PENSIONERS' PATRIKA

पैंशनर्स पत्रिका

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BRANCHES OBSERVED 20, AUGUST AS FORMATION DAY OF AIBSNLPWA



AIBSNLPWA FORMATION DAY CELEBRATIONS

THE UNITS OF AIBSNLPWA, OBSERVED 20, AUGUST 2026, THE 18TH FORMATION DAY OF THE ORGANIZATION ALL OVER INDIA, WITH GREAT PRIDE AND ENTHUSIASM .









PENSIONERS PATRIKA

BIMONTHLY JOURNAL
OF AIBSNLPWA (CHQ)

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Editorial

विनाश काले विपरीत बुद्धि

Stoppage of the medical allowance to BSNL pensioners who devoted the best years of their lives in the service of Nation is deeply distressing and deserves condemnation. These pensioners served the country with dedication, often under difficult conditions and contributed to build and maintain essential public services. The present day authorities should not forget that BSNL was a profit earning PSE when these pensioners were in service. After a lifetime of service, they are entitled to dignity, security and access to medical care — particularly in their advancing years when healthcare becomes an essential necessity rather than a luxury. Elder citizens require more medical care due to natural biological changes, a higher rate of long-term health conditions, and complex treatment needs for the serious problems like Cellular Decline, Immuno senescence, Multimorbidity, Neuro degenerative disorders, Osteoporosis etc. Medical care is not a favour or charity. It is a legitimate social-security obligation towards those who have served the nation. Denying or interrupting essential medical treatment places the elderly pensioners and their families in an unacceptable and potentially dangerous situation. If any family / organization treats elders as an 'expenditure item' that is destined to ultimate ruin. No doubt, its Doomsday is not far off. The authorities have chosen 1st October, the formation day of BSNL, to commit a heinous crime on elders. "Vinaas kaale vipareerth Budhi".

BSNL management and the Minister might have felt heat of spontaneous demonstration of strong anger and anguish of the pensioners on 1st October 2026 all over India, in every Circle and every SSA. The action of BSNL Board is naked negation of the approved policy of the Government of India on care of elderly citizens. The order should be withdrawn lock stock and barrel. We strongly urge the authorities to restore medical facilities immediately, clear all pending dues to hospitals and healthcare providers and establish a system that ensures that such disruption never occurs again.



GS Writes

Namaskar.

THE LEGAL BATTLE

The struggle for the legitimate rights of BSNL pensioners has entered an important phase, with major matters now before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. CHQ is pursuing each of these matters with seriousness.

1. PENSION REVISION: 3 SLPs

The adverse judgment of the Delhi HC dated 01-07-2026 on pension revision has been challenged before the SC through three Special Leave Petitions filed by the concerned pensioners' associations. The three cases were listed together on 01-10-2026.The Hon'ble Court issued notice and directed that these matters be tagged with SLP(C) Diary No. 26395/ 2026, arising from the Kerala High Court proceedings.

2. LPD CASE :

This is one underlying case involving the entitlement of pre-2006 retirees to pension at 50% of last pay drawn (LPD) and the related question of Association's locus to espouse the grievances of its members. The Kerala HC, on 07-02-2025, granted the relief relating to LPD to the individual petitioner, while holding that the Association had no locus standi to espouse the cause. The Review Petition filed by DoT was dismissed on 24-03-2026. We have challenged the finding on locus before the Supreme Court through SLP(C) Diary No. 26395/2026, in which notice had already been issued. DoT, instead of implementing the relief granted by the HC, filed its own SLP, Diary No. 47131/ 2026, challenging the judgment. The Supreme Court condoned the delay of 453 days, issued notice and directed that DoT's SLP be tagged with AIBSNLPWA's SLP. The two matters therefore relate to the same Kerala High Court judgment and will now proceed together before the Supreme Court.

3. VALIDATION ACT, 2025 —

The constitutional validity of the Validation Act, 2025, has also been challenged before the Supreme Court. The Petition filed by the National Coordination Committee of Pensioners Associations and others including AIBSNLPWA remains pending. The next date of hearing is 03-11-2026.

THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES

These proceedings are at different stages and involve different legal questions. Notice issued by the Supreme Court is only a procedural development and does not, by itself, amount to a decision on the merits.

CWC – at SATARA ,

The next CWC meeting at Satara on 2–3 December 2026 will review the developments on the legal front and other important issues and decide the further course of action. I expect all our leaders to come prepared with their valuable inputs and raise the issues requiring discussion in the CWC, enabling us to deliberate and decide on them without loss of time. Notice is published else where in this issue.

DLC CAMPAIGN 5 :

Nationwide DLC Campaign 5 will be held in November 2026, covering over 2,000 cities and towns. For AIBSNLPWA, this is an annual service activity. For the DoT/BSNL pensioners, pension is paid through SAMPANN, DLC can be submitted throughout the year.

