



# ALL INDIA INSURANCE PENSIONERS' ASSOCIATION

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Circular No.05/2023.

To All affiliated Units.

Date: 18.05.2023

## **Re: Decisions and deliberations of the C.C Meeting of AIIPA held at Hyderabad on 15<sup>th</sup>&16<sup>th</sup> May, 2023.**

Dear Comrades,

The Central Committee Meeting of the All India Insurance Pensioners' Association (AIIPA) took place, as scheduled, on 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup> May, 2023, at Hyderabad. This was the first meeting after the last Eighth Conference of AIIPA. Fifty two out of sixty-seven CC Members attended the meeting. Coms Amanulla Khan and K Venu Gopal, two senior leaders of the Insurance Employees' Trade Union Movement and former President and General Secretary of AIIEA respectively, attended and addressed the meeting on the first day while Coms V. Ramesh and ShrikantMishra, the present President and General Secretary, AIIEA addressed the meeting on the second day as invitees.

The meeting at the outset observed a minute's silence to pay homage to all those illustrious personalities and leaders of insurance employees movement and AIIPA who passed away during the period under review.

On the first agenda, Com. M. Kunhikrishnan, General Secretary, AIIPA placed the report on the activities of AIIPA since its last conference in the context of the prevailing situation in the International and National arena as well as in the Public Sector Insurance industry. The report noted that the pro-corporate neo-liberal globalisation had pushed the World Economy particularly that of the capitalist world to the morass of a deepening crisis with the concomitant attacks by the ruling classes on wages, pension, other social security, and welfare measures in the name of austerity measures. Neo-liberalism has failed world-wide. In our country also the aggressive persuasion of the pro corporate neo liberal economic policies has not only posed unprecedented threats to the lives and livings, rights and privileges of the working people including the Pensioners, but also has brought down the economic growth rate. Social securities have come under serious attack. Public sector including the Public Sector Insurance has been facing the increasing threat of privatisation. The present ruling dispensation while launching an economic aggression against the working masses also has stepped up their drive for communal polarisation to divide the people and distract their attention from the basic issues of the lives and livings. It, at the same time, has been resorting to authoritarian measures to gag the voice of protest.

However, despite all these anti democratic policies of the Government people's resistance to the anti-people and anti-democratic government has been mounting, the report pointed out. In such a backdrop, the report narrated the efforts made by the AIIPA to realize the enhancement of family pension at the uniform rate of 30% and discussions with GIPSA officials and the LIC management on different pressing issues of the insurance pensioners. The report referred to the massive success of the Dharna programme organised by AIIPA at JantarMantar at New Delhi on 29<sup>th</sup> March, 2023 to attract national attention on the issues of enhancement of family pension and updation of pension and the countrywide demonstration by the insurance pensioners and employees on that day. However, the issue is yet to be resolved. The report noted the improvements made in the Group Mediclaim policy due to the relentless efforts of AIIPA, but

deplored the imposition of GST on premiums, the burden of which has to be carried by the pensioners. The freezing of premium for 60-65 age band granted to GI Pensioners is a real achievement secured due to consistent efforts made by AIIPA. The report also discussed the present status of our SLP before Supreme Court vis-a-vis the efforts of AIIPA to expedite the hearing. AIIPA's donation to the relief operations for the victims of Assam flood to the tune of more than Rs.7,50,000/- and the massive relief works the units of AIIPA jointly with the that of AIIEA in the Brahmaputra and Barak Valley of the state including the renovation of the classrooms of a flood hit High School at Galdighala which was inaugurated by ComSrikantMishra in a public meeting also was mentioned in the report. It is a matter of great satisfaction that AIIPA today has emerged as the largest national organisation of Insurance Pensioners. However, there is no room for complacency and intense membership drive has to be carried out by all the Units and serious efforts must be made to form units where these are yet to be formed. Finally the report called upon the insurance pensioners to identify themselves more closely with the united struggles of the working people against the neo liberal economic policies and in defence of the public sector, democracy and peoples' unity. It urged upon CC members to deliberate on all issues facing the pensioners and come up with concrete suggestions so as to enable the meeting to draw a road map for further advancements.

Com. J Gurumurthy, Vice President, AIIPA very ably supplemented the General Secretary's submission and particularly focused on the relentless efforts of AIIPA in the General Insurance sector to resolve the issues of the pensioners. He appreciated the overwhelming response to the call of AIIPA for donations from the arrears of wage revision by the pensioners. Com. Gurumurthy pointed out that this was reflection of the increasing faith reposed by the pensioners in GI sector in AIIPA.

