



Regd. No. T1833/09

AIBSNLPWA E JOURNAL 7

This too
shall pass.

Worldometer data:

COVID19

WORLD SCENARIO on 14-7-2020

1.3 Crore cases; 5.7 Lakhs Deaths

<u>Country:</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
U S A	3479483	138247
Brazil	1887959	72921
India	906752	23727
Russia	733699	11439

INDIAN SCENARIO on 14-7-2020

9 Lakhs cases; 23727 Deaths

<u>States</u>	<u>Cases</u>	<u>Deaths</u>
Maharashtra	260924	10482
Tamilnadu	142798	2032
Delhi	113740	3411
Gujarat	42722	2055
UP	38130	955
Others	308438	4792

**KEEP SOCIAL DISTANCE
STAY HOME; STAY SAFE**

500 to 906752

**Remember, our Prime Minister declared
Lock Down when the number of Covid
patients in India reached 500.
Now the number has crossed 9 lakhs.
There were only 9 death cases when
Lockdown was clamped.
Now it is 23727 as on 14-7-2020.**

**Lockdown restricted spread/death rate.
Our rate of casualty is very less.
But, Nation cannot be locked down for long.
The Economy cannot be locked down for long.**

**We have to adjust with it.
We have to live with Covid.
We have to overcome this Crisis.
We shall overcome.**

**As one Sufi Poet said:
THIS TOO SHALL PASS.
STAY HOME, STAY SAFE.**



PROTECT YOUR GRANDCHILDREN

All of us wish to keep our dear grandson or granddaughter with us. If the boy/girl gets affected by Covid19, one ambulance vehicle may come and take them away. You cannot go with them to the hospital. You are not allowed to stay with them. You have to remain in the home with tension, anxious to know the welfare of the dear ones.

Just imagine the situation.

The Bacchan family has all protection by Body Guards, official or private. They never mingled with people. Still, one contact is enough. The Banchans are infected by Corona. [A lesson.](#)

So, don't go out and invite Corona to your home.

STAY HOME, STAY SAFE.

BOOST UP YOUR IMMUNITY AND DEFEAT CORONAVIRUS

Experts recommend washing hands with soap or using an alcohol-based rub, regularly. While hand sanitisers do kick away germs, they take good bacteria essential in building immunity, as well. To boost up immunity in natural way, you have to take good food. Many proposals are forthcoming from 'experts'. Few common suggestions are given below:



Yogurt: Yogurt is a natural probiotic and aids in the formation of good bacteria in our body. Remember, it has to be freshly made. If you have sore throat regardless of the cause, yogurt might worsen it but for better immunity, you need probiotics so you can resort to supplements.



Turmeric: The golden spice turmeric is known for its anti-oxidant and anti-inflammatory properties. Curcumin, the compound present in turmeric is a very potent agent and aids in healing of wounds and infections. This is the reason, it is often suggested to have turmeric milk. Most people have it (turmeric) in the wrong way. If you are having haldi (turmeric), don't have it in water, instead, boil it in the milk and have the popular turmeric milk. You can also take it with coconut oil and

black pepper



Natural Anti-virus Foods: Tulsi leaves, star anise (a spice), garlic, and ginger are some of the natural anti-virus food items which gives protection from seasonal flu as well. For boosting immunity and flushing out toxins take a Tulsi drink which can simply be made by boiling three to four leaves in water. You can also take three to four pieces of star anise, give it two to three boils and have it warm. You can have ginger and amla juice. You can also have garlic; take one garlic clove, mash it, and expose it to air for five minutes so that its compound called allicin which has potent medicinal properties gets activated and then have it.



Vitamins: Among all kinds of Vitamins, Vitamin C and Vitamin D play a major role in strengthening one's immunity. For the same, one should have more citrus fruits and vegetables like Amla, Lemon, Orange and others. Also, egg yolks and mushrooms are a good source of Vitamin D. It is good to drink fresh amla juice (30ml), every day.

