

Chronology of events: Bombay Textile strike -1982

- June 1980 Assembly elections brought Congress government in power and Abdu Rehman Antulay became chief minister. He provided tacit support to the Shiv Sena party to reactivate itself since Sena chief Bal Thackeray shared a very good personal relations with Antulay. Mill workers turning restive, in the meanwhile. Sena decided to become active in the mill areas.
- Oct 12 1981 Girmi Kamgar Sena stormed Mill Owners Association and submitted charter of demands. Thackeray called for one day strike on Nov 1st for wage hike of not less than Rs 200 per month.. Threat of indefinite strike. However Sena moved back on its demand.
- Oct.20, 1981 Mill Owners Association and Rashtriya Mill Mazdoor Sangh, a Congress affiliated union and the only recognised union in the textile industry in Bombay under the BIR Act entered into an agreement on Bonus. As per the agreement the Bonus was dependent on paying capacity of mills. 9 private mills was to pay 17.33, 3 per cent to pay 14.5. per cent and 1 mill was to pay 14 and remaining anything between 8.33 and 12.5%.
- Oct 21, 1981 The agreement was not acceptable to majority of workers. Very next day 15 mills go on sit down strike.
- Oct. 22 8 mills remain on strike. Standard Mill workers march to Dr Datt Samant's house to ask him to lead strike. Later several other workers Joined in petitioning Dr Datta Samant. Samant agreed the morning.
- Oct 30th Samant announces formation of new union- Maharashtra Girmi Kamagar Union.
- Nov 11th 1981 Antulay announced a High power Committee to study problems of textile workers
- Dec 6th Samant asked the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi to intervene but in vain.

Dec 8 th	Samant told workers to prepare for indefinite strike
Dec 9 th	RMMS warned Dr Datta Samant that strike could be suicidal. Mill owners wanted workers to go on strike, it claimed.
Dec 25, 1981.	Mill Owners Association withdrew from High Power Committee because strike was still on.
Jan 6 th 1982	Datta Samant leads on day strike.
Jan 13	Antulay resigns on corruption charges. Babasaheb Bhonsle became CM on Jan 19.
Jan 18 th 1982	Indefinite strike begins though Shiv Sena opposed it.
Jan 23	Bhonsle invites Samant for talks
Jan 28 th	Mill Owners Association's Secretary Vijaynagar met Bhonsle to tell him that workers' demands were totally unacceptable.
Feb 1 st	RMMS predicts strike would be Samant's Waterloo.
Feb 7 th	Bhonsle declares strike illegal since Dr Samant's union was not recognised one and he would only talk with RMMS.
Feb 9 th	Maharashtra Labour Minister B M Gaikwad says that High Power Committee to look into textile workers problems would be reconstituted but only RMMS would be allowed to represent. MOA and ICMF meet with PM to discuss strike.
March 11 th	A mammoth rally was organised by Dr Samant. A section of Congress party turned supportive of strike, defying the leadership.
March 13	Turbulent scenes in state legislative assembly.
Mar 16 1982	Labour Minister B M Gaekwad promised Tripartite at Central level, but strike continued. Thackeray strongly criticised Samant
March 20 th	Gaekwad claimed that workers in 29 mills have resumed work.
April 17 th	MOA announces collapse of strike.
April 19 th 1982	"Bharat Bandh", a country-wide strike was announced by all non INTUC unions. However, Shiv Sena opposed it and issued threat to Congress that if no solution found by May 1 st , alliance with Congress would be terminated. He criticised Samant again for "a betrayer of mill workers."
April 1982	Thackeray meets Bhonsle asking for interim raise of Rs 50 but nothing happened. Thackeray did nothing on May 1st but became more critical of Congress government and Bhonsle.

