



Editorial

THE QUIET STRENGTH OF TRUTH, TRUST AND RESILIENCE

There are moments in the life of an organisation when its true character shines through, not in grand speeches or formal resolutions, but in the quiet strength of its members. The Fourth All India Conference of AIBSNLREA, held in the timeless city of Varanasi on 24th and 25th March 2026, was one such moment.

For two full days, the hall was filled with delegates whose average age was above 70, yet whose energy could rival any youth convention. They sat through every session with unwavering attention, listening, questioning, contributing, and encouraging, proving once again that age may bend the body, but it cannot dim conviction.

What unfolded in Varanasi was not just a conference. It was a celebration of spirit. Delegates who had travelled long distances, some with health challenges, some with mobility issues, participated with joy that was infectious. The laughter during breaks, the warm handshakes, the shared memories of service, the gentle teasing among old colleagues, the eagerness to meet new faces - all created an atmosphere that felt less like a formal gathering and more like a family reunion.

The camaraderie was heartwarming. The unity was unmistakable. The trust was overwhelming. And at the centre of it all was a shared belief: AIBSNLREA stands for truth,

fairness, and transparency and must continue to do so.

The General Secretary's Report, rich with information covering every pensioner issue, was received with deep appreciation. Delegates listened intently as the Report laid out the challenges faced by pensioners like, violations of DoP&PW instructions, CGHS shortcomings, SAMPANN issues, and the plight of VRS-2019 retirees. Every point was backed by facts, dates, and official references, reflecting the Association's hallmark - clarity without exaggeration, sharpness without aggression.

The Resolutions adopted at the Conference echoed the same spirit - firm, reasoned, and rooted in justice. Whether it was the demand for earlier restoration of commutation, additional pension at 65/70/75 years, expansion of CGHS to all district headquarters, the need for a mechanism to ensure DoP&PW instructions are enforced, or the urgent need to end the harassment of ST community VRS-2019 retirees under the jurisdiction of Maharashtra Telecom Circle, each resolution carried the weight of collective wisdom and long experience.

But perhaps the most emotional moment came when the House, with spontaneous warmth, re-elected the existing CHQ body with a little change. The complete list of nominations proposed by several State Secretaries and seconded by a few Branch

Secretaries marked a renewed effort to foster unity. It was not just an election. It was a message. A message of trust. A message of gratitude. A message of expectation. The delegates made it clear: "We believe in you. We trust your integrity. We stand with you." This confidence is precious and humbling. It is also a reminder that the responsibility of the new CHQ body has grown even larger. Expectations are high, and rightly so. Our members look to us not just to represent them, but to lead with truth, uphold facts, and translate both into constructive action. As we step into the new term, we carry with us, the smiles of the delegates, the faith they placed

in us, the energy they radiated and the responsibility they entrusted to us.

The Varanasi AIC reaffirmed that AIBSNLREA is not just an organization. It is a movement of conscience, powered by people who refuse to give up, refuse to be hoodwinked by false propaganda, and refuse to let injustice go unchallenged. We return from Varanasi with renewed strength, renewed purpose and renewed confidence. And above all, with a renewed promise to continue to remain the icon of truth, trust and resilience that our members deserve. ☹



Important Developments of the Month

✚ WHY DID DPE DECIDE NOT TO UPLOAD IDA REVISION ORDERS IN ITS WEBSITE:

While the use of the expression "financial implication" in the concluding paragraph of DPE OM dated 27.02.2026 has created avoidable concern among BSNL employees and pensioners, according to the information obtained under RTI, DPE took the decision - not to upload the OM in its website, as "multiple CPSEs are not submitting information regarding pay revision in PE Survey Portal. In view of the same, it becomes utmost important to verify the applicability of relevant pay scales and corresponding IDA OMs before extending DA." "In view of the above and as discussed, OM regarding revision of IDA rates may be shared with Administrative Ministry and not with CPSEs directly, for ensuring applicability of the relevant pay scales and corresponding IDA OMs." This should put to rest all apprehensions about the DPE proposing to withhold the revised IDA.

✚ According to calculations based on All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for the months December 2025, January and February 2026, the revised IDA rate due w.e.f. 01.04.2026 is 238.3% [increase by 1.6%] for CPSEs where the last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 1.1.2007.

