



## Editorial

### VIII CPC – NEED FOR AN OPEN-MINDED APPROACH

**F**ollowing our earlier practice of submitting a memorandum to the Seventh Central Pay Commission, on issues pertaining to the structure of the pension, we have been planning to make a submission to the VIII Central Pay Commission as well. The proposed memorandum will focus on key issues such as enhancement of the quantum of pension on attaining the age of 65, 70, and 75; restoration of commutation in less than 15 years; expansion of the CGHS to more cities with the objective of covering all district headquarters; and enhancement of the Fixed Medical Allowance under CGHS to Rs.3,000 per month. The VIII Central Pay Commission launched its official website in early February, inviting all stakeholders to submit their representations, memoranda, or suggestions in a structured format prescribed by the Commission on or before 16 March 2026. Submissions are to be made exclusively through the designated online link. Paper-based memoranda, hard copies, PDFs, or submissions sent by email will not be considered or entertained by the Commission. While the link for submitting the memorandum is yet to be activated, the link to the questionnaire is currently available, allowing inputs in text boxes with a limit of 200 words for each answer.

**T**he questionnaire was expected to be an opportunity for meaningful consultation. Instead, it has raised deeper concerns about the mindset with which the Commission has

begun its work. This is more evident in Question 11, the only question related to civil pensioners: *“The Seventh Pay Commission had assessed that in January, 2014, there were about 47 lakh serving Central Government personnel. This included CAPF, Railways & Defence forces. The number of pensioners was just short of 52 lakh. In 2025-26, the number of Central Government personnel stands at about 50 lakh, which the number of pensioners is almost 70 lakh. The increase in the number of pensions has created additional demands on Government’s Budget. What approaches could help to satisfy reasonable expectations of pensioners whilst keeping the fiscal impact within manageable limits?”*

**E**ven defence pensioners have not been spared. Question 16 reads: *“The nation has many more military pensioners than serving military personnel. In 2025-26, outgo on Defence Pensions is likely to be higher than the outgo on Defence salary and allowances. As overall defence pension bill increases, in line with projections, impact will be visible on equipment and arms purchase, their maintenance and on modernization of defence forces. What changes would you recommend to contain increases in defence manpower costs and its pension bill?”*

**T**hese questions frame the growing number of pensioners as a fiscal “burden” and asks how their “reasonable expectations”

can be met without straining the Budget. The framing is not neutral; it is accusatory. It presumes that pensioners are a problem to be managed, not citizens to be honoured. This aligns with the opinion expressed a few months back by Shri Sanjeev Sanyal, one of the three full time members of Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister of India (EAC-PM) that, *"We are creating liabilities for next generation because most pensions have pay-as-you-go schemes, but if you are creating systems that will be paid out of current revenues, then be very clear that as our demographic turns at the end of this cycle, may be after 25 years, the population or working age will shrink. And you will be loading the shrinking population with the pensions of the previous generation, and they will not be able to pay it."* This also aligns with the Terms of Reference of VIII Central Pay Commission which wants the pay commission to keep in view the *'unfunded cost of non-contributory pension schemes,'* reflecting the current direction of government policy. These collectively reflect a troubling shift in the Government's attitude toward those who built and sustained the nation's administrative, security, communication, and infrastructure systems for decades.

**T**he premise underlying the questions is fundamentally flawed. Pension is not charity. It is a legally and morally mandated deferred wage, earned through decades of service. Pensioners are not liabilities; they are the very individuals who kept the wheels of governance turning during their most productive years. To portray them as a fiscal strain is to disregard the foundation on which

today's public institutions stand. An ageing population is not a crisis. It is a sign of national progress — improved healthcare, better living conditions, and increased longevity. Developed nations treat their senior citizens with dignity, not suspicion. India, as a welfare state and a model employer, must do the same.

**P**ensioners' expectations are modest: protection from inflation, timely revision, and dignity in old age. These are not extravagant demands. They are basic obligations of a responsible Government. Fiscal prudence cannot be achieved by suppressing rightful pensions. It must come from better governance, not from eroding the social contract with senior citizens. This creates the impression that the issue is not being approached with an open mind. Instead, it seems aligned with the higher echelons of the Government, preparing the ground to deny relief to pensioners even before consultations have begun.

