



## Editorial

### LET'S TAKE PRIDE IN OURSELVES

**M**any BSNL pensioners may not be aware that AIBSNLREA was formed and started functioning in the year 2008, much before any other BSNL pensioners association now in the picture came into existence. With great foresight, the founders of AIBSNLREA had limited its membership to retired BSNL Executives, ignoring the criticism that after retirement there cannot be any classes or categories. The founders of AIBSNLREA were then aware that the retired BSNL Executives will have to face and fight against issues which exclusively affect the Executives. A simple browsing through our website and its 'Archives' pages will show that their perception has proved to be completely true. No doubt, AIBSNLREA, over the years, has been able to sincerely pursue such issues and get them resolved. That is why more and more retired BSNL Executives continue to approach us with their grievances, which others could not resolve, notably some issues relating to their period in service. We even guide some non-Executive pensioners who approach us with their grievance. Above all, pensioners of other Government departments and Undertakings too call us and mail us seeking information and guidance, seeing our website and being inspired by our activities.

**T**his does not mean that AIBSNLREA has been silent on common issues. AIBSNLREA has been second to none in pursuing issues common to all BSNL Pensioners. AIBSNLREA raised the issue of pension revision of pre-2007 pensioners, immediately the day after DoT issued Presidential orders for revision of pay of BSNL employees on 27.02.2009 and subsequently pursued the issue with all concerned departments. It successfully cited precedence in Food Corporation of India and argued for pension revision in IDA scale, when others were confused and were seeking pension revision in CDA scale. Apart from that, AIBSNLREA played significant role in settling important issues like extending the benefit of 78.2% fitment to pensioners, removing anomaly in pension of those who retired within the first 10 months of absorption in BSNL, increase in gratuity ceiling, improvements in BSNL MRS, extending concessional broadband at residence of retired employees, restoration of medical claims without voucher for pensioners, bringing BSNL absorbed pensioners under the purview of CGHS, benefit of additional increment to those who retired from July 2017 to April 2018, stopping wrong practice, by BSNL, of recovering TDS before actual payment of medical claims

and clearing long pending medical claims since 2018-19. AIBSNLREA is still pursuing the issue of implementing DPE orders on 78.2% fitment on actual basis from 1.1.2007, notional increment when the increment falls due on the day following superannuation, increase in quantum of FMA from Rs.1000/ p.m to Rs.3000/- p.m and many issues relating to facilities under CGHS.

**T**here is no need to substantiate the above, as every document since the year 2008 is available in AIBSNLREA website, standing testimony to our exceptionally remarkable activities. Our website stands tall among other websites of BSNL pensioners, by storing and providing all the information. Working of the association is also the most transparent, with list of branches and details about every member made available in the website, amount received every month as CHQ quota/donations published in E-journal and details of donations collected for specific purposes published in the website itself. The Association at all levels function with minimum funds, which we see as a virtue and not a weakness. Branches hold meetings by sharing the expenses every time. Even then, there is no dearth of regular meetings in the Branches and no one complains. The All India Conferences are also conducted by sharing of the expenses by the delegates, with the CHQ office bearers, including the General Secretary paying the delegate fee and travel expenses from their own pockets, which is unheard of in any other

organisation. And the members have raised to the occasion whenever call for donation for specific purpose like court case was given by the CHQ.

**A**IBSNLREA takes up issues based on rules, justifications and genuineness, follow them up sincerely, meet the concerned authorities when required and never has any hesitation in repeated persuasion. AIBSNLREA has always desisted from misleading the pensioners and from raising issues for publicity-sake as such act will ultimately lead to despondency among the pensioners. AIBSNLREA always uses its time and energy in taking up and resolving real issues.

