WE GREET OUR READERS A VERY HAPPY NEW YEAR

22nd Foundation Day of AISCCON on 28th Dec at Nerul, Navi Mumbai

Principal V.K. Bhadane
President AISCCON
All India Senior Citizens’ Confederation (AISCON)

Resolutions

To bring to the notice of the Central and State governments, the difficulties faced by senior citizens, the following Resolutions were moved in the conference of All India Senior Citizens’ Confederation (AISCON) held on 16th and 17th November 2022 at Karnataka Kalamandira, Mysuru, Karnataka.

1). Restoration of concessions given to senior citizens on Railway Tickets. Before March 2020, 50% concession was given to female passengers 58+ and 40% to male passengers 60+ for travelling by railways in all classes. Though the trains resumed normal services in the country (by discontinuing the special services introduced during the COVID-19 lockdown period), the train ticket concessions prevalent earlier are not restored. We demand that the concessions should be restored without any change. It may not be out of place to point out that National Policy on Older Persons-1999 (NPOP-1999) clause-68: “Fare concessions in all modes of travel; preference in reservation of seats and earmarking of seats in local public transport; modifications in designs of public transport vehicles for easy entry and exit; strict enforcement of traffic discipline at zebra crossings to facilitate older persons to cross streets; priority in gas and telephone connections and in fault repairs; removal of physical barriers to facilitate easy movement, concessions in entrance fees in leisure and entertainment facilities, art and cultural centres and places of tourist interest.”

Resolution No.1: It is resolved that Government of India should restore the railway concessions given to senior citizens that was prevalent prior to Covid days, i.e 50% to female passengers 58+ and 40% to male passengers 60+ and honour the commitments made in clause 68 of the National Policy on Older Persons 1999.

2). Increase in additional interest rate on fixed deposits in banks for senior citizens. Senior citizens are presently given 0.5% additional interest on Bank Fixed deposits. We request that this should be increased to atleast 2 to 3% to compensate the inflation. The interest on Fixed Deposit in the Banks is reduced, as a result, the senior citizens are the most affected group. They are mostly savers only and are largely dependent on interest income to meet cost of day-to-day life. We quote Clause 29 of the NPOP-1999 to bring home the concern of the Government in those days (23 years ago). Long term savings instruments will be promoted to reach both rural and urban areas. It will be necessary for the contributors to feel assured that the payments at the end of the stipulated period are attractive enough to take care of the likely erosion in purchasing power due to inflation.
Resolution No.2: It is resolved unanimously that Banks should pay additional interest to senior citizens on Bank Fixed Deposits by at least 2 to 3%, in place of present 0.5% to compensate inflation and honour the commitments made in clause 29 of the National Policy on Older Persons—NPOP 1999.

3). Health Insurance Scheme for all senior citizens. Senior Citizens can not afford the increasing expenses for medicines and hospitalisation. Medical Insurance premium charged by various insurance companies are too high that a common man can hardly afford it. A health insurance scheme similar to Ayushman Bharat (which presently covers only the poor and vulnerable families) should be introduced for all senior citizens. National Programme for Health Care for Elderly (NPHCE) should be implemented all over the country and for all senior citizens. In addition, the 18% GST on the mediclaim premium of senior citizens should be removed altogether.

Resolution No.3: It is resolved unanimously that a health insurance scheme similar to Ayushman Bharat (which presently covers only the poor and vulnerable families) should be introduced for all senior citizens. National Programme for Health Care for Elderly (NPHCE) should be implemented all over the country and for all senior citizens. In addition, the 18% GST on the mediclaim premium of senior citizens should be removed altogether.

4). Old Age Pension. Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) is specially intended for older adults above the age of 60 years, who fall below the poverty line, according to the guidelines prescribed by the Government of India. The IGNOAPS assists with money up to Rs.200 p.m. for people between 60 and 79 years and Rs.500 p.m. for those above 80 years. The Centre’s contribution of the minimum Rs.200/- p.m is existing since inception and our demand is to increase the minimum to Rs.3500/- irrespective of age for the survival of senior citizens. It should be noted that about 75% of senior citizens are poor and have retired from unorganized sectors and without any pension benefit.

Resolution No.4: It is resolved unanimously that the Indira Gandhi National Old Age Pension Scheme (IGNOAPS) the Centre’s share should be increased to a minimum of Rs.3500/- irrespective of age for the survival of senior citizens.

5). EPS-95 Pension. The situation of EPS-95 pensioners is very pitiable. The recommendations of Koshiary Committee have not been approved and implemented by the Central Govt. The Pensioners of this category are very much disheartened. We request the Government of India to approve and implement the recommendations of Koshiary Committee, in toto, and sanction a minimum monthly pension of Rs.7500.00 to EPS-95 pensioners.

