



ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS & RETIREES CONFEDERATION (A.I.B.P.A.R.C.)



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Circular no 81-25

Date: September 16, 2025.

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

Dear Comrade,

Sub: Group Medical Insurance Scheme for Bank Pensioners and Retirees for the year November 2025 to October 2026.

We are reproducing here under the text of our letter written on date to The Chairman, IBA on the above-mentioned subject.

This is for information of members.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely yours,

Suprita Sarkar
General Secretary

Encl: As stated

AIBPARC/ IBA/GMISR-25-26/Email/2025.

Date: September 16, 2025.

Shri C.S. Setty,
The Chairman,
Indian Banks' Association,
Mumbai.

Respected Sir,

Re: Group Medical Insurance Scheme for Bank Pensioners and Retirees for the year November 2025 to October 2026.

Ref: IBA circular HR&IR/MBR/ Med Ins /2476 dated 02.09.2025.

We believe that the above circular has carried a message of admixture of happiness for fulfilment of some of our important requests together with a sense of disappointment for denial of certain logical aspirations and we mention our observations hereunder for

your kind consideration:

1. We are happy to note that the concept of combined policy (as agreed in the previous year) has been allowed to continue in the present year also. It will not be out of place to mention that we have been fighting for it relentlessly since 2016 since when it was discontinued.



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2. We have pleasure to note that our demand for increasing the higher limit of coverage in view of the increased cost of medical treatment has been conceded to.
3. While we are happy to note that the physically/ mentally challenged dependents have been brought under the coverage of the medical insurance benefits, we have our serious concern to see that quite contrary to our demand to accommodate such dependents (very few in number) within the same premium limit on a compassionate and humanitarian ground has not been conceded. The add- on policy premium makes the exercise devoid of sensitivity and required compassion in such cases.
4. The decision to allow any Retiree who did not subscribe to the current insurance policy to join the scheme is a welcome development since all of us want inclusion of more and more numbers to make the scheme viable in the long run.
5. We are happy to note that our request for flexibility (though within an over-all limit of Rs 4 lacs) has been allowed to the Retirees under various segments in regard to the Top Up Cover which was not allowed in the previous year.

From all the points stated above, it is clear that what we demand today, IBA agrees tomorrow or day after. It is not a question of ego- satisfaction or a sense of superiority on the part of any one of the stakeholders but it should be an admission of the fact that we, the representative -organisations of Retirees do feel where exactly the shoe pinches and we convey the aspirations of the people at ground zero for kind information of the Authority. We expect a larger sensitivity.

We now convey hereunder the list of disappointments of Bank Pensioners and Retirees in regard to GMISR 2025 -- 2026 with the only and sole purpose to ensure that the logic will prevail and the community will be benefitted with the hope that you will proactively appreciate our concerns and address those concerns positively.

i. We had demanded that the Base Policy should be a running one - say for the present year - it can be from Rs 4 lacs to Rs 7 lacs for all irrespective of cadre. Let the Retiree concerned choose his / her cover limit according to his/ her affordability. Instead of agreeing to our suggestion, IBA created a kind of unexplainable discrimination for a section of Retirees. While for the Award staff, it has been made Rs 3 lacs or Rs 4 lacs; for scale 1 to V it is fixed at Rs 5.25 lakhs and VI onwards, it has been made open to choose between Rs 5.25 lacs and Rs 7. Lacs, and in the process the same facility has been denied to the Retirees in scale I to scale V by restricting their choice to Rs 5.25 lacs only which could have been at least made safely open between Rs 4 lacs and Rs 5.25 lacs. The denial really defies logic which is unfortunate. This discrimination can be safely removed by a subsequent advisory.

Your Good Self will agree with us that there should not be discrimination in Health Care of Senior Citizens.

ii. IBA should see to it that no Member Bank whimsically debar the Retirees under the "CRS category" and the "Resignees category" to join the GMISR. They should be treated at par with the normal Retirees.

iii. Again some Bank Managements have shown undue hurry to issue circulars on GMISR without waiting for clear directions on GST Exemption to Premium paid by the Bank Pensioners and Retirees and some even denying the Health Insurance Cover to certain Pensioners and Retirees. This has caused widespread anguish and tension to Bank Pensioners and Retirees.

iv. Discriminatory treatment among the homogeneous class of Bank Pensioners and Retirees right from Award staff to the Senior most Official of the Bank either in the Base Policy Amount or Top Up policy amount or Premium is against the very Principle of providing Health Care to Pensioners and Retirees as Health Complications are a serious issue to All Pensioners and Retirees during their old age irrespective of the cadre



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they belong to during their In-- Service period. Even for the Government Pensioners, though the amount collected from them as onetime payment is at variance to get the Benefit of Central Government Health Scheme, no discrimination is shown to them in the Benefit of CGHS irrespective of their In- Service positions.

V. Last but very important is the issue of GST Exemption. We know that it is in the domain of the decision making of the GST Council/ GOI. We have made our detailed viewpoints known to the Hon'ble Union Finance Minister and a copy of the letter has been endorsed to your good self immediately after GST Council announcement. We can reasonably expect that IBA will plead the issue on similar lines viz: **a)** we are senior citizens. **b)** our policy is a Family Floater Policy. **c)** the Premium is debited from individual account Bank Pensioners and Retirees and the Banks remit the consolidated amount to Insurance Company **d)** The insurance company issues individual cards in the names of the Retirees. **E)** It is not a Group Insurance Policy where the Premium is paid by the Bank as in the case of Serving Employees and Officers. But It is Group Insurance where the Premium is paid individually by the Bank Pensioners and Retirees.

Having full faith in IBA to plead the case of Bank Pensioners and Retirees for Exemption of GST with GOI with all sincerity, we really got perplexed to note that the date of IBA circular is 2nd September, 2025 whereas the date of the meeting of the GST council was on 3rd September, 2025. We have to regretfully state that that there was undue haste in sending the captioned Communication by IBA just a day ahead of GST Council Meeting which took place on 3rd September 2025. However, we are certain that in as much as the GST Council decisions shall come into force from 22nd September 2025, it will not create any problem in applying the GST Exemption on our IBA Medical Insurance Premium. It is our firm view right from the beginning after going through the GST Council announcement that we Bank Pensioners and Retirees are entitled for the Total Exemption of GST both as per the Policy Declaration of the GST Council and as per the Intent of the Government and Hon'ble Union Finance Minister and the GST Council. Any other interpretation if sought to be given will only tantamount to self-inflicting injury leading to denial of GST Exemption to Bank Pensioners and Retirees. Hence, we urge upon IBA to issue communication to Banks advising Medical Insurance Premium sans GST.

To conclude, this is our fervent appeal to you to ensure that a uniform advisory be issued to all the Member Banks on all concerned issues including full/ substantial subsidisation of the premium paid by the Retirees by individual Banks who had been the Employers of Bank Pensioners and Retirees for decades.

With kind regards,

Yours faithfully,

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

Suprita Sarkar
General Secretary