

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: Co-ordination among Apex level Retiree Organisations in the Banking Industry.

Members might have known by this time that there has been a declaration by AIBRF about the launching of a Forum in the name of UFBRO. This is really amazing to note that a Co- ordination which existed in the Pre--2014 years in the name and style of UFBRO was dissolved in the Post -- 2014 years after the formation of CBPRO by Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations, AIBRF, AIBPARC, RBONC and AIRBEA. Immediately after the formation of CBPRO, FORBE also joined the Coordination.

It was also a fact that AIBRF announced that they would continue in CBPRO if only they were named as the Sole Convenor of CBPRO as against the original understanding of Three Joint Convenors each from Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations, AIBRF and AIBPARC. When their insistence on the Sole convenorship for them was not acceptable to other constituents of CBPRO, AIBRF walked out of CBPRO.

We continued to persuade them to return to CBPRO. But unfortunately, instead of returning to CBPRO now they have chosen to relaunch UFBRO. Though we do not wish to join issues with AIBRF on their new adventure, ignoring the appeals to them to return to CBPRO, we owe a responsibility to all Pensioner and Retiree Comrades as to the peculiar relaunching of UFBRO which is done more as an exercise for Ego Satisfaction than to forge unity and consolidation among Bank Pensioners and Retirees Organisations.

(1) The UFBRO which existed in the Pre- 2014 years and the UFBRO which is relaunched now, in reality is the display one man's agenda to dilute the vibrancy of CBPRO. It is quite strange to see the pattern of events that unfolded around the meeting organised by AIBRF in Delhi on 19th June 2024.

(2) It has already been made known to members that three Apex level Retiree organisations (Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations, AIBRF and AIBPARC) met at Delhi on 16th April, 2014 and the General Secretaries of such organisations (Com P P S Murthy, S R Sengupta and S C Jain) signed a joint communication on the various

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demands of Retirees. Five Retiree organisations (additionally RBONC and AIRBEA) again met at Delhi on 5th August, 2015 under the auspices of CBPRO. The UFBRO which was launched earlier by AIBRF taking the lead role was decided to be dissolved and a much larger coordination was formed with the largest Pensioners Organisation of the country, Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations along with AIBRF, AIBPARC, RBONC and AIRBEA as Constituents of CBPRO.

(3) When Shri Jain insisted that he as General Secretary of AIBRF should be made the Sole Convenor of CBPRO, Shri R N Banerjee, the then President of Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations with a view to achieve greater cohesion and coordination among the constituents of CBPRO suggested that CBPRO should have three Joint Convenors, each from Federation of SBI Pensioners' Associations, AIBRF and AIBPARC having sizable membership. The suggestions were accepted after thorough discussion in said meeting.

But in the very next meeting unfortunately AIBRF General Secretary chose not to attend the meeting and sent their Delhi representatives who before the start of the meeting conveyed that AIBRF would not continue in CBPRO unless their General Secretary was made the sole convenor and walked out of the meeting despite request from the Chair Shri R N Banerjee to at least to participate in the meeting.

(4) Later on, AIBRF expressed its desire to coordinate with CBPRO without formally joining and seeing the need for total coordination, it was accepted by CBPRO. But, even this Gesture of Goodwill also became futile when in one of the Communications to IBA after having consented to the contents of the letter, Suo moto AIBRF withdrew their signature and conveyed the same to IBA without even informing CBPRO. It was a big embarrassment to all Constituents of CBPRO.

(5) Now coming to the recent meeting in Delhi on June 19th organised by AIBRF, we are unable to understand the hurry to organise the meeting when CBPRO specifically advised about CBPRO proposing to hold meeting at Delhi in the month of July 2024 after the formation of the Government, post Lok Sabha elections to study and take stock of the situation mainly to pursue the very long pending demand for Updation of Pension and also other issues.

(6) Even without consulting the convenience of organisations for the Meeting and in order to preempt and reduce the importance of CBPRO meeting a pre-decided agenda of relaunching of UFBRO with Pre-planned and Pre-Prepared Joint memorandum was circulated crudely dictating the intention to derail the Demand of Updation of Pension, and suddenly bringing Third Benefit as an issue. This at a time when AIBRF is strangely sulking to own and highlight Pension Regulation 35.1 for Updation and more dangerously joining IBA and others in chorus in denying the existence of Regulation 35.1 dealing with Pension Updation showing blind eye to the most important provision for Updation of Pension in Bank Employees Pension Regulations. It is on record that AIBRF has so far not cited anywhere in any of their communication about the existence of the Statutory Provision 35.1 on Updation of Pension as a legally entitled right of Bank Pensioners. On the contrary they are even now requesting for a provision to be made in Pension Regulation totally undermining enforcement of Regulation 35.1. Instead of insisting on implementation of Regulation 35.1 which confers Updation of Pension with every periodical wage revision, they are still asking for provision for Updation and in the process unfortunately endorsing the wrong and false Affidavit filed by IBA in the most talked about and eagerly awaited proceedings and outcome of Respected Singla case in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

(7) The subsequent happenings through which AIBRF got itself alienated from CBPRO on the issue of their demand of having sole- convenorship and other not so relishing developments have already been explained to members and we do not have any intention to tax the patience of members further by telling the things which have already been told.

(8) We like to assure you that AIBPARC has done everything that was possible in the given circumstances to maintain the unity and consolidation of Retirees at a single platform. When some organisation is committed to float another co- ordination by duplicating a Co- ordination which already exists





in the name of CBPRO, this is unfortunate and aimed at weakening the Bank Pensioners and Retirees Movement. CBPRO will proceed in its own rhythm and it will meet at Delhi on 11th July, 2024 in Delhi to take stock of current events and decide the future plan of action.

(9) We have sent a letter of invitation to Shri S.C. Jain, GS, AIBRF to join the Meeting of CBPRO. Our President also talked to Shri S C Jain on 17th June requesting him to attend the Meeting of CBPRO at Delhi on 11th July, 2024. We sincerely wish and hope for a very objective and purposeful deliberation during the Meeting to realize the Aspirations and Expectations of the entire community of Bank Pensioners and Retirees.

(10) Dear Comrades, in the evening of our life and at this age and stage of our life, we have a duty to conduct ourselves responsibly and hence let us all put our heads together to do our Best to our Comrades before it is too late.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely yours,

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

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Suprita Sarkar General Secretary