



## Editorial

### THE VOICE OF THE COMMON MAN...

**T**he massive exercise of Parliament elections of the world's largest democracy has finally come to end. This was the most fiercely fought election in the history of India with months-long and ferocious campaigns by all the political parties, social media playing a major role in the campaigns and demeaning utterances by even top leaders.

**T**he results show that the voice of the common man has prevailed. The common man has again proved that he cannot be taken for granted by any political party. He does not hesitate to try and experiment with the choices available to him. He is not carried away by high decibel rhetoric battering 24 hours around. He is concerned about real issues which affects his livelihood - price rise, joblessness and social conflicts. He wants to live in peace with everyone irrespective of religion, caste or creed. All the political parties, both the ruling and opposition, should take a cue from this verdict of the common man and work together for resolving the real issues of the common man, forgetting all the heat generated during the election campaigns.



**T**he next government is expected to take office in the coming days, with the support of alliance parties. The past experience of the working class is that coalition governments have always been receptive to their genuine demands in contrast with strong governments commanding brutal majority in parliament. This gives room for hope and anticipation.

**T**he CG Pensioners have resentment over the Government not settling the long pending issues like additional quantum of pension of 5%, 10% and 15% on attaining the age of 65, 70 and 75 years respectively, restoration of commuted value of pension in less than 15 years and enhancement of FMA to Rs.3000 p.m. BSNL employees feel deprived of pay revision w.e.f. 1.1.2017 on the unreasonable condition of affordability, disregarding the fact that BSNL is implementing the social obligations of the government and should not be seen as a commercial entity. Delay in launching of 4G by BSNL has resulted in loss of crores of customers. Withdrawal of railway concession to senior citizens remains a sore point. Let us hope that the new government resolves these issues without taking much time.

**W**e have voted for different dispensations according to our individual perceptions. But, as a whole, our appreciation or criticism of the government is issue based. As senior citizens we always aspire for peaceful co-existence amid the diversity and plurality of our country. We recall the words of U Thant, the third Secretary General of United Nations who said, "Governments, Systems, Ideologies come and go but it is humanity which remains." ☹

Shri R.S.Arora, 78, State President, AIBSNLREA Uttar Pradesh, expired on 13.05.2024 at his residence in Lucknow. He had served as AIBSNLREA UP State Secretary from the date of its formation on 9th April 2009 till 16th September 2023 when he handed over charge to the present State Secretary Shri V.P.Singh. He was one of the signatories for the formation of the association. He was a veteran TU leader and a close associate of Basuji since the days they worked in TESA (I). He was a pleasant personality with an appearance defying his age. His demise is a great loss to AIBSNLREA. We convey our heartfelt condolences to his family comprising one son and three daughters.



## **Important Developments of the Month**

- ❖ Shri Rakesh Sethi, AGS AIBSNLREA visited BSNL Corporate Office on 28.05.2024 and pursued the following issues with the concerned officers. The following are the outcome of his efforts:
  1. Following issuance of Vigilance Clearance from Gujarat Circle, in respect of Shri M.N.Chavda, Retd SDE, Surat, review of his promotion is under process. Orders are likely to be issued in the near future.
  2. In respect of the claim for penal interest on late payment of gratuity by Shri S.B.Mohare, Retd AO, Karnataka Circle, it was said that the gratuity already paid is provisional subject to the outcome of appeal against his acquittal by a CBI court and decision on payment of interest will be taken based on the appeal decision.
  3. In respect of the claim for penal interest on late payment of gratuity by Shri B.M.Kolki, Retd SDE, Kolhapur, Corporate Office was not aware of the issue and on which authority the claim was rejected. We have requested intervention by Pers Section.
  4. Regarding holding of Review DPCs for promotions ordered in the DE grade during DoT period, BSNL was not convinced if review is to be done for adhoc promotions ordered during DoT period. We need to pursue the issue again with DoT.
- ❖ AGS AIBSNLREA Shri V.P.Arya met DDG (Estt), DoT on 01.05.2024 and enquired about the status of issue of Presidential Order in respect of Shri H.S.Sutaria Retd. JTO, following DoT SNG section O.M dated 14.03.2024 addressed to the DoT Vigilance, enclosing AIBSNLREA letter dated 15.11.2023 for taking further action. DDG (Estt) informed us that after discussions in this regard with Vigilance and Legal Advisor, Vigilance Clearance is awaited for issue of Presidential Order and for regularisation of suspension period. AIBSNLREA will follow up the matter regularly.

