



Editorial

TO LINK OR NOT TO LINK...

As we have been repeating so many times, availability of an optimum health care is most essential in advanced age, due to ageing and age-related ailments. With BSNL struggling to settle the medical claims in time and shrinking number of private empanelled hospitals offering credit facility to BSNL pensioners, the offer to switch over to CGHS with BSNL reimbursing the life-time contribution to CGHS appeared to be a green pasture and a large number of BSNL pensioners have switched over to CGHS during the past few years. A considerable section of those residing in non-CGHS areas too have opted to switch over, in order to avail the Rs.1000/- monthly Fixed Medical Allowance. And there is a growing expectation that CGHS should extend the facility to more cities.

In spite of all the shortcomings we notice in the functioning of the CGHS, with the beneficiaries complaining about absence of adequate number of wellness centres, non-availability of sanctioned strength of doctors, nurses and other staff members, the need to have multiple visits to collect the indented medicines, limited number of HCOs empanelled, the requirement to shunt between the empanelled hospital and the wellness centre for obtaining approval for each and every investigation, admission etc and the private hospitals refusing or reluctant to admit the CGHS beneficiaries, CGHS still remains a valuable option for the BSNL absorbed

pensioners residing in CGHS cities. We have been striving for improvement in the working of CGHS, suggesting changes now and then and CGHS is not averse to such suggestions, although implementation is lacking due to obvious reasons.

That is why the sudden announcement by CGHS, mandating linking of CGHS ID with ABHA (Ayushman Bharat Health Account) ID w.e.f. 1.4.2024 and completing the linking in 30 days, came as a shock to the CGHS beneficiaries. AIBSNLREA was the first to raise concerns over this sudden announcement pointing out that "the ABHA scheme itself unequivocally claims that it is purely voluntary" and that "a Government Scheme purely voluntary for any Indian Citizen cannot be made mandatory only for the CGHS beneficiaries". Almost all the pensioners' associations in the country raised their voice against making it mandatory.

Subsequently CGHS issued another S.O.M. extending the time period for creation of ABHA ID upto 30.09.2024 and for linking ABHA number with CGHS card upto 31.10.2024. The O.M. further said that KIOSKS shall be made operational to assist CGHS beneficiaries and the CGHS beneficiaries may visit the CGHS wellness centre on a need basis for availing assistance for linking CGHS ID to ABHA number. AIBSNLREA again wrote to DG CGHS, referring to the second O.M and

requesting issue of a Circular listing the real and tangible benefits to the CGHS beneficiaries in availing the already existing facilities under CGHS, dispel the concerns regarding the safety and security of their medical records, categorically stating that this move is not intended to do away with the empanelment of private hospitals and that there is no move to run the Wellness Centres through Public Private Partnership, in order to convince the beneficiaries. Above all, linking CGHS ID with ABHA ID should continue to remain voluntary.

After the issue of second O.M by CGHS, the Health Ministry has issued a statement saying, *"There is no ulterior motive behind linking CGHS to ABHA."* The statement further said that *"ABHA isn't some sneaky way for the government to track money. In fact, it is not linked to any monetary or fiscal scheme of the government. It is being rolled out across government health programs, such as Reproductive and Child Health (RCH), Non- Communicable Disease (NCD), Nikshay, U-win (Universal-immunisation), E-Sanjeevani (teleconsultation), PMJAY, Poshan (Anganwadi), etc."* It added that *"a lot of misinformation is being spread around its recent move to link CGHS records to ABHA numbers"* and clarified that *"ABHA is a unique health ID based on Aadhaar. The need for ABHA arose because Aadhaar details cannot be saved on systems without implementing Aadhaar vault and other security systems."* The ministry added that *"ABHA is a proxy of Aadhaar in the sphere of health. The government doesn't have any ulterior motive to hide, nor does it need to. ABHA will eventually apply to all Indian citizens at every health facility. This initiative will allow the CGHS beneficiaries to access their health records on their mobile phones, thus saving money spent*

on repeating tests." According to the statement, *"any place where a health record is getting created, ABHA is being implemented. One can find this in the Char Dham Yatra screening, Maha-Kumbh screening, medical examination for UPSC and other central services, medical examination for driving licence, etc."*

