



ALL INDIA PNB STAFF FEDERATION

(Affiliated to N.C.B.E.)

Central Office:
R-8/38 Raj Nagar
Ghaziabad (U.P.)
Ph. /Fax No: 0120-4136800
E-mail: aipnbsf@yahoo.co.in

Camp Office:
Punjab National Bank
Preet Vihar, Delhi-92
Mobile (G.S.): 9818562336
Website: www.aipnbsf.org

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ALL GOOD WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR 2017

We are at the threshold of a New Year 2017. We greet the nation and entire fraternity of Punjab National Bank “A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2017”. This is a time to look at the events of the last year and make resolutions for the New Year. We also need to do a lot of soul searching, if we really expect this New Year to be happy for all of us.

HOMAGE

During the last year we lost prominent personalities like Shri V. Rama Rao-Governor of Sikkim, Ms J. Jaylalitha-Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu, Shri Mufti Mohammed Sayeed-Chief Minister of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri S.H. Kapadia-former Chief Justice of India, Shri J.F.R. Jacob-Army General (Retired), Shri N. Muthukumar-Tamil poet & lyricist, Shri Anil Ganguly-famous film director, Comrade A.B. Bardhan-General Secretary of Communist Party of India, Shri Fateh Singh-shooter, Shri Balram Jakhar- former speaker of Lok Sabha, Shri Sudhir Tailang-cartoonist, Shri O.N.V. Kurup- Jnanpith award winner poet and so many other prominent personalities. We pray to god to give peace to the souls of all the above deceased, pay our highest tributes and homage to all of them. We further pray to god to give peace to the souls of all the innocent people and police/security force personnel killed in terrorist and naxalite attacks in Jammu & Kashmir, Assam and other parts of the country, people killed due to fire in Puttingal temple, SUM Hospital-Bhubaneswar and army weapon depot in Pulgaon (Maharashtra), due to stampede in a religious meet at Varanasi, derailment of train near Pukhrayan and others who lost their lives due to natural calamities like cyclone Vardha on Tamil Nadu coast and earthquake in Imphal etc.

NATIONAL SCENE

If, we look at the National events of the last year, the main events are: terrorist attacks on Nagrota army base, IAF base in Pathankot and other parts of Jammu & Kashmir i.e. Uri, Pampore, Baramulla, Handwara, Shopian and Zakura etc., surgical strike by Indian forces on terrorists' camps in POK, demonetization of Rs. 1000 Rs. 500 notes, Singhashta Kumbh fair at Ujjain, acceptance of the recommendations of 7th Pay Commission by the Government, launching of PSLV-XL carrying 20 satellites in space by ISRO, launching of RLV-TD vehicle by ISRO, violence in Karnataka over Kaveri river dispute, arrest of former World Billiard Champion Michael Farreira, sacking of Cyrus Mistry as Chairman of the Tata sons, winter session of Parliament ends with almost no debate, family feud in Samajwadi Party, unrest in Manipur over declaration of new districts, imposition of liquor ban in Bihar, Supreme Court bans liquor on national & state highways, formation of BJP governments in North Eastern states of Assam and Arunachal Pradesh, retaining of power by TMC in West Bengal & AIADMK in Tamil Nadu and comeback of Congress in Puducherry, order of Supreme Court to cinemas to play National Anthem before start of films, arrest of former IAF Chief in Westland Helicopter bribery scandal, repeated incidents of jail breaks; were the other important events of the year.

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INTERNATIONAL SCENE

On international scene election of Shri Donald Trump to the post US President, Phillipines wins arbitration case regarding legality of 'Nine Dash Line' claim over South China Sea, U.K. votes to leave European Union, Maldives announces to withdraw from Common Wealth Nations, terrorist attacks in Brussels (Belgium), France & Australia, suicide blast in Iqbal Park in Lahore (Pakistan), killings of innocent people particularly women, minor girls and children in Syria, Iraq & Afghanistan by the terrorists of ISIS, repeated incidents of unprovoked firing & infiltration of terrorists by Pakistani army into Indian Territory were the main issues of the last year.

The year 2017 will pose challenges for bank employees on the following issues:-

1) Threat of Merger of Public Sector Banks: We are observing that merger of Public Sector Banks has become a pet subject of the Government. Public Sector Banks are strong enough and gaining strength day by day as we observe that the profit of Public Sector Banks has grown every year during the last 10 years.

The mergers of Public Sector Banks will lead to cross merger of the branches and will also pave the way for staff redundancy. Moreover, after merger of banks the bigger entities will become more vulnerable to maneuvering by foreign investors as they will be able to take control of substantial part of our economy through lesser number of maneuvers. The mergers of banks in no way will help the country, the banks, its employees and the customers as well.

2) Unwarranted Economic Reforms: The efforts are being continued and intensified by the Government of India to dilute public sector banking, further liberalise public sector banks, encourage private sector and foreign banks, opening banking sector to more and more private and foreign capital in the name of economic reforms. Licences are given to corporate sector to open their own banks. All these measures are detrimental to the interest of Public Sector Banks in particular and banking industry in general.

2) Customer Service: Today bank employees are under attack from various sections of the society. The rumors have been spread that the bank employees do not care for the work while this is not the fact. The Public Sector Bank employees have shown this by their working during the period of demonetization of notes. Moreover, we request all our members to be more courteous and friendly to the customers.

3) 11th Wage Revision: You all are aware that our wage revision is becoming due on 1st November 2017. Our national organization NCBE has already finalized its charter of demands. Very shortly a common charter of demands will be finalized and submitted to the IBA by all the negotiating unions separately for the workmen and the officers. The demands to be raised by the negotiating unions after the acceptance of recommendations of 7th Pay Commission by the government; is not going to be an easy task to achieve. There is need of sustained struggle ahead to achieve Wage Revision in parity with 7th Pay Commission..

In the year to come we have to face a lot of problems and challenges. Bank employees/officers need to fight for their very existence also. The need of the hour is to face the challenges in our path unitedly. So let us resolve that we all will face all the challenges unitedly under the banner of UFBU.

We appeal for mass struggle with high spirit against all the odds in our path, since it is the only key to success. **We are sure to be crowned with success when we fight without any respite.**

With revolutionary greetings,

Yours comradely,

- 1. Limit of Interest Free Festival Advance revised to Rs.25000 & Rs.30000 for Sub-staff & Clerks respectively.**
- 2. Bank has extended the facility of 'Memento on Retirement' to employees opting for VRS under Regulation 29 of Pension Regulations.**

Yours comradely,

(R. K. Sharma)
General Secretary