**A**IBSNLREA represents bulk of retired BSNL executives who had been members of different Executives Associations while in service and does not function as an appendage to any service association. Its activities are not influenced by any political consideration. AIBSNLREA draws its strength from its members, activists at different levels and veterans of the Telecom TU movement. The listed virtues of AIBSNLREA are only a reflection of the collective character of its members. Together we run the race, using the best of our abilities and do not get distracted by irrelevant things happening around. AIBSNLREA takes pride in its members and the members take pride in their organisation. We look back and feel proud of our past, we look forward and have faith in our future and we enjoy every moment in the present. ♥



## Important Developments of the Month

- ✚ DoT vide its OM No.4-12(12)/2018-PAT-Part (1) dated 21st July 2023 has modified Annexure-B to its OM dated 01.07.2019, revising the mapping of IDA and CDA pay scales for deciding the rate of monthly CGHS contribution and entitlement of wards in private hospitals empanelled under CGHS in respect of retired BSNL/MTNL employees who receive pension from Central Civil Estimates and avail CGHS facilities. The O.M and mapping is not applicable for pro-rata pensioners who retired from DoT under CDA pay scale.
- ✚ Hitherto the option to include either parents or parents-in-law for availing the benefits under CGHS was available only to Female Government employees. CGHS in a O.M. vide F.No.H.11020/2/2023-EHS dated 26.07.2023, has now extended this facility to male employees, subject to the conditions of dependence and residence etc being satisfied.
- ✚ The monthly virtual meeting of AIBSNLREA CHQ office bearers was held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2023 evening under the Presidentship of Shri V.Chinnappiah, CHQ President. President welcomed the CHQ office bearers who had joined the virtual meeting. GS briefly listed the important activities of CHQ during June 2023 and said there was less than normal activities by the CHQ office bearers which was later attributed by the participants to the unusually hot weather across the country. Organising Secretaries, however had worked consistently during this period and reported the progress made. All the CHQ office bearers were present except one AGS and one OS. All the office bearers gave their valuable opinion on the activities of CHQ and made some important suggestions. After discussions on the issues arising out of migration to SAMPANN, the meeting decided to call for details from Branches for taking up with DoT Headquarters. The meeting ended with General Secretary thanking the CHQ office bearers for the collective working since the AIC.



## Issues taken up

### 26.07.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO THE DG CGHS ON NON-AVAILABILITY OF EVEN A SINGLE EMPANELLED PRIVATE HOSPITAL UNDER CGHS IN INDORE TO AVAIL CASHLESS TREATMENT:

AIBSNLREA has taken up with DG CGHS the issue of non-availability of even a single empanelled private hospital under CGHS in Indore to avail cashless treatment, as all the three HCOs empanelled under CGHS scheme in Indore have stopped providing cashless treatment since May 2023, allegedly due to huge amount of hospital bills pending and has requested that the issues be sorted out with the empanelled hospitals and more hospitals willing to provide cashless treatment be empanelled at the earliest in order to ensure timely medical care to the CGHS beneficiaries of Indore. [View the letter](#)

**24.07.2023: AIBSNLREA APPEALS AGAINST CLOSURE OF ITS REPRESENTATION SUGGESTING ISSUE OF ORDERS REGARDING TREATING THE INTERVENING PERIOD BETWEEN A BSNL PENSIONER SURRENDERING BSNL MRS CARD AND OBTAINING CGHS CARD AND FALLING ILL IN BETWEEN REQUIRING INDOOR TREATMENT:**

CGHS has closed the suggestion submitted by AIBSNLREA on the above subject, stating that "it is a policy matter." AIBSNLREA has submitted an appeal against the closure with the remarks "Our suggestion was only a change in policy, considering the grave difficulties faced by the BSNL Pensioner during the intervening period of surrendering BSNL Medical card and obtaining CGHS Card, in line with the already existing orders for treating the intervening period of a Government servant's retirement and date of obtaining CGHS card. We shall be thankful, if a policy decision is taken and orders are issued, as instances of hospitalisation during the intervening period will be rare and the Government/CGHS will not stand to lose anything." [View the appeal](#)

**18.07.2023: AIBSNLREA YET AGAIN WRITES TO SECRETARY, DOT REGARDING DELAY IN ISSUE OF VIGILANCE CLEARANCE BY DOT FOR ABSORPTION IN BSNL - CASE OF SHRI H S SUTARIA, RETD JTO, GUJARAT TELECOM CIRCLE, BSNL AND SUBMITTING DOCUMENTS SHOWING PRECEDENCE IN SIMILAR SITUATION:**

