

OFFICERS' CAUSE APRIL -2024



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All India State Bank Officers' Federation**



UNION IS STRENGTH

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Editorial

**FROM VISION TO VICTORY
BUILDING A BRIGHTER FUTURE FOR BANK OFFICERS
AISBOF COMMENDS THE SUCCESS OF THE 9TH JOINT NOTE**



In a significant milestone for the banking community, we proudly acknowledge the remarkable achievements led by our apex body, the All-India Bank Officers' Confederation (AIBOC). The recent signing of the 9th Joint Note on March 8, 2024, after year-long spirited negotiations with the Indian Banks' Association, marks a significant step forward for prosperity and welfare of over 3 lakh bank officers across the country.



NATION FIRST, ORGANISATION NEXT, INDIVIDUAL LAST



The undersigned has been a witness to the commendable dedication of Comrade Rupam Roy. Despite personal sacrifices, including missed family moments and the inability to be present during times of personal loss, Comrade Roy's untiring commitment to the success of the wage revision speaks volumes of his devotion and resilience. We have also witnessed Comrade Roy's exceptional ability to strike a balance with other constituents of UFBU without losing sight of the issues concerning the officers' fraternity. His leadership has been unparalleled, and we are proud to stand behind him as the largest affiliate of AIBOC.

AISBOF had the privilege to support AIBOC's

efforts by providing office space for their secretarial team at our Sion Guest House, Mumbai. This venue became the crucible where strategies were forged, and negotiations were honed. There, we were privy to the tireless efforts of the AIBOC Secretariat team, from late-night deliberations to sacrificing weekends and personal time, their dedication has been both humbling and inspiring. We commend the State Bankers who were part of the secretariat team – namely, Com. Amaresh Vikramaditya, Patna Circle; Com. Rajesh S, Kerala Circle; Com. Priyvratt, Chandigarh Circle; Com. Prabir Sorkhel, Bengal Circle; Com. Suraj Pradhan, Guwahati Circle; and Com. Animesh Das, Guwahati Circle.



AIBOC Secretariat Team with the President & GS of AIBOC and GS AISBOF

Within our Federation, the General Secretaries and Presidents of different affiliates provided invaluable support whenever needed. Special acknowledgment goes to the Mumbai Metro Circle team, who consistently offered logistical and functional support to the entire team. We wholeheartedly thank the Mumbai Metro Circle team - erstwhile General Secretary Com. Manohar Devrukhkar, current General Secretary Com. Mohan Gohil, President Com. Padmakar Talvadekar, and their team members. We are also thankful to our Sion guest house staff who played an important role in facilitating the food and stay arrangements for the team throughout the year.



Team AISBOF with IBA Officials after the signing of 09th Joint Note

SUCCESS AWAITS AT THE DOOR WHERE DILIGENCE IS



We also salute the efforts of other team members from different affiliates of AIBOC who closely collaborated with Com. Rupam Roy. The steady work of the AIBOC team has transformed challenges into opportunities, ensuring that the voice of every officer finds a place in the joint note. The fruits of this hard work are abundant, spanning substantial salary improvements, enhanced service conditions, and revolutionary revisions in leave regulations, among numerous others. The negotiation team's strategic insights have led to a wage revision that not only provides financial upliftment but also promotes healthier work-life equilibrium.

The 09th Joint Note addresses the needs of all officers, with a focus on those requiring additional support. It introduces compassionate measures such as the establishment of a leave bank, extending benefits to officers caring for ill family members or those with specially-abled children. Improvements in leave policies, maternity benefits, and LTC provisions, specifically for specially-abled officers, alongside broadened family definitions and the resolution of fitment anomalies and the introduction of more stagnation increments, underscore a commitment to inclusivity and well-being.

Provisions have been introduced for retired employees for the first time, guaranteeing that the monthly ex-gratia amount will be disbursed to pensioners and family pensioners who became eligible for pension on or before October 31, 2022, including those who retired on that date. While the amount may appear modest, it's important to acknowledge that this development signifies a significant stride towards ensuring regular pension updation with each wage settlement, laying the stepping stone upon which we can pursue further

enhancements.

