

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

(Registered under Trade Unions Act 1921-Regd. No. 6908)

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To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 27 dated 01.03.2017 issued by General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation, the contents of which are self-explicit.

With revolutionary greetings,

Soumya Datta
(General Secretary)

To all our Affiliates / Members:

STATE BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION, MUMBAI CIRCLE HOLDS ITS 26TH GENERAL BODY MEETING IN A GRAND STYLE

Our Mumbai Circle Association held its 26th General Body Meeting on 25th February, 2017 at Pune. The open air magnificent stage, set in the spacious lawns of Golden leaf, Karve Nagar, Pune, tastefully decorated with flowers of many hues and colours provided an excellent ambience, in the back drop of the golden rays of the evening sun, spraying its glory on the sylvan surroundings and setting the stage for yet another milestone in the history of SBIOA, Mumbai Circle. The entire event was dedicated in the name of 'NATION FIRST', symbolizing the patriotism by the Circle Association and the ideology of the Federation – 'Nation First, Organisation next and individual last'. Volunteers smartly dressed moved around taking care of the minute arrangements. Guests were welcomed with warmth and affection, as beautiful ladies applied vermilion on the foreheads and ushered them into the arena amidst the sound of bugle and crouch and skyrocketing slogans. Com.Anil Nare, Com.Ramkumar Sabapathy and his enthusiastic team ensured that they were taken care of. One by one guest arrived and the entire venue was full with smiling, bubbling comrades spread into a multitude of camaraderie.

2. The function began with Ganesh Vandana followed by Patriotic songs such as 'Ye Mere Vatan Ke Logo' and 'Ye Desh Hai Veeron Ka' by LHO group which mesmerised the audience with perfection flow, rhythm, depicting the wealth of talent amongst our staff.

3. The President and General Secretary of SBIOA (Mumbai Circle) Com. Anil Nare and Com. Ramkumar Sabapathy along with other office bearers invited the guests Smt.Anuradha Prabhu Desai, Lakshya Foundation, Pune, Brig. Ghosh, Commandant, Artificial Limb Centre, Pune, Shri. Deep Kumar Kapoor, DGM & CDO, Mumbai Circle, Com.Y.Sudarshan, General Secretary, AISBOF and President AIBOC; Com. Jayaprakash Khatri, General Secretary, SBISU (Mumbai Circle), Com. Kamal Khadri, President SBIOA, Ahmedabad Circle, Com. Nandakishore. M. Malkhedkar, General Secretary, SBIOA(K) Bangalore, Com.Sukkaiah, President, Hyderabad Circle, Com. V.K.Awasthi, President, SBIOA Lucknow Circle, Com.Pawan Kumar. General Secretary, SBIOA, Lucknow Circle, Com.G.P.Srivastava, General Secretary, SBIOA, Patna Circle, Com. K.K.Trikha, Chandigarh Circle, Com.Anil Gamre, General Secretary, SEWA. Floral tributes and garland were paid to doyen of Maratha Kingdom Sri.Chatrapathi Shivaji Maharaj and Constitution sculptor Dr.Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar by the dignitaries. After floral tributes Com.Y.Sudarshan along with other dignitaries lighted the lamp, duly supported by Com.Damayanthi Singh.

4. Com.Waghmare, Chief Regional Secretary, SBIOA(Mumbai Circle), Pune-I Module, welcomed the esteemed guests and the huge gathering of over 2000 members. He spoke about the specials of Pune City, Pune Module and Mumbai Circle. He also said the importance of this conference. He expected a good wage revision in the ensuing 11th Bipartite settlement.

5. The entire audience applauded when General Secretary of the Mumbai Circle Com.Ramkumar Sabapathy rose to give his inaugural address. He welcomed the guests and delegates into the historic General Council. He also said that as a social service activity, Rs. 10.82 lakhs was collected as donation on 9.11.2016, through a single SMS to the members and the employees of SBI including award staff, who whole heartedly donated to the noble cause and is now being used for donating, electric 8 seater vehicle for passenger and 2 seater electric material carriage, to the Artificial Limb Centre Pune, this day – a Noble gesture. Kudos to all our comrades.

