

STATE BANK OF INDIA OFFICERS' ASSOCIATION

(BENGAL CIRCLE)

(Registered under Trade Unions Act 1926-Regd. No. 6908)

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To All Members (Please Circulate)

We reproduce hereunder the Circular No. 49 dated 08.07.2022 issued by the General Secretary, All India State Bank Officers' Federation, the contents of which are self-explicit.

With revolutionary greetings,

Shubhajyoti Chattopadhyay
(General Secretary)

Dear Comrades,

31ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF SBIOA NORTH-EASTERN CIRCLE MARCH OF SOLIDARITY

It had been a momentous occasion for our Affiliate, SBIOA North Eastern Circle to complete yet another milestone in their history through a successful culmination of the 31st Annual General Meeting, an event that has left many memories that will remain fresh for years in the eyes of the beholders.

2. The morning hue with light drizzle in the picturesque capital city of Meghalaya dappled with its usual charm was set ready to welcome the leaders from all across the country. A large number of delegates and members congregated at the venue of the 31st Annual General meeting of the SBIOA North Eastern Circle at the glittering U SOSO Tham Auditorium had been the witness of a variegated portrayal of its surroundings with thematic hoardings and banners coalesced with reverberating slogans that made the atmosphere electrifying all around.

3. The morning event marked its start with a Solidarity March where hundreds of members and leaders of the Circle along with leaders from all across the country participated and marched along the street of the abode of the rain god (Meghalaya). The entire street was speckled with a riot of colours matched with chanting of slogans in the manifestation of the revolutionary spirit and never yielding attitude that scripts its uniqueness for the comrades of SBIOA North Eastern Circle.

4. The Solidarity March making navigation through the welcome entrance which was spotted with our signature theme "**Bank BachaoDeshBachao**" was followed by the flag hoisting where the President AISBOF, Com. Deepak K Sharma, along with other senior office bearers of the Federation, President and General Secretary of the Circle joined hands with the undersigned in making the Circle Association flag fly high with a solemn resolve to make it fly higher.



5. As a mark of the rich cultural heritage of the state and as a depiction of customary respect for its guests, the dignitaries were led to the auditorium of U SOSO Tham which was re-christened after one of the colossus figures of SBIOA from the North East, as the Com. Syamal Chakrabarti Manch, by a group of dancers performing the traditional Khasi Armour Dance. The atmosphere inside the hall was electrifying with a host of lady members attired in traditional Khasi costumes gleefully welcoming each of their guests with other comrades of the circle extending their usual humble gesture as a sign of their delightfulness in discharging the responsibilities to ensure their guests feel cozy comfort. The hall inside was jam-packed with many others outside who congregated from nooks and corners of the seven sister states to witness the festival of camaraderie and to soak in the fraternal warmth.



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6. Com. Piyali Ghosh along with Com. Savio Pathao adroitly anchored the Inaugural session of the event befitting to the atmosphere prevailing all around. To start with, the entirely in-house talent team from the Shillong Region, led by Com. Subhajit Paul and Com. Savio Pathao presented a melodious rendition of a chorus followed by the theme song of the event **"Solidarity Forever"**. Following this, a popular Khasi song performed by Ms. Catherine Pyngrope and her talented group of singers and musicians on the traditional Khasi instruments, added surreal and ethnic flavour to the event.

7. After a scintillating performance by the singers, the hosts called upon the stage Comrade President of the Circle, T.A.P Paul and the General Secretary, Com. Rupam Roy with a request to felicitate the guests and the dignitaries whom they invited to the dais one after the other. Comrade Deepak Sharma was escorted to the dais by Com. Bijoy Krishna Dutta who was first to be felicitated by the Circle President and the General Secretary then undersigned was invited to the dais of the circle Annual General Meeting and received due felicitation from the General Secretary and the Circle President. Then one after another, all the general secretaries and presidents of different affiliates including the General Secretary of SBISA and also one of the senior vice presidents of the staff federation Com. Pradip Baishya was invited to the dais and felicitation was done with a bouquet of love and respect by the key office bearers of the circle. A befitting felicitation was also offered to the Guest of honour of the meeting Smt. Suranjana Dutta, General Manager- NW-1 of the Circle.