AIBSNLPWA COVID FUND

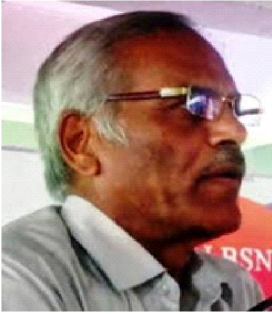
as on 11-7-2020

Rs. 96.11 LAKHS

<u>Circle</u>	<u>Total amount</u>
ANDHRA	1201270.00
ASSAM	20600.00
BIHAR	148115.00
CHENNAI TD	357160.00
DELHI	98500.00
GUJARAT	250850.00
HARYANA	128730.00
JHARKHAND	56500.00
KARNATAKA	1959137.00
KERALA	1281531.00
MP	209710.00
MAHARASTRA	102500.00
ODISHA	149305.00
PUNJAB	241561.00
RAJASTHAN	48901.00
TAMILNADU	2510244.00
TELANGANA	823758.00
UP EAST	7681.00
UP WEST	15000.00

GRAND TOTAL **9611053.00**

WE ARE VERY NEAR TO THE MAGIC FIGURE OF RUPEES ONE CRORE. IF REMAINING COMRADES REMIT THE AMOUNT WITHIN NEXT 15 DAYS, WE CAN PROUDLY DECLARE TO THE NATION THAT AIBSNLPWA HAS DONATED RS. ONE CRORE TO COMBAT THE PANDEMIC. WE SHALL.




10000000

Dear CSs/ DSs / BSs

CHQ is extremely happy about the contributions made by our members to COVID-19 fund and to reach an exemplary figure of more than 96 lacs in a very short time. Most of this amount is sent voluntarily on line in these difficult days after my Extraordinary appeal. We are just four lacs away to create another **HISTORY by reaching a milestone of **ONE CRORE**, which perhaps, no other Association would have done.**

Now I request all the office bearers at base level to contact those who are yet to contribute and are capable of sending on line for donating to this Noble cause. Hope to see a magic and ever memorable figure by month end with everyone's participation.


P. Gangadhara Rao, **
General Secretary.

P Gangadhara Rao GS

COURT CASES

You are all aware that our Association filed two cases before CAT Ernakulam.

1. for refixation of pension of those BSNL staff retired between 1-10-2000 and 30-6-2001 at the rate of 50% of Last Pay Drawn (LPD). [Those retired after 1-1-2006 got it. DoT pensioners retired before October 2000 also go it .]

2. for arrears from 1-1-2007 on account of 78.2% pension revision.

The CAT dismissed our first case (50% of LPD) some time back. We filed an appeal petition in Kerala High Court. On 2-3-2020, after hearing the preliminary arguments from our Advocate the High Court took the matter on registry, issued notice to Department. Lawyer of DoT filed his counter opposing admission of appeal in High Court.

Then came Corona; Court closed. Now Kerala High Court decided to hear cases with some restrictions.

On 13-7-2020, a Division Bench of Kerala High Court heard arguments from both sides and admitted the Case with No OP CAT 60/2020

JUST ONE STEP FURTHER. High Court will post the case for arguments. When? Nobody can say that. We are happy that even in lockdown condition the case is admitted by HC.

The other case is still pending in CAT. In the meantime, one judge of Ernakulam Bench is transferred to Hyderabad. Substitute has come from Chennai. Another judge has retired. In his place, Mr. K E Eapen, Former Secretary of DoP&PW is appointed. Now they will have to study the case.

CHQ LETTERS

Date: 6/7/2020

To
Shri Ravishankar Prasadji,
Hon. Minister for Communications & IT,
Govt. of India,
New Delhi

Respected sir,

Sub: Change of procedure for payment to CGHS
for migration to CGHS by BSNL retirees - Request intervention

We are constrained to approach you, sir on the following issue concerning the health of BSNL retirees.

BSNL/MTNL retirees are entitled to migrate to CGHS since their pension is paid from Central Civil Estimate as per the existing orders. CGHS facility is at present available in 71 cities. As per the existing procedure, BSNL retirees have to surrender their BSNL Medical Reimbursement Scheme (BSNLMRS) card and then migrate to CGHS. But the retirees have to make one-time payment to CGHS as subscription for life period which shall be reimbursed by BSNL at a later date. Due to financial condition of BSNL, the reimbursement is not being made for many months.

Further, one-time payment ranges from Rs.30,000/- to Rs.1,20,000/-. Hardly 20 to 30% of the retirees in those 71 cities only could avail this facility by paying the amount. Most of the retirees (nearly 70%) could not migrate to CGHS because they are not in a position to pay that lump-sum amount. To mitigate this hardship, there can be an undertaking by BSNL to pay the dues to CGHS directly within a time-frame. The retirees need not pay the subscription to CGHS but they can avail the facility. This would reduce the financial burden of BSNL on medical reimbursement.

