

THE FEDERATION OF BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATIONS

(REGD.No.7364)

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Dear Comrades,

ANOTHER GLORIOUS CHAPTER IN THE HISTORY OF OUR FEDERATION **1ST ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF WOMEN'S WING – A GRAND SUCCESS**

It gives us an immense sense of pride to acknowledge the active participation of all our members and the solidarity reflected in such a way that our Federation has marked its presence in the Trade Union Movement by being in forefront in implementing all the calls of its apex Organisation i.e. AIBOC. Our presence can be seen at all platforms and it gives us special pleasure to share that our lady comrades are equally active and are participating in all activities with full force, vigour and commitment. Our Organisation was the first organization to take lead in formation of Women's Wing. It was at Bhopal on 4th May, 2014 that this wing was reactivated. We are happy to advise that an annual conference of our Women's Wing was held on 27.02.2016 at Ranchi. It was a gathering of more than hundred representatives representing all the 17 units of our Federation, having come from length and breadth of the country as well as from the Jharkhand unit. We are thankful to our Jharkhand Unit for undertaking the responsibility for making preparations for the conference including staying and lodging arrangements, meeting venue, Press meet etc.

The conference was organised in an aesthetically decorated hall of Hotel AVN Grand, Ranchi. Atmosphere was full of enthusiasm & vigour. The conference commenced sharp at 10.00 a.m. Dignitaries were escorted by activists of Jharkhand Unit to the dais. The dais was graced by Chief Guest Ms. Aradhana Patnaik, a senior bureaucrat, posted as Secretary HRD, Govt. of Jharkhand State, Com. Sunil kumar & Com. Harvinder Singh, the President & General Secretary of Federation respectively, Shri. M.K Gupta General Manager, NBG –Jharkhand & Chhattisgarh, Com. Ameetaa Sharma and Com. Aruna Agnihotri, Chairperson & Secretary, Women's Wing of Federation and Com. Sunil Lakra General Secretary, Bank Of India Officers Association, Jharkhand unit. After floral welcome to the dignitaries present on the dais, Com. Sunil Lakra extended a warm welcome to all present in the august gathering. Com Sulekha Kachhap, an activist from Jharkhand Unit compered the function in a poetic way, which was admired by all.

Com Ameetaa Sharma, Chairperson of Women's Wing of federation, welcomed the participants & introduced the Chief Guest Mrs. Aradhana Patnaik, an IAS beauracrat of 1998 batch. She said that there could not have been a better choice for Chief Guest than a person like Ms. Aradhana Patnaik, who is young, enthusiastic and is known for innovative initiatives undertaken by her in the whole of Jharkhand State. She informed that Ms. Patnaik has been actively involved in establishing Women Self Help Groups to generate employment to make women self reliant and capable of earning as well as for taking initiative to improve the standard of education in the Schools under her operational area. She is not a new face to our Organisation and had also inaugurated the formation of Jharkhand State, Womens' Wing of our Confederation in 2011. Before inviting the Chief Guest to inaugurate the conference and give her inaugural address, all the dignitaries were requested to perform the pious duty of lighting the lamp which symbolizes dispelling darkness of ignorance to bring light of knowledge.

Ms. Aradhana Patnaik in her inaugural address said that we should be proud of their womanhood. We must make ourselves strong mentally as well and must not let any guilt come to us for not doing complete justice to all responsibilities due to multiple roles played by us as a woman. She exhorted each and everyone to keep the level of confidence high. While mentioning about role of Womens' Self Help Groups and their contributions to the growth of the country, she also

highlighted that the loans given by the banks to women self help groups are by and large 'Standard'. Her simple yet effective address impressed one and all.

Thereafter, the gathering was addressed by the GM NBG- Jharkhand & Chhatisgarh Zone, Shri M.K. Gupta. He appreciated the capacity, capability of women and placed on record wonderful contribution of Women officers in our Bank. He expressed his happiness over formation of Womens' Wing and the role of our Organisation in the growth of our Bank. The Zonal Manager, Ranchi Zone, Shri Shankar Prasad also addressed the gathering and apprised that in his zone, women officers comprise of more than 50% of total officers. He appreciated the sincere, hard-work and the determination of the lady officers who were not hesitant even to work in difficult naxal affected areas. He appreciated the grit of all. The Secretary, Women Wing, Com. Aruna Agnihotri in her vote of thanks, appreciated the role of Chief Guest in empowering the women. After felicitation to Ms. Aradhana Patnaik by Com Santoshi Kerketta, on behalf of Women's wing, the inaugural session came to an end.

The next session began in which Com. Aruna Aagnihotri presented the Secretary's report. She read out the report after the House paid homage to the departed souls. The report was supplemented with the information on many issues by the Chairperson Com. Ameetaa Sharma, who invited deliberation on the same. Com Sutapa Biswas, Com Nitu Gupta, Com. Tandra Biswas, Com Sujata Das, Com Sheela Menon, Com. M. Lakshmi, Com Shivangi Sharma, Com. Aparna Pandey & Com Vandana presented their views and raised some issues. Com. Aruna Agnihotri replied to them. Com. Ameetaa Sharma after summing up, sought approval of the House to adopt the Report, which was unanimously adopted.