Resolution No.5: It is resolved unanimously that the Koshiary Committee recommendations should be accepted in full and sanction a minimum monthly pension of Rs.7500/- to EPS-95 pensioners.

6). Income Tax Concessions /Benefits to Senior Citizens. Senior Citizens are a sincere lot in paying taxes. They live either on pension or on interest income. It will be in the best interest of justice that a concession in tax rates is given to the senior citizens. Presently, up to Rupees three lakhs is tax free to those between 60 and 80 years and Rupees five lakhs for those above 80 years. Our demand is that at least there should be no tax for senior citizens up to an income of 7.5 lakhs for those who are between 60 and 80 years. For super senior citizens of 80+ the no tax limit should be raised to at least Rs.10 lakhs. Clause 28 of the NPOP-1999 regarding Income Tax remains unimplemented since 1999 which reads. “Taxation policies will reflect sensitivity to the financial problems of older persons which accelerate due to very high costs of medical and nursing care, transportations and support services needed at home. Organisations of senior citizens have
been demanding a much higher standard deduction for them and a standard annual rebate for medical treatment, whether domiciliary or hospital based, in cases where super annuated persons do not get medical coverage from their erstwhile employers. There are also demands that some tax relief must be given to son or daughter when old parents co-reside and also allow some tax rebate for medical expenses. These and other proposals of tax relief will be considered.”  

**Resolution No.6:** It is resolved that the tax exemption limit for senior citizens up to the age of 80 should be increased to 7.5 lakhs and for 80+ super senior citizens it should be increased to 10 lakhs.

7). **Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior Citizens Act., 2007– MWPSC Act.**

a) There should be effective implementation of MWPSC Act. Some states are far behind in implementation of the Act and Rules. The formation of state councils and district committees and Tribunal Orders are not implemented. There should be allotment of budget. Guidelines from home department on protection of life and property of senior citizens and establishment of old age homes are not effectively implemented. b) MWPSC Act Amendment bill (Bill No.374 / 2019) was introduced in the LokSabha on 11th December 2019 and was referred to the Standing Committee on Social Justice & Empowerment on 23rd December 2019 for examination. The Standing Committee under the chairmanship of Smt. Rama Devi submitted their report on 21st January 2021. The Bill is pending in Parliament for re-introduction. The Amendment Bill should be taken up and passed by the Parliament and enforced immediately both by Centre and States.

**Resolution No.7:** It is resolved that there should be effective implementation of MWPSC Act with budget allocation. Protection of life and property of senior citizens and establishment of old age homes (renamed Senior Citizen Care Home) should be effectively implemented. Further resolved that the MWPSC Amendment Bill (Bill No.374/2019) which was submitted by the Standing Committee on 21st January 2021 should be immediately taken up and passed by the Parliament and enforced immediately both by the Centre and States.

8). **National Policy on Older Persons – NPOP 1999.** United Nations Principles for Older Persons was adopted by General Assembly under resolution No.46/91 of 16 December 1991. India is a signatory to the above resolution. The General Assembly, appreciating the contribution that older persons make to their societies, encourages member country Governments to incorporate the following principles into their national policies/programmes when ever possible: 1) Independence, 2) Participation, 3) Care, 4) Self-fulfillment and 5) Dignity. NPOP-1999 was introduced by Government of India consequent to the adoption of Principles for Older Persons introduced by the UN on 16th December 1991. We demand that there should be full implementation of the policies laid down in NPOP 1999. Over the passage of time new issues for the Welfare activities of senior citizens have come. Government of India should formulate and declare revised National Policy on Older Persons with sufficient budgetary provisions, as assured by the Minister in Parliament. All State Governments should be asked to formulate and declare revised State policy on senior citizens if already declared, and if not declared as yet, should declare the same. Implementation of policy should be ensured and proper guidelines given to all concerned to ensure benefits reach all beneficiaries.

**Resolution No.8:** It is resolved unanimously that over the passage of time new issues for the welfare activities of senior citizens have come. Government of India should formulate and declare revised National Policy on Older Persons with sufficient budgetary provisions. All State Governments should be asked to formulate and declare revised State policy on senior citizens. Implementation of policy should be ensured and proper guidelines given to all concerned to ensure benefits reach all beneficiaries.

9). **Old Age Homes or Senior Citizen Care Homes as per Section 19 of the MWPSC Amendment Bill.** There are reports that senior citizens are often abandoned in temples, hospitals and even on high ways particularly when they become very old and are unable to contribute to the
family financially or physically. Cases of suicide are happening regularly in some parts of the country. It is so shameful that we close our eyes instead of doing the needful to stop them. As a partial remedy of such problems Section 19 of the MWPSC Act 2007, has mandated that at least one Old Age Home be built in each district with a minimum capacity for 150 inmates. This demand has been just ignored. No provision for its implementation has been made inspite of the recommendation of the Supreme Court in their Judgment dated 13th December 2018. In fact, no investment by Government would be required to build old Age Homes if the Government had been honestly maintaining the Senior Citizens Welfare Fund which was set up through a notification issued by Ministry of Finance dated 18th of March 2017. If it is updated as per the prescribed rules, it should be around 20,000 crores by now. Above Old Age Homes could be built over a period of 4 or 5 years using the income of this Fund alone, but there is no transparency on the fate of the funds.

