

UCO BANK EMPLOYEES' ASSOCIATION



(Registration No.795 & Registered under Indian Trade Union's Act)

[Affiliated to Bank Employees Federation of India]

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Circular No.16/2024

26.06.2024

To All Members

Dear Comrades,

General Council Meeting of BEFI

We reproduce hereunder the full text of Circular No.18/2024 dated 25.06.2024, issued by General Secretary, Bank Employees Federation of India, for your information and necessary action.

The General Council meeting held at Bhubaneswar, Odisha on 22nd & 23rd June 2024, dealt with many important organisational issues etc., and some decisions were taken in the light of present situation and our task viz. State Level Dharna on certain issues, Trade Union workshop, Youth Summit 2024, National Workshop for organising Temporary Employees, Observe 55th Bank Nationalisation Day, Further Action Point on 12th BPS.

Besides, it has also decided to hold different organisational meeting, in consideration, which are elaborately described in the Circular.

With Warm Greetings,

Comradely yours,

(Prakash Chandra Roy)
General Secretary

Full Text of Circular No.18/2024 of BEFI dt. 25.06.2024

Quote

A meeting of the General Council of BEFI was held at Bhubaneswar on 22-23 June 2024. The meeting was preceded by a Office Bearers meeting. After considerable period a National level meeting of BEFI was held in the State of Odisha.

At the beginning, Welcome Address was delivered by Com Prakash Chandra Ray, President of the host unit while Vote of Thanks was extended at the end by Com Trinath Sahu, General Secretary of the host unit. The GC meeting was greeted by Com P Sadasivan Pillai, ex-President of BEFI. The General Council meeting congratulated All Odisha Bank Employees Federation for hosting the meeting in a nice manner by extending warm hospitality even in late night and early morning.

Both the meetings, Office Bearers as well as General Council, were presided over by Com S S Anil, President of our Federation.

The meeting observed silence in memory of Com Priyadarshini Mohanty, a member of the General Council who passed away during the period. The meeting paid homage to the Indian migrant Workers who died in fire outbreak in a high rise building in Kuwait; passengers who lost their lives in recent train accident in North Bengal; people died of consuming poisonous liquor in Tamilnadu; poll personnel and marginal people expired due to unprecedented heat waves in the country.

The GC meeting dealt many important issues, based on the agenda note placed after the OB meeting. The GC members expressed their views and put valuable suggestions. After threadbare discussion, many decisions were taken which are mentioned herein below.

Present Situation and our task: The meeting discussed about the recently concluded General Election 2024. This time, unlike the last two Elections in 2019 and 2024, a coalition government has been formed at the Centre instead of a one-party rule. It is also a matter of relief that the opposition contested the election with more unity and thus could increase their seats to a large extent. Though the number of left members in the Lok Sabha have marginally increased but not upto the expectation which is a matter of concern. Such

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outcome in the Election is the reflection of relentless country wide movements of the workers and peasantry during the last 5 years against detrimental policies, braving all impediments and hurdles. The meeting expressed that there is no scope of complacency with formation of a coalition government as it is apprehended that efforts for pursuing the pro corporate policies will be continued in future. We should intensify our movement against the neo liberal policies.

Meeting of Office Bearers of State Federations: The meeting reviewed the meetings of the office bearers of our state Federations in presence of BEFI Office Bearers to discuss Organisation as per decision of our National Conference. It was reiterated that the pending meetings to be completed latest within 30 Sep 2024 where such meetings are yet to be held. In those states where meetings were held in 2023, another such meeting is to be held within 30 Nov 2024.

Meeting of Office Bearers of all India Affiliates: The meeting reiterated that meetings of the Office Bearers of bank level all India Federations/Unions in presence of BEFI Office Bearers to discuss Organisation should be completed latest within 30 Sep 2024.

State level Dharna: The General Council meeting decided to hold state level Dharna on the issues pertaining to the banking industry on the following issues.

- Adequate recruitment in banks
- Stop outsourcing
- Absorb temporary workers
- Ensure better customer service
- Reduce service charges for retail customers.

Apart from these issues, the State Federations are at liberty to include state specific issue, if any, and/or other relevant issues. The GC meeting suggested the All India bank level Unions/Federations to consider of holding such Dharna including bank specific issues.

Annual Fee: The GC meeting proposed to all our Units and Affiliates to remit Annual Fee for the year 2023 and earlier dues, along with bank/state wise number of members, within 31 July 2024 to the Headquarters.

State Conferences: Due to Covid pandemic and Amalgamation of PSBs, most of the State Conferences were delayed. The GC meeting considered that all the State Conferences should be held positively as per periodicity enumerated in the Constitution of the respective State once it becomes due.

Bipartite Levy: The GC meeting discussed about collection of Levy on arrear salary of 12th Bipartite Settlement by different state Federations and bank level Federations/Unions. The meeting advised all concerned to complete collection of Levy at the earliest as per rate decided by BEFI.

Trade Union Workshop: The meeting reviewed the Trade Union workshop held centrally in New Delhi on 10-11 Feb 2024 in which 43 comrades participated from different states. It was suggested that all our Units and Affiliates should work out for holding TU workshops/camps at different places. The GC meeting advised that in every state and bank, such TU workshops/camps to be held within 31 Dec 2024.

