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**KARNATAKA POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS
PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION (R)**

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(FORMERLY RMS PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION)

Registered as "A Wholly Charitable Trust" U/S 12A of I.T. Act 1961

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**Report on the 33rd Meeting of the Standing Committee of Voluntary
Agencies (SCOVA) held at New Delhi on Thursday the 22nd Feb 2024**



From Left, sitting: The Hon'ble Minister, Dr Jitendra Singh-6th in the row, Sri V.Srinivas, IAS, Secretary , DoPPW-5th and Smt. Nagalakshmi-4th

The 33rd meeting of SCOVA was held at VigyanBhavan, New Delhi on 22.02.24 under the chairmanship of Dr.Jitendra Singh, the Hon'ble Minister, DoPPW. The Vice President of KP&TPA, Smt.N.Nagalakshmi attended the

meeting. The meeting commenced at 11.30 a.m. with welcome speech by Sri V.Srinivas, Secretary, DoPPW, followed by introduction of members.

- Report: N Nagalakshmi, Vice-President, KP&TPA



**Smt. N. Nagalakshmi, Vice President,
KP&TPA speaking in SCOVA meeting**

The action taken report on the previous meeting i.e. 32nd was discussed before the agenda items of 33rd meeting were taken up. Fresh items listed for discussion in this meeting i.e. from 1 to 10 out of many more items sent by members were taken up one by one. The minutes of the meeting are published in this issue. KP&TPA is grateful to the Dept. of Pension for including 5 fresh items suggested by the association among the 10 fresh items taken up for discussion in the SCOVA meeting.

Some of the Items discussed:

(1) **Fixed Medical Allowance:** The Joint Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance said that enhancement of FMA is still under consideration.

(2) **Grant of notional increment to pensioners who had retired on 30th June/ 31st December.**

The Hon'ble Minister directed the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, to expedite the matter so as to avoid more court cases being filed by the affected pensioners and also to avoid contempt proceedings being initiated against the Departments in cases which have been decided in favour of the applicants. The Hon'ble Minister also expressed his dissatisfaction over different stands taken by the Departments in resolution of the issue mentioning that while some have implemented the court orders the others have not yet acted upon the court orders.

(3) **CGHS:** Discussions on CGHS Issues took a major part of the duration of the meeting. Several issues such as shortage of Medical and Para Medical staff, Revision of CGHS rates, opening of more number of CGHS WCs

across the country and grant of onetime option to beneficiaries to opt for higher ward entitlements etc. were raised by the Associations. Shortage of Doctors was discussed at length. Regarding shortage of Pharmacists it was informed by the Officers that recruitment through Staff Selection Commission is not forthcoming.

The Hon'ble Minister directed the A D (Admin) CGHS H Q to give him the details of vacancies in all categories and he would pursue the matter with SSC.

Regarding revision of CGHS rates, both MoS(PP) and Secretary DOPPW asked the ADG (Admin) CGHS as to whether he has a list of old CGHS rates which are to yet to be revised. The ADG replied that revision of rates is being taken up category wise. MoS(PP) directed CGHS to publish the revised rates in National Portal and also to create a Grievance Portal in which CGHS beneficiaries could register their grievances.

KP&TPA raised the issue of opening of new WCs in Mangaluru, Udupi, Shivamogga and opening of extension counters in Hubballi and Sahakaranagar. Smt Nagalakshmi was informed that it has been agreed to in principle to open CGHS WCs & Extn Counters at the above places.

After the SCOVA meeting, National Pension Adalat was also held at the same venue. Smt.Nagalakshmi was specially invited by the Secretary to attend the Adalat. Utilising the opportunity, KPTPA brought to the notice of the Secretary and the Director (Pensions) about the inordinate delay in sanction of family pension to Smt.Jayanthi Sridharan, spouse of a deceased Central Pensioner, a member of our association and calling for submission of documents which are not required to be submitted such as a "Legal Heir Certificate" by the Pension Sanctioning Authority. Details of the long pending family pension case were given to the Director (pensions), who assured that he would pursue the matter with the concerned authorities.

Honouring of Shri M Ramiah, Ex-Vice President on his 90th Birthday



Shri M. Ramiah, Ex-vice president and Permanent Advisor to the Association attained 90 years on 11.3.2024. The Executive Committee honoured him in the monthly EC meeting held on 11.3.2024.

Shri M. Ramiah retired as the Senior Superintendent Post Offices in the Department of Posts and he is one of the founder members of KP&TPA. Shri K B Krishna Rao, Secretary said he felt that it is a privilege to be a party in honouring him on his 90th birthday. He mentioned Shri Ramiah's contribution towards the development of the Association. Shri Ramiah was the Vice President of the Association for nearly 2 decades. He is one of the stalwarts of the Association and considered as one of the four pillars of the Association. From the beginning, he took the responsibility of preparing the list of 75 year old members to be honoured in every Annual General Body Meeting, a practice, which is continued till now. Shri Rao recalled how when his entire family was grieving on the demise of his wife, Ramiah joined in the discussion on getting the additional site next to the old building. He is a Permanent Advisor to the Association along with Shri. N. Bhaskaran.