**O**ur response to Question 11 will reflect the collective sentiment of lakhs of pensioners: that dignity cannot be compromised, that pension is a right, and that fiscal responsibility must not be built on the backs of the elderly. We will urge the VIII CPC to rise above narrow fiscal narratives and recognise the human, constitutional, and ethical dimensions of pension policy. The Commission must remember that its legitimacy rests on upholding justice, equity, and the principles of a model employer. ⊖

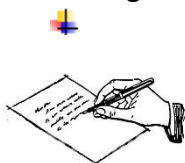


## Important Developments of the Month

- ✚ The Union Budget presented on February 1, 2026, keeps the income tax structure unchanged. There are no revisions to income tax slabs under either the old or the new

tax regime, no changes to standard deduction limits, and no new exemptions or rebates announced.

✚ The virtual meet of AIBSNLREA CHQ office bearers was held on 01.02.2026 under the Presidentship of Shri V.Chinnappiah, CHQ President. After the President welcomed the participants to the penultimate meeting before the AIC, General Secretary briefed about the activities of CHQ and developments during the month of January 2026. He appreciated Sangrur Branch for adding 13 new members within a gap of four days and its commitment to add more members. He expressed satisfaction over so many Branches holding their GB meeting in order to elect delegates to AIC and prompt adherence to the timeline specified for submission of list of delegates and deposit of delegate/guest fee. He then mentioned about official response to our letters on issue of ID card, regular promotion of Shri M.N.Chavda from retrospective date, issue of Presidential Orders to Shri H.S.Sutaria, transfer of pension for three pensioners of Gujarat and about fresh enrolment of HCOs, need to use this opportunity to enroll more hospitals and status of IT exemption on ex-gratia received by BSNL VRS retirees. The meeting then elaborately discussed about reconciling the list of delegates with the amount deposited by Branches and individuals as delegate/guest fee. After interaction with the office bearers, it was decided that the office bearers will bestow their attention to enabling Branches which have not held meetings this month to hold a meeting during February/March 2026, before the AIC; to co-ordinate with Branches on the work of approaching known persons in good Hospitals for getting them enrolled and collecting arrival/departure details from the delegates/guests. It was decided to write to the DG CGHS regarding the difficulty faced by hospitals while applying online for fresh empanelment. President concluded the meeting thanking the participants for their tireless work in the field which has resulted in strengthening the organisation.



## Issues taken up

### **18.02.2026: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE SECRETARY DOT REQUESTING IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE OF CLARIFICATION EXTENDING THE BENEFIT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT TO BSNL VRS RETIREES IN LIGHT OF DELHI HIGH COURT JUDGMENT DATED 09.02.2026:**

Drawing attention of Secretary, DoT to the DoT O.M. No. 40 24/2025 Pen(T) dated 28.01.2026, wherein it was stated that the matter regarding grant of notional increment to BSNL/MTNL employees who retired under the VRS 2019 scheme was sub judice before the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and that the issue would be examined after the outcome of the Court's judgment and the subsequent judgment of Delhi High Court on 09.02.2026 dismissing the writ petition of Union of India, AIBSNLREA has requested his intervention to ensure that the Department brings this matter to a final, conclusive end by issuing the necessary clarification at the earliest, thereby granting long overdue relief to the BSNL VRS 2019 retirees who have already earned this benefit through their service. [View the letter](#)

### **13.02.2026: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE DG CGHS REQUESTING URGENT RECTIFICATION OF TECHNICAL ISSUES IN THE CGHS ONLINE EMPANELMENT PORTAL:**

AIBSNLREA has drawn attention of the DG CGHS to the reported difficulty faced by private hospitals while applying online for fresh empanelment and has requested rectification of technical issues. [View the letter](#)

**06.02.2026: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE HON'BLE MINISTER OF FINANCE REGARDING INORDINATE DELAY IN ISSUE OF IDA REVISION ORDERS W.E.F.01.01.2026:**

AIBSNLREA has submitted a representation to the Hon'ble Minister of Finance, conveying the deep anguish and growing anxiety among the BSNL pensioners across the country due to the continued delay in the issue of Industrial Dearness Allowance (IDA) revision orders due from 01.01.2026 and has requested her intervention to ensure that the IDA revision orders w.e.f. 01.01.2026 are issued without any further delay, and to put in place a system to prevent such delays in future, so that IDA orders are issued automatically and on schedule. [View the letter](#)

**05.02.2026: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE CGCA, DOT REGARDING UNDUE DELAY IN TRANSFER OF PENSION FILES FROM CCA MH & GOA TO CCA MP:**

