

ALL INDIA FEDERATION OF RETIRED UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE TEACHERS' ORGANIZATIONS

AIFRUCTO - CIRCULAR

April 03, 2024

Dear Friends,

At the very outset, I would like to congratulate our members, past and present office bearers, patrons & well-wishers as the AIFRUCTO is now a decade-old organisation. It is a source of great satisfaction and pride that the first AIFUCTO Conference was organised by Tamil Nadu Retired College Teachers Organisation-TANRECTA and the current one has also been organised by TANRECTA, both in Chennai. This is a testimony to the great leadership of the organisation in strengthening the retired teachers' movement in India and the unflinching commitment of the TANRECTA leadership to the cause of our movement.

The phenomenal success of this Statutory Conference organised by TANRECTA will remain a hallmark of organising standards in future AIFRUCTO conferences. We are now confident that the outstanding successes of our successive conferences statutory and academic, have set up a high standard for the future. A very scintillating feature of this TANRECTA-organised conference has been a very large number of participants from Tamil Nadu. The Conference has been extremely successful by all parameters. We heartily congratulate Prof. V Swaminathan and his team members who have worked tirelessly for the grand success of the Conference.

Homage to Prof. Mrinmoy Bhattacharyya

The Conference paid homage to the memory of our legendary leader Prof. Mrinmoy Bhattacharyya. Prof. Sudhakar S. Mankar, Prof J.N. Shukla & Prof. Swaminathan unveiled a photograph of Prof. Bhattacharyya and paid rich tribute to him and noted his lifelong service to the causes of the teaching community. The conference was dedicated to his memory.

Proceedings of the 4th Academic Conference

The conference started with the presentation of the General Secretary's report for approval. After the welcome of the distinguished guests, delegates, Patrons, and media persons and expressing thanks to TANRECTA for organising the conference very meticulously, the General Secretary read out important points of the report before the house with the permission of the President Prof. Sudhakar S Mankar. The printed copy of the report was made available to the delegates and other participants and a soft copy was sent to them by email and WhatsApp. The General Secretary reiterated to continue the struggle for the nine-point charter of demands of AIFRUCTO and conveyed the house efforts made by the organisation after the Lucknow Conference.

The General Secretary also proposed the following names to fill the vacant posts of office-bearers for approval:

- Dr R K Indira Devi – Zonal Secretary – Zone I
- Prof Biswajit Bhuiyan – National Secretary
- Prof Hari Om Pandey – Zonal Secretary – Zone III
- Prof Iqwal Singh Sindhu – Vice President

The General Secretary also proposed the name Prof Vijay Kumar Ari as convenor to form an AIFRUCTO unit in Rajasthan.

The General Secretary also proposed the following committees:

- Movement Resolution Committee – Prof G K Nanda (Convenor), Princ. Kranti Jejurkar and Prof Harish Sarkar.
- Resolution committee – Prof S A Bojagar (Convenor), Prof. R Ramchandrapa.

The general secretary paid tribute to the departed leaders for their distinguished role in strengthening the teachers' movements in the country who left us during this period. Two minutes of silence were observed in the house to pay homage to the departed souls.

Treasurer, Prof Sadanand Bhattacharjya presented the annual account before the house. He appealed to the affiliates to clear the dues for the remaining period. He also emphasised the need to become Life Members and a Medical Fund for members. Prof Gopal Krishna Nanda, National Secretary initiated the discussion on the general secretary's report

and supported the report. He expressed his concern about people suffering at the international level due to war, poor health, and poverty.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural session started with the Lightening the Lamp and welcome address of Prof A Manoharan, General Secretary of TANRECTA, and Prof V Swaminathan, President of TANRECTA, the Organising Secretary of the conference. Prof Swaminathan informed the house that the chief guest The Minister of Higher Education, Tamil Nadu would not be able to inaugurate the conference due to unavoidable engagements. Therefore. He proposed the name of Prof Ram Singh, our Patron and former President to inaugurate the conference.

Hosts felicitated the Chief Guest, Patrons, and office bearers with momento and *angvastram*. Later on, a souvenir was released by the Chief guest and President Prof Mankar.

After the inaugural address Prof Gnanasekaran, Treasurer, TANRECTA presented a Vote of thanks.