Resolution No.9: It is resolved that Section 19 of the MWPSC Act 2007, has mandated that at least one Old Age Home (revised title Senior Citizen Care Home) be built in each district with a minimum capacity for 150 inmates. Recommendation for its implementation made by Supreme Court in their Judgment dated 13th December 2018 should be implemented.

10). Recognition of AISCCON as National Association of Senior Citizens. GoI should give recognition to All India Senior Citizens’ Confederation (AISCCON) as National Association of Senior Citizens in the country as stipulated in clause96 of NPOP-1999. AISCCON is the largest representative organization of senior citizens in India with more than 28 lakh members. NPOP-1999 Clause 96” An autonomous registered National Association of Older Persons (NAOPS) will be established to mobilize senior citizens, articulate their interests, promote and undertake programmes and activities for their well-being and to advise the Government on all matters relating to the Older Persons. The Association will have National, State and District level offices and will choose its own bearers. The Government will provide financial support to establish the National and State level offices.”

Resolution No.10: It is resolved unanimously that All India Senior Citizens’ Confederation (AISCCON) should be recognized as National Association of Senior Citizens in the country as stipulated in clause96 of NPOP-1999 and to provide financial support to establish the National and State level offices.

11). Creation of exclusive Ministry for Senior Citizens at Centre and States. Presently Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment look after the issues of senior citizens as additional work with important subjects of SC&ST having more than 95% budget of the Ministry. With the projected increase of senior citizens to 17.32% by the year 2026 it is felt necessary to have exclusive Ministry at the Centre and Departments in all States to look after senior citizens and to hear their grievances and proper implementation of NPOP and MWPSCA.

Resolution No.11: It is resolved unanimously that in view of the projected increase of senior citizens to 17.32 % by the year 2026 it is felt necessary to have exclusive Ministry at the Centre and Departments in all States to look after senior citizens and to hear their grievances and proper implementation of NPOP and MWPSCA.

12). Channelization of CSR Funds for elder care activities. GoI Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment in Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojna (AVYAY) Financial Year 2021-26, under Scope of Scheme Cl 3.6 committed taking initiative for channelization of Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds for elderly care in Annexure–F. Schedule VII of Section 135 of the Companies Act, stipulates setting up old age homes, day care centres and such facilities for Senior Citizens as an approved item for CSR funding. However, miniscule amount of CSR funding is
flowing into the sector primarily because there is no shelf of projects which the Corporate can take up for funding. Currently there is no mechanism for identifying suitable projects for CSR funding in the senior citizen segment. As such there is an institutional gap in the implementation of this program. This initiative must be taken to logical end and not dropped for any reason due to procedural flaws in the tendering procedures. Under this initiative Government of India has planned to mobilize Rs.5000 crores over next 5 years from CSR funds for elderly care projects. In short this will be a bridge between the government and corporate entities keeping in view the welfare of the senior citizens as its central concern.

**Resolution No.12:** It is resolved unanimously that the Govt of India, Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment should ensure electing reputed institutions for taking up CSR Advocacy on behalf of Elderly Segment and to help preparation of a shelf of projects for CSR funding as was committed in Atal Vayo Abhyuday Yojna (2021-26) under clause 3.6.

**13). Senior Citizen Welfare Fund.** The Senior Citizen Welfare Fund (SCWF) is a fund which provides financial support to the Below Poverty Line (BPL) category senior citizens. It was introduced by the Government of India to help senior citizens who do not have any means of livelihood. The SCWF was instituted by the Finance Act, 2015. It came into effect on 18.03.2016. The government observed that a large corpus of funds was available in the various government savings schemes. The funds fall under the category of in-operative accounts. Overtime, the funds are classified as ‘unclaimed deposits’. The need was felt to channelise the funds towards a useful purpose. At the same time, the need was felt to improve the lives of senior citizens. Thus, the government introduced the SCWF to address both the concerns. Unclaimed deposits invested with the government institutions would be transferred to the SCWF. The funds available with the SCWF would be used exclusively for helping senior citizens. The SCWF is an apex-level fund which is managed by the Central Government. Senior citizens can make use of the SCWF by availing of the various schemes launched under the fund. The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment (MOSJE) is responsible for administering the SCWF. In 2017, the MOSJE introduced a scheme known as Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana to help senior citizens. The scheme was funded from the SCWF. On 04.12.2019, the MSJ announced the introduction of three additional schemes. The new schemes will be funded entirely from the SCWF. The Objectives of the SCWF are:

1) To ensure the financial security of senior citizens.
2) To provide old-age pensions to senior citizens who do not have any other source of income.
3) To enact rules specifying that particular long-term savings instruments can be subscribed to only by senior citizens.
4) To allow for the employment of senior citizens in income-generating activities.
5) To develop schemes for promoting proper nutrition of senior citizens.
6) To implement nutrition education programs for senior citizens.
7) To implement affordable health care programs and mental health services for senior citizens.
8) To formulate health insurance schemes for senior citizens.
9) To provide suitable training and orientation to public health care workers to address the needs of senior citizens.
10) To introduce schemes for promoting the welfare of elderly widows.
11) To introduce schemes related to old age homes for senior citizens.
12) To introduce schemes which are aimed at addressing the information needs of senior citizens.
13) To introduce schemes for conducting research activity on ageing and age-related health problems.

NPOP 1999 clause 96 states “An autonomous registered National Association of Older Persons (NAOPS) will be established to mobilize senior citizens, articulate their interests, promote and undertake programmes and activities for their well being and to advise the Government on all matters relating to the Older Persons.”

**Resolution No.13:** It is resolved that Senior Citizens Welfare Fund (SCWF) was introduced for promotion the welfare of senior citizens. The funds are required to be used for providing such welfare facilities to the senior citizens as detailed in Rashtriya Vayoshri Yojana. The funds lying in SCWF should not be diverted for any other purpose. Further resolved that in view of the provisions
of clause 96 of NPOP1999, and to make the deliberations of this Committee more need based, we demand that two nominees of AISCCON, being the largest National Organisation of Senior Citizens, be included as members of this Committee.

--The Secretary General, AISCCON

Why an Association for Senior Citizens?

To form an association is a constitutional right. In a democratic country, the new generations of seniors would associate themselves to mobilise the seniors as a social force to transform the society into a society for all ages. As an economic force, it would contribute to developing a universal social security system and to transform the economy into a social economy with seniors also as actors. As a non-partisan political force, it would strive to improve good governance in the country. As a cultural force, it would facilitate the expression and promotion of artistic, literary and leisure activities, involving the seniors. To be able to function effectively, the Senior Citizens Associations should work in interdependence with the Resident Welfare Associations. The association thereby would bring together a certain number of seniors to see that Society works for Elders, the Elders work for Society, and Elders work for elders. The older generations of seniors are using an association as a mere post office to transmit their desires and grievances to municipal, state and Union governments as if the seniors are a vulnerable group to be taken of. In the Indian society, which is undergoing radical transformations, elders role is yet to be redefined keeping in mind their welfare and social harmony.

Society for Elders:

The Society is what it is precisely because what the elders have made it. But, most of the senior citizens welfare associations and their federations are limiting themselves to making a list of their problems and dutifully conveying them to the governments, as if they have nothing to expect from various categories of the society. As the initial generation of active senior citizens had been from the government service, the seniors are accustomed to thinking that the ‘circar’ is the only actor and benefactor. As the human needs, especially that of the seniors is increasing and the people dependent on the state are also many, the state is not able to meet all the needs of the senior citizens. Even if it intends to do, its delivery of services lacks promptness and efficiency. To be politically correct, the political authorities might be tempted to promise many things as a matter of policy for seniors, but they know that they have higher responsibility towards other categories of the population, like children, youth and women, who deserve minimum take-off facilities in life to start with. Informally, they admit that seniors cannot and should not consider themselves a priority to the governments, since they had 30 to 40 years of opportunities in their active life to plan and prepare themselves for all eventualities. Further, the percentage of seniors who worked for the governments is becoming smaller and smaller among the overall population of senior citizens in society. People would say that the seniors are not juniors; they should have saved enough money for the rainy days; they should have contributed enough to the insurances for health and medical services; they should have accumulated enough assets or invested enough to ensure a regular income till their death. Yet, unfortunately, many urban senior citizens are left without resources and emotional support, as they did not plan enough in the past in all aspects of their life after retirement. Senior citizens in rural areas enjoy better family protection, as well as the attention of the local active politicians. Hence, in our personal experience, it is found that any visit of a delegation of seniors asking the authorities for concessions is received with the usual respect due to elders but, not much attention is paid to their demands.
So, the main objective of an Association should not be understood to bring the plight of elders before the authorities and to recommend a list of concessions to be accorded. The Association should be more active, constructive and productive in exercising the collective thinking and efforts to build a Society for All Ages, as the UNO has suggested. No doubt, the federations of the associations of elders should make socially progressive policy recommendations to the authorities. On the other hand, the associations as a first priority should assist all those adults and seniors to plan and prepare for their life after retirement. Even though at present, the seniors who need many ad hoc arrangements and social assistance are in the grand majority, we can reasonably hope that the next generation of seniors would be well-prepared to meet their future financial and emotional needs.

