

Activities Of Central Government Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu (Regd) during 2016 – 2017

Activities of Central Government Pensioners' Welfare Association, Jammu & Kashmir, Jammu for the period April, 2016 – March, 2017 are highlighted in the Annual Report:

Background Information:

Formation & Registration:

The Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association Jammu, J&K was formed in the first week of July, 1994 and was registered on 21st July, 1995 under Societies Act VI of 1998 (1941 AD) under Regd. No. 2349 - S of Registrar of Societies Jammu, Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The 1st Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the Association was held in 1996 with a limited number of members of nearly two dozen. The Association has made an impressive progress in all respects since then and total number of registered members as in March 2017 stands at 300, an addition of 22 new members during past one year.

Identification of the Association for Implementation of 'Pensioners' Portal' in 2008:

The Association after fulfilling the prescribed criteria qualified for Identification by Government of India for Implementation of Web-based Pensioners Portal a Mission Mode Project under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) along with 17 other Central Government Pensioners Associations across the country. (Vide F.No.41/88/07-P&PW (E) dated 20th November, 2008 & 18th March, 2009 of Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi). Under this plan, the Association has been declared as Nodal Agency for Central Government Pensioners of Jammu & Kashmir State for attending to their pension problems and related issues.

Currently the number of Identified Pensioners Associations for Pensioners Portal has gone from the initial 18 to 47 as on date, including 4 new Pensioners Associations which have been identified during March, 2017. ***Our Association figures at Sl. No. 6 in the List of Identified Associations on the Pensioners' Portal Website.***

Association Accorded Nomination to SCOVA – 2011-2013 & 2013- 2015 Terms:

Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association, J&K, Jammu was accorded nomination to the Standing Committee Of Voluntary Agencies (SCOVA) by Govt. of India (Vide Resolution F. No. 42/50/2010 . P&PW (G)

dated 24th June, 2011) by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions (Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare) as a Rotational Member for a 2 years term. It is creditable that the Association was re-nominated to the prestigious body of SCOVA for another term of 2 years 2013 . 2015 as per Resolution F.No.42/8/2013 . P&PW (G) dated 18th July, 2013.

SCOVA: The SCOVA was set up in 1986 as per the recommendations of Parliamentary Consultative Committee to mobilize the voluntary efforts to supplement the Government Action for establishment of mechanism for consultation with the representatives of the Central Pensioners Voluntary Organizations/NGOs. It is a useful and effective apex forum for holding consultation with the stakeholders, i.e., the pensioners through their Associations. The current body of SCOVA has been re-constituted in the Notification dated 25th August, 2015 with the following composition:

(a) Minister of State (Personnel, P.G. & Pensions) . Chairman

(b) Non-Official Members (15)

- (i) Standing Group . 5 Associations {(i) Air Force Association, Air Force Station, Race Course Camp, New Delhi - 110003. (ii) N.F. Railway Pensioners Association, Rest Camp, Pandu, Guwahati-781012, Assam (iii) Central Government Pensioner Association (CGPA), 4/159, Malviya Nagar, Jaipur- 302017, Rajasthan. (iv) Central Govt. Pensioners Welfare Association (CGPWA), Community Centre, Kendriya Vihar Library, Sector-51, Noida-201303 (v) Tamilnadu Ex-Services League, No. 10, R.R.Layout, Farakka Nagar Pasumalai, Madurai-625004, Tamilnadu}
- (ii) Rotating Group . 10 Associations {(i) Disabled War Veterans (India), B6/6, DLF City, Phase I, Gurgaon, Haryana - 122002. (ii) Association of Retired Officers of IA&ID, H. No. 2154, Sector 38-C, Chandigarh- 160038 (iii) All India Central Government Pensioners Association, EP-233, Naya Bazar, Jalandhar City, Punjab. (iv) Karnataka Posts and Telecommunications Pensioners Association (R), 165, 4thMain, 3 rd Block, 3 rd Stage, Banaveshwara Nagar, Bangalore- 560079 (v) Central Government Pensioners' Association, Kerala, "Pension Kendra", Patturaickal Jn, Thrissur-680022, Kerala. (vi) All India Central Government Pensioners' Association, 355, Ganga Mandir, Cuttack, Orissa. (vii) Kendriya Nivrutta Karmachari Mandai, "Shiva Suman", Martanda Complex Complex (back-side), Near Vaduwala Hospital, Kapdi Pole, Vadodara- 390001, Gujarat. -, (viii) Government Pensioners Association, 40/3, Bhandari Bagh, Dehradun- 2480001, Uttarakhand (ix) Central Govt. Pensioners Welfare Association, E-6, Shiv Basav Nagar, Shiv Mandir Road, Ambarnath-421501, Maharashtra (x) Uttarpara Central Government Pensioners' Association, Sushma Apartment (Ground Floor),35, Dwarik Jungle Road, P.O.Bhadrakalai, Hooghly- 712232, West Bengal.}

(c) Official Members:

- (i) Representative of Ministry of Finance (Deptt. Of Expenditure)
 - (ii) Representative of Ministry of Defence
 - (iii) Representative of Ministry of Railways
 - (iv) Representative of Department of Posts
 - (v) Representative of Department of Telecom
 - (vi) Representative of Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
- (d) Secretary, Deptt. Of Pension & Pensioners Welfare . Convener & Member Secretary.