In order to break the reluctance on the part of DoT Vigilance to provide Vigilance Clearance for permanent absorption in BSNL in the above case, AIBSNLREA has yet again written to the Secretary, DoT, providing documentary evidence wherein DoT has conveyed approval for absorption in exactly similar cases, subject to an undertaking and has requested him to consider the case with empathy. [View the letter](#)

**17.07.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO DIRECTOR (HR) BSNL AGAIN ON THE ISSUE OF GRANT OF FINANCIAL UPGRADATION TO E-6 IDA SCALE TO SHRI RAJPAL SINGH, RETD SE (CIVIL), AMBALA:**

In view of the response from CGMT Haryana on the issue, attaching the same letter it had sent to BSNL CO a year back, AIBSNLREA has again drawn the attention of Director (HR) BSNL to an atypical case of denial of financial upgradation to E6 IDA pay scale to Shri Rajpal Singh, now Retd SE (Civil), Ambala, citing clarifications issued by BSNL that those in Regular DE/EE grade are not eligible for upgradation to E6 pay scale under EPP 2007, although he has completed 5 years' service in E5 pay scale. This has resulted in an anomaly whereby his juniors who did not get regular promotion to EE grade got financial upgradation to E6 scale while Shri Rajpal Singh continued in E5 pay scale. AIBSNLREA has requested him to get the issue examined specially and specifically, without rejecting it in a routine manner and to render justice to Shri Rajpal Singh by granting him the upgradation to E6 pay scale on his completing 5 years in E5 pay scale. [View the letter](#)

**03.07.2023: AIBSNLREA WRITES TO CGCA REGARDING DIFFICULTIES FACED BY PENSIONERS MIGRATED TO SAMPANN DUE TO WRONG INPUT OF PERSONAL DATA, PARTICULARLY MOBILE NUMBER:**

AIBSNLREA has written to the Controller General of Communication Accounts drawing his attention to the difficulties faced by pensioners migrated to SAMPANN due to wrong input of personal data, particularly mobile number and these pensioners are not

even aware that they have been migrated to SAMPANN, as no SMS is received and they cannot log in to check the data and register a complaint. AIBSNLREA has requested his urgent attention to the issue so that not only the pensioners are relieved of the unwarranted mental stress but also the CCA infra-structure does not crumble due to overload. [View the letter](#)



## GOVERNMENT/BSNL ORDERS & LETTERS

### 27.07.2023: REVISED MAPPING FOR DETERMINING CGHS SUBSCRIPTION AND WARD ENTITLEMENT:

DoT vide its OM No.4-12(12)/2018-PAT-Part (1) dated 21st July 2023 has modified Annexure-B to its OM dated 01.07.2019, revising the mapping of IDA and CDA pay scales for deciding the rate of monthly CGHS contribution and entitlement of wards in private hospitals empanelled under CGHS in respect of retired BSNL/MTNL employees who receive pension from Central Civil Estimates and avail CGHS facilities. The O.M and mapping is not applicable for pro-rata pensioners who retired from DoT under CDA pay scale. [View the DoT O.M](#)

### 26.07.2023: CGHS EXTENDS OPTION TO INCLUDE EITHER PARENTS OR PARENTS-IN-LAW FOR AVAILING THE BENEFITS UNDER CGHS TO MALE EMPLOYEES:

Hitherto the option to include either parents or parents-in-law for availing the benefits under CGHS was available only to Female Government employees. CGHS in a O.M. vide F.No.H.11020/2/2023-EHS dated 26.07.2023, has now extended this facility to male employees, subject to the conditions of dependence and residence etc being satisfied. [View the CGHS O.M](#)

### 09.07.2023: DG CGHS ISSUES O.M. REVISING ROOM RENT FOR CGHS EMPANELLED AYUSH HEALTH CARE ORGANISATIONS AND EMPANELMENT OF IPD AYUSH HOSPITALS:

