

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

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

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Circular No. 27/2023

Date : 06.02.2023

To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 27 dated 06.02.2023 issued by the General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation, the contents of which are self-explicit.

With revolutionary greetings,

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)

Dear Comrades,

THE 57TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, SBIOA (BENGAL CIRCLE) A MASSIVE SHOW OF STRENGTH & SOLIDARITY

Nazrul Manch, Kolkata was the destination of over 4000 officers of SBIOA Bengal Circle to join the 57th Annual General Meeting) as they congregated thereat from nooks and corners of the Circle- i.e. West Bengal, Andaman & Nicobar and Sikkim on 28th January, 2023. The dais was named "Desh Ki Azadi Desh Ka Bank Manch" and the area was named as "Bank Bachao Desh Bachao Nagar (Kolkata).

2. The event started with the hoisting of the Association-flag by Shri Prem Anup Sinha, CGM, Kolkata Circle, Comrade Rupam Roy, President of the Federation, Comrade Asitava Kundu and Comrade Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay, President and General Secretary respectively of the Circle Association along with all leaders from other Circles and the undersigned.

3. Amidst thunderous slogans activists of the Circle welcomed all the members and guests to the venue where a welcome video, "Desh Ki Azadi Desh Ka Bank", was presented. A documentary- video named "A Journey through Struggle" was also shown which received enormous acclamation from the audiences including younger generation. This was followed by the melodious and rousing rendition of the opening songs, performed by the members of the cultural wing of the Circle Association, "Srijan".

4. Comrade Samrat Kundu, a young activist, who anchored in the Opening Session, welcomed Comrade Asitava Kundu and Comrade Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay, President and General Secretary of the Circle Association respectively on the dais amidst thunderous slogans and applause. Both the leaders welcomed the dignitaries on the dais with shawl and sampling. The dignitaries on the dais were Comrade Rupam Roy, General Secretary, AIBOC and President, AISBOF, the undersigned along with Shri Prem Anup Sinha, Chief General Manager, Kolkata Circle, Shri Sujay Kumar Yadav, General Manager, NW-II, Shri Jogesh Chandra Sahu, General Manager, NW-III, Shri Ashok Kumar Mahakul, GM & DA, DM Hub (East), Shri Subrata Mukherjee, General Manager (Addl. CVO), Shri Vaka Srinivasalu Reddy, General Manager, CCGRO, Shri Manoranjan Samal, DGM & CDO of Kolkata Circle, Comrade Abhoy Deo Sharma, President SBISA (Bengal Circle), Comrade Goutam Neogy, Convenor UFBU (WBSU) and General Secretary, SBISA (Bengal Circle), Comrade Krishnendu Mukherjee, President, AIBOC (West Bengal State Unit), Comrade Ashoke Kumar Datta, President, SBI Pensioner Association (Bengal Circle) and Comrade Dipak Kumar Basu, General Secretary, Federation of SBI Pensioner's Association & SBIPA (Bengal Circle).



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The Office bearers of the other Circle Associations whose presence made the occasion special were

Comrade Nilesh Radia Comrade Pinakin Brahma Bhatt	President General Secretary	Ahmedabad
Comrade K.L.Chavan Comrade K.N.Giriraja	President General Secretary	Bangalore
Comrade Gowardhan Mishra	President	Bhopal
Comrade Amitava Das Comrade Arun Kumar Bishoyi	President General Secretary	Bhubaneswar
Comrade P. Nallaperumal Pillai	President	Chennai
Comrade Jatinder Pal Singh Sethi	President	Delhi
Comrade S. Appaswamy	President	Hyderabad
Comrade Vinay Kumar Bhalla	General Secretary	Jaipur
Comrade Mohan Shamji Gohil Comrade Manohar Baboo Devrukhkar	President General Secretary	Mumbai Metro
Comrade Amaresh Vikramaditya	General Secretary	Patna
Comrade Narendra V. Kulkarni	Treasurer, AISBOF	Bangalore
Comrade Padmakar Sunil Talvadekar	Assistant Secretary, AISBOF	Mumbai Metro
Comrade R.K. Basavaraj	Dy. General Secretary	Bangalore