It's crucial to clarify that our agreement, which paves the way for five-day work week, was signed with full recognition of its importance. The provision for 'all Saturdays as holidays' has been formally recognized in the recent bipartite settlement and joint note. The adjustment to working hours will be executed following the necessary approvals from the government.

In addition to the joint note, we are delighted to share the finalization of a Memorandum of Understanding addressing residual issues, to expedite the resolution of concerns within the officers' fraternity in a timely manner.

As we embrace this new era, it is imperative to recognize the responsibilities that accompanies our achievements. Our role as the backbone of the nation's economy necessitates an even greater commitment to service, integrity, and excellence. This wage revision is a testament to what we can accomplish together as a unified force and should serve as a catalyst for us to serve our beloved nation with renewed passion and dedication.

We extend our gratitude to the President, General Secretary & Working President of AIBOC; leadership of all affiliates, the constituents of UFBU, IBA functionaries, the negotiating team of bank managements, and the Department of Financial Services for their efforts in reaching a successful conclusion to the negotiations along with the five-day work week in the joint note and bipartite settlement.

With comradely regards and best wishes for our continued success. ■

9TH JOINT NOTE ON OFFICERS' WAGE REVISION WAGE SETTLEMENT FOR OFFICERS OF THE BANKING INDUSTRY

Text of AIBOC Circular No. 2024/06, dated 08.03.2024.

WAGE SETTLEMENT FOR OFFICERS OF THE BANKING INDUSTRY

We are pleased to announce the successful conclusion of negotiations between the Indian Banks Association' and the All India Bank Officers' Confederation culminating into signing of the 9th Joint Note on 8th March, 2024.

The new wage settlement entails several benefits aimed at enhancing the overall compensation package for our officers. We believe these provisions not only acknowledge the hard work and dedication of our officers but also serve as a means to attract and retain top talent within the banking industry.

The salient features of the wage negotiations i.e. the 9th Joint Note are as under:

1. **Paving the way for 5-day work week – The Joint Note recognizes all Saturdays as holidays, pending government notification. The revised working hours will be effective after notification by the government.**
2. **Substantial Increase in Salary - The total quantum of wage revision increase (Payslip component) is more than ₹ 8284 crores being the 17% of the cost of Payslip component of establishment expenses of Public Sector Banks.**
3. **The new pay scales have been constructed, after merging Dearness Allowance corresponding to 8088 points and additional load thereon.**
4. **With the applicable load of 3.22% the effective load on the basic pay post-merger of dearness allowance @ 30.38% is 4.20%.**
5. **The long-drawn aspiration of the officers' community for two additional increments for CAIIB (CAIIB Part-II) is achieved.**
6. **Officers who have completed CAIIB (CAIIB Part-II) shall be eligible for two increments w.e.f 01.11.2022.**
7. **Officers shall be eligible for three PQPs instead of two PQPs hitherto. PQP-I - ₹ 1370/- , PQP-II ₹ 3425/- and PQP III- ₹ 5480/-**
8. **The effective load for officers completing CAIIB shall be increased substantially.**
9. **Inter se anomaly on account of additional increment for CAIIB is taken care of.**
10. **Inter se anomaly on account of sanction of PQP has also been taken into account.**
11. **The new scales of pay ranges from ₹ 48480/- to ₹173860/- covering all the scales from Scale I to VII, with effect from 01.11.2022.**
12. **Reworking of the Dearness allowance formula: The conversion factor on account of merger of Dearness Allowances worked out at 0.0549. Instead of being rounded off to 0.05, it is raised to 0.06 extending benefit to serving and retired officers.**
13. **The index for dearness allowance is shifted from 1960=100 series to 2016=100 series resulting into shifting the conversion factor from 0.06 to 0.99 as per 2016=100 series benefitting the officers with enhanced dearness allowance.**
14. **The factor of 0.99 as per 2016=100 series is converted to 1.00 improving the dearness allowance further.**
15. **Thus, there will be additional benefit in percentage terms in dearness allowance as per the agreed changes negotiated above.**

