## All India RRB Officers' Federation (AFFILIATED TO AIBOC)

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All Affiliates/ Members (Please re-circulate)

NEW YEAR BECKONS NEW ASPIRATIONS & RESOLVE TO FIGHT HARD TO CLINCH THE GOALS – GENERAL SECRETARY ENDED THE LAST YEAR & HERALDED INTO NEW YEAR BY VISIT TO ONE OF THE REMOTEST CORNER OF OUR COUNTRY – LADAKH & KARGIL OF J & K

The unfinished tasks & challenges of the year 2016 is to be accomplished in the New Year. While wishing all our comrades a very happy, contended and meaningful New Year 2017, we resolve to take up cudgels to clinch all our goals set earlier and to be set in the New Year.

The challenges like ensuring Pension Parity, Reintroduction of Compassionate Appointment, relaxation norm in the eligibility criteria for Pension, introduction of Medical Insurance Scheme both for serving and retired officers, introduction of all other allowances, better loan scheme et all are some of our priorities. We humbly dedicate ourselves to be fully geared up for the task and accomplish the same at the earliest.

The area of Ladakh Dist., Kargil Dist. and Gilgit (now in Pakistan) form the ladakh Region, once administered by King of Kashmir, Raja Hari Singh under the tutelage of the British Crown. With the independence and the proxy war launched by Pakistan out of area of Gilgit and Baltistan under undivided J & K, Baltistan was annexed by Pakistan. The Dist. of Ladakh & Kargil now forms Ladakh Region. Area is served by J & K Gramin Bank sponsored by J & K Bank which is a old generation Private Bank. The area was never visited by a leader of Apex RRB Trade Union other than our General Secretary. On the occasion of festival of Loshar observed by Ladakhi people to celebrate advent of the New Year, the comrades of J & K Gramin Bank invited our General Secretary to visit Ladakh & Kargil.

During the two day stay of our General Secretary & in his interaction with comrades he saluted them for functioning in the branches located at areas of sparse oxygen situated at attitude of 11500 – 18000 ft. doing business as the Banking sentinel. Visit was made to the branches of J & K Gramin Bank by General Secretary accompanied by the leadership of J & K Gramin Bank Officers' Association. He addressed get together of officers in the afternoon of 30th & 31st Dec. 2016 at Leh and Kargil respectively while temperature was much below the freezing level. The new dawn of 2017 witnessed General Secretary bid adieu to the comrades of J & K Gramin Bank who thronged to the Airport and he offered his gratitude and best wishes to the comrades.

The good bye to the last year and welcoming of year 2017 remained highly meaningful to the RRB Officers working in the difficult terrain of Ladakh Region.

With greetings,

(S.K. Bhattacharjee)
GENERAL SECRETARY