May we request you, sir, for having an understanding with Hon. Minister for Health & family welfare Shri Harshvardhanji in this regard.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,

Encl:DoT & BSNL orders


P. Gangadhara Rao, **
General Secretary.

CHQ LETTERS

To
Dr. Harshvardhanji,
Hon. Minister for Health & Family Welfare,
Govgt. of India, New Delhi.

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May we request you, sir, for having an understanding with Hon. Minister for Communications, Shri Ravi Shankar Prasadji in this regard.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,


P. Gangadhara Rao, **
General Secretary.

Date: 10/7/2020

To
Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad,
Hon. Minister for Communications & IT,
Sanchar Bhawan, 20, Asoka Road,
New Delhi-110001

Sir,

Sub: Partial Payment of Ex-gratia to VRS-19 optees – Breach of contract - Request intervention

We would like to draw your kind attention to our previous letter dated 14/5/2020 on the above subject.

2. In accordance with cabinet decision dated 23/10/2019, BSNL corporate office announced the scheme of 'VRS-2019' vide its order dated 04/11/2019. Para 6(e) of Annexure I of that order clearly states "An employee retiring voluntarily under the scheme shall be paid the amount of Ex-gratia in two equal instalments of 50% each. The first instalment shall be paid in FY 2019-20 and the second instalment in first quarter of FY 2020-21". *Based on this only, employees opted for VRS; hence it is a contract between the parties.*

3. Demand No. 13 for Department of Telecommunications was voted by Parliament. For revival plan for FY 2019-20 Parliament approved the R/E for Rs.7301.62 crore. For payment of Ex-gratia alone for 2020-21 Parliament voted for Rs.9890 crore. As per the agreement 100% ex-gratia should have been paid by this time.

4. But, Department of Economic Affairs (Budget Division), Ministry of finance issued an order dated 8/4/20 for 'cash management system' restricting the expenditure to 15% of B/E for Q1 (Apr-June) for several departments including DoT which comes under category 'C'. Again vide its order dated 23/6/20 the same 15% restriction was extended to Q2 (Jul-Sep) in view of covid-19 situation and lock-down.

5. It is economically prudent to give the money in the hands of VRS-2019 retirees who in turn either spend in the market which would generate demand or use towards 'saving' which would help the national economy.

-2-

6. As per the settled legal position

- **VRS is an invitation to treat**
- **Application filed by the employees constituted “offer”**
- **Since the order accepting the voluntary retirement was a conditional one, the conditions ought to have been complied with**
- **As per section 2(e) of ‘The Indian Contract Act 1872’ – Every promise and every set of promises, forming the consideration for each other, is an agreement; section 2(h) states that ‘An agreement enforceable by law is a contract’**

7. As on date only 53.8% of Ex-gratia (in two instalments) is paid. Non-payment of 100% Ex-gratia before 30/6/2020 as per the agreement is a breach of contract. As a legal luminary and Hon. Minister for Law & Justice you are pretty well aware about the legality. The commitment has to be honoured as per the agreement. We hope and trust that your intervention would avoid any litigation by the employees.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,



P. Gangadhara Rao,
General Secretary.

Some VRS optees of Punjab Circle have issued notice through lawyer to BSNL asking the company to treat them as on duty without break as Management has violated its assurances on which they opted for VRS. Once the conditions are violated unilaterally by one side, the contract is no longer valid and hence their VRS becomes nullified, the notice says.

[News item only. No further details]

Date: 24/6/2020

To
Shri Ravi Shankar Prasad,
Hon. MoC, New Delhi-110001

Sir,

Sub: **Retention of staff quarters by VRS-2019 retirees - Request intervention**

We seek your kind intervention on the above subject because of the following reasons.

2. BSNL corporate office issued an order on **20/2/2020** allowing the VRS-2019 optees to retain the staff quarters for 8 months after retirement on 31/1/2020, **treating them on par with normal retirees on superannuation.**

3. With a view to reduce the expenditure on 'salary' for BSNL, nearly 50% staff opted for VRS. Hon. MoC openly appreciated the employees who co-operated with the Government.

4. It was an un-planned exit from job and if it is 'superannuation' it could have been a planned one.

5. They are getting 50% of Pay+DA as pension and they are not entitled for any allowance and their income is suddenly comes to 1/3rd of their gross income while in service.