WORK IS WORSHIP , DO YOUR DUTY

16. The Dearness Allowance shall be payable as 1.00 % of 'pay' per percentage point of Index. The DA in the above manner shall be paid for every variation of rise or fall over 123.03 points in the quarterly average of the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers Base 2016=100. 0.01% change in DA on 'pay' for change in every second decimal place of CPI 2016 over 123.03 points.
17. Dearness Relief on pension in the above manner shall be paid half yearly for every variation of rise or fall over 123.03 points in the quarterly average of the All-India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers Base 2016=100.
18. Officers in **JM Grade Scale I** who have moved to scale of pay for MMG Scale II after reaching maximum of the higher scale are presently eligible for five stagnation increments. With effect from 1st November, 2022, these officers shall be eligible for **seven stagnation increments** with frequency of two years each, of which first two shall be ₹ 2680/- each and next five shall be ₹ 2980/- each.
19. Officers in **MMG Scale II** who have moved to Scale of Pay for MMG Scale III after reaching maximum of higher scale are presently eligible for five stagnation increments. With effect from 1st November, 2022 these officers shall be eligible for **seven stagnation increments** with frequency of two years each, of ₹ 2980/- each.
20. Officers in substantive **MMG Scale III** i.e. those who are recruited in or promoted to MMG Scale III are presently eligible for six stagnation increments after reaching maximum of the scale. With effect from 1st November, 2022, these officers shall be eligible for **eight stagnation increments**, with frequency of two years each, of which first four shall be ₹ 2980/- each and next four shall be of ₹ 3360/- each.
21. Officers in **SMG Scale IV** are presently eligible for two stagnation increments. With effect from 1st November, 2022, these officers shall be eligible for **five stagnation increments** after reaching maximum of the scale, with frequency of two years each, of which the first stagnation increment shall be ₹ 3360/- and next four shall be of ₹ 3680/- each.
22. Officers in **SMG Scale V** are presently eligible for one stagnation increment. With effect from 1st November, 2022, these officers shall be eligible for **four stagnation increments** after reaching maximum of the scale, with frequency of two years each of ₹ 4000/- each.
23. Officers in **TEG Scale VI** shall be eligible for **three Stagnation Increments** after reaching maximum of scale, with frequency of two years each, out of which first two shall be of ₹ 4000/- each and the third stagnation shall be of ₹ 4340/-.
24. Officers in **TEG Scale VII** shall be eligible for **three Stagnation Increments** of ₹ 4340/- each, with frequency of two years each after reaching maximum of scale.
25. **Fitment on Promotion - Every Officer on promotion shall be fitted in a higher stage in the new scale of pay with a protection of a minimum differential of one increment in Pay drawn by him/her in the pre-promoted cadre or scale, removing the anomaly in fitment.**
26. The Special Allowance, as percentage of basic pay, carrying the applicable DA thereon, with effect from 01.11.2022 for JMGS I is 26.50%.
27. Disintegration of scales for payment led to higher payment of Special allowance to MMGS II and MMGS III. The Special Allowance, as percentage of basic pay, carrying the applicable DA thereon, with effect from 01.11.2022, for MMGS II and MMGS III is 28.30%.