DG CGHS has issued a O.M vide F.No.S-11011/90/20160CGHS/(HEC)/AYUSH/PT-II/255-282 dated 5th July 2023, revising room rent of private AYUSH hospitals empanelled under CGHS and empanel Unani and Siddha systems also in addition to the Hospitals under Ayurveda, Yoga and Naturopathy. [View the DG CGHS OM](#)

### 07.07.2023: DPE ISSUES ORDERS ON REVISED IDA RATES DUE FROM 01.07.2023:

DPE has issued orders revising IDA rate to 205.6% w.e.f 01.07.2023 in respect of CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 01.01.2007. [View the DPE OM](#)

### 07.07.2023: DPE ISSUES ORDERS ON REVISED IDA RATES DUE FROM 01.07.2023:

DPE has issued orders revising IDA rate to 416% w.e.f 01.07.2023, in respect of CPSEs where last pay revision was implemented w.e.f. 01.01.1997. [View the DPE OM](#)



## RESPONSE/ACTION TAKEN ON AIBSNLREA'S REPRESENTATIONS

**19.07.2023: AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 24.05.2023 REGARDING EARLY FINAL DECISION ON THE DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS AGAINST SHRI G KAMALWAR RETD DE, FORWARDED TO BSNL PERSONNEL SECTION FOR FURTHER NECESSARY ACTION:**

AIBSNLREA letter dated 24.05.2023 addressed to Director (HR) on the above issue, had been forwarded to Personnel Section of BSNL Corporate Office for further necessary action at their end. Once decision is taken, the case will be settled. [View the GM CDN BSNL CO response](#)

**15.07.2023: CGM HARYANA RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 08.05.2023 ADDRESSED TO DIRECTOR (HR) REGARDING GRANT OF FINANCIAL UPGRADATION TO E-6 IDA SCALE TO SHRI RAJPAL SINGH, RETD SE (CIVIL), AMBALA:**

AIBSNLREA letter dated 08.05.2023 addressed to Director (HR) on the above issue, had been forwarded to CGMT Haryana Circle, who has now responded that the case of Shri Rajpal Singh had already been forwarded to BSNL CO New Delhi for further necessary action and the reply in the matter is still awaited from BSNL CO New Delhi. [View the CGM Haryana response](#)

**14.07.2023: BSNL RESPONDS TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 08.03.2023 ADDRESSED TO DIRECTOR (HR) REGARDING NON-REIMBURSEMENT OF MEDICAL CLAIMS FOR EMERGENCY ADMISSION AND BYPASS SURGERY – CASE OF O N CHAUBEY, RETD DE (ENQUIRY) O/O CGMT UP EAST:**

In response to AIBSNLREA letter dated 08.03.2023 addressed to Director (HR) on the above issue, BSNL had earlier responded stating "reply attached" but without attachment. The attachment has now been received, which shows that the case which was already rejected, has been submitted for reconsideration by the competent authority. [View the BSNL response](#)

**13.07.2023: GM DHANBAD REPLIES TO AIBSNLREA LETTER DATED 15TH FEBRUARY 2023 ADDRESSED TO PGM (ESTT) BSNL CO, REQUESTING TO RELEASE WITHHELD DCRG OF SHRI PREM SHANKAR PRASAD RETD SDE DHANBAD:**

BSNL CO has forwarded AIBSNLREA letter to General Manager, Dhanbad and GM Dhanbad has intimated that since judicial proceedings are still pending against him, as per GOI decision under Rule 8 of CCS Pension Rules, 1972 as well as under the provision of Rule 69(i)(c) of CCS (Pension) Rules, 1972, DCRG cannot be released until the conclusion of the judicial proceedings and issue of final order thereon. [View the GM Dhanbad reply](#)

**04.07.2023: DEPARTMENT OF EXPENDITURE FORWARDS AIBSNLREA LETTER ON GRANT OF HIGHER PAY SCALES FOR OFFICERS BELONGING TO ORGANISED ACCOUNTS DEPARTMENTS ACTUALLY W.E.F 1.1.1996 INSTEAD OF 19.2.2003, TO DOT FOR TAKING NECESSARY ACTION AT ITS END:**