Shri Ramiah authored a book on his experience as an investigating officer of the Department of Posts titled "Operation Khedda of a Non-Pachyderm" in 2021. He bore the expenses of publishing it, but decided to donate the entire sales proceedings to the building

fund of the Association. Sri V Gopal recalled that Sri Ramiah was the first person to hand over a cheque for Rs 50,000/- for the new building when it was decided to go in for the construction of the annexe in 2016. Sri Anantha Ramu, Treasurer said that Sri Ramiah is the first person to have donated more than Rs.2,00,000 and that his total donation as on date is Rs.2,02,020. He also contributed Rs.31,101 towards the construction of the Association's own building 'Pensioners Bhavan' in 2012 and took special interest in construction of the building by personally supervising its construction.

Sri Ramiah's 90th year birthday was celebrated with cake-cutting and later he was honoured by the Association's President, Secretary and the Vice-President with bouquet, shawl, garland and fruit-basket. Some of the members also honoured him. Shri Ramiah thanked EC for honouring him and thanked all for coming to his birthday celebration.

The President Sri G. Babu announced that the Secretary Sri K. B. Krishna Rao, also completed 80 years of age on 06.3.2024. Shri Krishna Rao's birthday was also celebrated with cake cutting and Sri Ramiah, the President and the Vice-President honoured him. All the members and visitors greeted both of them, wishing them long life. Sri Ramiah hosted the lunch.

Photo Gallery: Felicitation of Sri M Ramiah and Sri K.B. Krishna Rao



Minutes of the 33rd Meeting of Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies(SCOVA) held on 22.02.2024 under the Chairmanship of Hon'ble MOS(PP) at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi.

At the outset, Secretary, DoPPW, welcomed Hon'ble MOS(PP), representatives of Pensioners Associations and the officers of various Ministries/Departments/Banks for participating in the meeting.

2. Addressing the participants, Secretary (P&PW) highlighted recent reforms and initiatives undertaken by the Department for the welfare of Pensioners. He highlighted that Department has issued OM on 01.01.2024 stipulating that in case of divorce proceedings in respect of a female Government servant/female pensioner are pending in a Court of Law, the female Government servant/female pensioner can make a request for grant of family pension after her death to her eligible child/children, in precedence to her husband.

3. Thereafter, the Action Taken Report on the unresolved agenda items of 32nd SCOVA meeting, were taken up for discussion which are as follows:

(i) Shortage of Doctors, Specialists and Para-Medical Staff in CGHS posts due to increase in number of patients consequent on merger of Postal Dispensaries and need for creation/sanction of new posts to maintain patient and Doctor/Para-medical staff ratio. Pensioners' Associations had mentioned that shortage of Doctors, Specialists and Para-medical staff in CGHS Wellness Centres is affecting smooth functioning of CGHS. Consequent on merger of P&T dispensaries in CGHS, the strength of Doctors/Staff needs to be augmented.

Discussion/Decision on agenda item

It was informed by Addl. Director(CGHS) that for Group-A under CGHS, the Central Health Services (CHS) Division and Ministry of Ayush are appointing authority and vacant post are being filled at their level through UPSC.

In 2021, CHS posted 184 doctors to CGHS out of which 29 doctors joined and for year 2022, 74 doctors were posted to CGHS, out of which 52 doctors joined. For the year 2023, offer of appointment will be issued by CHS in due course.

Engagement of retired doctors/staff on contractual basis is being undertaken by the

respective Additional Directorates (CGHS) from time to time. For Group B (Non-Gazetted) and Group C staff under CGHS, the vacant posts are being filled through SSC. As on date, out of 860 vacant posts, 647 candidates have been recommended. For vacant posts, Zonal Heads/ADs have been directed to take up the matter with SSC for expediting the recommendation of candidates for vacant posts

The Chairman, SCOVA directed DoPPW that a meeting may be convened with Chairman (SSC) and Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to expedite the process of selection of Pharmacists/staff against the identified vacancies.

(Action: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare and DoPPW)

(ii) Periodical health check-up for pensioners may be conducted at least once in 6 months or on annual basis. Pensioners' Associations suggested that a periodical health check-up for pensioners may be conducted at least once in 6 months or one year.

Discussion/Decision on agenda item

Representatives of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare informed that pensioner desirous of medical check-up can seek referral from CGHS WC and undergo same at any empanelled hospitals under CGHS. Further, revised guidelines for constitution of Local Advisory Committees (LACs) and Constitution of Zonal Advisory Committees (ZACs) have been issued. If any beneficiary has issues in this regard they can raise the points through LACs at field level.

In view of the above, the item was closed.

(iii) Operationalisation of 2nd CGHS Wellness Centre with posting of full sanctioned medical staff.

Central Government Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu informed that there is shortage of paramedic staff that is holding up the functioning of 2nd CGHS WC. It was further informed that CGHS has hired an accommodation location at Trikuta Nagar, Jammu, however, CGHS has not made functional.

Discussion/Decision taken:

Additional Director (CGHS), Chandigarh informed that 2nd CGHS Wellness Centre would

be made operational by 15th March, 2024. The Chairman, SCOVA directed Ministry of Health & Family Welfare that CGWPA, Jammu may also be invited during the inauguration of the 2nd CGHS Wellness Centre at Jammu.

