



Editorial

RETROSPECTIVE CHANGES IN PENSION RULES – A LOOMING CRISIS

The passage of the validation legislation as part of the Finance Bill 2025 in the Parliament has left pensioners across the country deeply shaken. This amendment accords the government the authority to classify pensioners based on their date of retirement, a move that has caused significant distress among those who are in the twilight of their lives. The retrospective change has armed the Government with provisions to deny the parity in pension between the past and future pensioners achieved by way of revising the pension of past pensioners whenever the pay scales of serving employees are revised based on recommendations of a Central Pay Commission. This retrospective changes in CCS (Pension) Rules can affect us - the BSNL combined services pensioners drawing pension under CCS (Pension) Rules - too as we got pension revision for pre-2007 pensioners based on the BSNL pay revision as per Second PRC recommendations, arguing that there can be no disparity in pension between pre-2007 and post-2007 pensioners.

Though the Finance Minister assured in the Parliament that there is no change in policy, which was followed by assurance by Secretary (Pension) DoP&PW in a hurriedly called virtual

meeting with the pensioners associations, the pensioners continue to harbour doubts about the Government honouring the assurances. It cannot be said that their suspicions are completely unfounded.

In the year 2018 there were media reports that, the Government had *“decided to do away with pay commissions in the future”* and that *“the Government was looking at an alternative to revise future salaries and allowances of central staff and pensioners”* according to a top finance ministry official. Though this was then refuted by the Government, stating *“non-formation of Pay Commission in future is not on government radar for the time being and this will be declared later by Finance Minister Arun Jaitley”*. Since then, the Government has been maintaining a consistent stand on its intention not to go for a pay commission, in its replies in the Parliament. Even on 3rd December 2024, the Government had stated in the Parliament that *“The government currently has no proposal for the constitution of the 8th Central Pay Commission”*. But within a month the Government changed its mind, for whatever reason, and the Cabinet approved setting up of 8th Central Pay Commission, on 16th January 2025. The

timing of the amendment passed as a part of Finance Bill just when the Central Government employees and pensioners are eagerly waiting for the notification of 8th CPC, fuelled further concern. In February 2025, all the visual and print media were screaming with a caption “the expenditure on pension has exceeded the salary since 2023-24” based on the Budget Profile documents. This gives room for doubts that reducing the expenditure on pension could be a motive behind the amendment.

Secretary (Pension) stated in the virtual meeting that the validation was required to deal with court cases. The Finance Bill 2025 (now Finance Act 2025 after assent by the President of India on 29.03.2025) too specifies that *"it has become necessary to deal with the interpretation of the Courts and to address the issue relating to pensioners of the Central Government, since the Supreme Court in its judgment in Union of India and Ors. Vs All India S-30 Pensioners Association and Ors. has obliterated such distinction and proceeded on the premise that the Government lacks authority for providing for such distinction of the Central Government pensioners based on their date of retirement"*.

The grievances of the S-30 pensioners had arisen from two issues. From the Third Pay Commission onwards, the minimum of the pay scales of S-30 and S-31 had remained the same but while implementing the recommendations of the Sixth CPC, the Government had raised the minimum of S-31 pay scale astronomically, creating disparity. The S-

30 pay scale was revised to 37400-67000 and the S-31 pay scale was revised to 75500-80000, although the VI CPC had recommended the same pay scale of 39200-67000 for both S-30 and S-31. Second, the revised pension of S-30 pensioners was less than the pension drawn by those who retired after 1.1.2006 in S-28 and S-29 pay scales. This anomaly was the creation of VI CPC which had introduced the concept of clubbing the pay scales in Pay bands with running scale of same minimum and same maximum in each band and providing a grade pay to different pay scales within the band. This matter of discrepancy was being fought in the courts for the past 15 years, with the cases moving up and down between CAT, High court and the Supreme Court. The courts allowed parity between S-30 pensioners and post-2006 S-28, S-29 pensioners but did not accept parity between S-30 and S-31 pensioners. FORIPSO (Forum of Retired IPS Officers), which had been fighting the same issues in courts, claims that the legislation appears to be brought to negate Delhi High Court judgement on 20.03.2024 in its favour which was confirmed by Supreme Court on 04.10.2024, as hefty arrears are to be paid to around 300 retirees. It adds that the Government wants to face a contempt petition filed by it which is coming up for hearing in May 2025, armed with the legislation.

