

Activities of CGPWA, J&K, Jammu during 2014 - 2015

- The Association held regular weekly meetings every Monday at 10.30 A.M during summer & 11.00 A.M during winter at its office-Jammu Olympic Association Building Parade Ground, Pin 180001. It is encouraging to see participation of members in these meetings ranging from 17 to 32 members averaging at 22 members per meeting which is a respectable number of participation in any NGO. Every meeting is marked by enthusiastic and constructive interaction. Discussions/interactive consultations were held in the meetings as per agenda with recording of the minutes.
- Forty seven such meetings took place during the year. Various problems of the pensioners were discussed and action initiated to resolve these including implementation of Web-based 'Pensioners' Portal', a Mission Mode Project under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP).
- Proactive participation of an appreciable number of members in the meetings and programmes of the Association shows that the Association is vibrant and focused towards its objective of service to the civil society in general and service to the pensioners/senior citizens in particular.

Annual General Body Meeting

- 19th Annual General Body Meeting of CGPWA, J&K, Jammu was held at Jammu Club on 28th April, 2015 with Padam Shri Prof. Ved Kumari Ghai as the Chief Guest. Nearly one hundred members attended the AGM besides a large number of prominent senior citizens and social activists who were invited as special invitees.
- Shri J. K. Vaid, General Secretary of the Association conducted the proceedings and presented the Annual General Report for the year 2013-2014. He also briefed the gathering about the latest Govt. orders for the welfare of pensioners, including notification of 2014 regarding amendment to CCS (Pension) Rules 1972, nomination of the CGPWA J&K to the apex body of Standing Committee Of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) for the second term 2013-15 and on a new initiative by Govt. of India (DoP&PW) - SANKALP for voluntary service by the pensioners in their chosen fields, thereby utilizing their skill and experience for the welfare of the civil society.

- **CGPWA J&K, having members coming from 31 Central Departments/Services, has been notified by Govt. of India as Nodal Association for central pensioners of J&K State. It is one of the 43 Central Govt. Pensioners' Associations in the country to get such recognition for operating Pensioners' Portal under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). The Association has been registered as Social Charitable Society u/s 12AA (1)(i) of Income Tax Act, 1961. The Income Tax Commissioner, Jammu has also issued the Certificate in favour of the Association qualifying all donations to the Association for Income Tax rebate u/s 80G (5) of the Income Tax Act.**
- **Shri S. S. Wazir, President in his welcome address greeted the Chief Guest, special invitees and the CGPWA members and briefly touched upon the welfare activities undertaken by the Association in service of the civil society in general and the pensioners and their families in particular.**
- **Shri V.P. Sharma, Patron and one of the Founder Members of CGPWA, J&K in his address gave a brief historical account of the Association which was founded in 1994 and registered as NGO in July 1995. He also spoke about the inspiring life and distinguished services rendered by the Chief Guest of AGM, Prof. Ghai, a renowned Sanskrit scholar and social activist. In recognition of her outstanding contribution to the society, the President of India conferred her with Padam Shri 2014.**
- **The CGPWA also honoured two of its senior members with Jeysht Vrisht Nagrik Award on attaining 80 years of age. They are Shri O. N. Koul, IPS (retd) (1933 born) and Shri H. R. Magotra, IAS (Retd) (1934 born).**
- **A 220- page comprehensive document - Pensioners' Journal 2014, and Members' Directory 2014 of the Association were released on the occasion.**
- **The Chief Guest, Prof. Ved Kumari Ghai in her address talked about Gandhian philosophy. She lauded the efforts being put in by the Association for welfare of the civil society, particularly the senior citizens including pensioners.**
- **Dr. N. K. Sharma, a noted Yoga Exponent & Naturopath delivered an illuminating lecture on Naturopathy for Elders which was received very well by the audience.**

- The AGM also adopted some amendments in the Constitution & Bye-laws of the Association, the draft of which was earlier approved by 24 members in its weekly meeting of 10th March, 2014 after detailed discussions.
- The Association unanimously elected its new team of Office Bearers for 2014-2017 term in its triennial elections. S/Shri S. S. Wazir was elected as President, B. K. Raina as Vice President, J.K .Vaid as Gen. Secretary, R. L. Kampasi as Secretary and H. N. Raina as Treasurer. Shri V. P. Sharma was nominated as Patron of the Association besides 5 Executive Members viz. S/Shri Prem Gupta IPS, (retd), Gh. Qadir Bacha IAS (retd) S.I.H.Qazmi IFS (retd), Ashok Kr. Sharma, BSF and Prithpal Sharma DAD.
- The function culminated with vote of thanks by Shri B. K. Raina, Vice President of the Association.
- The AGM 2013-2014 received wide coverage in electronic and print media.