(Action: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)

(iv) Enhancement of Additional Pension:

As per existing system, additional pension is admissible after attaining the age of 80 years. It was suggested that after retirement at the age of 60 years, additional 5% pension may be granted after every 5 years which will lead to 20% after attaining age of 80 years.

Discussion/Decision on the agenda item

Joint Secretary, Department of Expenditure informed that the matter has been examined in consultation with Budget Division of Department of Economic Affairs and the proposal has huge pension liabilities on account of old pension scheme and is also increasing year after year. Further, if the proposal is accepted, it is also likely to have a cascading effect on the State finances, since; similar demand would arise from the retired State Government employees. Hence, due to financial constraints the proposal has not been agreed to.

In view of the requests made by SCOVA Pensioners' Welfare Associations, the Chairman, SCOVA suggested to DoPPW/Department of Expenditure to again look into the matter.

(Action: DoPPW and Dept of Expenditure)

(v) Enhancement of Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) to pensioners residing in non-CGHS areas.

In wake of increase in cost of medicines after Covid-19, Pensioners Associations suggested that the amount of FMA may also be increased.

Discussion/Decision on the agenda item

It was informed in the meeting that the matter was examined in consultation with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare, Department of Expenditure and Budget Division of Department of Economic Affairs. Department of Expenditure informed that the existing rates are based on 7th CPC and were effective from 01.07.2017. Hence, no further revision, at this stage seems justified.

In view of the above, the item was closed.

4. Discussion on New Agenda Items

(33.1) Grant of Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) to the Widowed/Divorced/Unmarried daughters who are in receipt of family pension

As per Railway Board letter RBE No. 69/2014 dated 07.07.2014, Widowed/Divorced/Unmarried daughters who are in receipt of family pension are entitled for grant of FMA. On the contrary, as per Railway Board letter no. PCV/2022/A/MED/2/FMA/(E) dated 27.10.2022, widowed/ divorced/unmarried daughters who in receipt of family pension are not eligible for Retired Employees Liberalised Health Scheme (RELHS). Accordingly, they are not entitled for FMA. Ministry of Railway was requested to examine the matter so that widowed/divorced/unmarried daughters could also avail the benefit of Health Scheme/Allowance.

Discussion/Decision taken:

Executive Director (PC), Ministry of Railways informed that the Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA) is payable to all eligible family members who were dependent on the Pensioner at the time of his retirement. Further, it was informed that Ministry of Railways has recently switched over to the new system i.e Unique Medical Identity (UMID), where this problem has come up. The Ministry of Railways has been examining the issue and a clarificatory circular will be issued by the Ministry soon.

(Action: Ministry of Railways) (33.2)

(33.2) Railways fare concession must be allowed to Senior Citizens/Pensioners as per pre-Covid period.

Discussion/Decision taken:

Ministry of Railways informed that the Government gave subsidy of Rs.59,837crores on passenger tickets in 2019-20. This amounts to concession of 53% on an average, to every person travelling by Railways. This subsidy is continuing for all passengers. Further, concession beyond this subsidy amount are continuing only for the categories Divyangjans, Students and Patients. At present, there is no proposal to restore concession to Senior Citizens.

In view of the above, the item was closed.

(33.3) Grant of increment to the retiring employees on the date of their retirement, if the date of their increment follows their date of retirement - Amendment to the rules governing grant of increment & extension of the amended rule to pensioners as a one-time measure.

Discussion/Decision taken:

Joint Secretary, DoPT informed that as per the existing rule provisions regulating annual

increment, fulfillment of the following conditions is mandatory for a Government servant to earn the annual increment :-

(i) the Government servant must be in service on the date on which the increment falls due and;

(ii) he should have rendered satisfactory work and displayed good conduct during the one year period preceding the date on which the increment falls due. He further added that the demand for amending the existing rule provisions governing annual increment is apparently based on the Hon'ble Supreme Court's Order dated 11.04.2023 in Civil Appeal No. 2471 of 2023 @ SLP (C) No. 6185/2020-KPTCL VS. CP Mundinamani&Ors.

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

The Chairman, SCOVA directed DoPT to examine this issue in consultation with Ld. Attorney General expeditiously.

(Action : Dept of Personnel & Training)

(33.4) Construction of CGHS Polyclinic/Hospital at Jammu J&K administration has allotted land to CGHS in Jammu, MoH&FW may consider construction of a Polyclinic/Hospital on urgent basis.

Discussion/Decision taken:

Additional Director (CGHS), Chandigarh informed that J&K administration has allotted a land parcel of 4 kanal and 6 malra in the name of Health and Education Department, J&K (Khasra No. 373 of 02 Kanals & 14 Marlas and Khasra No. 374 of 01 Kanal & 12 Marlas) situated a Village Thanger, Tehsil Bahu District, Jammu. The land is yet to be transferred in the name of CGHS. Once, the land is transferred in the name of CGHS, further necessary action for construction of building for CGHS Wellness Centre shall be taken on priority.

Chairman, SCOVA directed Ministry of

Health and Family Welfare to actively pursue the matter and the concerned Pensioners' Association may also be apprised of the progress made in this regard.