V Vara Prasad,
General Secretary

13-10-2026

AIBSNLPWA
CWC MEETING – NOTICE

It is hereby notified, in accordance with the provisions contained in Article 14 of the Constitution of AIBSNLPWA, that a meeting of the Central Working Committee of AIBSNLPWA will be held at Shreleela Resort, Anawale, Kas Pathar Road, Satara, Maharashtra, on 2nd and 3rd December 2026, under the Presidentship of Com. D. Gopalakrishnan, CHQ President, to consider the following agenda:

1. **Report by the General Secretary**
2. **Financial Matters**
   - **Audited Accounts for the year ending 31st March 2026.**
   - **Present financial position**
   - **Legal Fund and related matters**
3. **Pension Revision w.e.f. 01-01-2017 – detailed review of the present legal position, the SLP before the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the future course of action.**
4. **Kerala High Court Judgement S– cases filed by DOT / AIBSNLPWA before Hon'ble Supreme Court**
5. **Status of Case before Hon'ble Supreme Court against Validation Act, 2025.**
6. **BSNLMRS/CGHS.**
7. **DLC/SAMPANN – difficulties faced by pensioners and remedial measures.**
8. **Organisational Matters**

a) **Review of membership position and Membership Campaign**
b) **Functioning of Circles, Districts and Branches**
c) **Pensioners' Patrika**
d) **Review of organisational programmes and future action**
e) **Venue and other arrangements for the next CWC/AIC**

Any other item with the permission of the Chair.

All Central Office-bearers and Circle Secretaries are requested to attend the meeting.

Sd/-

3-10-2026 **V Vara Prasad, General Secretary**

Observe Pensioners' Day On 17th December 2026

Background

Mr. D S Nakara, while working as Financial Advisor in Ministry of Defence retired in 1972. Similarly, Rear Admiral Mr. Satyendra Singh also retired from Navy in 1972.

At that time, Maximum Pension permissible in central services was Rs 675 per month, (or Rs 8100 per year).
In 1976, Government raised this limit to Rs 1000 per month (Rs 12000 per year).
Again in 1979, Government while introducing a Liberalised Pension scheme, changed the formula for calculation of pension and raised the maximum limit to Rs 1500 per month.

But, the benefit was not given to pensioners retired earlier. New Liberalised Pension scheme was made effective only for those who were in service on 31-3-1979. As such, Mr Nakara and Mr Satyendra Singh continued to draw basic pension of Rs 675 per month. Their juniors retired from same grade got Rs. 1500 .

Both the above officers approached the Supreme Court against the injustice. **They were not trade union leaders. They were not political leaders. Neither were they leaders of pensioners even.** They filed the case as individuals and 'Common Cause', a Registered Society headed by late Mr H D Shourie, retired ICS Officer and fighter for justice, joined party in the case. Mr. Shourie helped them prepare a perfect Affidavit which brought a historic decision by the Apex Court. Three Writ Petitions (No 5939-5941) were filed in 1980.

Supreme Court delivered its judgement on **17th December 1982**.
It could have been just another case on service matter, but for the perfect Original Petition prepared and placed before the Court by the Petitioners. In the Petition they raised basic issues like;

- *What is pension?*
- *Why it should be paid by the Government?*
- *What is purpose of paying pension?*
- *How much should be paid?*
- *How long it should be paid?*

Naturally, Supreme Court had to consider these basic issues and give its decisions.

Five eminent Jurists:

The judgement was written by five eminent Judges. It was a time when India derived certain significant benefits from the judicial activism, initiated by great jurists like Late Justice Mr. Y V Candrachud, Justice Mr. V R Krishna Iyer and others. Since Mr. Nakara and others raised very basic issues in their petition, Chief Justice Mr. Y V Chandrachud, the then Chief Justice, constituted a Constitution Bench to hear the case. The panel of judges in the Bench consisted of Justice Chandrachud himself, **J. D A Desai, J. V D Tulzapurkar, J. O Chinnappa Reddy, and J. Bahrul Islam.**

Relief granted:

The Supreme Court granted the relief to the petitioners Mr. Nakara and Mr. Satyendra Singh. It declared that both of them are entitled to a maximum basic

pension of Rs 1500 per month plus other allowances. Court declared that the pensioners cannot be classified in to different groups based on the date of their retirement. When pension was revised subsequently, implementing reports of 4th CPC, 5th CPC and 6th CPC, Mr. Nakara got benefits of this judgement. It is understood, when he expired in 2009 at the age of 95 years M. Nakara was drawing a total pension of about Rs. 75,000.

It is our 'Magna Carta'

The 1982 Judgement could have ended like thousands of similar judgements on service matters with some relief sought for by petitioners. But, it went beyond that. It provided a very rich everlasting legacy to pensioners' community in our country. Generations of Indian Pensioners are grateful to the petitioners for their unique initiative and for the pro-active approach adopted by the Hon'ble judges for delivering the landmark judgement, which was utilized time and again by thousands of pensioners and organisations seeking justice from the courts of law at different levels. Some extracts from the Judgement given below reveal its significance.

EXTRACTS:

"The basic contention as hereinbefore noticed is that the Pensioners for the purpose of receiving pension form a class and there is no criterion on which classification of pensioners retiring prior to a specified date and retiring subsequent to that date can provide a rational principle correlated to object, viz., object underlying payment of pensions…"

"the reasons underlying the grant of Pension vary from country to country and from scheme to scheme. But broadly stated they are (i) as compensation to former members of the Armed Forces or their dependents for old age, disability or death (usually from service causes) (ii) as old age retirement or disability benefits for civilian employees and (iii) as social security payments for the aged, disabled, or deceased citizens made in accordance with the rules governing social security programmes of the country. Pensions under the first head are of great antiquity. Under the second head, they have been in force in one form or the other in some countries for over a century, but those coming under the third head are relatively of recent origin, though they are of the greatest great magnitude

"(i) That Pension is neither a bounty nor a matter of grace depending upon the sweet will of the employer and it creates a vested right subject to 1972 Rules which are statutory in character, because they are enacted in exercise of powers conferred by the Proviso to Art. 309 and clause (5) of Art. 148 of the Constitution;

(ii) that Pension is not an ex-gratia payment, but it is a payment for the past service rendered; and (iii) it is a social welfare measure rendering socio-economic justice to those who in the heyday of their life ceaselessly toiled for the employer on assurance that in their old age, they would not be left in lurch…"

"…A pension scheme consistent with available resources, must provide that the Pensioner would be able to live (i) free from want and with decency, independence and self-respect (ii) at a standard equivalent at the pre-retirement level…"

"…All existing employees are brought on to the revised scales by adopting a theory of fitments and increments for past service.

