



Brief report on the First All India Conference of SNPWA at Ernakulam on 23rd and 24th September 2024:

This conference was not just a revelation, it was a revolution. Never before had a conference of such magnitude, elegance, and captivating presence taken place. The city, the ambiance, the accommodation, the food, the flawless conduct—every aspect of this gathering stood out. It will remain etched in our memories for years to come. The proficiency, efficiency, and professionalism with which our CHQ President and his entire team orchestrated the event were truly awe-inspiring.

I. Pre- AIC CWC:

The conference commenced on the 23rd of September at 3:30 pm with the Pre-AIC Central Working Committee (CWC) meeting. In this session, the General Secretary's report, presented before the Representative Council, was reviewed and approved. Alongside it, the CHQ Treasurer's statement of accounts was scrutinized and ratified.

II. Flag hoisting:

The association flag hoisting ceremony, led by the CHQ President, followed at 5.45 pm. True to its nature, the event was vibrant and grand, reflecting the spirit of our association.

III. Open session:

The Open session began at 6:20 pm in the W. Seshagiri Rao Nagar Hall, aptly named after the unforgettable and unparalleled leader who elevated our cadre to the highest levels. The hall was packed to capacity, brimming with excitement and anticipation. The proceedings commenced with an invocation by Com. P. Ramakrishnan, followed by a solemn tribute to the departed leaders and comrades who had significantly contributed to our cause.

Com. George Varghese delivered the welcome address, setting the tone for the evening. Then came the opening remarks from our CHQ President, who eloquently addressed the audience and focused on the grave challenges BSNL has been facing. He spoke passionately about how the public sector telecom giant has been systematically undermined to foster the growth of private sector players. While BSNL pioneered 3G services in 2010, it has been left stagnant ever since, as private companies swiftly advanced to 4G and 5G, with the tacit support of those in power. This disparity has not only stunted BSNL's growth but has also led to a steep rise in tariffs, unfairly burdening the hapless customers.

In his keynote address, the General Secretary highlighted the core values of solidarity and compassion that drive SNPWA in protecting the rights of its members. He noted that while significant progress has been made, the association remains focused on key issues such as pension revision, which he emphasized cannot be compromised. Other critical matters include the timely payment of the commuted value of pensions after 10 years and 8 months, the implementation of the Supreme Court

judgment on Date of increment, and increasing the fixed medical allowance for CGHS retirees in line with the recommendations of the Parliament Standing Committee. The General Secretary also underscored the need to reform and revise CGHS rates. He expressed pride in the association's successful introduction of a group health insurance scheme offering affordable, cashless treatment and emphasized that these and other issues remain priorities for SNPWA.

He reiterated the association's unwavering commitment to overcoming challenges and ensuring the welfare of every pensioner. The growing membership, he noted, reflects the trust placed in SNPWA's mission, and he assured that the association would continue addressing the urgent needs of senior citizens.

The General Secretary also urged the Hon'ble MP, Shri Hibi Eden, to stand with SNPWA in protecting Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs), which are now being undermined by private operators, with the government's implicit support.

Hon'ble MP Shri Hibi Eden, who inaugurated the open session, delivered an eloquent and well-informed speech. He expressed, in no uncertain terms, his understanding and appreciation of our concerns regarding pension revision, which has been unjustifiably denied for the past seven years. He fully concurred with our views on the government's disregard for PSUs in favor of private operators and promised his unwavering support for all movements aimed at protecting PSUs, particularly BSNL and MTNL.

The Chief General Manager (CGM) of Kerala, Shri B. Sunilkumar, highlighted BSNL's future plans, particularly regarding the forthcoming 4G sector, which he hoped would be fully implemented in the coming months.

Dr. V. P. Kuriype, Chairman of the Indian Medical Association (IMA), reminisced about his long-standing relationship with our CHQ President and pledged the full support of the IMA in the successful conduct of the conference.

Leaders of other unions and associations, including Comrade V. A. N. Namboothiri, Advisor AIBDPA, Comrade M. S. Adsul, GS SNEA, Comrade. V. K. Tomar, Former SG NCOA & GS MTNL EA, Comrade D.D. Mistry, GS BDPA and Com.R.K. Mudgil, GS MREWA expressed their firm commitment to achieving the long-overdue pension revision.

The vote of thanks was delivered by Com. P. K. Kamalasanan, concluding the session with heartfelt gratitude to all participants and guests.

IV. Delegates' session:

The session commenced at 10:00 a.m. on 24th September 2024 with an invocation by Smt. Jayamala. In his opening remarks, the CHQ President highlighted the rapid and widespread growth of the organization. He expressed high praise for the General Secretary, Com. G. L. Jogi, whose leadership is recognized and respected by all associations, unions, and the administration. The President noted that Com. Jogi's past and present contributions have exceeded all expectations, playing a pivotal role in the Association's expansion across the country. He also provided a detailed analysis of the achievements made by various Circles, commending them for their outstanding performances.

Summary of Developments Presented in the report by the GS:

Formation and Growth of SNPWA - Founded in 2019, SNPWA has made steady progress despite challenges posed by the pandemic. The Association remains committed to advocating for pensioners' rights with integrity.

Key Issues highlighted in the report:

1. Pension Revision:

The issue is progressing slowly, with SNPWA securing a favorable judgment from PB CAT. However, DOT's writ petition has delayed implementation. The Association is determined to secure the pension revision from 01.01.2017.

2. Joint Forum Actions:

SNPWA has been part of joint protests to push for pension revision, with future actions, including a Parliament march, planned.

