

# ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' CONFEDERATION



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To All Affiliates (Please Circulate)

## TWO DAYS NATIONWIDE BANK STRIKE - A THUNDERING SUCCESS...

31<sup>st</sup> January 2020 and 01<sup>st</sup> February 2020 witnessed a remarkable, and resounding show of solidarity, dedication, grit, gumption and determination of bank employees and officers under the banner of UFBU on the face of threats and coercive measures adopted by various bank managements and malicious propaganda unleashed by IBA. It was also historical as the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of the strike coincided with the day of the Union Budget, which was also unprecedented. We had abundantly made it clear to the IBA representatives that perhaps they were oblivious of the anger of the banking fraternity at the lackadaisical approach of the IBA in settling our justified demands and treating us like mendicants. The height of apathy was witnessed on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2020, when IBA made it clear that the hike in percentage from 12.25 to 13 and subsequently from 13 to 13.5 was valid for one day only! It appeared that as if we were taking part in an on-line sale offered by some portal, which had an expiry period of 24 hours.

The same 'terms and conditions' was corroborated by the Chairman of IBA during another round of talks held later that day at SBI Corporate office, where it was increased to 15%, with a rider that other demands like 5 day week, the merger of special allowance, an increase of load factor were non-negotiable. Neither was there any clear cut commitment on the quantum of family pension revision, nor any idea on pension updation was offered. In fact, despite being reminded at every meeting, IBA till date has not provided any data on pension updation as sought by the Actuary engaged by AIBOC.

For two days, the country witnessed an upsurge of bank employees and retirees who flooded the streets. Massive protest meetings were held across the country. Over 5 thousand bank employees and officers marched from Forte to Azad Maidan in Mumbai. Thousands thronged Jantar Mantar at Delhi in an unprecedented show of strength. Huge congregation of bankmen was seen at Kolkata, Chennai, Bengaluru, Chandigarh, Raipur, Jaipur, Patna, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, Bhopal, Pune, Thiruvananthapuram, Guwahati, Lucknow, Goa and Hyderabad as well. Similar marches, bike rallies were held at all state capitals, district headquarters and other important centres. Reports are pouring in from every part of the country that AIBOC affiliates, state units along with other UFBU constituents hit the streets in thousands to make the 2 days strike a thundering success. It was heartening to note that bank employees of all ages, cadres, grades including a large number of women employees, participated with exuberance and infectious enthusiasm in the two-day strike. The mood was combative and jubilant. Another noticeable aspect was the participation of family members of our comrades in the strike program. The massive presence of retirees was witnessed at all centres. Some even volunteered to contribute two days of pension to Associations. We convey our deepest gratitude to the Retirees' organisations for the solidarity and support they have extended. Despite the threat unveiled by many Banks, senior officers up to SMGS V participated in the strike. It was a great show of unity and solidarity by each and every affiliate and state units of AIBOC that needs special appreciation. The strike received tremendous coverage both in print and electronic media across the country, which has enhanced the visibility of the banking trade union movement.

We had a firm and profound conviction that the bank employees and officers would accept the gauntlet and come out with a befitting rebuff to the 'arrogance of power' displayed by the authorities. Our strike was not an act of 'adventurism'. On the contrary, it was our 'compulsion'. Among the popular slogans that resonated across the length and breadth of the country were "शौक नहीं मजबूरी है - यह हड़ताल जरूरी है", which reflected the mood of the members.

We trust that the stupendous success of the strike, which gave a befitting reply to the centres of power that termed the union leaders as 'irresponsible', should be an eye-opener to the Government. We hope that the

emotional outburst and protest of the bank employees and officers have been duly noticed by the IBA and the Government and given due cognizance of. The onus is now on the Ministry of Finance and the IBA to resume dialogue with an open and fair mind.

Comrades, the battle is not yet over. We will have to scale our agitations to the next level till we achieve our goals. While we thank our entire membership wholeheartedly for its excellent display of unity on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2020 and 01<sup>st</sup> February, 2020, in sending strong signal to the Government / IBA, we appeal to the entire membership to be in readiness to implement further agitation programmes that would be decided by the UFBU in the days to come. Each one of us will have to wage a protracted battle to establish our legitimate demands. On the back of the success of the 2 days strike, we are embarking upon further challenges – next phases of strike action called by UFBU, namely, three days' strike from 11.03.2020 to 13.03.2020 and indefinite strike from 01.04.2020 onwards for a decisive battle.

**हम अपना अधिकार मांगते - नहीं किसी से भीख मांगते**

***Comrades – Be Alert – Be ready for further struggles –  
We shall fight – We shall fight – Till we succeed – We shall fight”  
March on Comrades.....Victory will be ours.***

With revolutionary greetings,

Comradely yours,



**(Soumya Datta)  
General Secretary**