CGPWA's response to Natural Calamity

- Jammu and Kashmir witnessed devastating floods in early September, 2014. The Association wasgrieved at colossal loss of life & property in the State due to unprecedented floods. Realizing its social responsibility to help mitigating sufferings of our affected brethren, the Executive Body of the Association issued an appeal 09.09.2014 to its Members to extend their help for the victims of the tragedy.
- In response to the Appeal, Rs. 1, 31,000/- were donated by 47 members in a month's time. This amount was transferred to Prime Minister's National Relief Fund A/c No. 10482011012215 in Oriental Bank of Commerce Trikuta Nagar Jammu on 9th October, 2014 through Cheque No. 407155 dt. 9.10.2014 (Vide Receipt No. AA8806 dated 9.10.2014 of Oriental Bank of Commerce Trikuta Nagar Jammu). Names of the donors were also forwarded to the Prime Minister of India for issuance of receipts in individual names of the donor members by the PMO.
- CGPWA J&K, in the past also, had promptly responded to such calamities with humble donations by pensioners, like Disaster at Kedarnath in June, 2013; Leh Cloudburst in August, 2010, Tsunami of December 2004 and Bhuj earthquake of 2002. The collections were credited into the account of the Prime Minister's National Relief Fund.

25th Meeting of SCOVA

- The CGPWA, J&K, Jammu was represented by its President Shri S. S. Wazir in 25th meeting of Standing Committee Of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) held at New Delhi on 5th September, 2014. Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State (PP) chaired the meeting. Two Agenda items were submitted by the Association for consideration in the Meeting. These were operationalization of an Extension Counter of CGHS Wellness Centre Jammu at Srinagar and further upgradation of infrastructural facilities at CGHS Wellness Centre Jammu. These points were deliberated upon in the meeting. The representative of the Ministry of Health & Family Welfare submitted that it would not be possible to open an Extension Counter at Srinagar due to infrastructural constraints. However, on the second agenda point, an assurance was given to speed up the computerization work of CGHS Wellness Centre Jammu. Draft Minutes of the 25th SCOVA meeting were received by e-mail on 12.9.2014 inviting feedback before issue of final minutes of the meeting. The feedback was mailed on 15th Sept. 2014 with the request to highlight the delay in computerization of CGHS Wellness Centre, Jammu and it was incorporated in the final minutes issued on 25th September, 2014.

26th SCOVA Meeting

- The CGPWA, J&K was represented in the 26th SCOVA meeting by its Vice President Shri B. K. Raina, Retd. Director GSI held at New Delhi on 3rd February, 2015 under the chairmanship of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble Minister of State. Three Agenda items were projected by him for consideration of the Government. Besides the earlier two points raised in 25th meeting, he raised the issue of further upgradation of infrastructural facilities at CGHS Wellness Centre Jammu. An assurance was given by the authorities to look into all these issues for redressal by the new BJP Government.

Observance of International Elders' Day

- The Association observed the International Elders' Day on 1st October 2014 by showing special consideration and concern towards the well being and welfare of very senior pensioners and family pensioners, especially those who are plus eighty years of age. A 4-member team comprising S/Shri V. P. Sharma, S. S. Wazir, P. P. Sharma and J. K. Vaid visited some of such senior Members including Maj. Gen. B. N. Dhar (1926 born), Shri D. N. Kotwal, IAS (retd) (1927 born), Shri H. R. Magotra IAS(retd) (1934 born, family pensioner Mrs. Abrol

W/O Late Shri H.L. Abrol, IFS (retd). On December 14, 1990 the UN General Assembly voted to establish October 1 as the International Day of Older Persons as recorded in Resolution 45/106. The day is celebrated by raising awareness about the issues affecting the elderly and to appreciate the contributions that older people make to society.

