

## **India Port Strike Planned (Special to The JOURNAL of COMMERCE ONLINE)**

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Unionized port and dock workers employed at major ports in India plan a nationwide strike Sept. 1 to press for higher wages and other demands.

Leaders of the five major labor federations, representing more than 100,000 workers, said they would officially inform port authorities of their proposed strike plan on Aug. 16, having received no positive response from the Ministry of Shipping.

The workers' main demands include the restoration of retirement age to 60; increases in wages, and hiring of more workers to fill vacancies at major ports.

They also asked port managements not to go ahead with the implementation of retrograde recommendations made by respective consultants and finalized by the Port of Rotterdam in its advisory capacity to the Indian Ports Association.

In February, the unions had threatened an indefinite strike which was finally averted after the government agreed to set up a bipartite wage negotiations committee, with equal representation from both sides, and review the retirement age limit.

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