



Dr Jitendra Singh Supports Early Empanelment of AIIMS, WCs For Leh, Kargil.

Jandial flagged CGPWA issues at SCOVA meeting



Chairing the 35th SCOVA meeting at New Delhi on 10th March, the Union Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions, PMO and Atomic Energy, Dr Jitendra Singh lauded the contributions of senior citizens and pensioners in nation building and said that their engagement was helping the Govt to refine welfare systems and improve service delivery systems.

Dr Jitendra Singh assured Pensioners' Associations that the Deptt of pension and Pensioners' Welfare has been seriously engaged in successfully addressing the issues of pensioners by coordinating with different Ministries and Departments for ensuring ease of living of pensioners with dignity. The Govt promotes pensioners' Associations participation to ensure consultation in formulating policies for pensioners.

The Standing Committee of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) was constituted in 1986 to institutionalize coordination between the central Govt and Pensioners Associations. It comprises representatives of 15 Central Govt Pensioners Welfare Associations, five of them are standing members while ten are rotational members with tenure of two years. The CGPWA Jammu has the

distinction of remaining its member for four times, currently appointed member in succession. Besides, there are official members representing various Government of India ministries / departments, ensuring representation from diverse regions and services.

The General Secretary, CGPWA, Jammu, Shri K B Jandial who attended the SCOVA meeting, put forth following issues for consideration: -

CGHS

1. Delay in supply of medicines by the Chemist, taking a minimum of 5 days whereas under rule it should be within one day. I also mentioned that the Chemist is shifting his shop and has informed that the supply of medicines will not be made for ten days. It is a serious situation, and the Director CGHS should intervene. Response- Director CGHS remained silent but made a surprise announcement that the CGHS is planning to put a condition of supply of indented medicines to WC in 2 days, failing which it shall supply medicines at the beneficiary's home himself.
2. I forcefully spoke about the callous attitude of CGHS authorities of not responding to messages

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and even letters. I quoted my letter to DG CGHS sent last year in which 8 long pending cases of MRCs including one of the periods of COVID. There was no tangible answer but said that our APP is now functional. The Hon'ble Minister asked about the long pending cases? He had no answer. He was asked to trace out these.

3. Requested the Hon'ble Minister to intervene and ask the CGHS authorities to empanel the AIIMS Vijaypur as it will benefit all pensioners for assured healthcare as it, unlike many Corporate Hospitals, would not say no to CGHS beneficiaries. The Minister intervened and asked the Director CGHS to do something and get it empaneled at the earliest.

4. I raised the matter that at a meeting chaired by J&K CS and attended by CGHS authorities, space for establishment for more WCs, probably ten WCs in GMC Hospitals, has been earmarked and now Doctors & staff have to be deployed to make these functional.

5. Taking permission from Shri C Phunsog, President of UT Ladakh Pensioners' Association, I raised the issue of opening of a new CGHS WC, each at Leh & Kargil. It was supported by the Hon'ble Minister.

6. In view of major problems of pensioners arising out of CGHS functioning and their evasive attitude, a separate meeting only on CGHS be organised with the presence of Secretary Health, DG CGHS and other officers.

7. On delayed payments to HCOs, the Director CGHS informed that they are ensuring payments within 40 days.

Pension Department issues

8. While the agenda didn't include Pensioners' concern on amendment of pension rules in the Finance Act, 2025 and ToR of 8th CPC, the Gen Secy CGHWA, Jammu and Chennai representative did raise it at the concluding session of the meeting. The Secretary Pensions, Mrs. Rachna Shah who is also the Secretary DOPT, responded that all representations received on the issue are being taken note of. The Hon'ble Minister too assured that there would not be any discrimination among pensioners and said that the 8th CPC has formally invited suggestions from all stakeholders and Pensioners' Associations should take advantage of it and put across their views for the CPC to consider.

9. On "disposal of cases" registered on CPENGRAMS, the issue of "case is disposed of" without any benefit to the complainant was raised with special mention of the case of Shri Yougesh Kanotra of ASI. While he did receive a call, purportedly from someone from the Portal side, and enquired about his resolution of his complaint and he informed that his grievance on notional increment has not been resolved. The Hon'ble Minister asked the officers to do the needful to make the whole exercise pro-pensioners. The Officers informed that the Department would consider a fresh OM.

10. The Gen Secy raised the issue of a new system of Grant-in-Aid and said that there is no flexibility in spending (quantum & remuneration for helper, mali etc.) wherever required, and no provision for maintenance of the office accommodation, the J S Pension Shri Sengupta informed that the Department wanted in the same way, but the Expenditure Deptt did not agree. He asked the General Secretary to send to the Pension Deptt a detailed letter on this issue with suggestions.