Business Session I

The session started with the welcome address by Dr Usha Raghotham, Vice President of AIFRUCTO followed by the address of Prof Sudhakar S Mankar, the President of AIFRUCTO. He appealed to the National Secretaries and Zonal Secretaries to go around in their zones to form new units at the university and state levels. It is a need of the day that state federations along with university-wide units should be strong as most of our demands are in the jurisdiction of states. Hence role of state federations is most important for pressurizing our demands.

Prof J N Shukla, General Secretary, introduced the Theme of the Conference, “Challenges Before Higher Education in India”. Dr V B Athreya, former professor of Bharathidasan University, Tiruchirappalli, gave a keynote address on the Theme of the Conference.

In his keynote address, Prof Athreya expressed his views on NEP 2020 at length. He focussed on the poisonous impact of NEP 2020 on increasing commercialization, Privatisation, and centralization in the country and the policy will exclude the underprivileged. He mentioned that more than 15000 educational institutions will have no

access to economically weaker sections. He also talked about Indian traditions and the need for pluralization and diversification to preserve our culture.

Prof Asok Barman, the Patron addressed his concern about the shortage of funds and many confusions created by the faulty implementation of NEP20.

Prof B. Vijay Kumar, the Patron emphasised the role of AIFRUCTO in retaining the benefits of Pension. He also expressed the need for a Medical Fund because of the expensive cost of treatment.

Prof B Parthasarathy emphasised the need for uniform pension rules throughout the country and pensions for Aided College teachers in Punjab, Meghalaya and Manipur, etc.

Prof Tarun Kumar Patra, the Patron enlightened the house about the challenge before higher education in India and the need to oppose the privatisation of education in the country.

Prof Ghanshyam Singh, the Patron addressed his concern that NEP20 was framed without the participation of stakeholders, just like teachers and students, and without focus on infrastructure. Educational institutions have become centers of admission and examination only. We have to wait and watch patiently.

Prof R Halesh, Executive Editor of News Magazine expressed his view on NEP20 and about the publication of the magazine and the necessity of Medical Fund. He also declared a donation of Rs. 1 lakh for the proposed Medical Fund. He informed the house current status of pensioners in Karnataka.

Prof Parvathi Gopalan, Vice President of AIFRUCTO presented a Vote of Thanks.

Business Session II

The session started with a discussion on the general Secretary's report and presentation of State reports. It is worth mentioning that 15 states and affiliates have sent their detailed reports for publication in the Souvenir of the Conference which can be seen for further information. Prof. A. Pullaiah General Secretary, Telangana Retired Teachers Association and National Secretary discussed the problems, such as irregular payment of DR, pension on 20 years of service, the need for zonal meetings every six months and the problem of recruitment of permanent teachers. Prof V N Chandramohanam, General Secretary, Kerala Govt. College Retired Teachers Association demanded the extension of a grant by the Central Govt. for paying UGC scale to the state. Prof Pratip Banerjee, National Secretary expressed

the grave situation of teachers of West Bengal. The state Govt. has not implemented the 7th UGC pay scale with no pension revision and less DA due to the anti-teacher spirit of the state Govt. NEP 20 implemented. WBCURTWA & WBCUTA oppose the anti-teacher policy of the state gov. He pointed out that the name of the late Prof Anil Bhattacharya was not included in the GS report. Prof. Ramchandrapa, General Secretary FUCRTAK, and National Secretary AIFRUCTO expressed his concern that university teachers have no separate organisation in Karnataka. and they are joining college retired teachers' organisations. He also provided detailed information of pensioners in his state. Princ. Kranti Jejurkar, National Secretary and General Secretary MUCRTWA Mumbai expressed her views about zonal meetings, medical facilities, and participation of retired teachers in teacher's movements. Prof Chandana Jha, zonal Secretary and general secretary FRUCTAB – Bihar, prof R S Pawan, National Secretary from Panjab, Prof Mahadev Desai, Vice President from Gujarat, Prof L Randhoni Devi, vice president from Manipur, Prof Biswajit Bhuiyan, National Secretary from Assam, Prof Patricia Fernadez from Mumbai, Prof Santosh Chowdhary from West Bengal, veteran teachers leader Prof V Gona Reddy from Telangana, Prof S Rajeswar Rao Zonal Secretary, Prof Adi Narayan Reddy, S V University Retired Teachers Association, Tirupati, AP, Prof S A Bojagar, National Secretary from Kolhapur, Maharashtra, Prof S Solaimalaichami Zonal Secretary from Puducherry, prof Iqwal Singh Sindhu, Vice president and other delegates presented the reports.

