

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)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 7 dated 19.01.2019 issued by the 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:

53RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SBIOA, BENGAL CIRCLE A MASSIVE PARTICIPATION – STUPENDOUS SHOW OF UNITY AND SOLIDARITY

It was a grand event. Over 4200 comrades from all parts of Bengal Circle had assembled in a fantastic manner to participate in their Annual General Body Meeting in the city of Kolkata. It was highly inspiring for all those who were present on the occasion. The Circle leadership and the Federation leadership along with the leaders of the fraternal organizations were present on the occasion. The continuous raising of the slogans by the militant members of the Circle Association along with their leaders set a solid foundation for the conduct of the 53rd Annual General Meeting. The venue, Nazrul Mancha Rabindra Sarovar, Kolkata is a renowned place for the activities of our Bengal Circle Association.

2. The Programme Coordinator Com.Arunima Ghosh welcomed Com.Sabuj Mistry, the President and Com.Soumya Datta, the General Secretary of the Association as well as the President of the Federation and the General Secretary of the Confederation on the dais. They welcomed all the other dignitaries with flower bouquet to the dais for the conduct of the programme.

3. The dignitaries who were present on the dais included S/Shri.Ranjan Kumar Mishra, Chief General Manager Kolkata Circle, Shivakumar GM NW-I, Mahesh Goel GM NW-II & Naresh Yadav, GM-NW III, Mrs. Suranjana Dutta, DGM,CDO Kolkata Circle .

4. The dignitaries who were present on behalf of the organizations were Com. G. Subramanyam, Chairman, AISBOF & General Secretary, SBIOA (Hyderabad Circle) Com. Ramkumar Sabapathy, General Secretary of the Federation, Com. Ravinder Gupta General Secretary, SBIOA, Delhi Circle, Com. Sushil Ahuja, President SBIOA, Delhi Circle, Com.Pawan Kumar, General Secretary SBIOA, Lucknow Circle, Com. Arun Shrivastava, E.C.Member, AISBOF, Com.Rupam Roy, General Secretary, SBIOA, N.E Circle, Com.Kamlakar Singh, President, SBIOA, Patna Circle and Com.Narendra V.Kulkarni Treasurer, AISBOF, Bengaluru, Shri Dipak Basu, General Secretary of SBIPA Bengal Circle, Shri Abhay Sharma, DGS SBISA Bengal Circle and Shri Sanjay Das, Secretary, AIBOC West Bengal State Unit.

5. The programme was inaugurated by lighting the lamp and offering floral tribute to the portrait of Swami Vivekananda, the great visionary and Saint whose birth anniversary was celebrated on the same day. Homage was also paid to Com.R.N.Banerjee, Former General Secretary, SBI Officers' Association (Bengal Circle), Com.Dilip Kumar Biswas, former AGS, SBIOA(Bengal Circle) & Chairman, SBIOAMS Co-op.Credit Society Ltd.

6. The Bengal Circle Association is a pioneer in serving the society along with the trade union activities. They are the guiding spirit for several other organizations including our own Associations all over the country.

7. As mark of the 53rd Annual General Body Meeting and also symbolically demonstrate their social welfare activities, the leadership of the Circle Association had identified number of organizations and personalities who were instrumental in rendering social service to the society in various fields for honor and financial assistance. The details are as follows:-

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- (i) Com.Bhimsen Rai- The State Bank family was shocked by the untimely death of comrade Bhimsen Rai, Assistant Manager of RBO, Gangtok, who gave up his life on 27.10.2018 due to unwarrantable circumstances. He is survived by his parents, wife and infant son. With deep concern, AZC, Siliguri Module gave a grant of Rs.2 lakh for the child's education .The Bengal Circle association gave one time financial assistance of Rs.2 lakh. The cheque was handed over to Ms.Matrika Limbu, wife of late Shri.Bhimsen Rai.
- (ii) Bandhur Sparsha – An organisation formed by a group of few retirees, mainly from SBI to stand by the differently abled children of our society, eradicating disparities and imparting formal education, various vocational training that secure their future and make them self-sufficient.
- (iii) Suvendu Memorial Seva Pratisthan – A trust formed by Shri. Sankareswar Dutta, former workmen Director of SBI with a hospital for eye treatment for extending medical facilities at a nominal cost to the weaker section of the society.
- (iv) Calcutta Social Project- This is an internationally awarded social organisation dedicated to the empowerment of slum and street children of Kolkata through education and skill development. It runs street children education centres, primary school, computer education centre, day care centres for children of slum dwelling single mothers, shelters for vulnerable boys and girls, sports program for marginalised slum and street children.
- (v) Organisation for Friends Energies and Resources (OFFER). OFFER has been serving children who are severely under-privileged in the city of Kolkata and semi- urban areas of West Bengal, providing institutional specialised health care, psycho-social support to the children with HIV/AIDS, mentally challenged children.
- (vi) Sri Subash Sarkar, Coach of Ms.Swapna Barman.-Shri. Sarkar is associated with the coaching profession and had training at China, London, and Cuba. Under his able guidance, Ms.Swapan Barman secured Gold medal at ASIAN Games.
- (vii) Ms.Swapna Barman- She is our brand ambassador for SBI YONO, Kolkata Circle. This 21 year old girl won the Gold medal in the heptathlon event at the recently concluded Jakarta Asian games. A daughter of Rickshaw Puller and Tea Estate worker had a very difficult time dealing with the conditions all her life.
- (viii) The felicitation of Com.Pranab Kumar Sarkar, Former CCM, SBIOA SENIOR and Com. Rama Prasad Roy, SBIOA SENIOR.

