

AIBSNLPWA

E-JOURNAL

APRIL, 2020

THESE DAYS WILL ALSO GO; DAWN FOLLOWS DARKNESS

Dear Friends,

We had prepared the matter, almost complete, for releasing the 50th issue of our Journal in first week of May 2020. I am proud to state that we brought out all the 49 issues on time, without fail. Hence I was bit excited to bring out the 50th Issue with lot of information about CGHS.

But, we are forced to abandon the idea because the printing press in Chennai is closed. Even if it is printed and posted in RMS office at Mylapore, Chennai we do not know when the copies will be taken up for sorting. And even if sorting is done and dispatched to all parts of the country from Chennai, there is no guarantee that the individual copies will be delivered to addressees. Our Patrika is locked down by COVID. We have no alternative but to skip the issue and release the July Issue as a combined one. Let us hope that normalcy will be restored by that time.

Some comrades have suggested to release an E-journal. I have no experience. We cannot take help of anyone having some knowledge on it in the present condition. Hence, with limited ideas, I am preparing some matter for the benefit of our readers who have access to Internet or Whatsapp. It is just an experiment. To avoid strain for the senior citizens in reading on mobile phone

or desktop or laptop, we bring out few pages only. Please bear with me for lapses. It is a "pdf journal" only.

Covid19 has attacked the entire world; India not being exception.

There was a wrong notion that United States is the mighty nation, capable of threatening or frightening any other nation with money power, muscle power and political power. The mighty power has fallen flat before the tiny virus, unseen, unheard or unfelt in the past. As Mr Vikram Chandra said; *"we were told that human life is very precious in US and very cheap in India"*. Now, US government led by an unpredictable President Trump is trying to save the US economy at the cost of human beings. More than 52000 Americans have died due to Covid 19 there, when I write these Notes. Whereas India is trying to save the human lives at the cost of Economy. 775 people have lost their lives in India, as at 4 PM on 25-4-2020. We have proved that we are mightier than the mightiest.

We are neither weak nor fragile. We shall overcome the crisis. Sun will shine over Himalayas again and the darkness will disappear.

P S Ramankutty,
Editor

26-4-2020

KERALA MODEL

I write this piece not because I am a Keralite, but to point out some unique features of this part of India. Efforts made by Kerala government to combat Covid19 receive lot of appreciation and acclaims from Central Government and even from abroad too. No doubt, the present Government of Kerala has taken very effective steps to face the crisis which received lot of support from the people. There are other reasons for the success.

Kerala is blessed with 41 short and fast flowing rivers by Mother Nature. We receive copious rains for about five months every year. The air is clean. Unlike other parts of India we have abundant water. These blessings have developed a unique life style for people of Kerala. In villages (Kerala villages are quite different from the villages in other States.) people while coming back from outside always used to wash their legs and hands, for which water was kept in pots in the verandah. Men and women used to carry a towel always to protect themselves and others while coughing or sneezing. Village people used to cultivate their vegetables in their lands. We have total literacy; with 94% literate women folk. Villages have their own waste management systems. Malayalees do not hug or shake hands. All these advantages or habits helped Kerala during this Corona season. Villages are less infected by the virus.

Out of the 348 lakhs Keralites, 36.5 lakhs live outside Kerala. The Money flowing from these NRKs contribute a lot for development of the State. Long back, a chain of Primary Health Centres was developed in Kerala. Even in small villages we have good hospitals, either in Government or in private sector.

Our rivers are not polluted as Yamuna, Ganga, Sabarmati, Oshiwana or Damodar

(identified by the Pollution Control Board as most polluted rivers). A river flows through the heart of my home village in Kottayam district. We used to take bath twice every day. During the summer we used to drink water from it 65 years ago, though not pure and clean as Umngot of Meghalaya or Narmada or Chambal. (Now nobody ventures to take bath in my village river.)

This is unique in Kerala. Habitants of other places where water is very scarce and climate is entirely different cannot have the same habits.