8. As a mark of acknowledgment of their contribution to building the edifice of the North Eastern Circle Association, office bearers of yesteryears were given due honour through a respectful felicitation. The senior executives of the bank, comrades from the sister organisation and federation office bearers are among others who were felicitated and a warm welcome was offered.

9. Then it was the most captivating moment of the day when the entire house accorded a standing ovation to welcome Shri Conrad Sangma, the Hon'ble Chief Minister of the state of Meghalaya as a mark of respect for one of the most iconic leaders under the sky of the North-East. Hon'ble CM was then invited to the dais and given due honour by offering felicitation.



10. A respectful floral tribute was offered to the legendary leaders of the North Eastern Circle Com. Shyamal Chakrabarti whose name the auditorium was dedicated and Comrade Pulin Chandra Sharma, the ex-president of the circle Association.

11. The Hon'ble Chief Minister and other dignitaries on the dais were invited to lit the ceremonial lamp to invoke the blessings of purity, goodness, good luck and power of unity. The ceremony was followed by the welcome address by Com. Rupam Roy, the General Secretary of the Circle through his warm welcome address successfully set out the tone and tenor of the meeting which later on became a guiding tune for the other speakers to deliberate.

12. The circle CGM Arvind Kumar Singh due to his pre-occupation on account of the visit of the Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt. Nirmla Sitharaman could not make himself available for the meeting and preferred a virtual mode to convey his message to the members. In his brief presentation, the Circle CGM expressed his regret for not being able to present himself in the meeting physically and termed it as a lost opportunity for him not to be able to share the dais with the Chief Minister of the state Shri Conrad Sangma. He then wished the meeting to be a grand success and also appealed to the membership to be sensitive about customer services and business development. He also wished the dignitaries from all across the country cozy comfort stays and a safe journey back home.



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13. It was one of the rarest of occasions when the Hon'ble Chief Minister was requested to deliver his words of wisdom and he enthralled the audience with his rich content and the lucid style of deliberation that marks him unique in terms of oratory excellence. Shri Sangma taking a cue from the welcome address stressed the endeavour on the part of the bank officials to leverage the great reputation and trust clubbed with its reach and acceptance as the Brand State Bank of India to thrive to be the global leader in the domain of banking. He was high in appreciation of the 216 years old bank and tried instilling the belief that if wished then the sky can be the only limit set for the State Bankers to achieve. He acknowledged the requirement for more manpower in the Bank



and also mentioned about tremendous opportunity to expand and include the untapped villages and masses through its mission toward financial inclusion. While being vociferous on the importance of doing the right things at the right got the opportunity, the iconic chief minister stressed being proactive and upright in fulfilling visions without being concerned about its negative outcome. He impressed upon utilisation of power and authority without fear and fervour that does not leave a scope for repentance in the future. Being optimistic about a transformed Banking force he reckoned the fields of excellence that the Bank is capable of achieving and concluded wishing that this agglomeration of leaders from various parts of the country will surely brainstorm strategies resulting off-take of the brand SBI to a new height while wishing the event a grand success.

14. The guest of honour for the meeting, Smt. Suranjana Dutta at the outset acknowledged the contribution of Hon'ble Ex-Speaker of Lok Sabha and the Late father of the Chief Minister Shri Conrad Sangma in giving shape to the dream of having a local head office for the North Eastern Circle. The house through a huge round of applause re-affirmed the contribution and paid their respectful homage to the noble soul. General Manager (NW I), LHO, Guwahati, Smt. Suranjana Dutta then acknowledged the contribution of all the employees that actually resulted in the circle getting the top most positions in several parameters set for performance evaluation. She also appealed to the membership to continue their effort to sustain our PAN India positions and also to get equipped to counter any challenges thrown to dislodge the Bank from its prime position. She concluded wishing the 31st Annual General meeting a grand success.