- These senior Members were honoured by way of presenting bouquets and copy of Pensioners' Journal 2014.
- It was ensured that the senior pensioners are not deprived of their rightful dues with regard to correct fixation of their pensions/family pension and necessary information inputs were made available to them such as getting date of birth of family pensioner included in the revised PPOs. This is necessary as the family pensioners would also be eligible to get additional pension on attaining age of 80, 85, 90, 95 and 100 at the rate of 20, 30, 40, 50 and 100% respectively. They were also briefed about commencement of OPD facilities at CGHS Wellness Centre Jammu from 7th Sept., 2012. Jammu Wellness Centre is in the process of computerization and the CGHS beneficiaries are going to be benefited by this by getting medical attendance facilities all over the country shortly. This gesture was appreciated by the senior pensioners and their family members and the visiting team was equally delighted by rendering service to their seniors.
- Committed to help pensioners in redressal of their grievances, the Association is prepared to render service to even those pensioners who have not become members of CGPWA in resolving their problems related to pension issues. The contact phone no. of the Association is 9419285851 and the head office housed in Jammu Olympic Association Bldg. Parade Jammu.

Celebration of 32nd national Pensioners' Day

- The Association celebrated 32nd National Pensioners' Day at Indian Institute of Public Administration on 17th December, 2014. The Hon'ble Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Shri N. N. Vohra was the Chief Guest. The function was attended by a large number of Members and Special Invitees representing Pensioners' bodies of State Government, eminent social activists.
- The Chief Guest Shri Vohra in his address complimented the Association for running a versatile organization which is looking after the interests of the pensioners, besides its active involvement in carrying out varied activities relating to social welfare. Being himself a pensioner, he said he had not seen

such a vibrant pensioners' body. The Governor suggested that the Association should consider utilizing its valuable collective talent and lifelong experiences of its eminent members to serve as a vital element in the society in order to advance the interests of the people at large. It could also help the Government in carrying out pressing reforms in governance system of our country.

- Shri J. K. Vaid, General Secretary, CGPWA who conducted the proceedings, briefed the gathering about the latest welfare initiatives taken by the DoP&PW and GOI on 'channelizing experience and skill of pensioners into meaningful socially useful activities' through SANKALP.
- Shri S. S. Wazir, President CGPWA, in his welcome address highlighted the salient features of the Association and its future plans with a brief background on the Pensioners' Day. It is being celebrated from 1983 on 17th December to commemorate the landmark judgment of the Supreme Court on this day in 1982 in a case titled D. S. Nakara vs. Union of India that held that pension is a right to the retiree. Recently, a good number of Central Govt. pensioners have registered themselves with the Association, taking the total number of its registered members to 248.
- Shri V.P. Sharma, Patron and noted Geologist & Environmentalist delivered an impressive power point presentation on the activities of the Association with special reference to natural hazards in Jammu & Kashmir State and Kashmir floods of September, 2014. He suggested concrete remedial measures to check such disaster in future.
- Shri B. K. Raina, Vice President CGPWA in his Vote of Thanks thanked all the guests including the Governor.
- Impressed by its appreciable role, Hon'ble Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri N. N. Vohra has sanctioned a special grant-in-aid of Rs. One lakh to the CGPWA, J&K, Jammu for the welfare activities of the Pensioners & senior citizens. The Association gratefully acknowledges the great motivating gesture of the Hon'ble Governor. The Executive Body of the Association held a Special Meeting on 25th March, 2015 and decided to use this special grant funds for the welfare of pensioners as under:
 1. An amount of Rs ten thousands was transferred to the J&K Bank Residency Road Srinagar S/B account No. 0005040100060106 of Srinagar Branch of the Association for office expenditure on stationery, postage etc.

2. An amount of Rs. 51,075.00 was expended for purchase of 30 cushioned steel chairs for the upcoming Day Care Centre:
 3. Rest of the funds have been earmarked for other necessary fixtures such as tables, fans, A.C., fridge etc. in the Day Care Centre, Association's Office Room at Exhibition Ground Complex Jammu adjoining to the CGHS Wellness Centre.
- Day Care Centre is being commissioned shortly for the benefit of pensioners and senior citizens. Its proximity to the CGHS Wellness Centre is an added advantage to the stakeholders, including the pensioners availing CGHS facility.

CGPWA – A Rich Human Resource Body

- The CGPWA has proactive expert vision, based on scientific data, on Environment related issues affecting our surroundings; such as deforestation, water conservation, conservation and management of lakes and other water bodies, development of sites/ ghats at holy places like Purmandal, Uttarbehni, development of geological sites along Katra-Vaishno Devi Bhawan track where two dozen such sites have been identified in a study carried out by Geological Survey of India in mid nineties etc. Core Group of the Association has been persistently trying to highlight these aspects with the concerned authorities for implementation and execution.
- A suggestion supported by a preliminary Geotechnical Note on Tawi Lake was rendered to the Minister for PHE, Irrigation & Flood Control in meeting with him and Principal Secretary along with two concerned Chief Engineers on April 22 & 23, 2009. It is a matter of great satisfaction that the long cherished dream of Tawi Lake and beautification of Tawi Ghats is to fructify soon, as the works on this project are already in advanced stages of progress.
- The Group also carried out preliminary survey of 100 tanks and ponds in Kandi Belt of Jammu in Kathua and Jammu Districts at the instance of the PHE Minister during June – July, 2009 with a view to generate base line data for rejuvenation of these neglected water bodies constructed with so much labour and resources in the past. Follow up action in this regard, however, is awaited and needs to be revived with necessary zeal and action by the concerned authorities.