28. The Special Allowance, as percentage of basic pay, carrying the applicable DA thereon, with effect from 01.11.2022 for SMGS IV and SMGS V is 30.50%.
29. The Special Allowance, as percentage of basic pay, carrying the applicable DA thereon, with effect from 01.11.2022 for Scale VI and Scale VII is 31.50%
30. Fixed Personal Pay has been proportionately increased with applicable DA thereon.
31. House Rent allowance has been increased to 8%, 9% and 10% of pay, in respect to the area of posting.
32. Capital cost on account of HRA increased to 12%, 13.5% and 15%, respectively.
33. The city compensatory allowance (CCA) has been increased to ₹ 1900/- per month and ₹ 2300/- per month based on place of posting.
34. Location Allowance – W.e.f. 01.11.2022 a fixed allowance of ₹ 1200/- p.m. is payable to all Officers posted in areas other than the areas that are eligible for CCA.
35. Deputation allowance - An Officer deputed to serve outside the bank to an organization in a different place other than the present place of posting will be paid deputation allowance @ 7.75% of Pay with a maximum of ₹ 7500/- per month
36. An Officer deputed to another organization at the same place or to the training establishment not owned by the Bank will be paid deputation allowance @ 4% of Pay with a maximum of ₹ 3750/- per month.
37. Upon deputation of an Officer to another office / branch within the same municipal limits/ urban agglomeration, in Metro / Major 'A' Class cities where the distance of such deputation is 20 km and more from the parent branch / office, halting allowance shall be payable.
38. Hill and Fuel allowance for Places with an altitude of 1000 meters and above but less than 1500 meters will be paid @ 2% of Pay subject to a maximum of ₹ 1450 per month.
39. Hill and Fuel allowance for Places with an altitude of 1500 meters and above but less than 3000 meters will be paid @ 2.5% of Pay subject to a maximum of ₹ 1900/- per month
40. Hill and Fuel allowance for Places with an altitude of 3000 meters and above will be paid @ 5% of Pay subject to a maximum of ₹ 3750/- per month
41. Special area allowance is revised as extended to central government employees.
42. Learning allowance has been increased to ₹ 850/- per month plus applicable DA thereon.
43. **Officiating Pay - On and from 01.04.2024 an Officer who is required to officiate in a post in a higher scale for a continuous period of not less than 4 days at a time OR an aggregate of 4 days during a calendar month, shall receive an officiating pay equal to 15% of the Basic pay of the person officiating.**
44. **Officiating pay will be eligible not only for Superannuation benefits, but also for Dearness allowance and House rent allowance.**
45. Mid Academic Transfer allowance has been increased from ₹ 1650/- to ₹ 2500 p.m. per child.
46. Closing allowance has been increased to ₹ 1500 per quarter.
47. Halting allowance has been increased by 50% across the board.

48. For scale I to Scale III, the halting allowance will range from ₹ 1800/- to ₹ 2925/- per day.
49. For scale IV and V, the halting allowance will range from ₹ 2150/- to ₹ 3375/- per day.
50. For scale VI and Scale VII, the halting allowance will range from ₹ 2150/- to ₹ 4050/- per day.
51. Lumpsum compensation on transfer has been increased to ₹ 40000 for Scale I to Scale III.
52. Lumpsum compensation on transfer has been increased to ₹ 50000 for Scale IV and above.
53. Upon transfer, either 15 days lodging & boarding charges or 15 days Halting Allowance shall be paid to all officers, from the date of joining at new place.
54. On and from 1st November, 2022, reimbursement of medical expenses shall be ₹ 13000/- p.a. for Officers in JMG & MMG (Other than SBI).
55. Reimbursement of medical expenses shall be ₹ 15400/- p.a. for Officers in SMG & TEG Scales. (Other than SBI).
56. Definition of Family: The income criterion for the term wholly dependent family member has been increased to ₹ 18,000/- (improved from 12000/-).
57. Physically and mentally challenged children, irrespective of age, shall be construed as dependents even after their marriage, subject to income criteria
58. Officers can now have any two of the parents or parents-in-law as dependents. The employee will have the choice to substitute either of the dependents or both once in a calendar year.
59. Entitlement distance increased to 5500 kms (one way) for officers in JMG-Scale-I, MMG – Scale II & III. For scale IV and above the same will be for 6500 Km (one way).
60. An officer in Junior Management Grade will be entitled to travel by AC 1st class by any train including Premium Trains like Rajdhani/ Shatabdi/ Tejas/ Vande Bharat/ Amrit Bharat, etc. (except luxury trains).
61. Reimbursement of fare by premium trains as mentioned above (except luxury trains) shall be allowed to all officers.
62. Where an officer has applied for LTC/ Leave in advance and has also booked the tickets and the LFC is declined or deferred by the management, the cancellation charges will be reimbursed by the Bank
63. Where an officer has applied for LFC/ leave as per stipulated time and the same is sanctioned and when advance booking of train tickets is not possible, tickets purchased under Tatkal/Premium tatkal will be reimbursed.
64. GST Charges levied on Train Fare shall be over and above the entitlement.
65. In view of prevailing dynamic fare system, the cost of train tickets charged on the date of booking will be reimbursed.
66. LTC / HTC can be availed independently where both husband and wife are working in the same Bank.
67. **Air travel eligibility for travel beyond 500 Kms (reduced from 1000 kms).**
68. Additional reimbursement under LFC for officers working in areas not connected by train.