But it is hard to believe that the Government chose to amend the pension rules retrospectively from 1972 only to deny payment of arrears of pension to a small group of pensioners.

The Government is not unwise to choose a cannon to kill a fly. Armed with the 'authority to classify the pensioners based on the date of retirement' the Government may leave out pension revision from the terms of reference of VIII CPC. Even if included, the VIII CPC may stop short of recommending pension revision, citing the 'authority to classify'. If these apprehensions of the pensioners are proved wrong, still the amendment will be sitting dangerously in the CCS Pension Rules, like a ticking time bomb, which can be used/misused by the Government in the future, if not today.

Majority of the Central Government pensioners organisations are waiting with the hope that VIII CPC will be notified at the earliest with terms of reference including revision of pension of pre-2026 pensioners, based on the assurance given by the Finance Minister and the Secretary (Pension). Secretary, Staff Side, National Council of JCM wants the assurance to be given in writing. The immediate response by the pensioner organisations has been diverse, with demonstrations, Twitter Campaign, Facebook campaign, Email Campaign, letter to the Prime Minister and Press briefing, based on their own perception and capabilities. The aim of the pensioner associations should be to complement the efforts by others and not to compete with each other.

AIBSNLREA opted for Email Campaign, as unlike other forms of protests, it reaches the recipients directly. It accomplishes higher personal engagement rate, involving maximum of

the members. Those who could not send emails due to lack of knowledge of sending emails, difficulty in using mobile for the purpose and those who could not succeed after repeated attempts, are all involved in the campaign.

It is an irony that when some pensioner associations in BSNL are demanding inclusion of BSNL pensioners in terms of reference of VIII CPC, the inclusion of pension revision of Central Government pensioners itself has become a question mark. However, this episode has again brought into focus, the judgment of the Supreme Court in D.S. Nakara & Ors vs UOI that pensioners as a homogenous class cannot be classified on the basis of date of retirement and there cannot be any disparity in the pension between the past and future pensioners. This judgment had led to the concept of pension revision whereby the pension of those retiring prior to the date of revision of pay scales, get revised with the same fitment benefit allowed for revision of pay scales, subject to the important clause that the pension thus revised/consolidated, in no case, shall be lower than fifty percent of the minimum of the revised pay scale corresponding to the pay scale in which the pensioner had retired.

This highlights the fact that the revision of pension after pay revision is linked with the revised pay scale corresponding to the pay scale in which the pensioner had retired and any effort to delink it in the name of classifying pensioners or otherwise, will result only in denial of pension revision. If Central Government pensioners are denied the pension

revision, we, the BSNL pensioners will also be denied pension revision, as and when the pay scales of the BSNL employees are revised. The number of Central Government pensioners is very huge, and we are a small fraction of that number.

We will keep watching the developments and the action by the large groups of Central Government pensioners in case of any adverse action by the Government and will certainly act to complement their action, appropriately. ☹



Important Developments of the Month

- DoP&PW had called for a virtual meeting with the Pensioners Associations on 'Pension related matters' at short notice, on 29.03.2025 at 10.30 AM, although it is a Saturday. Secretary (P) chaired the meeting and as expected said the meeting was arranged to allay the apprehensions of the pensioners following passing of validation legislation reiterating the authority of the Government to divide the pensioners based on their date of retirement. He said this is not an amendment but only a 'validation' of the existing pension rules. The purpose was to reiterate the authority of the Government while facing court cases. There was no policy change regarding parity and the present policy will continue. Staff Side Secretary of JCM National Council was first called to give his views. JCM Members, Defence pensioners associations and other pensioners associations were allowed to speak, in that order. Our views in our letter to Prime Minister on this matter were reflected by GS AIDEF in his speech. He emphasized that withdrawal of the validation legislation alone can pacify the pensioners. Most of the speakers expressed concern and anguish as to what will happen to pre-2026 pensioners when VIII CPC considers pension revision. To this Secretary (Pension) wanted the pensioners to be optimistic about VIII CPC, as there is no change in the policy. GS AIBSNLREA in his speech thanked the Secretary (P) for arranging the meeting and said that his assurance on VIII CPC fell short of the expectations of the pensioners as he wanted us to be 'optimistic'. He asked what was the need to reiterate the already existing authority with the Government. He could not continue his speech as many participants were simultaneously speaking requesting to hear them. Moments later the meeting was abruptly closed with many participants unable to share their views.
- In a major retrograde move, the Government gets passed the validation legislation in Lok Sabha on 25.03.2025 according to which, the Central Government has the authority to establish distinctions among pensioners as a general principle and that a distinction may be made or maintained amongst the pensioners, which may emanate from the accepted recommendations of the Central Pay Commissions and in particular the distinction may be made on the basis of date of retirement. This is aimed at undoing the milestone judgment of Supreme Court in D S Nakara case that pensioners for the purpose of pension form a class and cannot be divided by arbitrarily fixing an eligibility criteria like

date of retirement, which became the basis of revision of pension of past pensioners, whenever pay is revised for serving employees. [View the PIB Press Release](#)