In other words, benefit of revised scale is not limited to those who enter service subsequent to the date fixed for introducing revised scales, but the benefit is extended to all in service prior to that date. That is just and fair. Now, if Pension as we view it, is some kind of retirement wages for past service, can it be denied to those who retired earlier, revised retirement benefit being available to future retirees only? Therefore, there is no substance in the contention that the court, by its approach, would be making the scheme retroactive, because it is implicit in the theory of wages.."

We can quote further from the famous judgement extensively. Above Quotes suffice.

IMPACT

☐ **When the 4th CPC was announced issue of Pension Revision was not in its Terms of Reference. As an offshoot of Nakara case judgement the Government amended Terms of Reference of 4th CPC and added Pension Revision. The 4th CPC in its report mentioned Nakara Case decision as "Law of the land". For the first time pension was revised along with pay revision while implementing CPC report. 5th CPC, 6th CPC and 7th CPC also followed it.**

☐ **A separate Department for Pensions and Pensioners Welfare was created by Rajiv Gandhi Government in 1985 as an off-shoot of Nakara case.**

☐ **Again in 1986, SCOVA (Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies) was launched by the government.**

Lakhs of pensioners were immensely benefitted by the recommendations of 4th, 5th & 6th CPCs that pension of all old pensioners should be revised, based on the judgement. BSNL retirees got pension revision from 1-1-2007 because of the above judgement.

Hence, 17th December is the most important day for the entire pensioners in India. That is why 17th DECEMBER is being observed every year as the PENSIONERS' DAY, no matter whether the government recognizes it or not.

INVALIDATION OF PROCEDURES, RULES & CONSTITUTION

On 25th March 2025, moving the Finance Bill for 2025-26, Finance Minister,Smt. Nirmala Sitaraman declared that CCS Pension Rule is amended with effect from 1972 and all Court judgements regarding it, including the above landmark judgement of Supreme Court, are nullied. Minister stated that Government has the ultimate authority to divide pensioners imposing a cut off date and deny some benefit to some section of pensioners. Parliament approved the dirty Act.

- **Violation of Equality (Article 14):** The Retirement date-based classifications directly violate Article 14 of the Constitution. It fragments a naturally homogenous class (pensioners) into arbitrary subclasses based on when they finished their service.

- **Bypassing Judicial Precedent:** By inserting a validation clause that operates "notwithstanding any judgment," Parliament nullified victories won by pensioners in courts -like Delhi HC's 2024 ruling on pre-2006 retirees - without addressing the core legal discrimination.

• **Extreme Retroactivity:** Enacting this authority with retrospective effect all the way back to June 1, 1972—coinciding with the inception of the Central Civil Services (Pension) Rules—is an intense overreach to insulate decades of past executive notifications from ongoing and future judicial review.

• **The "Money Bill" Route Debate:** Opposition leaders, including members of parliament, strongly objected to the "roundabout approach" of embedding an entirely unrelated administrative pension rule inside the Finance Bill. Critics view using a money bill format to push structural amendments through without thorough, independent parliamentary committee scrutiny as a subversion of standard legislative processes.

• **Policy Constraints on the Future**: The policy immediately bound subsequent administrative setups. For instance, the 8th Pay Commission, constituted late in 2025, operates under terms of reference tied directly to this validation policy, creating structural limits on how future pension revisions are calculated.

But, under Indian system, Parliament is not supreme. Nor the Government or the Supreme Court of India. Constitution of India is supreme. Parliament is not above Constitution. We joined 18 other organizations and challged the act of Parliament before Supreme Court of India which is the authoritity to interprert the constitutional propriety of the act .



CJI Y V Chandrachud



J. D A Desai



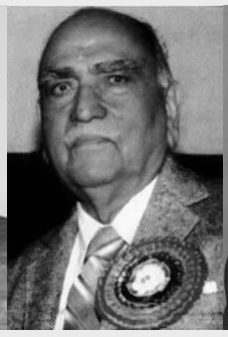
J. V D Tulzapurakar



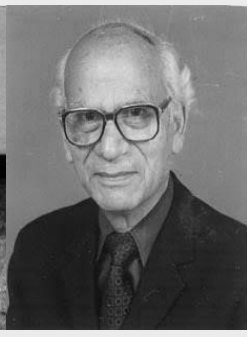
J. Chinnappa reddy



J. Bahrul Islam



D S Nakara



H D Shourie

Validation Case

Writ Petition (Civil) No. 1057 of 2025

Petitioners:

1 National Coordination Committee Of Pensioners Associations
2 All India BSNL DOT Pensioners Association
3 All India BSNL Pensioners Welfare Association
4 All India Postal And RMS Pensioners Association
5 All India Federation Of Pensioners Associations, Saidapet, Chennai
6 Central Government Pensioners Association, Rajasthan
7 Postal Accounts And Audit Pensioners Association, Nagpur
8 Co-Ordination Committee Of Central Govt Pensioners Association, WB
9 Central Government Pensioners Association Kerala
10 Karnataka Posts And Telecommunications Pensioners
11 All Central Government Employees Pensioners Association Visakhapatnam
12 MTNL Retired Executives Welfare Association
13 Coffee Board Pensioners Association
14 All India Retired BANL Executives Welfare Association
15 Pensioners Association Of Autonomous/ Statutory Bodies Of Central Govt Karnataka
16 Sanchar Nigam Pensioners Welfare Association
17 Nagpur Central And State Government Pensioners Association
18 Defense Civilian Officers Pensioners Welfare Association
19 Telangana All Pensioners And Retired Persons Association

vs.