The statement by the Health Ministry does not address any of the concerns of the CGHS beneficiaries. It rather raises new concerns. An "Explainer" issued by the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, says *"A CGHS beneficiary shall be able to carry forward his/her health records from one hospital/Healthcare provider to another in a digitally secured way"* and *"In future, a CGHS beneficiary shall directly be able to take OPD appointment of a Doctor just by scanning a QR code through his/her mobile device present in front of the Doctor's room/Registration Desk in the Wellness Centre."* Apart from these, there appears to be no tangible benefit to the CGHS beneficiaries other than those already available to them.

Highlighting privacy concerns, experts in the Healthcare Industry have said that *"the government has not made it explicitly clear how digital records will be protected. While the government has stated that records stored under ABHA ID are properly encrypted and would be protected under provisions of the Digital Protection of Data and Privacy Act, there is no specific guideline to point out the same. Such a linkage would therefore need robust data protection measures and adherence to privacy regulations."* He has further pointed out that the implementation of the linkage program may face technical problems such as data integration issues or system compatibility concerns, which could disrupt healthcare delivery. *"Any disruption or delay in the*

linking process could temporarily limit beneficiaries' access to healthcare services or digital health records until the integration is complete."

The fact that the process involves linking to Aadhaar, is again points to a privacy issue, as a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court has already ruled against mandating linking of Aadhaar even to bank accounts and mobile phones, allowing it to be mandatory for filing income tax only, striking down Section 57 of Aadhaar Act which had permitted private entities to avail of Aadhaar data.

A notification for a meeting to be held at CGHS HQ on 18.04.2024 reportedly

to discuss 11 agenda items, which include "Action plan to be discussed with CDAC for creation of ABHA and linking with CGHS beneficiary ID" and "Running of wellness centres on public private partnership", adds a new dimension to the issue.

It is therefore the responsibility of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to address the concerns of the CGHS beneficiaries and list out the tangible benefits in availing CGHS services so that they can be convinced. More importantly, as the ABHA scheme itself says, it should be voluntary and not mandatory, allowing the individual CGHS beneficiary to decide if "to link or not to link." ☹



Important Developments of the Month

- ✚ Ministry of Health & Family Welfare has called for a meeting at CGHS HQ on 18.04.2024 at short notice, reportedly to discuss 11 agenda items, which include "Action plan to be discussed with CDAC for creation of ABHA and linking with CGHS beneficiary ID" and "Running of wellness centres on public private partnership."
- ✚ We had earlier reported about the Virtual Meeting, the Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW had with registered Pensioners Associations on 21.03.2024 and the deliberations of the meeting. DoP&PW has now circulated the Minutes of the meeting. On the issues raised by AIBSNLREA, as desired by the Secretary (Pension) in the meeting, detailed representations have been submitted to him through email on 22.03.2024. [View the Minutes](#)
- ✚ A virtual meeting of AIBSNLREA CHQ office bearers was held on 01.04.2024 evening under the Presidentship of Shri V.Chinnappiah CHQ President. President, in his opening remarks lauded the increased visibility of AIBSNLREA with GS raising CGHS issues in the interactive meeting with Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW, the new initiative of circulating within our WhatsApp groups some important matters like DLC Face Authentication steps, IT rates and Family Pension in an attractive and precise format and the efforts of the CHQ office bearers in prompting Branches to hold meeting. After listening to all the office bearers, the meeting decided to continue the efforts to ensure all the Branches

