

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

(Registered under Trade Unions Act 1926-Regd. No. 6908)

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To All Members (Please Circulate)

THE 35TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION (BENGAL CIRCLE)
ADMINISTRATIVE ZONAL COMMITTEE, SILIGURI
HELD ON 16.12.2018 AT UTTAR BANGA MARWARI PALACE, SILIGURI

The 35th Annual General Meeting of Administrative Zonal Committee, Siliguri was held on 16th December 2018 at Siliguri Marwari Palace, flavorfully decorated with posters, banners, photographs of organisational activities during the year which created a significant ambience of the meeting. In the back drop, the clarion call to "SAVE PUBLIC SECTOR BANKS" made the surroundings more suitable as it was the theme of the meeting. The entire hall was full of 600 members beaming with their trust on leadership. The energetic Youth and Lady Wing's soaring slogans resonated the entire hall at regular intervals.

1. The Programme began with flag hoisting by the Chief Guest, Sri Satish Rao Nagesh, DGM (B&O), Siliguri Module and Comrade Soumya Datta, General Secretary, AIBOC, President of AISBOF & SBIOA (Bengal Circle). Thereafter flowers were offered in "SAHID BEDI" by the dignitaries in memory of the martyrs. The day of the meeting coincided with the anniversary of VICTORY DIWAS commemorating liberation of Bangladesh from Pakistan. Photo Gallery related to organisational activities during the year was also unveiled by the dignitaries. An exclusive Poster Wall was also arranged to display posters, which were hand written by leaders and members. Comrade General Secretary, President, respected DGM (B&O) and other leaders wrote posters and the same were displayed in the wall which was unique and this initiative was praised by all dignitaries and leadership.

2. Thereafter, Comrade Sourav Sundas and Comrade Priya Tamang welcomed all the members to the meeting. Then they invited the Chief Guest and leaders on the dais. They were welcomed with traditional Khadas by the comrades of Darjeeling, Kalimpong and Sikkim and the Chief Guest was welcomed with flower bouquet by the Chief Regional Secretary and President Administrative Zonal Committee, Siliguri.

3. The open secession of the Annual General Meeting 2018 began with lighting of Ceremonial Lamp by all dignitaries followed by chorus songs such as "DUAR BANDHO REKHONA AAJ GAO JIBANER GAAN" and "SEI UJJALO DIN..." by "SRIJAN" Siliguri group which mesmerised the audience.

4. Comrade Utpal Dutta, Chief Regional Secretary, delivered his welcome speech. At the very outset, Comrade Dutta expressed gratitude to the guests, dignitaries and members who had taken pains to travel from far-off places to attend the AGM. He also expressed, deep sense of gratitude and thanked the comrades for attending the meeting at Siliguri although they are posted elsewhere. Comrade Dutta extended his heart-felt thanks to Comrade Soumya Datta, General Secretary, and Sri Satish Rao, DGM (B&O) for gracing the meeting. In course of his speech, he touched upon the sinister designs of the government and attempts made to minimise the government stake in Public Sector Banks in the pretext of mounting NPAs. He urged all the members to spread awareness about ill-effects of the merger and privatisation of the Banks and called upon all the members to participate in the ensuing strike on 21st and 26th December '18 for making it a resounding success. He also encouraged the members to share their views in free and frank manner on this platform with a view to making the day to day working life easy and tension free and simultaneously strengthening the Association in an effective manner.

5. A cheque of Rs.2.00 lakhs (Rupees two lakhs only) was handed over to the wife of Comrade Bhimsen Rai by the General Secretary & the Dy General Manager, for education of her child as the bereaved family has been put in a great financial insecurity due to untimely demise of Comrade Rai, as his wife is not eligible to get the family pension and other normal terminal benefits. The amount was voluntarily contributed by the members.

Comrade Ujjwal Das, Chairman of SBIOA Multi-State Co-Operative Credit Society on being requested to say a few words on the felicitation programme of the Co-operative society thanked all the members for their continuous support and highlighted the continuous efforts made by the Society for making availability of funds for betterment of the members and payment of one time grant to the family members in the event of demise of a member. Felicitation of 11 meritorious students belonging to the economically weaker section of the society has also been arranged by the society. He also stated that today along with these 11 meritorious students, a felicitation programme for the wards of our officers has been arranged as a token of appreciation for their efforts made to secure a praise worthy percentage in their board/university exams.