Soumya Datta
General Secretary
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6. He referred to the demonetization which has caused a serious work pressure on the employees and officers working in the Banking Industry. This 26th General Body Meeting was supposed to be held on 11th and 12th November, 2016, but the Hon'ble Prime Minister Sri. Narendra Modiji requested to Co-operate and open the Bank branches on 11th and 12th November, 2016 for exchange of Rs. 500/- and Rs. 1000/- SBN. Hence our Mumbai Circle Association postponed the General Body Meeting, and is being held today on 25th February, 2017, he said. The cheque favouring the manufacturer of Electronic cart was handed over to Brig. Ghosh, Commandant, Artificial Limb Centre, Pune which is doing yeomen service to physically challenged people and war victims.

7. Com.Sabapathy spoke about the Mumbai Circle, its contribution for the development of the Bank, the proactive steps of the Circle Association as partners in progress. He spoke about the activities of the Association and its efforts to reach out to the members, highlighting the various social service activities undertaken by the Circle Association.

8. Thereafter Smt.Anuradha Prabhu Desai rose to speak amidst thunderous applause:

Kargil - The guns have been quiet for more than a decade now but there is one woman whose voice echoes through the Valley and that is - Anuradha Prabhu Desai.

"Thodi si mein wife hoon, thodi si mein nani hoon, lekin pehle Hindustani hoon." says 57-year-old Anuradha Prabhudesai, an ex-banker, whose story dates back to August 2004 when she was in Ladakh on a holiday, with her husband and friends. Anuradha was ambling along the roads of Drass, with the locals and the soldiers in a war-ravaged town, when she first spotted an army caption that read, 'I only regret that I have but one life to lay down for the country.'

Intrigued, she stopped an army Khansama who, in turn, unassumingly asked her "aapko pata nahi, yahan toh haazerein laashein giri thi." That was Anuradha's moment of introspection. She pondered about her comfortable life back in Mumbai, the brief news about Kargil (in 1999) and the pseudo patriotism she wore in her heart. Moved by what she heard, Anuradha, along with her friend Vikram Joshi, took an oath at Vijay Stambh (War Memorial in Kargil) to bring to light the sacrifices made by the Kargil soldiers and visit Kargil for the next five years.

Back from the trip, Anuradha wrote several letters to the army officials seeking permission to visit them during Raksha Bandhan. Thus began her journey from a 'Banker to Bunker'. Driving through rough roads from Manali to Sarchu and finally into Leh, it all seemed worth it when, after tying rakhis and distributing homemade food.

Anuradha has visited Kargil 14 times in the last ten years, and her work has been cherished by the army. "As Indians, we do not know the names of the Paramveer awardees of our country but we know the names of new-born star kids, film award winners etc. Where are we heading as a nation," said Anuradha, recalling the stories of many Padma Awardees and gallant soldiers who laid their lives fighting for the country. She is the only civilian and only woman with access to all the regiments in the Kargil region.

Subsequently, Anuradha formed Lakshya Foundation with an objective to instill a spirit of patriotism among the youth. In her journey so far, she has travelled to Ladakh with 450 civilians giving them first-hand experience of army life, delivered 105 lectures across schools and arranged get-togethers of army wives and war widows.

In her inspiring speech which kept the entire audience spell bound, she spoke about her work for the soldiers through the foundation. Their first activity was Diwali with Soldiers—an initiative to distribute sweets to the families of the soldiers. "Aaj kal insaniyat ki kami hai. It's all about me, my family, my job," she says voicing her pain. Sharing several anecdotes of soldiers' lives who stay put at an altitude of 18,000 ft in bone-chilling conditions for several weeks, Anuradha urges, "If you find a soldier, give him respect and love. That's all they need."