AIBSNLREA has written to the CGCA, DoT regarding delay in transfer of pension files of 3 BSNL absorbed pensioners from CCA Maharashtra & Goa to CCA Madhya Pradesh, although the pension has been transferred several months ago, to ensure that the pension files are transferred to CCA Madhya Pradesh at the earliest. [View the letter](#)



**GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS**

**17.02.2026: BSNL CIRCULATES DOT O.M. CLARIFYING APPLICABILITY OF VARIOUS CLAUSES OF ORDER DATED 20.02.2025 OF SUPREME COURT OF INDIA ON NOTIONAL INCREMENT:**

BSNL has circulated DoT O.M. issued vide No.40-24/2025-Pen(T) dated 28.01.2026, clarifying the applicability of various clauses of the order dated 20.02.2025 of Supreme Court of India w.r.t treatment of res judicata cases, third party cases and cases involving intervention/impleadment/original application, including the period for which enhanced pension is admissible. [View the BSNL letter](#)

**15.02.2026: DEPARTMENT OF FINANCIAL SERVICES ISSUES O.M. DETAILING THE KEY FEATURES OF PMAB:**

Department of Financial Services under Ministry of Finance has issued an Office Memorandum giving details of key features of the product. The OM substantially echoes the earlier FAQ of National Insurance Co. Ltd. and leaves no ambiguity: the 30%/50% co-payment is to be met by the CGHS beneficiary, and the PMAB cannot be construed as a top-up arrangement. Please read our editorial on the product again. [View the DFS O.M](#) [View the Editorial, February 2026](#)

**RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON**



**AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS**

**21.02.2026: DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 18.02.2026 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY, DOT, REQUESTING IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE OF**

**CLARIFICATION EXTENDING THE BENEFIT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT TO BSNL VRS RETIREES IN LIGHT OF DELHI HIGH COURT JUDGMENT DATED 09.02.2026:**

DoP&PW has forwarded AIBSNLREA letter dated 18.02.2026 addressed to the Secretary, DoT with the request to look into the matter and redress the same as per extant rules within the stipulated period of 21 days. [View the DoP&PW email](#)

**20.02.2026: CGCA GIVES ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IN RESPONSE TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 19.01.2026 REQUESTING INCORPORATION OF CORRECTIONS DIRECTLY IN ORIGINAL EPPO UNDER SAMPANN:**

Modifying its earlier response which was published in this website on 11.02.2026, CGCA has informed us that "SAMPANN Pension Certificate (in case of migrated pensioners) and the ePPO (in case of SAMPANN-generated pensioners) are permanent records and are digitally signed documents, authenticated through a Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) on a specific date. Since the digital signature is applied on a particular date by the Accounts Officer, any correction cannot be incorporated in the digitally signed PPO. However, if any correction is required, the same is carried out through issuance of a Corrigendum or a Revised Pension Payment Authority, as the case may be. Once a Corrigendum or Revised Pension Payment Authority is uploaded on the SAMPANN system, it remains permanently on record in SAMPANN & is available to the Pensioner." [View the CGCA response](#)

**16.02.2026: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 24.11.2025 REQUESTING IMMEDIATE CORRECTIVE MEASURES REGARDING NON-OPERATIONAL STATUS OF EMPANELLED HOSPITALS IN RAJAMAHENDRAVARAM:**

Responding to AIBSNLREA letter dated 24.11.2025 on the subject, CGHS replied that "S.A.I hospital & Delta hospitals did not complete the process of empanelment in 2025. All hospitals have to apply for fresh empanelment as now new MOA has been circulated by ministry. The process of empanelment in TMS 2.0 has started." [View the CGHS response](#)

**11.02.2026: CGCA RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 19.01.2026 REQUESTING INCORPORATION OF CORRECTIONS DIRECTLY IN ORIGINAL EPPO UNDER SAMPANN:**

Responding to AIBSNLREA letter dated 19.01.2026 requesting incorporation of corrections directly in Original ePPO under SAMPANN instead of only issuing a Corrigendum, CGCA has clarified that "once a Corrigendum or Revised Pension Payment Authority is uploaded in SAMPANN, it remains accessible in the system at all times. Pensioners may download and refer to it whenever required. As the Corrigendum duly reflects the modifications to the original PPO, issuance of a fresh or revised PPO is neither necessary nor mandated under the rules." [View the CGCA response](#)

**07.02.2026: CCA MAHARASHTRA & GOA RESPONDS IMMEDIATELY TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 05.02.2026 REGARDING UNDUE DELAY IN TRANSFERRING PENSION FILES BY CCA MAHARASHTRA & GOA TO CCA MADHYA PRADESH:**