Union of India & Ors.)

Case Number: ***W.P.(C) No. 001057 / 2025***

Key Issue: The petition challenges the constitutional validity of provisions concerning the revision of pension entitlements and retrial benefits for government and public sector retirees***.***

Case History & Recent Proceedings

1. Admission & Listing: The Supreme Court admitted the petition and issued notices to the relevant Union Ministries.
2. Hearing Schedule: The matter was listed on January 23, 2026 , It subsequently underwent adjournments and was taken up on August 25, 2026 and 25th September 2026. Finally it is adjourned to 3rd November 2026.

Current Status: Pending (Under Hearing)
Next Listed Date: Scheduled for listing/hearing on November 3, 2026.

COMMITTEE OF BSNL/MTNL PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATIONS

Protest Letter

To
Shri Robert A Ravi,
CMD, BSNL, New Delhi.

Respected Sir,
Sub: - ***Strong protest against stoppage of Monthly Medical Allowance without voucher and withdrawal of corporate office Letter dated 28-09-2026 requested -***

Ref: - BSNL CO Ltr BSNLCO-A/11/(11)/4/2025-ESTAB dated 28-09-2026.

We are shocked to note that BSNL Corporate Office has issued an order discontinuing the monthly Medical Allowance without voucher under BSNL MRS to BSNL Pensioners / Family Pensioners from 1st October, 2026.

In this connection, we submit the following for your kind consideration:
A settled benefit: BSNL MRS provides for reimbursement with voucher and without voucher. In 2003, 50% of one month's basic pay plus DA was eligible for without vouchers payment. Subsequently, this was modified to 25% of annual ceiling subject to a minimum of Rs.12,000/- per year, effective from 01-04-2018. From May 8^{the} 2020, it was specified as Fixed Monthly Allowance of Rs.1,000/- for without voucher payment.

After retirement, pensioners settle in remote villages where BSNL empanelled hospitals are not available. The monthly allowance without voucher, though meagre, is the only timely support for day-to-day purchase of medicines for chronic diseases.

Inhuman: The pensioners are already suffering due to non-revision of pension for more than 9 years and abnormal delay in payment of medical bills with voucher – pending for 12 to 24 months in many Circles.

Therefore, we, on behalf of more than 4.5 lakh BSNL/MTNL pensioners, strongly oppose the arbitrary order and request you to withdraw the order stopping monthly medical allowance without voucher forthwith. Failing which we are forced to launch the following programme of agitation;

1. Immediate Protest Demonstration on 1st October, 2026 at all levels.
2. Black Badge Demonstration at BA level on 07-10-2026.

Thanking you,
Yours sincerely,

R. Muraleedharan Nair
General Secretary,
All India BSNL DOT
Pensioners Association

V. Vara Prasad
General Secretary,
All India BSNL Pensioners'
Welfare Association

G. L. Jogi
General Secretary,
Sanchar Nigam Pensioners
Welfare Association

Prahlad Rai
General Secretary,
All India Retired BSNL Executives
Welfare Association

D.D. Mistry
General Secretary,
BSNL DOT Pensioners
Association (India)

R.K. Mudgal
General Secretary,
MTNL Retired Executives
Welfare Association

A.K. Kaushik
General Secretary,
Retired Telecom Officers
Association, New Delhi

R.M. Raveendranath
General Secretary,
DOT BSNL Pensioners Association
Kerala

Kishore Haldhankar
General Secretary, (MPWA)
Mumbai

H.F. Chaudhari
General Secretary,
All India Central Government
Pensioners Association,
HQ, Pune.

J.S. Yadav
General Secretary,
RTOWA, Mumbai

Chellapandian
General Secretary
TPPO, Chennai.

V K Gangwar
General Secretary
MTNL Retired Executives'
Welfare Association, Mumbai

Copy to:

1. The Hon'ble Minister of Communications, Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi- 110001
2. The Secretary, DoT, Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Ashoka Road, New Delhi – 110 001

RESTORE MONTHLY MEDICAL ALLOWANCE

SPONTANEOUS PROTEST BY BSNL PENSIONERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY



RESTORE MONTHLY MEDICAL ALLOWANCE

SPONTANEOUS PROTEST BY BSNL PENSIONERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY



RESTORE MONTHLY MEDICAL ALLOWANCE

SPONTANEOUS PROTEST BY BSNL PENSIONERS ALL OVER THE COUNTRY



REVISE WAGES OF BSNL STAFF

AUAB RELAY FAST ON 1-10-2026
some photos









ELDERS ARE NOT AN EXPENDITURE ITEM

Elderly people are not an expenditure item. They are not a liability to be managed, a cost to be reduced, or a burden to be tolerated. They are citizens who have already spent the greater part of their lives building the society and institutions from which the present generation benefits.

