

ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION



(Registered under the Trade Unions Act 1926, Registration No.3427/Delhi)
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To All Affiliates (Please Circulate)

HISTORY BECKONS - STRIKE COMMENCES..

The overwhelming response throughout the country, in all the preparatory programs announced by AIBOC, is that the historical 24 hours Strike is going to become a major positive turning point in the Bank Officers' Trade Union Movement in the country. AIBOC has taken a firm and principled stand that it cannot be a party anymore to negotiations where the foundation called 'unconditional mandate' is not established. On the contrary, the IBA's regressive stance indicates that it would be purely conditional. AIBOC has also firmly declared that the basic premise upon which the negotiations had to be based was the Charter of Demand, which is based on 'minimum wages' concept as has been submitted by the 4 Officers' organizations and not on some arbitrary percentages that are being 'generously' offered. AIBOC has also unequivocally rejected the incongruous 'performance linked pay structure' as was offered by IBA.

AIBOC's decisions are driven by aspirations of the youth, rich experience of the seniors and a firm belief we are obligated to ensure an environment which can attract and retain youthful talent, both for the future generations and also for the growth of banking industry. The response of the youth to the call of AIBOC is ample proof of the fact that they are willing to take up the gauntlet, are prepared to make any sacrifice and shoulder responsibilities to make sure that the industry weathers the present storm and comes out ever strong as the financial pillar of Indian Economy.

This is a strike to establish the dignity and self-esteem of officers. This strike is for the youth, who would carry forward the legacy. This strike is for our seniors, who need us to fight their battles. This strike is for the farmers, workers, women, students, pensioners and the common man, who need PSU Banks to survive and spread wings.

As we march on to the historical strike, we would like to remind everyone that:

- Probationary officers are very much a part of the officers' community and all such officers who are members of AIBOC can definitely participate in this historical strike without any fear. Being part of Association is a Constitutional Right that every citizen in the country carries.
- Participating in strike will not affect the pension or any other retiring benefit as this issue has been clarified by IBA beyond every doubt.
- No comrades will attend training programs if any, scheduled by the Banks.
- No comrade will hand over the Branch / Premises Keys.

We are getting an excellent feedback from across the country in response to our strike call. From Kashmir to Kanyakumari; from Ahmedabad to Aizawl, the mood of our comrades is exuberant and combative. The infectious enthusiasm with which they have built up the momentum in the run up to the strike is perhaps unparalleled. Our members are jubilant and thousands of officers across the country have held demonstrations and rallies. Senior Officers in SMGS IV & V and executives are now convinced about the seriousness and situation in which they will be placed, if kept out of purview of wage negotiation. Many have come out in the open to declare boldly that they would be joining the strike. But, there could be some Banks, who might threaten them to join work and declare them as non-strikers. Such dastardly attempts have been going on for ages and it is nothing but exploitation of

human frailty for pleasing the powers that be. The 'Arrogance of Power' can only be countered by the 'Arrogance of Unity'. It is our conscious efforts to be ONE, that can defeat the saboteurs.

Comrades, let us march on with all conviction and converge in large numbers in all the agitational programs slated to happen today and the days to come. This is just the commencement of a protracted battle. We will not stop till we achieve our demands. Let us remember that as long as we stay united, none can break us. ***Where Unity and Solidarity succeeds, nothing fails!!***

In the same breath, we would like to have a word to our senior officers and executives. Today the facilities, perks, environment, promotions, career and the comfort the seniors/ executives enjoying are only on account of the sacrifices, relentless efforts of the Associations and the struggle and the support of innumerable Officer members to achieve them. They have stood a like rock and have helped them in reaching today's position. We urge upon them to remember the formative years. It is only the Association that can fight for the legitimate rights.

LONG LIVE OUR UNITY. LET US ENSURE SUCCESS OF STRIKE FOR THE WELFARE OF OFFICERS' FRATERNITY, INDUSTRY and THE COMMON MAN.

With revolutionary greetings,

Comradely yours,



(Soumya Datta)
General Secretary