

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

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

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Circular No. 67/2023

Date : 01.05.2023

To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 30 dated 30.04.2023 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)

AISBOF BIDS ADIEU TO COMRADE Dr. R. BALAJI, CHAIRMAN AISBOF, AND GENERAL SECRETARY SBIOA (CHENNAI CIRCLE)



Com Dr. R. Balaji, the Chairman of AISBOF and the General Secretary of our affiliate SBIOA (CC) had laid down his office on 30th April 2023 on attaining superannuation from the active service of State Bank of India, after being a dedicated State Banker for 37 years and 11 months.

2. Born on 3rd April 1963, Com Balaji joined the Bank in 1985, graduated as a CAIIB to become a Trainee Officer in 1997, and superannuated as Chief Manager (RB-FI), Administrative Office, Chennai South.

3. He was elected as a Deputy Treasurer of SBIOA (CC) in 2008. His profound humanism and invaluable service to members endeared him to one and all, which enabled him to become Deputy General Secretary of SBIOA (CC) in 2011. He became the Regional Secretary of the Chennai Module, having the largest Membership of prominent units in 2012. He was elevated as Vice President in 2017 and became the President of SBIOA (CC) in April'18 and General Secretary, holding the position since 01.04.2019. He was co-opted as Deputy General Secretary of AISBOF in May'18, Vice President in 2019, and became Chairman of AISBOF from 01.12.2022.

4. Com R. Balaji is a hard-core Trade Unionist and prominent Defence Representative, who stood as a saviour to the Charge Sheeted Officers (CSOs) the process of numerous Disciplinary proceedings. He is also the author of the popular book on DPC, "One Point Reference Book for Defence Representatives", "One Point Reference Book of SBIOA Service & Conduct Rules," and their periodic updates. "**Gateway to Promotion Book**", "**You Should Know**," and "**Service Conditions of SBI Officers**" are some other books penned by him that the fraternity members found very handy and useful. The recent publication of a book he authored compiling various court judgments on Service Matters titled "Judgments at a Glance" depicts his dedication.

5. Adding one more feather to his cap, the TN State Unit of AIBOC elected him as its President in 2019. The meticulous implementation of agitation programs by the AIBOC/UFBU speaks volumes of his unparalleled organizing capacity and gallantry.

6. A Trainer and a Faculty Member who imparted knowledge to many young trade Union Leaders and Managers. Com Balaji's oratory anecdotes mesmerize the audience with information, ethics, and morals in all his meetings and conferences. Towards building a dedicated team of defence Representatives, he organized and conducted many Workshops on Disciplinary Proceedings with a team of experts in the field.

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay

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7. His time consciousness, systematic approaches, serene thoughts, farsightedness, pragmatism, benevolence, strict discipline, deeper analysis, appropriate strategies, thoughtful interactions, firm decisions, etc., have brought many laurels to the Association and its members. His understanding of day-to-day national and international affairs provided in-depth analytical studies and finer culminations in espousing the cause. Honesty, transparency, and straightforwardness are his conduct. He is a stern believer in collective wisdom and has been strictly adhering to the democratic process in shaping decisions, big or small.

8. Com R. Balaji's principled approach in taking up Members' issues with the Circle Management and his firm belief in bilateralism ensured that the Industrial Relations with the Bank at the Circle level have always been cordial and warm, even during some challenging times. Though actively engaged in trade union activities, he never lost sight of the Bank's interest. In all our members' meetings, he used to highlight the need to work for the profitable growth of our Bank. Towards that end, he utilized the entire bilateral forums to echo the views of our Association concerning both members and the Bank.

9. Com Balaji maintained a cordial relationship with sister affiliates such as SBSU (CC) and strengthened the coordination in all matters affecting the common interest of the Bankers' community. He coordinated closely with the State Bank of India Pensioners' Association (CC) and extended wholehearted coordination in all their endeavours.

10. Under his leadership, our SBIOA Educational Trust has achieved many milestones. Due to his tireless work, immense interest, and contribution to the field of education, he has received many awards, viz., Education Stalwart, Education Icon, and Lifetime Education Achievement Award by National & International Compendium for his outstanding achievements and Remarkable Role in the Field of Education. Com Balaji has been conferred with Doctor of Letters - D.Litt., (Honoris Causa) by The University of Central America for his accomplishments in Public Life in promoting education for establishing a just and equitable society. The ET has rightly recognised his extraordinary and exemplary contribution, and Asia One Magazine rewarded and honoured him as "The World's Greatest Education Leader 2023".

11. We would also like to acknowledge the contribution of his life partner Smt. Gowri Balaji. All these years, she has more than made up for Com Balaji's role in the family front, and lent strength and support to him during the roller-coaster of his Trade Union life. As a family man, he is also a father to a successful daughter and son, who are engineers by their profession and has bright careers in their respective vocations.

12. On the eve of his retirement, we cherish his long association and acknowledge his services. His achievements and accomplishments will undoubtedly provide necessary impetus in keeping the flag of AISBOF high.

On behalf of all the members of AISBOF, we convey our sincere appreciation for his colossal contribution to the banking trade unions. We also wish him an active, healthy, and contented life in the years to come.

With greetings,

Comradely yours,

Sd/-

(Deepak Kumar Sharma)
General Secretary



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