A pension is not charity. It is earned security. It represents years of work, contributions, sacrifice and service. Similarly, healthcare and social protection for the elderly are not favours bestowed by the State. They are fundamental obligations of a society that claims to value dignity and fairness. Nor should the value of an older person be measured solely by current economic productivity. Human worth does not expire with retirement. Elderly citizens remain sources of experience, knowledge, family support, social stability and inter generational wisdom.

The elderly are a responsibility we have inherited, a debt we must honour, and a generation whose dignity must never be sacrificed at the altar of accounting. A nation that can spend for its future but refuses to honour the people who built its present has its priorities fundamentally wrong.

Just as pension is not a bounty, providing adequate medical care and healthcare reimbursement to pensioners is a mandatory obligation of the State, not a discretionary favour. As individuals age, medical expenses naturally surge. Expecting pensioners to finance costly lifesaving treatments or denying them timely reimbursement defeats the very purpose of social security.

The Supreme Court of India has ruled in multiple benchmark decisions (e.g., *Consumer Education & Research Centre v. Union of India* and *State of Punjab v. Mohinder Singh Chawla*) that the right to health and medical care is a fundamental right under Article 21 of the Constitution. For a retired employee who spent their productive life in service to the State, the constitutional guarantee to live with human dignity directly encompasses accessible healthcare. In the case Shiva Kant Jha vs. Union of India (2018), the Supreme Court unequivocally held that genuine medical reimbursement claims of pensioners cannot be rejected merely because the treatment was taken in a non-empanelled hospital during an emergency. The Court stated that survival and preserving human life take absolute priority over administrative procedures, rigid rules, or bureaucratic formalities.

Under the *Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act, 2007*, as well as directives issued under Article 41 the State is statutorily mandated to allocate healthcare infrastructure, beds, and specialized geriatric care for senior citizens and pensioners.

Medical assistance is an extension of retirement benefits. Administrative delays, complex paperwork, or procedural rigidities in settling medical claims run counter to constitutional mandates. Ensuring seamless, hassle-free, and compassionate medical coverage for pensioners is both a legal duty of the State and a fundamental measure of human rights.

IS IT POLITICAL OVERHANG OR ADMINISTRATIVE HANGOVER?

M R Patnaik

BSNL at formation on October 1, 2000, inherited 100% of the nation's 22.48 million landline connections. As of December 1999, a cohort of seven private TSPs collectively held just 1.2 million mobile subscribers. Armed with an overwhelming 95% market share at inception, BSNL is limping one year post its silver jubilee, while the private Telecom Service Providers are sprinting. By June 2026, RJio stood in the top holding 39.27 % market share with 503.58 mn users followed by Bharti Airtel with 37.96% market share and user base of 486.79 mn, Vodafone Idea with 15.5 % market share and 198.8 mn customers. BSNL and MTNL jointly in distant fourth place, collectively accounting for approximately 99 mn users and 7.27 % market share. Indian telecom sector triumphed. But BSNL lost. **Who is responsible for this debacle and is there any accountability?**

MoC Sh. Jyotiraditya Scindia and MoSC Sh. Pemmasani Chandrasekhar periodically review BSNL's operational performance upto circle level. Yet, administrative scrutiny offers only a band-aid solution to a malignant problem that needs radical surgery. The dismal state of BSNL is not a reflection of the company's operational incapacity, but rather a structural design flaw. Tail lifting measures like downsizing the staff under VRS, heavily publicized revival packages with meagre cash component, freezing the emoluments of employees by denying PRC benefits under the guise of affordability clause may not help to rejuvenate BSNL. For this, the company needs urgent weight lifting measures like factual and honest introspection at the prolonged teething troubles of the indigenous 4G stack manufactured and installed by the consortium led by TCS under Honble PM's *atmanirbharata,* thus immediately arresting the churn of user base. Second, strengthening work force by recruiting young talent at working, and managerial levels for modern network engineering, simultaneously sidelining the non optees working on deputation at higher levels since inception of BSNL with no accountability. Third, shedding the path of litigation and removing the trust deficit created in the work force by honouring the solemn assurances given to the combined service retirees for continued pension revision on par with central government retirees, thus rebuilding confidence and motivating the working staff.

It runs into volumes to discuss easing of successive telecom policies, for faster growth of TSPs at the cost of government exchequer and gradual fall of BSNL. Not only as a loyal employees of DOT/BSNL served for longer time, but as a citizens of the country, we have enormous pain at its downfall. While we pray for the legitimate pie for our pensioner brethren, we are being preyed on with systemic hostilities by the government organs. We are consistently subjected to apathy instead of empathy. In the case of Pension revision, the executive is merely reading the meaning of the content without going into the underlying intent, but in the phone mechanic LPD case, they are intentionally misreading the content. While we are determined to wade through the troubled waters, the steadfast resolve and tenacious grit of our top leadership should bring us ultimate success in our ongoing legal battle. Here I recall a quote from a famous analyst that "democratic Autocracy is better than autocratic Democracy".

THE WORDS AND DEEDS

The Government of India's policy for care and welfare of elderly persons (senior citizens) is based on the principle that older people should be able to live with dignity, security, health and independence. The main responsibility lies with the Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment, in cooperation with State Governments.