2. The term of SCOVA will be of 2 years. The Standing Group would serve for three terms of two years each. The rotating Group would serve for one term of two years and would be eligible for re-nomination for one more term.

3. The SCOVA will hold its meeting as often as may be necessary. However, it will meet at least once in a year. (Presently SCOVA meetings are being held twice a year since 2013 under the Chairmanship of MOS, PMO).

4. The SCOVA will function to promote the following objectives:

(i) To provide a feedback on implementation of policies/programmes of the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare.

(ii) To discuss and critically examine the policy initiatives and

(iii) To mobilize voluntary efforts to supplement the Government action.

29th Meeting of SCOVA was held on 12th January 2017 under the chairmanship of Dr. Jitendra Singh, Hon'ble MOS (PMO).

Registration as Social Charitable Society and grant of Registration Certificate u/s 12AA (1) (b) (i) of Income Tax Act 1961.

The Association has been registered as Social Charitable Society by the Commissioner of Income Tax J&K under the relevant Act of the Income Tax Department after satisfying all the necessary stringent terms and conditions (Vide F.No. CIT / J&K / ITO (T) / 12A-III / 32 / 2011-12 / 6439 dated 05.08.2011 of Commissioner of Income Tax, J & K, Jammu). It is a commendable achievement for this voluntary social Organization.

Association Awarded Exemption u/s 80-G (5) of the Income Tax Act, 1961.

The Association has also been accorded exemption u/s 80-G (5) of the Income Tax Act, 1961 by the Commissioner of Income Tax, J&K; Vide F.No. CIT/Jmu/ITO(T)/80-G(2)/51-55/11-12/9376 dated 2nd December, 2011; effective from 02.12.2011 and in perpetuity, unless specifically withdrawn. All donations received by the Association now qualify for Income Tax exemption under this section.

Association Identified as one of the Motivators by the Department of Pension and Pensioners' Welfare (Government of India) for its new project SANKALAP.

Sankalap is a new initiative from Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoPPW), Government of India, to provide a platform for the pensioners to access opportunities available for useful interventions in the society. It also facilitates the Organizations working in these areas to select appropriate skill and expertise from the available pool of volunteers. The Department invited the Association to participate in the brain storming sessions held at New Delhi on 18th November and 13th December, 2013 where the Association representative made power point presentation on the socially useful activities of the Association. The Association stands registered with DoPPW under SANKALP and the Department is in constant touch with our Association for utilizing services of our volunteers in projects useful for the society, particularly in villages in sectors like environment, health, awareness on social evils etc. The Association can also play an active role in educating the retiring Central Government Personnel on various pension related issues and fields of voluntary social activities which many of them may desire to undertake after their retirement.

Online Registration by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare is open for the Organizations and individuals on the format uploaded in the Pensioners Portal under Sankalp Project.

The pensioners fraternity is invited with to come forward by contributing their mite in channelizing their skills and experience by opting as volunteers to serve in their chosen fields of social service in the projects sponsored by the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare, New Delhi. They may also register with the Department in their individual capacity for voluntary services in their chosen field of skill.

Aims & Objectives of the Association:

The following aims and objectives are enshrined in the Constitution of the Association in service of the civil society in general and central pensioners & senior citizens, in particular. We must keep our activities focused to the aims and objectives of the Association:

- To provide a common platform for the Central Government Pensioners and family pensioners residing in Jammu & Kashmir State to interact amongst themselves and to project their problems to the concerned agencies/authorities for their overall welfare.
- To identify, plan and execute programmes for a dignified, secure and constructive post-retirement life for the pensioners and their families by setting up of Reading Rooms/Library, Pensioners Hostels, Day Care Homes and other facilities; in association and cooperation with the Central and State Government Welfare Agencies and other Voluntary Agencies.
- To undertake programmes of socializing and recreation of the pensioners, family pensioners and their families and arrange functions, seminars and programmes thereof.

- To serve as conduit and agent for placement of retired professional specialists in suitable positions in the field of engineering, industry, forestry, agriculture, mineral prospecting and mining, health care, environmental and pollution control, groundwater studies and exploration, soil conservation and wasteland development, economic studies and surveys, human resource management, financial management etc. and to undertake specialized research projects pertaining to related disciplines sponsored by the Central and State Governments and other Agencies.
- To take up social and scientific projects sponsored by the Central and State Governments and other Agencies in various fields such as literacy, health care, family welfare, destitutesq welfare, handicapped personsq vocational training, rehabilitation etc.
- To help the newly retired persons in settlement of their pension cases, within the stipulated period in accordance with the Govt. directives.

Celebration of International & National Days:

The Association in its annual activity programmes observes the following International & National events:

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|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| • World Water Day | 22 nd March |
| • World Environment Day | 5 th June |
| • World Yoga Day | 21 st June |
| • International Day of Older Persons | 1 st October |
| • National PensionersqDay | 17 th December |
| • Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) - | In the month of April. |

Publication of Annual Activities of the Association:

The activities undertaken by the Association during each Financial Year are brought out in PensionersqJournal which is released at the event of AGM held annually in the month of April.