The 26th July, Army Day, is incomplete without Anuradha and Lakshya Foundation. Leading two lives—one of a middle-class, hard-working wife and another of a woman who is a beacon of hope for our soldiers, "I wanted to work for my country," she says, humbly highlighting.

She believes her mission will be accomplished when every Indian dedicates five years of his life to the country. For Anuradha, it would mean a truly patriotic India.

She is also a versatile actor who has acted in popular T.V Serial Malgudi Days written by Sri.R.K.Narayan. She complimented the Circle Association and said that despite long 3 days Holidays in the Banking Industry, she was amazed to see such a huge gathering of more than 2000 members from the entire circle.

Kudos to Com. Ramkumar Sabapathy and Com.Anil Nare and team Mumbai for introducing to the audience a rare personality who can be a leading light to all our lives.

9. Com.Sudarshan, General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation, addressing the gathering dealt at length in regard to the various phases of the next bipartite settlement i.e., 11th Bipartite Settlement which is due from 01.11.2017. He also referred to the developments in regard to the superannuation benefits in respect of the pensioners

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and family pensioners which are under negotiation with the IBA in particular the 100% D.A. neutralization to pre 2002 retirees, improvements in family pension etc. He conveyed to the members the efforts made by the Federation for enhancement of gratuity on par with the Central Government employees, the need to demand the restoration of old pension scheme in view of the disadvantages of the NPS etc. He also conveyed the readiness of the Federation to participate in the 28th February, 2017 strike call given by UFBU to fight against the ill-advised economic policies of the Government.

10. He then referred to the various developments at the Management level in regard to the Accountability Policy for the first time in the State Bank due to the efforts of the Federation, the other issues which are under discussions with the top management of the Bank. He also assured the house that the Confederation is fully geared up for the 11th bipartite negotiation and to ensure a good settlement for the bank employees and officers in due course.

11. He referred to the present challenges before the bank, in particular the issue of merger of Associate Banks and the efforts of the Federation to ensure a fair treatment to the workforce in the bank.

12. He assured the house that the interest of the members are well taken care by the Federation and informed the house that the next CNC is slated to take place on 4th March, 2017 at Mumbai and spoke about the major issues.

13. Sri. Deep Kumar Kapoor, Dy.General Manager and Circle Development Officer of Mumbai Circle expressed his happiness over the large gathering. He gave full details of the efforts of the Bank on all areas of concern, be it deposits and advances as well as reducing NPAs etc. He wished the conference all the best.

14. Com.Anil Gamre, General Secretary, SEWA expressed that Pune city has contributed a lot in nation building. He also said that, stalwarts in Indian Independence Movement and social reformer Mahatma Phule hails from this place.

15. Com.Jayaprakash Khatri, General Secretary, SBSU, Mumbai Circle wished the 26th General Body Meeting and its business session all success. He assured all co-operations for the activities of the Association and said that, their members were always willing to participate in all the programmes including the proposed strike on 28th February, 2017.

16. Com.Anil Nare in his presidential address expressed happiness at the assembly of large number of members from all over Maharashtra and Goa. He proposed vote of thanks to all the dignitaries on the dais and guests, Former Office bearers of the Circle Association and the members who have assembled in large numbers. The programme was beautifully compered by Com.Asha Medsakar & Com.Sandra Pore.

17. It was a wonderful conference, very refreshing, where enthusiastic comrades from all over the Circle participated and displayed strength, solidarity and unity. The efforts of the Circle Association were visible in all the glorious arrangements and perfect synchronization of efforts. Special mention must be made about the excellent and very tasty food that was provided. Thereafter the business session was held on the next day wherein members were happy at the deliberations and free expression of views and exchange of ideas. Many young officers, probationary officers and large number of lady officers participated which augers well for the Association and the trade union movement.

18. Congratulations to Com.Anil Nare, Com.Ramkumar Sabhapathy and their entire team Mumbai – 'Amchi Mumbai'. Congratulations to all the volunteer force for the success. Let us march on to take the activity to greater heights of glory. March on.....

With greetings,



(Y.SUDARSHAN)
GENERAL SECRETARY