



# ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS' & RETIREES' CONFEDERATION

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



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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 2024 – Welcome the New Year 2025.

\* We have passed another eventful year which has witnessed a lot of exciting happenings around the world. All of us have grown older by a year and our wisdom, enriched by newer experiences, has taught us not to lose hope till we achieve the goal and our determination grew firmer to see the successful struggles launched by senior and super senior citizens all over the country. Age and ailment, unleashed upon us by the law of nature, could not deter us from the path of struggle which is the essence of survival.

\* In the year under review, we have several stories of significant successes and at the same time, we have a few unachieved issues. This is the way of life and we are to accept the reality on its face. As an apex level organization of Retirees, we have definitely been able to create waves of escalations by follow up of issues, create tremors in the streets by holding demonstrative programmes and raise a lot of turmoil by knocking the doors of the Judiciary on vital issues.

The most important happenings of the year are mentioned here under:

\* **12<sup>th</sup> Bipartite Settlement /9<sup>th</sup> Joint Note** on the wage settlement of the Officers and Employees of the Banking industry were signed on 8<sup>th</sup> March, 2024. An additional amount has been agreed to be paid to all the pensioners as ex-gratia per month during the period 01.11.2022 to 31.10.2027. The pensioners of the Private Sector Banks are yet to get the ex-gratia. Although IBA has sent an advisory to such Banks, the payment has not been made till today. AIBPARC is continuously on the job of asking IBA to issue the 2<sup>nd</sup> advisory with more firmness than before.

Members are aware that AIBPARC is philosophically opposed to the payment of ex-gratia since such payment is not backed by any regulation on BEPR 1995. Still, it is one step forward towards our ultimate goal of “Pension Updation Proper” since it is an acknowledgment on the part of the signing parties to the wage settlements that the pensioners of the industry are not getting their legitimate dues.

\* **The issue of one more option for pension by the eligible Resignees** for whom our struggle is continuing for years together was sorted out by way of signing a Memorandum between IBA and UFBU on 9<sup>th</sup> November, 2023. The issue is being mentioned here because it has been duly incorporated in the 12<sup>th</sup> Bipartite Settlement/9<sup>th</sup> Joint Note signed in the current year.

\* Since the day of the formation of our organization, we had been demanding **health insurance at affordable cost**. The dream which started in the year 2015 by way of having a combined policy for the on-service people and the retirees got dissipated in subsequent years as annual premium grew up to unaffordable heights because of segregation of the policy into two parts- one for the retirees and the other for the serving people. Our continuous follow up with IBA and UFBU yielded results. The premium of the base policy for the retirees got substantially reduced by making a combined policy. Members will have to appreciate that the Top Up policy had not been a subject of discussion in the bilateral forum and it was decided by the insurance company on business considerations. We had a high hope that the meeting of the GST council held on 21<sup>st</sup> December, 2024 at Jaisalmer will take the decision of waiver of GST on health insurance for the senior citizens of the country. Our hope has been belied and the decision has been again deferred upto the next meeting which is expected to take place in the New Year on the pre-text of not having inputs from IRDAI and the State Governments all together yet to Come on board on waiver of GST. We shall continue our follow up with all the decision-making authorities unless the goal is achieved. **Our struggle will continue for improvement of the quantum of coverage and also for the individual Bank Management to pay the premium of the base policy as is done in case of serving employees.**

\* The organization for the whole year has continuously harped upon **the most important issue of pension updation as per provision of BEPR 1995** or in line with the pensioners of RBI with different decision-making authorities. By way of personal callings or through letters, we have tried to make the authorities comprehend the basic fact that any kind of formula discovered by IBA other than what has been implemented in RBI or what is written in BEPR 1995 will be illegal and unacceptable.

The developments of **the pending case at Supreme Court (popularly known as M.C. Singla case)** have been made known to members by periodical circulations. We have a fervent hope that the case will come up for hearing at the beginning of the New Year. Although no predictions can be made about what may be going to happen, we have our reasonable hope to get a favourable judgement and we salute the dedication of the team of office bearers stationed at Delhi who are in continuous touch with the senior advocates.