Activities of the Association pertaining to April 2016- March 2017 are published in the PensionersqJournal 2017 which is being released on 22nd Annual General Body Meeting on 24th April, 2017.

CGHS Wellness Centre Jammu:

After a long drawn struggle of the Association, Government ultimately acceded to the genuine demand for a CGHS Dispensary in J&K State, benefiting thousands of pensioners and their dependent members. Consequently, 25th CGHS Dispensary/Wellness Centre was inaugurated in a portion of Police Hospital Jammu on 4th June, 2008. OPD facilities for central pensioners could be commenced from 7th September, 2012 after shifting the Centre to new accommodation allotted by Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir, Department of Industries & Commerce in its Exhibition Ground Complex Jammu. Government of India

merged 19 P&T Dispensaries across the country with the local CGHS Wellness Centres. As per this decision P&T Dispensary at Jammu was merged with CGHS Wellness Centre Jammu along with the staff and available infrastructure on 1st August, 2013. CGHS facilities at Wellness Centre Jammu have also been extended to serving employees of Department of Post at Jammu (Vide O.M. dated 9.7.2013 of MoH&FW has been issued to this effect, effective from 1st August, 2013). Presently, the CGHS Wellness Centre has been catering to the medical attendance of an appreciable number of registered Central Government Pensioners of Jammu & Kashmir, besides regular employees of Department of Posts. Serving employees of other Central Govt. Departments in J&K can also now register with CGHS Wellness Centre and few such employees like from National Informatics Centre (NIC) are already availing the facility.

Demand of Extension Centre of CGHS/New CGHS Centre at Srinagar: The Association has been persistently pursuing the case with the Govt. of India Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoHFW), the demand for opening of an Extension Centre of CGHS at Srinagar for the benefit of a large number of central pensioners in Kashmir Division. MoHFW has agreed in principle to open six new CGHS Wellness Centres in the country, including one at Srinagar. The Association is putting all efforts for early implementation of this decision.

Establishment of Day Care Centre for Older Persons: A dream project of the Association to establish a Day Care Centre for Older Persons has taken shape during the period 2015-16. It is conveniently located, opposite CGHS Wellness Centre at Exhibition Ground Complex, Jammu. The Centre has been improved further with the needed amenities like News Papers, TV, AC, Fridge, laying out a well maintained lawn with flowers etc. A Care Taker has been engaged on an honorarium basis and an appreciable number of members are availing the facility, particularly while waiting for getting medicine supplies from the CGHS Dispensary. Monthly CGHS Advisory Committee meetings are also conducted in the Day Care Centre.

Launching of Website of the Association: For propagation and dissemination of information on activities of the Association, a Website was designed and registered during June . September, 2015. It was launched formally on 15th September, 2015. The concept of the website was deliberated first in the weekly meeting of 15th June, 2015 and work on the proposal started soon after. The website is updated on regular basis, uploading updates on activities, along with latest Government Orders/Office Memoranda. The Association website can be visited at <http://www.cgpwajk.in> for viewing the Association activities and relevant information for the pensioners, in particular and civil society, in general. Important links given on the website are: Portal of Govt. of India, Deptt. Of Pension & Pensioners Welfare, Bharat Pensioners Samaj, GAD J&K Govt. and Income Tax Deptt.

Registered Membership:

The membership is open to all Central Government Pensioners, Gazetted and Non-Gazetted cadres. Annual membership fee for the Non-Gazetted pensioners is Rs. 200/- only vis-à-vis Rs.500/- for Gazetted pensioners (since revised to Rs. 1000/- and Rs. 500/- respectively from April, 2017). Number of Registered Members as on March, 2017 stands at 300. The growth of Membership of the Association over the last few years is shown in the table below:

No. of Registered Members	<u>As on</u>
101	March 2011
124	March 2012
164	March 2013
218	March 2014
248	March 2015
278	March 2016
300	March 2017

Complete List of Members along with relevant details on service, address and contact nos. etc. is being published in the Journal 2017.

Media Coverage of Activities:

The welfare activities of the Association are given wide publicity through electronic and print media coverage. This is done for general awareness and for reaching out the stakeholders, including those residing in far off interior places of the State. The services of the Association are available to non-registered pensioners too, as and when required. All the events of activities of the Association are covered with photography for record and documentation.

SALIENT ACTIVITIES OF THE ASSOCIATION DURING 2016-2017:

- **Weekly Meetings:**

- The Association continued to hold weekly meetings every Monday morning at 10.30 & 11.00 hrs. (Summer & Winter timing) at its Jammu Olympic Association Building Parade Ground Jammu - 180001 office; in pursuance of its activities. It is quite encouraging to see that the number of members attending weekly meetings has improved appreciably. Discussions/interactive consultations were held in the meetings as per agenda with recording of the minutes and registration of attendance of the members present in the Minutes Register maintained by the Association.
- 50 nos. of weekly meetings were held during the period to discuss and resolve various problems of the pensioners in Implementation of Web-based Pensioners Portal a Mission Mode Project under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP). Only 2 weekly meetings in July-August, 2016

had to be cancelled on account of inclement weather. Quarter-wise break-up is tabulated below:

Quarter (206-17)	No. of Weekly Meetings Held	Members Present Range	Average/Meeting
I:Apr-Jun 2016	13	25 - 35	30.46
II:Jul-Sep 2016	11	23 - 40	30.81
III:Oct-Dec 2016	13	19 - 41	29.76
IV:Jan-Mar 2017	13	18 - 35	29.07
Total	50	18 - 41	30.02

- Proactive participation of an appreciable number of members in the meetings and programmes of the Association shows that the Association is quite vibrant and focused towards its objectives of ***Service to the Civil Society in general and Service to the Pensioners/Senior Citizens in particular.***
- **Srinagar Branch:** Weekly meetings were held regularly at Srinagar Office by the members stationed there, barring extreme weather conditions. Issues pertaining to accommodation, CGHS Wellness Centre at Srinagar were taken up, besides day to day matters.
 - **Free Orthopaedic Medical Camp under Sankalp on 22nd April, 2016:** Under Sankalp, a voluntary philanthropic initiative of the Association, a Free Bone Density Test cum Orthopaedic Camp for the benefit of senior citizens in particular, was organized on 22nd April, 2016 at its Day Care Centre, Exhibition Ground Complex, Jammu. The camp was held in collaboration with Meyer Organics Pvt. Ltd and JK Physiotherapy & Rehabilitation Clinic, Gandhi Nagar, Jammu. Over 100 patients were examined with free consultation in the day long camp. Periodical medical check-up camps like this go a long way to ensure timely diagnosis of many ailments which otherwise are not normally attended to. Congenial and friendly environment of the camp was an added advantage and attraction for the senior citizens.
 - **CGPWA J&K Holds 21st Annual General Body (AGM) on 23rd April, 2016:**
- 21st Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association (CGPWA) J&K Jammu was held at Jammu Club, Jammu on 23.04.2016 (Saturday) with Dr. Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor Central University Jammu as the Chief Guest. Over

hundred CGPWA members attended the AGM; besides special invitees comprising distinguished senior citizens and social activists.

- **Shri J.K. Vaid, General Secretary** of the Association conducted the proceedings and presented the Annual General Report for the year 2015-2016. He also briefed the house on the latest Govt. orders for the welfare of pensioners, including operation of PensionersqPortal for on-line redress of the pensionersqgrievances, on the initiative by Govt. of India (DoP&PW) - SANKALP for voluntary service by the pensioners in their chosen fields, thus utilizing their skill and experience for the welfare of the civil society and on the latest Memorandum on seeding of Aadhaar Number in the Pension Accounts of the pensioners for availing the facility of biometric registration of Annual Life Certificate to the Banks from their homes.
- Facility of self downloading of CGHS Smart Cards has also been provided by the government from 31st March, 2016.
- CGPWA J&K, representing 33 central services as on date, has been notified by Govt. of India as Nodal Association for central pensioners of J&K State and is one of the 47 Central Govt. PensionersqAssociations in the country to get such recognition for operating PensionersqPortal under National e-Governance Plan (NeGP).
- **Shri S.S. Wazir, President** in his welcome address greeted the Chief Guest, special invitees and the members fraternity and briefly touched upon the welfare activities being pursued by the Association in service of the civil society, in general and the pensioners and their families, in particular.
- **Shri K.B.Jandial, IAS (Retd)** and a noted journalist gave an impressive power point presentation on Communal Harmony & Good Governance. He supported his talk with well researched facts and figures. The house gave thundering applause to the speaker who delved in detail on the very relevant issue.
- **Shri V.P.Sharma, Patron** in his observations gave a brief historical account of the Association which was founded in 1994 and registered as Non Governmental Organization on 21st July 1995. He also briefed the house on the major achievements of the Association, current strength of which has risen to 278 registered members (as on 31.03.2016).
- PensionersqJournal 2016 of the Association was released by the Chief Guest along with the Office Bearers. Copies of the Journal were distributed to all those present.

- **Honouring Senior Members:**
- In pursuance of the high traditions of the Association, one very senior member Maj. Gen. B.N.Dhar, PVSM (1926 born) was honoured with Sreshth Vrishth Nagrik Award on attaining 90 years of age and 2 other senior members of the Organization; Shri D.K.Sharma GSI & Sardar Saran Singh IFS were honoured with Jeishth Vrishth Nagrik Awards on attaining 80 years age with presentation of mementoes by the Chief Guest.
- **The Chief Guest, Dr. Ashok Aima, Vice Chancellor Central University Jammu** in his address appreciated the activities of the Association in service of the pensioners and senior citizens and in creating a healthy vibrant paradigm forum which serves as a motivational role for the younger generations.
- The function culminated with vote of thanks by **Shri B.K.Raina, Vice President** of CGPWA.
- **Resolution:** The House unanimously passed a Resolution for CGHS Empanelment of recently inaugurated Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Narayana Super Speciality Hospital at Katra (Kakryal) to facilitate the CGHS Card Holders of the State.
- The Resolution was framed for presentation to Shri N.N.Vohra Hon'ble Governor J&K and Chairman SMVDSB for kind sympathetic consideration
- **Report on Swachh Bharat Pakhwada by Central Government Pensioners' Welfare Association, J&K, Jammu**
- Swachh Bharat Pakhwada was observed by the Association with great enthusiasm during 16th May to 31st May, 2016. The highlights are summarized below along with select photographs.
- Swachhta Pledge by Association Members: Observance of Swachhta Pakhwada (Cleanliness Fortnight) was initiated on 16th May by the members by taking Swachhta Pledge in the Weekly Meeting. Copies of the Pledge were given to members for taking the campaign forward by organizing meetings in their localities. 31 members present participated in the Pledge Ceremony.