(Action: Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)

(33.5) One time option to CGHS Beneficiaries to choose their ward entitlement based on their Notional Pay in 7th CPC Pay Matrix

Prior to revision of the rates of subscription and entitlement of wards under CGHS with effect from 1st June 2009, Pensioners had an option to choose for payment of CGHS Contribution / ward entitlement based either on last pay drawn or their pension. Pensioners who had opted for payment of Contribution based on their pension got lower entitlement of ward than the entitlement based on their last basic pay.

After 7th CPC, the rate of CGHS Contribution was revised w.e.f 01.01.2017 based on the levels in the Pay matrix and the ward entitlement on the corresponding basic pay in 7th CPC. Pensioners who are entitled for higher ward entitlement based on their notional Pay in 7th CPC Pay Matrix continue to be eligible for lower ward entitlement since they had opted for determination of their entitlement based on their pension at the time of their retirement/admission to CGHS. It is seen that even in cases where pensioners had opted for determination of their CGHS contribution and ward entitlement on the basis of last pay, they would now be entitled for higher wards viz: Semi-private and Private ward, re-determined with reference to their notional pay under 7th CPC.

It is, therefore, requested that the issue may please be pursued to allow onetime option to Pensioners to opt for redetermination of their ward entitlement based on their notional pay in 7th CPC Pay Matrix, which would make them eligible for higher wards in Private Hospitals empanelled under CGHS.

Discussion/Decision taken:

Ministry of Health and Family Welfare informed that periodically and notional revision of pay/pensioners take place from time to time as per CPCs. CGHS cards are normally issued for life time. As per one of the conditions mentioned in MoHFW OM dated 09.01.2017, the entitlement of pensioners/family pensioners who have already deposited contribution for the lifetime CGHS facility, will not be changed.

However, this issue was examined by Ministry of Health but was not agreed to due to huge financial implication of the proposal.

In view of the above, the item was closed.

(33.6) Non-Revision of CGHS rates

The CGHS rates were last revised in 2014. Non-revision of rates has resulted in many empanelled Private Hospitals seeking depanelment. Further delay in revision of CGHS rates, may compel private empanelled hospitals to get their names removed from the list of empanelled hospitals, which would cause hardships to CGHS beneficiaries.

Therefore, there is an urgent need to revise the rate of all procedures/ tests / investigations etc., which are commensurate with the increase in the market prices of medicines, medical equipment and treatment procedures over the past several years. Revision of rates will also encourage new private hospitals to seek empanelment.

Discussion/Decision taken:

Representatives of Ministry of Health and Government informed that it has already initiated revision of CGHS package rates. In this direction, following actions have been taken:-

(i) In 2023, CGHS rates for consultation, room rent and ICU charges have been revised.

(ii) Further, recently, CGHS rates for 36 radiological investigations, package rates for 38 Cardiology procedures and inclusion of 2 new Procedures have been done.

It was also informed by MoHFW that revision of CGHS package rates in other specialties is under process. Further empanelment process is open and new hospitals are applying for empanelment under CGHS. Nearly, 150 new Health Care Hospitals had been empanelled in the last 6 months.

Secretary (DOPPW) asked Ministry of Health & Family Welfare to issue one consolidated circular in respect of procedures/ tests/investigations which have been revised.

In view of the above, the item was closed.

(33.7) Provision in CPENGRAMS for entering address of grievance registering Pensioners' Associations.

There is no column for furnishing the address of the Pensioners' Association which has registered the grievance while there is a provision for entering address of the Pensioner. Therefore the offices which dispose of the

grievances are sending their replies intended for the Pensioners Association to the address of the pensioner. Accordingly, a provision may be made in the grievance registration form for entering the address of the grievance registering pensioners' association also.

Discussion/Decision taken:

It was informed in the meeting that CPENGRAMS has the facilities for pensioners associations (PAs) to register the grievance by login into CPENGRAMS by the credentials provided to them. So if, registered associations lodged the grievances through their credentials then their address is automatically captured from the registration details.

In view of the above, the item was closed.

(33.8) Non-indication of Dearness Relief (DR) paid on age related Additional Pension in the SMS on pension credit received by DoT Pensioners in SAMPANN.

Dearness Relief (DR) paid to DoT Pensioners on their age-related additional pension is not being included in the total of DR paid for the month and only the DR admissible/ paid on the basic pension is being indicated in the SMS on pension credit being received by DoT Pensioners creating confusion about the actual amount of DR admissible and paid.

Hence, it is suggested that the DR admissible on Additional Pension may also be indicated separately by introduction of a new head "DR on Additional Pension" in the SMS.

Discussion/Decision taken:

It was informed during meeting by Ms.Roshni Sohni, DDG(E), DOT that Dearness Relief (DR) paid to DoT Pensioners on their age related additional pension is being calculated correctly in SAMPANN and also being paid correctly to the pensioners. In respect of issue of non-showing of DR on additional pension in SMS being sent to the pensioners, necessary correction in SMS format is under process and will be rectified soon.

In view of the above, the item was closed

(33.9) Delay in restoration of commutation amount by Pension Disbursing Banks even after completion of 15 years of retirement.

