

ALL INDIA BANK RETIREES' FEDERATION (REGD.)

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Together for A Better Tomorrow"



Ref No. 2026/0199

Date: 02.08.2026

Dear Shri M. S. Bhatt, General Secretary
Syndicate Bank Retirees' Association
Bengaluru

Dear Sir,

Sub: Your letter dated 01.08.2026 regarding AIBRF Circular No. 2026/0195 dated 27.07.2026

We acknowledge receipt of your letter dated 01.08.2026 conveying your views, comments and suggestions on AIBRF Circular No. 2026/0195 dated 27.07.2026.

2. Since you have addressed the communication in your capacity as the All India General Secretary of the Syndicate Bank Retirees' Association, we presume that the views expressed therein represent the considered opinion of your organisation. We wish to draw your kind attention to the fact that, if the suggestions made by you are accepted and implemented, they would have far-reaching organisational, financial and administrative implications for the conduct of the 7th Triennial Conference as well as for the future functioning of AIBRF.

3. In paragraph 3 of your letter, you have suggested that elections should be conducted by secret ballot for all the 53 Office Bearers' positions in the forthcoming Triennial Conference. You are aware that this proposal is contrary to the unanimous decision taken by the Office Bearers' Committee at its meeting held in New Delhi on 17th and 18th July, 2026. As communicated through Circular No. 2026/0190 dated 19.07.2026, the Committee decided that, in the event consensus on unanimous election is not achieved, elections by secret ballot would initially be

confined to the three key positions, namely President, General Secretary and one Joint General Secretary.

4.This decision continues to remain valid, subject to the approval of the Central Committee and the General Council. Under the provisions of the AIBRF Constitution, the Central Committee is empowered to frame specific rules and procedures for the conduct of elections, and any decision in this regard will be taken by the central committee in accordance with the Constitution.

5.You may also recall that in all the previous six Triennial Conferences, the General Council unanimously elected the President and the General Secretary. They were thereafter authorized to identify suitable persons for the remaining Office Bearers' positions in consultation with the affiliated organisations, keeping in view proportional representation of affiliates, regional balance and the overall interests of the Federation. This well-established and time-tested practice has ensured continuity, organisational stability, balanced representation and harmonious functioning. It has made a significant contribution to the quantitative as well as qualitative growth of AIBRF over the years.

6.In your communication, however, no specific reasons have been assigned for departing from this established practice or for opposing the unanimous decision of the Office Bearers' Committee. We would appreciate it if you could indicate the specific shortcomings in the existing system and explain why, in your considered opinion, such a fundamental departure has become necessary at this stage.

7.We also notice that decent of this nature are being expressed by certain members of the Karnataka State Committee. If these suggestions are based on any broader organisational concerns, specific inputs or genuine apprehensions, it would be useful if the same are clearly brought on record so that they can be objectively examined by the Central Committee before arriving at a final decision.

8.After receiving the views of the affiliated organisations and members of the Central Committee, the entire matter will be placed before the Central Committee for its consideration and final decision as to whether elections, if required, should be confined to the three key positions or extended to all the 53 Office Bearers' positions. The decision so taken by the Central Committee shall be implemented by the Central Office and the Reception Committee in letter and spirit.

9.We would also like to draw your attention to the practical implications of your proposal. Conducting elections for all the 53 Office Bearers' positions through secret ballot would be an elaborate, complex and time-consuming exercise. It is likely to require extension of the Conference from the proposed two-and-a-half days to at least three-and-a-half or even four

days. Such an extension would substantially increase expenditure on accommodation, food, logistics, election arrangements and other incidental expenses. Consequently, the registration fee may have to be enhanced from the present ₹6,000 to approximately ₹12,000–₹15,000 per delegate. We presume that your organisation has examined these financial implications before making the proposal.

10. More importantly, the proposal has wider organisational implications. The existing consensus-based system has enabled AIBRF to maintain a healthy balance among affiliates, regions and different segments of membership while preserving the spirit of collective leadership and organisational cohesion. Any departure from this approach should therefore be considered only after carefully evaluating its likely impact on the future functioning, unity, stability and organisational culture of the Federation.

11. If, after considering these organisational, constitutional and financial implications, your organisation still believes that elections should be conducted for all the 53 Office Bearers' positions through secret ballot, we shall appreciate receiving your detailed justification on these aspects also so that the same may be placed before the Central Committee for an informed and objective decision.

12. You have also suggested that every delegate or observer who desires to speak during the Business Session should be provided an opportunity to do so. While we fully appreciate the democratic spirit behind this suggestion, it is equally necessary to examine its practical feasibility. Considering the expected participation in the Conference, providing speaking time to every interested delegate or observer would require substantially more time than is available during the proposed two-and-a-half-day Conference and would inevitably affect the completion of the scheduled business.

13. Suggestions for improving the conduct of the Conference are always welcome. However, such suggestions need to be examined objectively, considering the available time, organisational constraints, financial implications and the practical requirements of conducting a national conference of this magnitude. It is necessary that every proposal is evaluated not only from the standpoint of democratic participation but also from the perspective of its feasibility and its impact on the effective functioning of the Conference.

14. In the interest of complete transparency and wider consultation, your letter, together with the above observations of the Central Office, is being circulated to all members of the Central Committee for their views on your proposal to hold elections by secret ballot for all the 53 Office Bearers' positions. The competent authority will take a final decision strictly in accordance with the provisions of the AIBRF Constitution after considering all viewpoints received.

With regards,

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'mabas', is written over a single horizontal line.

(S. C. JAIN)

GENERAL SECRETARY

c.c. to the Office bearers & Central Committee members.