- Shri B.K.Raina, Vice President of the Association, organized Swachhta Pledge Meeting of Morning Walkers at Rajinder Park, Canal Road, Jammu on 18th May, in which more than 50 morning walkers including ladies took part. He also organized picking of littered waste by the Sunday picnickers in their presence to educate them. The result of the innovative exercise was very encouraging.



- Shri K.B.Jandial, IAS (Retd) & Shri Prem Gupta, IPS (Retd) organized Swachh Bharat Pledge by Morning Walkers of Green Belt Park Gandhi Nagar Jammu on 19th May.



- Shri V.S.Sambyal, IPS (Retd) organized Swachhta Pledge by students of different school attending Yoga Classes at Channi Himat Jammu on 26th May, 2016.



- Swachh Bharat Pakhwada observed by the Association culminated with Swachhta Pledge by Specially Abled (Hearing/Speech Impaired) children of J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra Jammu on 31st May by sign language. More than a dozen members of the Association are pro-actively associated with J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra rendering voluntary service in the Organization as per SANKALP initiative of DoPPW. J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra is a

noted NGO of the J&K State running free educational cum vocational school for the unfortunate hearing & speech handicapped children.



- The letter pertaining to Swachh Bharat Pakhwada was uploaded in the Association website for general awareness and action.
- **Appeal:** The Association appealed to all the citizens of the State and Country to download the guidelines from Association website: www.cgpwajk.in including Pledge (available in Hindi and English) and undertake the campaign of cleanliness in their respective areas in a mission mode.
- Activities of the Association pertaining to Swachh Bharat Pakhwada have been uploaded in the Association website for general awareness and motivation of the civil society. The website launched on **14th September, 2015** is receiving encouraging response from public and pensioners.
- All interested are invited to visit the Association website: www.cgpwajk.in
- **Interaction with Identified Pensioners' Associations through Video Conferencing:** On 1st June, 2016, a Video Conference was organized by DOPPW, New Delhi in which all 43 Identified Central Govt. Pensioners Associations participated. The Conference was conducted by Ms. Vandana Sharma, Jt. Secretary and team on three agenda items viz. Seeding of Aadhaar Card in pension accounts, Swachh Bharat Pakwada and Submission of Utilization Certificate with all prescribed documents for release of Grant-in-aid for 2016-17.
 - The Association was represented in the Video Conference by S/Shri B.K.Raina, K.B.Jandial and J.K.Vaid. Satisfactory progress on all three issues was reported in the conference. Points stressed by Association team were that Aadhaar seeding exercise should also be carried out by J&K Bank and Aadhaar Seeding in Pension Account must be

undertaken by Banks in respect of spouses of the pensioners also. Copy of the Pensionersq Journal 2016 published by the Association was also displayed before the participants.

- **Yoga Day Celebrations:**

- 2nd International Yoga Day (falling on 21st June, 2016) was observed by the Association on 20th June, 2016 at Jammu. 25 members undertook Yoga Asanas under expert guidance of Dr. N.K.Sharma, a noted Naturopath & Yoga Expert. He also briefed the members on useful health tips prevalent in Naturopathy.

- **Token Donation to The Institute of Nature Hygiene:**

- A token donation of Rs. 5000/- to the Institute of Nature Hygiene, a noted NGO with which Dr. N.K.Sharma is associated, was announced by the Patron, as a token assistance to the NGO which is engaged in very useful social work in the field of Naturopathy and Yoga. The cheque was subsequently handed over to Prof. Ved Kumari Ghai, the founder President of the NGO.

- **CGPWA Observe International Day of Older Persons:**

- On December 14, 1990 the United Nations 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.
- **International Elders' Day 2016** was celebrated by Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association (CGPWA) J & K on 3rd October, 2016 (instead of 1st Oct) at Press Club Jammu in which nearly 50 members attended, besides a few special invitees from the civil society.
- Senior and very senior pensioners and family pensioners were shown special consideration by special invitation on the occasion which included 4 family pensioners of Late Shri Dwarka Nath Gupta IAS, S. Teja Singh IAS, Shri H.L.Abrol IFS and Shri M.N.Sehgal GSI.
- The four lady pensioners were honoured with bouquets of flowers by Shri V.P.Sharma Patron of the Association who presided the function. Copies of Pensionersq Journal 2016 and Membersq Directory were also presented to the family pensioners along with copies of Govt. Orders regarding 7CPC implementation and O.M. pertaining to the option for receiving their pension dues directly from Govt. of India through CPAO. Presently, the All India Service (AIS) pensioners/family pensioners are receiving pension through J&K State and thereby facing difficulties in timely receipt of pension dues and arrears.