hold meeting regularly. The next task entrusted to office bearers was to get the Life membership lists of Branches uploaded in the website reconciled with actual strength, in order to add missing names, taking the help of the Branch Secretaries. All the office bearers reported that the WhatsApp network was functioning smoothly as planned, disseminating the CHQ information and messages swiftly. GS then explained the latest development in pension revision wherein DoT has filed writ petition against PB CAT Judgment on pension revision, the now apparent DoT planning since September 2023 and filing the writ based on legal advice and the possible status of DoT's consultation process with DoE and DoP&PW on pension revision. President and GS requested the office bearers to go through in detail the contents of the writ and bring to the notice of the CHQ any factual error or claim contrary to rules by DoT. With no knowledge to any one of what the contents of the consultation are, it was decided that we need to keep track of the developments both in BSNL on wage negotiations and in DoT on the status of consultation process. On the issue of pension contribution on actual pay, it was decided to explore the options for resolving the issue, given the total injustice meted out to BSNL. The meeting ended with the President expressing happiness over the lively and useful deliberations in the meeting.

Issues taken up



29.04.2024: AIBSNLREA AGAIN WRITES TO THE DG CGHS REQUESTING TO ADDRESS THE CONCERNS RELATED CGHS OM MANDATING LINKING OF CGHS BENEFICIARY ID WITH AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH ACCOUNT ID:

Referring to CGHS OM dated 15.04.2024 extending the time limit for linking CGHS ID with ABHA ID upto 30.10.2024, AIBSNLREA has again written to the DG CGHS requesting "issue of a Circular listing the real and tangible benefits to the CGHS beneficiaries in availing the already existing facilities under CGHS, dispel the concerns regarding the safety and security of their medical records, categorically state that this move is not intended to do away with the empanelment of private hospitals and that there is no move to run the Wellness Centres through Public Private Partnership, in order to convince the beneficiaries. Above all, linking CGHS ID with ABHA ID should continue to remain voluntary." [View the letter](#)

25.04.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE MEMBER (SERVICES) DOT ON THE URGENT NEED FOR A MECHANISM TO LISTEN TO THE GRIEVANCES OF BSNL RETIRED EMPLOYEES BY CMD, DIRECTOR (HR) AND SENIOR OFFICERS IN BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE:

Having failed to get a reasonable response from BSNL to AIBSNLREA letter dated 08.03.2024 on the subject, AIBSNLREA has now sought the intervention of Member (S) DoT, requesting him to "impress upon the CMD BSNL, Director (HR) and other senior

officers to spare some time to listen to the pensioners associations in person, as they request a personal and informal meeting only as the last resort. BSNL may also be directed to bring alive the now defunct BSNL Pensioners Portals." [View the letter](#)

12.04.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE DIRECTOR (HR) BSNL REQUESTING RECONVEYANCE AND RELEASE OF ORIGINAL TITLE DEED OF (LATE) SHRI MANORANJAN BISWAS, RETD. AE (QA), KOLKATA:

AIBSNLREA has taken up the issue of reconveyance and release of original title deed of (Late) Shri Manoranjan Biswas, Retd. AE (QA), Kolkata with Director (HR) BSNL, enclosing a copy of the representation from Shri Samrat Biswas the son and legal heir of (Late) Shri Manoranjan Biswas. [View the letter](#)

09.04.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE SECRETARY (LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT) REGARDING NON-RELEASE OF ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024:

Expressing concern over non-release of AICPI for Industrial Workers for the month of February 2024 till now, which was supposed to be released on 28.03.2024, the last working day of the next month and as per the Advance Release Calendar issued by the Labour Bureau, without which the Department of Public Enterprise will not issue orders for revision of the IDA w.e.f. 01.04.2024, AIBSNLREA has written to the Secretary (L&E), Ministry of Labour & Employment, requesting her to cause immediate release of the AICPI (IW) for February 2024 and explaining by the Labour Bureau the reason for the delay, in order to dispel rumours and misgivings. [View the letter](#)