As per CCS (Pension) Rules, 1981, commutation amount is restored after completion of 15 years. However, it is found that commutation is not restored by Pension Disbursing Banks

after 15 years. Excess commutation amount has been recovered even for more than one year. This is happening in respect of pensioners who have retired during 2007 to 2008 due to implementation of 6 th CPC. Other Association may have similar problems due to introduction of SPARSH. There is no accountability for excess deduction of commutation amount. Therefore it is requested that excess amount recovered from pension for more than three months be paid to the individual with interest which should be recovered from the dealing officer and officials. If agreed to a letter may kindly be issued to all PDAs and departments.

Discussion/Decision taken:

Shri Sham Dev, Pr. Controller(PCDA) informed that the issue is largely related to Defence pensioners. In 2020, SPARSH portal was introduced and pensioners' data started migrating from Banks to SPARSH which was deficient. Anomalies arising out of incorrect restoration dates of commutation in cases migrated from banks to SPARSH were taken up with the concerned Banks for providing correct set of dates (start date & restoration date). Out of 7.22 lakh cases received from SBI, restoration dates have already been updated in respect of 6 lakh cases, while 1.22 cases are under analysis.

Further, cases having excess recovery of commutation, identified as a result of above updation will be taken up for reversal of excess amount after verification by disbursement authorities.

Representative of SBI said that whatever data is in the system, the same will be shared with Ministry of Defence.

In view of the above, the item was closed.

(33.10) Issues related to SPARSH

i) Delay in Pension profile Data verification and Upgradation: It is observed that Pensioners data verification is not done even after one and half years with SPARSH. In all matters, the portal advices to contact your HOO. Change of name of HOO and address is not done in SPARSH PPOs in spite of several requests, hence, causing undue hardship to Pensioners.

ii) Non-payment of additional pension even after completion of 80 years. PDAs like Banks and SPARSH are not paying additional 20% even after completion of 80 years. Suitable instruction may please be issued for compliance

of the system.

Discussion/Decision taken

Shri Sham Dev, Pr. Controller (PCDA) informed that Pensioner data verification is being done when pensioner portal account is created and accordingly user name and password is shared with pensioner. However, pensioners are not being provided access to change their office name/financial part. As and when issues are reported, the same are being rectified by PCDA(P) office. HOO being the custodian of service records of pensioners, the Correct PPO or any data can be notified/updated through request initiated/updated or approved by HOO/PAO.

Regarding non-payment of additional pension on completion of 80 years, it was informed there are approx. 3.8 lakh cases where Date of Birth (DoB) of pensioners or family pensioners is not available. However, the Department has taken following action in this regard:

(a) In about, 1.4 lakh cases where only Year of Birth is available, the year of birth is being converted to DoB as 1 st January of next year as per rules/orders.

(b) The list of missing DoB in about 2.4 lakh cases has been shared with Records Offices for updation. The Department is also updating DoB on case to case basis as per availability based on inputs from pensioners.

In view of the above, the item was closed.

5. In addition to the above agenda items, All India Govt. Pensioners' Association, Pune Maharashtra suggested that instead of opening new CGHS Wellness Centres, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare may empanel more hospitals so that beneficiaries residing in non-CGHS areas may also avail benefit of IPD facilities and this would significantly reduce the multiple referrals system. One of the Pensioners' Associations i.e All India Federation of Pensioners' Association, Chennai, stated that during the COVID period, some hospitals refused to provide cashless facilities to pensioners at Chennai. Responding to this, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare urged the concerned Pensioners' Association that the matter may be referred to the knowledge of Additional Director (CGHS), Chennai. Hon'ble MOS(PP) suggested that a system may be created to lodge such grievances online on CGHS portal.

6. In this connection, Hon'ble MOS(PP) asked DoPPW to arrange meetings with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare to assess firsthand information regarding hardships/difficulties faced by pensioners in obtaining CGHS facilities through CGHS Wellness Centres. Secretary (P&PW) informed Hon'ble MOS(PP) that Cabinet Secretary had taken meeting on CGHS related issues. There were three major issues highlighted in the meeting taken by Cabinet Secretary i.e (i) revision of package rates; (ii) filling up of backlog vacancies; and (iii) improve procurement system for availability of medicines. Further, he had also visited Safdarjung Hospital and RML Hospital to review CGHS OPD facilities provided to the Pensioners.

7. In his concluding address, Hon'ble MOS(PP) and Chairman of SCOVA stated that several revolutionary changes have been brought in since 2014 for bringing "Ease of Living" to the common man especially Pensioners. Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare has set up a Grievance Redressal Portal

(CPENGRAMS) with the objective to create a single window mechanism for pensioners to raise their grievances and get them resolved without approaching various authorities in person. Further, feedback desk has also been set up to assess the quality of disposal of grievances. Among pensioners, the reliability factor of portal has increased over the period.

8. Hon'ble MOS(PP) further added that DoPPW is the first Central Government Department to use Face Authentication Technology in submission of Digital Life Certificate (DLC) to enhance "Ease of Living" of Pensioners. In this regard, a Nation-wide Campaign was held during the month of November, 2023 in 105 cities across the country, more than 1.15 crore DLCs were generated. Hon'ble MOS(PP) also mentioned that DoPPW has been organising Pension Adalats for on-the spot resolution of grievances of Central Govt. pensioners.

9. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the Chair and all other participants.

