

## ***The Significant and Eventful Five Years***

The mighty organization, All India BSNL DOT Pensioners Association is five years old. It was on 21<sup>st</sup> October, 2009, this great organization was born, and all our units through out the country are all set to celebrate the fifth anniversary in a befitting manner on 21.10.2014. It is a fact that almost all our comrades had to face many challenges in organizing the BSNL DOT Pensioners in the country, but could overcome with their sincere and patient hard work. Having said this, we cannot ignore the weaknesses still prevailing in certain areas and our combined efforts are certain to bear fruits and this should be a continuous process.

How we have been able to grow to this extent? Definitely because we have the correct perspective and vision inherited from the glorious tradition of the P&T Trade Union movement. This has enabled us to adopt a style of functioning, quite different from most of the other pensioners organizations. The main feature of our functioning has been and would be to organize struggles to achieve the genuine demands of the pensioners. It is our considered opinion generated from the past experiences that the pensioners have to work in tandem with the employees organizations for settlement of their important and basic issues. And this cannot be a one way affair and we have to join the struggles of the employees and we have rightly joined their struggles for their legitimate rights and most importantly to protect BSNL. Our social commitment has made us to join the struggles and strikes waged by the central trade unions demanding the issues of the workers and the people at large.

The emergence of AIBDPA and its association with the NCCPA and BCPC has helped to strengthen the mainstream of pensioners movement in the country. Our participation in the foundation congress of TUI (P&R) in Barcelona has earned us the international recognition also.

During this period we have taken up the genuine issues of the BSNL DOT Pensioners and also conducted a series of agitations for the settlement of the same. We could also achieve some of the demands, significantly the pension revision for the pre-2007 BSNL pensioners. Quarters for BSNL and DOT pensioners, Broadband concession at par with employees, timely disbursement of IDA etc. are the other achievements. Still we have to go a long way. Coimbatore CEC held on 29<sup>th</sup> & 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2014 has identified 29 demands and has decided to conduct a Sanchar Bhawan / Bharat Sanchar Bhawan March on 20<sup>th</sup> November, 2014. There have been most encouraging and enthusiastic response from all over the country for the Sanchar Bhawan March and the participation is certain to be massive, particularly in the wake of continued unjustified delay in issuing the orders on 78.2% IDA merger to the BSNL pensioners.

Now, that the true colour of the NDA government has become crystal clear, pursuing vigorously the neo-liberal policies, harder days are to come. Let us strive hard to strengthen our beloved organization, AIBDPA and elevate it to new heights to face any challenges heroically. CHQ salutes all comrades and friends and extend warmest greetings to all on this happy occasion of 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.