- Shri M.M.Nanda GSI was also honoured by the Association in recognition of his active participation in weekly meetings in spite of mature age of 86 which serves as great motivation for the older persons.
- Shri J.K.Vaid, General Secretary, conducted the proceedings of the function and also apprised about the latest Office Memoranda issued by Govt. of India in respect of pensioners.
- Shri R.L.Kampasi, Secretary delivered a brief address on the background of the Elders Day followed by
- Shri K.B.Jandial, Executive Committee Member who threw light on the extra care the Association has been taking about very senior pensioners and senior pensioners who are unable to attend weekly meetings held by the Association every Monday.
- Shri V.P.Sharma, Patron in his address delved on the background of the Association and its growth to an appreciable level through over two decades of its history. The Association was formed in 1994 and registered in July 1995 with a score of members from 3 to 4 services. Presently the numbers of registered members of the Organization has grown to 301 representing 33 central services, including a large chunk from AIS comprising IAS, IPS and IFS.
- Shri B.K.Raina, Vice President presented vote of thanks.
- ***Population of Older Persons is on increase globally and this ever increasing segment of society has to play more active role in the Society in future times.***
- **CGPWA CELEBRATED 34th NATIONAL PENSIONERS' DAY ON 17.12.2016**
 - Central Government Pensioners Welfare Association (CGPWA), J&K representing pensioners of 33 Central Government Departments/Ministries including All India Services viz. IAS, IPS & IFS; celebrated 34th National Pensioners Day at Jammu Club on 17th December, 2016. Shri B.R.Sharma, IAS, Chief Secretary J&K State graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. The function was attended by a large number of Association Members and special invitees from various Organizations of State Government pensioners; besides noted social activists.
 - In the beginning, a few cultural items were presented by hearing & speech challenged *Divyang* children of J & K Samaj Kalyan Kendra Higher Secondary School, Jammu displaying their talent on the stage. The Association had invited the differently abled boys and girls of the free Educational cum Vocational School For Hearing Handicapped as a goodwill gesture with a motive to encourage them for a self-dependent bright future. Their participation also provided an opportunity to the gathering to watch them from close quarters and appreciate their hidden virtues.

- Shri J.K.Vaid GSI, General Secretary CGPWA conducted the proceedings of the function and also briefed the house on PensionersqPortal under National e-Governance Plan and latest important O.Ms issued by Govt. of India in respect of pensioners.
- Shri S.S.Wazir IPS, President CGPWA, presented the welcome address and highlighted the salient activities of the Association and a brief background of the National PensionersqDay which was first celebrated in the country on 17th December, 1983 to commemorate landmark judgment of the Supreme Court on 17th December, 1982 in D.S.Nakara vs. Union of India case that pension came as a matter of right to the retiree.
- Shri K.B.Jandial, IAS in his brief address highlighted voluntary services being rendered by the Association members in reputed registered NGOs such as J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra, Home for the Aged & Infirm, SOS Home, Hari Prabhu Sanstha etc. Association has also been organizing free medical camps for senior citizens and others from time to time.
- Shri V.P.Sharma GSI, Patron in his observations threw light on the profile of the Association since its inception in mid-nineties and how the Organization has contributed its mite in service to the civil society in general and pensionersqfraternity in particular.
- The Chief Guest in his address complimented the Association for running a versatile Organization which looks after the interests of the pensioners and family pensioners and for creating a motivating ambience for younger generations. He also assured full cooperation of J&K Government in the welfare activities of the Association.
- The function culminated with vote of thanks by Shri B.K.Raina GSI, Vice President of the Association.

A FRUITFUL PICNIC BY CGPWA MEMBERS to Indian Institute of Integrated Medicine (IIIM) Farm of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants and Herbs at Chatha Jammu on 6th March, 2017:



Visit to Indian Institute of Integrated Medicine (IIIM) Farm of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants and Herbs at Chatha Jammu by CGPWA J&K Jammu members on 6 March 2017 was a great success. A group of 26 members availed this fruitful outing in Jammu suburbs. Dr. S.R.Meena of IIIM and his team conducted the visit with detailed briefing. We all should grow a few varieties of useful medicinal herbs in our kitchen gardens and pots for daily use and dissemination of awareness. In a letter of thanks to Dr. Ram Vishwakarma, Director IIIM Jammu and Dr. S. Chandra, Chief Scientist; we have suggested to establish a sales counter of medicinal plants and flowers for the public which will serve a good cause for the benefit of civil society in general. It is hoped that this suggestion will be implemented by IIIM soon and we will be able to get hassle free supply of seedlings or seeds of the medicinal and aromatic plants and flowers with briefs for our kitchen gardens. We feel satisfied on this useful picnic by us. The most attracting plants are lemon grass, tulsi and pudina with 5 to 6 varieties each.



Dr. Meena demonstrating on Lemon Grass at the IIIM Farm. Lemon Grass oil is in great demand and its cultivation on commercial scale is a profitable venture



Jatropha at IIIM Farm Chatha Jammu.