69. LTC facility shall be allowed for an escort who accompanies an Officer with benchmark disabilities on the journey, subject to certain conditions.
70. A provision will be put in place to record the reason for refusal or postponement of leave by the management.
71. A single male parent can avail sick leave for the sickness of his child of 8 years and below.
72. Employees can avail sick leave for the sickness of their Special Child of 15 years and below for a maximum period of 10 days in a calendar year.
73. **All Women employees shall be allowed to take one day Sick Leave per month without production of medical certificate.**
74. In case of employees of the age of 58 years and above, sick leave may be granted towards hospitalization of the spouse at a centre other than the place of work and for a maximum period of 30 days in a calendar year.
75. An employee shall be granted sick leave at the rate of one month for each year of service subject to a maximum of 720 days during the entire service.
76. In partial modification of Leave Rules, Annexure VI clause 3 of Joint Note dated 11th November, 2020, the following shall be added as Note 3 - "In case of delivery of more than two children in one single delivery, Maternity Leave shall be granted upto 12 months.
77. Employees shall be granted Bereavement Leave on the demise of the family members (spouse, children, parents and parent-in-law) and number of days of such leave shall be decided by each Bank at their level.
78. Officers who are Defence Representatives in departmental enquiries will be granted one day special leave for preparing defence submissions, subject to maximum 10 such leaves.
79. Maternity Leave shall be granted once to a female employee for a maximum period of 9 months, for legally adopting a child who is below one year of age, all other conditions remaining the same.
80. Maternity Leave may be granted for In vitro fertility (IVF) treatment subject to production of medical certificate, within the overall limit of 12 months.
81. **Four Half Day Casual Leaves have been introduced for all employees.**
82. A total of two days of Casual leave may be availed for half a day on 4 occasions in a year out of which 2 occasions would be in the morning and 2 occasions in the afternoon.
83. Casual Leave under the above category can be availed after applying 24 hours in advance.
84. Special maternity leave upto 60 days shall be granted in case of still born or death of the infant within 28 days of birth.
85. **Accumulated privilege leave may be encashed upto 255 days at the time of retirement/upon death of an employee while in service.**
86. **Leave Bank Scheme** - A staff welfare scheme under which provision would be made for voluntary encashment of Privilege Leave by the employees and the monetized value of such leave would be pooled under a Leave Bank system, out of which, special leave would be sanctioned to the employees affected by contingencies who have exhausted all their leaves.

87. All the Banks to evolve and implement a scheme for periodical health checkup of all employees wherever it is not available.
88. All employees shall be allowed reimbursement of ₹ 500 per year towards annual eye check-up
89. A Committee will be formed to review other provisions of NPS in line with Central Government employees viz. regarding the Choice of Fund Schemes and Fund Managers.
90. **An additional amount will be paid as Ex-Gratia per month to all Pensioners.**
91. Monthly ex-gratia amount shall be paid in addition to the pension/family pension paid by the public sector Banks including SBI, to pensioners and family pensioners, who became eligible to draw pension on or before 31st October, 2022 including those who retired on 31.10.2022.
92. Such fixed monthly ex-gratia shall be payable for the month of November, 2022 and onwards during the period 01-11-2022 to 31-10-2027.
93. It has been agreed and already extended the benefit of 100% DA neutralisation for Pre- November 2002 pensioners.
94. Disciplinary & Appeal Regulations and procedure thereof - Comprehensive Guidelines on Discipline & Appeal Regulations will be brought out after mutual discussion within 3 months from the signing of this joint Note.
95. Special compensatory provisions in respect of State Bank of India for certain benefits as mentioned in the joint note, will be reviewed and settled at bank level.

96. LTC Monetisation Scheme covering air fare on the lines of some other Banks in the Industry, will be evolved for all Banks after further deliberations.

Comrades, these are some benefits listed herein. The Joint Note addressed many anomalies with respect to salaries, fitments across the scales, aiming to restore the dignity of officers.