My home village (Panchayat too same) has 25000 population; more than 1000 girls working in Italy or Germany as Nurses or hospital staff. Lakhs of Malayalees are in Gulf countries. 70000 are in USA. They all come home every year. Some of them came home this year with Coronavirus and spread it, may be unknowingly. Covid19 was imported to Kerala. In fact, the people in Kerala followed the instructions of lockdown not because of awareness but because Kerala Police is very strict.

No doubt, We should learn new lessons from Covid19. We should not pollute our air and our great rivers like Ganga and Yamuna with mythological significance.

The Prime Minister or Chief Ministers should have anticipated plight of migrant workers in lakhs and their exodus from cities to their native places. We have seen government breaking its own orders and arranging buses to ferry them from Delhi to UP etc.

The world was divided as after/before World War II seven decades ago. New World will be divided as before Corona and after Corona. 778 and odd crores people on this earth are moving into a new World. We must change our habits. If not, another pandemic will teach us or finish us.

P S Ramankutty

OUR LETTER OR VALIDATION OF MRS CARDS:

ALL INDIA BSNL PENSIONERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION

H. No 6, G No 12th Street, Jogupalya, Halasuru, Bangalore 560008

President: P S Ramankutty Phone: 9447551555 General Secretary: P Gangadhara Rao Phone: 9448088404

eMail: bsnlpensioner@Website: www.bsnlpensioner.in gmail.com

Central Head Quarters

To
The Director (HR),
Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited,
New Delhi 110001.

Sir,

We are thankful to you for issuing instructions vide letter No. BSNL/Admn.I/2020/Medical dated 21-4-2020 allowing extension of revalidation of BSNLMRS Cards for the employees retired from Corporate Office, in view of current lockdown scenario. But, this order does not cover those retired from territorial Circles. You are aware that lockdown is imposed on the entire country and nobody can visit SSA offices to get their cards revalidated.

It may kindly be noted that different Circles have prescribed different periods for revalidation of BSNLMRS Cards.

May I request you to kindly issue suitable instructions to all Circles to treat Cards valid till pensioners are able to visit the SSA offices for revalidation of the same.

In view of urgency and since postal services are not available, I send this letter to you by Email.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,

P. Gangadhara Rao, GS.

[No. CO/Medical-2020 dated 22-4-2020]

ALL INDIA BSNL PENSIONERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION

H No.6, G NO 12th Street, Jogupalya, Halasuru, Bangalore 560008

Press Release dated 24-4-2020

DA freeze unreasonable

The Government has, once again, attacked its employees and pensioners, the soft target by freezing three instalments of DA hike due from January 2020, July 2020 and January 2021. The decision is not to postpone the payment but freezing. Government may save a sum of Rs. 37520 Crores. We can understand the logic of the Govt. if it is postponed but freezing is unwarranted and unreasonable. We request and urge upon the Government of India to review its decision in this regard.

The whole world is facing the serious crisis of Covid-19 pandemic. India is on lock-down since 25/3/2020. The entire economic activity has come to a standstill. We are very well aware of all these developments and conscious of our social obligation. Our Association gave a call for donation to the PM's relief fund and CM's relief fund. Our members have already contributed more than Rs. 50 lakh within ten days and the efforts are still on.

The Govt. can revisit on the following budget proposals to meet the crisis rather than freezing the DA.

1) The concessions given to corporate sector. On 31/3/2020, Commerce & Industry Ministry announced Foreign Trade Policy (FTP) which was for five years from 1/4/2015 to 31/3/2020 was extended for one more year, thereby extending the concessions to the corporate including exemption from payment of IGST and compensation cess on the imports.

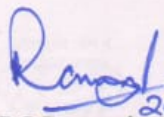
2) Budget for development and promotion of Industry and commerce which was earmarked at Rs.27,300 crore which include 5 new smart cities proposed to be developed.

