



ALL INDIA BANK OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

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TO
ALL UNITS / STATE COMMITTEES

Dear Comrades,

LONG TRAVEL OF FIVE MAGIC LETTERS - AIBEA.

40 years back, on the same date, we lost one of precious jewel of the middle class Trade Union movement of the Country, Com.H.L.Parvana, In the words of Com.Prabhat Kar..

".....He was the life and soul of AIBEA centre. His dedication to the cause and thoroughness of minutest details are unparalleled. In every dimension of work of AIBEA, he was indispensable. In movement, in agitation, in campaign, in negotiations, in settling differences and solving problems his unique contribution was visible. As an agitator, organiser, as a leader conversant with every sphere of Trade union movement, his imprint was distinct. He was a comrade with clarity, with vision and a comrade who never knew tiredness."

We pay our respectful homage to the great son of India, who stood taller by his contribution to the society at large and to the nation through strengthening the Public Sector Banking concept. He was **dismissed** from bank's service for organising the trade union in Punjab National Bank. He was the one who had unique distinction of remembrance and respect from all sections of the society, that the newspapers of Delhi was not published on 19th April,1975,as a mark of respect, next to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, the Prime Minister of the Country in 1964.

"The trade union is an instrument for social Change", saying by the architect of alternative model of governance by the class struggles. This expressions aptly suits to long travel of the five magic letters of middle class trade union organisation of the Bankmen of our nation VIZ; AIBEA. There is certainly a need to look back to the history to understand the path traversed by the great movement from various circumstances.

ROME WAS NOT BUILT OVER NIGHT BUT BRICK BY BRICK: The colonial rule established through trade and commerce, by the East India Company, led to the establishment of Banks in India, which also attracted individual Indians to establish the Banks. In the international arena, the Great October Revolution in

Soviet Russia in 1917, sparked the fire for initiating independence struggles. The first and foremost trade union organisation in pre independent India was established in October 1920, the AITUC, was a milestone in the advancement of Trade union, an inspiration instilled in the young minds. The Quit India Movement, the naval mutiny and also the freedom struggles were the stepping stones for the foundation of AIBEA.

In this background, unable to bear the brunt and inhuman behaviour of Bank Managements in various parts of the country, to secure the job security with dignity, the first trade union of Bankmen was founded on **20th April, 1946**, in the colonial control. The birth place was naturally Bengal, which produced nobel men and women for the betterment of our dear Nation. Com. Prabhat Kar, who took all the pains to organise the

Bank employees in the State of Bengal, was an employee of The Llyods Bank Ltd. For upholding the values and also protest against wrong application of law to deny the reasonable wages to the workforce in Central Bank of India, a solidarity strike call was given by the Bengal State Federation under his leadership led to his **dismissal** from bank service. He took all the pains to organise the bankmen by his organisational tours continuously. In the year 1953, he took the reins of the bankmen movement, as the General Secretary of AIBEA, effectively led and powerfully presented the arguments before the tribunals. During the two decades of journey from 1946 to 1966, the various forms of struggles launched by him inside the courts and outside in the streets, won the right of negotiation through bilateral agreements. First and Second bilateral settlements in 1966 and 1970 were of significant in nature and contents. The role played by the TWINS **Com. Prabhat kar and Com. H.L. Parvana** in the Bank Nationalisation struggle led to the division in the ruling party and also tremendous capacity to repulse back when the powerful lobby of Industrialists opposed the Bank Nationalisation through legal recourse. Not only extended organisational support to realise the demand for the Welfare of the nation through Nationalisation, but also ensured workers participation in th Banks Board by an innovative idea at that point of time.

During the emergency time, the target of attack was on AIBEA and its leadership by the adversaries within and also by the Government too. He withstood along with Com. D.P. Chadha, one more captain added to the list of leaders par excellence. It was in the post emergency period, to realise the demand of wage revision, an indefinite strike call in January 1979 was given during the Janata Party Government. All the operating unions in the Industry were to plunge into action, but the then AICOBBO backtracked. It was the part of deceptive game backed up by the Government. Not deterred by the sudden turn of events, one day prior to the indefinite call, a settlement was clinched, by Com. Prabhat kar with the help of late Mohan Dharia.

In the 1980 Conference held at Allahabad, saw emergence of another towering personality Com. Tarakeswar Chakraborti as General Secretary of AIBEA to lead the movement from 1980 to 2003. Fourth Bipartite settlement was signed on 16th September, 1984 without even a day's strike in the Industry. That was the sharp tactics of the leaders who were heading the movement.

THE NEED TO ORGANISE THE OFFICERS WAS FELT AND REALISED: Whether AIBEA acted as a splitter ? The answer is NO. To develop the militancy coupled with the working relationship with workmen, AIBOA was founded, which

Government and Managements never wanted. The fundamental principle is **“working together works”**. Com.Prabhatda was a really a visionary leader, par excellence. The birth of AIBOA was the brainchild of Com.Prabhat Kar, who was the founder President of AIBOA. He ensured that AIBOA enters the negotiation table by submitting the first charter of demands on 26th June 1984. The joint strike call of AIBEA and AIBOA brought the benefit of first joint note on officers wage revision in August 1985 in the Industry.

The struggles led to pin point the ills of the Industry right from 1985, publication of defaulters lists and leading Parliament Morcha to draw the attention of the common men of the nation were note worthy. Securing the benefit of **“cradle to grave”** Pension Scheme in the Industry in 1993 and also 2010 to the Bankmen by **AIBEA was fully backed up by AIBOA. It was richly acknowledged by the General Secretary in his Report presented in Jaipur conference in 1996, the role of AIBOA standing firm to thwart the attack of JAC.**

Contributions and achievements of AIBEA in building a fine value based society of Bankmen are worth mentioning. Fighting for Jobs and jobs security has become a perennial issue, right from the date of birth of AIBEA till date.

The powerful and magic five letters attracts the attention of everyone- young and old, poor and rich, employees and the retirees, and Government and managements.

**The journey continues..... Caravan walks on..... AIBEA..... March on.
AIBOA expresses best of memories and wishes on the
70th Founding Day of AIBEA,**



GENERAL SECRETARY