AIBSNLREA had addressed a letter to Secretary (Expenditure) on 11th May 2023, requesting issue of common order extending the benefit to all eligible employees in view of PCAT New Delhi observation that "the competent authority shall on its own extend the benefit of upgraded pay scales to all eligible employees w.e.f.01.01.1996 irrespective of the fact whether they have approached an appropriate judicial forum for the same or not, so that unnecessary litigation is avoided." DoE has forwarded the letter to DoT for taking necessary action at its end, stating that "DoE does not consider the representations received directly by it from individuals or associations". [View the DoE letter](#)



## BRANCHES IN ACTION

### 31.07.2023: AIBSNLREA AGRA BRANCH (UP STATE) HOLDS ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING & CULTURAL MEET:

A General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Agra Branch was held in Hotel Bhawna Clarks Inn on 30th July 2023, with participation of members along with their families. Most members met after a very long time and shared their views appreciating the Association's stand on pension revision and pointing out that the claim by other pensioners' associations that pension revision has been delinked from pay revision has been proved to be false. Then games like Tambola, Kanafusi etc were played, the family members recited poems and performed dances. After that delicious lunch was enjoyed by all. After lunch, special gifts were given to the members, who celebrated their birth day in the month of July. Dr Shalini Dubey anchored the cultural meet held along with the GB meeting. Dr A K Dubey, Secretary gave vote of thanks.

### 25.07.2023: ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING CUM GET TOGETHER OF AIBSNLREA GUJARAT STATE HELD:

Annual General Body –cum- Get together meeting of Gujarat state Body was held on 20th July 2023 at Gujarat Chamber of Commerce Hall, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad at 03.00 PM. It was presided by Shri P. B. Parmar, State President. 221 members attended the meeting inspite of heavy rain in Gujarat. President welcomed the members and other dignitaries present in the meeting. He also extended special welcome for new members who joined AIBSNLREA. 2 minutes silence was observed in memory of the departed members and their family members. State Secretary Shri S.L. Sharma presented his report and addressed the house regarding details about meeting with CGMT Ahmedabad, CCA Ahmedabad and AD CGHS Ahmedabad.[View Gujarat Page of State News Section for full report]

### 17.07.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF BHOPAL BRANCH (MADHYA PRADESH STATE) HELD:

A monthly General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Bhopal Branch was held on 16/07/2023 Sunday at ICH New Market TT Nagar Bhopal, with 51 members attending the meeting. Shri Nagragan President welcomed the members. Dr.H S Saxena Branch Secretary enlightened about various activities of the Association. Shri O P Sharma, Vice president

of the Branch and Shri B S Rajput OS (central) were present in the meeting. Three new members were enrolled. Members who completed 75 years were felicitated with shawl, Shrifal and pushp guchh. Birthday celebration of members for July month was done. Members also enjoyed beautiful songs presented by some members and breakfast followed by tea and coffee.

#### **14.07.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF PUNE BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) HELD:**

General Body Meeting of Pune branch was held on 9th July 2023 in Udyaan Karyalay presided by Shri M. B. Ghadge Branch President. 111 members attended the meeting. President welcomed the members present in the meeting & extended special welcome for new members to join AIBSNLREA Pune branch. 2 minutes silence was observed in memory of the departed members. Branch secretary Shri S.C.Patil presented his report and addressed the house. State Secretary Shri S P Varma addressed the house and informed in details about the meetings with CCA, CGM CNTX(W) & CGM MH Circle and also letters written to these officers. Problems faced by the pensioners after migration from banks, post office to Sampann were discussed. Many cases have been solved in informal meetings but still many cases are pending to be taken in the next meetings. Vice president MH state Shri D. K. Joshi addressed the house and informed in detail about our court cases, 3rd PRC & Pension Revision. Assistant State secretary AIBSNLREA MH state also addressed the house & informed the grievances of the members to be taken in the meeting with CCA & CGMs. Lodging and boarding arrangements were excellent. Branch Secretary reported that 30 retired BSNL Executives who had attended the meeting, will become member very soon.