The Association should focus its attention on various other actors and institutions in society. The elders should plan their lives in a way that they would not become a financial burden on their children, not even upon the governments. Where necessary, judicial interventions might be sought to find justice, where the association members are to be intervening and reconciling officers. First of all, the institution of family is undergoing many transformations and the Association should negotiate a practical solution to each individual's problem, adapted to the new situation. The Association should convince the elders that they should not expect the traditional practices to be restored. Moral lectures will not help. Legal solutions also cannot give solace and satisfaction. It is the entire societal relations that are to be networked as interdependent. In terms of the emotional well-being of elders, it should be arranged that others’ children and grandchildren also should be able to share their warmth and innocence to the seniors who are lonely in their neighbourhood. The adults around in the community should lend their support physically and emotionally.

The whole economy be transformed more elder-friendly. The economic actors in the society i.e. the enterprises and the employers in all sectors of the economy should set aside a part of the value produced by the employees or a part of the remuneration for the services rendered by them or a part of their salaries as contributions to insure for mutual and collective social security and protection. Wherever possible, the employers should re-engage the young seniors, so they can feel still useful, without being competitors to the younger generation. Seniors should spend all their pensions or income, and not save any more so that the economy grows. Astronomical figures of the pension funds are in the market can make miracles. The funds should be invested in enterprises that do research and development and produce more and better goods and services useful to the elders. Similarly, the Association can act to assert or reclaim the rights of the seniors as consumers by communicating directly with all producers of goods and services. The Association can negotiate advantageous terms with doctors, clinics and hospitals and other agencies of special services for elders at reasonable rates. Some associations can run medical stores.

An important responsibility to be fulfilled by the seniors’ association is to arrange Day Care centres and ensure suitable accommodation to those who cannot stay any more in their families. There is a need to promote many more retirement homes, on priority to those who became solitary or physically and mentally dependent. The associations should come out to organise and maintain them as community centres. Or, make the insurance companies organize them with the cooperation of the associations. The federations should see that, just as in many countries, the government aid would go on priority to them.

The Association should ensure good governance by the public institutions i.e. individual dignity and fundamental human rights of elders are respected. For example, he or she must be assured of not being abused by anybody in the society, including by the family members. With their vast experience, they can make acceptable suggestions for good governance to the authorities.

(to be continued..).

-- Dr. Rao V.B.J. Chelikani

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Balco Nagar unit of Chhattisgarh State Federation had arranged a gathering of 100 senior citizens to enjoy the winter and learn about their legal rights from the District Legal Services Authority (DALSA) on 9th December.

1. Shri PL Soni, jt. Secretary was felicitated for inspiring and arranging Covid vaccination for 2000 senior citizens at Balco Nagar by the state government officials and CEO of Helpage India on 14th Nov. at Raipur.

2. Ambikapur unit of the Federation has arranged a very nice excursion to the hill station Manpat which was followed by the state Executive Committee meeting on 9th Nov.

3. The affiliated units of the state federation, namely Kabirdham, Durg, Mungeli, Lorami, ratanpur, and the Central Executive Body had distributed 800 good quality blankets and other warm clothings to the tribal elderly citizens residing in thick forest of Chhattisgarh during November December months.

--- Shri. Chandra Prakash Deoras, +91 93003 28800

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Gujarat

Mr. Y B Rawal, Mr. Mahesh bhai Langhanoja, and Mr. A H Ojha Saheb representing NRKM-SUNR in the Pension Adalat at DRM Office in Rajkot on 15th Dec. All the 8 cases have been satisfactorily settled.

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GOA

‘Restore validity of NGO’s card as ID proof for senior citizens’

Many are being deprived of KTC bus fare concession

Staff Reporter
Margao

The All Goa Senior Citizens Federation has appealed to the Chief Minister and government authorities to allow for the acceptance of cards issued to senior citizens by the federation for travel concession by the Kadamba Transport Corporation Ltd (KTCL).

According to the federation, the KTCL had issued a circular that the card issued by it to senior citizens was not being accepted as identity proof. “The card issued by the NGO was accepted by KTCL buses for over 15 years but now it is disappointing to see the notice put up at bus stands stating that identity cards issued only by the directorate of Social Welfare will be accepted. We appeal to accept the card of the All Goa Senior Citizens Federation which is an NGO duly recognised by the state government as it was accepted for such concession earlier,” said the federation led by its president Diogo M. Da Costa in the letter.

