

Circular No. 97-19

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(For circulation among members of the governing council of AIBPARC, State Secretaries, Special Invitees and Advisors.)

Dear Comrades,

Sub : Syndicate Bank Pensioners and Retirees Association holds their 3rd Triennial General BodyConference at Hyderabad on 17th November, 2019 in the midst of tremendous enthusiasm, grandeur and participation of members.

We have pleasure to inform that we witnessed Viswesaraya Bhavan of Hyderabad completely filled by enthusiastic retirees of Syndicate Bank much before the commencement of the inaugural session. This was a superb get-together of all retirees who started remembering their old days. More than 300 delegates and observers from different parts of the country thronged the city. In addition, there were nearly 200 retirees from the states of A.P. and Telengana. We report hereunder some of the highlights of the memorable conference :

- The GB started with prayers and then one minute silence in memory of all those passed away was observed. The dais was formed with distinguished leaders of the movement and also some senior executives of the bank.
- Com. K. Suresh Babu, Chairman of the reception committee welcomes all members and guests.
- Com. D.S. Punja, Chairman, introduced all the guests before the audience. On the question of merger, he observed that it was really a sad day for all the people associated with the bank but life does not stop and organisation has to go ahead.
- Com. R.K. Sharma, President, details out the achievements of the organisation in past few years and promises that efforts will continue in the same direction.
- Com. Gangadhar Yadav, General Secretary, in his brief speech desires that the national leaders who are present in the conference are expected to tell details of the latest position of all issues and in that event members will be benefited with latest information.
- Com. Sanjay Manjerekar, Senior VP, AIBOC and General Secretary of AIBOCaffiliated officers organisation of Syndicate Bank observed that the shadow of merger is looming large over the bank although there is no valid reason of merger if the basic financials of the bank are studied with care. Probably the "sameness' of computerization level in both the banks is the sole reason for such a disastrous decision. He observes with pride that AIBPARC and all its affiliates in different banks

have been functioning independently. He wants that a substantial portion of the premium of group mediclaim will have to be borne by banks.

- Com. K.V. Acharya, President and Jt. Convenor of CBPRO observes that he is very unhappy with the proposal of merger because each bank has its own cultural heritage. He suggests that government might have envisaged the creation of a National banking corporation within which the merging banks could have operated as independent units. He dwells at length several issues like updation of pension with references to regulation 35 and 56; he questions the assumption of life span at 82 years and also narrates how the imbroglio was created on the issue of group mediclaim scheme and how AIBPARC saved it from going to private hands.
- Com. Ramesh Babu, General Secretary, SBIPA and Jt. Convenor, CBPRO praises the spirit and enthusiasm of the retirees of Syndicate Bank. He observed that long struggle could bring family pension to banks and longer struggle will surely bring improvement of family pension in line with central govt. employees. He feels that creation of CBPRO was a landmark event and to achieve more success, the struggle of retirees should be taken to the public.
- Com. A.N. Krishnamurthy, General Secretary, Canara Bank Retired Officers' Association and Jt. General Secretary of AIBPARC observed that he shared the anguish of the members of our affiliates in syndicate bank as a trade union worker and he also opposes merger on grounds of principle. In case the merging process is completed by 1st April, 2020, the members are most welcome to a bank and to an organisation both of which have rich heritage.
- Com. S. Sarkar, General Secretary, AIBPARC says that trade unions and mass organisations always oppose merger on grounds of closure of large number of branches and offices, stoppage of possibility of future recruitment, mounting pressure on existing employees and officers so that they vacate the institution etc. This is unfortunate that all units of UFBU till the date could not arrive at any united decision of struggle. If we see that on future dates, they come together to have unified protest, AIBPARC will not lag behind. He urged upon government, IBA and UFBU as a whole to ensure that retirees' logical aspiration must be attended to in this bipartite.
- Everybody present in the meeting was highly enthused by the presence of the Executive Director and the DGM (HR) of the bank. Both the executives highly appreciated the inspired role of the retirees' organisation of the bank in achieving tangible gains for members. They briefed the house about the business position which the bank is going to achieve by March, 2020. As regards pending issues, there was positive assurance to look into.
- Business Session :

As naturally expected, the business session was disciplined and orderly. The report of the general secretary, the accounts of the preceding years and resolutions were presented before the house for deliberation and adoption. All the reports were passed unanimously. The election process was also smooth. Com. R.K. Sharma and Com. Gangadhar Yadav were unanimously elected as President and General Secretary respectively along with a team of office bearers. We congratulate each one of them and we believe that the holding of the conference at Hyderabad will be further strengthening the retirees movement in this part of the country.

With best wishes,

(SUPRITA SARKAR GENERAL SECRETARY