Main pillars of the Government's policy

National Policy on Older Persons, 1999

- ☐ Provides for financial and food security.
- ☐ Adequate health care and shelter.
- ☐ Protection from abuse and exploitation.
- ☐ Support for older persons to live dignified and productive lives.
- ☐ Encouragement of families and voluntary organisations to care for elderly people.
- ☐ Maintenance and Welfare of Parents & Senior Citizens Act, 2007
- ☐ This is an important legal protection. It provides for:
- ☐ Maintenance of parents and senior citizens by children/relatives.
- ☐ Tribunals for enforcement of maintenance rights.
- ☐ Protection of property transferred by an elderly person where the transferee neglects senior citizen.
- ☐ Action against abandonment of senior citizens.
- ☐ Old-age homes for indigent elderly persons.
- ☐ Medical facilities and security for senior citizens.

Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojana (AVYAY)

This is the Government's major umbrella programme for senior citizens. It covers:

- ■ Senior Citizen Homes
- ■ Food, shelter and medical care
- ■ Mobile Medicare Units
- ■ Physiotherapy services
- ■ State-level elderly welfare programmes
- ■ Assistive devices for economically weaker senior citizens
- ■ Elderline and other support services
- ■ Active and productive ageing.

Constitutional responsibility

Article 41 of the Constitution directs the State, within its economic capacity and development, to make effective provision for public assistance in cases of old age, sickness and disablement. The Government's policy is therefore not merely about giving pensions or running old-age homes. It encompasses income security, health care, housing, protection from abuse, social participation, accessibility and dignity in old age. The Government itself recognises that India's ageing population is increasing rapidly and that elderly care is becoming a major social-policy challenge.

Stoppage of medical allowance to BSNL retirees is naked negation of above all.

COUNT THE NOTIONAL INCREMENT

VRS OPTEES WIN A CASE IN THE KERALA HIGH COURT

[Four JTOs retired on 31-1-2020 under VRS approached CAT Ernakulam for refixation of their basic pension taking the annual increment due to them from 1-2-2020. CAT dismissed their petition. They sought review of it, which was also rejected. Then two them approached the Kerala High Court with an Appeal (OP(CAT) 144 of 2025). On 10th September 2026, a Division Bench of Honourable High Court of Kerala consisting of J. Mr Devan Ramachandran and J. Mr Basant Balaji pronounced a favourable order. Few paragraphs of the said judgement are given below.]

EXTRACTS

21. Hence, when the "Scheme" defines salary to mean basic pay; and when "basic pay" is defined under FR 9(21) of the Fundamental Rules – as held by the High Court of Delhi in Gopal Singh (supra) approved by the Hon'ble Supreme Court in **C.P.Mundinamani and Ors** (supra) – to take in the annual increment accrued, but falling due on the date after the date of retirement, it would certainly became part of the salary..

..... 23. We are in respectful agreement with the views of the Hon'ble High Court of Delhi and the Hon'ble High Court of Punjab and Haryana in Kulbir Singh & Others (supra) and Gulshan Sood (supra) respectively; and are, in any event, wholely bound by the declarations in C.P.Mundinamani and Ors (supra) of the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

Resultantly, we allow this Original Petition and set aside Exts.P1 and P10 orders of the learned Tribunal; with a consequential direction to the respondents to rework the benefits granted to the petitioners under the "Scheme", adverting to C.P.Mundinamani and Ors (supra), thus culminating in appropriate proceedings and necessary action, within a period of six months from the date of receipt of a copy of this judgment.

9 YEARS; NO DECISION

A Letter dated 21st September 2026, from BSNL to the recognised Unions of BSNL staff states that BSNL had sent a proposal on 14-11-2017 to the Department of Telecom for pay revision of the Executives under 3rd PRC. Even after nine years, the Department of Telecom has not accorded any approval for the proposal. Same time, the Minister told the Parliament that pay revision under 3rd PRC is not possible in BSNL as BSNL is not qualified for the same under affordability condition.

APOLOGY TO SUBSCRIBERS

Dear Subscribers,

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We deeply regret the inconvenience caused and sincerely apologise to all subscribers who are still awaiting their copies. Every month some copies come back to us with the addess slips torn. We have taken up the matter with the postal authorities but there is no improvement.

Your continued support and confidence in the Parika are greatly valued by us. May we request your kind understanding and patience.

The day the printed books are handed over to the *IndiaPost* we upload the soft copy in our website.

With sincere apologies and regards,

The Editorial/Publication Team
Pensioners' Patrika.

OBITUARY



M C SHARMA

We regret to report sad demise of Com. M. C. Sharma, our fomer Asst. General Secretary and Madhya Pradesh Circle Secretary of AIBSNLPWA on 23rd August 2026 at Bhopal. He will be remembered for his simplicity, resilience, dedication and commitment to the fellow pensioners. He was our Circle Secretary in MP from June 2016 to June2022.

S R SINHA

Com. Sia Ram Sinha, former CHQ Vice President (2015-2018) breathed last on 25th September 2026 at Patna. Retired as CAO, Com. Sinha was one of the founder members of our Association in Bihar. He expired while serving as Circle Treasurer. Com. S R Sinha was a man of integrity and dedication.

GHOUSE BASHA

Com. Ghouse Basha, Treasurer of the Reception Committee for the national convention held in August 2009 to form AIBSNLPWA expired at Chennai on 6th October 2026 at the age of 81. He worked with total devotion as our Circle Treasurer of TN Circle during 2009-2018.

JORDAN H NATH

Com. Jordan H. Nath, our District Secretary of Prayagraj (UPE) for many years expired on 6th October 2026.

We pay rich tributes to the veterans.

V Vara prasad,
General Secretary.