11. The DOPPW informed that it is working on simplifying and rewriting Rule 50 (family Pension).

Members Excel in Diverse Fields, Making CGPWA Proud

The Central Government Pensioners' Welfare Association (CGPWA), Jammu, continues to be a powerhouse of expertise and talent. Recently, three of our distinguished members—Shri Pramod Jain, Shri V.K. Sambyal, and Shri K.S. Jamwal—have brought immense pride to the Association through their exceptional contributions to governance, culture, and science.

Shri Pramod Jain: Pioneering Administrative Reforms



The Chairman of the three-Member first Administrative Reforms Commission of Arunachal Pradesh Shri Pramod Jain, IAS (Retd) and life member of CGPWA, Jammu presented a 160-page Preliminary Report to the Chief Minister Shri Pema Khandu on February 23, 2026. Shri Jain is a former Chief Secretary ranked IAS officer of J&K cadre.

The high-powered panel was mandated to advise the Government on strengthening and improving the working of the State Government at various levels and prepare the administration not only for better governance and service delivery, but also to catch up with the rest of the country especially North-East as an integral part of Viksit Bharat.

This Commission has reportedly made significant recommendations on strengthening District Administration, Circle (Tehsil) Administration, institutionalizing bottom-up planning, decentralization and delegation of power and authority (architecture, supervisory and financial) rationalization of manpower in key Departments and revision of Recruitment Rules. It recommends preparation of the state to catch up with national standards in service delivery and infrastructure.

The Report is significant since the State of Arunachal Pradesh, the largest amongst the eight States of the North-East, which traditionally has the highest degree of isolation with strong tribal and tradition, local institutions of governance and justice delivery, typical culture, traditions and heritage. Reforms are not merely about changing systems, but also making governance more responsive, transparent and people-centric



Shri V.K. Sambyal: A Masterclass in Classical Melody



Nationally renowned artist of classical music, Shri Vijay Kumar Sambyal, popularly known among artists as 'Rangeeley Thakur' and a member of the Executive Committee of CGPWA, Jammu presented captivating classical vocal recital on March 14, 2026 in the 4th edition of Tawi Festival organised by the Hari Tara Charitable Trust and Amar Mahal Museum and

Library. His performance reflected deep musical maturity and aesthetic brilliance, leaving the audience at Kala Kendra spellbound. Dr. Karan Singh presided over the classical music evening.

It was technical brilliance when Shri Sambyal did soulful renditions of Raag Yaman and Raag Dhaani, with Ridima Bajpai on vocal support and an ensemble of his talented students and





local maestros such as Shubham Banmotra, Krishna Thakur, Rajveer Singh & Samosh Kumar, whose synchronized support enhanced the overall musical experience. It was followed by two drut bandishein — “Baanware Mat Kar Guman” and “Hari Muraliya Bajai.” He then moved on to Raag Dhaani, rendering two compositions — “Nipat Anari Bhayo Aisa Tu Mera Saiyaan” and a Punjabi bandish “Saade Naal Ve Miya.” Then, he presented a heartfelt Dogri geet “Eh

Mitti Di Maya Maya,” originally written by Shri Mohan Singh, Padma awardee and composed by Shri Sambyal himself.

Responding to a special request from Dr. Karan Singh, Shri Sambyal presented a melodious bhajan in Raag Bhupali, which deeply resonated with the audience. He concluded the recital with a soulful bhajan in Raag Bhairavi, bringing the performance to a spiritually uplifting close.



Shri K.S. Jamwal: A Global Authority in Geological Science

The third celebrated member of the CGPWA, Jammu is Shri K S Jamwal, former Dy Director General of GSI whose services have been regularly requisitioned for projects within and outside India in view of his outstanding expertise in geological science.

He was appointed as Geological Advisor in WAPCOS, (a Govt of India Undertaking) for highest Afghan-India friendship dam in Herat Province of Afghanistan from 2008 to 2016. Later, the WAPCOS used his services geological advice for their other hydropower projects in different countries in Ethiopia, D.R. Congo, Barundi (South Africa), Mozambique, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal and Bhutan. He is still associated with some of these projects and recently the Ministry of Energy and Water of Afghanistan Govt invited him, in February 2026. Leading a senior level team from India he carried out a comprehensive technical assessment for strengthening irrigation, water supply and regional development of Afghanistan.

