

## Strike hits banking services nationwide

Our Bureau

*21 lakh cheques worth Rs. 16,000 cr were not cleared, says AIBEA*



Up in arms Employees of the All India Bank Employees' Association staging a protest in Mumbai on Friday Paul Noronha  
Mumbai, January 8:

Banking operations across the country, especially in public sector banks and old generation private sector banks, were partially affected on Friday due to a strike called by the All India Bank Employees Association (AIBEA).

The AIBEA has demanded, among others, the delinking of the five associate banks (ABs) from the State Bank of India (SBI). It is also protesting the imposition of the parent bank's service conditions and career progression on AB employees.

The five ABs are State Bank of Mysore, State Bank of Travancore, State Bank of Hyderabad, State Bank of Patiala and State Bank of Bikaner & Jaipur.

While it was a routine day for banks officers, clerical and award staff did not turn up for work in branches and administrative offices of public sector banks and ABs.

Barring SBI, Indian Overseas Bank and Bank of Baroda, the AIBEA has a fairly large membership in other public sector banks and old generation private sector banks.

CH Venkatachalam, General Secretary, AIBEA, said in a statement that in May 2015, a settlement was signed between the unions and bank managements (covering 44 banks) on wage revision and improvement in service conditions.

But, after the deal was signed, the managements of ABs violated it and imposed retrograde service conditions like increased duties and working hours, more transfers and contract jobs, he said.

### **FinMin intervention**

"Now, we will seek the Finance Minister's intervention in the matter. We have been protesting against this wrong action of the management and asking for correction and adherence to the agreement for the past six months.

"But the management is moving unilaterally and changing the service conditions," said Venkatachalam.

While the Association claimed that at the all-India level, a total of about 21 lakh cheques worth about Rs. 16,000 crore could not be cleared, this could not be independently verified.

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