\* We have drawn the attention of the decision-making authorities on the oft-quoted verdict of the Supreme Court that an allowance which is **“universally, necessarily and ordinarily”** paid to the employees should be reckoned as basic pay and the same is to be taken into cognizance for calculation of superannuation benefits. We have consistently impressed upon IBA/GOI the fact that **the issue of special allowance needs to be resolved through bilateral settlement. The legal course which is time consuming and highly expensive should not be explored further and the honest litigation policy for the senior citizens should be followed.**

\* Our persistent efforts are going on to remove the **DA disparity** – in respect of pensioners who retired prior to 01.11.2022 and also the pensioners who retired prior to 01.11.2002. The issues have been listed in the agenda items under the Residual head. We have been requesting IBA and UFBU to conclude the discussion at the earliest so that the disparity can be removed. **The DA scheme for all pensioners should be uniform at the index of 8088 points. There cannot be two different formulae in the industry. We are happy to inform our members that our representation to IBA on this issue which was endorsed to all the constituents of UFBU has been responded so far by one affiliate in a positive manner. The NCBE has echoed our voice by writing a letter to IBA.**

\* Following the interim order passed by the Hon’ble Punjab and Haryana High Court restraining state governments of Punjab and Haryana **from making the recovery of commutation on expiry of ten years** and acceptance of the said verdict by the two state governments on the plea of avoiding further litigations, the similarly placed retirees of the Banking industry and the organizations of the retirees had to face a tumultuous situation on which no elaboration is necessary although the said interim order has been vacated. We hope that the issue is not lost altogether. We have made repeated representations for establishing the fact that the full recovery takes place much earlier and the continuance of recovery upto 15 years is devoid of logic.

\* **Our call to celebrate the Bank Nationalization Day – “save our planet by planting plants”** got a new dimension through massive participation of affiliates and state committees. Let the awareness campaign go on as and when possible. If the younger ones of the future generation get a message from such activities, it will be a real gain for the society.

\* **AIBPARC stands by the Waynad survivors.** AIBPARC as an apex level Retiree organization has come forward in a big way to stand by the side of the survivors of the Waynad tragedy. At the call of the state committee, individual members of different affiliates in the state have contributed a substantial sum of more than Rs. 60 lakhs. The amount will be spent in various rehabilitation projects. This event will be treated as a landmark happening of the year.

\* **Under the banner of CBPRO, remarkable struggle has taken place throughout the year for consolidation of retirees under a broader and unified platform of co-ordination and assert with vehemence the need for quick resolution of all the unfulfilled demands.** Various state capitals of the country have witnessed largely attended “Dharna” programmes demanding resolution of the pending issues. **As a culminating point, a centralized Dharna was organized at Jantar Mantar, Delhi on 23<sup>rd</sup> October, 2024. This unprecedented gathering has already entered into the history of the retirees’ movement. The co-ordination will strive further to see the resolution of the pending demands.**

\* Issues are endless. **Each one affecting the interest of retirees is near to our heart.** Whether mentioned or not mentioned specifically in this circular, our struggle will continue to ensure logical conclusion and redressal of all the pending issues and grievances. No doubt we grow a year older but we will fight with redoubled vigour and determination. Our sincerity of purpose is our main strength and driving force.

\* We know that information is the strength and flow of information to members by the organization of Retirees is a great challenge. **AIBPARC can claim that the organization has achieved success in this regard and it is amply displayed by the fact that the last circular of the year has the number of 151 -24.**

**We pray for the good health, peace and prosperity of all our members and their families. We also wish and pray that our planet will witness more peace and prosperity giving solace to the teeming millions of Humanity.**

**With best wishes for a very happy New Year ahead,**

Comradely yours,



K.V. Acharya.  
President, AIBPARC  
& Jt. Convenor, CBPRO



Suprita Sarkar  
General Secretary