- ❖ AIBSNLREA had sought for an appointment with CGCA, DoT in order to discuss SAMPANN related issues, Pensioner grievances in respect of some CCA offices and suggestions of AIBSNLREA already submitted on simplifying procedure for Pensioner ID Card and automating issue of IDA-CDA mapping certificate for the purpose of switching over to CGHS. As the CGCA had retired and no one had been posted as regular CGCA in her place, it was decided to meet the Addl.CGCA. Shri V.P.Arya AGS met him today with prior appointment. Jt.CGCA was also present in the meeting. AIBSNLREA submitted a letter today and discussions were based on the issues raised in the letter. The meeting was cordial, purposeful and productive and lasted for 75 minutes. Along with the letter, a list of pensioner grievances pertaining to CCA MH & Goa had been attached. Addl.CGCA tried to sort out the issues then and there as far as possible. On the various issues relating to incorrect entries in SAMPANN, undue delay in commencing Family Pension, delay in paying arrears, stoppage of pension due to non-updation of DLC in SAMPANN, irregular payment of pension with different CCAs making payment on different dates, absence of a mechanism to receive, acknowledge and resolve the grievances by CCAs etc, Addl.CGCA has agreed to give appropriate instructions to all the CCAs. Provisions will be made to download Pensioner ID card and IDA-CDA mapping certificate from the SAMPANN portal, in co-ordination with ITPC Circle. MH & Goa CCA will be asked to resolve the grievances listed by us at the earliest. It was pointed out that Tamilnadu CCA notification for holding Pension Adalat at Ooty, a hill station and Tourist Centre, at the peak tourism period will create hurdles for the pensioners to attend the Adalat. Addl.CGCA talked to the concerned authority in Tamilnadu CCA office and advised shifting of the venue. [View the letter](#)
  
- ❖ AIBSNLREA East Godavari Branch has donated 10 chairs to the CGHS Wellness Centre, Rajahmundry, Andhra Pradesh, in order to improve the seating facility for the beneficiaries. East Godavari Branch Secretary Shri GSVSS Varaprasad, CHQ VP Shri M.V.Rao and other members of the branch were present during handing over of the chairs to the CMO of the WC Dr.Glory. AIBSNLREA CHQ congratulates Shri GSVSS Varaprasad and the members of East Godavari Branch for their helpful gesture. [View the Photos](#)
  
- ❖ A virtual meeting of AIBSNLREA CHQ office bearers was held on 01.05.2024 evening under the Presidentship of Shri V.Chinnappiah, CHQ President. The meeting commenced with exchange of pleasantries and Greetings on May Day. President welcomed the participants, highlighting the importance of May Day to all of us as part of the working class and the activities of the CHQ during the past month. GS thanked all the office bearers for their commitment in implementing the decisions of the office bearers meetings on organisational issue and felt proud over the collective functioning. AGS Shri Arya then gave a brief account of his meeting that morning with Addl CGCA New Delhi [Details of the meeting are published separately]. There were lively discussions on the grievances pertaining to delay in pension payment, commencement of family pension,

payment of arrears and inept handling of grievances by some CCAs. Some CCAs were reported to be extremely helpful. All the Organising Secretaries expressed satisfaction over the flow of information to all members. The meeting appreciated the efforts of Shri V P Arya in travelling for hours to meet the Addl CGCA in the hot weather. All the office bearers applauded the commitment and the spirit shown by Shri K.Gopinathan, OS (S) who chose to attend the meeting in a wheel chair, after having fractured his leg a few days back. President concluded the meeting once again commending the hard work being done by all the CHQ office bearers and the team spirit inculcated among the CHQ office bearers.

## Issues taken up



**31.05.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE PGM (PERS) BSNL CO REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF INTEREST ON DELAYED PAYMENT OF GRATUITY – REJECTION OF CLAIM BY SHRI B.M. KOLKI, RETD SDE KOLHAPUR:**

AIBSNLREA has now drawn the attention of PGM (Pers), BSNL CO regarding non-payment of interest on delayed payment of Gratuity – rejection of claim by Shri B.M. Kolki, Retd SDE Kolhapur, pointing out that Shri B.M.Kolki cannot be penalised for the delay on the part of the administration, howsoever intricate the case was perceived by the authorities and requesting him to advise Maharashtra Circle to re-visit the issue and cause sanction of interest on delayed payment of gratuity and payment without further delay. [View the letter](#)