5. After lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the guests, the SBIOA Seniors namely Comrade Santanu Chakraborty, Comrade Ranjit Kumar Bhattacharya, Comrade Sishir Ranjan Ghosh, Comrade Pronab Kumar Sarkar along with Shri Paltu Ganguly, the representative from "Bandhur Sparsha", a Home for the specially abled children, were befittingly felicitated for their exemplary support to SBIOA (Bengal Circle) and the society by Shri Prem Anup Sinha, the Chief Guest and Chief General Manager of Kolkata Circle, Comrade Rupam Roy, General Secretary, AIBOC and President, AISBOF, the undersigned along with Comrade Asitava Kundu and Comrade Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay.



6. On the occasion, a special edition of the inhouse magazine of the Circle Association namely „SUPVOICE“ and a Hand Book on Small Savings Schemes of Government of India were released by the dignitaries.

7. Comrade Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay, General Secretary, SBIOA (Bengal Circle) in his address welcomed all the dignitaries and

the militant members to the meeting. He narrated some of the initiatives taken by the Circle Association to keep the members updated and to provide required protection to the officers that included training programme under "Byatikramee Pathakram", an alternate curriculum, on SME & P-Segment advances, Workshop for Joint Custodians in Currency Chest branches, programme for Service Managers, publication of recent Bank's Circulars on weekly basis. He briefly touched upon the major activities and achievements of the Circle Association and also highlighted the various issues taken up during the Circle Negotiating Committee meetings. He also highlighted that the Circle leadership had conducted programs connecting people from different walks of life of the society such as Raksha Bandhan, Photography Exhibition involving customers etc. He concluded his welcome address briefly explaining the tag line of the 57th AGM "Desh Ki Azadi Desh Ka Bank".



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8. Shri Prem Anup Sinha, CGM, Kolkata Circle & Chief guest of the meeting appreciated the Circle leadership for undertaking many activities such as Blood Donation Camps, Educational training and bringing out many Circulars and Hand Books. He also assured to improve the facilities available to all the staff members such as Holiday Homes, Guest Houses and Dispensary facility. He advised the officers to bring to his notice regarding non-payment of bills, if any. He believed in the philosophy that happy employees would perform better. Appreciating for the quality of service rendered by the team Kolkata Circle, he stressed on additional efforts in marketing to improve market share of the Bank in the competitive environment. He conveyed his best wishes to the Circle Association for arranging such a gigantic and successful program.

9. The undersigned congratulated SBIOA (Bengal Circle) for organising the meeting successfully with huge gathering that happened only due to the dedication and commitment of the members. He commended the documentary video exhibited on the history of trade union and the melodious musical recitation presented by the cultural wing, "Srijan". He appreciated the Circle leadership for raising the pertinent issues boldly to the knowledge of the CGM of the Circle. Referring Kolkata as the birthplace of Gurudev, Rabindra Nath Tagore, he reminded his famous poem "Where the mind is without fear....." and advised the members to keep the head high and work without fear in mind. The undersigned told that SBI being the backbone of the economy, launched various products but those were to be sold as per suitability of the customers. Due to rat race behind number game for MD ranking, shortage of manpower, calling on Sunday/ Holiday affecting work-life balance, he mentioned that officers were facing tremendous pressure in day to day work and those were the main reasons to leave the Bank by younger generation. Regarding pending issues, he expected that disparity in wages and pension would be resolved soon and he wished to conduct a program with the Staff Federation to take care of the issues of pensioners and committed to intensify the trade union movement, if required, to protect the members and SBI family.