08.04.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE CMD BSNL ON THE URGENT NEED FOR A MECHANISM TO LISTEN TO THE GRIEVANCES OF BSNL RETIRED EMPLOYEES BY CMD, DIRECTOR (HR) AND SENIOR OFFICERS IN BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE:

Conveying our disappointment that "While all the senior officers in DoT, right from Secretary, DoT are willing and are meeting the pensioners associations to listen to them, BSNL authorities show complete neglect by not even acknowledging and responding to the written requests", AIBSNLREA has requested CMD BSNL to get the matter examined with all seriousness and resolved by setting up a mechanism for the BSNL retired employees to register their grievances and also to spare some time to listen to the pensioners associations in person, as they request a personal and informal meeting only as the last resort. [View the letter](#)

02.04.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE DG CGHS REQUESTING WITHDRAWAL OF CGHS OM DATED 28.03.2024 MANDATING LINKING OF CGHS BENEFICIARY ID WITH AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH ACCOUNT ID:

Drawing attention to the CGHS O.M. dated 28.03.2024 making linking of CGHS Beneficiary ID with Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID mandatory w.e.f. 1st April 2024 and requiring the CGHS beneficiaries to complete the linking within 30 days, AIBSNLREA has written to the DG CGHS requesting withdrawal of the said O.M dated 28.03.2024 and continue to allow only willing CGHS beneficiaries to link their CGHS cards with ABHA, since picking out the CGHS beneficiaries to become mandatory ABHA

account holders, which is otherwise a voluntary scheme, will be unjust and discriminatory. [View the letter](#)

01.04.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO SECRETARY (PENSION), DOP&PW REGARDING PENALISATION OF SHRI MADHUSUDHAN MUKHERJEE, RETD JTO, NSBTTC, KALYANI, KOLKATA DUE TO BSNL FAILING TO DEPOSIT THE TDS RECOVERED:

With CGM ALTTC passing the ball to CGM CTD and CTD stating that "there is no information/data in TDS cell CTD", AIBSNLREA has now taken the issue to DoP&PW, writing to Secretary (Pension) requesting his personal intervention and direction to BSNL authorities to resolve the issue within a time frame. [View the letter](#)



22.04.2024: IRDAI REMOVES AGE BAR FOR PURCHASING HEALTH INSURANCE:

According to media reports, "The Insurance Regulatory and Development Authority of India (IRDAI) has removed the age limit for purchasing health insurance policies, with effect from April 1, 2024, Earlier, there was an age limit of 65 years to buy new health insurance policies. IRDAI's latest move is aimed at bringing in extended health benefits to the elderly. The IRDAI directive mandates health insurance providers to develop specialised policies catering to senior citizens, and to establish dedicated channels for addressing their claims and grievances."

15.04.2024: CGHS DIRECTORATE ISSUES O.M EXTENDING THE TIME PERIOD FOR LINKING ABHA WITH CGHS CARD:

CGHS Directorate, has issued an O.M vide F.No.Z15025/23/2023/DIR/CGHS I/3667671/2014 dated 15.04.2024, extending the time period for creation of ABHA ID upto 30.09.2024 and for linking ABHA number with CGHS card upto 31.10.2024. The O.M. further says that KIOSKS shall be made operational to assist CGHS beneficiaries and the CGHS beneficiaries may visit the CGHS wellness centre on need basis for availing assistance for linking CGHS ID to ABHA number. [View the CGHS OM](#)

13.04.2024: MINUTES OF THE 33RD MEETING OF STANDING COMMITTEE OF VOLUNTARY AGENCIES (SCOVA):

DoP&PW has circulated the Minutes of the 33rd SCOVA meeting held on 22.02.2024. Decision taken on some important issues are:

1. GRANT OF ADDITIONAL QUANTUM OF PENSION AT THE AGE ON ATTAINING THE AGE OF 65, 70 AND 75 YEARS AT THE RATE OF 5%, 10% AND 15% RESPECTIVELY AS RECOMMENDED BY THE STANDING COMMITTEE OF PARLIAMENT:

Due to financial constraints the proposal has not been agreed to. In view of the requests made by SCOVA Pensioners Welfare Associations, the Chairman, SCOVA suggested to DoPPW/DoE to again look into the matter.

