



ALL INDIA PNB STAFF FEDERATION

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

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ALL GOOD WISHES FOR THE NEW YEAR 2018

We are at the threshold of New Year 2018. We greet the nation and entire fraternity of Punjab National Bank "A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR 2018". As we bid adieu to 2017, we take a quick look at the most crucial happenings, decisions and discourses that took centre stage in the world's largest democracy. We also need to do a lot of soul searching, if we really expect this New Year 2018 to be happy for all of us.

HOMAGE

During the last year, we lost prominent personalities like former Chief Minister of M.P. Shri Sunder Lal Patwa, former Chief Minister of Sikkim Shri Nar Bahadur Bhandari, former Chief Minister of Karnataka Shri Dharam Singh, former Chief Minister of Punjab Shri Surjit Singh Barnala, former Chief Minister of Manipur Shri Rishang Keishing, former Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Shri Girish Chandra Saxena, former Speaker of Lok Sabha Shri Rabi Ray, former Chief Justice of India Shri P.N. Bhagwati, former ISRO Chairman Shri U.R. Rao, former DGP of Punjab Shri K.P.S. Gill, Union Environment Minister Shri Anil Madhav Dave, former Chief Justice of India Shri Altamas Kabir, Air Chief Marshal Shri Arjan Singh, former Union Ministers Shri Sanwar Lal Jat and Shri P. Shiv Shankar, Thumri Queen Ms Girija Devi, famous actors Shri Shashi Kapoor and Shri Vinod Khanna, actress Ms Reema Lagoo 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 and other parts of the country and all others who lost their lives due to natural calamities.

NATIONAL SCENE

If, we look at the National events of the last year, a bustling economy recuperating from the far reaching effects of the demonetization, the much contested Goods and Service Tax (GST) was rolled out on 1st July 2017, replacing multiple taxes levied by the governments. With intense political debates & parliamentary deliberations threatening its implementation for months, the tax reform was finally set in motion. Shri Ram Nath Kovind of BJP took office of the 14th President of India from Shri Pranab Mukherjee. Shri Kovind defeated Smt. Meira Kumar of Congress who also formerly held the chair of Lok Sabha Speaker. Shri Venkaih Naidu of BJP elected as 13th Vice President overpowering Shri Gopal Krishna Gandhi of the opposition. BJP wrested power in Uttar Pradesh, Uttrakhand, Manipur & Himachal and retained its governments in Goa and Gujarat while Congress wrested Punjab. Lok Sabha passed Triple Talaq Bill, India exposed Pakistan internationally in Kul Bhushan Jadhav's case, rise of three youngsters in Gujarat politics, Film Censor Board finally cleared controversial film 'Padmavati' with changed title 'Padmavat', India successfully tested its Defence Supersonic Interceptor Missile, Palestine withdrawn its envoy to Pakistan Shri Walid Abu Ali for sharing stage with Hafiz Saeed in Rawalpindi, election of Shri Rahul Gandhi as Congress President, launch of Paytm Payment Bank, India's diplomatic victory in Doklam dispute with China, successful surgical strike by Indian Army in POK, operation 'All Out' by security forces in J&K, announcement of floating a new political party by actor Rajnikant in Tamil Nadu, Miss World 2017 Crown to Ms Manushi Chhillar of India, remarkable performances by Indian Men Cricket Team, Indian Women Hockey Team, Indian Women Cricket Team and by Ms P.V. Sindhu in Bdminton, by Ms M.C. Mary Kom in Women Boxing, etc. were the main events of the year.

INTERNATIONAL SCENE

The year 2017 will go down in history as a year that saw many significant developments across the globe. While the United States elected its 45th President, North Korea's President Kim Jong-un secretly acquired more nuclear weapons. Even as heated feuds continued around global warming, the Rohingya Muslims, deemed to be world's most persecuted community, fled from alleged ethnic cleansing in Myanmar.

The year 2018 will pose challenges for Indian Banks and their employees on the following issues:-

1) Growing Non Performing Assets (NPAs): The huge Non Performing Assets (NPAs) are affecting the profitability of Public Sector Banks. NPAs are eating the profits of the banks on the one hand and on the other hand settlements of loans through negotiations are affecting permanent assets of the banks. The unions are continuously asking the government for adopting stringent measures including suitable enactment to make willful defaults a criminal offence but the government has not yet taken concrete steps for booking the willful defaulters through a speedy legal system. The unions will continue to mount pressure on the bank managements and the government for recovery of public money from the looters.

2) 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 PSBs is growing every year. 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.

3) Unwarranted Economic Reforms: Despite the opposition from Trade Unions in the banking industry, the efforts are being continued and intensified by the Government of India to dilute public sector banking, further liberalize 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.

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

5) 11th Wage Revision: You all are aware that our wage revision has become due on 1st November 2017. But so far nothing fruitful has come out as the IBA has not made any offer for wage increase. The attitude of IBA/Government is very disgusting. The last meeting of IBA's negotiating committee was held on 27th October 2017 wherein unions were assured that the IBA would hold the next meeting shortly and come out with their offer but we have not heard anything from them so far. It is not going to be an easy task to achieve the demands raised by the unions in their charter of demands. There is a need of sustained struggle ahead to achieve 11th Wage Revision.

In the year to come we have to face a lot of problems and challenges. Bank employees and 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,



(R. K. Sharma)
General Secretary