It further said that just as identity cards issued by aided school management were accepted for travel concession for students travelling on KTCL buses, similarly the federation-issued identity cards be accepted for travel concession for senior citizens. Da Costa said, “Out of the 1.85 lakh population of senior citizens in the state, an estimated around 35% have social welfare issued ID cards. Our federation through each taluka president gathers the information of the senior citizens from their area and we issue laminated cards to them. Earlier, this card was being considered along with other IDs like Aadhar card, election card or PAN card when giving travel concessions.”

- Shri Diago da Costa

Karnataka

On 13th Dec., Autism Society and Dr. PV Bhandari organized a cultural and product exhibition of 14 special schools in Udupi district. A cultural show by 14 special students and 10 stalls with their products were exhibited.

Maharastra

President AISCCON Principal V K Bhadane speaking on 12th Dec. on Fescom Foundation Day.
It is on 12th December 1980 i.e. 42 years ago that Dr. Radhakrishna Bhat planted the seed of Fesco in Dombivli, when there were only 25 to 30 senior citizen unions in the whole of Maharashtra. Keeping in mind the future needs of the senior citizen movement, these saplings are planted by the activists and today there are 5,000 unions in 36 districts, 358 talukas and 40,233 villages with one million members. Dr. Radhakrishna Bhat, Dr. S. P. Kinjawdekar and many veterans raised these saplings like “Village There Sangh” and by March 2023, we hope to form 750 women's Sanghs in total. Let’s celebrate this 42nd anniversary with the aim and resolution of creating 6000 teams!!

-- Shri. Arun Rode, President FESCOM, Pune.

Residential Training Classes for 80 Fescom women officers coming from different parts of Maharashtra held at the headquarters in "Nerul" on 23rd-24th Dec. Till now, 4 training classes of 80/80 officials have been completed. Present are: Fescom President Mr. Rode Saheb, Women President - Mayatai Kulkarni, Chairman of Senior Citizens Bhavan, Nerul, Mr. N N Ingale, Fescom Vice President- Mr. Annasheb Tekale, Chief Secretary- Shri Vivek Deshpande and Publicity Head and Pune Regional President-Shri, Chandrakant Mahamuni.

-- Shri. Suresh Pawar

Odisha
SCWA, Rayagada

Celebrating the IDOP in the office of the Dist. SCWA, Rayagada on 1st Octo. The advisor hoisted Association’s flag, followed by a Road Rally, carrying attractive placards with messages and befitting slogans. At the outset, mourning for a minute was observed for the departed souls. The President appraised the performance and development of the Association year by year and how the association is instrumental for solving the problems of many senior citizens round the year.
Hon’ble M.L.A. Sri Makaranda Muduli, the chief guest applauded the Association in presence of Superintendent of Police and Vice President & C.E.O. of IMFA, Therubali as guest of honour. Debate, Quiz, Patriotic Song, Carom, Chess, Walking and Badminton competitions were earlier conducted among the students of 16 schools and our members and prizes were distributed. 11 eminent achievers in their respective fields and a senior most advocate of more than 90 years for his contribution to the development of Rayagada in many fields during his incumbency as first chairman of Rayagada NAC and Municipality were felicitated. Besides, sarees were distributed to 33 tribal destitute women.

-- Shri. Binod C. Panda   President Cell: 9437096597, DSCWA, Rayagada

Federation of SCA of Odisha celebrated its 12th Foundation Day at Institute of Engineers, Bhubaneswar with Prof. Krupasindhu Panda in the Chair. Gen. Secretary Dr. P K Das offered his report. Working President Sri Pramod Chandra Pattanaik introduced guests. Eminent dignitaries, Sri Sahadev Sahoo, former Chief Secretary, Govt. of Odisha as chief guest, Sri Niranjan Rath,
Publisher of Samaja & President of Lokasevaka Mandala as the chief speaker with guests of honour Sj. Ananta Narayan Jena, MLA, Central BBSR, Comm. of Police Sri Soumendra Priyadarshi, Sri Krupasindhu Sahoo, Founder President and our Advisor, Smt. Namita Panda, President, Women’s Senior Citizens Forum, Cuttack and Educationist Sri Niranjan Parhi and our Advisors Sri Suresh Chandra Mantri, IAS (Rtd) and Advocate Bibhu Prasad Tripathy spoke on various issues of senior citizens. Quarterly Magazine, “The Aparanha” was released. Warm felicitations to Sri Narasingha Nath Parhi for his contributions to the organisation and senior citizens and the President Sri Nrusingha Charan Dalai, Panikoli Baristha Nagarik Manch and Zonal Secretary of FOSCAO Sri Basant Kumar Barik for enrolling members.

FOSCAO had arranged a Health Camp for its members with cooperation of Orange Cross, Bhubaneswar.

