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ALL THE MEMBERS:

Dear Comrades,

We reproduce hereunder the CIRCULAR NO. 27/59/2014/15, dated: 7th April, 2014, issued by our National Organization – AIBEA for your information.

With Greetings,

Yours Comradely,

(JAGDISH M BHAVTHANKAR)
GENERAL SECRETARY

Dear Comrades,

69th Founding Day of AIBEA 20th April, 2014

As all of us are aware that the 69th Founding Day of AIBEA falls on **20th April, 2014**. It is a red letter day in the annals of history of the bank employees movement. On this solemn occasion of the Founding Day of our organisation, we convey our revolutionary greetings and best wishes to all our unions and members.

Completing 68 years of journey, assiduously following the path of unity and steadfastly marching along the path of struggles, has enabled AIBEA to reach the towering height of reputation and standing amongst the comity of trade unions in our country. When we look back at the path traversed by AIBEA since 1946, we are proud of the glittering pages of history, and the militant path that we have travelled so far.

AIBEA – the pride: From a seed sown in 1946, AIBEA has grown into a mighty banyan tree today. We are the oldest and the largest trade union of bank employees in our country. By sheer dint of unity and constant and consistent struggles, AIBEA has achieved a lot for the bank employees. AIBEA has transformed the lives and living standards of the bank employees. From Tribunals to Bipartism, from pitiable wages to better wages, from hire-and-fire to job security, from unilateralism of managements to negotiated service conditions, from anarchy and slavery to regulated service conditions, from ill-treatment to dignity and self-esteem, from middle-class vacillations to working class orientation, from denial of recognition to nomination of Workman Directors - these are some of the notable advancements during the last six decades. Right from the beginning we have fought against every successive Government at the Centre when they confronted the bank employees. This is our glory; this is our strength; but then, this adds to our responsibilities.

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Kidher dekho AIBEA : AIBEA not only represents bank employees in the nationalised public sector Banks but also has its members in the private sector banks and foreign Banks, Co-operative Banks and the Regional Rural Banks. Even the Daily Deposit Collectors are part of our AIBEA. We have also our AIBOA representing the officers. AIBEA has membership in all the States and in all the Banks. It will be astonishing to know that AIBEA members are spread-over in more than 1,00,000 bank branches all over the country, including in the most rural villages and hamlets. AIBEA has such a vast organisational network with its flag flying everywhere. In every Bank, in every State, in every centre, AIBEA's red flag is flying high.

AIBEA – the harbinger of unity: AIBEA has been built up on the principles of unity of the bank employees and has mobilized the broadest possible unity under the banner of the trade union movement. AIBEA has been nurtured on the basic tenets of trade union democratic values. For us in AIBEA, unity is a fundamental principle and not a covert strategy. That is why AIBEA could hinder, thwart and overcome all the attempts of disruption from various quarters so far and continues to march on triumphantly.

AIBEA – the saga of militancy: Coupled with its unquenchable thirst for unity, AIBEA has also been committed to the path of militancy and struggles. Right from the inception, it is the path of militant struggles that has been the inherent and innate strength of our organisation. The long catalogue of our struggles from 1946 against all attacks, against the policies of the Governments, against bankers, etc. is a glorious saga and a highly inspiring part of our history and onward march.

AIBEA – synonym of sagacious leadership: No doubt AIBEA has been built up with the unity of bank employees, but the sagacious leadership, that AIBEA was fortunate to be endowed with since its inception, has steered our organisation in the right direction. The vision and conviction of our great leaders have taken our organisation in the right path. That is why even today, when we remember our great leaders like Com. Prabhat Kar, Com. H L Parvana, Com. Tarakeswar Chakraborti, Com. D P Chadha and all other outstanding and illustrious leaders of our movement, we feel instantly inspired. They suffered and sacrificed for the cause of our movement. We should ever remain indebted to them. When we celebrate the founding day of AIBEA, let us salute them and pledge to tread along the path shown by them and carry forward the organisation to newer heights and greater glory.

AIBEA – the patriot: AIBEA is well-known for its significant achievements in the sphere of improving the wages and service conditions of bank employees. We also believe that we have a broader role to play and a wider task to perform. Banks represent people's money and people's savings is the social capital. Banks have to augment, preserve and deploy this precious savings of the people and, to achieve this goal, the banking policies should have a social orientation. Banks should be in public sector. Banking industry should subserve the interest of the nation and its masses. It is for this patriotic cause, AIBEA fought and achieved nationalisation. And now we are fighting against privatisation, dilution of social banking, looting in the name of bad loans and against dictated banking reforms. But for the struggle and resistance of bank employees, banking sector would have been privatised long back and met the same catastrophe and fate as was faced by the banks in USA and other countries. Thus, AIBEA fought with a patriotic commitment and saved the country from a serious banking crisis. That is why our AIBEA is unique.

Tasks ahead – Get ready: When we are proud of our past, we must make the future more glorious by our unity, by our activities and by our organisational endeavours. We have to fight against attacks on our jobs and job security, against outsourcing of permanent jobs, fight for more recruitments, fight against attacks on our right to collective bargaining, fight against attacks on our wages and service conditions, fight against attacks on bipartism, fight against the day-light corporate loot, and fight for recovery of NPAs / bad loans. We have to fight for a vibrant people-oriented banking sector keeping as our goal "People's money for people's welfare and not for private profiteering and loot". We have to expand our campaign and struggle to realize our demand : " Make banking a fundamental right ".

Make AIBEA strong to make yourself stronger: Multiple attacks are already knocking at our doors. Multiple tasks are on our shoulders. A strong organisation is the only guarantee for our better and safe future. Let us take a solemn pledge on this Founding Day that all of us will work with redoubled vigour to strengthen our beloved AIBEA. **Let us make our unions strong and that will make AIBEA strong.**

With greetings,

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Programmes to be undertaken :

Flag hoisting before union offices/ decoration of union offices/ garlanding the portraits of our leaders/ holding mass meetings/ honouring our living veterans/ issuing leaflets/ undertaking social identification programmes, etc.

Yours Comradely,



**C.H.VENKATACHALAM
GENERAL SECRETARY**

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