- **CGPWA – A Rich Human Resource Body:**

- *The Central Govt. Pensioners' Welfare Association 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 meetings 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 wanting 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 are on panel of Radio Kashmir Jammu for radio talks and interviews at regular intervals, on social issues, environment and geoscience related issues to disseminate general 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 much 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 13 km track, visited by millions of pilgrims annually, merit special attention for an early execution.
- **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.*

Highlights :

- **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 PensionersqPortal, a Mission Mode Project under the National e-Governance Plan (NeGP) launched by Department of Pension and PensionersqWelfare, Ministry of Personnel, PensionersqGrievances and Pensions, Government of India. The 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Quarters of 2016-17 comprised duration between April to June 2016, July to September 2016, October to December 2016 & January to March 2017 respectively. All other important activities of the Association are also highlighted in the Quarterly reports.

- **Registration of Grievances on Pensioners' Portal:**

Nineteen Numbers of fresh Pensionersq Grievances Cases were registered in Centralized Pension Grievances Redress And Monitoring System (CPENGRAMS) online in the Pensionersq Portal by the Association during the period under report. Out of this, 18 cases were resolved. One old case of Family Pension of Late Shri U.C.Sharma, DoP still remains unresolved and pending.

We wish to place our appreciation on record on successful operation of CPENGRAMS to resolve the pensionersq cases in a reasonable time frame and of late we have noticed very good efficiency in its functions. With the help of ON-line Registration on the PensionersqPortal some very old chronic cases have been redressed with large amounts of arrear dues to the stake holders. To cite few examples, Shri Mohan Lal, DD received arrears of 3.58 lac, Shri B.D.Gupta, GSI got the arrears of 2.31 lac, Shri Chaman Lal, GSI . 2.30 lac, Shri J.K.Vaid, GSI . 1.36 lac in terms of OM dt 6.4.2016 for delinking of pension to 33 yrs of service.

An old dual pension case of Smt. Vidya Devi was resolved and she would soon be getting dual pension from 2012 with arrears of over 5 lac. Three cases of Non-Member Pensioners from Srinagar were resolved in respect of Ms. Raja Bano, Mr. B.A.Budgami and Mr. Nisar Hussain Wani.

- **Voluntary Services by the Association:**

- The Association has been serving the central 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 many cases are still there where the pensioners are not getting their rightful dues as per entitlement; especially those who retired long back in eighties or seventies.
- The services of the Association are available not only to the registered members, but also to the pensioners who are not registered with CGPWA. An appreciable number of cases have been resolved through the efforts of the Association by implementing the norms under the NeGP project.
- The Association is also trying 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.
- The Association can be approached in its office at Jammu Olympic Association Building at Parade Ground Jammu, every Monday morning and on contact phone nos. **94192-85851, 94190-72227, 94198-911.**
- **Election of Office Bearers for 2017-20 Term:** Triennial Elections for 2017-20 term have since been notified as the current 2014-17 term of the Office Bearers of the Office Bearers is coming to an end. Elections to the following Honorary Positions in the Association will be held on the day of 22nd AGM on 24th April, 2017:-
- President, Vice President, General Secretary, Secretary & Treasurer; besides nomination of Patron.
- Shri Prem Gupta, IPS has been nominated as Returning Officer for the Association Elections.

- **Financial Position:**

- The Accounts Balance Sheet for 2016-2017 has been appended with the Annual Report and is open for your perusal. Grant-in-aid of Rs. 75000/- including the unspent balance of 2015-16 grant has been received by our Association from Govt. of India, Department of Pension & Pensioners Welfare during the period after submission of audited accounts and the Utilization Certificate (UC) under the specified heads for the preceding Financial Year 2015-16. The grant has come as a great help to us for pursuing our activities with enhanced efficiency.

- Your liberal donations have enabled the Association to meet the expenses of our special functions such as AGM, Pensioners Day etc. which we are able to conduct decently owing your financial support.
- The Annual Membership Fees has been revised to Rs. 1000/- from Rs.500/- for gazette pensioners and to Rs. 500/- for non-gazetted pensioners from April, 2017. Life Membership is Rs. 5000/- per head. It is a matter of satisfaction that 30 Members have opted for Life Membership in the 1st week of April, 2017, taking the total no. of Life Members to 32. List of Life Members is also being published in the Journal and it will be published in future also.
- The list of Donor Members and the amounts donated is also published in the Journal.

○ **Condolences:**

The Association Fraternity passed Condolence Resolutions in the memory of the following members and spouses of the members, who left for their heavenly abodes during 2016-2017:

- Condolence Resolution on 9th May, 2016 on demise of **Shri Dwarka Nath Gupta, IAS (Retd)** on 7th May, 2016 at Jammu. Born in 1915, he was 100 plus and celebrated his Centenary Birthday on 8th July, 2015 at Hari Niwas Palace Jammu in which a representative team of the Association participated. Shri Dwarka Nath Gupta was known for his illustrious service career which culminated as Chairman J&K Public Service Commission after his retirement on superannuation as Finance Commissioner. More than that, he carved a distinguished niche as a social activist of high caliber for nearly four decades by rendering his sincere and dedicated voluntary and charitable services in reputed Non Governmental Organizations like Vivekananda Charitable Hospital, Red Cross Society and Home for the Aged and Infirm at Jammu. In the Home for the Aged (*Vridh Ashram*) he served for 30 years in various honorary positions, including 17 years as President from 1997 to 2014. Shri Gupta spent every moment of his long life most usefully and fruitfully and his life graph is a paradigm for others. Shri Dwarka Nath Gupta was one of founding members of the Association and was honoured with *Sarv Sreshth Nagrik Award* by the Association at the event of 20th AGM on 25th April, 2015. The Chief Guest, Mr. Naem Akhter, Hon'ble Education Minister had presented the award to Shri Gupta who was present to receive it personally.
- Condolence Resolution Dated 16 May, 2016 on untimely demise of **Shri M.L.Gupta, IAS (Retd)** on 15th May, 2016 at Jammu. Born in November 1938, he was 77 only. Shri Gupta joined the Association on 13th September, 2010 and took active part in Association

activities, including in weekly meetings. His loud and clear address will be missed by the members.