Radio Talks, DD Awareness Programmes & Articles in Dailies

- A Group of Key Resource Persons of the Association is on panel of Radio Kashmir Jammu for radio talks and interviews at regular intervals, on environment and geo-science related issues to create awareness amongst the masses. Articles authored by them on varied topics including on famous twin lakes of Jammu viz. Mansar and Surinsar and scope of development of Geological Monuments in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh regions of J & K State have been appreciated by the readers, giving thrust to the novel ideas of nature friendly developmental activities in the State.
- Development of Geological Monuments/Sites with fossil horizons of Stromatolites (Fossilized Algae) along Katra – Vaishno Devi Bhawan track, visited by millions of pilgrims annually, merit special attention for an early execution. A couple of Awareness Programmes were recorded for broadcast on Door Darshan by a team of the Association including S/Shri S. S. Wazir, B. K. Raina & J. K. Vaid for dissemination of awareness on pension matters for the benefit of pensioners at large, including those living in remote areas.

Awareness on Disaster Management

- Disaster Management is yet another field where our experts can make substantial contribution. Complex Geological Processes are involved in many a disaster such as landslides, avalanches, earthquakes and floods. The Association is capable of rendering pragmatic and fruitful advice in this field and is prepared to play an Advisory role in this area. The Association is endowed with a capable group of experienced Geologists with vast field experience to cater to this aspect.
- It would be fruitful if the Government agencies & statutory boards utilize our expert services by placing the Select Association Experts in the panels of concerned Boards/Authorities engaged with the said Developmental Programmes besides Disaster Management.

Miscellaneous

Quarterly Review meetings & reports on Web-based Pensioners' Portal of Gol

- The Association has been holding review meetings after every 3 months and submitting Quarterly Reports to DoP&PW on activities pertaining to web-based Pensioners' Portal, a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance

Plan (NeGP) launched by Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Pensioners' Grievances and Pensions, GOI. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarters comprised period between April to June 2014, July to September 2014, October to December 2014 & January to March 2015 respectively. All other important activities of the Association are also highlighted in the Quarterly reports.

Registration of Grievances

- The Association registered Eight pensioners' grievances in Centralized Pension Grievances Redress And Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS) online in the Pensioners' Portal during the period under report. Out of this, 3 cases were resolved. However, 2 grievances had to be re-registered due to unsatisfactory redress. The cases were pursued by registering periodic reminders after reasonable time intervals. Out of the 5 pending cases as on date, 3 cases pertain to grant of FMA as per entitlement and 2 cases are in respect of revision of pension, including one of a family pensioner. It is seen that too much time is taken by the Departments in addressing the grievances, in spite of online system. However, the system seems to be working and status of the cases is updated at regular interval which can be viewed on CPENGRAMS Portal. There is an urgent need for the concerned Departments to respond to the grievances and resolve the same within a reasonable time-frame which need to be fixed by the concerned authorities to curb undue delay in redress of the grievances.

Voluntary Services by the Association

- The Association has been serving the central govt. pensioners in matters of their pension dues, re-fixation of pension as per Sixth CPC recommendations and subsequent O.M.s, pension arrears, timely release of Dearness Relief (DR), revised Fixed Medical Allowance and related matters. It is observed that there still exist many cases where the pensioners are not getting their rightful dues as per entitlement; especially those who retired long back and are in eighties or seventies. Such cases even if not pertaining to the registered members, would be taken for redressal if the Association is approached with relevant documents. All the pending 5 cases being pursued by the Association online through CPENGRAMS pertain to non-members pensioners and family pensioners only.

- It is, however, felt that a considerable number of pensioners, especially those residing in far off areas, are still deprived of awareness about their rights and measures adopted by the Government for their welfare. In this connection, the Association has been putting in efforts to give wide publicity through media and personal communications.
- The Association proposes to establish “operational cells” in some of the district headquarters in the State, besides a Branch Office at Srinagar, the summer capital of J & K. The Srinagar Branch Office has already been commissioned since 11th June, 2012.