3. Maharashtra ST Comrades Case:

Progress has been made in securing payments for affected comrades, though many issues remain unresolved.

4. Medical Allowances:

SNPWA has ensured the timely settlement of medical bills for pensioners and continues to work on clearing backlogs.

5. Fast-Track CGHS Refunds:

The Association reduced the CGHS refund process to 30-45 days and continues to ensure quick processing.

6. Tax on CGHS Contributions:

Efforts are ongoing to resolve the taxability issue of CGHS refunds, with legal opinions sought and discussions underway.

7. Pay Fixation for Officiating JTOs:

SNPWA has made progress in resolving pay fixation issues for Kerala's JTOs and expects a final resolution soon.

8. CGHS Referral Process (28.06.2024):

Concerns on certain issues in the revised CGHS referral process was taken up by the Association and now remains satisfactory to the beneficiaries.

9. Linking CGHS with ABHA:

We opposed integrating CGHS with ABHA, citing data privacy risks, service disruptions, and potential downgrading of CGHS to basic healthcare levels. Our protests led to the order being placed in abeyance.

10. Suggestions for Senior Citizens in the Budget:

Key proposals included tax exemptions on fixed deposit interest, GST exemption on medical insurance, leave encashment revision, and increased ex-gratia limits. Though not fully addressed, some relief is expected on GST in health care sector.

11. Supreme Court Increment Order:

The Supreme Court's order granting increments to retirees on the eve of their DNI has not been universally applied. We urge its implementation for all eligible retirees.

12. Free Phone Facilities for DOT/BSNL Retirees:

Recent changes in FTTH plans created disparities between serving employees and retirees. We requested parity, including free FTTH plans and prepaid GSM options.

13. SNPWA's First CWC Meeting (Jaipur):

Held in April 2023, the meeting addressed pension revision, legal cases, and organizational growth, with strategies to increase membership.

14. Online CWC Meetings:

Focused on pension revision, VRS issues, and planning the All India Conference.

15. 5% IDA for Pre-2018 MTNL Pensioners:

After years of effort, the issue is progressing in DOT, with the file moved to the Additional Secretary for action.

16. Stoppage of Commuted Pension Recovery:

Courts have ruled to stop recovery after 10 years and 8 months, and we are planning legal action for broader implementation.

17. SNPWA's Continued Progress:

Despite being a new association, SNPWA's strong actions have earned the trust of the pensioner community, with membership steadily growing.

18. Conclusion:

Our efforts continue with determination, aiming to achieve more for the pensioner community through collective action.

After unanimous approval of the report by GS, the CHQ Treasurer presented the statement of accounts which was also approved unanimously.

The meeting continued discussing key issues and the following decisions were taken

1. The pension revision issue is **non-compromisable**. It should be pursued at all possible levels.
2. Court should be approached to implement the Supreme Court decision with retrospective effect with applicability to all.
3. Legal funds @₹500 per member as fixed should be collected without any let up immediately.
4. CHQ health insurance scheme should be continued without break.

CHQ office bearers addressed the gathering and contributed valuable inputs. Further Circle Secretaries from 18 Circles presented their reports. Most of them showed considerable growth. All promised to strive further for organisational growth as well as to implement the decisions taken by the CHQ.

The present CHQ body was dissolved by the president at 19.00 hrs on assumption of charge by Com. George Varghese as Chairman, Representative council.

In the election that followed the following CHQ Office Bearers were unanimously elected:

Sl .No	Post	Name	Mobile
1	PRESIDENT	K.D. SEBASTIN	9447544100
2	VICE PRESIDENT	A. CHANDRASHEKHAR	9440000733
3	GENERAL SECRETARY	G.L.JOGI	9868217799
4	TREASURER	S.S. RAJPUT	9413394204
5	DEPUTY GENERAL SECRETARY	D C SHARMA	9868137778
6	ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY	DILIP SHAH	9433000165
7	ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY	R.RAJAN	9486102600
8	ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY	C.B. SINGH	9412774489
9	ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY	SHANKAR KISSAN GHUGE	9422726500
10	ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY	SHARAD SAHADEO NAGWEKAR	9420052525
11	ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY	V.K.PRASAD REDDY	9440000312
12	ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY	SARADA PRASAD SAMANTARAYA	9437300011
13	ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY	D. HRISHIKESHA HEBBAR	9449754226
14	ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY	JASVIR SINGH	94173 00013
15	ASSISTANT GENERAL SECRETARY	ARIJIT ROY PRODHANI	9435000234
16	JOINT SECRETARY (NORTH)	JAIPAL CHOUDHARY	9416442666
17	JOINT SECRETARY (EAST)	SANKAR SANYAL	9433400206
18	JOINT SECRETARY (CENTRAL)	V.K.SHUKLA	9415335925
19	JOINT SECRETARY (WEST)	ARUN GANESH JOSHI	9422039222
20	JOINT SECRETARY (SOUTH)	V.JAYARAMAN	9486101666

	HONARARY PRESIDENT	MOHAMMED ASHRAF KHAN	9869847500
	LEGAL ADVISOR	GEORGE VARGHEESE	9447162900

Oath was administered to the new set of office bearers. The president and GS in their acceptance speech requested total co-operation from all the circles and the grass root levels of membership.

Resolutions from some Circles were received which were accepted for further process.

Vote of thanks to the host Circle was proposed by Com. B.N.Tripathy, CS Odisha. Following National Anthem the President adjourned the house sine die at 21.00 hrs.
