

REF: GS/CBOA/LTR/32/2022-2025/RS

15th August, 2023

"Every citizen of India must remember that he is an Indian and he has every right in this country but with certain duties." - Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel

Dear Canpals,

I wish you all a very happy **Independence Day.** Independence Day holds a special place in our hearts as it commemorates the spirit of freedom and unity that our nation fought tirelessly to achieve. It reminds us of the sacrifices made by our ancestors, who dreamed of a sovereign nation where every citizen could live with dignity and pursue their aspirations without hindrance.

Independence Day stands as a testament to the sacrifices of countless individuals who fought valiantly to secure our freedom. Just as our forebearers worked tirelessly to shape the destiny of our nation, so do we, as bankers, contribute to the financial freedom and prosperity of our fellow citizens.

As we celebrate this day, we are reminded of the values that our country stands for – liberty, equality and justice. These principles resonate deeply with the ethos of our Mighty CBOA as well. Just as our nation's journey to

freedom required collective effort and co-operation, so too does our endeavour to create a fair and inclusive workplace for all the Canarites.

The Nationalisation of Banks in 1969 transformed the banking sector as the pillar of our economy, playing an indispensable role in facilitating growth, development and prosperity. *Each transaction, each investment and each financial decision* reverberates across industries and communities, shaping the very foundation of our nation's progress. In our role as bankers, we are entrusted with the responsibility of not only managing finances but also *nurturing dreams and ambitions*. We hold the key to turn aspirations into realities, fostering innovation and driving the wheels of economic advancement.

The aspiration of achieving a **five trillion-dollar economy** is a significant goal for India, reflecting its ambition to become a *global economic powerhouse*. The role of Public Sector Banks in this endeavour is pivotal, as they are the key to the financial system that drives economic growth, facilitates investments and supports various sectors. The creation of a five trillion-dollar economy requires a robust infrastructure network such as highways, ports, airports, railways and rural/urban development, which are financed only by Public Sector Banks.

The world has witnessed many economic collapses, huge recessions, health emergencies such as pandemics and inability to raise after natural disasters. But Indian Economy is insulated from the side effects of all these distresses, only with the huge support from Public Sector Banks. At the aftermath of the **Great recession** between 2007 and 2009, Mr.O P Bhatt, the then SBI Chairman highlighted that "*Many private sector and foreign banks withdrew from the market just when their clients needed them most. In contrast, Public Sector banks not only honoured their commitments but tried to their best to fill the vacuum*".

The success of all the past, present and future strategies framed by our Indian Government for the growth of our nation depends on the support rendered by Public Sector Banks. In this line, well planned initiatives can be made by our Indian Government to strengthen and spread its wings of growth **by invoking another nationalisation spree on private financial institutions**.

Our Mother Bank has witnessed an exponential growth in the last few years, which is a treat to watch for all the Canpals. By contributing to the growth of our Mother Bank, we are directly contributing to our nation's growth. Our balance sheet is very strong due to the tireless efforts, dedication and hard work of all the Canpals, who have surpassed all expectations and achieved remarkable success.

Friends, the only parameter where we have to pay more attention is **Low-Cost Deposit**, which naturally inspires the growth of all other facets. On this most significant day, let us take an oath to propel the growth of **Low-Cost Deposit** in our Mother Bank's balance sheet. With the quality of human resource available at our disposal and the strong value system imbibed by our Canpals' family, I am extremely confident that the **Low-Cost Deposit** profile will witness a huge boost in the days ahead.

My dear Canpals, as we stand on the threshold of a new era, let us remember that our actions today shape the future for generations to come. By fostering financial literacy, investing in sustainable initiatives and championing ethical practices, we can empower individuals, families and businesses to thrive. Our dedication to excellence and integrity will determine the legacy we leave behind – one that is characterized by growth, stability and the betterment of society.

This Independence Day, let us take a moment to reflect on the progress we have made and also on the challenges that lie ahead. Together, we have achieved much, but there is always more work to be done to ensure that our Mother Bank leads the Banking Industry. Let us continue to work in harmony, promoting a work environment that values diversity and supports professional growth. As we move forward, let us remember that our unity and collaboration are the driving forces behind the success of our Mother Bank.

On this joyous occasion, may the spirit of independence inspire us all to strive for excellence and uphold the principles that our nation holds dear.

Once again, I wish you all a very Happy Independence Day!

Together We Can! Together We Will! You care for the bank and CBOA cares for you! Flaw-Free banking! Fraud-Free Bank! Discipline in CBOA! Development in Canara Bank!

Yours sincerely,

RAVI KUMAR K General Secretary