



# ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS' & RETIREES' CONFEDERATION



**(A.I.B.P.A.R.C.)**

**C/O BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION  
(EASTERN INDIA BRANCHES)**

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**For circulation among members of the Governing Council, State Secretaries, Special Invitees, Advisors, Affiliates, Constituents of CBPRO and Members.**

**Dear Comrade,**

**Sub: Adieu 2023--Welcome the New Year 2024.**

We passed another eventful year which witnessed a lot of exciting happenings around us. We have also grown older by a year and our wisdom, enriched by new experiences, will show us the new path of enlightenment and it is fervently expected that the senior and super senior citizens will see the light of success in the days to come. At the beginning of the New Year, we pray for good health, peace and prosperity of all our members and their families. We also fervently pray for Peace and Prosperity of the entire World.

\*Human life is full of ups and downs. Same is the situation with an organization. There have been spectacular achievements which have created new hopes and confidence and at the same time there have been certain despairing events which have dampened the spirit of the members. We shall make a brief reporting of the encouraging as well as the discouraging happenings in the chronological order.

\*The year started with a big turmoil. We had to write to The Deputy Chief Labour Commissioner (central) and The Chairman IBA **challenging their authority to discuss Pension Updation for “Past Retirees” with UFBU since the retirees is a single and a homogenous community and there should not be any artificial bifurcation among them.**

\*The 4<sup>th</sup> Triennial General Body and Conference took place at Bengaluru on 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2023. The colourful and participative assembly of Bank Pensioners and Retirees coming from different parts of the country made it a landmark event in the history of AIBPARC.

\*At different points of time, members of both the houses of the parliament raised starred and unstarred questions on pension updation. **In reply, the Hon’ble Ministers told that there was no provision of pension updation in BEPR (1995).** It caused severe irritation in the minds of the retirees and in each case AIBPARC had to send strongly worded letters to DFS exposing the role of IBA in preparation of unfounded and untrue replies and our Organization placed facts and records before the MOF.

\***Improvement of ex-gratia paid to pre--1986 retirees** is one of the most remarkable events of the year. The guidelines ensured that the surviving pre 1986 retirees / their surviving spouses get a minimum amount of Rs. 10,000/- per month.

\*IBA offered long -awaited clarifications to all member Banks in the month of April, 2023 on the **newly introduced stagnation increments.** Still so many anomalies are continuing in scale iv & scale v resulting in unsettled grievances in the minds of officials in both the scales.

**\* The year 2023 has witnessed different phases of agitations launched by AIBPARC. In the first phase, largely attended meetings /protest demonstrations / dharna have been organized in different places including capitals of states, Union Territories and important metro centres. The participation of Bank Pensioners and Retirees in all such protest Meetings, Demonstrations and Dharnas has been remarkably well breaking all previous records. We have aptly described the Struggles as “Maha Sangram”**

**\*The leadership of the organization had a purposeful meeting with the Hon’ble Union Finance Minister on 19<sup>th</sup> June, 2023.** A patient hearing was allowed to us and we had handed over a memorandum to the Hon’ble Minister on different long pending demands of the Bank Retirees. In the said meeting, she assured that IBA would be advised to resolve Bank Pensioners and Retirees issues.

**\*On the issue of non-computation of Special Allowance for the purpose of calculation of pension and gratuity,** court cases had been filed by the affected persons in 14 state High Courts. At the prayer of IBA, Supreme Court permitted transfer of all such cases to Delhi High Court where the first such case was filed.

**\*The issue of “Resignees”** which remained unresolved for decades has ultimately been sorted out. This is unfortunate that the Resignees though allowed to opt for pension are denied to avail commutation. We have demanded that it should be allowed.

**\*Group Medical Insurance Scheme (GMISR)** has turned into a nightmare. IBA and UFBU by signing an MOU have offered a product which is qualitatively and quantitatively far inferior to previous ones. There have been capping /ceilings on reimbursement; premium of top up policy has been much higher than that of the Base Policy and the hike of premium has crossed all conceivable limits. It appears to us that both the signing parties probably are interested to see that the scheme does not exist anymore. Members standing before a chaotic situation have opted for various options – some of the younger retirees have gone directly to different insurance companies while certain elders have chosen to “port” their policies. Many have gone for multiple options and some unfortunate ones have not been able to renew their policies. AIBPARC is not at all ready to say a permanent goodbye to GMISR. An appeal was made to members to go at least for a Base policy of Rs. 2 lakhs plus a Top up Policy of Rs 1 lakh. Many Retiree Comrades responded to our call. At the same time, we have demanded that at least the Base Policy Premium should be borne by Banks and a CGHS like model as available to Government Pensioners should be worked out for Bank Pensioners and Retirees. The organization has formed a high-level committee to study all the possibilities and suggest within a definite time frame what can be done to make this scheme friendly to the Retirees. GMISR has been a product of long struggle of the Retiree organizations. We shall have to strive hard to retain it.