Within country, he was engaged by Jay Pee Construction company as geological advisor for all their hydro projects, including Baglihar Hydro power project stage II. Meanwhile, he was associated with the construction of Chenani-Nashri Highway Tunnel and had supervised all geological activities. The H.P Govt also engaged him as a member of a panel of experts for Renuka Dam project in Sirmaur district and the NHA also sought his geological advice for landslides and National Highway alignment in Mandi district of H.P. In 2020, the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways took him as a member of an Expert Committee for resolving issues in tunnelling works on National Highways in the country. In 2024, the NHA again took him as a third-party geological advisor to review the ongoing tunnelling work in Ramban and Jammu districts.



The CGPWA, Jammu, salutes these stalwarts for proving that retirement is merely a transition to new heights of service and excellence

From Editor's Desk

Reform CGHS: Ensure Dignity, Not Just 'Disposal'



For millions of central government pensioners, the CGHS is not merely a welfare benefit; it is a lifeline. Yet, as highlighted in the recent 35th SCOVA meeting chaired by Dr. Jitendra Singh, a cavernous gap persists between policy intent and ground reality. While the government's push for "ease of living" is laudable, the lived experience of the elderly is too often defined by bureaucratic apathy and logistical friction. The most pressing grievance remains the fractured supply chain for medicines. The mandated 24-hour turnaround for local chemists is routinely ignored, forcing elders into waits of five days or more. For those reliant on life-saving drugs dispatched from Chandigarh, these delays are not just inconveniences they are health risks. While the proposal to mandate home delivery if medicines aren't supplied within 48 hours is a welcome step, it must be backed by technology. We need a real-time tracking system for "indented" medicines to ensure accountability and spare pensioners repeated, fruitless trips to Wellness Centres. Furthermore, penalties for defaulting chemists must move off the paper and into practice. Infrastructure expansion is equally critical. Empaneling premier public institution like AIIMS Vijaypur and establishing new CGHS Wellness Centres in Leh and Kargil are vital moves. By leaning on top-tier public

hospitals, the government can bypass the hurdles created by private corporate hospitals that frequently deny care citing low CGHS rates or reimbursement delays. Our seniors deserve the high-quality, reliable care these WCs provide. The "callous attitude" regarding Medical Reimbursement Claims (MRCs) must end. It is unacceptable that claims—some dating back to the COVID-19 era—remain in limbo. Digitization via the CGHS app is a start, but it cannot replace human responsiveness. A fixed "Turnaround Time" for every query is essential, with automatic escalation to higher authorities if deadlines are missed. Similarly, the 40-day payment cycle for Health Care Organizations must be strictly enforced. Financial trust is the system's backbone; without it, private hospitals will continue to turn away beneficiaries. The SCOVA meeting served as a vital feedback loop, but "noting" a grievance is not the same as resolving it. The Ministry of Health must shift from a reactive to a proactive stance. The CPENGRAMS platform requires an urgent overhaul—evolving from a system that simply "registers" complaints into one that delivers tangible results. Success for the "Silver Generation" should not be measured by the "disposal" of a digital ticket, but by the restoration of a pensioner's health and dignity. The goal is simple: a healthcare system that honours the service of those who built this nation, ensuring that they are cared for in their sunset years with the respect they earned.

Elders' Melodic Bonanza at Bajurgan Da Vehraa

Monthly lunch is a regular feature of CGPWA activities. One such event was organised at Bajurgan Da Vehraa on 2nd March 2026, located in rural setting about 29kms from Jammu on Jammu - Samba stretch of National Highway.



Thirty-two members reached there. What began with a humble request from the General Secretary to Shri Vijay Singh Sambyal, soon transformed into an unplugged musical bonanza. The retired police officer, initially hesitant, broke the ice with a ghazal that was so stirring that it rendered the lack of musical instruments irrelevant. The energy shifted when the 87-year-old Patron, Shri S.S. Wazir, took the floor. His spirited delivery of Dogri folk classics like **"Inane loge**



de ke kuchh khaane" - **"Saag toda te qasoor"** brought a nostalgic warmth to the rural setting. However, the afternoon belonged to Dr. Ashok Bhan. In a display of pure Punjabi classical flair, he performed the hilarious 'Hakim Tara Chand' tappey. Using the table as a percussion instrument, he wove a tapestry of rural life and light-hearted social commentary that was as rhythmic as witty.



The 'infectious' beat turned the audience into a percussion ensemble, with every elder joining Dr Bhan in a synchronized cadence of clapping.

Dr Bhan himself enjoyed fully while singing- **hakim tara chand zara kothe pe aana, rupaiye dedo panjh jara kothepe aana, kya dard hai or kaha dard hai, mushkil hai logo ke aage batana, hakim tara chand zara kothe pe aana.**

'Hakim Tara Chand' is widely known for its two-liner rhythmic couplets.