✚ **AIBSNLREA AIC AT VARANASI - TOGETHER, WE ARE STRONGER THAN TIME:** The Fourth All India Conference of AIBSNLREA commenced at 9.30 AM on 24th March 2026, but what truly began that morning was something far deeper — a celebration of unity, dignity, and the unbroken spirit of those who built India's telecom backbone. Under the Presidentship of Com. V. Chinnappiah, the proceedings commenced with warmth and reverence. As the CHQ office bearers stepped onto the dais, members of the Host Branch, Varanasi, welcomed them with garlands — a gesture that carried both affection and gratitude. A solemn minute of silence followed, remembering the members who had left us since the last AIC. After the Welcome Address by Com. Yad

Ali, Secretary, Host Branch and then the Presidential Address, the Conference was formally inaugurated by Com. S. Basu, Founder GS of AIBSNLREA and the Chief Guest at the Conference — a moment that connected the past, present, and future of the association.

The House unanimously approved the minutes of the previous AIC and then turned to the 49-page General Secretary's Report. What followed was nearly 12 hours of intense, thoughtful deliberation — a testament to the delegates' commitment. The entire report was adopted with only two minor typographical corrections, reflecting the meticulous preparation behind it. The Financial Statement was presented by Com. Awadesh Sharma, Financial Secretary and passed after all queries were replied to. The Budget for the next three years was then adopted. Thirteen resolutions proposed by the CHQ were read out by the General Secretary and adopted unanimously. With no amendments proposed to the Memorandum & Rules, the House moved forward to next item. Of the 17 States and 39 Branches represented, 19 State/Branch Secretaries presented their reports, each one echoing the same message - dedication, awareness, and unwavering resolve. In a kind gesture, Com. N. P. Patel, State Secretary of Gujarat, offered to host the next AIC — a promise of continued togetherness.

The President then nominated Com. M. S. Radhakrishnan to conduct the election. The existing body was dissolved, and the new CHQ office bearers were elected unanimously. Com. V. Chinnappiah, Com. R. R. Balasubramanian, and Com. Awadesh Sharma were re-elected as President, General Secretary, and Financial Secretary respectively.



ALL INDIA BHARAT SANCHAR NIGAM LIMITED RETIRED EXECUTIVES' ASSOCIATION
Fourth All India Conference

Varanasi - 24 & 25 March, 2026





Every participant applauded the Varanasi Reception Committee for their flawless arrangements — comfortable stay, delicious food, and unmatched hospitality. Com.

Yad Ali's months of preparation and Com. L. R. Prasad's tireless, whirlwind presence, like a "toofan" ensured that every delegate felt cared for. Had it not been for the overall supervision, timely guidance to the Reception Committee, and personal rapport Com.R.K.Sinha Jt. Secretary, CHQ had with the managements of all the hotels, the conference could never have achieved such remarkable success. Their dedication turned the conference into not just an event, but an experience.

Throughout the two days' proceedings, the delegates remained attentive and took part in the deliberations with a display of enthusiasm and awareness over the pensioners' issues. The clear message from the participants was - We are not old. We are seasoned. We are not retired. We are re-charged. And we are not weak. We are wise enough to know what truly matters. Happiness at this age is simple and powerful. It is the pride of knowing that we built a telecom network that connected India long before smartphones existed. It is the comfort of friendships that have lasted 30, 40, even 50 years. And it is the peace of knowing that we stand for truth, fairness, and dignity — always. This conference has shown one thing clearly. Even at this age, we are not ready to sit quietly. We question. We challenge. We demand what is right. And we do it with grace, humour, and unity. AIBSNLREA is not just an association. It is a family that refuses to leave anyone behind. All the delegates have gone back with joy, with pride, and with the quiet confidence that the best chapter of life is not youth — it is wisdom lived with happiness, affection and unshakeable spirit. The delegates are determined to meet again in the next conference with the same laughter, the same warmth, and even more experiences to share.[Compilation of AIC photos will be shared later] [Read the GS Report](#) [Read the Resolutions](#) [View the list of new office bearers](#)

