



ALL INDIA BANK RETIREES' FEDERATION (REGD.)

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6th Conference Slogan- Pension Updation is Right of Bank Retirees

Ref. No. 2025/0010

Date:29.01.2025

The Office Bearers/ Central Committee Members/ State Committee
A.I.B.R.F.

Dear Sir,

**Re: Proceedings of Central Committee Meeting Held at Hyderabad
From 21st to 23rd January, 2025**

Central Committee Meeting of AIBRF was held in Hotel Best Western, Lakadipul, Hyderabad from 21st to 23rd January, 2025. We below submit proceedings of the meeting.

2. It was attended by 188 office bearers; central committee members and escorts and 64 office bearers and central committee members participated in the deliberations and presented their views and suggestions on various issues of retirees as per the agenda items circulated vide circular No. 2024/199 dated 14.11.2024. Some of the office bearers and central committee members who gave their names for speaking on the agenda could not do so due to paucity of time. They were requested to send their views in writing to GS if they desire so which will be taken in to consideration in deciding future course of organizational action plan.

3. The participants and guests were given warm welcome by the Reception Committee of Telangana State committee. Welcome address was delivered by the Chairman, Reception Committee Shri Krishnamurthy Varanasi.

4. Thereafter, business session started. The President, Shri S. M. Deshpande addressed the house in the beginning and presented his views / suggestions on organizational issues to strengthen the organization and to ensure better functioning and discipline.

5. The General Secretary presented Minutes of the last Central Committee Meeting held in Indore from 11th & 12th January, 2024 and office bearers meeting held on 12th & 13th March, 2024 and office bearers' meeting held at Ahmedabad on 3rd & 4th July, 2024 for discussion and adoption by the house. The house unanimously adopted the minutes and approved them without any modification.

6. As per the tradition of the organization, the house remembered the leaders from bank retiree movement, bank retirees, family members of bank retirees, prominent personalities and celebrities who left the world after last central committee meeting and paid them tributes. The house observed silence of two minutes as mark of respect to the departing souls. Some names given by the participants which were not included in GS Report were noted for including them in the revised digital version of GS Report.

7. The General Secretary gave detailed and comprehensive presentation on various issues of bank retirees and connecting issues while presenting GS Report. Brief Report on the points covered are as under:

(a) Overall Performance of Indian banking industry and record profit of Rs. 3.01 lakhs achieved by banks in 2023-2024. He pointed out that this performance should be positive indicator in resolving retirees demands in particular Updation of pension.

(b) General Election held in the country in May, 2024 electing Shri Narendra Modi as Prime Minister of the country third time. The GS informed that congratulatory letter was sent to him on behalf of AIBRF on this occasion. Shri Modi made several important announcements on his election as PM third time creating new hopes among the people. Bank retirees have hope that their pending issues of retirees will be resolved in near future by the new government.

(c) 12th Bipartite Settlement was signed on 8th March, 2024 giving increase of 17 percent in pay and allowances to about 6 lakhs bank retirees. The settlement was concluded in the shortest possible time of 15 months and without any agitational program launched by unions. The GS informed that on concluding the 12th wage settlement successfully, AIBRF had sent congratulatory letter to UFBU Convener and other leaders of UFBU Constituents.

(d) As far as retirees are concerned, under 12th wage settlement, three achievements could be secured –(i) Introduction of Ex-Gratia benefits to the pensioners who retired on or before 31.10.2022 at the rate of 17% to 2% effective from 1.11.2022 benefiting about 7 lakhs pensioners. It would result in to additional payment of about Rs. 980 crores p.a. for next 5 years. Provision has been made in the settlement that ex-gratia amount shall be reviewed on annual basis commencing from April, 2024. From the language of the settlement, AIBRF concludes that ex-gratia is interim arrangements and step towards

sanction of regular Updation as per RBI formula. AIBRF struggle for achieving Updation would continue with more commitment and action. (ii) Pension option to Resignees (iii) 100 per cent Dearness Allowance to Pre- November, 2002 pensioners with effect from 1.10.2023.