**27.05.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE SECRETARY (PENSION), DOP&PW REGARDING IMPROVEMENTS IN CPENGRAMS BASED ON EXPERIENCES OF SHORTCOMINGS IN THE SYSTEM AND LACK OF SATISFACTORY MONITORING OF RESOLUTION OF GRIEVANCES:**

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of Secretary (Pension) towards shortcomings in CPENGRAMS and has suggested improvements to be made in the system in order to obviate the pain and agony of the pensioners and to ensure peace of living for the elderly citizens. [View the letter](#)

**21.05.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE SECRETARY (PENSION), DOP&PW REGARDING NON-RELEASE OF ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX FOR INDUSTRIAL WORKERS FOR THE MONTH OF FEBRUARY 2024:**

AIBSNLREA had earlier represented to the Secretary (L&E) regarding Non-release of All India Consumer Price Index for Industrial Workers for the Month of February 2024 and requested immediate release of the AICPI (IW) for February 2024, without which the DPE will not issue orders for revision of IDA w.e.f. 01.04.2024. On 29.04.2024, Labour Bureau had replied that ""As per the comments of the concerned section – The release of CPI(IW) index for the month of February 2024 is under process and will be uploaded

in the website of Labour Bureau after its release.” But the index number has not been released till date. AIBSNLREA has therefore sought the intervention of Secretary (Pension), DoP&PW. [View the letter](#)

**17.05.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE SECRETARY (PENSION), DOP&PW REGARDING NON-AVAILABILITY OF JEEVAN PRAMAAN APP FOR DOWNLOAD FROM PLAY STORE IN SOME REGIONS OUTSIDE INDIA:**

AIBSNLREA has drawn the attention of Secretary (Pension) to the fact that Jeevan Pramaan App is not available for download from Play Store in some regions outside India when they purchase a new mobile abroad or when their mobiles are reset for one reason or another while staying in those regions. AIBSNLREA has therefore requested that the needful is done to resolve this technical matter so that Jeevan Pramaan App is available for download around the globe anywhere. [View the letter](#)

**16.05.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE DG CGHS REGARDING DIFFICULTIES FACED BY CGHS BENEFICIARIES SERVED BY GAYA, DARBHANGA, MUZAFFARPUR AND CHHAPRA WELLNESS CENTRES UNDER AD CGHS PATNA:**

AIBSNLREA has written to the DG CGHS, drawing her attention to a AD CGHS Patna OM dated 29.12.2023, regarding non-extension of approval to the Authorised Local Chemist resulting in inability to supply medicines to beneficiaries of Gaya, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Chhapra wellness centres and allowing them to purchase medicine from local market and get the expenditure reimbursed. Detailing the difficulties faced by the pensioner beneficiaries in this regard, AIBSNLREA has requested the DG CGHS to cause early appointment of an Authorised Local Chemist to supply the required medicines. [View the letter](#)

**14.05.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE CGCA, DOT REGARDING STOPPAGE OF ADDITIONAL PENSION ON ATTAINING THE AGE OF 80 YEARS CONSEQUENT TO MIGRATION TO SAMPANN IN RESPECT OF SHRI N.B.KHAMKAR, RETD SDE:**

Drawing the attention of the CGCA, DoT, New Delhi to the plight of Shri N.B.Khamkar, 82 years old, who has stopped receiving the 20% additional quantum of pension since November 2023 on migration to SAMPANN, AIBSNLREA has requested him to advise the CCA Maharashtra & Goa to get his personal details corrected in SAMPANN, restore the additional quantum of pension and also pay the arrears of short payment since November 2023 at the earliest and thus relieve the super senior citizen of his unwarranted agony. [View the letter](#)

**08.05.2024: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE DG CGHS REGARDING DIFFICULTIES FACED BY CGHS BENEFICIARIES IN AVAILING CONSULTATION FROM THE MEDICAL SPECIALIST AT KATOL ROAD POLYCLINIC, NAGPUR:**

AIBSNLREA has brought to the notice of the DG CGHS the difficulties faced by CGHS beneficiaries in availing consultation from the Medical Specialist at Katol Road Polyclinic, Nagpur, having to wait for hours, go back and try the next day/days and requesting her to do the needful to ensure that the pensioner beneficiaries are not put into difficulty because of shortage of specialists, leading to overcrowding and long waiting. [View the letter](#)



## GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS

**30.05.2024: DOP&PW ISSUES ORDERS ENHANCING MAXIMUM LIMIT OF GRATUITY TO CENTRAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CONSEQUENT TO THEIR DA RATE REACHING 50%:**