Concluding Session

The following resolutions were presented by Prof S A Bojagar and accepted at the Conference:

1- Resolution By AKGCRTA

- A central grant should be made available to state Governments towards the additional expenditure for the UGC pension revision.
- AIFRUCTO should raise demand for the restoration of the Old Pension scheme repealing the PFRDA Act 2004.
- University/college teachers in Kerala are denied the arrears of UGC 7th pay revision from 1.1.2016 due to the denial of the grant of Rs. 750.90 crores, withheld by the Central Govt. on flimsy grounds. AKGCRT demands immediate release of the grant.

2- Resolution by Aided College Retired Teachers' Welfare Association Punjab:

AIFRUCTO condemns the dilly delaying attitude of the Punjab Govt. in issuing notice for the release of 7th UGC pay scales to pre-1.1.2016 retired teachers of the Punjab Govt. to issue notification at the earliest. AIFRUCTO affiliates are requested to write letters to the Chief Minister of Punjab to resolve the pension issue with immediate effect.

3- Resolution by All Odisha Retired University and College Teachers Association:

- Fixation of pension of retired teachers as per concordance table.
- Payment of enhanced gratuity to the retired aided college teachers for the period of 1.1.2006 to 30.11.2008.
- Health insurance benefits to all retired aided college teachers.

Movement Resolution

Because of the prevailing situation in the country, it is necessary for us to take the initiative, all concerned retired teachers of colleges and universities, to expand and unite all retired teachers and bring them under the umbrella of AIFRUCTO.

- To strengthen the AIFRUCTO at the zonal level and state level in such a way that the objective and message may reach all the retired teachers of colleges and universities.
- To organise at least one or more programmes for retired teachers of UGC level to create educational, social, and socio-economic awareness at state and zonal levels.
- To extend cooperation and joint action programmes organised by fraternal organisations to achieve common acceptable programmes on education, pension, health and other matters at the state and national levels.
- To organise and participate in possible forms of the programmes relating to NEP20 by fraternal organisations coping with the objective of AIFRUCTO to save education, to save the nation.
- To retain the old pension scheme state units are requested to be alert and join hands with other working employees at the state and central levels.
- To draw the attention of the Govt. at the centre/ state some form of action programme may be adopted after July – August at the state/ national level to achieve our old demands including a professor scale for college teachers, a Medical Scheme for retired teachers, etc.

The General Secretary thanked all delegates and participants who attended the 4th academic conference in Chennai for the fruitful discussion on the GS report and other issues of retired college and university teachers of the country. This conference is very significant because delegates from 18 state and Union territories participated in the deliberations. The General Secretary extended thanks to the speakers for their valuable suggestions and assured the house that necessary amendments would be made at the relevant place in the report.

The General Secretary expressed thanks and gratitude to Prof V B Athreya for a very significant and valuable presentation on the theme of the Conference. In his concluding remarks general assured the house that AIFRUCTO would continue its fight for the Old Pension Scheme, Pension to Aided College Teachers of Punjab, Manipur, and Meghalaya, and in other states and for our long-standing 9-point Charter of demands. The sustained efforts of AIFRUCTO will make a phenomenal difference in transforming the lives of retired college and university teachers in the country.

Prof Asok Barman in his valedictory address highlighted the role of superannuated teachers in rendering service to the community. Prof Barman emotionally quoted from the book of his leader and mentor Prof Mrinmoy Bhattacharya “Never Give Up”. Values must be given their due place. The importance of values is of paramount importance. Compassion, cooperation, and peace are healthy and must be emphasised while teaching and interacting with our fellow citizens. Prof Barman again quoted his Guru “Education without values is like a ship in the mid-ocean without its crew”.

The conference ended with a vote of thanks by Prof S Bhattacharjya, the Treasurer and a singing of the National Anthem.

Long Live AIFRUCTO!

Long Live Teachers’ Unity!



Dr J N Shukla

General Secretary