

ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS & RETIREES CONFEDERATION (A.I.B.P.A.R.C.)



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

Dear Comrade,

Sub: Adieu 2025 – Welcome the New Year 2026 with Hope and Positive Resolutions.

1. We have passed another eventful year which has witnessed a lot of exciting and anguishing happenings around the world. All of us have grown older by a year and our wisdom, enriched by newer experiences, has taught us not to lose hope till we achieve the goal and our determination grew firmer to see the successful struggles launched by Senior and Super Senior Citizens all over the country. Age and ailment, unleashed upon us by the law of nature, could not deter us from the path of struggle which is the essence of survival. **We cannot be oblivious of the fact that during the year, we have lost a good number of colleagues who have gone to their heavenly abode without getting the legally entitled but ruthlessly denied Updation of Pension Updation during their lifetime. We urge upon the Government and the IBA to see that such number must not multiply and at the earliest opportunity the issue requires to be resolved in a package consisting of Pension Updation, Computation of special allowance for the superannuation benefits, removal of DA anomaly and consideration of the shift of the base year and Pension to Left Out Bank Retirees.**

2. During the year under review, we had dialogue with the officials of IBA on one occasion and with the officials of the DFS on multiple occasions. The IBA sticks to its earlier wrong assumption that the pending Court Case before Supreme Court is the obstacle in the way of pension updation. We have tried to impress upon them that the pendency of any issue before the Court of Law does not stand in the way of resolving the issue if only, they decide to abide by the Statutory Pension Regulation 35.1. **IBA is under obligation to publish the updation formula in respect of each Bipartite Settlement/Joint Note as per provision already laid down in Regulation no. 35(1) – Appendix 1 as amended in 2003.** That the IBA is quite unmoved is amply evident from the fact that the Apex body swore an affidavit to the effect that there is no provision of updation of pension in the Regulations. **Our dialogue with the top officials of the Ministry of Finance is, however, not at all dismal. We believe very reasonably that CBPRO/AIBPARC have succeeded to impress upon the fact that the documents on record clearly indicate that non-extension of pension updation to the Retirees is a**

grave deprivation to the senior citizens of the industry and a deliberate denial of Justice causing insult to injury. We only hope that the Ministry of Finance will act upon positively on our memoranda and our oral representation when we met them and told them what has exactly happened. The probabilities are in the womb of the future and we may only expect to see its tangible shape in the near future.



3. Throughout the year 2025, AIBPARC has remained in the midst of continuous agitation in different forms – **the sending of on-line Memorandum to the Hon'ble Prime Minister & Finance Minister, holding of Hunger Strike/ Dharna in different places of the country.** We gratefully acknowledge the massive participation of our members in all such programmes. The total number of persons sending the E-Memorandum has broken all earlier records. As regards the Dharna/ Hunger Strike at the call of CBPRO/AIBPARC, it was an all-time record so far. **Braving different types of odds, the Senior citizens made huge gathering in 25 places of the country including different state capitals and important centres.** There is no doubt about it that the demonstration of our commitment drew the attention of the Government since the leaders of CBPRO/AIBPARC received telephone calls from different authorities (mostly Central Government) wanting to know what had been the demands and in which centres the programmes were being held. Although AIBPARC organized very big rallies at different parts of the country at different points of time during the year, **we are eager to make a special mention about the holding of a huge rally in the city of Mumbai in the year 2025.**

4. **Our fight for withdrawal of GST from the premium of the Health Insurance policy continues without any rest.**

Let us have a brief look at the scenario of this year under review.