Implementing the recommendation of VII CPC, which was accepted by the Government and consequent to increase in DA rate of Central Government employees from 46% to 50% w.e.f. 1.1.2024, DoP&PW has issued an OM vide No.28/03/2024-P&PW (B)/Gratuity/9559 dated 30.05.2024, enhancing the maximum limit of Gratuity by 25%, i.e. from Rs.20 Lakh to Rs.25 Lakh, w.e.f. 1.1.2024. View the DoP&PW OM

**11.05.2024: SHRI B M NYAMATI RETD CAO FINALLY GETS JUSTICE AFTER PROLONGED STRUGGLE:**

AIBSNLREA has been untiringly pursuing the issue of non-release of regular retiral benefits to Shri B M Nyamati ever since he was issued with a chargesheet a day prior to his retirement on BSNL VRS 2019. He got the chargesheet quashed by CAT Bangalore. But BSNL filed an appeal in Karnataka High court which was dismissed. Surprisingly BSNL filed an SLP which too was dismissed. With several letters addressed to different authorities by the CHQ, AGSs AIBSNLREA Shri V.P.Arya and Shri Rakesh Sethi were visiting BSNL CO now and then to pursue and get final retirement orders issued, citing DoP&PW advice conveyed by DoT to BSNL on the matter of action to be taken when appeal is pending against acquittal by the lower court. After a continuous legal fight by the affected pensioner and incessant efforts by AIBSNLREA, Shri B.M.Nyamati has finally got justice with BSNL issuing the final retirement order. View the BSNL letter

## RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON



## AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

**28.05.2024: CGHS RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 16.05.2024 ADDRESSED TO THE DG CGHS REGARDING DIFFICULTIES FACED BY CGHS BENEFICIARIES SERVED BY GAYA, DARBHANGA, MUZAFFARPUR AND CHHAPRA WELLNESS CENTRES UNDER AD CGHS PATNA:**

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 16.05.2024 addressed to the DG CGHS regarding difficulties faced by CGHS beneficiaries served by Gaya, Darbhanga, Muzaffarpur and Chhapra wellness centres under AD CGHS Patna due to non-extension of approval earlier granted to the Authorised Local Chemist, CGHS has replied that "We are under process for appointing ALC for satellite city, under CGHS Patna (Gaya, Darbhanga, Chhapra, Muzaffarpur)." View the CGHS response

**24.05.2024: DOT RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 22.03.2024 ADDRESSED TO THE SECRETARY, DOT REQUESTING GRANT OF HIGHER PAY SCALES FOR THE STAFF BELONGING TO THE ORGANISED ACCOUNTS IN VARIOUS DEPARTMENTS – REQUEST TO TAKE UP WITH DOE FOR ISSUE OF COMMON ORDER ALLOWING THE BENEFIT OF HIGHER PAY SCALES ON ACTUAL BASIS W.E.F. 1.1.1996:**

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 22.03.2024 addressed to the Secretary, DoT requesting to take up with DoE for issue of common order allowing the benefit of higher pay scales on actual basis for the staff belonging to the Organised Accounts in various Departments w.e.f. 1.1.1996, DoT has replied that "As per the reply received from the concerned unit - The matter is under process." View the DoT response

**13.05.2024: BSNL RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 12.04.2024 ADDRESSED TO THE DIRECTOR (HR) BSNL REQUESTING RECONVEYANCE AND RELEASE OF ORIGINAL TITLE DEED OF (LATE) SHRI MANORANJAN BISWAS, RETD AE (QA), KOLKATA:**

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 12.04.2024 addressed to the Director (HR) BSNL requesting reconveyance and release of original title deed of (Late) Shri Manoranjan Biswas, Retd AE (QA), Kolkata, CGM QA & Inspection Circle, Bangalore has replied that "For release of original title deed, the principal amount along with interest recovery particulars has to be collected from all the offices where deductions were made. In case of violation of conditions laid down in the sanction additional 2.5% interest will be charged. After collecting the recovery particulars the same is to be forwarded to CCA for verification and thereafter NOC will be issued from CCA. After obtaining NOC from CCA, Form 7 will be issued to the employee from this office for remortgage of property and finally the original title deed will be handed over from QA Circle, Bangalore. As the last place of posting of Shri Biswas was Kolkata Telephones, a letter will be issued to Shri Samrat Biswas to take up the case with Kolkata Telephones. If any amount is due or interest is to be recovered, it can be done only through Kolkata Telephones. Moreover, death certificate of the employee and genuineness of the legal heir is also to be examined." View the CGM QA & Inspection Circle, BSNL letter