- CHQ held a virtual meeting with the Branch Secretaries of South Zone on 26.03.2025 under the Presidentship of Shri V.Chinnappiah, CHQ President. All the Branch Secretaries of South Zone joined the meeting except one who could not join due to technical issues. State President, State Secretary of Tamilnadu and CHQ OS (South) were present. After the President welcomed the participants and explained that the purpose of the meeting was solely to hear the views of and suggestions from the Branch Secretaries on further improving the functioning of the CHQ. All the Branch Secretaries, State President and State Secretary Tamilnadu and CHQ OS (S) shared their views. The general impression was that CHQ was functioning extraordinarily well, beyond the limit. Branch Secretaries also spoke about some issues like implementation of CAT Chennai orders allowing stepping up pay of seniors on par with juniors, case of denial of promotion on the basis of pen picture although grading was good, pensioner not aware of cheque issued for his revised pension, CAT Chennai ordering refund of recovered amount on the plea of excess payment several years ago, problems with Tamilnadu CCA, non-settlement of even a single case of notional increment by the CCAs, Pension revision, delay in issue of CGHS plastic cards, Terms of Reference of VIII CPC, SCOVA meeting and discrepancy in life membership list uploaded in CHQ website. While summing up, General Secretary explained the Association's correct understanding on pension revision after thorough discussions in two AICs, there is no scope for including BSNL pension revision in TOR of VIII CPC and CHQ's plan to takeup with VIII CPC for grant of additional quantum of pension after 65, 70 and 75 years which alone looks to be the viable alternate for increase in pension. He expressed concern over the news item about amending pension rules and said that the amendment passed in the Lok Sabha has to be read fully to know its impact. He replied to the queries raised by the Branch Secretaries. He said there is no limitation for excellence and CHQ will take cue from the Seven meetings with Branch Secretaries across the country held during the past three months for further improving the way the CHQ worked. He thanked all the Branch Secretaries saying but for their hardwork, the association would not have thrived and progressed. He emphasised the need to hold regular Branch meetings. President, while concluding the meeting stressed upon adding membership, although in pensioner associations the numbers do not make any difference and thanked the participants for spending their valuable time in making the meeting successful.
- A virtual meeting of Branch Secretaries of Gujarat State was held on 20.03.2025 by CHQ under the Presidentship of Shri V.Chinnappiah, CHQ President. President welcomed the participants and briefed about the purpose of the meeting viz. to listen to the Branch Secretaries and solicit their views and suggestions for improvement of the functioning of the CHQ. After self-introduction, all the Branch Secretaries spoke about the membership strength,