In a fast response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 05.02.2026, CCA Maharashtra & Goa has intimated that the said pension files have already been despatched to CCA Madhya Pradesh, giving the dates on which the files were forwarded. [View the email from CCA Maharashtra & Goa](#)

**02.02.2026: DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 27.12.2025 REGARDING STRICT ADHERENCE TO DOP&PW OM DATED 30.11.2021, TO DOT FOR REDRESSAL OF THE MATTER:**

AIBSNLREA had addressed a letter to Secretary, DoT requesting strict adherence to DoP&PW OM dated 30.11.2021 and immediate relief to affected BSNL VRS-2019 retirees. The copy of the letter was marked to Secretary, DoP&PW. DoP&PW has forwarded our letter to DoT with the request to look into the matter and redress the same as per extant rules within the stipulated period of 21 days. [View the DoP&PW email](#)



**BRANCHES IN ACTION**

**23.02.2026: AIBSNLREA CHANDIGARH BRANCH (CHANDIGARH UT) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:**

General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Chandigarh Branch was held on 21-02-2026 in Hotel Pearl Industrial Area –II Chandigarh under the Presidentship of Branch President Shri M.D. Bhasin. Branch Secretary Shri M.K. Kalra greeted and welcomed the members. President spoke on the issues relating to status of court case regarding payment of fitment benefits in pay/pension revision at 78.2% DA w.e.f. 1-1-2007 for which pay/Pension arrears from January 2007 to June 2013 are pending. Other issues relating to CGHS's new site and reimbursement of medical bills by BSNL were also discussed. Information relating to medical Insurance and notional increment was shared with the members. PPO correction on line through SAMPANN APP was also discussed. Non-release of IDA orders was a matter of concern for the members. The President advised the members to go through the E-Journal which contains lot of information concerning members. Shri HS Chopra joined as a Life member in the meeting. The meeting ended with vote of thanks and was followed by sumptuous lunch.

**19.02.2026: AIBSNLREA BHOPAL BRANCH (MADHYA PRADESH STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:**

AIBSNLREA Bhopal branch held its monthly GB meeting on 14.2.2026 under the Presidentship of Shri O P Sharma, at Hotel Sudershan Palace, MP Nagar, Bhopal. 47 members attended the meeting. Two minutes silence was observed in memory of Late Shri R P Shahu. Shri TR Jain, Financial Secretary submitted statement of account for the year 2025 which was approved by all the members present. Shri R G Ram was honoured on attaining the age of 80 years. Shri Kamlesh Singh was honoured on his birthday falling in this month. Shri Rahul Jain, ADG (Digital Intelligence) MPLSA DoT Bhopal, Special invitee spoke on Cyber security and how to protect ourselves from digital frauds. 47 members attended the meeting. Shri B S Rajput CHQ OS (C) shared the latest developments at CHQ level and information regarding the All India Conference to be held at Varanasi in March 2026. Shri Umesh Rathore had arranged a nice music program. Asst.Secretary presented a vote of thanks. Breakfast was served after the meeting. [View the Photos](#)

**04.02.2026: AIBSNLREA PRAYAGRAJ BRANCH (UTTAR PRADESH STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:**

The General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA Prayagraj Branch was held on 27th January 2026 in the CTO Campus, under the Chairmanship of Shri L. B. Singh. The Branch Secretary, Shri S. M. Tiwari, briefed the house on various local issues and matters related to court cases. Three delegates — Shri S. M. Tiwari, Shri Ramchandra, and Shri N. K. Yadav — were unanimously

elected to attend the AIC to be held at Varanasi. Corrections to the financial statement, which was presented by the Treasurer during the Branch Conference, were placed before the House. Information regarding issue of Identity Cards was shared. Members who have not yet received their I/D cards were requested to submit individual applications. Meeting ended with vote of thanks.

### **03.02.2026: AIBSNLREA BALLIA BRANCH (UTTAR PRADESH STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:**

The General body meeting of AIBSNLREA Ballia branch was held on 25/01/2026 at Sonia Marriage hall Ekwari Khas under the Presidentship shri D.S Rai. Branch secretary P.N Chaudhary welcomed the members. Silence was observed in memory of late shri R.Y Sharma, Financial Secretary, who expired a few months back. Branch secretary briefed the House about various activities of association at CHQ and State levels. New office bearers with Shri D.S.Rai, Shri P.N.Chaudhary and Shri Thakur Prasad as President, Secretary and Financial Secretary respectively were elected unanimously. Shri Hareram Chaurasia and Shri P.N.Chaudhary were elected as delegates to attend the AIC to be held at Varanasi.