RESTORE RAIL CONCENSSION TO SENIOR CITIZENS

To
Shri Ashwini Vaishnawji,
Hon Minister for Railways,
Rail Bhawan, New Delhi

Sir,
Sub: ***Request restoration of Rail-fare concession to senior citizens – reg***

On this day of "International Day of older persons" on behalf of more than 80 thousand elders we request you, sir, to take the necessary initiative to restore the withdrawn rail-fare concession during Covid pandemic.

Brief History of the issue
1st may 1990 – senior citizens' railway concession was announced under Railways act 1989 by 24th Railway Minister in independent India Shri George Fernandez in 1989-90 railway budget. 25% concession was introduced in II class for men and women above the age of 65. But this concession is given for the travel above 500km only.

Above 500 km criteria was removed on 15th April 1996

From 1/4/1998 this concession was extended to sleeper class also.

From 15th August 1998 the concession was increased to 30% to senior citizens in all classes and trains including Rajdhani/ Shadabdi. .This was announced by Railway Minister Shri Nithish kumar on 29/5/1998 in Loksabha in railway budget.

On 26/2/2003 Railway Minister announced in Lok sabha in railway budget 2003-2004 reducing the age for concession from 65 years to 60 years for men and for women it was reduced from 60 to 58 with effect from 1/4/2003.

In 2011 – 2012 Railway budget presented on 25/12/2011 by Railway Minister Ms Mamata Bannerjee increased the concession from 30% to 40% for men above the age of 60 and 50% for women above the age of 58. It was implemented from 1/6/2011.

Railway budget was separated from General Budget in 1924. After 92 years it was merged again with General Budget in the financial year 2017-2018.

From 15/7/2017 a scheme was introduced to give-up voluntarily.

Using the Covid Pandemic, Railway concession to senior citizens was withdrawn on 20/3/2020. By this action, Government claimed that Railways saved Rs.8,913/- crore in 5 years (Mar 2020 to Feb 2025). The Government avoided giving yearwise break-up.

In the above 5 years – total Revenue from senior citizen travelers, Railways earned a revenue of Rs.20,133/- crore.

Railway Minister replied in Rajya Sabha on 28/7/2023 for a question raised by Dr John Brittas to restore the concession that Government has paid a subsidy of Rs.59,837 crores on passenger tickets in 2019-2020 which is 53% on an average to each passenger.

Standing Committee of Railways advised to consider senior citizens concession atleast in Sleeper & 3 AC which was not considered by the Government.

Across the Globe senior citizens are getting the railway concession

Japan ranks first with 29.5% of its population as senior citizens gives 90% concession in public transport

Germany with 23.7% senior citizens gives 50% concession in public transport.

Spain with 20.95% senior citizens gives 40% concession in public transport.

Among 100 countries, 32 countries including **Australia, Hungary, South Korea, Brazil, Vietnam, Jordan, Combodia etc**. give 100% concession to senior citizens in public transport..

Japan, Spain, Australia and Portugal offers public transport discount only to residents and not to visitors. But **Denmark** offers 70%, **Switzerland and Australia** offers 50% even to visitors.

According to WB data, 48 countries including I**ndia, Bangaladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Cambodia, Egypt, Kenya etc**.are in Low Middle Income Group.

In Nepal the senior citizens above 60 are legally entitled for 50% discount on public transport.

In **Bangaladesh** from 25/5/2026, the senior citizens above 65 are availing 25% concession in Rail & Metro.

In **Pakistan,** 50% concession on Economy class & 25% in AC for the senior citizens who are between 65 & 74. Above 75 years of age – four free one-way journey in Economy class per year.

In **Zimbabwe** senior citizens above the age of 60 are getting 25% concession in Railways.

Total revenue from senior citizen travelers.

2018-19	-	2920cr
2019-20	-	3010cr
2020-21	-	875cr
2021-22	-	2598cr

[source-Economic Times 27/11/2022]

In view of the above facts, we request you, sir, to review and restore the rail-fare concession to senior citizens as existed before 20/3/2020.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,

Our members/units all over India were called upon to send the above letter to the Railway Minister on October 1, 2026. October 1 is now observed as **International Day of Older Persons,** supported by the United Nations to recognize the contributions of older people and examine issues affecting aging. But, Indian Railways do not recognize the contributions of older people in our country.

A WHITE ELEPHANT ELIMINATED

The Digital Communication Commission is formally dissolved with effect from19th September 2026. The DCC was originally established as the Telecom Commission in 1989 and renamed the DCC in 2018. The reported new arrangement is that decisions will be taken by the Telecom Secretary, followed by approval of the Minister and/or Cabinet, wherever required. Thus, a separate inter-ministerial commission structure is replaced by a direct departmental decision-making system. Dissolution of the DCC does not mean dissolution of the Department of Telecom or the telecom regulatory system.

The Indian Posts and Telegraphs Department has a deep historical legacy, serving as the communication backbone of India for over a century. Important milestones are:

♦ The Postal Wing was founded formally on 1 October 1854 through the India Post Office Act 1854. It established a uniform postage rate across the country and created the office of the Director-General of Posts.

♦ The Telegraph Wing began in 1850. A separate Telegraph Department was opened for public use in 1854.

♦ On 1 April 1914, right on the eve of World War I, the two distinct arms were amalgamated into the Indian P and T Department. It was run as a vital public welfare infrastructure rather than a commercial profit-making entity.

♦ P&T Department experienced monumental nationwide expansion, adapting heavily to rural development. In April 1959, the P&T Department formally adopted its guiding emblem and motto, “Aharnisham Sevamahe”.

