

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

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

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Circular No. 159/2024

Date : 16.12.2024

To All Members (Please Circulate)

THE 41ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF ADMINISTRATIVE ZONAL COMMITTEE, SILIGURI AT HOTEL CENTRAL PARK, SILIGURI ON 01.12.2024

The 41st Annual General Meeting of State of India Officers' Association (Bengal Circle), Administrative Zonal Committee, Siliguri was held on 01st December, 2024. The meeting commenced at 10:00am with a mind blowing small video presentation of Siliguri Module, which highlighted the multifaceted terrain that members of our association serve.

Comrade Rahul Nandi and Comrade Upendra Biswakarma, two activists, who anchored in the opening session, invited the leadership and dignitaries who were greeted with khada (traditional silk scarf) and flower bouquet by the Comrades from Sikkim & Hills. Comrade Rupam Roy, General Secretary All India Bank Officers Confederation and General Secretary All India State Bank Officers Federation graced the meeting as Guest of Honour, Shri Virendra Singh, DGM(B&O) Siliguri Module, DGM(B&O) and Chief Guest of the meeting, Comrade Nigam Prasad Chakraborty, Deputy General Secretary SBI Staff Association, were present in the meeting. After lighting of the ceremonial lamp by the dignitaries, the SBIOA Seniors along with the undersigned followed by opening Songs in Bengali - "NOWJAWAN NOWJAWAN" and "HURTANG TANG" performed by the cultural Wing of SRIJAN Siliguri which raised the revolutionary spirit of all the members, Comrade Aritra saha, Chief Regional Secretary of the module welcomed all dignitaries, Central Committee leaders and SBIOA seniors with his welcome speech. He also welcomed all members and office bearers from other modules to the meeting.

Thereafter, Shri Virendra Singh (DGM B&O, Siliguri Module), Chief Guest addressed the gathering. He started his deliberation by congratulating Comrade Rupam Roy for his recent elevation. He then requested the gathering to accept him as a member of the organization in stead of module head. He appreciated the good work done in the Module by all the members. He used the tagline of the meeting "Where The Mind Is Without Fear" to caution all members against the various risks and advised all to exercise due diligence while performing their duties. He also requested the members to work taking ownership and to understand the value of our work.

Comrade Nigam Prasad Chakraborty, Deputy General Secretary of SBISA, highlighted the performance of the Bank and indicated which seemed to be enough to show the hard work put in by each member. He mentioned that some risk of the bank arises due to pressure and lack of planning and man-power. He pointed out that management should take responsibility in addressing these issues.

Comrade Rupam Roy, General Secretary All India Bank Officers Confederation and General Secretary All India State Bank Officers Federation and Guest of Honour, in his thunderous speech starting in Nepali language recollected his love for the hills touching upon affection to the job to bring harmony in work-life balance. He stressed on staying united and not to tolerate misbehavior from any one. He asserted that fight to remove toxicity in the Bank and fight for 5 day work week in Banking sector were the priorities. He requested for closure of live streaming and elaborated on the wage settlement. He gave an insight on the workings of the settlement and the finer points incorporated so that all member might be benefited. He further elaborated on calculation of DA formula and the half-day leave that paved the way for regulated working hours. He stressed on more recruitment of sub-ordinate and award staff. He also condemned the micro management of DFS. His sayings, "Your life is invaluable and your purpose profound" touched the core of all members present.

Comrade Indrajit Shankar Bhattacharya, Chairman of SBIOA Multistate Co-operative Credit Society facilitated the meritorious students of Class X & XII Board Exams from Weaker section of the Society and wards of our comrades.

Comrade Debanta Goswami, Zonal President, conducted the Business Session after the house took pledge of the Circle Association. He Read out the notice and agenda of the meeting.

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Comrade Aritra saha, Chief Regional Secretary of the module presented his annual report after the house observed one minute's silence for the departed personalities during the period under report. He requested all members to continue this enthusiasm.

On being invited by the President of the meeting, Comrade Sambuddha Bhattacharya, Zonal Treasurer, presented the Audited Statement of Accounts to the house for discussion and adoption.