Rates of interest on various Small Savings Schemes for the first quarter of FY 2024-25 starting from 1st April, 2024 and ending on 30th June, 2024 shall remain unchanged from those notified for the fourth quarter (1st January, 2024 to 31st March, 2024) of FY 2023-24.

Instrument	Rates of interest
Savings Deposit	4
1 Year Time Deposit	6.9
2 Year Time Deposit	7
3 Year Time Deposit	7.1
4 Year Time Deposit	7.5
5 Year Recurring Deposit	6.7
Senior Citizen Savings Scheme	8.2
Monthly Income Account Scheme	7.4
National Savings Certificate	7.7
Public Provident Fund Scheme	7.1
Kisan Vikas Patra	7.5 (will mature in 115 months)
Sukanya Samriddhi Account Scheme	8.2

Charitable function held on 6.2.2024 at the Govt Higher Primary School, New Town, Yelahanka



Assembly of Students

The above function is held every year on 6th February, coinciding with the birthday of Ms.Anisha, granddaughter of Shri S.M.Vittal Rao, founder member, former Treasurer and former Internal Auditor of KPTPA. Shri S.M.Vittal Rao, in spite of his advanced age, evinced keen interest in arranging the event on a grand scale under the banner of KPTPA. Along with Shri Vittal Rao, Shri V.Muruagan, Jt Secretary, Shri K.R.Anantha Ramu, Treasurer,

Shri B.Nagaraju, EC member and Shri M.Nanjunde Gowda, former EC member attended the event. The function commenced at 11 am. About 120 studying in difference classes assembled. Smt.Gangarathamma, Head Mistress alongwith other teachers were present. The HM in her welcome speech, appreciated the good gesture of Shri Vittal Rao and also the KPTPA in arranging this function since 28 years.



Representatives of KP&TPA with Students and Teachers

Folk Dances from the Students



Shri Anantha Ramu, in his speech, mentioned about presenting cash awards to the meritorious students of this school in its Annual General Body Meeting by KP&TPA since many years with a view to encourage students to achieve better academic standards and that

KP&TPA will continue to do it & extend it to other schools also. The students presented cultural programmes like group dance and songs. A big cake was cut and distributed to all the students along with pencils, notebooks. All the teachers were presented with fruits.

RENEWAL OF SUBSCRIPTION FOR THE JOURNAL

“PENSIONERS’ CHAMPION” AT THE REVISED RATE OF Rs.180 p.a.

We earnestly request Members/Subscribers, who have not yet renewed their subscription, for the year July 2023 to June 2024, to renew now. Amount of subscription may please be credited to the association’s bank account details of which are furnished below

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SUBSCRIPTION For Journal Pensioners' Champion

Name of the Account Holder : **Karnataka P&T Pensioners’ Association**

Bank: **State Bank of India (SBI)** Branch: NTI Layout Branch, Vidyanarayapura, Bengaluru

Current Account No. **36418697411** / IFSC: **SBIN 0009045**

For information on the validity of your subscription, non-receipt of the journal & information about changes in your postal address, if any, please contact Sri K. Nagesh, EC Member of our association on mobile : 9448705268. WhatsApp message 9448705268: Email: korchibettunagesh@gmail.com

Dearness Relief to Central Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners – Revised rate effective from 01.01.2024: DOPPW OM dated 13.03.2024

Gol, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare, O M No. 42/02/2024-P&PW (D) Dated 13th March, 2024

Sub: Grant of Dearness Relief to Central Government pensioners/family pensioners – Revised rate effective from 01.01.2024-reg

The undersigned is directed to refer to this Department's OM No. 42/04/2023-P&PW(D) dated 27.10.2023 on the subject mentioned above and to state that the President is pleased to decide that the Dearness Relief admissible to Central Government Pensioners/Family Pensioners shall be enhanced from the existing rate of 46% to 50% of the basic pension/family pension (including additional pension/family pension) w.e.f. 1st January, 2024.

2. These rates of DR will be applicable to the following categories:-

- (i) Civilian Central Government Pensioners/ Family Pensioners including Central Govt. absorbee pensioners in PSU/ Autonomous Bodies in respect of whom orders have been issued vide this Department's OM No. 4/34/2002-P&PW(D)Vol.II dated 23.06.2017 for restoration of full pension after expiry of commutation period of 15 years.
- (ii) The Armed Forces Pensioners/Family Pensioners and Civilian Pensioners/ Family Pensioners paid out of the Defence Service Estimates.
- (iii) All India Service Pensioners/Family Pensioners.
- (iv) Railway Pensioners/Family Pensioners.
- (v) Pensioners who are in receipt of provisional pension.
- (vi) The Burma Civilian Pensioners/Family Pensioners and Pensioners/families of displaced Government Pensioners from Burma/ Pakistan, in respect of whom orders have been issued vide this Department's OM No. 23/3/2008-P&PW(B) dated 11.09.2017.

3. The payment of Dearness Relief involving a fraction of a rupee shall be rounded off to the next higher rupee.

4. The payment of arrears of Dearness Relief shall not be made before the date of disbursement of pension/family pension of

March, 2024.

5. Other provisions governing grant of DR in respect of employed family pensioners and re-employed Central Government Pensioners will be regulated in accordance with the provisions contained in Rule 52 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021 and this Department's OM No. 45/73/97-P&PW (G) dated 2.7.1999 as amended from time to time. The provisions relating to regulation of DR where a pensioner is in receipt of more than one pension will remain unchanged.