- Condolence Resolution on 6 June, 2016 on untimely demise of **Prof. Shakuntla Magotra**, beloved wife of Shri H.R.Magotra, IAS (*Retd*) on 31st May, 2016 after brief illness at Jammu. Shri Magotra is an active member of the Association with proactive participation in its activities.
- Condolence Resolution on 25 July, 2016 on demise of **Mrs. Badshah Begum**, beloved wife of Shri M. Shamsuddin, IAS (*Retd*) & *former* Chairman J & K Special Tribunal, on 22nd July, 2016 at Jammu. Shri M. Shamsuddin is a Respected Member of the Association who joined the Organization on 13th December, 2012.
- Condolence Resolution on 5th December, 2016 on untimely demise of **Shri Suresh Kumar Sharma, IAS (Retd)** on 3rd December, 2016 at Jammu. Born on 23rd April 1939, he was 77 only. Shri Sharma joined the Association on 2nd February, 2009 and took active part in Association activities, including in weekly meetings and Annual Functions. He was also a liberal Donor Member of J&K Samaj Kalyan Kendra, a reputed NGO running a free Educational cum Vocational School for Hearing & Speech Challenged Children.
- Resolution on 16 Feb 2017 on demise of **Shri Swami Raj Sharma, IAS (Retd)** on 14th February, 2017 at Jammu. Born in 1935, he was ailing for the past some time. He served in key administrative positions with distinction during his career which culminated at the position of Commr./Secretary to Govt. of Jammu & Kashmir from which he retired on superannuation in 1993. Shri Swami Raj Sharma joined the Association in 2006 and the Association honoured him with *Jeishth Vrishth Nagrik Award* in 2015 on his completion of 80 years age; at the event of 20th AGM on 25th April, 2015. The Chief Guest, Mr. Naeem Akhter, Hon^{ble} Education Minister had presented the award to Shri Sharma who was present to receive it personally.
- Condolence Resolution dated 6.3.2017 on untimely demise of **Shri Gobind Ram Sharma, Retd. Chief Section Supervisor, DoT, CTO Jammu** on 25th February, 2016 at Jammu. Born on 6 January, 1938, he was 78 only. We are sorry to learn about the tragedy after one year through an Obituary in Daily Excelsior dated 25 Feb, 2017. Shri Sharma joined the Association on 11th June, 2012 and took active part in Association activities, including in weekly meetings. He was very well versed with rules and regulations with an appreciable skill to project grievances of his fellow pensioners of DoT. We had lodged such grievances in

connection with Fixed Medical Allowance in CPENGRAMS of the PensionersqPortal.

- Condolence Resolutions on 13.3.2017: (1) On untimely demise of an illustrious son of the soil; **Shri B.L.Jangi, Retd Dy. Director General Geological Survey of India** on 6th March, 2017 at Faridabad where he had settled lately. Born in October 1940 at Srinagar, he was only 76. A close childhood friend of Shri B.K.Raina, Vice President of the Association; Shri Jangi was also a batch mate of Shri Raina for entering Group A Service as Geologist in Geological Survey of India after qualifying 1965 Geologists Examination of Union Public Service Commission, which was the second such Exam conducted by the UPSC. Shri B.L.Jangi made commendable contribution as a dedicated Geologist and Technical Administrator in course of his long distinguished inning in GSI in various fields and positions. He specialized in Geothermal Studies for which he had undergone one year Special Advanced Course in Italy and later contributed in geological investigations in Manikaran Hot Springs in Himachal Pradesh and Puga Valley Geothermal Field of Ladakh.
- (2) **On demise of our veteran respected member, Maj. Gen. B.N.Dhar PVSM (Retd)** on 10th March, 2017 at Jammu after brief illness. Born in 1926, he was ninety plus. Gen. Dhar served in the Indian Army with distinction for full tenure and retired on superannuation on 1st December, 1984. He led an active healthy life in course of his long retirement period and always blessed the Association with his august and active participation in its annual functions, last being the National Pensioners Day celebrated at Jammu Club on 17th December, 2016. Gen. Dhar joined the Association in 2006 and the Association honoured him with *Sreishth Vrishth Nagrik Award* in 2016 on his completion of 90 years age; at the event of 21th AGM held on 23rd April, 2016.

○

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT:

I wish to place on record, my sincere thanks and gratitude to all the Association Members, especially the Office Bearers and Executive Committee Members, for extending their full cooperation in all the activities of your Association. I am sure you will continue your support with sincerity and enthusiasm in the coming years too.

Sd/-31.03.2017
(J.K.Vaid, Rtd.Director GSI)
General Secretary, CGPWAJK