Youth Summit 2024: The GC meeting decided to hold a Youth Summit with young comrades as per discussion of BEFI OB meeting held in Jan 2024. The meeting decided that a Youth Summit will be held at Bengaluru on 24th Nov 2024 with participants from different states. Details of the Summit will be communicated to the state Federations shortly.

BEFI News: With Subscription period of two years expiring in 2024, the subscription is to be renewed with effect from Jan 2025 issue. The GC meeting decided the state wise quota for the next two years. The rate of 2-year Subscription will remain unchanged, Rs 200. All Subscription Forms, provided to the State Federations in the meeting and to be printed in next 2 issues of BEFI News, are to be sent to Headquarters through respective State Federations within 31 Oct 2024.

BEFI News Sub Committee have decided to seek feedback from the subscribers through a Feedback Form to be printed in the Journal. The GC meeting advised the State Federations to take necessary initiatives so that the subscribers send their feedbacks accordingly.

It is further suggested that Reports and Photographs of organisational activities conducted in the states be sent promptly to the E-mail of BEFI News (befinews@gmail.com).

Membership: The GC meeting after discussion called upon all Units and Affiliates to take necessary initiatives to increase membership by at least 10% than those on 30 June 2024 within 31 Dec 2024.

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Temporary Employees: The 11th National Conference gave clarion call to organise the temporary employees engaged in bank jobs in different forms. The GC meeting decided to hold a National Workshop with representatives from the Units and Affiliates to develop a common understanding and chalk out plans for further progress.

Cooperative banking sector: With BJP-led coalition government at the Centre, the continuous attack on the Cooperative sector including Cooperative banking sector is expected to continue. The GC meeting decided to intensify our initiative for building a strong Cooperative movement in the country.

Social Media Team: The GC meeting considered to make the social media team to be more pro-active. The meeting reiterated that State Federations should also form such Team with young comrades.

Bank Nationalisation Day: The GC meeting decided to observe the 55th Anniversary of Bank Nationalisation Day, falling on 19 July 2024 by poster displaying and badge wearing. The meeting called upon the Units and Affiliates to observe the day befittingly throughout the nation by organizing gate meetings, branch/circle/zonal/state level meetings, seminars and other suitable programme. Specimen poster, badge will be sent shortly.

Women Sub Committee: After Office bearers meeting, a meeting of the all India Women sub-committee was held on 22 June 2024 which was also attended by other General Council members. The meeting was presided by Com. Vinitha P H, Joint Secretary of BEFI. Com. Urmila Tirkey from Odisha welcomed the gathering. Members of the Sub Committee deliberated on the agenda note presented by Com. Rajithamol K K, Convenor. The issues and trauma faced after the amalgamation of banks and the revival of our units were deliberated, critical of the central government which is hell bent to further merge and privatise the PSBs. The role of BEFI in highlighting and addressing the women issues in 12th Bipartite were appreciated by the participants and it was also felt that most of the women comrades were not fully aware of the Bi-partite negotiation details and it was decided to meet the women comrades and to enlighten them of the details. It was also felt that while more women comrades are leading members in State Leadership, a serious exercise should be taken at national level also to bring more women comrades in the leadership. General Secretary in his address, explained how far BEFI intervened during Bi-partite negotiations. It was decided to take initiative to involve women comrades in union activities and for periodic meetings of the Women Sub committee. While 80% of members have joined bank after 2010, they should be involved in Trade Union activities and different Women sub committees are essential parts of that movement. It can be reviewed in the General Council to be held in early part of 2025. The Convener while summing up insisted for formation of women sub committees in NER and Telangana which are having more than 100 women members and suggested to BEFI for holding a workshop of women.

12th Bipartite Settlement: The GC meeting, with open mind, self critically analysed the 12th Bipartite Settlement signed on 8 March 2024. The meeting felt that with robust operating profits taking all the banks as a whole and net profit setting new record, the bank employees deserved more than offered by the IBA. It was also discussed that the enhancement of duties and responsibilities proposed by the Sub Committee was disproportionate. Further, with acute shortage of workmen staff in the branches/offices, it was apprehended that workload will be further increased. The meeting opined to expedite introduction of 5-day week without further delay. A minutes on the Residual Issues was also signed on 8 March 2024. With discussion on PLI and Medical Insurance have started, the GC meeting expressed that rest of the issues are required to be discussed and settled within the time as agreed. The meeting further suggested that BEFI should endeavour for scrapping of NPS and extension of OPS to all, including for pension updation.

Resolutions: The GC meeting adopted 2 Resolutions unanimously:

1. Demanding implementation of 11th and 12th Bipartite Settlement In CSB Bank;
2. Immediate implementation of 12th Bipartite Settlement and 9th Joint Note for RRB employees and officers.

CC Meeting: The OB meeting held on 22 June 2024 decided to hold CC meeting of BEFI on 28-29 Sep 2024 at Lucknow.

GC Meeting: The GC meeting at Bhubaneswar decided to hold the next GC meeting at Patna in February-March 2025.

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