6. In the case of retired Judges of the Supreme Court & High Courts, necessary orders will be issued by the Dept of Justice separately.

7. It will be the responsibility of the pension disbursing authorities, including the nationalized banks, etc. to calculate the quantum of DR payable in each individual case.

8. The offices of Accountant General and authorised Pension Disbursing Banks are requested to arrange payment of Dearness Relief to Pensioners/Family Pensioners on the basis of these instructions without waiting for any further instructions from the Comptroller and Auditor General of India and the Reserve Bank of India in view of letter No. 528-TA, II/34-80-II dated 23/04/1981 of the Comptroller and Auditor General of India addressed to all Accountant Generals and Reserve Bank of India Circular No. GANG No. 2958/GA-64 (ii) (CGL)/81 dated the 21st May, 1981 addressed to SBI and its subsidiaries & all Nationalised Banks.

9. In so far as the persons serving in Indian Audit and Accounts Department are concerned, these orders are issued in consultation with the Comptroller and Auditor General of India, as mandated under Article 148(5) of the Constitution of India.

10. This issues in accordance with the Ministry of Finance, Department of Expenditure's OM No. 1/1/2024-E-II (B) dated 12.03.2024.

(Ravinder Kumar)
Director

APPEAL FOR DONATIONS FOR THE BUILDING FUND

We appeal to our **Members who have not yet paid** their contribution to the building fund to remit their donation. 88th list of donations is published in this issue.

Amount may please be remitted by *crossed cheque* payable to "Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association". Cheques may please be sent to: K.R.Anantha Ramu, No 1158, 7th Main, 7th Block, HMT Layout, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalolre-560097. (Mob: 9448477129) or

Preferably, be credited to the Association's Bank account:

Name: Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association;

Bank: State Bank of India, Branch: HMT Layout branch, Vidyaranyapura, Bangalore 560097

Current Account No. **64209078453, IFSC: SBIN 0040659**

New members are also requested to donate generously to the building fund

INCOME TAX EXEMPTION: 50% of the amount of donation made to K P&T PA, is eligible for deduction in the gross total Income of the assessee under Section 80-G of IT Act **under the old Tax Regime.**

Please invariably inform us of the details of credit through a message or phone call on Phone No.9448477129 / 9483467750 to enable us to acknowledge the receipt of the amount and to send you a receipt.

List of donations received up to 31-03-2023 has been uploaded to the website of the association 'kptpa.org'. Donors are requested to visit the website and check-up whether their names have been correctly mentioned and the amount donated has been correctly indicated in the list. Discrepancies, if any, may please be informed to the Secretary on Ph: 08023230545/(M) 9483467750

Donation for the Building Fund - 88th List February - March 2024

Sl No.	Name Sri / Smt.	Membership No.	Amount Rs.	Receipt No.	Progressive Total of donation
1684	Mahadevappa M. Hanji	1286	1,00,000	5843	2,50,001
1685	M.R.Revankar	498	25000	6078	50000
1686	R.Sakthidharan	1945	20000	6084	65000
1687	T.V. Suryaprakash	3025	5000	6099	
1688	B. Srinivasulu	3355	1000	6080	

Donation to Association

Name: Sri/Smt	Membership No.	Amount Rs.	Receipt No.
H.S.Prabhakar	826	15000	6079

ALL INDIA CONSUMER PRICE INDEX

Month	CPI Base 2016=100	CPI base 2001=100	12 Months total	Monthly average	7th CPC	DR due
					% increase over 261.42	
June 2023	136.4	136.4X2.88= 393	4587	382.25	46.22	46% from July, 2023
Jan. 2024	138.9	138.9 X2.88= 400	4732	394.33	50.84	50% from January 2024

* Linking factor for conversion of the index numbers of 2016 base year to 2001 base year: 2.88. **Note: DR orders on page 13**

BSNL IDA

IDA from 1.10.2023-215.6% (10% increase over July 2023 rate of 205.6%)

IDA from 1.1.2024- 215.4% (0.20% decrease over October 2023 rate of 215.6%)

Central Govt. Holiday in April 2024

Idul'Fitr	11.04.2024	Thursday
Dr. B.R. Ambedkar's Birthday	14.04.2024	Sunday
Mahavir Jayanthi	21.04.2024	Sunday

Subscription received for Pensioners' Champion During February-March 2024

Rs. 180/- Smt./Sri	Rs. 200/- Smt./Sri	Rs. 500/- Smt./Sri	Rs. 540/- Smt./Sri
1318 U.B. Nandakumar Rao	3235 V.K.Mohan	3076 M.R.Indira Devi	2420 AVenkataratnamaiah
1469 S.B.Mathad	3236 R.Balakrishna	2166 R.Thanikachallam	xxx A.M.Devaki
2769 Ashok Setty	Rs.300/- Smt/Sri	Rs.540/- Smt/Sri	Rs.900/- Smt/Sri
3198 Iragouda.B. Rayagoudanavar	897 Revathi Mohan Rs.360/- Smt/Sri	1076 Chandrashekara Karanth	1781 M.N.Shankar Rs.1080/- Smt/Sri
	2502 R.S.Karnic	1372 M.K.George	1853 V.R.K.Iyengar
	2958 B.Anuradha		