2. ENHANCEMENT OF FMA TO PESIONERS RESIDING IN NON-CGHS AREAS:

DoE informed that the existing rates are based on 7th CPC and were effective from 01.07.2017. Hence, no further revision, at this stage seems justified.

3. RESTORATION OF RAILWAYS FARE CONCESSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS:

At present, there is no proposal to restore concession to senior citizens.

4. NOTIONAL INCREMENT TO THOSE WHO RETIRED ON A DAY PRIOR TO THE DATE OF THEIR NEXT INCREMENT:

DoPT representative informed that the matter was examined in consultation with other nodal Ministries/Departments like Department of Expenditure, Department of Legal Affairs etc. Further, Ld. Attorney General of India has also been consulted in the matter and based on the advice received, efforts are being made to seek clarification from the Hon'ble Supreme Court on the relevant issues-including rule provisions-which need elucidation. Further action, as may be required in the wake of Orders of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, can be taken on completion on the said exercise. [View the Minutes](#)

06.04.2024: EMPANELMENT OF CGHS/ECHS HOSPITALS UNDER BSNL MRS:

BSNL CO has assigned KPI targets to Circles, requiring the Admin/HR executives to approach hospitals in CGHS/ECHS panel for emanelment with BSNL Cirle/BA/OA for providing Indoor & Outdoor treatments to BSNL MRS beneficiaries. Non-CGHS empanelled hospitals in OA/BAs can also continue to be empanelled. [View the BSNL letter](#)

06.04.2024: DOP&PW CIRCULATES THE MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING, THE SECRETARY (PENSION), DOP&PW HAD WITH REGISTERED PENSIONERS ASSOCIATIONS:

We had earlier reported about the Virtual Meeting, the Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW had with registered Pensioners Associations on 21.03.2024 and the deliberations of the meeting. DoP&PW has now circulated the Minutes of the meeting. On the issues raised by AIBSNLREA, as desired by the Secretary (Pension) in the meeting, detailed representations have been submitted to him through email on 22.03.2024. [View the Minutes](#)

02.04.2024: CGHS DIRECTORATE ISSUES O.M. FOR MANDATORY LINKING OF CGHS BENEFICIARY ID WITH AYUSHMAN BHARAT HEALTH ACCOUNT ID:

CGHS Directorate vide F.No.Z15025/23/2023/DIR/CGHS(Comp No.8236195)I/3663776/2024 dated 28.03.2024 has issued an O.M making linking of CGHS Beneficiary ID with Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID mandatory w.e.f. 1st April 2024 and requiring the CGHS beneficiaries to complete the linking within 30 days. [View CGHS O.M](#)



RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

29.04.2024: MINISTRY OF LABOUR & EMPLOYMENT RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 09.04.2024 REGARDING NON-RELEASE OF ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 09.04.2024 addressed to the Secretary (L&E), Ministry of Labour & Employment, expressing concern over non-release of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for the months of February 2024, which should have been released on 28.03.2024, without which the DPE will not issue orders for revision of IDA w.e.f. 01.04.2024, Labour Bureau has replied that "As per comments of the concerned section- The release of CPI(IW) index for the month of February, 2024 is under process and will be uploaded on the website of Labour Bureau after its release." [View the reply from Labour Bureau](#)