6. Their children are studying near their quarters.

7. Covid-19 pandemic is a serious problem now and nobody knows when normalcy would be restored.

8. Their retirement benefits like gratuity and commutation are to be settled only on completion of 60 years of age i.e. normal superannuation retirement.

In view of the above facts, we request for your kind intervention for treating the VRS-2019 retirees who reside in staff quarters as 'serving staff' for the purpose of retaining staff quarters (with normal licence fee) till their normal superannuation date. This concession may be given as a special case on individual application/representation.

Thanking you

Yours faithfully,



P. Gangadhara Rao,
General Secretary.

Shri P.K.Purwar,
CMD, BSNL, New Delhi.

Com. Anupam Kaul, our AGS is living at NOIDA, a containment area. After taking due permission, getting a cab on rent and getting it sanitized, Com. Kaul went to BSNL Corporate Office on 14-7-2020 and took up the following cases as there were many enquiries from our members all over India:



1. RETENTION OF STAFF QUARTERS BY VRS OPTEES:

Handed over a copy of CHQ letter (see Page 13 of this E Journal) to the Sr. DDG SR and discussed contents. He pointed that it is impossible for the VRS pensioners to shift residence at this time of pandemic. DDG appreciated the problems and assured consideration of the points raised in our letter on humanitarian consideration. It is understood that many VRS optees have expressed their willingness, through individual representations, to pay he HRA plus Licence fee. Such representations may have a negative effect.

2. MEDICAL CLAIMS:

Met the GM Budget and discussed the matter. The GM conveyed that henceforth a substantial amount of funds have been/will be assigned for pending Medical bills and the whole back log will be completed in a few months. He told that pending Medical bills of empaneled hospitals will also be paid so that indoor cash less facility is restarted. He informed that the reimbursement of CGHS fees for retirees is being augmented and many of them have been reimbursed the same.

3 TREATMENT OF COVID PATIENTS:

Met DGM Admin and enquired from him the status of orders from BSNL CO regarding treatment of Covid 19 patients in BSNL empaneled hospitals. He intimated that though the matter has been discussed, no orders have been issued so far by BSNL CO. He was personally handed over a letter written by our GS on the subject. We explained that CGHS authorities have issued several letters on the subject in addition to guide lines from all state Govts. He informed that he will take necessary action Immediately .

This is a difficult situation. All empaneled hospitals are pressing BSNL management for payment of pending bills worth crores of Rupees. It is learnt that BSNL will make payments to these hospitals so that some cordial relations are ensured Then only BSNL will be able to issue covid Guidelines.

**WE HIGHLY APPRECIATE THE EFFORTS MADE
BY COM. ANUPAM KAUL DESPITE THE ODDS.**

EX GRATIA TO VRS PENSIONERS NOT IN TWO INSTALLMENTS AS ASSURED

BSNL Order F. No.BSNL CO-A/11(11)/11/2020ESTAB Dated 10-7-2020

Sub: Payment for 3rd instalment of Ex-gratia in respect of
employees retired under BSNL VRS-2019 - instructions reg.

Sir,

I am directed to refer to the above cited subject and to inform that sanction of fund for payment of 3rd installment of Ex-gratia has been received from DOT. Since PPO has been generated by respective CCAs in most of the cases, DOT has provided list of retirees in respect of whom there is variation in the last pay drawn (Copy of CCA-wise list is enclosed). Accordingly, the payment of 3rd installment of Ex-gratia shall be regulated as follows:

S. No.	Description	Payment to be released in 3rd installment (Total three installments in %age of the Sanctioned amount)
1.	In cases where PPO have been generated and there is no change in amount of Last Pay Drawn.	The additional installment of Ex-gratia shall be restricted to 38.2%. (Total 92% of the sanctioned amount).
2.	For cases, where there is variation in last pay drawn as filled by BSNL in SAMPANN Portal and the PPO issued by DOT; and in cases where the PPO has not been issued so far	The additional installment of Ex-gratia shall be restricted to 31.2%. (Total 85% of the sanctioned amount.)

2. In this regard, you are requested to follow the same process in ERP system as was done at the time of payment of 2nd installment. The process must be completed by evening of 13-7-2020 i.e. Monday. The fund request, indicating the amount to pay to VRS optees, including all kinds of recoveries and TDS may be emailed to Banking Cell of BSNL Corporate office in email address: budget.corporate@bsnl.co.in by 14-07-2020 i.e. Tuesday.