We Welcome the Following Newly Enrolled Members

Sl.No.	Name (Smt./Sri)	Designation & Office in which last worked	Type & No.
1	G.Ashwini Kumar	Sorting Postman, Bengaluru GPO, Bengaluru	LM 3450
2	A.Jayadeva Ballal	Postman, Bengaluru GPO, Bengaluru	LM 3451
3	S.Sujatha	Sub Postmaster, Kalyananagar Post Office, Bengaluru	LM 3452
4	S.N.Pushpa	Office Assistant, O/o Supdt. of Post Offices, Nanjangud Division	LM 3453
5	B.S.Raghavendra	MTS, Nanjangud Head Post Office, Nanjangud	LM 3454
6	N.Uma	Sub Postmaster, Gundlupet Bazaar Post Office, Nanjangud	LM 3455
7	C.Leelavathi	Postal Assistant, Kollegal Head Post office, Kollegal	LM 3456
8	S.Shankar	Postmaster, Kollegal Head Post Office, Kollegal	LM 3457
9	M.K.Thejavathi	APM(Accounts), Nanjangud Head Post Office, Nanjangud	LM 3458
10	M.G.Gayathri	Asstt. Supdt. of POs, Nanjangud Division, Nanjangud	LM 3459
11	P.Rethi Devi	Postal Assistant, Saraswathipuram Head Post office, Mysuru	LM 3460
12	A. Annapurna	Postal Assistant, Lakshmipuram SO, Mysuru	LM 3461
13	K.S.Shadakshari	Mail Overseer, O/o ASP, Mysuru East Sub Division, Mysuru	LM 3462
14	S. Srinivasa	Mail Guard, Bangalore City RMS	LM 3463

LM: Life Member

ALM: Associate Life Member

Form IV

1. Title of Newspaper : Pensioners' Champion
2. Place of Publication : Bangalore
3. Periodicity of its publication : Monthly
4. Printer's Name : N. Bhaskaran
5. Whether a Citizen of India : Yes
6. Address : # 1397, 23rd Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 070.
7. Publisher's Name : N. Bhaskaran
8. Whether a Citizen of India : Yes
9. Address : # 1397, 23rd Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 070.
10. Editor's Name : N. Bhaskaran
11. Whether a Citizen of India : Yes
12. Address : # 1397, 23rd Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 070.
13. Name and Address of Individuals who own the Newspaper : Wholly owned by
Karnataka P&T Pensioners' Association
14. Address : # 1397, 23rd Main, Banashankari 2nd Stage,
Bangalore-560 070.

I, N. Bhaskaran, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.
Bangalore
27-03-2024

Sd/- (N. Bhaskaran)
Publisher

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Donations for the Building Fund of the Association made by Sri Mahadevappa M Hanji, Retired Postmaster, LM 1286 has crossed Rs.2,50,000 with the contribution of Rs.1,00,000 made by him on 26.3.2024. The EC of KP&TPA extends its grateful thanks to Sri M M Hanji for his regular generous contributions for the building fund of the association and wishes to place on record that he has topped the list of Donors who have donated more than Rs.TWO Lakhs. The other member who has donated above Rs. 2,00,000 is Sri M Ramiah, former Vice President and Permanent Advisor to KP&TPA whose donation as of now is Rs. 2,02,020/-

Sri M M Hanji

CGHS- Opening of Extn. Counter at Sahakaranagara, Bangalore

Copy of letter No Z.15025/43/2023/DIR/CGHS dated 11.03.2024 issued by Ministry of Health & Family Welfare , Directorate General of Central Govt. Health Scheme (CGHS-III)

Sub: To start an extn counter of CGHS Wellness Centre at Sahakaranagara.

The undersigned is directed to inform about the decision of this Directorate to start an extension counter of CGHS Wellness centre Ganganagara(Bangalore) at Sahakaranagara, Bengaluru and to request to make all necessary arrangement related to its early operation. The AD, Bengaluru will make staff arrangement in this extension counter from the existing staff strength of CGHS Bengaluru. The expenditure will be met by the AD, Bengaluru from their own budgetary provision. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority and with the concurrence of IFD CD No 3628 dated 06.03.2024

Rajendra Singh Sidhu

Under Secretary to the Govt of India

Note: CCCGPA, Karnataka has written a letter to the CGHS Directorate on 26.2.2024, requesting for the opening of a full-fledged CGHS WC in Sahakaarnagara instead of an extension counter. Details-page 6 of Pensioners' sChampion — February 2024 issue.

OBITUARY

Sri M Unnikrishnan, ALM 1377, former A O, C in C, Western AIR Command, New Delhi expired on 24-2-2024 at the age of 87 years.

Sri Y Sitharam, ALM1750, former Senior Intelligence officer, Central Excise expired on 21-3-2024 at the age of 95 years.

The EC of KP&TPA conveys its heartfelt condolences to the members of the bereaved families.

Regd. Journal

If undelivered, please return to:

**Karnataka Posts and
Telecommunications
Pensioners' Association (R)
165, 4th Main, 3rd Block, 3rd Stage,
Basaveshwaranagar,
Bangaluru-560 079.**

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