

# All India Bank Retirees' Federation

(A.I.B.R.F.)

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March 19, 2012

## PROCEEDINGS OF THIRD AIBRF TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE HELD AT KOLKATA

### (A) OPEN (INAUGURAL) SESSION ON 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012

We are extremely happy and feel proud privileged to report in brief the proceedings of the conference for the benefit of those who could not attend this historical conference for one reason or another. It was the conference of 3 days commencing on 1<sup>st</sup> March, 2012 and ended on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012. It was dedicated to the veteran and highly respected trade union leader and founder General Secretary of AIBRF, LATE SHRI RAMESH CHAKRABARTI. Opening Session which was held at University Hall on the evening of 1<sup>st</sup> March 2012 was attended by more than 1500 delegates, observers and local comrades coming from Kolkata and nearby districts. Many comrades could not enter in the hall as its full capacity was occupied. However, it did not reduce enthusiasm of the participants.

**An Opening of an Open Session:** The ceremony commenced with flag hosting by the Chairman, Shri T.M. Mathews in the presence of dignitaries and other participants. Thereafter, a famous song of Ravindernath Tagore "**Akla Chalo Re**" was sung giving the meaning that "WE SHALL MAKE OUR OWN WAYS" by the local artistes and a holly flame was lightened by the Chief Guest, Dr Sudarsan Nachipan & other dignitaries.

**Introductory speech by the General Secretary:** The General Secretary, Shri S. C. Jain in his opening remarks highlighted the rich legacy of AIBRF of 18 years and how retiree movement is becoming stronger day after day under its banner. He had also drawn attention of the guests present on the dais on pending demands of the retirees and gross injustice done with them in previous settlements.

**Welcome Address:** After completion of introductory remarks by the General Secretary, , Ex-CMD, Bank of Maharashtra, Shri Sukomal Basu delivered welcome addressed when he extended warm welcome to the guests, delegates & observers.

**Inaugural Address by Honorable Guest Dr. E. M. Sudarsan Nachipan, M.P. and Ex-Chairman of the Parliamentary Committee:**

On this occasion he acknowledged services and significant contribution made by the retirees in the post nationalization era in highly difficult situation and because of this, India is today a leading economy in the world. He appealed that the different associations of retirees should come together to negotiate with government. Further he called IBA and the Finance Ministry to discuss the issues with the representatives of the bank retirees. He assured the house that he would see that their issues are raised in the parliament. Old age should not remain a burden. Bankers experience should be utilized for the economic growth. Further he wondered as to why the bank retired employees are not getting DA as per the central government retirees? The working class in the banking industry should respect the bank retirees.

**Key Note Address by Chief Guest Comrade Venkatachalam, Chief Convener of UFBU:**

At the outset he expressed his feelings that, he was highly encouraged by a huge gathering of bank retirees present in the conference and it is not only reflecting unity but also interest of the people in the organization and the determination to achieve the demands. He felt that the AIBRF has become a very strong organization of retirees now. He acknowledged that, he has not seen such a vibrant organization elsewhere with embodied spirit of organization in each of the retiree. The Govt. is unable to control the inflation and the retirees are more affected by such high rise of inflation, and they must get the 100% neutralization of the inflation. 50% basic pension is not enough to sustain this rise of inflation and we shall fight for increase in it. Updation of pension is not a charity; United Forum of Bank Unions is strongly supporting these demands of bank retirees. Govt. can not reject it any longer; it will be achieved by 10<sup>th</sup> bi-partite settlement. Tapering DA formula is unjustified. 100% DA formula will be there for all retirees without any discrimination. We will see that Retirees also get DA rise in every three months as per the working class employees, the existing discrimination will be eradicated soon. All the benefits of central government pensioners must be given to the bank pensioners. Family pension is a cruel joke in banking industry. A demand to raise the basic family pension will be supported by the united forum. Meager ex-gratia payment to pre-1986 retirees is humiliating and must be reversed without delay. The Govt. has agreed to raise it, but not still raising. The IBA must recognize the retirees' organization and have the periodical meetings with the representatives of the retiree's organization; it will be demand in the coming bipartite negotiations. Bank retirees must have LFC, Medical Aid and it will be dealt in 10<sup>th</sup> bipartite settlement. Our job will not end by increasing the membership only, but to put our demands to the Govt. effectively. This Conference will make you stronger and will get you forward and forward. Your interest is our

interest; your demands are our demands. We assure you support. He also pointed out that AIBRF organization has become so strong that in coming day in-service unions will need their support.

**Other Speakers:** On this occasion, other speakers who extended greetings and spoke were Shri Rajan Nagar, President AIBEA, Shri Pradeep Biswas, General Secretary, BEFI who assured full support for retirees' demands.

The function ended with Vote of Thanks by Shri Debesh Bhattacharya, Secretary, Reception Committee.

### **(B) Business Session at Uttam Manch (On 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> March, 2012)**

Business Session was presided over by the Chairman Shri T. M. Mathews as per the provisions of the Constitution and call the meeting into order and thereafter asked the General Secretary to take up agenda items for transacting the business.

The Business Session was attended by about 500 Delegates and observers (The List is displayed on the web-site )

After approving minutes of the last delegate session held at Chennai on 13<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2008. The General Secretary presented his report covering period of 2009 to 2011 (Full text of the report is available on the website) and thereafter placed before the house for discussion and deliberations.

About 45 speakers presented their views and comments on the General Secretary Report. While they appreciated the report and found it comprehensive covering all issues of retirees. They made several suggestions on it to make the retiree movement more strong and draw effective strategy for future. Some of the suggestions were like to intensify our agitational program, better liasioning with UFBU Constitution, to reorganise state bodies, strengthening district committees, to take up issues of private bank, foreign bank pension etc. ( Note: full details of deliberation will be available in the minutes which will be circulated in due course)

The General Secretary gave detailed reply on the various observations and suggestions made on the report and assured the house that all necessary steps will be taken for resolution of our demands. **Thereafter the General Secretary Report was adopted unanimously without amendment.**

Other business items transacted were (a) Approval of audited accounts for the years 2008 to 2011 (b) Appointment of statutory auditors for the year 2012 to 2014 (c) Approval of 17 constitutional amendments

The election of new office bearers took place thereafter and all office bearers were elected unanimously by the house (**List of new office bearers is already displayed on the website**)

The house discussed and deliberated 24 resolutions circulated by the General Secretary concerning the retiree demands and passed them unanimously with the direction to the General Secretary to take appropriate action and follow up wherever required (**Note – 24 resolutions are already displayed on our website**)

On this occasion, booklet running into 142 pages giving material on different topics was given to each delegate and observers who attend the conference. Interested person may obtain its photo copy from the delegate / observers.

**In nutshell the Conference was great success and has created new enthusiasm and commitment among the retirees. It has provided new direction to all of us. Let us now work to make our dream realty.**

**Our millions of thanks to all Delegates, Observers, our Guest and the organiser, Bengal Provincial Retired Bank Employees Association, its General Secretary, Shri Debesh Bhattacharya and his entire team, who took all pains to make it successful. Because of their efforts, we left Kolkata with sweet memories.**

With regards

S. C. JAIN  
General Secretary

**Please do visit AIBRF web-site (Website address – [www.aibrf.com](http://www.aibrf.com))**