8. Whenever the contribution of each and every personalities were invited to receive the honor and financial assistance, the august house expressed their happiness with thunderous applause throughout. The action of the Circle Association in recognizing several personalities from different walks of life was heart touching and inspiring to all those who were present on the occasion.

9. Com. Soumya Datta, the General Secretary of the Circle Association who has also taken the onerous responsibilities of shouldering the position of the General Secretary of the All India Bank Officers' Confederation along with the role of the President of our mighty Federation, rose to extend a warm welcome to all the dignitaries and the members who were present on the occasion. He was greeted with thunderous applause and slogan from the members of the Circle Association. Com.Soumya Datta, is a popular leader of Bengal Circle Association and had served the organization for the last several decades. He is known as a powerful orator and a militant leader from the Circle and had served the organization in various capacities before taking up the onerous responsibility of leading the Circle from the front. He is loved by the membership across the Bengal Circle and an inspiring leader for the membership of the circle. He congratulated and complimented the membership for such a wonderful gathering as a mark of unity and solidarity and for making the countrywide strike on 21st December, 2018; a grand success. He explained at length the grounds on which the Confederation had to take a decision to strike work in the banking industry. He also emphasized the stand of the Confederation in regard to the ill-advised decision of the Government in regard to merger of Vijaya Bank, Dena Bank and Bank of Baroda which was uncalled for. He explained at length the efforts of the Confederation in driving home the point both to the Government as well as the RBI and IBA in regard to this unwarranted move on their part. He also told that the organization is exploring all the alternatives in resisting this move of the Government. The Confederation has also initiated moves for taking up the issue in Delhi High Court to stop merger of these banks in the interest of the country, the customer, and the employees as well.

10. He also referred to the major issues confronting the banking industry and the need for a continuous onward march in fighting all those issues. The issues connected with the State Bank under the leadership of the Federation were also elaborated on the occasion. He desired that the Work Life balance should not remain only in the books, but it should be

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virtually implemented by each and every controller in the bank so that the benefit of the same will be passed on to the bank by the membership. He also covered the issue of the disciplinary cases, the problems relating to the operations, the transfer of officers, the difficulties in regard to the cross selling etc., He wanted the membership to stand up to the occasion and fight against the injustice rather suffering in silence. The management should take necessary steps against the humiliation and ill treatment of officers by the controllers lest it will lead to frustration and the productivity in the bank is largely affected. Today, the youngsters have low level of tolerance and they need to be supported emotionally by the Management. He also wanted that the members should refer the issues connected with the CDS to the Circle to take up all the grievances of the officers.

11. The occasion was also utilized for the release of a special issue of News Bulletin of State Bank of India Officers Association, Bengal Circle namely SUPVOICE on the occasion.

12. Shri.Ranjan Kumar Mishra, the Chief General Manager, Kolkata Circle was highly impressed with such a wonderful conduct of the meeting and specially a huge gathering of officers at one place. He expressed his thanks to the Circle leadership for giving him an opportunity to participate in the General Meeting of the Association. He also made a reference to the important occasion of birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on the occasion. He also appreciated the role played by the Circle Association in taking up the social welfare activities in the Circle. He expressed his happiness that he is now heading such a proud Circle. He also elaborated about the various developments in the banking industry and said that there are changes in Technology, changes in customer requirements and we also have to change accordingly. First of all we have to improve in knowledge front. We are doing many things not knowing in detail and committing mistakes. Since the formation of the bank, basics are same and we should always remember the basics. Do not violate system and procedure, hygiene. My sincere suggestion is to go through latest circulars, technology, which will help to improve our self. To reduce the pressure we have to work as team helping each other and interacting within. Now a day's customer service is one of the major challenges. Try to listen to the customer and make honest attempt to solve the problem which will help in building the confidence of the customer. Work life balance has to be managed by our self. Improve your knowledge to do things smoothly, arrange things orderly, systematically so that day to day work is completed in time and ensure to leave the office by 7 p.m. Most of the people are having doubt about survival of bank and I assure you that it will survive another 200 years. The SBI has presence in every nook and corner of the country having diverged products and we should be proud of our bank. He requested to contribute whole heartedly to take this organization to the greater height. He wished all the success to the annual general meeting.

13. Com.Ramkumar Sabapathy, the General Secretary of the Federation expressed extreme happiness on the occasion and appreciated the militant comrades in attending in such a large number which will enthuse the entire rank and file across the country. He appreciated the way the Programme was conducted and complimented the Musical performance, the volunteers and the membership, the recognition of good work, appreciations, felicitations of social workers and sharing of the grief by extending financial assistance to the family of the Officer who died at an young age.