- (e) The GS informed that the above improvements achieved in 12th settlement have provided good monetary benefits to retirees and steps toward achieving some of long pending demands and for which AIBRF has been fighting for long time.
- (f) IBA decision to float combined group insurance policy for employees and retirees on the same terms and conditions is significant achievement for AIBRF as it has been pursuing the issue at CLC and DFS level for last 2 years. It has resulted in to reduction of premium by 47 per cent compared to last year and would ensure stability in premium rates in future. About 1.60 lakhs retirees have opted for combined policy in 2024-25 compared to 1.36 lakhs last year. The GS complimented and congratulated to retirees and affiliates for this historical achievement and it could be insured due to unity shown by members despite very challenging years in the past.
- (g) GS pointed out that while floating super top policy for retirees for 24-25, retirees have been discriminated and rates quoted for IBA policy was exorbitantly high compared to quoted for employees. LI procedure was not followed by IBA while awarding tender to National Insurance Company.
- (h) To protect interest of retirees, AIBRF took initiative and floated alternate Go Digit Super top up policy for retirees for 24-25 through KMD at reasonable and affordable rates. About 40000 retirees exercised option of Go Digit Super top policy.
- (i) Government of India announced extension of Ayushman Bharat to all Senior Citizens irrespective of income criteria. It would benefit about 1.62 lakhs bank retirees in 24-25. It has come as additional health cover and would become handy in emergency. AIBRF welcomes this initiative of Government of India.
- (j) GS informed that reduction in GST on insurance premium payable by senior citizens is under active consideration of GST Council and it is expected that it would take decision on reduction in GST rates on insurance premium payable by retirees soon. It will help in reducing burden of insurance premium on senior citizens including bank retirees. AIBRF has been pursuing this issue since 2019 and it is expected that this demand of bank retirees would be met in coming days.
- (k) On the initiative of AIBRF and other apex level organizations, United Forum of Bank Retirees was formed in Delhi on 19.06.2024 to pursue identified issues of bank retirees jointly.

(l) Under banner of UFBRO, demonstrations cum Dharna programs were organized in 13 cities between September, 24 to January, 25. All the programs have been very successful with large participations of retirees at all centers in support of demand of Updation and other pending issues. **Complete details of these Dharna cum Demonstration programs are given in GS Report circulated in the meeting.**

8. MERGER OF AFFILIATES: AIBRF has been pursuing the issue of merger of affected affiliates since 2019 at various levels. In the meeting GS announced that All India PNB Retirees Federation (AIPNBRF) & United Bank of India Retiree Welfare Association (UBIRWA) agreed to merge w.e.f. 18.12.2024. It was historical decision and would become benchmark for other affiliates of AIBRF who are in the process of finalizing the scheme in their banks. In Central Committee meeting, leaders from these two organizations were honored and felicitated by AIBRF.

The central committee called upon leaders from other affected affiliates to take required steps at the earliest to complete merger process in their banks at the earliest. In view of the difficulties expressed by them, decision was taken by the Central Committee unanimously to extend deadline to complete merger process in all **cases latest by 30.06.2025**. It was also made clear that no further extension would be considered in this regard and AIBRF would take steps thereafter to work for one bank one affiliation policy as provided in the constitution.

During central committee meeting period, three organizations from associate banks, SBT, SBI & SBP took decision to form Federation of their organizations and work as single unit in AIBRF. Further details will be worked out in this regard for implementation.

9. The GS also touched various organizational programs like enforcing strict discipline in the organization for better functioning, review of structural changes introduced in Bangalore conference and how to pursue retiree issues independently etc. GS also informed about submission of 7 pages Petition to the Parliamentary Committee on Petition (Rajya Sabha) by AIBRF requesting the committee to ask IBA to have direct discussion with retirees on their issue at the apex level. He further informed that AIBRF is in the process of submitting petition to CLC in the matter of following L1 procedure for deciding premium rates for super top policy.

10. The GS also informed about Supreme Court judgement to implement pension scheme in RRBs from the original date of 1986 as given to PSBs retirees. It is historical achievement for retirees from RRBs. Eligible pensioners will receive arrears from the date of retirement and will be getting substantial amount by way of arrears. The house honored and felicitated leaders from RRBs for this historical achievement.

11. On GS presentation, 64 office bearers and central committee members spoke on it and the following points emerged:

(a) All speakers had found the report compressive and informative covering all issues of retirees

(b) Some of the factual and grammatical errors and modifications were pointed which were noted for correction in digital version.

(c) Speakers from Private Sector banks asked that more organizational efforts should be made for implementing provisions of ex-gratia in all private sector banks at the earliest.

(d) AIBRF should work for further improvements in group medical scheme including subsidy at the industry level

(e) difficulties coming in completing merger process was expressed by the speakers belonging to merger affected banks.

(f) Efforts should be made by AIBRF to establish direct discussion with IBA on retiree issues.

(g) AIBRF should work for inclusion of special allowance for calculation of basic pension in respect of those retired in 10th 11th & 12th wage settlement.

(h) efforts should be made for merging DA at 8088 level in basic pension for those retired prior to October, 2022.