24.04.2024: CGHS DIRECTORATE REPEATS ITS EARLIER REPLY TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 14.03.2024 REQUESTING EXTENSION OF CGHS TO UDAIPUR CITY, RAJASTHAN:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 14.03.2024 again taking up the issue of Extension of CGHS to Udaipur City, Rajasthan with DG CGHS, now requesting to cause inclusion of Udaipur City for visit by AD, CGHS, Jaipur to ascertain the feasibility of opening Wellness Centre and thereby extending CGHS to Udaipur City, CGHS has furnished exactly the same reply given by it earlier that "Opening of a new wellness centre involves creation of new posts of staff like medical officers, nursing officers, pharmacists, etc. and has financial implications. For which approval of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance is required. 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 areas not covered by CGHS are covered under another Health Scheme viz. Central Services Medical Attendance (CSMA) Rules." [View the CGHS response](#)

19.04.2024: CGHS DIRECTORATE SAYS THANKS FOR THE SUGGESTIONS:

Responding to AIBSNLREA letter dated 26.02.2024 on simplification of the Referral system under CGHS as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Health & Family Welfare, CGHS Directorate, has simply said that "Thank you for your suggestions", without committing anything. [View the CGHS response](#)

15.04.2024: BSNL RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 19.02.2024 ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR (HR) BSNL REGARDING SANCTION FOR INTEREST ON LATE PAYMENT OF GRATUITY IN RESPECT OF SHRI S B MOHARE, RETD ACCOUNTS OFFICER, KARNATAKA CIRCLE, BSNL:

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 19.02.2024 addressed to the Director (HR) BSNL regarding sanction for interest on late payment of gratuity in respect of Shri S B Mohare, Retd Accounts Officer, Karnataka Circle, BSNL has responded furnishing letters from

CGMT Karnataka Circle, requesting BSNL CO to examine the contents of AIBSNLREA letter and conveying that reply is awaited from PGM (Pers) BSNL CO. [View the BSNL reply](#)

10.04.2024: DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 08.04.2024 REGARDING URGENT NEED FOR A MECHANISM TO LISTEN TO THE GRIEVANCES OF BSNL RETIRED EMPLOYEES BY CMD, DIRECTOR (HR) AND SENIOR OFFICERS IN BSNL CORPORATE OFFICE:

DoP&PW has forwarded AIBSNLREA email submitting the representation dated 8th April 2024 regarding Urgent need for a Mechanism to listen to the grievances of BSNL retired employees by CMD, Director (HR) and senior officers in BSNL Corporate Office, to DoT "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." [View the email](#)

03.04.2024: DOP&PW FORWARDS AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 01.04.2024 REGARDING PENALISATION OF SHRI MADHUSUDHAN MUKHERJEE, RETD JTO, NSBTTC, KALYANI, KOLKATA DUE TO BSNL FAILING TO DEPOSIT THE TDS RECOVERED, TO DOT:

DoP&PW has forwarded AIBSNLREA email submitting the representation dated 1st April 2024 regarding Penalisation of Shri Madhusudhan Mukherjee, Retd JTO, NSBTTC, Kalyani, Kolkata due to BSNL failing to deposit the TDS recovered, to DoT "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." [View the email](#)



BRANCHES IN ACTION

28.04.2024: AIBSNLREA AMRAVATI BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

The General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA , Amravati Branch was held under the Chairmanship of Shri V. G. Dakhode, former State Secretary Maharashtra State, at about 1500 hrs. of 12th April 2024 in the Conference hall of Pr. G.M.Telecom (B.A.), BSNL, Amravati. The meeting was attended by the 13 members of the Branch. The Branch Secretary, Shri D. V. Rokade, informed the house about the developments that had taken place after the last meeting which was held on 23-10-2023. [View Maharashtra State Page of State News section for full report]

26.04.2024: AIBSNLREA YAMUNANAGAR BRANCH (HARYANA STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

The general body meeting of Yamuna Nagar Branch of AIBSNLREA was held on 25/4/2024 at 1100 hrs at Gopal Restaurant Yamuna Nagar. Branch Secretary Shri S L Purey welcomed all the members. Two minutes silence was observed in memory of Shri S.C.Bindal, who left for heavenly abode recently. The issues like Pension Revision, Medical allowance, CGHS, IDA revision, Additional Pension, Notional increment from 1st January and 1st July, Court case status and other problems were discussed. The

queries raised by members were clarified by the Branch Secretary. The reports of Branch Secretary and Financial secretary were passed by the members unanimously. The election of office bearers was held and the following team was elected unanimously:

1. President: Shri MCK Mittal
 2. Vice President: Shri S.K.Bansal, Shri R.P.Tyagi
 3. Secretary: Shri S.L.Purey
 4. Asstt Secretary: Shri V.P.Khanna, Shri Jasmer Kumar
 5. Financial Secretary: Shri S R Kansal
 6. Asstt Fin. Secretary: Shri H C Mittal
 7. Organising Secretary: Shri SK Bhardwaj, Shri Puran Chand
 8. Executive Members: Shri S.P.Chipa, Shri Kuljeet Singh, Shri S C Jain, Shri Raj Kumar
- The meeting ended with vote of thanks and tea/Snacks were served.

22.04.2024: AIBSNLREA BHOPAL BRANCH (MADHYA PRADESH STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

A very well organized monthly GB meeting of AIBSNLREA Bhopal Branch was held on 21.04.2024 with active participation of members. Shri R C Kansotia presided over the meeting. Shri H.S.Saxena Secretary and Shri B.S.Rajput Organising Secretary CHQ were on the dais along with the President. Members whose birthday fell in April were felicitated with Rose Flowers. Shri Tomar, Shri Kamalesh Singh & Shri Jadiya who had joined as New Members were welcomed. Shri Hariom Soni distributed Sweet in view of his birthday falling in April. There were discussions on ABHA and it was decided that still we are having a long time period upto September-October, members should wait till the final instructions from our Association's Central Headquarters. s/Shri Balpande, Shri Kamal Rai, Shri G.N. Shrivastava, Shri Jadiya, Shri Bramhe, Shri Arvind Shinha and Shri Diwakar Kotwal together rendered a Melodious Song creating a very cordial and pleasant atmosphere and was enjoyed by all the members with clapping & boosting the morale of the singers. The meeting missed two singers Shri Raghuveer Singh Ubeja and Shri Umesh Rathore who had gone abroad. Nice South Indian dishes were served as per the individual's choice. The meeting turned out to be a memorable one.

17.04.2024: AIBSNLREA KOLHAPUR BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) HOLDS ITS QUARTERLY GENERAL BODY MEETING:

AIBSNLREA Kolhapur Branch held its Quarterly General Body meeting on 14/4/2024 in the Conference Hall of Telephone Bhavan, Kolhapur under the Presidentship of Shri P.S. Kulkarni. Meeting Started with prayer, homage was paid to retired DE Shri H.S.Kittur who left for heavenly abode on 16/1/2024. President in his opening address welcomed all the Members who had come from Kolhapur, Sangli. Then S/Shri K.H.Joshi, S.M.Vaidya and Talegoankar who had completed 75 years were felicitated. [View Maharashtra State page of State News for full report]

16.04.2024: AIBSNLREA PATIALA BRANCH (PUNJAB STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

A general body meeting of Patiala Branch was held on 06.04.2024 at Gopal Sweets, Urban Estate, Patiala. 14 members including one new member attended the meeting under the presidentship of Shri Mewa Singh Retd DET. Three life members from Rajpura

also graced this meeting with their presence on a single telephone call. Members gave a warm welcome to Shri R S Sandhu (Jt. Secretary CHQ) with presenting flowers by Shri Mewa Singh President. Later he briefed the working of CHQ and latest status of our current main issues like Pension revision in BSNL, Enhancement of Pension at the age of 65,70,75 years as recommended by the joint parliamentary committee for the purpose for which no fruitful decision has been taken by the Central Government/DOT in spite of best efforts by All Union's/Pensioner's Association. He also requested all the members to see CHQ website regularly. [View Punjab State page of State News for full report]