April 23	DS announces himself candidate from Thane
May 5 th	Vasantdada Patil a former Congress Chief Mminister announced that he would attempt to end stalemate.
May 7 th	Y B Chavan says he would cooperate with Vasantdada.
May 31	Bhonsle claimed strike will end in a fortnight and denies outsiders were e being brought into the mills to break strike.
June 10 th	Bhonsle goes to Delhi to see PM and then announced that talks could be held only after strike was withdrawn.
July 3 rd	Mukesh Mills applies for closure.
July 4	Soviet Union demanded fulfillment of pending orders from the mills.
July 9	Union Labour Minister announced appointment of Tripartite committee to look into problems of textile industry, headed by Justice V S Deshpande. Also announced an interim wage increase of Rs. 30 a month, advance of Rs 650 and assurance that no worker would be victimized.
July 15 th	S M Joshi, a veteran socialist leader met PM
July 16	State government announced free distribution of study books for children of non striking workers.
July 19	Huge rally at Nardulla Tank. Samant announced that other demands were negotiable but RMMS and BIR Act had to go.
July 28	S M Joshi's suggestion of Rs 100 as interim wage increase refused by government.
August 15 th	Police Commissioner declared prohibitory orders in Central Bombay.
August 16 th	Jail Bharo organised. Thousands courted arrest, including. CITU AITUC and HMS. No violence.
Aug 18	City Police go on strike, indulged in rioting. Army BSF CRP and SRP called in.
Mid Aug 1982	Sena suggested solution and also threatened morcha to the assembly hall in early September and end to alliance with Congress. Sept 6 th RMMS

- Sept 9th 1982 Rally in Kamgar Maidan by Thackeray. Announced end of alliance. Supports Mill workers and policemen. But insisted the workers must leave Samant's union.
- Sept 16th Mammoth rally near Hutatma Chowk. March to Vidhan sabha. Samant announced another jail bharo.
- Sept 20th MOA announced that 47000 workers have reported for work.
- Oct 2nd Huge rally at Shivaji Park.
- Oct 12 Riots during jail bharo. Lathi charge on peaceful workers. Samant sentenced to 15 days imprisonment. 3 days strike in city evoked partial response.
- Oct 15th In the upper house of the parliament government was flayed for inaction.
- Oct 23rd Central Ministers fly to Bombay to end strike. RMMS denounced move.
- Oct 25 Samant released. Welcomed initiative of Centre and says scrapping of BIR was now his main demand.
- Oct 28 1982 Rally at Shivaji Park jointly addressed by Thackeray, Sharad Pawar, and Thackeray threatened his party would go in 'action' if strike was not resolved in a week. Meetings between MOA, state and Central govt . (Week passed but nothing was done.)
- Oct 31st New formula proposed with an interim advance of Rs 1500. Bhonsle said he did not want to increase interim, pending report of Deshpande Committee.
- Nov 5th Registrar of unions declared that derecognition of RMMS was impossible even though it had insufficient membership.
- Dec 8th Pressure mounts on Bhonsle to resign for his failure to resolve the strike.
- Dec 21st Government refused to refer dispute to Industrial Tribunal on the ground that the Deshpande Committee had started its work.
- Dec 24th Justice Pratap flays government for 'breach of statutory duty'.
- Jan 16th 1983 Meanwhile, production had started in most mills although it was just 40% of normal.
- Jan 20th Indira Gandhi suggested changes in RMMS leadership.

Jan 21 st 1983	Thackeray supported "Practical Socialism" a political thought articulated by Nilkanth Khadilkar, the editor of a very popular Marathi daily called Navalkaal. What Thackeray liked the most in the Practical Socialism is the provision to restrict entry for non-Maharashtrian into the city of Bombay. At Shiv Sena's annual conference Dange was invited to speak and he did attend the meeting.
Feb 1 st	Vasantdada Patil became Chief Minister.
Feb 12 th	Samant met CM
Feb 22	Haribhau Naik and Phalke appointed President and Secretary of RMMS following Indira Gandhi's suggestion to change leadership.
Mar 6 th	Union Minister V P Singh started fresh round of talks.
Mar 7 th	Samant met Singh
Mar 29 th	Following unanimous recommendation of the Deshpande Committee, VP Singh announced House rent allowance for workers. Report also made recommendations about temporary mill workers
April 9 th	Vasantdada Patil accused Samant of being a Hitler. Claimed he used goons and violent tactics.
April 15 th	Samant and 1000 others were arrested during morcha
May 3 rd	Campaign by MGKU to persuade workers to rejoin strike.
July	Failure of strike seemed a certainty
Aug 1 st	Several hundred thousand workers came out in a rally to textile workers.
Ends	