#### **13.07.2023: QUARTERLY GENERAL BODY MEETING OF KOLHAPUR BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) HELD:**

Kolhapur Branch held its Quarterly GB meeting on 2nd July 2023 in Hotel Zorba Gavati Mandi, Kolhapur under the Presidentship of Shri P S Kulkarni. Meeting started with the usual Prayer. President welcomed all the Members who had come from Kolhapur and Sangli. Silence was observed in memory of Late Shri PBRasam who was an active member. Then new Members S/Shri Suryakant D Athawale AO and Kavatekar AM Sangli were welcomed by the Secretary Shri L M Godi & President with Bouquet, who then introduced themselves to the House. Then Shri Joshi DK, Shri Kulkarni PS, Shri Kulkarni AK, Shri Mahajan SG, Shri Nanjangud and Shri Nirwani SD who had completed 75 years of age were honoured with Shawl, Sripal and bouquet. Secretary also spoke about the second Maharashtra State Conference held at Amaravati and the points discussed in the meeting. Shri Rajan Rajopadye CHQ OS (W) informed about CHQ developments and virtual meetings of CHQ office bearers held regularly. Shri Paranjape senior CA explained about Income Tax and answered all the queries raised by members. Discrepancies in payment of medical bills were also discussed. The meeting ended with Vote of Thanks by the Secretary, followed by lunch.



### **05.07.2023: AMRAVATI BRANCH (MAHARASHTRA STATE) HELD ITS GENERAL BODY MEETING:**

The General Body Meeting of AIBSNLREA , Amravati Branch was held under the Chairmanship of Shri.Y.Deshmukh, Vice-President of the Branch, & Vice-President, AIBSNLREA Maharashtra State on 28th June 2023 at the Conference hall of G.M.Telecom (B.A.), BSNL, Amravati. The meeting was attended by 21 members along with Shri R.K.Patil, Organising Secretary AIBSNLREA, Maharashtra State. Two new members joined in the meeting and the House greeted them. The Branch Secretary, Shri D. V. Rokade, informed the house about the developments after the Branch Conference which was held on 20-02-2023. He said due to AIBSNLREA's efforts all the pending medical claims have been settled for most of the members. The issue of non-payment of FMA was taken up with GM Amravati but without success. Hence it was decided to request the State Secretary to take up the issue. Shri R. Y. Deshmukh , Vice-President, AIBSNLREA, Maharashtra State spoke about problems after migration from existing Post office/Bank to SAMPANN and the latest position of the Court case. The queries raised by the members were duly replied by him. The meeting was concluded with the vote of thanks by Shri M.Z.Shinde, Finance Secretary.

### **03.07.2023: GENERAL BODY MEETING OF JABALPUR BRANCH (MADHYA PRADESH STATE) HELD:**

A General Body meeting of AIBSNLREA Jabalpur branch was held on 29th June 2023 at ICH Sadar, Jabalpur. 24 members attended the meeting. Two minutes silence was observed in memory of sad demise of senior member Shri S.K. Rangari. Secretary Shri A N Bhargava welcomed all the members present & minutes of the last meeting held on 3/3/23 were read & confirmed. Secretary also enlightened about various activities of the association. The grievance of members is that outdoor & indoor medical bills are still pending since 2018. Birthday celebration of members born in the month of June month was held. Shri. Bhanu Prakash informed about the financial position of the branch & the balance sheet. A Laughter dose by Shri R D Tiwari, Shri M S Vijay, Shri M K Pandey made the atmosphere relaxed. Mouth organ was played by Shri Helkar. Recital of MADHUR songs by Shri A N Bhargava, Shri C D Khadse, Shri M K Pandey & Shri K N Bahrani was part of entertainment programme. Meeting ended with love & peace and vote of thanx by Shri C D Khadse. Election of office bearers was unanimous.  
President: Shri C.D.Khadse

Vice President: Shri K.N. Behrani

Secretary: Shri M.S.Vijay

Finance Secretary: Shri Bhanu Parkash

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