♦ In 1950, telecom systems and hundreds of telephone exchanges previously maintained by independent princely states were fully absorbed into the central P&T network.

♦ To overcome language barriers and streamline massive mail loads, the department implemented a 6-digit Postal Index Number in 1972.

♦ For 71 years the postal and telecom services were expanded to even the remotest hamlets, be in backwaters of Kerala or high hills of Himachal. The combined department worked with amazing efficiency under one Board, one Chairman and One DG. Efforts were always made to create more lucrative posts at the top while ignoring the talented people recruited for posts at the lower level. While officers got 5 or 7 promotions, lower staff was asked to perform same duty for 30 or 40 years with one or two financial up gradation. Frustration turned out to deep desperation that manifested itself in strong anger and protests. No wonder, P&T offices became battlefields for decades.

♦ In January 1985, the P&T Department was formally dissolved and split into two distinct Departments. In 1986, MTNL was carved out of Department of Telecom for Delhi and Mumbai.

♦ In 2000 BSNL was formed.

The Digital Communication Commission replaced Telecom Commission in 2018. It became a duplicative system for delaying decisions. Secretary Telecom suggests something to DCC and the same Secretary presides over the DCC to approve it or reject it. Now the white elephant is killed.

News:

BSNL RESTRUCTURING

Management shares some information

■ After a meeting with the BSNL management on 3 July 2026, NFTE reported that the PGM (Personnel & SR) shared a new plan for reorganising and restructuring BSNL with a "totally new hierarchy."

■ SNEA's latest update dated 26 August 2026 refers to the "proposed Restructuring of BSNL" and says the proposal is being implemented through an Uttarakhand pilot project.

■ BSNLEU reported on 28 August 2026 that Corporate Office had issued an order on 24 August 2026 for creation of a comprehensive competency repository for Non-Executives. This appears to be connected with the broader manpower/ organisational restructuring exercise. A competency repository means a centralised record/database of the skills, qualifications, experience & capabilities of employees.

■ So, the new restructuring is not merely an old proposal—it has reached the pilot/implementation stage in at least one Circle, i.e.Uttrakhand. In the major organizational restructuring plan initiated by the Management Committee of BSNL resulted in transfer of employees into rural blocks and gram panchayats. Even office bearers of recognised unions were transferred from their headquarters.This project triggered widespread protests and demonstrations by the All Unions and Associations of BSNL (AUAB), who argue that the structural shifting creates severe operational hurdles and massive revenue losses for the company.

■ Though initially the CGMT of Uttrakhand discussed the issue with Circle Secretaries, later on the management took a rigid stand that the pilot project cannot be discussed with unions as it is being implemented under orders from the '**highest authority in the government'.**

■ The major question now is whether the new restructuring will reduce sanctioned posts further or redistribute manpower according to workload. This is already causing concern among unions.

■ BSNLEU has objected to management decisions affecting Non-Executives staff without adequate consultation, while NFTE has sought a restructuring approach that makes better use of existing cadres.

Still, BSNL is in the Red.

The latest Government review made on 23-4-2026 confirms that

☐ BSNL had a loss of about Rs. 2,400 crore in FY 2024–25, substantially lower than the Rs. 5,370 crore loss in FY 2023–24.

☐ For FY 2025–26, the figures showed a cumulative loss of about Rs. 3,709 cr. Loss for the first quarter of 2026-27 is reported as about Rs 1280 cr.

In 2027 itself, about 71 ITS officers will retire. 55 of them are in BSNL. In addition, 25 other senior officers working as Pr. CCA, CCAs etc. also will retire in the year 2027.

This may be another factor that triggered a decision to end the ITS era in BSNL.




SATARA: Venue of next CWC

Satara produced great revolutionaries and social reformers. It has an important place in the history of the Maratha Empire. The region was successively associated with the Mauryas, Satavahanas,Rashtrakutas Yadavas and Chalukyas.

Rise of Shivaji: In 1663, Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj captured the Satara fort and brought the area into the Maratha sphere. Satara became the principal seat of the Maratha Chhatrapatis.

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Rani Lakshmibai of Jhansi has her ancestoral roots in Satara. Her family migrated to Kashi. Then she was married to Maharaja Gangadhara Rao of Jhansi.

Freedom struggle:

Under the leadership of **Krantisinh Nana Patil**, a parallel administration known as Prati Sarkar emerged in the Satara region around 1943 during Quit India movement.

Few Important Personalities Associated with Satara:

Tarabai (1675–1761) One of the most remarkable women in Maratha history. She led resistance against the Mughals and later became deeply involved in the succession struggles surrounding the Satara throne.

Karmaveer Bhaurao Patil (1887–1959), founded the Rayat Shikshan Sanstha and pioneered mass education for rural and economically disadvantaged communities.

Vasudev Balwant Phadke (1845–1883), An early revolutionary against British rule, Phadke's activities influenced development of armed resistance in western India.

Mahatma Jyotirao Phule (1827–1890), Phule's social-reform movement had considerable influence in western Maharashtra.

Savitribai Phule (1831–1897), Pioneer of women's education and social reform in Maharashtra.

Senapati Bapat (1880–1967), Revolutionary and later Gandhian activist.

Shankar Rao More (1900–1970), Socialist and peasant leader from Maharashtra.

Kisan Veer (1910–1957), Freedom fighter and political leader from Satara district.

AIBSNLPWA FORMATION DAY















PENSIONERS PATRIKA

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HIMACHAL CEC MEETING



BIHAR CEC MEETING



CHHATTISGARH CIRCLE CONFERENCE



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