Following members volunteered to discuss on the Chief Regional Secretary's Report and Statement of Accounts. All of them supported the report and the Statement of Accounts and expressed their views and concerns as follows:

- i) Comrade Bilap Sarkar from IAF Bagdogra Branch requested all members to follow the guidance of our Leaders.
- ii) Comrade Chandra Kumar Verma expressed his concerns over multiple phone calls, message and meetings during working hours which affected customer service.
- iii) Comrade Khushbu Kumari from Coochbehar Branch expressed her views regarding compliance culture in Bank. She stated that despite various guidelines issued by the Bank, Branches were unable to do compliance due to the paucity of time and customer rush. She expressed her firm belief about the commitment of the Association towards all members.
- iv) Comrade Sujan Tamang from RACC Malda appreciated initiatives of half day leave and special allowances clinched by the Association. He requested the leadership to look into the issues of implementation of 5 day work week in Bank and to address the issue of staff shortage, working on ATMS / CDM on Holidays to reduce work load.
- v) Comrade Partha Pratim Das from Region II Siliguri elaborated on the role of the association in our lives and thanked the leadership. He highlighted the importance of participation in various activities organized by the Association and knowledge sharing to benefit all members. He requested the leaders to organize a training program in lines of "Doctor Babu Online" covering various banking related issues and problems.
- vi) Comrade Nilakha Ray from Sukiapokhari Branch raised issues like migration to NBC platform from CBS without adequate training to staff. He also spoke about Work-life disbalance and regulated working hours. He emphasized on the need of fighting for rights and to learn to say "NO" against unethical instructions. He also highlighted the ever increasing work-load in Branches.
- vii) Comrade Sangrash Bomzom from Sombaria Branch highlighted the problems in his Region and requested for replacing Branch managed ATMs with outsourced ATMs for better Customer Service. He also highlighted the difficulties of single officer branches and huge shortage of clerical staff in his region. He also raised concerns regarding increase in number of Login days and multiple phone call on the same issue in a single day by controlling offices.

Comrade CRS Aritra Saha, Chief Regional Secretary of the module in his reply to the issues raised by the members mentioned that adequate steps were being taken for speedy resolution of these issues. He also requested all members to go through the Secretary's report as most issues had been touched upon in the report itself.

The Chief Regional Secretary's report and audited statement of accounts were unanimously accepted and approved by the house.

Thereafter a small felicitation programme was held in the meeting on account of impending super annuation from the Bank of the few members which included Comrade Debanta Goswami, Zonal President and Comrade Sonam Kabo, AGS in-charge Siliguri Module.

Comrade Ranganath Sanyal addressed the August house touching upon the various issues raised by members before the house. He spoke at length on the pains taken by the Circle leadership on behalf of all members. He also highlighted the hampering of branch works due to non-recruitment of sub-ordinate staff. He expressed how business and compliance is directly related with staff strength. He requested all members to learn to say "NO" to unethical instructions.

The undersigned in his deliberation to the house stated that:

- ❖ attending meetings on Sunday and Teams meeting at unwarranted times and holidays to be strictly avoided.
- ❖ He also condemned multiple phone calls from Controlling Offices during business hours without giving freedom to the branches to work as per their own thinking and planning.
- ❖ He expressed his concern on the declining trend in recruitment in the Bank.

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- ❖ Toxic Work Culture was also impacting the filling up vacancies in Banking industry.
- ❖ He also assured members that the Association was working on a new policy for single officer branches.
- ❖ He expressed concern on the issue of many CSPs in North Bengal.
- ❖ He concluded his speech by requesting the members to look after family and self and advised not to indulge in any unethical work.

The AZC leadership felicitated the former Circle President Comrade Asitava Kundu, former Vice-President Comrade Subhas Chandra Mondal and Comrade Dilip Kumar Mondal, AGS In-charge of South 24 PGS Module, Comrade Krishnendu Mondal, Central Committee member, Comrade Debanta Goswami, Zonal President and Comrade Sonam Kabo, AGS in-charge Siliguri Module on the verge of their retirement in next year.

The meeting was concluded by the rendition of the National Anthem.

With greetings,



Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)