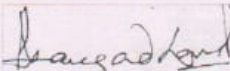
3) By way of removing Dividend Distribution Tax (DDT) annual revenue foregone was Rs.25,000 crore.

4) Tax concessions for foreign investments 100% tax exemption to the interest, dividend & capital gain income on investment made in infrastructure.

5) Despite repeated and strict directives from Hon'ble Supreme Court in the AGR case, the Govt. has not taken any effective steps to recover Rs 1.47 lakh crore from Telecom Companies.

AIBSNLPWA requests the Government to review its decision in this regard.


24/4/2020
P S Ramankutty,
President.


P. Gangadhara Rao,
General Secretary.

IN REAL TERMS....

HOW MUCH GOVERNMENT TAKES
BY CDA FREEEZING?

BASIC PAY/PENSION: Rs. 20000

BP+17% CDA IN DECEMBER 2019: Rs. 23400

ANTICIPATE 5% INCREASE IN JULY 2020 AND
ANOTHER 5% IN JANUARY 2021

LOSS:

2020 JANUARY-JUNE : 4% : $800 \times 6 = 4800$

2020 JULY-DECEMBER: 9% : $1800 \times 6 = 10800$

2021 JANUARY-JUNE: 14% : $2800 \times 6 = 16800$

TOTAL: 32400.00

162% OF BASIC PAY/PENSION O BE DEDUCTED

OR 138.4% OF TOTAL PAY/PENSION AS IN DECEMBER 2019.

Whenever in financial crisis, the Government touch its employees and pensioners because they are the soft target. Same Government has given 20 years' time to private Telecom companies to pay their dues, despite clear orders from Supreme Court to pay the amount immediately.

ALL INDIA BSNL PENSIONERS' WELFARE ASSOCIATION

CENRAL HEADQUARTERS

AN EXTRA ORDINARY APPEAL

RISE TO HELP COMBAT THE DEADLY COVID-19 VIRUS

The AIBSNLPWA, representing about a lakh of BSNL retirees, experienced and matured, committed to the society, would like to support the fight, launched by the Government of India and state governments, against the pandemic Covid-19. We have shown our commitment in the past on several occasions. Our solidarity with the Indian people has always been strong and committed, particularly to those where the needs were the greatest. In 2019 we donated Rs 40 lakhs to the PMNRF.

Now, the Nation is facing a very serious crisis. Impact of this deadly Virus on our economy, social fabric and politics is unprecedented and unimaginable. It is an extra ordinary situation. Pensioners are placed in a better condition financially, compared to lakhs of jobless daily waged workers having no shelter to sleep under. We must support India in a massive effort to help prevent, detect, and manage the coronavirus.

HOW TO SUPPORT?

Each one of us, members of AIBSNLPWA, must donate one day's pension to the CMDRF of respective state. [Total pension drawn in March 2020 divided by 30]. There are restrictions on movement. We cannot violate them even for a noble purpose. So, every Circle Association must intimate its bank account details through any medium. Members who can donate online must do it immediately. Others may have to wait till normalcy restored. In any case, every one of us should contribute.

NOT TO CHQ

This time, donation need not be sent to CHQ. Every state is affected. Every State government is on a war to face the crisis. Let us concentrate in respective Circle.

After sending the donation, please intimate concerned Circle Secretary.

TASK of CIRCLE UNIT:

Circle Secretary/Treasurer may consolidate the donations every week and remit it to the respect CMDRF within a reasonable time. Send a report to GS on every Saturday through email or SMS or whatsapp message. We will publish it in our Website.

TASK of DISTRICT UNIT:

District Secretaries may please contact as many members as possible over phone and convey this Appeal and monitor their contributions. Please maintain regular contact with the Circle Secretary also.

The task should be fulfilled in a systematic manner. Let's fight this all together.