The house welcomed the office bearers of newly affiliated units - Ariana Senior Citizen Welfare Association, BBSR, Baristha Nagarik Manch Garadpur Block, Baristha Nagarik Sangha, Sukinda & Baristha Nagarik Manch, Kuakhia, Jajpur. Coordinated by VP Sri Arun Kumar Mohanty, Jt. Secretaries Raj Kishore Samantroy, Sri Indramani Nahak. Vote of thanks VP Sri Suresh Chandra Kar. -- Dr.P.K. Das, Odissa, Jharkhand

EC meeting of Paschim Odisha Baristha Nagarik Mahasangha on 7th Dec. at Athamallick in the district of Anugul, under the chairmanship of Prof Tahalu Sahu, President.

In Cuttack

- Krushna Chandra Sahoo, 9437075625
Annual General Body meeting and Family Meet of **Zilla Baristha Nagarik Sangha, Bargarh** on 16th Dec. under the chairmanship of Sj Pramod Jhankar, President. Dr Ghashiram Mishra, an eminent musician and artist has been felicitated "Bhagaban Mahapatra Baristha Nagarik Smrutee Samanna, 22" by the chief guest Mr Mirddha Toppo, ADM.  

--Shri. Prahallad Mahapatra

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**Federation of SCA, Punjab** has been awarded the ‘Rajarshi Chhatrapati Saha’ award by AISCCON at 20th Conference, which is given for opening maximum number of units and organising maximum number of programmes. Our federation and its units received 6 awards this year. These are the maximum number of awards, ever won by a Federation of Senior Citizens, in the whole country. This award was personally received by our president S. Harchand Singh Mand. The Chairman Sh. S.P. Karkara IAS (Retd), congratulated all award winners and their teams which made it possible.  

-- Shri. Inderjit Singh Sidhu-Sec. General
Chapter-3 of MSCA Mohali met on 14th Dec. in Dr Amarjit Singh Khehra memorial library, Rose garden. Dr. Pardeep Kumar Sharma, a specialist in Neurology of IVY Hospital addressed the gathering.

-- Prin.S.Chaudhary

Mohali SCA: Dr Amandeep Singh of Sohana Hospital delivering a talk about stroke and dementia.

On 13th Nov. prize distribution on Children's Day Competition about Pister making and Calligraphy winners.

P H Vaishnav Seminar on Cyber Crime was covered live and available on https://rimeutu.be/knGODqxxluM

--Shri.Jarnail Singh, Punjab
A member of SCF, Zirakpur, Col Gurjeet Singh Bajwa, decorated with Vir Chakra and Shaurya Chakra, who was one of the officers to lead his men in the 1971 war, was invited to an impressive ex-serviceman rally held at Sangrur military station on 4th Dec. as hon’ble guest. He addressed the distinguished gathering of ex servicemen & honoured the respected Veer Naris.

Our Older Persons Day Celebration at Tagore Theatre Sector 18 in Chandigarh, as our past President Brig Keshav Chandra was bestowed with Life Time Achievement Award by AISSCON. Male member above 90 years and female members above 85 years were honoured along with 5 eminent personalities of the Tricity- Chandigarh Panchkula Mohali. Also Directory of 2000 live members & Souvenir 2022 were released after 4 years.

-- Shri. Satnam Singh Randhawa, President Chandigarh SCA. satnamsudesh@gmail.com
Federation of SCA Panjab on 17th Dec. at Bathinda. The members were welcomed by SCC Bathinda by showering flower petals on them. Smt. Satwant Kaur welcomed all the delegates and highlighted the activities of their Council and also told the history of Bathinda. Meeting was addressed by chairman Sh. S.P. Karkara, President Sh.H.S.Mand Exe. President Sh. G.S.Chchina, Sr Vice President S.Karnail Singh Vice President Prin. Chaudhary and Sh.D.S.Grewal.S.

-- Shri. Inderjit Singh Sidhu, Sec. General

SCC Rupnagar
राजस्थान

वरिष्ठ नागरिक संस्थान की प्रदेश स्तरीय वर्चुअल मीटिंग आयोजित

सवाई माधोपुर 6 दिसंबर। वरिष्ठ नागरिक देश की भूमिका हैं कि वे किसी को क्या पर निर्भर नहीं हैं। समकालीन को पहचान कि यह वरिष्ठ नागरिकों के हितों का ध्यन रखना एवं उनके अनुभवों का लाभ देता और समाज को मिले ऐसा प्रभाव करें। इसके लिए यदि वरिष्ठ नागरिकों को आदेश भरना पड़े तो हम तैयार हैं। इसके लिए, वरिष्ठ नागरिक संस्थान वर्चुअल ज्वालामुखी प्रसारण के लिए अध्यक्ष एवं महासचिव संस्थान भारत रणनीति विभाग द्वारा मेला ने रणनीति गात्मक समिति की सूचना की। प्रेमी महिला प्रभारी एवं लिटा अध्यक्ष सवाई माधोपुर सूची तैयारी के बांध के संरचना की। यह संरचना, जानवर और संरचना के समूह का प्रदर्शन पूरा किया गया। जानवर के समूह के साथ ही साथ वर्चुअल ज्वालामुखी प्रसारण के साथ ही साथ वर्चुअल ज्वालामुखी प्रसारण के साथ ही साथ वर्चुअल ज्वालामुखी प्रसारण के साथ ही साथ वर्चुअल ज्वालामुखी प्रसारण के साथ ही साथ वर्चुअल ज्वालामुखी प्रसारण के साथ ही साथ वर्चुअल ज्वालामुखी प्रसारण के साथ ही साथ वर्चुअल ज्वालामुखी प्रसारण के साथ ही साथ वर्चुअल ज्वालामुखी प्रसारण के साथ ही साथ वर्चुअल ज्वालामुखी प्रसारण के साथ ही साथ वर्चुअल ज्वालामुक्ष परिस्थितियों की सूचना की।