periodicity of holding GB meetings and some issues like non-payment of medical claims for two years, GM Surat not willing to meet the association representatives, individual grievances of Shri H S Sutaria, Shri M N Chavda, Shri S S Patel, Shri Contractor and Shri D M Patel, CCA refusing to deliver printed ID cards by Speed Post, procedure for replacing lost ID card and opening of second wellness centre in Vadodara. State President Shri P B Parmar narrated how he wrote to the CCA requesting not to recover TDS consequent to the budget announcement regarding no income tax upto Rs.12 lakhs with standard deduction of Rs.75000 for salaried tax payers and the immediate and positive response from CCA. He wanted to know the Association's stand on pension revision and desired that the association, like others, should write to include BSNL and MTNL pensioners in the Terms of Reference of VIII CPC. State Secretary Shri N P Patel explained as to how he was able to resolve the grievances of pensioners by duly interacting with the CGM and CCA. CHQ OS (W) spoke about his co-ordination with the Branches. General Secretary, while summing up mentioned the purpose of creation of WhatsApp network so that the CHQ messages reach the common member, appreciated the functioning of the State Secretary and replied to the issues raised by the Branch Secretaries, requesting to send details of the grievances to CHQ for taking up after the State association exhausts its efforts. He said the Branches were the roots of the organisation and CHQ was working as a Team, with emphasis on 'we' rather than 'I'. On pension revision he explained in detail, starting from how we have ceased to be Government employees on absorption in BSNL, the concept of pension revision, the disparity that would arise between pre 2017 and post 2017 pensioners, if pension revision is delinked from pay revision, why DoT's proposal for pension revision with 0% fitment was rejected by all, AIBSNLREA writing to DoT to take corrective measures in order that its efforts to find a solution for pension revision without creating disparity between those retiring after 1.1.2017 does not become futile, and the matter becoming sub-judice putting a brake on DoT's efforts. He said that CHQ will take up with DoT to continue its efforts once the court cases come to an end. As far as Terms of Reference of VIII CPC, he said there is no scope for requesting to include BSNL as CPC's job is to examine pay and pay related issues of Central Government Employees. However AIBSNLREA will submit a detailed Memorandum to VIII CPC on the structure of Pension, including restoration of commutation earlier to 15 years and additional quantum of pension after the age of 65, 70 and 75 years. State President, Gujarat reiterated that as BSNL has no liability in paying pension and the entire liability lies with the Government, we are entitled to get pension revision as per CPCs. President wound up the discussion stating that CHQ is continuing with the understanding on the issue arrived at after threadbare discussions in two AICs and as per the mandate given by Kokata AIC, but is open to any new input on the matter including any formulation for pension revision without creating disparity between pre-2017 and post-2017 pensioners. He thanked all the participants for keeping the organisation healthy.

- AGS AIBSNLREA Shri Rakesh Sethi visited BSNL Corporate Office on 17.03.2025. Shri Gaya Prasad, Branch Secretary, Dhanbad accompanied him. Following is the outcome of their discussions with the concerned officers: 1. Orders for release of retirement benefits in respect of Shri Prem Shankar Prasad, Retd. SDE Dhanbad has been issued and sent to CGMT Jharkhand Circle. 2. The work for review of promotion from JTO (T) to SDE (T) on regular basis in respect of Shri M N Chavda, Retd SDE Surat is in progress and orders will be issued at the earliest. 3. The matter of penal interest on late payment of gratuity in respect of Shri B.M.Kolki, Retd SDE Kolhapur could not be discussed as the concerned officers were not available.
- A virtual meeting of Branch Secretaries of Maharashtra State was held on 17.03.2025 by CHQ under the Presidentship of Shri V.Chinnappiah, CHQ President. President welcomed the participants and said the only purpose of the meeting was to hear from the Branch Secretaries their views and suggestions over the functioning of the CHQ and any pensioner issue. After self-introduction, all the Branch Secretaries spoke one after the other in one voice that there were no pending issues, as their State Secretary and President were ensuring that all the issues were resolved early. They also praised the role of the CHQ OS (West) Shri Rajan Rajopadhye who was well co-ordinating with the Branch Secretaries. All of them expressed satisfaction about the functioning of the CHQ. State Secretary Shri S.P.Varma said the functioning of the State body and the branches was smooth, issues brought to his notice were resolved promptly, CCA Maharashtra was very helpful and functioning of the CHQ and the way of working of the General Secretary are excellent. State President Shri Vasudeva applauded the team work of the CHQ and mentioned that CCA Maharashtra & Goa was appreciative of the timely letter from CHQ regarding delay in credit of pension to pensioners served by Canara Bank. As a senior member, he exhorted all to take care of their health first. CHQ OS (W) Shri Rajan Rajopadhye commended the working of Branch Secretaries, detailing his regular interaction with them. General Secretary, while summing up, admired the cohesive activities of the State organisation and the Branches, with no Branch Secretary having any issue to report about. He explained how the association stands tall among other BSNL pensioners associations, following the path, words and thoughts of Basuji. The meeting ended in a delightful atmosphere with exchange of pleasantries.
- The monthly virtual meeting of AIBSNLREA CHQ office bearers was held on 01.03.2025 under the Presidentship of Shri V.Chinnappiah, CHQ President. After a brief speech by the President, General Secretary listed the activities of the association during February 2025, mentioning that efforts to hold Branch Secretaries Meet virtually in respect of Maharashtra and Gujarat States did not materialise due to the two State Secretaries being away from their home towns. These meets will be now held in March. In their brief, the office bearers pointed out that organisational activities remained subdued in February due to continuing cold weather in many States. They described the efforts initiated for

opening new branches in a handful of places. General Secretary, while summing up, appreciated the initiatives by the office bearers and requested them to continue their hardwork with confidence and without worrying about any outcome. President called the meeting over after thanking the participants for the enthusiasm shown by them.