(i) More apex level organizations should be brought in recently formed UFBRO.

(j) President and GS should get only one term in AIBRF and constitution should be amended to this effect.

12. The General Secretary gave detailed response to the observations/ comments/ suggestions made by the office bearers and central committee members on GS Report. Based on the discussions lasting for more than 15 hours and keeping in view sentiments and expectations of the house on current issues of retirees, the following proposals/ action plan for coming days were presented for approval of the house

ACTION PLAN

(1) Demonstration cum Dharna programs which started in September, 24 under the banner of UFBRO/ AIBRF would continue in the months of February and March, 2024. State Committees specially those who have yet to arrange even single program yet are advised to organize Dharna programs in their states and others are also advised to arrange the programs at other centers during February and March, 25.

(2) Detailed review of the action programs conducted so far will be carried out at core committee/ office bearers committee level and new action programs will be chalked out

after March,25 to pursue demand of Updation, payment of ex-gratia amount to pensioners from private sector banks, direct discussion with retiree representatives at IBA level and other pending issues.

- (3) **In addition to continue to coordinate at UFBU level and recently formed UFBRO level, AIBRF will take up the issues at various apex level forums like Parliamentary Committees, Chief Labour Commissioner, Department of Financial Services (DFS), Central Trade Unions, Retiree Organizations from financial sector like RBI, LIC etc. in order to expedite resolution of pending issues. Many issues have already been taken at the above forums and responses have been quite encouraging with better responses and reorganization compared to very mute responses from UFBU. This route will be strengthened in coming days to bring better recognition for bank retiree movement. This will be focus area for AIBRF in coming days.**
- (4) AIBRF shall continue to pursue issue of reduction in GST on health insurance premium payable by senior citizens at various level. This proposal is already under active consideration of GST Council.
- (5) Merger of remaining affiliates will be pursued at AIBRF level as facilitator and efforts will be made to ensure that it is completed at the earliest and in any case before deadline of 30.06.2025.
- (6) AIBRF will raise the issue of direct dialogue at IBA level in the forum of Parliamentary Committee, DFS and CLC to ensure that some formal forum is established at IBA level where retiree organizations can place their grievances / suggestions on retiree issues for consideration and resolution.
- (7) AIBRF shall continue to take steps to strengthen retiree unity and enlarge UFBRO base.
- (8) To work for further improvements in Combined Group Health insurance for coming years like facility of domiciliary, corporate buffer, ex-gratia for critical illness etc. Specific representation will be submitted after receipt of reports in this regard from Committee on Health.
- (9) To pursue issue of special allowance to be reckoned for basic pension for pensioners those retired under 10th 11th and 12th Wage settlements at the organizational level and legal recourse if needed in coming days. **Committee on legal will examine the issue and submit report on it for further action.**
- (10) Organizational level decision: To further strengthen functioning of the organization, unanimous decision was taken in CC Meeting to fill up the vacancies in office bearers' team as under
- (a) **Shri B. Venkat Rao (Canara Bank)** is elected as Deputy General Secretary to fill up the vacancy caused due to death of Late Shri A. K. Bansal. Shri Rao will also be member of Core Committee.
- (b) **Shri M.S. Patil (Canara Bank)** is elected as Organizing Secretary to fill up the vacancy caused due to Shri Venkat Rao elected as DGS.

- (c) **Mrs. Prema Kumari (Andhra Bank)** as Organizing Secretary to fill up the vacancy reserved for Woman.
- (d) **Shri B. V. Naryan Rao (Indian Bank)** : elected as Organizing Secretary to fill up the vacancy lying vacant
- (e) **Mrs. Sarla Devi (Canara Bank)**; Special Invitee in Office Bearers' Committee meeting to further strengthen women representation in AIBRF at the organization level.

13. Provisional Income & Expenses Statement & Balance Sheet as on 31.12.2024 was presented which adopted by the house.

14. All the above proposals and action plan presented by the General Secretary were unanimously adopted.

15. The house conveyed profound thanks to host unit , Telangana State Committees and its office bearers and volunteers for wonderful arrangements made for stay and food and warm hospitality extended all participants guests.

16. The meeting ended with vote of thanks to the chair

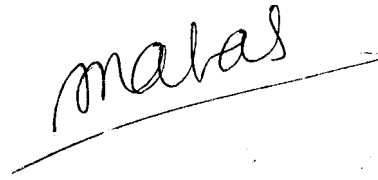
Photos of Central Committee meeting in session





With Warm Greetings

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'mabas', is written over a horizontal line that extends to the right.

(S. C. JAIN)
GENERAL SECRETARY