



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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Circular No. 93-21.

December 31, 2021

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

Dear Comrades,

Sub : Adieu 2021 – welcome the New Year 2022.

Within a few hours from now, we shall be bidding farewell to the year 2021 and thereby pass one of the most eventful years of our lives which appeared with mixed feeling of joy and agony. **We welcome the New Year 2022.**

1. The dreadful Covid '19 which unsettled our lives for nearly 2 years changed the face of the world. It had been a mighty leveller which did not make any difference between the rich and the poor, the literate and the illiterate. When we had been preparing ourselves for restoration of normalcy, the new variant of Omicron surfaced with its red eyes scaring the entire world with its yet-unknown devastating powers. We only wish let the 'scare' go away as early as possible and let the world get back its normal vibrancy and rhythm of life.

2. As it is an organisation of elderly people, our special appeal to the retirees is: let all of us maintain the Covid Protocol to the best of our ability and try to survive the onslaughts of one of the greatest threats to human civilisation. As secluded life hampers our physique and mind, let all of us maintain social contacts with relatives, friends and colleagues through various modes of communication like phone calls etc. and try to come over the sense of isolation leading to helplessness. Our organisation always tries to keep the members posted with time to time developments by means of circulars sent through email/whatsapp. We wish that the affiliates and the members of the governing council will percolate the information downward upto the grassroots so that our members at the farthest corners are not misled by certain irresponsible posts at social media.

3. The Banking Industry has passed the year 2021 in the midst of lot of turbulence. The agenda items of the winter session of Parliament included the amendment proposals to the Bank-related Bills which aimed at privatisation of Banks. As the session concluded earlier, the Bills did not come up before the house. Though there is a temporary respite, the sword of Damocles still hangs over our head. The retirees will surely understand that the anti-privatisation campaign is not an agenda of the serving people only. It has a devastating impact over the safety and security of the interest of a Retiree. Does it require any elucidation to make home the point that a retiree's interest is most threatened in a privatised climate? **Although this is unfortunate that the various constituents of UFBU are frequently hesitant to recognise the presence of the retirees in the anti-privatisation movement, yet we are with the 'cause' which is most important to us. We had been with the 'cause' and**

we shall be with the 'cause'.

4. As for the issues of the retirees, we do have valid reasons to rejoice since one of our core demands has been achieved after protracted struggle **and that is the improvement of family pension in line with RBI and Central Govt. employees.** It has brought tangible financial relief to more than 1 lakh existing family pensioners and it would ensure a life of minimum decency for countless family pensioners in days to come. Although we have profoundly thanked all the parties to the agreement, who else can deny the role of AIBPARC in escalating the issue before the whole world for almost a decade? We convey our boundless gratitude to our members who have shown enough of perseverance and reposed confidence in the organisation for so long a period to deliver.
5. The feeling of joy was, however, short-lived and it quickly got dissipated by the harsh treatment meted out to the retirees in regard to the exorbitantly high annual premium for renewal of GMISR. Our organisation is seriously obsessed with the issue but fact remains that way out of this imbroglio is not that easy as the IBA policy till today is the costliest and also the best among all that is available in the basket. We are toying with different ideas but our basic demand will have to be pronounced with all vigour – we want full/substantial subsidization by Banks. Alternatively, the retirees of the bank may be brought under the cover of Central Govt. Health Scheme.
6. As for **Pension updation**, members will surely appreciate two basic things – it is AIBPARC which for the first time made it an issue before all concerned that there is existing provision of pension updation in Regulation 35.I and it has been amended in the year 2003 to make it applicable for all eligible retirees **And** the cost of updation which is being reportedly projected at an astronomically high figure by IBA is not at all a realistic one since it is based on wrong assumptions and by all probability, the cost of calculation is not being integrated with the existing Pension Corpus. We have a firm hope and conviction that our views will get due cognizance with IBA/GOI and that the year of 2022 will be a year of fulfilment of one of our most important demands. Whenever we talk about updation of pension, we can never forget the issue of 100% DA neutralisation to pre-November 2002 retirees. Pension updation will be a meaningless exercise to a substantial chunk of older retirees who are deprived of their very legitimate demands.
7. There have been **several other issues** (mentioned or not mentioned in the circular) which are of no less importance to us. Some such issues are : special allowance should be computed for superannuation benefits, eligible retirees must be given the opportunity of 2nd option of pension irrespective of whether they tendered resignation under compulsive situation, removal of anomalies in payment of stagnation increment, un-uniform implementation of SC judgement in respect of dearness relief etc. The organisation assures that it would strive continuously to focus all the issues in hand before the authorities concerned and try for a settlement.
8. To have **formal consultative status** will be one of the principal agenda items for the organisation in the coming year. Our demand is : the agony and aspiration of the retiree should be heard from the mouth of the leaders of the organisation of retirees.
9. **The expectation of members** from the organisation is continuously on the rise. It is a very good sign that people do believe that AIBPARC is worthy of delivery. All our leaders, veterans, activists and office bearers will endeavour sincerely to be worthy of expectation of general members.
10. **Conclusion** : we have a fervent hope that the New Year 2022 will bring better days for all of us. We shall be able to come out of the corona scare and discharge our normal functions with full vigour. We also hope that the very reasonable hopes and aspirations of the retirees will be taken care of by the Government of the country. We pray for good health, peace and prosperity of all our members and their families.

With best wishes and regards



Suprita Sarkar
General Secretary