**10.05.2024: BSNL RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 17.01.2024 REGARDING NON-PAYMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIM WITHOUT VOUCHER FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR 2018-19 – CASE OF SHRI BRAJENDRA SINGH, EX. CAO, O/O GMTD, BSNL, PRAYAGRAJ, UP EAST CIRCLE:**

Responding to AIBSNLREA letter dated 17.01.2024, regarding Non-payment of medical claim without voucher for the financial year 2018-19 in respect of Shri Brajendra Singh, Ex. CAO, O/o GMTD, BSNL, Prayagraj, UP East Circle, GM BSNL Prayagraj has replied that "after receipt of authorization from Admin Sanction for payment of the left-out medical allowance of Shri Brajendra Singh, retired CAO, a document no. 1902162540 of Rs. 18609/- has been created and posted in SAP for payment in respect of medical cash allowances for the FY 2018-19. The payment will be made by the BSNL Corporate Office, New Delhi, as per the availability of the funds and schedule dates." View the GM Prayagraj reply

**03.05.2024: BSNL DECLINES THE REQUEST FOR PENAL INTEREST ON LATE PAYMENT OF GRATUITY IN RESPECT OF SHRI B M KOLKI:**

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 01.03.2024 addressed to the CGMT, Maharashtra Circle requesting sanction and payment of penal interest on late payment of gratuity in respect of Shri B M Kolki, Retd SDE Kolhapur, GMT Kolhapur had replied that "the interest payment on gratuity is declined." An appeal was filed pointing out that "the request has been declines without assigning any reason" and requesting "to direct GM TD Kolhapur to furnish the reason for declining the request". The appeal has been closed with a curt response that "satisfactory reply given." View the reply by GMTD Kolhapur



**BRANCHES IN ACTION**

**22.05.2024: AIBSNLREA KURUKSHETRA BRANCH (HARYANA STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:**

A General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA Kurukshetra Branch was held on 15th May 2024 at 11 AM in Haryana Tourism Yatri Niwas, Kurukshetra where 34 members were present. The meeting was presided over by Shri S K Verma Branch President. Branch Secretary Shri Rajvir Singh Chaudhary welcomed the members with special thanks to our guests, Shri V N Handa and Shri S P Narwal who had come from Karnal. Two minutes silence was observed in the memory of grandson of Shri Jasbir Singh Virk and daughter of Shri J N Verma. The house also paid tributes to the memory of late Shri R S Arora former State Secretary Uttar Pradesh who expired a few days ago at Lucknow. [View Haryana State Page of State News section for full report]

**20.05.2024: AIBSNLREA BHOPAL BRANCH (MADHYA PRADESH STATE) HOLDS ITS MONTHLY GENERAL BODY MEETING:**

Monthly meeting of AIBSNLREA BHOPAL Branch was held at INDIAN COFFEE HOUSE NEW MARKET BHOPAL ON 19.05.2024 Shri R.S.Jaiswal one of the senior most members of the Association welcomed Shri Rituj Jain Area Head & Shri Naval Kishore Branch Manager of Care Health Insurance by presenting them bouquet. The Insurance representatives explained about the Care Health Insurance policy, number of hospitals associated with it in Bhopal, their claim settlement ratio, disclosures before taking policy. [View Madhya Pradesh State Page of State News section for full report]

**07.05.2024: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF AIBSNLREA AGRA BRANCH (UP STATE) HELD:**

A General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Agra branch was held on 5th May 2024, at 1700 Hrs at 19, Ayodhya Kunj, Arjun Nagar Agra. 23 Members of the branch attended the meeting. New members enrolled after the last meeting were welcomed by the House. Thereafter, Branch Secretary Dr A K Dubey conveyed the message of GS, specially addressed to the members of Branch. Various notified agenda points were discussed. After this elaborate explanation of the activities taken up at state and CHQ level were given by the Secretary to the satisfaction of members. Specially, the issue of status of pension revision, and the stand of AIBSNLREA on this hot issue were explained. Doubts



of the members regarding linking of CGHS with ABHA ID were clarified. Shri R B Singh, Vice President of UP state body, deliberated spiritual lecture on dhyan yoga and gave 10 minutes exercise on relaxation of body and meditation. This was appreciated by the house. In the end President Agra Branch, Shri Bhuvnesh Chandra Mishra gave vote of thanks to members for a very nice gathering on a very short notice, that too on a severely hot day. Members wanted that a cultural meet be held at the earliest, as and when the climate is conducive. [View the Photos](#)

### **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.

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

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