

# THE END OF AN ERA



**“Water, water,  
everywhere,  
and all the boards  
did shrink;  
Water, water,  
everywhere,  
Nor any drop to  
drink.”**

This quote been a masterpiece by the legendary English writer Samuel Taylor Coleridge, an excerpt from “The Rime of the Ancient Mariner,” by extension, these lines are used to describe a situation in which someone is in the midst of plenty but cannot partake of it. We humbly borrow the excerpts to draw a line parallel to the situation that has surfaced on account of the superannuation of our Iconic and the most maverick leader of our era, **Comrade Samir Kumar Mukherjee.**

There has been plenty of positive things that happened during the last three

months; We traveled all around the circle, had interactions with our members, we won election, formed the Central and Executive Committees in style, enjoyed felicitations and took pleasure in everything that has been showered on us as winners. All such enjoyment however remains very short lived when it comes to running of the affairs of Association and more so when we are devoid of the active participation of the superlative Comrade Samir Kumar Mukherjee on account of his superannuation from active services of the bank and consequential laying down of office as General Secretary, SBIOA NEC. It seems amidst plenty to enjoy, there is titanic a loss that makes all the joyous moments even more painful.

It was a journey that found its path long 40 years back when on the first day of his joining in the Bank, Comrade Mukherjee was made the unit secretary of SBI Jagiroad Branch and since then there had been no looking back. He got his promotion as JMGS-I on 1985 and in continuation to his zeal and zest and strong philosophical root, took it as a mission to work for the Officer's community of Bank in general and State Bank in particular. His mission to work for his fellow colleague had be-

come his religion and his love for his fellow comrades had been metamorphosed into a state of infatuation that took the SBIOA North Eastern Circle to a new height and now we can easily identify with the footprint of this legendary figure at the nook and corner of the circle.

It has been a memorable life time experience for us to have the opportunity to share desks with Comrade S.K.Mukherjee and today our head bows down with gratitude while we remember the dynamicity of this dashing yet sober, immensely powerful yet humble, courageous yet restrained personality. The glorious 27 long years of his service for the cause of his fellow colleagues has marked a golden period and has set up a legacy that has shown light to many struggling souls. His straight forward approach towards life and courage to call a spade a spade has earned many friends again his strong ideological root unflinching affiliation towards honesty, and never compromising attitude has unfortunately earned him foes as well. He has been a potter who wanted to give shape to an idol of ideology, some could not withstand the heat and some broke down with spin of the wheel.

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We look upon with utter surprise and feel overwhelmed to see the sense of duty and commitment to his job; his zeal and zest to earn perfection in his Endeavour has always embraced my sheer sense of adulation towards this great soul. A person who joined the bank just after passing his adolescence, had the opportunity and talent to climb the cliff, but instead he had chosen to serve his fellow colleagues and dedicated his life for the well being of millions than to tread the path of countable few. Starting his career as Assistant in the year 1975 Comrade Mukherjee rose from strength to strength during this long journey with holding responsibilities of a Assistant Secretary Finance, AGS Guwahati, DGS Guwahati and ultimately the General Secretary of SBIOA NE Circle in the year 2008 , On the Federation level, he has been there as executive member since 2008 and was elevated to Senior vice president on 2012, State President of AIBOC in the year 2008, and last but not the least, Director Central Board in the year 2012, which surely manifests his bountiful talents and interminable capability of leadership.

When at the time we were feeling low at the event of the departure of this maverick leader, he had some-

thing else in his mind and accordingly the succession plan was roaming around his thought process as ever. It was a visionary move to prepone the election of the Association so as to hand over the helm of affairs to a democratically elected committee and ensure peoples' mandate to prevail over any personal affiliation. There had been adversaries, there had been mudslinging, there had been personal attacks on us but our mission was to ensure that the spirit of democracy prevails and the dream of a well knit succession plan dreamt by Com. Mukherjee sees the sunshine.

The Sun ultimately heralded the advent of a fresh dawn and graced a new committee with the promise and potency of being vibrant, responsive, cohesive and pro-active towards the cause of the membership with the theme line being "we are one". When we chant the hymn of we are one we mean it and practice it to the core. We believe that the electoral adversities is now a thing of past and we have to rise above all the petty things to really come out magnanimous to accommodate all the stake holders and we have not been taught by our idol to go the other way but to dedicate for the

cause of the member ships as he had been doing all along.

When, members in general have given us an overwhelming support by means of their mandates, their blessings have also come to us in the form of a huge responsibility and the responsibilities get multiplied when we are confronted with the challenge of matching the footprint of an iconic figure who knew no shortcuts and was a perfectionist who did never rest until the desired result is achieved.

Today with a heavy heart and tearful eyes we bid farewell to this master of masters on his superannuation but we can only hope that his exhaustive knowledge and understanding of the art of trade union will continue inspiring us and will flood with the fluid of passion to satiate our thrust for knowledge and there will not be any scarcity of water, water that will ensure growth of the trade union tree to give shelter to millions of souls.