



ALL INDIA BANK PENSIONERS' & RETIREES' CONFEDERATION

(A.I.B.P.A.R.C.)

C/O BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(EASTERN INDIA BRANCHES)

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(For circulation among members of the governing council of AIBPARC,
State Secretaries, Special Invitees and Advisors.)

Dear Comrade,

**Sub : Spectacular show of strength by Bank retirees at Azad Maidan,
Mumbai on 11th January, 2019 at the joint call of CBPRO and AIBRF.**

11th January, 2019 was a red letter day for Bank retirees movement in Mumbai. It was on this day that Bank retirees in large numbers gathered at Azad Maidan to hold massive Dharna and demonstration to express their deep sense of anguish, resentment, protest and anger at the neglect of their long pending issues by Indian Banks' Association and Government of India. Bank retirees-the senior and super senior citizens, leaving their homes early morning, braving the extraordinarily crowded local trains and dislocated road traffic due to the strike of transport workers, started arriving at the venue from 10.00 a.m. onwards and by 11.00 a.m. the crowd crossed over 1500. The seating arrangements at the venue especially put up for the purpose fell inadequate to accommodate them and a large number of members had to keep standing unmindful of the inconvenience. The enthusiasm and passionate involvement of all of them was seen. The most notable feature was the substantial presence of lady members.

The highlights of the program were:

- Dharna Program commenced at 11-00 a.m. with inspiring and shouting of full throated slogans for a long time by the Bank retirees in the presence of national leaders of CBPRO and AIBRF and it was co-ordinated by Com. Shekhar Kadam (CBPRO-AIBPARC) and Com. Ashok Patil (AIBRF) who took a lot of pains to organize this program. The representatives of Print and Electronic media recorded the proceedings and took interview of leaders.
- After about 1 hour of spirited slogans, the meeting jointly presided over by com. Ramesh Babu – the Joint Convener CBPRO and Com. S.M. Despande- the President, AIBRF was addressed by the leaders of constituents of CBPRO and AIBRF. In his address to the gathering, Com P.S. Patki, Senior Vice President, AIBPARC called it a historical day since it was first such occasion in Mumbai where all the organizations covering almost 100 per cent of retirees are taking part. He specially congratulated retirees who travelled long distance from outstation centres like Pune. Narrating the pathetic plight of Bank retirees and neglect of pensioners' issues by the Government & IBA and referring to the improvements in pension scheme of RBI, he deplored the discriminatory approach of the Government towards Bank retirees and called for sustained struggle and appealed for larger participation.
- Com.R.S. Desai, President, state unit, AIBRF narrated in detail the issues of pensioners and demanded quick resolve of it.
- Com S. Sarkar, General Secretary, AIBPARC observed that the joint struggle created an emotional unity among the retirees throughout the country which is manifested in the massive attendance in countrywide demonstrations at different centres. Congratulating the retirees, he made it clear that today's program was not an end in itself and it would continue further till fulfillment of demands.

- Com. Dr. Jog of AIBRF urged upon members present to decentralise the agitation upto district level.
- Com. Sanware of FORBE observed that as a constituent Of CBPRO, his Organisation was ready to walk extra miles to achieve the target.
- Com P.L. Kamble, Organising Secretary of our affiliate in PNB pointed out the robust pension corpus and asked government not to cite the plea of cost as a reason of not doing anything.
- Com, S.B. Gokhale, the President, Mumbai circle of SBI Pensioners Association narrated the deprivation of SBI pensioners on different counts and observed that SBIPA is solidly supporting the cause and praised today's attendance.
- Com. Dhargalkar, Organising Secretary, AIBRF, pointed out the deprivation of retirees in last BPS and did not want to see repetition of the same.
- Com. Sekhar Kadam, senior leader of AIBPARC, hoped that attendance on next occasion would be double of today. He expected that resolve of issues were to be done at an early date since time at the disposal of retirees was short.
- Com. Ashok Patil, DGS.AIBRF, pointed out the pathetic plight of family pensioners.
- Com. Ramesh Babu, General Secretary, SBIPA & Convener CBPRO congratulated the gathering who have surmounted the problems of age and traffic and attended in such large numbers. He specifically thanked the organizers for the hard labour put in by them. He urged upon the members for larger sacrifice to achieve the goal.
- Com. S.M. Despande, President, AIBRF narrated in brief the present state of affairs on different issues of retirees, the stalemate in Bipartite negotiation and the lackadaisical attitude of Government. He urged upon long drawn fight by retirees on the solid platform of unity.

A strong delegation CBPRO and AIBRF led by Com. Ramesh Babu, Com. S.M. Deshpande and Com. P.S. Patki called on to the office of IBA and submitted a memorandum on different issues. The leaders discussed and explained to IBA Executives the justification of these issues and urged upon them to be sensitive to the elder citizens of the industry. The Delegation was received well by IBA Executives who informed that IBA was open on these issues and would examine them.

Comrades, this impressive show of strength by retirees in the Financial Capital of India will surely have a far reaching impact on retirees' movement in the country. AIBPARC puts on record it's thanks and admiration to all concerned for the astounding success.

With best wishes,

(Suprita Sarkar)
General Secretary