

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

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

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Circular No. 142/2020

Date : 10.08.2020

To All Members (Please Circulate)

We append below "AN APPEAL" which has been made by both the President and undersigned on behalf of entire Circle Association to each and every member regarding present scenario of our Association and also our esteemed institution. The undersigned urges upon all members across the Circle to go through the appeal earnestly and rise to the occasion.

With revolutionary greetings,

Yours comradely,

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)

AN APPEAL

Comrades, you are aware that the present committee of the Circle Association has been functioning since 2018, which was led by Com Soumya Datta, the then General Secretary, who after his elevation as General Secretary of AISBOF, had relinquished his organizational post in the Circle Association. Subsequently, the undersigned had been unanimously elected as President and General Secretary and have been carrying forward the mission and vision of the committee to the best of their abilities with total support and co-operation of the entire membership since June, 2019.

Our Circle Association has endeavoured to deal with all the issues of members with utmost sincerity, commitment and dedication. Through our persuasion and constant follow-up, most of the issues could be addressed in right perspective viz. the historic and officers' friendly "Circle Transfer Policy" and host of other benefits like enhancement of ceiling of utility items, introduction of reimbursement of Pest Control charges, standardization of medical bills reimbursement with enhanced ceiling et al. This year, the unprecedented pandemic situation caused by COVID-19 has a telling effect in our day to day life and also on the scheduled plans and programs of our Association. The recent devastating Cyclone "Amphaan" was another blow to the large number of people of the state. We have since visited the branches in affected areas to rebuild the confidence of our members posted thereat.

Circle Association has initiated various measures such as distribution of hand sanitizer, masks, face shields, gloves and shower caps to the members in the remote and difficult areas including Andaman & Nicobar Islands where those are hardly available. As a major affiliate to AIBOC(WBSU), we have taken various initiatives which include constant persuasion through dialogues with different govt. authorities, SLBC, Railway department and also involving print and electronic media to provide relief and protection to our members. **As a result, in our state, we have been able to achieve 5-Day Banking, Restricted Business Hours from 10am to 2 pm, Restriction in number of employees on duty, advisory adhering to strict social distancing norms while transacting with customers by implementing suitable arrangement both inside and outside of the branch premises and closure of bank branches/offices on the days of complete lockdown etc.** to 'break the chain' and to reduce exposure of our members and ultimately to ensure their well-being.

Unfortunately, SOP and guidelines of COVID-19 are not being properly followed in some places. Employees / outsourced persons are coming to office/ branches with fever and/or other symptoms and subsequently have been detected COVID-19 positive. Controllers are conducting meetings/ seminars in some pockets which are in contravention of SOP of COVID-19. This has resulted in a rise in the number of infected officers and employees leading to closure of many branches/offices. The disruption in business continuity affected business of the Bank. It has come to our notice while on branch visit that some of the employees/ outsourced persons did not wear face mask properly. We have to make it mandatory to wear mask in true sense and observe other precautionary measures while discharging our duties. We, therefore, appeal to our controllers and members to strictly adhere to the SOP and Guidelines of COVID-19 so as to ensure safety of ourselves and customers and thereby ensuring business continuity.

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay

General Secretary

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We are happy to place on record that our members in every region of the Circle have extended their best cooperation by organizing various relief activities to the economically distressed section of the society besides rendering yeoman services to the customers on regular basis shouldering risk of contamination from the deadly virus. We are deeply saddened for the demise of our members who laid down their lives in the line of duty having been infected with the dreaded virus or having met with fatal road accidents in their journey to and from office during this period.

Comrades, the role of Public Sector Banks in nation building is beyond argument. **Our members had always been playing a pivotal role in improving the economic condition of the farmers/agriculturists, rural artisans, small and medium entrepreneurs of the country.** We, the financial army, defended the nation on many occasions by our dedicated service during demonetization, opening accounts under PMSBY, PMJBY, APY, NPS and provided assistance to the needy people of the society. As the country is now passing through economic slowdown, banking sector has a larger role to play against all odds. Our bank is also facing the challenge of business retardation. The development of Farm and SME sectors should be the key areas. When the entire country is reeling under economic slowdown, timely disbursement of the KCC, CCECL, GECL will immensely help farmers and Business Entrepreneurs to revive green shoots in the economy.

In the present scenario, we should come out from the traditional brick and mortar banking and promote products like digital banking, door step banking services wherever necessary, for development of business. We are all aware that some Private players like Reliance, Paytm, etc. have already entered in the market and appearance of some players like WhatsApp, Facebook etc. are on the horizon to emerge as a major threat to our existence. Menace of privatization is looming large calling for larger unity to thwart the danger. Performances of PSUs in general and PSBs in particular are being judged with an out and out negative frame of mind in a bid to malign them as government is hell bent upon to speed up the process of demolishing the public sector fabric of the nation. But, as a responsible trade union, we believe that trade and union are the two legs of our esteemed institution which is providing our bread and butter. So, focus on **business development assumes paramount importance to ensure our well-being.**

In this context, it is also to note that several publications through Circulars, Hand Books, Weekly Knowledge Update are being published by the Circle Association under Empowerment Series besides conducting workshop/seminars throughout the year. We are confident that members have been enriched by these publications and workshop/seminars and appeal them to strictly adhere to the laid down SOP while discharging their duties.

Amidst all pervading despair, the coveted news of a respectable wage revision has infused much needed elation and zeal in us. **We express our sincere gratitude and like to congratulate AIBOC under the adroit leadership of Com Sunil Kumar, President and Com Soumya Datta, General Secretary, AIBOC, for the historic achievement of 11th Bipartite settlement. We also convey revolutionary greetings to the entire membership who all along stood tall to implement every instruction of the leadership to lay the foundation of this historic victory. This has once again marked the triumph of collective forces.**

Like the previous bipartite settlement, we do not intend to impose any levy on the members this time too, however, any amount of voluntary contribution from members will certainly boost our morale to take up welfare initiatives to serve our members and the society as well in a bigger way.

We once again appeal to all our members across the Circle to remain united to tide over all the challenges and to take a pledge to put their best for the betterment of our beloved Bank and mighty Association in the days to come.

“Stay Safe, Stay Healthy”

With revolutionary greetings,



**(AsitavaKundu)
President**



**(Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay)
General Secretary**

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General Secretary

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