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6. Comrade Sudhansu Mukherjee, Secretary of SBIOA Multi-State Co-Operative Credit Society conducted the programme to felicitate the meritorious students of weaker sections of society as well as wards of the members. 11 students with physical and economic disabilities, who scored commendable marks in Board Exams were felicitated with financial assistance, flower bouquet, school bag and a sweet packet. Wards of the members who were present in the meeting were also felicitated along with their parents.

7. Thereafter, Chief Guest Sri Satish Rao, DGM of Siliguri Module mentioned in his address about the Bank's highly rich heritage and legacy of 210 years. He said that the entire Banking industry is undergoing a rapid transformation with digital banking. Competition is growing tremendously with the entry of NBFCs, Fintech companies and other various companies adequately equipped with various products under wealth management, financial advisory services, etc. In such a cut-throat competition, compliance of risk and procedures is equally important to mitigate the financial risks/losses. Since, there are inherent professional hazards in the banking profession/service, officers have to exercise due diligence aptly as accountability will always be fixed in case of any lapses. He, however, urged all the officers to be more vigilant in their area of operation. At the same time, Sri Rao emphasized to maintain the quality of work life balance by way of improving approach to professional and personal life. He also beckoned the officers to make the SBI, one stop financial shop for the customers.

8. Comrade Sabuj Mistry, President of SBIOA, Bengal Circle, highlighted the government's ill-designed plan to destabilize the Indian Banking system by imposing restrictions on banks through PCA norms by RBI reducing the Banks' earnings. He said that UFBU opposed vehemently the fractured mandate proposed by the IBA. Cross-selling is being conducted in the Bank as mis-selling/force selling. Association is strictly against such mis selling activities. It has also come to notice, that some controllers are misbehaving with the officers and we should not allow such high handedness / humiliation to continue and he advised the members to raise their voice unitedly against such misbehavior. He urged all the members to come forward to share their views and lend full support to the Association which is like a watchdog to protect us with our rights and privileges.

9. Comrade Soumya Datta, General Secretary was then called upon to deliver his valuable speech. He conveyed his deep feeling of happiness to come to Siliguri where he finds all the members exhibiting smile, joy and happiness to attend the meeting. He asked all the members to discharge their duties adhering to system and procedures. He also narrated a short story in respect of appraisal / sanction of a high value loan proposal in the turbulent period of 2011-2012. During this period, some officers were victimised by the management. He said that the Association will always be there to stand by members in case of crisis, but system and procedures as laid by the Bank should strictly be adhered to. We should not compromise the quality for huge quantity of business which will ultimately be detrimental to the health of the Bank. Unfortunate incidents which have taken place in Port Blair and Sikkim should not happen again. Senior officers should be caring and guiding the junior officers as the tolerance level of our young officers is comparatively low. He also said that we support cross selling but in an ethical manner. We are not in favor of individual commission rather it should be branch based. He urged the members to be sharing, caring and helping each other at the grass root level and should build a team for maintaining proper co-operation. We should fight for our dignity and quality work life balance. He also said that there can be differences of opinions, clashes of views, arguments, etc. but there should not be clashes of personalities. The General Secretary called upon all the members to lend their full support to the Association to make the strike on 21st & 26th December'18 a grand success. Finally, Comrade General Secretary thanked the Chief Regional Secretary, Comrade Utpal Dutta for organizing the meeting in an outstanding way and concluded his speech wishing everyone a very Happy and Joyful Year, 2019.

10. At the beginning of the Business Session, Comrade Debanta Goswami, Zonal President administered the Pledge and asked the Chief Regional Secretary to place the Annual Report.

11. Comrade Utpal Dutta, CRS presented the Secretary's Report. President then called upon the Zonal Treasurer to table the statement of accounts in the House for discussion and its approval.

12. Comrade Surajit Chakraborty, Zonal Treasurer, presented the Statement of Accounts in the house.

13. Comrade Aritra Saha then placed two resolutions before the house for approval.

14. Then members were invited to express their views/comments on the Reports, statement of accounts.

15. Comrade Aparakho Bandhopadhyay highlighted the acute shortage of officers because of which work pressure becomes unmanageable and unbearable. He supported the Report and statement of accounts.

