

SYNDICATE BANK PENSIONERS & RETIREES ASSOCIATION (REGD.)

(Affiliated to AIBPARC)

CENTRAL OFFICE

203, Glendale Residency, King Koti Road, Abids, Hyderabad – 500001

Phones – Chairman: 09448122384; President; 08171461116;

General Secretary: 09440528806; Secretary: 09885661991

Website: www.sbpra.in

eMail: sbpra.centraloffice@yahoo.com



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Dear Comrades,

HAPPY NEW YEAR WELCOME – 2021

The bygone year 2020 was full of challenges for humanity with epoch making events. While the pandemic Covid19 dominated international scene, other major events centred on America and China. Covid19 has caused an unheard of human catastrophe leaving 18 lakh dead. It has universally disrupted social life with lockdowns and restrictions and impacted economic affairs leading to recession, consequences of which are yet to be fully seen. China has stepped up moves to dominate world politics with strategic engagements across the globe, attempts to hoodwink India, Australia and other neighbours with brazen standoffs and trade wars with unfriendly nations including the West. But its closed door politics, unreliable and undependable leadership, policies of suppression and oppression, hatred towards minorities, suspicious economic deals with weak nations, unacceptable currency etc are keeping it away from leadership. On the other side the United States continues to grapple with troubles at home and abroad. President Elect Mr Joe Biden has his hands full in having to cleanse the ruckus created by outgoing President Mr Trump, who continues to be in the news with his maverick acts. Mr Trump's politics of hatred towards coloured race and immigrants, policies of reversing the past decisions, neglecting allies, weakening NATO, meddling in the Middle East with unworkable pacts like Abraham Accord, business links etc are annoying the main stream decision makers. Mr Trump has literally divided the American society into two warring factions. Added to this, his refusal to accept electoral defeat and the elected Presidential candidate has exposed the loopholes in their statute and democratic values. The Tamasha is still continuing.

Coming to our national events, Covid 19 has caused unprecedented hardship with social life disrupted and over one crore people infected leading to 1.4 lakh deaths. The unorganised labour force was the worst affected. Life of over 4 crore migrant workers has been shattered. Other major events interalia are: escalation of farmers' agitation on MSP to a gigantic proportion just when the dust raised by Citizenship Act Amendment imbroglio was settling, Clash on the Chinese border, Cyclone Amphan, and of course commencement of construction of Sri Rama Temple at Ayodhya. On the economic and banking front the country is facing the impact of Covid. GDP growth is affected, but the economy is said to be slowly recovering. The banking industry too is under severe stress and strain. Many changes are expected. With the handing over of Lakshmi Vilas Bank to a Singapore concern, the Govt's policy and program is made clear. Govt intends to shed its responsibility of banks. A

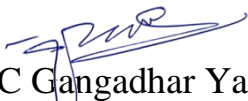
massive privatisation appears to be on the cards. A holding company is proposed to take over the share and stake of the PSB's from the Govt. A bank called Bad Bank for settling NPAs is also envisaged. Industrial houses may be permitted to run the banks. All these news and developments are very alarming and disturbing.

For bank retirees the year 2020 has not brought any cheer. Wage Revision settlement between UFBU and IBA was disappointing. The demand of Pension Updation has once again taken a backseat. Even the much hailed improvement in Family Pension is delayed by queries from DFS: GOI. As far as our bank and the retirees are concerned we note that bank is progressing on expected lines despite merger issues and Covid effects. Syndicate Bank retirees are slowly but reluctantly swallowing the merger phenomenon. The process of integration of systems of both the banks - Syndicate Bank and Canara Bank is nearing completion. Some problems here and there faced by the retired staff in getting the concessions/staff rates need to be addressed. A major concern is the future of staff welfare schemes. Continuation of benefits that were available to Syndicate Bank retirees is facing problem. Presently, stoppage of Annual Medical Aid of Rs3000/- pa and insurance premium reimbursement of Rs2500/- has resulted in heartburn and is leading to unrest. Management has to ponder over the matter and restore the same early.

Organisationally we are strengthened. AIBPARC is consolidated. Though Covid has hampered movement, travel and meetings, it was overcome to a large extent through online communications and committee meetings. But a major setback was due to restrictions on movement of senior citizens which prevented personal meetings with the officials in the bank and Govt. to pursue retirees' issues. However, all the industry level demands are being pursued by AIBPARC/CBPRO without leaving any stone unturned. SBPRA is continuing to grow day-by-day. We are planning to have coordination with our fraternal organisation in Canara Bank and shall come out with a structured arrangement soon. During the year we have added substantially to our membership strength. The latest enrolment number is 11922 and by next month we will surely surpass the coveted 12000-mark. This clearly shows that our leadership rank and file are undeterred by Covid19. It is highly gratifying to note that our members continued to repose faith in the organisation and confidence in the leadership, un-hazed by the amalgamation of the bank. We shall continue to strive hard and dedicate all the time and energy at our disposal for the cause of retirees. As we enter into the New Year 2021 we look forward to new possibilities, new opportunities and accomplishments.

We wish all our members/retirees & their families a Happy & Prosperous New Year!

With greetings
Yours comradely,


C Gangadhar Yadav
GENERAL SECRETARY

SBPRA - ZINDABAD
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