Any achievements or the benefits in the joint note are not only attributable to present negotiations but is also a testament of years of hard work and struggles of AIBOC and its members. We congratulate and thank all our affiliates, past and present leaders, all state units, the AIBOC secretariat team and all the members for having unflinching trust in AIBOC, and for staying united, disciplined and resolute during this entire wage revision exercise. We, thus, dedicate all the achievements of this Joint Note to our dedicated members across the fraternity.

There are certain issues which could not be taken to a logical conclusion in the current exercise till the signing of the joint note, and which have been minutised as residual issues with IBA. These will be further discussed and deliberated upon, for them to become a reality in the days to come.

AIBOC is always determined to achieve the maximum benefits for its members, and we will continue to strive for more. This Joint Note surely heralds a new chapter in our journey, promising a future replete with opportunities for growth, wellbeing, and professional fulfilment. Let us embrace these changes with open arms and continue to strive for excellence in all our endeavours.

More challenges await us as we move forward, yet we are confident that our collective efforts would always lead us to right path.■

Our Unity Zindabad!

FROM DREAM TO REALITY

UNIFORM 50% PENSION FOR ALL SBI PENSIONERS

It is with boundless joy and a profound sense of collective triumph that we share a momentous milestone in our journey at the State Bank of India. Today, we celebrate the fruition of decades-long perseverance, unity, and relentless pursuit for fairness and equality.

A Gazette Notification dated 18th March 2024 has been released notifying State Bank of India Employees' Pension Fund (Amendment) Regulations, 2024, announcing the implementation of a uniform pension rate of 50% of the average monthly substantive salary drawn during the last twelve months for all SBI pensioners, with updated pension effective from 10th November 2023.

This historic regulation amends the State Bank of India Employees' Pension Fund Regulations, 2014, marking a significant stride towards parity and dignity for every member who has dedicated their service to this esteemed institution.

The discrepancy in computing pension, which previously overlooked the 50% component of PQA and FPA for retirees under the 7th Bipartite settlement, has been addressed in the latest Gazette notification. Additionally, provisions have been included to permit members to nominate someone other than the individual eligible for family pension under sub-regulation (7) of regulation 23. This grants the nominated individual the right to receive the funds on account of arrears or accrued in case neither the member nor the eligible family pension recipient is alive on the date such money is paid.

This triumph is not solely ours but stands as a tribute to the unwavering support and collaboration of countless individuals and entities. We express our sincere appreciation to the Government of India, the Hon'ble Finance Minister,

the Hon'ble Delhi High Court, and the Secretary of the Department of Financial Services (DFS) for their pivotal roles in rectifying a longstanding discrepancy, marking a significant achievement. We are profoundly thankful to our esteemed Chairman Sh. Dinesh Kumar Khara for his invaluable support in navigating through the complexities of this long pending issue. Our gratitude also extends to the HR Department officials at SBI Corporate Centre, Mumbai, Pensioners' Federation and all other stakeholders involved, for their unwavering efforts and understanding.

Lastly, we express our sincere appreciation to our past and present leaders, our devoted members, and our esteemed pensioners' fraternity. Your patience, faith, and solidarity have served as the bedrock of this arduous journey towards justice and equality.

This triumph is a beacon of hope, illuminating the path we have traversed over the years. It embodies our collective resolve to stand against discrimination and disparity, ensuring that every member of our "SBI family" is respected and valued equally.

Let this victory not be the end, but a new beginning. A beginning where we continue to stand united for the rights and welfare of our members. As we move forward, let us carry the spirit of unity, perseverance, and hope into all our future endeavours.

Together, we have transformed a dream into reality, and together, we shall continue to scale greater heights.

With heartfelt congratulations and best wishes for our continued journey together. ■

NEVER BEND BEFORE THE INSOLENT MIGHT

BREAKING BARRIERS, BUILDING BRIDGES

As we approach International Women's Day, it's paramount to acknowledge and celebrate the indispensable role of women, not only on a global scale but also within the fabric of the Indian economy, particularly within the banking sector.

2. Women across the globe have been instrumental in propelling progress, innovation, and inclusivity across various domains. Within the banking sector, their impact has been transformative, showcasing exceptional leadership, resilience, and acumen in navigating the intricacies of financial landscapes.

