SUMMARY / REVIEW OF "SANAK MISHRA: AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY"

I have gone through Autobiography of Dr. Sanak Mishra with a lot of interest. The book indicates his journey from his childhood till date. Dr Sanak Mishra has taken a lot pains to pen down every small details happening in his life.

It is heartening to note that Dr. Mishra was ranked first in the whole state of Odisha in his matriculation examination.

His academic career was very brilliant. He graduated from Ravenshaw College Odisha in 1965 with first class honours in Physics and distinction in Mathematics and Chemistry.

It is a matter of pride for Indian Institute of Science (IISc) Bangalore to admit Dr Mishra in Engineering Course in Metallurgy in 1965. He graduated from IISc in 1968 with distinction. It is a coincidence that his summer training was at Rourkela Steel Plant (RSP) in 1968. On the occasion of centenary celebrations of IISc in 2008, he was conferred Distinguished Alumni Awards. Dr. Sanak Mishra did his MS in 1970 and PhD in 1973 from University of Illinois USA. The title of his MS Thesis and PhD was "Paramagnetism in Copper-Nickel Solid Solutions: Effect of Small Iron Additions" and "Magnetic Clusters in Dilute Alloys Iron in Copper-Nickel Solid Solutions" respectively. His work was of much fundamental significance. In the year 2010 he received the Distinguished Merit Alumnus Award from the University of Illinois.

He joined SAIL RDCIS at Ranchi as Research Metallurgist in 1973. The First Technical report prepared by him at RDCIS was "State of Art of Technology of CRGO Steel".

He became a member of IM in 1976. I was then the Secretary of IIM Ranchi Chapter and had the pleasure of introducing him to the fold of IIM.

In 1979, Dr Mishra was awarded Humboldt Fellowship in Germany. Duration of this Fellowship was two years, at the Aachen Technical University. During this two years period Dr. Mishra published seven technical papers. After availing two years fellowship he joined back RDCIS in 1981. He made immense technical contributions to the R&D activities of RDCIS Ranchi. Dr Mishra was transferred to SAIL CO in February 1998 as ED i/c of Corporate Planning. During his stay at CO, he prepared a strategy document "Path to Turnaround and Transformation of SAIL" in June 1998.

Rourkela steel Plant (RSP) was fortunate to have Dr. Sanak Mishra at its helm as MD in May 2001. At that time RSP was incurring huge financial losses. During his stay at RSP a lot of technological and administrative interventions were introduced by hm. This resulted into turn-around of RSP from loss making plant to profit making plant. His efforts to turn-around RSP are referred to at different forums. After his superannuation from RSP he joined ArcelorMittal as Vice President in June 2006.

IIM was privileged to have him as its President in 2009-10.

After leaving ArcelorMittal in July 2013, he was inducted as Independent Director of the Asset Boards of Essar Steel in 2013-14.

He also had the privilege to head newly created India Steel Association in September 2014. His contribution in the formation of Steel and Technology Mission of India is well known to the stakeholders of Steel Industry.

He also contributed a lot to MIDHANI as its Sr. Adviser in 2018-19.

Dr. Sanak Mishra is a recipient of various National Metallurgists Day (NMD) Awards instituted by Ministry of Steel, Govt. of India. The most important NMD Award is Lifetime Achievement Award which is given to individuals to recognize outstanding Lifetime achievements and original contributions in the fields of metallurgical and industrial profession having significant impact on National Scenario. Dr. Sanak Mishra had the privilege to receive this coveted Award in 2018.

He was appointed as President of the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE) in January 2019. During the same time he was inducted as a member of the Executive Board of the world body CAETS (Council of the Academics of Engineering & Technological Sciences). It is learnt that our former President APJ Abdul Kalam was a former President of INAE.

This book indicates Dr. Sanak Mishra's tall standing in academic, technical, research and administrative areas. Needless to say that today he stands out as one of the tallest luminary in metallurgical field and steel fraternity.

Summarized by
S C Suri