Issues taken up

29.03.2025: AIBSNLREA REPRESENTS TO THE PRIME MINISTER REQUESTING DROPPING OF PART IV OF THE FINANCE BILL 2025 AND RE-EXAMINATION OF THE MATTER:

AIBSNLREA has expressed its strong resentment with deep anguish, concern and profound disappointment to the provisions of Part IV of the Finance Bill 2025 which declares the intention not to continue with parity of pension between present and future pensioners by classifying them on the basis of date of retirement in regard to pension entitlement. AIBSNLREA has requested the Prime Minister to get the Part IV of the Finance Bill 2025 dropped before consideration by the Upper House and in case it is cleared by the Upper House by the time this representation reaches him, not to further process it for consent by the Hon'ble President of India, till the entire matter is re-examined. [View the letter](#)

25.03.2025: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CGCA, DOT REQUESTING ISSUE OF INSTRUCTIONS TO CCAS NOT TO RECOVER TDS ON PAYMENT OF MONTHLY PENSION LESS THAN ONE LAKH RUPEES:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of CGCA DoT towards the provision in Union Budget for 2025-26 that there will be no income tax payable upto income of Rs. 12 lakhs and as the estimated income in respect of those who are receiving a monthly pension of less than Rs.1 lakh will be less than Rs.12.75 lakh, there will be no need to deduct TDS in their cases. CGCA has been requested to issue clear instructions in this regard to all CCAs so that no CCA starts recovering TDS on the plea of absence of specific instructions from above. [View the letter](#)

24.03.2025: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (P), DOP&T REQUESTING ISSUE OF MODIFIED O.M. ON GRANT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT FOR CALCULATING PENSIONARY BENEFITS TO THOSE EMPLOYEES WHOSE INCREMENT FALLS DUE ON THE DAY FOLLOWING RETIREMENT:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of Secretary (P), DoP&T to the dismissal of review petition in Diary No.36418 of 2024 and the final orders in UOI & Anr Vs M.Siddaraj and has requested issue of modified O.M. categorically stating that "one annual increment be granted to the pensioners which they earned on the last day of their service for rendering their services preceding one year from the date of retirement with good behaviour and efficiently," reflecting the exact direction under Para 7 of the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India judgment in Civil Appeal No.2471 of 2023 so that there is no

scope for different interpretation by different authorities as the petitioners before different courts belonged to different organisations and different categories. AIBSNLREA also has pointed out that neither the interim order dated 06.09.2024 nor does the final order dated 20.02.2025 of Hon'ble Supreme Court mention either specifically or even implicitly that the notional increment shall be reckoned only for the purpose of calculating the pension admissible and not for the purpose of calculation of other pensionary benefits. DoP&T's attempt to deny the consequent pensionary benefits of the notional increment amounts to undoing all the labour and legal struggle by the affected pensioners for nearly 10 years and has requested that this issue may be re-examined, and justice be rendered to the pensioners. [View the letter](#)

19.03.2025: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY DOT AGAIN REGARDING GRANT OF HIGHER PAY SCALES FOR THE STAFF BELONGING TO ORGANISED ACCOUNTS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS ON ACTUAL BASIS W.E.F. 1.1.1996:

AIBSNLREA has again written to the Secretary DoT, referring to the earlier reply that "the Department is in process of pursuing further course of action in the said judgement with the nodal Ministry/ Department and further action will be taken thereupon on receiving the same" and requesting to speed up the process of consultation and issue of common orders extending the actual benefit of upgraded scale of pay to all the organised accounts cadres under DoT/BSNL w.e.f. 01.01.1996 itself, with consequent arrears. [View the letter](#)

17.03.2025: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE CGCA DOT AGAIN REGARDING AVOIDABLE DELAY IN ISSUE OF PENSIONER ID CARD TO BSNL PENSIONERS IN REVISED FORMAT:

AIBSNLREA has again written to the CGCA DoT on the subject, reiterating our request that a facility be introduced in SAMPANN allowing the pensioners download the soft copy of the ID card, get it printed and laminated by themselves, similar to the practice being successfully followed by CGHS and that the cards already printed and laminated may be despatched through Speed Post as some cost has been already incurred for printing and laminating and despatching cost should not be seen as prohibitive. [View the letter](#)

