BANK OF BARODA RETIRED OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION
(Estd. 1990-Regd. Trade Union Act. 1926 Reg. No. G/4766/90)
Affiliated to: All India Bank Pensioners and Retirees Confederation, Kolkata
CHAIRMAN
Shri V. T. Makwana
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National President: Shri J. G. Lakhawala, (M) +91-9825917351, jagdish_lakhawala@yahoo.com
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General Secretary: Shri V. B. Chavan, (M) +91-9823063347, vbc_pune@yahoo.com

BOBROA/26/04/02 **03.04.2026**

CIRCULAR TO MEMBERS

Dear Members,

Sub.: Inaugural Session - 8th Quadrennial Conference held at Vadodara on 17th March, 2026

We are happy to inform you that the inaugural function of the 8th Quadrennial Conference of BOBROA was held on 17th March 2026 at Baroda in the presence of eminent dignitaries, including Shri K. V. Acharya, President AIBPARC; Shri Suprita Sarkar, General Secretary AIBPARC; Shri Shailendra Singh, CGM (HRM & Mktg.), Bank of Baroda; Shri R. K. Chatterjee, President AIBOBOA; Shri Prem Makker, General Secretary AIBOBOA; Shri Priya Kumar, DGM (HRM – TB, HRCPC & Med. Ins.); Shri Mehul Dave, DGM & RH, Bank of Baroda, Baroda City Region; Shri Ashok Nana Shinde, former Secretary General of BOBSCSTEWA; representatives of various trade unions; and 320 delegates and members of the host zone.

The programme commenced with a prayer, followed by lighting of the ceremonial lamp and garlanding of the portrait of HH Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III, the founder of the Bank. The dignitaries were warmly welcomed and felicitated with floral greetings. The occasion also marked the 37th Foundation Day of BOBROA and the 98th birthday of its revered founder member, former long-time General Secretary and current Chairman, Shri V. T. Makwana, which was celebrated with exchange of greetings and cake cutting. The house paid homage to late Shri K. L. Bansal our National President and other members who passed away from 7th Quadrennial Conference and till date, and observed a two-minute silence in their memory.

Shri Jatil Patel, Executive President, in his opening remarks highlighted the significance of the 8th Quadrennial Conference coinciding with 37 years of the organisation's eventful journey and its growth to over 15,300 members. He fondly recalled memories of the Jodhpur Conference, which was addressed by Shri K. V. Acharya. He extended a warm welcome to the distinguished guests, special invitees, and delegates in the presence of industry stalwarts.

Shri J. G. Lakhawala, General Secretary, in his address stated that the organisation was established on 17th March 1990 under the leadership of Shri V. T. Makwana with the objective of providing a common platform for retired officers to connect and collectively take up their issues with the Bank. He reviewed the steady growth of membership across the country, which has now crossed 15,000, with a live membership of 14,184 including over 2,600 family pensioners. He outlined the organisation's wide-ranging activities through its 12 zonal units, including membership mobilisation, member engagement, grievance redressal, honouring super senior members, social initiatives, and charitable contributions.

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He further explained that the association's primary financial resources are derived from one-time membership fees and voluntary contributions. While acknowledging the welfare measures extended by the Bank, he highlighted certain pending issues such as preferential ROI on Association' deposits and difficulties faced by members in recovery under the furniture buy-back scheme. He also mentioned that issues like DA anomalies and notional addition of five years were resolved through legal recourse, while others such as 100% DA neutralisation and improvements in family pension were achieved through negotiations by AIBPARC and UFBU. He expressed gratitude for these efforts and emphasized the need to continue pursuing key demands including pension updation, inclusion of special allowance for terminal benefits, and restoration of commutation after 10 years.

He also elaborated on the communication channels adopted by the association, including email, WhatsApp groups, and e-publications, and thanked all dignitaries for their continued support and efforts in resolving issues of retirees.

Shri Suprita Sarkar, General Secretary of AIBPARC, expressed his happiness in addressing the gathering and reiterated AIBPARC's transparent and consistent efforts in taking up retirees' issues with DFS, IBA, and UFBU. He emphasized that pension updation should be on the lines of RBI and justified this demand by citing provisions under Regulation 35(1) and 56 of the Bank Employees' Pension Regulations, 1995, amendments made in 2003, relevant provisions of the Industrial Disputes Act, 1947, and precedents of pension updation granted to retirees of RBI, NABARD, and the Government. He highlighted that while top bank executives receive periodic updation, bank retirees have been waiting for over three decades.

He further explained in a lucid manner the differing perspectives of IBA and the Government, AIBPARC's stand, and the expectations of retirees, bringing out clearly how the issue has remained pending for nearly 30 years. He also referred to the M. C. Singla case, supported by AIBPARC affiliate ARISE, which is currently at an advanced stage of hearing, and expressed hope for a favourable outcome. Additionally, he elaborated on the issue of Special Allowance introduced in the 2015 wage settlement and its adverse impact on terminal benefits, noting that related cases are being transferred to the Delhi High Court in accordance with the directions of the Supreme Court.