Yours Sincerely,

*P Gangadhara Rao,
General Secretary.*

*Bangalore,
29-03-2020*

AIBSNLPWA COVID FUND 2020

Circle As on 18-4-2020

ANDHRA	532442.00
ASSAM	2000.00
BIHAR	61155.00
CHHATTISGARH	0.00
CHENNAI TD	215160.00
DELHI	62500.00
GUJARAT	142000.00
HIMACHAL	0.00
HARYANA	24700.00
JHARKHAND	34000.00
KARNATAKA	1391202.00
KERALA	649470.00
MP	162810.00
MAHARASTRDA	26000.00
ORISSA	38301.00
PUNJAB	236561.00
RAJASTHAN	21700.00
TAMILNADU	975987.00
TELANGANA	538942.00
UP EAST	2000.00
UP WEST	0.00
UTTANCHAL	0.00
WEST BENGAL	0.00
GRAND TOTAL	5116930.00

[as at 10 PM ON 18-4-2020]

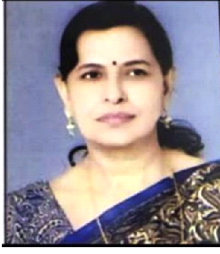
AIBSNLPWA COVID FUND 2020

Circle: Total amount
as on 25-4-2020

ANDHRA	706078.00
ASSAM	2000.00
BIHAR	67655.00
CHHATTISGARH	0.00
CHENNAI TD	225360.00
DELHI	62500.00
GUJARAT	142000.00
HIMACHAL	0.00
HARYANA	41930.00
JHARKHAND	41000.00
KARNATAKA	1612735.00
KERALA	726720.00
MP	164910.00
MAHARASTRA	87000.00
ORISSA	64301.00
PUNJAB	236561.00
RAJASTHAN	34900.00
TAMILNADU	1134312.00
TELANGANA	594826.00
UP EAST	5681.00
UP WEST	0.00
UTTANCHAL	0.00
WEST BENGAL	0.00

TOTAL ON 59,50,469.00
25-4-2020

COVID FUND 2020



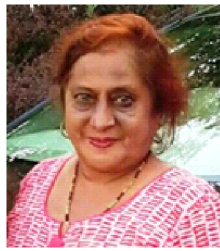
**Smt. Chhaya Misra of Madhya Pradesh
who contributed Rs 105000.00**



**Sri. K Murali of Tamilnadu
who contributed Rs 102000.00**



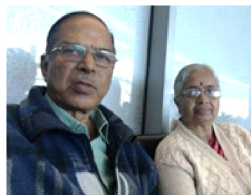
**Sri. L S Potnis of Karnataka
who contributed Rs 102000.00**



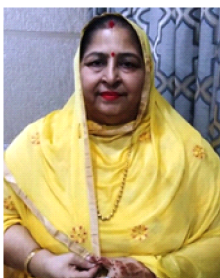
**Smt. Jayaben Brahmbhat of Gujarat
who contributed Rs 100000.00**



**Sri. Y Anantham of AP, now in US,
who contributed Rs 96751.00**



**Smt. & Sri. U S Nagaraj of Karnataka
who contributed Rs 66739.0**



**Smt. Santosh Kumari of Punjab
who contributed Rs 50000.00**

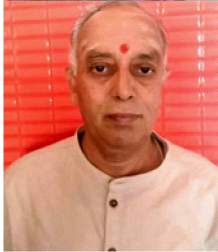
COVID FUND 2020



**Sri B B Nadagaddi of Karnataka
who contributed Rs 50000.00**



**Smt. Rdha Bai of Bangalore
who contributed Rs 50000.00**



**Sri. V V Madlur of Karnataka
who contributed Rs 33333.00**



**Sri. T P George of Kerala
who contributed Rs 31000**

In addition, Shri. K G Shanmugam and Smt. K G Vasanthamma of Bangalore have donated Rs 50000 each; Shri. Thiagarajan Krishna Iyer of Telangana donated Rs 45000, Shri. Purnchandra Rao of Telangana donated Rs 36000 and Shri. M S Muthukrishnan of Chennai TD has donated Rs 35000. They declined to supply their photographs. But we appreciate their noble minds.