11.03.2025: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE SECRETARY, LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT AGAIN REQUESTING TO ENSURE RELEASE OF AICPI (IW) IN TIME:

Pointing out the delay during the last one year in releasing the All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers, which results in delay in issue of revised IDA orders by DPE, AIBSNLREA has again requested Secretary L&E to ensure release of the figures for the Month of February 2025 on the last working day of this month as per long established norms. [View the letter](#)

07.03.2025: AIBSNLREA SEEKS ATTENTION OF JOINT SECRETARY (PENSION) DOP&PW TO ABSENCE OF ANY RESPONSE BY THE RECEIPIENTS OF EMAILS ON PENSIONER GRIEVANCES FORWARDED BY DOP&PW FOR ACTION:

AIBSNLREA has conveyed its disappointment that despite the earnest and diligent efforts of the DoP&PW to address the grievances brought to its notice, by forwarding

them to the concerned nodal officer with a clear request "to look into the matter and resolve the same expeditiously as per extant rules in a time-bound manner under intimation to this department and the concerned pensioner about the action taken. It is requested that the status of the action taken in this case, may be intimated within 21 days", there has been no response from the recipients of the emails and has requested JS (Pension), DoP&PW to look into the matter and cause monitoring and follow-up of such emails and escalating the matter to the higher authorities in the recipient department so as to make the mechanism truly viable. [View the letter](#)



GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS

04.03.2025: BSNL ISSUES GUIDELINES AND CEILING RATES FOR LUNG AND/OR HEART TRANSPLANT:

BSNL has issued guidelines and ceiling rates for Lung and/or Heart transplant based on MoH&FW OM dated 01.12.2023, in respect of unabsorbed DoT employees availing CGHS/CS (MA) and BSNL absorbed and BSNL recruited employees and pensioners availing BSNLMRS. [View the BSNL O.M](#)

03.03.2025: SUPREME COURT MODIFIES CLAUSE (D) OF ITS INTERIM ORDERS ON NOTIONAL INCREMENT:

While disposing of a batch of Miscellaneous Applications in CA 3933 of 2023, Union of India vs M.Siddaraj, Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has directed that Clauses (a), (b) and (c) of its interim order dated 06.09.2024 will be treated as final directions. However clause (d) of the interim order will be modified as "In case any retired employee filed an application for intervention/impleadment/writ petition/original application before the Central Administrative Tribunal/High Courts/this Court, the enhanced pension by including one increment will be payable for the period of three years prior to the month in which the application for intervention/ impleadment/ writ petition/ original application was filed." Further, clause (d) will not apply to the retired government employee who filed a writ petition/original application or an application for intervention before the Central Administrative Tribunal/High Courts/this Court after the judgment in "Union of India & Anr. v. M. Siddaraj", as in such cases, clause (a) will apply. [View the Orders](#)

RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON



AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

26.03.2025: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 19.02.2025 REGARDING OPENING OF WELLNESS CENTRES IN HALDWANI AND NAINITAL:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 19.02.2025 addressed to the DG CGHS regarding opening of allopathic wellness centres in Haldwani and Nainital, CGHS has replied that "The Hon'ble Health and Family Welfare Minister has granted approval for opening of CGHS wellness Centres at Haldwani and Nainital. The proposal has been sent to Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance for getting approval of creation of posts for opening of the said wellness Centre." [View the CGHS response](#)

22.03.2025: CGCA RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 24.02.2025 REGARDING NON-COMPLIANCE BY CCA OFFICES OF DOT INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING PERFORMING THE ROLE OF HOO IN SPECIFIC CASE OF REVISIONS:

AIBSNLREA had conveyed to the CGCA DoT that "Now, a large number of BSNL VRS 2019 retirees are submitting applications for commutation of pension all over the country and what is causing concern is that most of the CCAs are reported to be refusing to accept these applications and are directing the pensioners to submit it to the BSNL units, in violation of the instructions by the DoT. This has defeated the purpose of issue of the DoT instructions" and had requested to advise all the CCAs to strictly adhere to the DoT instructions so that the settlement of the cases is not unnecessarily delayed, and the pensioners concerned are not put into avoidable inconvenience". Referring to our letter, CGCA has again addressed all CCAs requesting to follow the said DoT instructions strictly. Wherever the CCAs are still not following these instructions, the State/Branch Secretaries are requested to take up the matter with them with a copy of this letter from CGCA. [View the CGCA letter](#)