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Shri Shailendra Singh, CGM, Bank of Baroda, acknowledged the invaluable contribution of retirees in building the Bank and assured that they continue to hold a special place in the institution, maintaining a lifelong bond with it. He emphasized that although retirees are formally separated, they remain an integral part of the Bank's legacy and serve as a guiding force. He conveyed that the Bank's doors and hearts remain open to this extended family and reaffirmed its lifelong commitment to the welfare of retired employees.

On behalf of the Bank's leadership, he assured that issues relating to the rate of interest (ROI) on BOBROA deposits and the medical insurance scheme would be addressed on priority. He stressed that retirees are not separate from the Bank and reiterated the institution's commitment to resolving their concerns. He appreciated the technological and cultural transformation of the Bank over time and spoke about the changing demographics, mind-set, and expectations of younger bankers, emphasizing the need for their proper nurturing and grooming.

He also advised that interactions should not be adversely affected by technological disruptions or lack of response at times. Further, he assured that issues related to recovery under the furniture buy-back scheme would be resolved expeditiously and highlighted the welfare measures already in place, including medical support for retirees.

Shri R. K. Chatterjee, President AIBOBOA, appreciated the deliberations of Shri Suprita Sarkar & Shailendra Singh giving hopes on redressal of pending issues and recognised BOBROA as a strong platform of over 14000 live members engaged in both organisational and social activities. He said that 47% of bank deposits are from senior citizens, banks made profit of Rs 170 lakh crores, banking is backbone of the economy , money is there however will to give is missing ,contributed more than 35 lakh crores as dividends, only lip sympathy from ministries extended He observed that large number of delegates are participating in this conference who are close to us as seniors, elders & mentors Everyone is looking to IBA a third eye telling lies to Govt. and misleading courts though it is manned by PSB management He hailed social activities of the organisation He stressed the importance of unity, sustained struggle, and collective action to achieve long-pending demands, advocated to have agitations ,fight for rights as required in democratic country . He further advised members to remain active, maintain health, adapt to changing social dynamics, not to worry- look after your own health, keep writing to maintain mental quotient, keep yourself away from too much screen, remain active, move around & eat simple food . He assured continued support in pursuing retirees' issues.

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Shri Mehul Dave, DGM, Bank of Baroda, appreciated the presence of leaders from retirees' and serving employees' organisations along with bank executives and conveyed his best wishes for the success of the conference.

Shri K. V. Acharya, President, AIBPARC, in his address described the conference as a grand conclave and a matter of great experience, honour, and celebration for all. He stated that BOBROA's affiliation with AIBPARC in January 2024 has further strengthened the apex body and termed it a wise and timely decision. He highly appreciated Shri V. T. Makwana for effectively leading the organisation over the years and praised his clarity of thought, confidence, and ability to keep the organisational spirit high. Referring to the pension agreement of 1993, he termed it a landmark achievement for bank retirees, but expressed concern over continuing discrimination and emphasized the need for equal treatment without "panty bed." He pointed out that pension updation has been granted to retirees of RBI and NABARD, as well as to government employees through successive pay commissions, while bank retirees continue to be deprived. He noted that earlier bank officers enjoyed higher pay parity compared to government officers, which has now reversed. He asserted that clear provisions for pension updation exist under Regulations 35(1) and 56 of BEPR 1995, along with amendments made in 2003, but these are being contested by IBA and the Government. He informed that during a delegation meeting, the Finance Minister had directed IBA to discuss pension updation with us and relevant regulatory provisions were highlighted; however, IBA has not changed its stance due to its affidavit submitted before the Supreme Court. He further mentioned that the Ministry of Finance had given an incorrect reply in Parliament stating that no provision exists for pension updation in BEPR 1995, to which AIBPARC has submitted a detailed rebuttal citing established provisions. Addressing concerns about the adequacy of pension funds, he clarified that the existing corpus of over Rs. 4.25 lakh crore is sufficient for pension updation and emphasized that banks have a statutory responsibility to adequately fund pension liabilities. He also explained that Regulation 56 provides for reference to Central Civil Services Pension Rules in case of inconsistencies and stressed that bank employees, as "financial warriors," deserve parity with government employees. He further informed that the Supreme Court has sought submission of period-wise data in the pension updation matter and the case is expected to be heard shortly. He referred to the Senior Citizen Litigation Policy, financial support extended by ARISE (an AIBPARC affiliate) for legal expenses, ongoing cases relating to Special Allowance, and developments such as the Kerala High Court GST case. Concluding his address, he emphasized that sustained struggle and collective sacrifice will ultimately lead to success and urged members to keep their fighting spirit strong.

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A presentation on health insurance products for senior citizens was made by the NivaBupa team. The dignitaries were introduced by Shri Sunil Padhye, Shri Ketan Dave and Shri Vipul Buch. The proceedings of the event was anchored by DGS Shri Ketan Dave, The inaugural session concluded with a vote of thanks proposed by Shri T. K. Balasubramanian, Joint General Secretary.

We will communicate you on discussions in GC & GB meetings shortly.

With Regards

Yours fraternally,

V B Chavan
General Secretary
BOBROA