**MEMBERS OF OUR STR DIVISION IN TAMILNADU HAVE
DONATED MORE THAN RUPEES SIX LAKHS**



‘Arackal Palace’

GOES WITH NOTHING: One Mr. Joy Arackal, a Malayali industrialist in Gulf died last week. He constructed a mansion with 45000 Square feet area in Wayanad district of Kerala. He is not known for his richness. He is now known because he had left that mansion open to shelter the victims of floods in Kerala in 2018. It is not money, it is his noble mind that remains after his death.

CORONA THOUGHTS

Just think. What was the rush in hospitals, clinics and medical shops before Corona? For a headache we used to go to doctors. They prescribe all types investigations....CT Scan, Ultra sound, MRI scan.... Then lot of medicines. During the lockdown period, nobody ran to doctors. All managed with home made remedies. It is possible.

For a chest pain if you had gone to the private hospitals they used to suggest immediate angioplasty or bypass surgery costing Rs 5 lakhs or more. Even by disposing all properties we undergo that surgery. Then live with tension for the rest of life. During lockdown period, there was no such surgery. Thousands of cardiologists, specialists and super speciality hospitals lost lot of money. The people with chest pain are alive with normal life, without tension. The tiny corona virus has taught us that it is possible. And, it is possible in future after normalcy is restored.

NEGATIVE IS POSITIVE
POSITIVE IS NEGATIVE

If there was any doubt, people went for Covid Test. If test result was 'negative', then, it was a positive sign. If the test result was 'positive' it was taken as most negative sign. That led to isolation, quarantine....

AIR POLLUTION

For the first time, people in Jalandhar (Punjab) saw the great Himalayas through their naked eyes. More than 200 Kilometres away! All these years, they could not see it because we had polluted our air with dust, smoke and what not? Every day, every minute, every second, we inhaled that dust and smoke and became chronic patients. We have paid a lot for our negligence. The virus has taught us another lesson. We can correct ourselves.

FACE MASKS



We have seen Smt. Savita Kovind, the first lady of India stitching face masks. That gives a good message. In future, wearing face mask in public places will become mandatory to save our people. Students, employees all have to wear it. Sufficient quantity of face masks will be required. Countries like Japan and China have modern machinery to produce lakhs of masks in a day. Our women

can engage themselves in this work. Men can also do it and help the women.

I have suggested to the honourable Prime Minister to utilize the leisure time of our jawans for producing face masks in large quantity and distribute to people at very nominal price. Barracks have space and man power too. If machineries are supplied to Military barracks by the Government the work can be done quickly and systematically. There may be many such suggestions.

CHESS AND CORONA

There is a story. A man invented the chess game. He went to the king and presented it. The King was very much impressed on it. He asked the man; "What prize you want?"

The man told; "Your Majesty, please put one grain in he first box. Then, put double of that in the second, then double of that in the third one. 1,2,4,8,16... fill all the 64 boxes of chess board."

The king ordered to do it. But his people could not complete that. There was no sufficient grains for that.

The coronavirus also spreads like above. First day one man, second day 2 people, third day 4, fifth day 8, then 16,32,64.... to understand see the Table below

Day	No. of infected persons
1	1
2	2
3	4
4	8
5	16
6	32
7	64
8	128
9	256
10	512
11	1024
12	2048
13	4096
14	8192
15	16384
16	32768
17	65536
18	131072
19	262144
20	524288
21	1048576
22	2097152
23	4194304
24	8388608
25	16777216
26	33554432
27	67108864
28	134217728
29	268435456
30	536870912
31	1073741824
32	2147483648
33	4294967296
34	8589934592
34th day	859 crore people

According to worldometer, the total population on planet earth on 26-4-2020 morning was 778 crore. In other words, corona can spread to entire mankind within 34 days. We do not live together. Oceans and Mountains break the chain. The break save us. Social distance only can kill Corona.