3. However, it's crucial to confront the ground realities that our lady officers face in their professional journeys. These realities encompass a spectrum of challenges ranging from issues related to transfers, accountability, and the uphill battle for promotions, to combating burnout, harassment, and the overwhelming pressures of work-life balance.

4. Statistics reveal that over half of working women experience significant work-family conflict, with 90% of them encountering stress due to multiple responsibilities. Moreover, the pervasive 'Superwoman Syndrome' often leads women to prioritize perfection across all facets of life, resulting in heightened stress levels and neglect of personal well-being. This phenomenon not only impacts mental health but also exacerbates physical ailments, leading to chronic fatigue, anxiety, and depression.

5. Additionally, women in Indian society still encounter discrimination and inequality, hindering their access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities. Societal attitudes and entrenched stereotypes further perpetuate these disparities, contributing to adverse effects on mental health and overall well-being.

6. Gender plays a pivotal role in determining mental health outcomes, with women exhibiting distinct patterns of psychological distress and psychiatric disorders. Socially constructed gender roles perpetuate imbalances in power dynamics, influencing all aspects of life, including household responsibilities and social status.

7. In line with our steadfast commitment to equity, inclusivity, and welfare, the All India State Bank

Officers' Federation is actively engaged in addressing these challenges and implementing meaningful solutions. Advocacy for policies promoting a conducive work environment for our lady officers remains a top priority. Efforts are underway to ensure fair and transparent processes for transfers and promotions, provide support systems to mitigate risks and alleviate work pressure, and cultivate a culture of zero tolerance towards harassment.

8. It is incumbent upon us all to provide a supportive environment for our women colleagues, nourishing a culture of mutual respect and empowerment. Moreover, self-reflection and prioritization of personal well-being are essential for combating the challenges faced by our female workforce. Taking breaks, seeking professional assistance, and dedicating time to mental and physical health are vital steps towards maintaining overall well-being.

9. It is imperative to acknowledge the significant strides women have made in the banking sector. However, it remains concerning that only a small fraction of our female colleagues holds top leadership positions, both within the bank and at the association/federation level. This persistent underrepresentation emphasizes the ongoing need for concerted efforts to cultivate a more inclusive and equitable environment.

10. As Diane Mariechild astutely noted, "A woman is the full circle. Within her is the power to create, nurture, and transform." Our collective efforts will be truly fortified when we witness a greater presence of deserving, willing, and committed female leaders in these pivotal roles in the years ahead. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to remain dedicated to nurturing and empowering aspiring women leaders, providing them with the requisite support and opportunities to excel and lead with distinction.

On this International Women's Day, let us reaffirm our commitment to empowering and uplifting our lady officers, recognizing their invaluable contributions, and striving towards a more inclusive and equitable banking sector.

Wishing all our female colleagues a happy International Women's Day!

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RENOVATION OF AISBOF BHAVAN AT MUMBAI AND REVISED MAINTENANCE CHARGES

We are pleased to inform that the AISBOF Bhavan located at Royal Apartments, Sion West, Mumbai, has undergone extensive renovations for the enhanced comfort and convenience of our members and their families. The refurbishment includes upgraded facilities and amenities to

ensure a pleasant stay for all occupants.

In light of these improvements, we would like to bring to your attention the revised maintenance charges for the rooms at **AISBOF Bhavan**:

1.	Double bed with non-attached bathroom	-	₹1000/- per night
2.	Double bed with attached bathroom	-	₹ 1200/- per night
3.	Triple bed room with attached bathroom	-	₹ 1500/- per night

Additionally, we recognize that many of our members and their families avail themselves of accommodation at AISBOF Bhavan while undergoing cancer treatment. In acknowledgment of the extended duration of their stay and the challenges they may face, we have decided to offer a concession of 25% on the maintenance charges for those members who are visiting for a prolonged duration exceeding 10 days.

This concession aims to alleviate some of the financial burdens associated with prolonged medical treatment and to provide support to our members during difficult times.

We hope that these revised maintenance charges and the concession will further facilitate the stay of our members and their families at AISBOF Bhavan and contribute to their overall well-being.■

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