



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: Unique display of unity and solidarity by the Pensioners and the Retirees of the State of Maharashtra – A General Meeting with fabulous attendance of more than 1000 Retirees – Meeting overflowing with Comrades standing inside and outside the hall. Restructured state committee declared – leaders hail the unprecedented Show of Unity and Solidarity.



Photo: A view of the audience from one angle.

1. What was the venue and how was the atmosphere?

It was the Patkar Hall at SNDT Womens' University, Marine Lines, Mumbai and the time was just 3 p.m. There was a flow of humanity. The Retirees of different ages had thronged to hear the leaders. The presence of lady members was remarkably high. Another notable feature is that the several physically challenged members with the help of family members /friends attended the meeting. The meeting started right at 3:30 p.m. and by that time the Hall was full to its capacity and a few hundred had been waiting outside. Several Volvo Buses came from different important centres. Senior citizens, many of them in colourful uniforms, reached the hall in time. They were retired but not tired.

2. What was the occasion?

There had been a meeting of the Senior Office bearers of AIBPARC in the city to take stock of the present situation and to decide the future course of action. **A separate circular will be issued on the decisions taken.** Taking the advantage of the presence of the leaders, the state committee of Maharashtra convened the General Meeting which in its size and mood got a historical dimension. Different affiliates of AIBPARC

have a substantial membership in the state. As the restructuring of the state committee was a long-felt need, this task was also completed and the new state committee was declared in this great assembly of the senior citizens. **A separate circular will be issued conveying the names of different office bearers of the state Committee.**



Photo: A view of the dais.

3. A brief note on the proceedings:

(A) The meeting started with the Maharashtra Geet in the melodious voice of **Com. Ulhas Adhav and the group** – all the members of BOIPARA, Pune unit. The song brought a sense of pride and patriotism.

(B) **Com. Sekhar Kadam, the newly elected Secretary of the state committee**, delivered his welcome address and felicitated all the dignitaries on the dais.



(C) **Com. P.S. Patki, Working President**, was overwhelmed to see the huge gathering which in his opinion was one of the biggest in recent times. He assured the members that they would be really benefited by the deliberations of the leaders of AIBPARC who have been working relentlessly to serve the cause of the Retirees. He expressed the hope that the Retirees of the state would make their presence more visible in times to come under the vibrant State Leadership.



(D) Suprita Sarkar, General Secretary: He declared that it was a proud moment for him to address such a huge assembly of the senior citizens in the Economic and Commercial Capital of the country. He described in detail the massive structure of the organization, the total membership divided in different states and the position of various affiliates. In his opinion, the functioning of the organization in the last 12 years has aroused a tremendous expectation among the members and the leaders are sincerely trying to come up to the level of expectation of members. He called for a united struggle to snatch the most legitimate demand of Pension updation from the unwilling hands of the authorities.



(E) Com. K.V. Acharya, President, AIBPARC and Joint Convenor, CBPRO:

In his hour-long address, he elaborately explained each and every achievement which has been registered under the banner of AIBPARC. He explained in detail the implications of Regulation 35(1) – appendix 1 and its amendment in the year 2003. Any denial to update the Pension is a gross injustice to the senior citizens. He narrated the efforts initiated by AIBPARC with the political leadership, with IBA and with bureaucracy to make home the need for immediate redressal of grievances. He assured the house that the struggle would not stop till we achieve success. He emphasized that Bank Pensioners and Retirees are subjected to suffer series of Discriminations. To put an end to such Discriminations, Programmes will be declared soon and members must participate in huge numbers to give vent to their agony and anger.

(F) The vote of thanks was offered by Com. Ravi N Shetty, Senior Vice President of State AIBPARC.



The audience from another angle – in totality it was an extraordinary gathering



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(G) Organizational significance of the event:

Members have already known the huge success registered by CBPRO/AIBPARC in holding a massive Dharna at Jantar Mantar, Delhi in recent times which was a culmination of different such programmes held at various state capitals. There was a natural expectation among the members that the Government/ the IBA would take note of the legitimate grievances of the senior citizens of the industry. Unfortunately, things did not happen like that.

In the second phase, the organization decided to display the mood of the senior citizens in Mumbai where the Head Quarter of IBA lies. The huge assembly has heightened our level of expectation. We do believe that the message of the assembly will surely go to the power that be and there will be redressal of grievances.

We are operating with restraint, caution, and care. If we see that the same kind of nonchalant attitude from the decision-making authorities still continue, we shall not hesitate to come out with elaborate programmes spread over a couple of months and we appeal to our members to come forward to participate in all such programs in a big way. Let us all make this Decisive Battle a Thundering Success to get our legally entitled rights and Justice.

With best wishes and regards,

Comradely yours,

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

Suprita Sarkar
General Secretary