### **02.02.2026: AIBSNLREA VARANASI BRANCH (UTTAR PRADESH STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:**

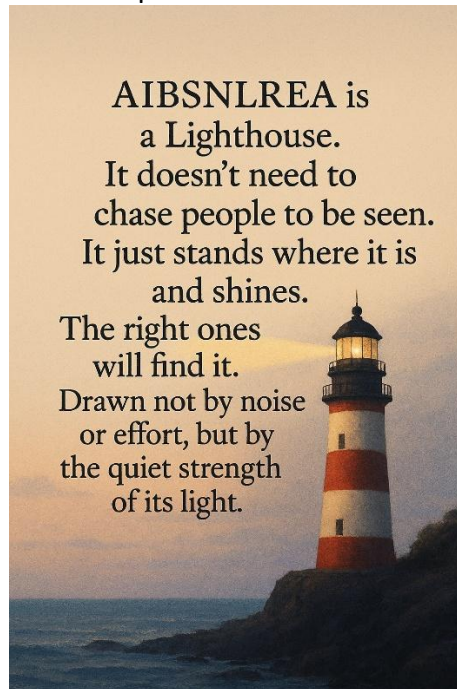
The General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Varanasi Branch was held on 28/01/2026 in CTX campus, Varanasi, under the Presidentship of Shri C.K.Singh. Branch Secretary Shri Yad Ali made a condolence reference in respect of members who had passed away. He then briefed about the preparatory work for AIC to be held at Sarnath, Varanasi. Discussions took place on formation of various committees for smooth conduct of the AIC. He thanked the General Secretary for his clear support with point to point guidance on hosting the AIC. The meeting honoured the members who had attained the age of 75 years. The meeting ended with vote of thanks and was followed by light refreshment.



## **STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY 2026**

- 01. Shri Naresh Chauhan of Shimla Branch (Himachal Pradesh State)** deposited Rupees Fifteen Thousand (**Rs. 15000/-**) only on **01.02.2026** towards Guest fee for two Guests for AIC
- 02. Dhanbad Branch ( Jharkhand State)** deposited Rupees Twenty Thousand Five Hundred (**Rs. 20500/-**) only on **02.02.2026** towards Delegate Fee for Two delegates and Guest fee for One Guest.
- 03. West Bengal State** deposited Rupees Two lakhs Thirty One Thousand (**Rs.231000/-**) only on **02.02.2026** towards delegate fee for Twenty Four delegates and Guest fee for Ten Guests.
- 04. Madurai Branch (Tamilnadu State)** deposited Rupees Six Hundred (**Rs.600/-**) only on **03.02.2026** towards CHQ quota for two new Life members.

- 05. Madurai Branch (Tamilnadu State)** deposited Rupees Thirteen Thousand (**Rs.13000/-**) only on 03.02.2026 towards delegate fee for two delegates.
- 06. Mumbai Branch (Maharashtra State)** deposited Rupees Twenty Seven Thousand (**Rs.27000/-**) only on 03.02.2026 towards delegate fee for three delegates and guest fee for one guest.
- 07. Nagpur Branch (Maharashtra State)** deposited Rupees Fourteen Thousand (**Rs.14000/-**) only on 03.02.2026 towards delegate fee for one delegate and guest fee for one guest.
- 08. Raipur Branch (Chattisgarh State)** deposited Rupees Six Hundred (**Rs.200/-**) only on 07.02.2026 towards CHQ quota for one new Life member (short payment).
- 09. Raipur Branch (Chattisgarh State)** deposited Rupees One Hundred (**Rs.100/-**) only on 09.02.2026 towards balance of CHQ quota for one new Life member.
- 10. A cash deposit of Rupees Three Hundred (**Rs.300/-**)** only has been made on 10.02.2026. No details received from any Branch/Member till date.
- 11. Varanasi Branch (UP State)** deposited Rupees Three Hundred (**Rs.300/-**) only on 11.02.2026 towards CHQ quota for one new Life member.
- 12. Varanasi Branch (UP State)** deposited Rupees Six Hundred (**Rs.600/-**) only on 25.02.2026 towards CHQ quota for Two new Life members.



Website: <https://www.aibsnlrea.org>

*Edited and published by R.R.Balasubramanian, General Secretary, AIBSNLREA*