21.03.2025: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 21.02.2025 REGARDING OPENING OF WELLNESS CENTRES IN WARANGAL AND TIRUPATHI:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 21.02.2025 addressed to the DG CGHS regarding opening of allopathic wellness centres in Warangal and Tirupathi, CGHS has replied that "The Hon'ble Health and Family Welfare Minister has granted approval for opening of CGHS wellness Centres at Warangal and Tirupathi in Telangana. The proposal has been sent to Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance for getting approval of creation of posts for opening of the said wellness Centre." [View the CGHS response](#)

18.03.2025: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 19.02.2025 REGARDING OPENING OF WELLNESS CENTRE IN SHAMLI:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 19.02.2025 addressed to the DG CGHS regarding opening of allopathic wellness centre in Shamli under AD CGHS Meerut, CGHS has explained the lengthy process involved in opening of new wellness centres, without explicitly stating that Shamli is not under consideration at present. [View the CGHS response](#)

13.03.2025: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 18.02.2025 REGARDING OPENING OF WELLNESS CENTRES IN PATIALA, KANGRA AND DHARMSHALA:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 18.02.2025 addressed to the DG CGHS regarding opening of allopathic wellness centres in Patiala, Kangra and Dharmshala, CGHS has replied that "The Hon'ble Health and Family Welfare Minister has granted approval for

opening of CGHS wellness Centre at these locations. The proposal has been sent to Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance for getting approval of creation of posts for opening of the said wellness Centre." [View the CGHS response](#)

10.03.2025: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 07.02.2025 REGARDING OPENING OF ADDITIONAL WELLNESS CENTRES IN AGRA:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 07.02.2025 addressed to the DG CGHS regarding opening of additional wellness centres in Agra, CGHS has replied that "The opening of new CGHS Wellness Centre involves creation of new posts of staff like Medical Officers, Pharmacists, Nursing Officers, Junior Health Administrative Assistants etc and has financial implications. For creation of these posts, the approval of Department of Personnel & Training and Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance is required. Even with creation of minimum posts of staff, the financial implications would involve recurring expenditure of Rs.4.8 crore per year and a non-time non-recurring expenditure of Rs.0.75 crore to Rs.1 crore. For this approval of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance is required. Further, Central Government pensioners residing in non-CGHS areas have the option to avail CGHS facilities from nearby CGHS covered cities. Also, the Central Government serving employees residing in non-CGHS areas not covered by CGHS are covered under another health scheme viz. Central Services (Medical Attendance) Rules, 1944." [View the CGHS response](#)

08.03.2025: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 12.02.2025 REGARDING OPENING OF WELLNESS CENTRES IN BHARATPUR AND ALWAR:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 12.02.2025 addressed to the DG CGHS regarding opening of allopathic wellness centres in Bharatpur and Alwar, CGHS has replied that "The Hon'ble Health and Family Welfare Minister has granted approval for opening of CGHS wellness Centre at Bharatpur, Alwar, Rajasthan. The proposal has been sent to Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance for getting approval of creation of posts for opening of the said wellness Centre." [View the CGHS response](#)

01.03.2025: AD CGHS GRANTS MEETING TO AIBSNLREA WEST BENGAL STATE AND ISSUES OFFICIAL MINUTES:

During the East Zone Branch Secretaries meet held by CHQ virtually on 28.12.2024, we were told that AD CGHS has not been granting informal meeting to AIBSNLREA West Bengal State body even after repeated written requests. AIBSNLREA took up the matter with DG CGHS on 03.01.2025, requesting her to impress upon the need to grant informal meetings to pensioners' associations like us, on request, as we are only complementing the work done by ADs in different CGHS cities by helping to resolve day to day issues faced by the pensioner beneficiaries. Initially there was reluctance on the part of CGHS authorities saying "It is not always feasible for the Additional Director to meet all the Association bodies on all occasions individually." But after our persistence, meeting was granted on 05.02.2025 and now Minutes of the meeting has also been released. [View the Minutes](#)