16. Comrade David Barui spoke on the culture of Log-in days which ultimately disturbs normal functioning of the Branch.


17. Comrade Tathagata Mukherjee supported the report and expressed his gratitude for the manner in which the Comrades of SBIOA, Siliguri welcomed the members of e-Associate Banks. He lauded the culture of camaraderie in the ranks and files of SBIOA (Bengal Circle). Siliguri Module.

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18. Comrade Udenla Bhutia supported the Secretary's Report and Statement of Account and lauded the way the meeting was arranged.
19. Comrade Manas Ghosh supported the report and statement of accounts and raised the topic of work life balance and stated that the process should start from the individual members.
20. Comrade Budhaditya Roy raised the issue of inter region transfers and requested for early resolution of the pending cases. He highlighted number of officers who have spent three years in difficult centre but yet to be transferred to their home region.
21. Comrade Chandan Kumar raised the issue of work life balance stressing the fact that ATM Channel Managers and Branch Custodians have to be on duty 24x7. Phone calls are received for attending ATMs on Sundays and holidays although Currency Chest is not open on those days.
22. Comrade Biraj Mandal supported the report and raised the issue of work life balance and said that it is directly linked with manpower shortage and if this problem is sorted out the crisis of work life balance will be mitigated.
23. Thereafter Comrade Utpal Dutta, Chief Regional Secretary in his reply thanked the members for interacting and he said that he expected more problems to be highlighted but since there was hardly any serious problem discussed, we may consider in a lighter vein that we in Siliguri Module are having good time in office but actually it is not the case. He told the members that inter region transfer is being pursued at Zonal Office level very seriously but due to relieving arrangement problem, the same are being delayed but let's not lose hope, we shall keep on exploring the ways. He also said that members should not mis-sell products and should pay attention to normal banking without causing disturbance due to Log-in days. We are absorbing tremendous pressure out of fear which is viewed unethical. Under pressure and heavy workload, one officer is doing the job of two officers and the situation is gradually going out of control in that it becomes a very tough task to comply with the laid down system and procedures 100%. It is highly undesirable that supervisory job is performed in such a situation. As a consequence, an officer is bound to commit some errors. He referred to some of the lacunae noticed in the implementation of the work life balance and appealed to the management to implement the same in letter and spirit. He stressed on the need for concerted efforts by all concerned to ensure quality customer service.
24. Comrade President then enquired the members whether they opt to pass the Secretary's Report and Statement of Account. Members overwhelmingly and unanimously passed the reports by voice vote.
25. Comrade L T Yolmo, Asst General Secretary, Siliguri Module was called upon to deliver his speech. He advised the members to build a strong team at the unit level as per the expectation of the leadership so that the assigned job is performed effectively. He stated that leaders at the apex level are doing their bit but he questioned the contributions of the members and called upon to contribute in whatever possible way and keep on thinking about strengthening the Association. Referring to official SMS, WhatsApp calls, etc. between 8 p.m. and 8 a.m , he reiterated that the call given by the AIBOC and SBIOA in this regard be adhered to in letter and spirit. He wondered how come the members are defying the call given by their leaders and at what cost. His clear appeal to the members is to build a strong Association for our own protection from evil forces. He also appealed to the members to save themselves and in doing so they will be saving the Bank too.
26. The President then requested Comrade Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay, Dy General Secretary, SBIOA, Bengal Circle to deliver his speech. He thanked all the members for presenting the facts and figures relating to our daily worklife challenges. He pointed out that all the problems as highlighted by the members are given due attention and the issues are raised in the CNC meeting for resolution. He elaborately told the members how the matters are being taken up with CMC. In the light of present stressful working atmosphere, proper and thoughtful manpower planning is a must in order to make the Bank going forward. Unfortunately, POs and TOs on probation are also being considered as permanent manpower though they are on the job training subjected to frequent transfer. Further, transfer policy applicable up to Scale-II is under review for improvement. Accumulation of coins in some branches is causing serious problems which have been duly brought to the notice of the Bank Management for immediate solution.
27. Comrade Sonam Kabo, Vice President, AZC, Siliguri delivered vote of thanks..
28. Thus, an eventful day in the history of Administrative Zonal Committee came to an end with rendition of the National Anthem.
29. Comrade Debanta Goswami, Zonal President declared the end of the Meeting of 2018, wishing all the members a very Happy New Year, 2019.


Soumya Datta
(General Secretary)

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