A) **By virtue of its being a combined policy with the serving employees, the premium has substantially come down as in the previous year.**

B) **The premium of the Top up policy which was exorbitant in the previous year has been scaled down to certain extent.**

C) **The physically and mentally challenged dependents have come under the coverage though with an add- on premium.**

All such gains achieved over the years have been dissipated to a great extent by the denial of the exemption of GST on the health insurance premium. Government of India took the decision to offer the relief to the senior citizens of the country by allowing exemption of GST on health insurance premium but most unfortunately the legitimate concession has been denied to the senior citizens of the Industry on the ground that they belong to a group. We have made it abundantly clear that the Retirees pay the premium by themselves and the group has been formed for administrative convenience by IBA to collect the premium from individual accounts and to remit the same to the Insurance Company. We have also made it clear that the Retirees are not engaged in any kind of economic activity and even as a group they are eligible to get the exemption. Our relentless efforts are known to the members. We wrote to the Chairperson of the GST Council, its Secretary and our team of leaders personally met the officials to see that the benefit is extended to the senior citizens of the industry. When all our efforts failed, our affiliates and the State Committee of AIBPARC, Kerala, being authorised by us, did not have any alternative than to move to the Court of Law. Our affiliate at Union Bank was the first to get the injunction from the HC of Kerala being followed by several affiliates and the State Committee of AIBPARC, Kerala. Members have already known through our circulars that the hearing has been over and the judgement is reserved. We hope for the best. **The Governing Council of AIBPARC took a decision that in case of any adverse judgement, we may explore the possibility of moving to the Division Bench for appeal. The issue for which we have been struggling for several years cannot be allowed to simply pass away from our hands. We shall go on doing everything that is possible to see that the very legitimate demand can see the face of success.**

5. **We are ending the year with anguish and anxiety for our friends in the Private Sector Banks and also Banks taken over by Foreign Banks and the new generation Private Sector Banks who being parties to the 1993 Pension Settlement did not get several benefits ensured by Settlements/ understandings which include, inter alia the non-payment of ex-gratia. Barring one such Bank, others are waiting silently to see if IBA pushes the issue forward. We have our serious concern for a few left outs in the industry waiting for another option in the manner it has been given in RBI/ NABARD etc.**



The issues of non- payment of ex-gratia to the Resignees who have been considered to be regular Pensioners, the non- addition of 5 years of notional service to the Pensioners of several erstwhile Associate Banks and Resignees who are brought under Pension Scheme and Pension Regulations and non payment of stagnation increment to a section of scale V officers etc. are the important issues before the organisation. Members will surely appreciate that most of the issues are the off- shoots of the Bipartite Settlement/Joint Note signed earlier but the burden has come upon us since the affected Retirees belong to us. Members have also noticed that the organisation is virtually chasing the issues at periodic intervals with GOI/ IBA and will continue to do so.

6. All said and done, we are definitely hopeful that the coming year 2026 will be a year of achievement for the reasons stated below:

A) Another important pillar in the Financial Sector is LIC. The Pensioners of LIC are also engaged in a prolonged legal battle. Their case for Pension updation and 100% DA neutralization is also in the final stage before the Supreme Court. The next date has been fixed in the first week of February, 2026 and it is expected to be concluded in near future. As the Pension Regulations of LIC are also patterned on RBI model, we are curiously watching the development.

B) At the prayer of our affiliate ARISE at IOB which is an impleading party in the M.C. Singla case pending before the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Hon'ble Bench has ordered for a final hearing on an earlier date and we are expecting that the same would come up in the month of January 2026. We appear to be standing at the end of the tunnel and the decade - long journey through the Judicial Channel might be over within a reasonable time. **We are confident and hopeful that our fight for justice might be vindicated.**

C) The most important issue is that our prolonged correspondence with GOI and several rounds of talks with the Officials of the department concerned appear to have created an air of optimism and congenialness and it has created a feeling in our minds that we have succeeded to impress upon the decision-making authorities about the rationale of our demand for updation of pension in a package described earlier.

Last but not the least, we make an appeal to the members not to rely upon different posts which are moving in the WhatsApp groups as forwarded messages without any authorship. In most cases, such messages are creating confusion and hopelessness in the minds of the Senior and the Super senior citizens of the industry. AIBPARC is always prompt in communication. **All circulars are available on the website** and our affiliates are regularly posting such circulars in different WhatsApp groups managed by them. Members are requested to go through the circulars of the organization only.

We wish you a Very Happy New Year ahead. We pray for the good health, peace and prosperity of each member and his/ her family.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely yours,

K.V. Acharya.
President, AIBPARC
& Jt. Convenor, CBPRO

Suprita Sarkar
General Secretary