On the agenda of organisation, Com. KKC Pillai, Joint Secretary, AIIPA placed a brief report that the organisation registered an increment of more than 6500 members during the period under review and the total membership of AIIPA stand at forty thousand, of these eleven thousand belong to the general insurance. He urged upon those units who are yet to pay their affiliation fees to pay at the earliest. The report noted that during the period under review, three new units, IPA, Vadodara, LICPA, Silchar Division and LICPA, Haldwani Division were opened.

Thirty one CC members including one woman comrade took part in the discussions on both the reports. They enriched the reports with the experiences of their activities at the grass root level. All of them strongly deplored the inordinate delay in sanctioning the enhanced family pension by the government to the Insurance Pensioners and expressed concern at the extremely slow pace of SLP in Supreme Court. They also raised several issues confronting the pensioners and placed before the meeting the reports of their activities in their respective spheres. The discussions were lively and encouraging.

Addressing the meeting on the first day Com. Amanulla Khan said that progress and expansion registered by AIIPA since its last conference was noteworthy. It vindicated the decision taken in the 8th Conference to increase the number of the office bearers and size of the Central Committee. He, however, pointed out the weakness of the organisation in implementing the decision to organise seminars on Universal Social Security for All at different centres as decided by the last conference. Explaining the grim challenges emanating from the policies pursued by the present ruling dispensation to the working people including the insurance pensioners and also to the Public Sector Insurance, he suggested some programmes that the meeting should consider to meet these challenges and advance.

Com. K.Venu Gopal also explained the challenges posed by the government policies to the LICI and PSGI companies and IRDA's move to smuggle in several changes in the Insurance Act with a sinister aim to weaken the public sector insurance. This poses a threat to the pensioners also. He urged upon the pensioners to actively join the campaign to protect public sector insurance and contribute to the building up of a powerful public opinion in defence of the public sector insurance. The enlightening address of both the veterans immensely benefited the meeting and helped it chart out the course of advance.

Coms. V. Ramesh and Srikant Mishra in their address informed the meeting of the ceaseless efforts being made by the AIIEA for realisation of enhancement of family pension. They asserted that if this demand was not acceded to soon AIIEA would mobilise employees in united strike action as was decided by the 26th conference of AIIEA. Explaining the challenges and possibilities of the present situation, they called for closer coordination between AIIPA and AIIEA .

The Central Committee after threadbare discussions decided unanimously to implement the following programmes of actions.

1. **At least 2 MPs in each State, irrespective of political affiliations, to be approached with the request to them to write letters to the Finance Minister of India on enhancement of family pension at a uniform rate of 30% as recommended by LIC and GIPSA. This task must be completed within two months and in any case number of MPs approached should not be less than 25 in total. Draft memorandum would be made available within a couple of days.**
2. **To initiate online mass signature campaign to Prime Minister on the demand of upgradation of pension as is being enjoyed by the Central Government and RBI employees.**
3. **To take suitable steps involving the pensioners at the earliest for early hearing of our SLP in the Supreme Court**
4. **To organise seminars on Universal social security/ Pension Scheme at different centres of the country by involving other Trade unions, Pensioners' organisations, mass organisations and distinguished personalities.5 of such seminars must be conducted in metro cities before 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2023.**
5. **Online petition through Change.Org on the demand of eliminating GST on the health insurance.**
6. **To initiate efforts first at the apex level to bring other pensioners' organisations in the insurance sector on a united platform for building up joint campaign/struggle on some agreed common issues.**
7. **To actively participate in the campaign to protect LIC and PSGI Companies.**

The meeting ratified the decision taken by the Secretariat meeting held on 08.12.2022 to co-opt Com D Krishnamurthy as Vice President, Com Amitendra Chatterjee as Joint Secretary and Coms H Venugopal & Arjun Ramani as CC members.

The decision, to appoint M/s Vekiteswaran and Veeramani, Chartered Accountants, Chalappuram, Calicut -673 002 as Auditors of the Association,taken by the Secretariat was also ratified by CC meeting.

A Souvenir cum Directory brought out in commemoration of the Silver Jubilee Year Conference of GIPA, Andhrapradesh was released on the first day of the meeting by Com AmanullahKhan and the first copy was received by Com M Kunhikrishnan, General Secretary.

Com. Satanjib Das, President, AIIPA presided over the meeting. In his concluding presidential address, he called upon on CC Members to take sincere initiative to implement the above programmes in letter and spirit. Com. T.C. Jagadish, Asst. Treasurer AIIPA proposed vote of thanks. All the CC Members were highly appreciative of the excellent arrangements made by the AIIPA and AIIEA comrades at Hyderabad for the meeting and the care they have taken for the comfortable stay of all the comrades.

These are in short the decisions and deliberations of the meeting.

Comradely Yours,



General Secretary