

(For circulation among members of the Governing Council, Secretaries of State Units and to all affiliates.)

Re : **Good-bye 2014.**

Friends,

We have grown in age by another year and we are standing on the threshold to say goodbye to the year 2014. This has been an eventful period for all of us. Although developments have not always been good, we cannot remain unmindful to the landmarks of history.

1. The movement of Retirees has taken a definite shape in the country. Different affiliates have consolidated their strength further during the period ; different State Committees have taken regular shape after holding formal conferences and ad-hoc Committees have been formed at different places where we did not have formal structure before. It has been a year of growth and consolidation. The apex body of the organisation met at regular intervals and took stock of the situation. Demonstrative actions have been contemplated and implemented to stir the issues of pensioners before UFBU/IBA/ GOI. The flow of information has been steady and regular from the apex body to the grass-root level through two important channels – website and hard copy.

2. The industrial relation scenario of the banking sector has not at all been good. The attitude of the Government has been unsympathetic and unreasonable. IBA did not move a single inch beyond the “nod” of the government and virtually forced the organisation to go for repeated strike actions. The proposed offer of 11% on pay-slip components has been extremely inadequate. Rigidity cannot be the only answer in bipartite talks.

3. It has been noted with pleasure that UFBU has not been oblivious of the demands of pensioners and retirees. Issues have come to the table for discussion at regular intervals. Some hope has been raised on some of the issues but IBA’s reactions to the principal demand of “updation” is still lukewarm. Sensing uncertainty AIBPARC again decided to go for Dharna on 6th February, 2015 at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi. Preparation is in full swing. Comrades, we shall march on to Delhi in large numbers to show before IBA/Government/ Society at large that the contribution of the elder citizens in development of the country’s economy needs to be reckoned.

4. The most important national event is the change of power from the hands of UPA-II to NDA. The countrymen have high hope from the new Government and we are also no

exception to it. We sincerely believe that good senses would prevail and bank retirees would be treated at par with the retirees of central government. We are peace loving and loyal citizens of the country. We are deeply pained to see the bloodbath of children at the Army School of Pakistan and ugly dance of terrorism in different corners of the world.

Let the New Year 2015 bring peace, prosperity and satisfaction.

With warm greetings,

(S. R. SEN GUPTA)
GENERAL SECRETARY