14. He referred to the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda on the occasion and invoked his thoughts. He complimented the various initiatives taken by the Confederation and assured the leadership present on the dais that the AISBOF will extend all the support to protect the interest of the members. He also emphasized the need for taking our organization to greater heights in the days to come. Narrating the reasons for the stalemate in the talks of salary revision, he explained that after submission of Charter of Demands in May 2018, talks are not moving in the right direction as five banks have given restricted mandate. We are demanding pay equal to Central Govt. officers but there is an attempt to divide us, which will not be allowed. IBA wants to bring performance linked pay linked to growth in Operating Profit and return on assets. We went on two days strike but nothing is moving. We assure our member that unless mandate issue is resolve there will not be any talks on wage negotiation. We congratulate Com. Soumya Datta for creating a history by giving a strike call on 21st Dec 2018. He complimented the members for the massive success of the strike. Talking on the issue about the participation of Scale IV & V in the strike, he clarified that as members of the Association, they should respond to the calls given by the association and take part in all the agitation programmes called by the Association. He further informed that the issue is a settled one and minutes have been recorded on the subject with the Management, wherein the Management has agreed on the constitutional position as stated by the Association. He reiterated the constitutional right of the members of the Association and assured that all required steps will be taken to protect the interest of the Officers. He complimented the Bank Officers and invoked the thoughts of Swami Vivekanandji, "arise, awake and stop not till the Goal is achieved" and stated that the Officers have will not stop till the goals are achieved.

15. He appealed to the members to participate in the Employee engagement survey and share their views freely and also appeals to them to do their best to take the bank to greater heights and maintain premier position in the industry. He wished all the success to Bengal Circle on the occasion of the Annual General Meeting.

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16. Com.G. Subramanyam started his address with the appreciations to the Circle Leadership and highlighted the auspicious 126th birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda. He stated that the Merger issue was fought at various levels like signature campaign, submission of memorandum but the process did not top. So we have approached court to have legal relief on this issue. As regards the Wage revision, he stated that the Govt. has utilised our services for implementation of Govt. Programmes like demonetization, insurance, Adhar linkage, Jandhan Account opening and many more schemes and bankers have fully cooperated and made them successful. Many corporate loans have been approved by the Board comprising of representatives of RBI & Govt. have become NPA But they are putting blame on officers of the bank. This has damaged the image of the bank officials. There is a need to take this issue to media, people and explain the real facts. Pension is not updated since long. He further stated that the issues of Pensioners including the Family Pension needs to be addressed to ensure a honourable and peaceful living after retirement. The issue of appointment of workmen director on the board is still pending even after court directions, which will help in saving the banking industry. On the issue of merger we should stand firm and not allow the process of merger in order to save public sectors. He wished all the best to AGM.

17. Com. Ravinder Gupta thanked the leadership for an opportunity to join and address a big gathering. Associations are taking many social welfare activities like Schools in different part of the country, blood donation camps, and support to disabled etc. He touched many issues like pension updating and family pension. To address these issues the big Dharna was arranged in Delhi. At industry level, this issue stands at the bottom. But AIBOC has taken this issue seriously. Family pension in banking industry is 15% where as in Govt. sector it is 30%. To address the issues of banking industry, attempt to destroy trade union movements by Government and to oppose unilateral decision of punishing the officers, we are raising our voice and arranging march to Parliament programme on 4th Feb and requested to participate in large numbers. He wished all the best to Bengal circle comrades and urged to be united for survival.

18. Com. Abhay Dev Sharma DGS Staff Union, State Bank Staff Union Bengal Circle expressed his views and demanded that Govt. Should take action against defaulters and treat the wilful defaulters as criminal offenders.


19. Com. Sanjay Das, the Secretary of AIBOC State Committee, urged the members to strengthen themselves and pointed the suffering of officers in banking industry. He stated that there is no instrument to measure the performance in banking industry. He also pressed that Scale IV & V are our members of our association.

20. Com.Dipak Basu, General Secretary, SBIPA conveyed good wishes for the Pensioners on behalf of the Pensioners Association and desired that Federation/Confederation to address the issues of pensioners. He congratulated AIBOC for taking the pensioner issues seriously. On behalf of pensioners he wished all the best and assured fraternal support in future also.

21. Com. Raktima Soren, the Vice President, proposed the vote of thanks.

22. Comrades, the 53rd General Meeting of the Bengal Circle Association will be recorded in the golden letters in the history of the Circle Association for the militant and exemplary show of unity. The wide media coverage of the programme has also sent out the message to the Government, IBA and the RBI in a most militant manner and also cautioned the Government to desist from the moves which are against the interest of the people. It also revived our spirit and aspirations in the collective action in ensuring success to all our future struggles in the days to come. The memories of the meeting will remain in our hearts for a long time to come.

With greetings,


(RAMKUMAR SABAPATHY)
GENERAL SECRETARY