**\*The greatest glory of the year is the honorable resolve of the issue of 100% DA neutralization to Pre-November 2002 Retirees.** At the time of the formation of the organization, it was identified as one of the core issues. Members are aware that the issue was lost in the Highest Court of Law by an adverse Judgement. Still the Organization went on with resolute determination in the matter of follow up with different authorities and it was also an issue of our struggle in the streets. Our meeting with the Hon’ble Union Finance Minister was very fruitful. It was at the kind intervention of the Union Finance Minister Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman, IBA entered into a written understanding with the UFBU in this regard. By a rough estimate, more than 1 lakh senior and super senior citizens have been benefited by this resolution. We are sorry that many senior Pensioners left the world without getting justice but at the same time it is noted with pleasure and pride that the issue which remained unresolved for nearly two decades was sorted out at the sole initiative and struggle of AIBPARC.

**\*The struggle for Pension Updation** has witnessed different phases in the year 2023. At the beginning of the year, UFBU wanted pension updation for “Past Retirees”. Because of our serious protest, there was a temporary correction of path by UFBU and by a written communication it was informed to IBA that the organizations of serving employees and officers had been demanding updation for all retirees from 01.01.1986 to 31.10.2017. The later part of the year started witnessing confusing developments. One of the major constituents of UFBU floated different suggestions through circulars – the proposal of DA merger was there for the Retirees; the word “Upgradation” as available to Central Government Pensioners was talked about by a major Constituent of UFBU sidelining the issue of Updation. In each occasion, AIBPARC reacted sharply. Finally, different constituents of UFBU termed their demand as “Improvement” of Pension. But AIBPARC insisted again and again that Updation of Pension should be done as per Regulation 35.1 which was duly amended in 2003 and the same was gazetted and it is a Statutory Provision. The final blow of humiliating nature came in the form of Ex-gratia.

The views of the Organization have been made known to the MOF, Government of India, IBA and UFBU and we have made our displeasure also known to all the decision making authorities. Members are assured that the struggle will continue in the Judiciary and also in the streets.

**\*The year started with Struggles and it is going to end with Struggles. The word “Struggle” has been synonymous with AIBPARC. We are now passing through the second phase of declared agitation programme. The on-line campaign started on 4<sup>th</sup> December and it will remain open up to the last day of the month. Similar such programme was undertaken by us in the years 2020 and 2022. We have pleasure to convey that the number of members participating in the campaign this year has broken all past records and more than 3,00,000 emails have been exhausted.**

**\*The Organization calls upon all Bank Pensioners and Retirees to oppose any move towards Privatization of Public Sector Banks.** The possibility, though lying at low ebb at the present moment, may appear to be a real threat at any point of time. We are duty bound to take part in any struggle to maintain the Public Sector character of Banks which have been a symbol of trust and confidence before the countrymen.

Every New Year comes before us with New Hopes, Aspirations and Expectations. We do believe that the year 2024 will be a Year of Glory and Success in the personal and organizational lives of the members. Let us move forward firmly and determinedly with the following resolve:

**\*Pension Updation for all Retirees will be our Mission and Vision.**

**\*We shall fight against all discriminations and deprivations including the issue of “special allowance”.**

**\*We shall fight for health insurance cover at affordable cost.**

**\*We shall fight for our Consultative Status.**

**\*We shall fight against the threat of Privatization.**

**\*We shall work for Unity and Solidarity of Bank Pensioners and Retirees Movement.**

**We shall join all forces and movements and do all our Best in making Our Beloved India a Great Nation.**

With best wishes, regards and warm greetings.

Comradely yours,



K.V. Acharya.  
President, AIBPARC  
& Joint Convener, CBPRO.



Suprita Sarkar  
General Secretary