15. President of AISBOF, Comrade Deepak Kumar Sharma gave yet another captivating speech that infused vibrancy and energy in the auditorium and deliberated on the issues concerning the bankers. He also urged the Hon'ble Chief minister to leverage his authority and help us restore flawless network connectivity and also opined that due to lack of suitable bandwidth resulting in poor connectivity most of the time our members though willing cannot deliver the desired level of services to our customers. He was also vociferous on the extant/proposed government policies which are potentially threatening the very fabric of the Public Sector framework.



16. The issue of inadequate manpower to handle the day-by-day increase of work volume and its impact on customer service was also broadly dwelt upon by Com. Deepak K Sharma. He concluded by congratulating the organisers of the meeting for a gallant show and wished the business session a grand success. He concluded his speech with best wishes to Com. Bijoy Dutta for a happy, healthy, peaceful and contented post-retirement life.

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17. The undersigned in his keynote address eulogised the membership about the exemplary show off of solidarity and congratulated the organising committee for an excellent showcase of all-around arrangements. He dealt in detail with various aspects of the 8th Joint Note and also appraised the house on the development as regards the residual issues and the effort of the confederation in pressing our demands for 5 day work week, updation of Pension, scrapping of NPS and restoration of old pension scheme *et al.* Asserting it as an officer driven industry, he was critical on the issue of disparity aroused due to disproportionate rise in pay vis-a-vis our award staff counterparts during the last few salary negotiations at the bank level warranting immediate settlement of our demand for implementation of grade pay for officers. His deliberation found special mention on mandatory learning and its practical utility and was vehement in voicing his resentment on the issue of stoppages of 5-in-1 on its non-completion. He appraised the house about the court case lodged and the action initiated by the federation in this regard. He stressed the importance of "**BankBachaodeshBachao**" movement and was eloquent on the nationwide mass movement across all cross-sections of society, and how it had resulted in forcing the government to defer the introducing of the Banking Reform Bill during the winter session of the Parliament. He congratulated the N.E Circle Association team led by Com T.A.P Paul and Com. Rupam Roy for the excellent arrangement with special mention of the contribution of Com. Bijoy Krishna Dutta is the guiding force in showcasing an extravagant display of solidarity and camaraderie in this part of the country as well as in the Federation. He concluded by wishing Com. Dutta is happy and contented retired life.

18. Followed by the deliberation of the undersigned, it was the turn of Comrade Pradip Kumar Baishya, the General Secretary of Circle Staff Association who shared his thoughts on issues concerning the Bankers and congratulated the organisers on the successful completion of the 31st Annual General Meeting of the SBIOA N.E Circle.

19. The President Com. T.A.P Paul in his speech offered his heartfelt thanks to the dignitaries who traveled all the way including the Hon'ble Chief Minister Shri Conrad Sangma in absentia and the Guest of Honour Smt. Suranjana Dutta for attending the meeting and adding value to the endeavour.



20. The open session of the 31st Annual General Meeting marked its conclusion with a 'Vote of Thanks' proposed by the Vice President of the Circle Association Com. Hemant Deka Kharkongor.

21. The open session was followed by the Business Session, a session of the circle membership to share their views, give suggestions, feedback and brainstorm to give momentum to the already steered up chariot of the SBIOA North-Eastern Circle under the dynamic leadership of Com. T.A.P Paul and Comrade Rupam Roy. The undersigned is sanguine the circle leadership shall be able to address all their issues and the pain points of the memberships will surely meet total mitigation.



22. The meeting at Shillong witnessed a total accomplishment of all the parameters of a trade union meeting surpassing our expectations and redefining solidarity in its own way to give a lasting impact on our imagination.

Kudos to Team SBIOA North East.

With greetings,

Yours Comradely,

(Soumya Datta)
General Secretary

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