BRANCHES IN ACTION

31.03.2025: AIBSNLREA PUNE BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

general body meeting of Pune branch was held on 25.03.2025 in the conference Hall of the Varadshri Sabhagrah, Bajirao Road under the Presidentship of Shri P. V. Deshmukh. President welcomed the members and appreciated them for attending the meeting at a very short notice which was arranged because of visit by State Secretary Shri S.P.Varma to Pune for attending CCA Maharashtra &Goa meeting. More than 80 members attended the meeting. Meeting started with devotional song as a tradition of Pune. Branch secretary Shri G. K. Patil read the minutes of last general body meeting which was passed. Finance Secretary placed the finance report which was passed without any queries. State Secretary in his address covered all the developments at circle and CHQ level, specifically on pension revision, our court case on 78.2, additional pension at the age of 65, 70 & 75years. He replied to all questions raised by the members. Meeting ended with vote of thanks. [View the Photos](#)

28.03.2025: ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA BHOPAL BRANCH (MADHYA PRADESH STATE) HELD:

Annual General body meeting of AIBSNLREA Bhopal Branch was held on 23/03/2025 in the Indian Coffee House, New Market, Bhopal under the Presidentship of Shri K Nagarajan. Two minutes' silence was observed in memory of deceased family members. On completion of 75 years, Shri V.K.Chopra was felicitated with Shreefal, shall and flowers. S/shri HK Sarraf, KG Nagpure, Kamal Rai Shrivastava, GN Shrivastava, US Ranade and VP Namdev were also felicitated on their Birthday falling in this month. Two new members S/Shri Yogendra Singh and Shri A K Dubey were also felicitated with flowers on their joining the association. 56 members attended the meeting. Election for new body was conducted with Shri B S Rajput functioning as Election Officer. Shri K.Nagarajan, Dr.H.S.Saxena and Shri T.R.Jain were elected unanimously as President, Secretary and Financial Secretary respectively.

25.03.2025: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA LUCKNOW BRANCH (UP STATE) HELD:

General body meeting of AIBSNLREA Lucknow Branch was held on 20/03/2025 in Doorsanchar Sadan at Laplace under the Presidentship of Shri R.K.Srivastva. Two minutes' silence was observed in memory of deceased members. Shri R.S Agrawal was co-opted as Assistant Branch Secretary. Shri Radhey Shyam Organising Secretary briefed the activities and developments at CHQ level and organisational matters and also emphasised increasing membership. Shri A.K. Sharma Branch Secretary submitted his report and spoke about pending Medical Bills of members. It was decided to hold Executive committee meeting virtually on trial basis. Further, use of BSNL PGRMS and CPGRAMS was explained to members. Shri V.P. Singh State Secretary delivered Special

address, covering issues like pension revision and restoration of commuted pension. Meeting ended with the President thanking the participants.

12.03.2025: AIBSNLREA AMBALA BRANCH (HARYANA STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

A general body meeting of Ambala Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 11th March 2025 at Clove 99 Restaurant under the Presidentship of Sh. V P Madan. 35 members attended the meeting. Two new members joined our branch as life members taking the total membership to 98. President welcomed all the members. Thereafter Shri S C Jain who has completed 80 years of age was honoured with a bouquet and a shawl. Shri S K Aggarwal CHQ OS (North) briefed the members on the various issues particularly about the final decision on the notional increment to those who retired a day prior to their date of next increment. [View Haryana State page of State News Section for full report] [View the Photos](#)



STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING MARCH 2025

- 01. Nanded Branch (Maharashtra State)** deposited Rupees One Thousand Four Hundred and Eighty Five (Rs. 1485/-) only on 03.03.2025 towards CHQ quota for Six new Life members, three at old rates and three at new rates.
- 02. Shri Sisir Kumar Dalai** deposited Rupees One Thousand and Hundred (Rs.1100/-) only on 08.03.2025 towards Life subscription of AIBSNLREA.
- 03. Odisha State** deposited Rupees Three Hundred (Rs.300/-) only on 10.03.2025 towards CHQ quota for One new Life member.
- 04. Ambala Branch (Haryana State)** deposited Rupees Six Hundred (Rs.600/-) only on 12.03.2025 towards CHQ quota for Two new Life members.
- 05. Delhi Circle Branch** deposited Rupees Three Hundred (Rs.300/-) only on 09.01.2025 towards CHQ quota for One new Life member.



The Email Campaign launched by AIBSNLREA against the 'validation legislation' has received immense support with emails pouring in from all corners of the country. There is no end date for the campaign and the members who have not yet sent emails are requested to continue their efforts to send emails to the Prime Minister of India and the Finance Minister. Let us strive to achieve cent percent participation.

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

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