



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



**C/O BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
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**(For circulation among members of the governing council of AIBPARC,
State Secretaries, Special Invitees and Advisors.)**

Dear Comrades,

SUB : WELCOME NEW YEAR - 2021

Within a few hours from now, we shall be entering into the New Year – 2021 with renewed hopes and aspirations for a better future. We wish a very happy New Year to all our members and their families. Let the New Year bring peace and prosperity in their lives. Let all our members and their families remain in good health in an atmosphere which is not very conducive.

We have passed a very eventful year in all respects. The world-wide threat of Covid 19 has created an atmosphere in all spheres of life which are hitherto unknown, unseen and un-experienced. There has been massive loss of lives for which we have deepest regrets in the heart of our hearts. The way of life has undergone a sea change with people working from homes, children not getting the scope of seeing the open sky and lakhs of people being out of employment.

We have witnessed different events in the national and international arena which have far-reaching consequences. So far as our own world of Banking industry is concerned, the major restructuring by way of merger and amalgamation has already taken place physically but the complete integration is yet to take place. We have often been disturbed to hear loud calls for privatization by different powerful campaigners. At the end of the year 2020, we solemnly pronounce our old commitment that we shall be fighting against any such move with whatever resources we have.

Comrades, in our own world of pensioners and retirees of the Banking industry, we have lots of worries and anxieties. We were very sure that the New Year would witness the improved family pension in line with GOI/RBI employees. This is unfortunate that approval of government is yet to be received. IBA has been asked to furnish papers again with calculation of cost. There are no valid reasons for us to rejoice on this score. At the same time, we assure our members that AIBPARC is sincerely on the job and no effort will be left untried to get it done.

There had been occasions to rejoice. Members have already known by different communications that Hon'ble Union Finance Minister made an open declaration in the 73rd AGM of IBA that the employer should take care of the welfare of retirees and their families

and take them as part and parcel of a united and extended family of Bankers in the tradition as it is done in case of Defence employees. In an interview with Business Lines Hindu, she also made a strong advocacy for updation of pension and for improvement of family pension. The organisation was optimistic that the New Year is coming with a good news. The enthusiasm has definitely dissipated to certain extent when DFS did not clear the improvement of family pension on 18th December 2020.

We request upon members not to lose heart. The path of mass organisations is always long and tough. There is no place for complacence. As far as our knowledge goes, IBA is in the process of negotiating the subject with Unions and Associations and this is expected that the views of IBA as per direction will be resubmitted to DOFS, MOF, GOI. There is no reason to believe that we shall lose focus on our prime issue of pension updation. We have already declared it as **Mission updation**. This is a matter of pride and pleasure for every member of AIBPARC that it is CBPRO/AIBPARC which has told for the first time and asserted vigorously before Government and IBA that the provision of pension updation is already there in the Bank Pension Regulations **vide Regulation 35(1)** and it is a statutory liability of the Government to make periodical updation/ revision of pension. At the beginning of the New Year, this is our firm pledge that we shall be continuing our struggle to achieve the pending demand.

Comrades, all is not dark in the western front. There are rays of light in the horizon. The second virtual meeting of AIBPARC took a decision that it is high time to involve the members with the basic demands in hand so that they also have a feeling that they do have a significant role. For last 10 days, we are in the midst of an organizational programme of signing the On-line Memorandum. The last date of joining the Memorandum is 4th January, 2021. We are hopeful that on the following day we shall be in a position to inform our members the huge number of participants who have concurred with the On-line Memorandum. We believe that a message will go once again to all concerned that the demands of retirees are to be addressed without any loss of time.

Man lives with hope. We do hope that with the advent of vaccination, the situation caused by pandemic will be improved substantially. Movement from one place to another will be easier and we shall be in a position to meet frequently and demonstrate our strength in the streets to impress upon the need to take care of the welfare of the elder citizens of the industry. We once again hope that good days would come soon and till then our members and their families will remain safe and secured. We conclude with a few immortal lines of Lord Tennyson's poem :

**“Ring out the old, ring in the new,
Ring happy bells, across the snow :
The year is going, let him go;
Ring out the false, ring in the true.”**

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely yours,



(SUPRITA SARKAR)
GENERAL SECRETARY