



Dear Readers,

I am glad to hand over to 4th year. volume I of **AIACE Today** with the readers. Since first issue of July,2019, we have continuously improved the contents and quality of the magazine in the interest of general readers and AIACE members in particular.

Our association has been working hard to meet the expectations of its members. We took up the issues and resolved them. We are very particular to take up individual issues and we have been successful in satisfying our members.

The most important issue before us as of today is revision of Coal Mines Pension scheme -1998 which was introduced by the NDA Govt and implemented w.e.f. 1/4/1994 as the robust social security cover for coal miners after retirement. But, in the last twenty-four years, it lost its fervour due to non-review and non- revision of pension to retirees as per provision.

AIACE along with associate organisations, All India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA) and other pensioners and welfare organisations is leading the struggle for the revision of pension. It is a matter of great surprise that many of coal pensioners and widows are forced to lead their lives at a meagre pension of less Rs 500/1000/month. In the past, we have tried to convince all the concerned about the plight of the coal pensioners but no visible action is being seen from any of the corners. Also, one case is pending in the Delhi High court for the last several years for revision of pension.

Our association had decided to approach the lawmakers and political leaders to bring our issue in their notice. Till date, we have approached as many as 89 MPS both from Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha across the party lines and many of them including a central minister have forwarded our concern to the coal ministry for revision of pension as deemed fit. We have also approached Presidents of major national and regional political parties to look into our issues and lastly to chief ministers of all coal-bearing states.

We do not want confrontation with the government but at the same time, we seek a respectful solution to our problem.

Under the banner of all India Coal Pensioners Association (AICPA), all the pensioners have unitedly decided to sit on a month-long dharna at Jantar- Mantar from 25 July 2022 to press for a review of CMPS-1998 and revise the pension.

We invite all working & retired coal employees and their family members to join hands for the movement for increased pension for coal miners.

Regards,

P. K. Singh Rathor