3. PGM(ERP), ERP Centre, ALTTC, Ghaziabad shall also in parallel provide consolidated circle wise fund to be authorized for payment to VRS optees and the TDS to be paid, to Banking Cell on the above mentioned email address by 14-07-2020 positively.

4. In case of recoveries, all the recoveries should be posted in SAP simultaneously.

BSNL 4 G SERVICES DELAYED

Economic Times report on 9-7-2020:

NEW DELHI: Homegrown telecom companies are eyeing to form consortiums with domestic IT majors such as Tech Mahindra, Wipro, and HCL Technologies to outpace multinational rivals such as Nokia and Ericsson for the supply of next-generation equipment to Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) and Mahanagar Telephone Nigam Limited (MTNL).

“The domestic companies have started exploratory talks with Indian IT/ITes companies that could further enable them to compete with foreign original equipment makers in the deployment of advanced technologies, to fully achieve Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India) ambition,” an industry source told

However, NITI Ayog, the Centre’s policy think-tank, has already done an evaluation exercise based on the current capabilities of domestic companies, while the government is also planning a multi-faced approach including handholding of local telecom gear makers.

The local telecom equipment makers and suppliers have stepped up their efforts to bag orders from the state-run telecom carriers - BSNL and MTNL, following the cancellation of fourth-generation or 4G tender, after a series of controversies such as restrictive conditions and inclusion of Chinese ZTE for proprietary migration.

Tech Mahindra has already expressed its willingness to bid for BSNL’s 4G rollout. Other Indian system integrators such as Wipro and HCL Technologies, are also evaluating similar moves, and are in discussions with local industry stakeholders, according to sources.

Early this month, BSNL had to withdraw the request for proposal (RFP) for the network expansion that included 7,000 new telecom sites, and migration of 49,500 2G and 3G sites to 4G under phase - IX program.

Following the call for Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India), and the standoff between India and China at Galwan region, the homegrown players such as Vihaan Networks, Sterlite Technologies, Tejas Networks and Himachal Futuristic

Communications led by a Delhi-based group mounted pressure on the government to facilitate local companies.

BSNL, as per inputs from the Ministry of Commerce, is also looking at allowing consortiums of multiple domestic companies wherein at least 50% of the value addition is done locally.

Initially, BSNL cited ‘proprietary migration’ as the only means for telco’s fastest route to 4G but a few telecom technology experts hold divergent views and believe that it would be ‘wasteful’ to do any upgrade or expansion based on an outdated technology, which was not 5G-ready.

“BSNL’s submission on proprietary migration through existing partners who had rolled out 2G and 3G sites will be a technical and legal disaster,” RK Bhatnagar, former advisor, Department of Telecommunications (DoT) said. Further, the proprietary migration would also be in conflict and against the letter and spirit of Public Procurement (Preference to Make in India) Policy 2017 and its subsequent amendments, according to him.

“The time taken for an upgrade with existing vendors would be almost similar to a fresh deployment which original equipment makers regularly undertake with private sector players such as Bharti Airtel and Reliance Jio,” an analyst said.

Meanwhile, Finland-based Nokia said that it supports the **Atmanirbhar (self-reliance) initiative of the Indian government. “We are supplying and managing a major part of the BSNL network, and hope to continue to play a role in the revival of BSNL by providing the best technology solutions at par with the industry,” Nokia spokesperson in a statement said.**

.....

All said done, the BSNL cannot give its 4G service soon. Its arrangement with Chinese companies is cancelled. But, can the local companies provide latest equipments? Do they make it in India under **atmanirbhar scheme? **No**. They will import the equipments from some other countries, not China. It will take time. Meanwhile Jio has already started giving service, even 5G. After they capture the market BSNL will be allowed. It is the old game Pandit Sukhram played in 1995 when mobile telephony was introduced.**



11th JULY

Remember, it was on 11, July 1946 that the postmen and lower grade employees of P&T Dept. started their indefinite strike led by Shri. V G Dalvi of Pune. That was the last nationwide strike by government employees against British rule.

[First nationwide strike by govt. employees was in 1908, led by Henry Barton.]

Again, it was on 11, July 1960 that the nationwide indefinite strike by central government employees, first one in independent India, commenced.

**SALUTE THE HEROES WHO FOUGHT FOR DIGNITY.
LET US REMEMEBR WHO SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES.**