10. Comrade Rupam Roy in his maiden speech to the audience as President, AISBOF and General Secretary, AIBOC, mentioned that both the Confederation and Federation is facing challenges both from inside and outside the Bank. He narrated the importance of the Public Sector Banks and countered the narrative that the Public sectors are inefficient. In support to his logic, he highlighted the performance of Public Sector Banks especially SBI vis-a-vis Private Sector Banks citing informative statistics regarding share of business, no. of employees, business per employee, contribution in Govt Sponsored Schemes, profit per employee etc. He also pointed out that despite the fact that substantial manhour is lost owing to slow connectivity and regular

technical glitches in CBS, meagre contribution in income (0.50%) vis-à-vis the manpower intensive selling of 3rd party products, opportunity loss on account of manpower employed for Govt Sponsored schemes / initiatives, we are ahead of the biggest Pvt Bank in terms of Business per employee. Criticizing the anti-people policy of the government, he said that a comparison of no of customer serviced by the Public Sector banks with Private sector Banks proves that per employee we are serving 4 times the no of customers than the private players but we are not allowed to recruit sufficiently. There is a threat to the market share of Public Sector Banks due to acute manpower shortage. He alleged that Private Sector Banks were providing unsecured business loans through their subsidiaries at very high interest rates to the rural poor and lower middle class as was prevalent during the pre nationalisation days through money lenders . He urged upon nationalisation of all Private Sector Banks in the country and to mobilise public support to save the Public Sector Banks. Regarding pending issues with IBA, he said that next meeting of UFBU with IBA would be held on 31.01.2023 to resolve the issues in a time bound manner as per discussion held in last tripartite meeting with CLC, IBA & UFBU. He asked members to firmly resist the controllers for calling on Sundays/ Holidays for completion of routine jobs. Lastly, he expressed his deep satisfaction and happiness for the Opening Songs of the meeting and wished a fruitful business session in the meeting. He concluded congratulating SBIOA (Bengal Circle) for successful organisation of the 57th Annual General Meeting.

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11. Comrade Goutam Neogy, Convenor UFBU (WBSU) and General Secretary, SBISA, Bengal Circle expressed his happiness that both organisations were working together for the betterment of all employees and officers. He cautioned that the sword of Privatization was still hanging on the Public Sector Banks, and job security and service conditions would be at stake, if privatisation would be allowed to be implemented. He opined that all Public Sector Undertakings should fight under one umbrella like farmers' community which fought cohesively and coming down on the road.



12. Comrade Dipak Kumar Basu, General Secretary, Federation of SBI Pensioners Association and SBIPA (Bengal Circle) requested the present leadership of the Federation and Confederation to take care of the issues of the retirees. As a pensioner, he felt proud to be a privileged family member of SBI. He conveyed his heartfelt gratitude for beautifully compiling the historic documentary-video presented in the meeting and wished the 57th Annual General Meeting of SBIOA (Bengal Circle) a grand success.

13. Comrade Krishnendu Mukherjee President, AIBOC (West Bengal State Unit) highlighted the activities of the State Unit like conducting "Bus Yatra" across all the districts in the State to intensify "Bank Bachao Desh Bachao" campaign and mentioned achievements like clinching Holidays on Bhatri Dwitiya, Chhat Puja and 1st January for the State under N.I. Act. He requested the leadership to be united to garner support of the public to oppose the government's anti-people policies aiming at privatisation of Public Sector Banks.

14. The Opening Session concluded conveying thanks and gratitude to the leadership and dignitaries by Com Asitava Kundu, President, SBIOA (Bengal Circle).

15. Comrades, the 57th Annual General Meeting in Kolkata were yet another show of strength and solidarity of supervisory trade unionism. The massive gathering of members demonstrated the solidarity and unity that we possess. The undersigned conveys his pleasure to get an opportunity to interact with members at ground level, to forge a bonding so that the trade unionism and the legacy flourishes and proliferates for the common good of the officers' fraternity, working class and the bank as well.



16. The Undersigned heartily congratulates SBIOA (Bengal Circle) and their vibrant leadership and membership who made the event a historic one. Later in the day, the reports from SBIOA (Bengal Circle) indicated active participation and meaningful deliberations by the members during the business session that concluded with profound success.

With greetings,

Yours Comradely,
Sd/-
(Deepak Kumar Sharma)
General Secretary

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