The momentum was sustained by talented veterans - Ashok Angurana, Nissar Ahmad,



V.K. Sambyal (Guru ji), Ashok Sharma, and V.K. Zadoo, who rounded off the session with a soulful medley of Dogri geets, ghazals, and bhajans. It wasn't just a lunch; it was a vibrant and spontaneous celebration of different kind, proving that the music never stops the veterans of CGPWA, from feeling **Abhi to main jawan hoon**. It was an unforgettable event.

CGPWA Honours veterans, celebrates their birthday



On 23rd March, the CGPWA celebrated the birthday of its six veterans with cake-cutting by them & honouring each one of them with presentation of Roseed by the President, Shri Kuldeep Khoda. The lucky veterans are S/Shri Virender Wangnoo, Shiv Kumar Mengi, Dr.C M Seth, C.S.Jasrotia, V K Magotra and Brig.(Dr.)Rakesh Khajuria (Retd). All members present wished them a healthy and happy year ahead. The day was also celebrated as Eid- Milan. A sumptuous party was organised by the CGPWA in connection with these happy occasions.



A group photo of 38 members of the CGPWA who participated in outing at Bajurgan da Vehraa. The owner of the resort, Shri Deepak is also seen the photo.

CGPWA's monthly lunch



It provides opportunities to relax, interact and enjoy the company of friends & former colleagues. This picture is the lunch of the month of March organised at Jammu club on 28th March.

CGPWA, Jammu hails SC Judgment on Frozen DR Instalments.

Khoda writes to Dr Jitender Singh, Secretaries DoP&T, Pension & Expenditure to release DR



Sub: Representation for the release of three frozen instalments of Dearness Relief (DR) from 01.01.2020 to 30.06.2021.

Ref:- 1. Hon'ble Supreme Court's landmark Judgment dated 05.02.2026 in State of West Bengal vs Confederation of State Government Employees.

2. Forum of Retired IPS Officer's (FORIPSO) representation on this issue.

Sir/Madam,

On behalf of the Central Government Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu (CGPWA), I wish to formally bring to your attention a significant legal development regarding the statutory rights of pensioners as referred to above and seek the consequential release of withheld Dearness Relief (DR) arrears.

At the outset, our Association fully endorses and supports the representation recently submitted by the FORIPSO to you on this important matter. We stand in total solidarity with them for raising this common cause of the Central Govt Pensioners with you and seek reconsideration on the issue of the release of the three Dearness Allowance (DA) and Dearness Relief (DR) instalments withheld during the COVID-19 period.

The Hon'ble Supreme Court, in its landmark judgment of 5th February 2026 in State of West Bengal & Anr. v. Confederation of State Government Employees & Ors., has categorically and unambiguously ruled that DA and DR are legally enforceable statutory rights and not a matter of "bounty" or "charity". The Apex Court's key findings include:

Property Right: Salaries and allowances constitute "Property" under Article 300A of the Constitution of India.

Financial Defence Rejected: The Court firmly held that paucity of funds cannot be used as a reason to deny statutory dues. If the money is owed by law, the state must pay.

Constitutional Imperative: it held that DA is a tool

to protect the Right to Life and Dignity under Article 21, ensuring that inflation does not reduce employees and pensioners to mere survival.

Specific Claim for the 18-Month Arrears: While the Government restored DA/DR prospectively from 01.07.2021, the arrears for the following three instalments remain unpaid:

- 01.01.2020 to 30.06.2020 (4%)
- 01.07.2020 to 31.12.2020 (3%)
- 01.01.2021 to 30.06.2021 (4%)

The Central Government itself has already admitted in the court the legitimacy of these claims. By allowing the frozen DA rates to be used for calculating gratuity and leave encashment for those who retired during the pandemic, the Government has acknowledged that the right to that money had "accrued and crystallized." The Govt should not admit a right exists for one calculation (gratuity) and deny its existence for another (cash payment).

In view of the Hon'ble Supreme Court's ruling that financial constraints cannot defeat a legally established right, we earnestly request the Government of India to revisit the decision to freeze three DR instalments for the period 01.01.2020 to 30.06.2021 constituting 18-month arrears of DR totalling 11 % DR. and release these instalments. The Govt cannot morally or legally justify the permanent forfeiture of the statutory dearness relief owed to its senior citizens. We trust that the Government, as a Model Employer, will honour the spirit of the law and the precedent set by the apex court to provide long-awaited relief to the pensioner fraternity.

As such, we request the Govt to release these instalments to pensioners at the earliest.

With regards,

Yours faithfully,

(Kuldeep Khoda) IPS (Retd)

Former DGP & CVC, J&K & President, CGPWA, Jammu
Copy to Hon'ble Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions with a request to intervene in the matter