

CIRCULAR No. 10 / 2015

December 28, 2015

**TO ALL MEMBERS & COLLEAGUES**

Dear Friends,

**New Year – 2016**

We are leaving behind an eventful 2015.

New Year 2016 ushers in.

The new year brings new challenges and new hopes. We have to face the challenges and realise the hopes. We have to take stock where we have succeeded in 2015 and where we have not. We have to derive courage from our success and take lessons from our failures.

In 2015 we, Reserve Bank employees, participated in two significant strike actions; one, on **2<sup>nd</sup> September 2015** along with 15 crore workers all over the country to protect trade union's rights, peoples' right of livelihood, against unemployment and steep price rise. The other, on **19<sup>th</sup> November 2015**, all employees and officers of RBI took mass leave in protest against attacks on RBI, on its functions and existence as also to realise our long pending demands of pension improvement and option.

Our efforts are to be sustained. Our great nation has to be saved from forces of disintegration, disunity and intolerance, from external financial predators who are trying to usurp the control of our economy and sovereignty. RBI has to be saved; its independence has to be protected. A weak, ineffective and subservient RBI will be a national disaster. That we are fighting for very important national causes provides us with moral sustenance. Even if the tasks are very difficult and prolonged, we need not despair, but engage in more united mobilisation with all patriotic progressive sections. As a conscious trade union, these are our most fundamental tasks in the coming year too.

We warmly congratulate our members and colleagues for their active participation in the struggles. Our special thanks are to our new colleagues, **post-2012 recruits**, for whose entry in the Bank we made sustained efforts. They are the future of RBI – they are to carry forward the RBI's mission and vision for the common people of our country. They are the future leaders of our collective activities in all areas – trade union, sports, culture and other social pursuits.

Despite our ceaseless efforts for long eight years – both the workforce and the management including our Central Board and Governor – our pension issue(s) remain unresolved. Our very successful strike on 19<sup>th</sup> ultimo shows the depth of desperation and disappointment of RBI employees and retirees. **If solution is not forthcoming, we have to persist in and intensify our efforts – we have no alternative.**

Bank has started discussions on **Charter of Demands**, albeit delayed. We hope there will be expeditious reasonable settlement.

We congratulate bank employees under the leadership of UFBU who had to initiate a tough battle in 2015 against recalcitrant bank managements and the Government on wage issues. They are fighting for retention of public sector banks, for mass banking, against perfidy by big defaulting borrowers. Some vested quarters suggest privatisation of banks as solution to burgeoning NPA. Such remedy will be worse than the malady, as people's money will be handed over on a platter to the plunderers of common people's money.

2015 has seen the vastly widening disparity between the haves and have-nots all over the world. Few dollar billionaires are now controlling the global wealth while millions and millions of poor people are being pushed to destitution and penury. Also the gulf between rich and poor countries is growing by leaps and bounds. Growing economic disparity causes destabilisation and brings forth the peoples' anger. Greece in the abyss is the latest example. Many other countries also face bankruptcy. All run-in-the-mill solutions are floundering – that is bound to be.

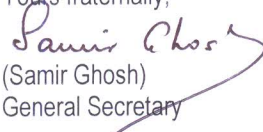
The fundamentalist forces of all hues, national and international terrorism, have become more desperate, most aggressive. They are one side of the coin – the other side being imperialism, their merciless exploitation and annexation. The forces of peace, progress and equality will have to fight relentlessly against the twin dangers, if humanity is to survive.

**As a conscious trade union, as part of the working class, as patriotic people, we have to engage and fight against these dangers. We must not leave the battlefield.**

**New Year 2016 beckons us to that, and  
we shall overcome.**

With greetings,

Yours fraternally,

  
(Samir Ghosh)  
General Secretary