- ✚ A photocopy of an order revising the IDA w.e.f. 01.01.2026, purportedly issued by DPE has been doing rounds in social media during the first week of March 2026. But the DPE website, which normally carries a copy of the orders as and when issued, does not carry any order for revision of IDA effective from 01.01.2026. General Secretary today contacted the officer whose name appears as the signatory in the photocopy of the orders in circulation, to confirm its authenticity. She confirmed the issue of the order and said that hereinafter IDA revision orders will not be uploaded in the DPE website but will only be shared with the Ministries/Departments. The purpose of such decision is not known. We shall have to wait for DoT orders with the fingers crossed.
- ✚ The monthly virtual meeting of AIBSNLREA CHQ office bearers was held on 01.03.2026 under the Presidentship of Shri V. Chinnappiah, CHQ President. He welcomed everyone with warmth and recalled that the CHQ office bearers have been meeting on the first day of every month, without a single break, ever since the last AIC at Kolkata. He noted with pride that today's meeting is the last one before the fourth AIC at Varanasi. The General Secretary conveyed that this was the 38th consecutive virtual meeting, a record of its own. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the President for his guidance, support, and encouragement throughout the last three years, which helped him carry out his responsibilities with confidence. He thanked all the office bearers for their active contribution in keeping the organisation vibrant and lively, and said that over time, the bond among them has grown from a team into a family. He

then briefed the members on the preparations underway for the successful conduct of the AIC at Varanasi. All the CHQ office bearers spoke in turn, each expressing genuine happiness at being part of this team. They felt that the success of the organisation was built on the discipline of the monthly virtual meetings and the strong WhatsApp network that ensured CHQ information reached every member every day. They offered appreciation to both the President and the General Secretary for guiding them and helping them perform their duties responsibly. The General Secretary's clear and detailed drafting of letters, with proper rules and explanations, was especially praised for making things easy when meeting the authorities in person. Joint Secretary Shri R.K. Sinha shared the arrangements being made for the grand conduct of the conference. The General Secretary added that another AIC Circular would be released shortly, giving full details of the arrangements, distances from the venue to railway stations and other landmarks, and information on medical assistance in case of need. Good wishes and gratitude flowed from all sides. The meeting ended with visible happiness on the faces of the office bearers, and the President closing the session with the cheerful remark: "Let us meet in the Conference."



Issues taken up

13.03.2026: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE SECRETARY, DPE REQUESTING TO RESTORE THE PRACTICE OF UPLOADING IDA REVISION ORDERS ON THE DPE WEBSITE TO ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AND TIMELY IMPLEMENTATION:

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of the Secretary, DPE to the serious practical difficulties arising from the recent decision of the DPE to discontinue the practice of uploading IDA revision orders on its official website and has requested the recent decision may kindly be reviewed and the earlier practice of uploading IDA revision orders on the DPE website immediately upon issuance be restored. [View the letter](#)

09.03.2026: AIBSNLREA SUBMITS ITS RESPONSE TO THE QUESTIONNAIRE OF VIII CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION:

AIBSNLREA has submitted its response to Question 2 and Question 11 of the VIII CPC Questionnaire, online, within the prescribed limit of 200 words. In response to Question 11, we have categorically submitted that, "The premise that pensioners constitute a "burden" on the Budget is fundamentally flawed. Pensioners are not liabilities; they are citizens who devoted the most productive years of their lives to the service of the Nation. Their pensions are not charity but a deferred wage. India's governance, infrastructure, security, and public institutions stand on the foundation built by these very individuals. An ageing population is not a fiscal problem. It is a Government responsibility. Developed nations honour their elders, and the Government of India, as a model employer, must uphold this principle. The increase in number of pensioners reflects demographic reality and improved longevity, both signs of national progress. Fiscal prudence cannot be achieved by suppressing rightful pensions; it must come from better revenue mobilization and efficient expenditure management. Pensioners' expectations are modest - protection from inflation, timely revision, and dignity in old age. These are entirely manageable within the Budget when viewed as essential social obligations, not unwanted costs. We request the VIII CPC to view the matter from this

perspective and to be true to the expectations of the pensioners." [View the AIBSNLREA response](#)



GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS

30.03.2026: CGHS EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR EXECUTION OF MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT BY EXISTING EMPANELLED HEALTH CARE ORGANISATIONS UNDER CGHS:

CGHS has extended the deadline for execution of the MoA by existing empanelled HCOs till 30.04.2026. [View the CGHS OM](#)

RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON



AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

19.03.2026: DOT RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 27.01.2026 REQUESTING STRICT ADHERENCE TO DOP&PW OM DATED 30.11.2021 AND IMMEDIATE RELIEF TO AFFECTED BSNL VRS 2019 RETIREES:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 27.01.2026, DoT has replied that "There is no question to rescind the DoT OM dated 30.01.2025, since it was issued with the approval of competent authority." We have immediately submitted an appeal stating that, "We respectfully submit that the fact that the DoT OM dated 30.01.2025 was issued with the approval of the competent authority does not, by itself, preclude review or modification. Any administrative order, irrespective of the level at which it was approved, can and ought to be reconsidered when subsequent representations bring out substantive legal, factual, or logical concerns. The clear mandate of DoPPW OM dated 30.11.2021 that pensionary benefits cannot be withheld merely on the ground of pending caste verification in the absence of departmental or judicial proceedings, and the categorical judgment of the Honourable Supreme Court holding that caste verification after retirement is largely academic and that such actions only result in undue harassment of retired persons. We therefore once again request that the matter be reviewed in light of the above facts and that appropriate corrective action be taken. [View the DoT response and our appeal](#)

17.03.2026: DOT RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 18.02.2026 REQUESTING IMMEDIATE ISSUANCE OF CLARIFICATION EXTENDING THE BENEFIT OF NOTIONAL INCREMENT TO BSNL VRS RETIREES IN LIGHT OF DELHI HIGH COURT JUDGMENT DATED 09.02.2016:

Responding to AIBSNLREA letter dated 18.02.2026 has informed us that "The order dated 09.02.2026 of Delhi High Court is currently under examination in the Department." [View the DoT response](#)



BRANCHES IN ACTION

17.3.2026: AIBSNLREA BHOPAL BRANCH (MADHYA PRADESH STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING: AIBSNLREA Bhopal branch held its monthly GB meeting on 15.3.2026 under the Presidentship of Shri K.Nagarajan at Indian Coffee House, New Market, Bhopal. 34 members attended the meeting. Two minutes' silence was observed in memory of Late Shrimati Rajlaxmi. Shri N K Sharma was honoured at attaining the age of 80 years. Shri V K Chopra, Shri G. N. Shrivastava were also honoured on their birthday falling this month. 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 Ubeja had arranged a nice music program. All the present members convey good wishes to Dr H S Saxena, Secretary for his tour to Japan w.e.f. 22nd March 26. Asst.Secretary presented a vote of thanks. Breakfast was served after the meeting.

11.03.2026: A NEW BRANCH OF AIBSNLREA OPENED IN VIRUDHUNAGAR (TAMILNADU STATE): AIBSNLREA Virudhunagar Branch (Tamilnadu State) has been formed today, with new members as well as those who had earlier chosen to be members of Madurai Branch in the absence of a Branch at Virudhunagar, with Shri R.Kanagavel, Shri S.Thulasiram and Shri S.Nagendrakumar as President, Secretary and Financial Secretary respectively. Best wishes to the members and office bearers of Virudhunagar Branch.

04.03.2026: AIBSNLREA MUMBAI BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

General body meeting of Mumbai branch was held on 27-02-2026 in the conference Hall of BSNL Telecom building, Santacruz (W) with Shri Vasudeva, State President on the Chair. President addressed the House giving details of all developments at Circle and CHQ level. The meeting had been called primarily to revive the Branch which had remained inactive following illness of Branch Secretary Shri S.R Yadav and resignation of Branch President Shri P.K Chhatawani on personal reasons. Election of new office bearers was held and Shri N.K.Devassy, Shri V.R.Monkikar and Shri L.M.Oswal have been elected as President, Secretary and Financial Secretary respectively. State Secretary Shri S.P Varma spoke about the status of court cases and conduct of AIC at Varanasi. He also briefed about the meeting with CCA Maharashtra. The meeting accepted nomination of Shri Vasudeva, Shri S.P.Varma, Shri L.M.Oswal and Shri P.D.Raulkar as delegates from the Branch. Outgoing Branch Secretary Shri S.R Yadav narrated the activities of the Branch during his tenure. Newly elected Branch Secretary Shri V. R Monkikar addressed the House and assured the House that he would perform his duties to the best of his capability. Meeting ended with vote of thanks by Shri S.R Yadav.

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

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