The President of the Federation, Com. Sunil Kumar, in his address guided the members of Womens' Wing to work in an organized and professional manner with all seriousness towards the organizational goals. He exhorted all to keep themselves apprised of the latest developments and contribute on equal footing. He emphasized that the lady comrades should be well versed not only with their rights but also with their duties.

After the lunch break, a documentary on the history of our Federation, prepared for the Golden Jubilee celebration of our Federation, held in November, 2015 was played to enable all, particularly, young DROs, to know about the struggle made and hardships suffered by our founder leaders for building a better tomorrow for our younger generations in the banking industry. The whole house was enthralled by the same as was witnessed by the thunderous applause at the end.

The General Secretary of Federation, Com. Harvinder Singh then addressed the participants. He elaborately apprised about latest developments and lucidly delved upon various aspects related to bank officers. He explained the set up of Organization i.e. Association, Federation & Confederation. He emphasized that strength of any Association is nothing but Knowledge combined with Power of unity. He pointed out the huge time gap of almost a generation in recruitments to the bank. He stressed that therefore, hand holding is necessary in the bank as well as in the organization. He also apprised that our organization always endeavour to take special care of lady comrades and that is why in last wage revision a full chapter was devoted to the demands of Lady Comrades. He covered the issues of Gyan Sangam, 'IndraDhanush' and other Govt. policies which are detrimental to Banking Industry and to common masses and Confederation to counter them, termination of Com. P.V.Mohanan, the General Secretary of DhanaLakshmi Bank, & the struggle led by AIBOC for his reinstatement. He explained in details about the objectives and mission of our Confederation/ Federation and various initiatives, programmes chalked out including one day strike call for 11th December, 2015 and for 29th February, 2016, explaining the vision behind the calls. He emphasised that bankers need to approach common masses to get their support. He further spoke about challenges ahead in Banking Industry in general and our Bank in particular. He appealed all the Comrades to be strong in saying NO to wrong things. He expressed his concern on rising frauds in the bank and need to develop cadre for defence in view of rise in number of disciplinary cases. He spoke about various benefits clinched at Bank level, including best Hospitalisation Scheme, reimbursement of telephone expenses to all etc. He exhorted all to walk an extra mile to turn the grim state of affairs in our beloved bank to bring back the past glory. He showed his confidence in the officers. He touched upon Transfer policy of the bank. He encouraged the women folk to get involved in social activities as a part of social obligations. He acknowledged power, passion & compassion of ladies. At the

same time he said that ladies will not get the things in platter easily but will have to make struggle to get their due rights. He expressed his confidence in the strength of women force and in working of women's wing to achieve the purpose in true sense.

The Chief Guest for the valedictory part of the Conference was none other than Mrs. Sampat Meena - an icon of strength, presently posted at Ranchi as IG Police (Organised Crime) CID, Jharkhand. Com. Ameetaa Sharma welcomed Mrs. Sampat Meena and particularly thanked her for being there despite her not keeping good health due to a recent surgery and pre-occupation for attending some functions on the same date. She detailed about her background, various responsibilities shouldered by her and various initiatives taken under her supervision like improving policing for women and children, opening Ranchi Police Station dedicated to serve women and Bal Mitra Police Station for Children. She highlighted the role of IG Police in combating serious crimes like women and child trafficking. The various recognitions awarded for a meritorious service and her brain child, the operation 'Muskan' to rescue and rehabilitate trafficked children. The valedictory address of Mrs. Sampat Meena was really enlightening and empowering for the participants. She detailed about the safety hazards which could be physical or mental and advised to protect one's self from them. She guided to save important numbers in personal phones so that in case of any danger, alerts can be sent. She also briefed about safety at work place mentioning statutory requirement of committees for prevention of sexual harassment to women at work places. She suggested to keep small safety weapons in bags and most importantly not to neglect self health and for not letting any guilt feeling creep in for not being able to look after all work, which are not humanly possible. On being asked about how to prevent police harassment to bank officers in case of false complaints and frauds committed by fraudsters, she guided to send copy of the statement of case to the CID department. The vote of thanks to Mrs. Sampat Meena was proposed wonderfully by Com. Uzma Siddiqui for her deliberation and guidance which had enthused all present.

The House unanimously co-opted Com. Ameetaa Sharma and Com. Aruna Agnihotri as the Chairperson and Secretary respectively. It was unanimously decided to co-opt Com. Santoshi Ami Kerkette, the Vice President of Jharkhand Unit as Chairperson after the superannuation of Com. Ameetaa Sharma on 31st July, 2016. Com. Sheela Menon and Com. Sujata Hatkar were re-elected as Joint Secretary. It was decided that each Unit's General Secretary would be requested to provide name of one Executive Committee member from their Units. While presenting vote of thanks, Com. Sujata Hatkar beautifully wrapped up the whole day proceedings in melodious poetic manner and the conference came to an end with National anthem sung by all.

Comrades, the successful conduct of Womens' conference has added another golden chapter to the history of our Federation of Bank of India Officers' Associations. The event was covered prominently in the local newspapers. It was a wonderful show of commitment of our lady Comrades for their active involvement in the organizational activities. I, on my personal behalf and on behalf of our Federation, convey our best wishes to them for their successful working and participation in perfect unison not only among themselves but with the men counterparts.

With revolutionary greetings,

Yours comradely,



(HARVINDER SINGH)
GENERAL SECRETARY