10.04.2024: AIBSNLREA PRYAGRAJ BRANCH (UP STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

The General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Prayagraj Branch was held on 08/04/2024 at 1430 hrs in CTO COMPOUND Prayagraj under the presidentship of Shri R.S.GUPTA. 22 members attended the meeting. After Presidential address, discussions were held on reimbursement of medical claim without vouchers. Branch Secretary Shri S.M.Tiwari explained the action being taken by him on the matter and then spoke about the status of pension revision and the orders on mandatory linking of CGHS ID with ABHA ID. Shri V K Shrivastav Ex DGM also intimated the latest developments in pension revision including the Delhi High Court listing the Writ Petition filed by DoT on 12th July 2024. Shri S.M.Tiwari, then intimated the status of Identity Cards and migration to Sampann. He said that migration for post office pensioners work is in the final stages and that the left out and returned I/Cards will be sent again after the migration work. Then he made a brief mention of the activities of CHQ and intimated that the latest developments of CHQ is posted on WhatsApp platform on regular basis and the same information is posted on local Prayagraj WhatsApp for members of prayagraj Branch for information. The house appreciated the effort of CHQ for a letter to DG CGHS for withdrawing the order for mandating the linking of CGHS beneficiary with ABHA (Aayushman bhara health Account ID).The house met with HOLI Milan also. The house observed two minutes of silence for departed souls Late Manoj kumar TDM Pratapgarh and mother in law of Shri R R.Shukla. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks by Shri R.S.Gupta.

02.04.2024: AIBSNLREA AGRA BRANCH (UP STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:

GB meeting of AIBSNLREA Agra Branch was held on 31.03.2024 on Google meet platform, under the Chairmanship of Shri Bhuvnesh Chandra Mishra, President. 15 Members joined the meeting. A new member Shri Raj Kumar Gupta, who joined the Google Meet from Texas was welcomed. Status of pension revision, CGHS status in Agra and other issues of general welfare were discussed. Detailed status of pension revision as on date, and the stand of AIBSNLREA was clarified to the members by Branch Secretary Shri A K Dubey. After discussions the members present have decided to hold such meetings on bimonthly basis, so as to maintain the awareness amongst the members. The house was enthusiastic enough to decide for a family meet in second week of May 2024. Meeting was adjourned with a note of thanks by Shri Ram Babu Singh, Vice President AIBSNLREA UP State.

02.04.2024: AIBSNLREA INDORE BRANCH (MADHYA PRADESH STATE) HOLDS ITS MONTHLY GENERAL BODY MEETING:

AIBSNLREA Indore Branch conducted its monthly meeting on 31.03.2024. The meeting was presided by Shri R C Garg. President welcomed the members and wished them a very happy Holi. The members who had completed 75 years of age were felicitated by shawl and shrifal. Members discussed the CHQ activities and pensioners issues. Members enjoyed lunch with their families. Meeting was ended with vote of thanks. [View Photo](#)



STATEMENT OF AMOUNT RECEIVED DURING FEBRUARY/MARCH 2024

- 01. Lucknow Branch (UP State)** deposited Rupees Six Hundred (Rs. 600/-) only on 19.04.2024 towards CHQ quota for two new Life members.
- 02. Bhopal Branch (MP State)** deposited Rupees Two Thousand Seven Hundred (Rs. 2700/-) only on 20.04.2024 towards CHQ quota for two new Life members.
- 03. Yamunanagar Branch (Haryana State)** deposited Rupees One Thousand Three Hundred (Rs. 1300/-) only on 30.04.2024 towards CHQ Quota for 5 new Life Members prior to 31.03.2023 and one Life Member in April 2024.

KIND ATTENTION BRANCH/STATE SECRETARIES

It is once again requested that immediately after depositing any amount into CHQ Account, it may please be ensured that details like Branch Name, Amount deposited, purpose of the deposit like Quota, Donation etc are sent to CHQ through CHQ email.

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

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