been on strike since December 7, in protest against a government plan to acquire hundreds of hectares of land to develop special economic zone. The land is owned by the tea estate and the worker’s families are presently cultivating the land for their own survival.

In INDIA : Thousands of construction workers demonstrated outside labour commission offices in Bhubaneswar on Dec 8, demanding an immediate pension to all eligible workers, a 5000-rupee tool allowance every three years and identity cards.

AGITATIONS IN EDUCATION SECTOR

In MEXICO : On October 12, teachers in 14 states of Mexico, numbering around 90,000 throughout the country had gone on strike opposing the reforms introduced by the government. The education secretariat of Mexican government had decided to fine 85,296 teachers for having participated in the protest strike.

In EAST ST. LOUIS : 400 school teachers in the impoverished working-class community of East St. Louis in Illinois state of USA, were on strike in the entire month of October opposing a concessions contract forced upon them by the state board of education, which contract would be of a marginal increase in their pay revision.

In ONTARIO : One hundred seventy three faculty including professors and other academic staff at all the three campuses of Nipissing university in Ontario went on strike in the first week of November after working without a contract since May and demanding improvements in pay and staffing levels.

In NEWYORK : Demanding to continue their contract and protesting against the cancellation of their contracts the professors in the city university of New York and USA conducted a protest demonstration at the gates of the university campus on Nov 6.

In AUCKLAND : Some 600 members of the Tertiary Education union at the Auckland University of Technology started a five days strike on Nov.16, in a dispute for a new collective agreement.

In PAKISTAN : 2,000 daily wage teaching and nonteaching staff employed at over 400 schools and colleges under Federal directorate of Education in Islamabad were on strike for a week in the 3rd week of November, to demand unpaid wages and job permanency. Most of these employees have not been paid for over a year.

A protest march by several school teachers in Karachi was held on Nov 25, intending to march to chief minister’s house to demand unpaid salaries and removal of Sindh province education secretary.

Police attacked viciously on the protest march using water-canon, teargas and batons. Around 200 teachers were arrested.

In LATVIA : On November 27, over 24,000 teachers belonging to 1,000 schools and pre-schools went on one day strike demanding higher pay and increase in funding for schools.

In U.K. : The teachers at the Alfreton Grange Arts college in Derbyshire were on 3 days strike from December 1, opposing plans by college management to increase the number of teaching periods from 25 to 43 and shorten lesson breaks, thereby increasing the teaching hours each day.

Teachers at Listerdale primary school in Rotherheum held three days of strike for two weeks in December to protest the illegal suspension of the school head without warning and without assigning any reason whatever.

In PAKISTAN : Teachers working in tribal areas protested in Ghalani in north Pakistan on Dec 7, to demand a pay increase and promotions. A protest rally was also held outside the National Press Club in Islamabad.

In INDIA : Hundreds of contract teachers in Odisha demonstrated on Dec 8, in Bhubaneswar over the state government's failure to reappoint 3,760 contractual teachers after June 11 in response to an Odisha High Court order over anomalies with the appointments.

In QUEBEC : 34,000 teachers in eight unions have gone in to a three day strike from Dec 9, opposing the demand of the government for a ten-year wage freeze, with marginal pay increase for a five year contract.

In PAKISTAN : On Dec 15, hundreds of teachers employed by the Karachi Metropolitan Corporation demonstrated at the civic center to demand their salaries for the past five months. They were in a "do-or-die" situation because they were unable to provide for their families.

In MEXICO : Teachers and administrative staff at 5 campuses of Mexico's state university of Sonora struck on December 16, to demand the payment of their year-end bonus.

In PENNSYLVANIA : 285 teachers of Peters Township, Pennsylvania in USA went in to a 21-day strike from Nov 27, on the issues of wage hike, class size and the length of work days.