श्री मादनलाल खटोड़

सम्पूर्ण जन कल्याण समिति की मासिक सभा में बांध संस्थापक सूचना उपस्थिति दर्ज की।

सभा के सुखद अथ्यो मोटा दक्षिण के लोकप्रिय विज्ञापन श्री संदीप शर्मा का पथ्रपत्र पहलाकर माल्यावपरण कर अहिंसक स्वागत किया गया।

अन्तर्गत चंदरसिंह एवम महासचिव सी एस परमार के साथ सामर्थ्य समिति रूप से नए सदस्यों एवम हरे कृष्णां मंदिर के भक्त सेवक का स्वागत किया गया।

वृक्षारोपण स्थापना, प्रदर्शन हास्य और अर्थनीति राजनीति का उनकी विशेष उत्साहित प्राप्त करने के लिए सम्मानित किया गया।

जैन सदस्यों का जनाभ्यास और श्रद्धालु की मनोकामना उनका सम्मान दिया गया। हरे कृष्णां के भक्त सेवक के आगजनी नींव से अन्न शरदों के साथ फूल फूल नन्दला कर वांछित भगवान के रूप में दिया गया। सभा पश्चात स्वादिष्ट भोजन का सेवन किया।
A Press-Meet by Sri. V. Narayana Murthy, Vice President, AISCCON on the Resolutions passed by AISCCON.

**Kurnool** As they do regularly, the Kurnool Senior Citizens Association’s president Sri. Shadeva Reddy, vice-president Sri. Ratna Reddy, secretary, Dr. M. Nagaraju and Sri. N.D. Christopher have visited on 11th Dec. the Sai Old Age Home where there are 20 inmates at the moment, arranged for sharing some snacks and drinks with them, and encouraged the organizers with their suggestions and cooperation.


--- Sri. Khuddus Shaik. Ph: 8332918999
Email: buttafoundation77@gmail.com

**Vijayawada Events**

Vice President of Krishna District Freedom fighter’s Association and a leader of Nastikodyamam, Ravuri Arjuna Rao passed away after 195 years of eventful life. He married Manorama, a daughter of Gora on March 13th 1948 in the presence of jaharlal Nehru, Acharya Vinoba bhave, Jayaprrakash Narayan and Prabhakerji. Homage is rendered by President of Sarvodaya Trust Dr. G.V. Mohan Rao, Secretary Sri. M. Venkateswar Rao, Tresurer Sri. M. Narayana Prasad, Trustees Sri. Matta Jayakar, Sri. Kottha Vijaya Kumar, Mrs. Nadella Sumathi of the Senior Citizens Association, and others.

‘Old Age Homes – Sentiments’ by Sri. TV Rao in Jana Vignana Vedika Webinar: 

Visakhapatnam

Elders Mela organised by HelpAge India on 22nd Dec.
Telangana

Sri. D. Parthasaradhi, Managing Trustee and members S.Sri. Ramamurthy, Krishna Reddy, Vithalreddy of **Srinivasa Samaja Seva Charitable Trust** of BKguda in Sanatnagar have handed over a set of stationery useful to the Ameerpet Govt. Hospital to Dr. Dasaradha and Dr. Vinayak Rao.

Pensioner’s Day by **TSGRE Association Hyderabad Dt.** branch on 17th Dec. at Pensioners Bhavan, Badichowdi Sulthan Bazar Hyderabad. Attended by Sri Thakur Inder Singh, President and V. Sadanand Goud General Secretary and other members. S. Sri. S .Gopal Reddy, E.Bhupal Reddy, R Pundarik Reddy, R.Jagadish Singh and Ramakrishna were felicitated.

**TASCA** conducted a meeting on 17th Dec. at Ravindra Bharathi with 1,100 senior citizens’ representatives from all districts of Telangana state. Hon Ministers Sri Mohd Mahaboob Ali and Sri Srinivas Goud, Chairman, High Court Justice Sri Chandra Kumar, Telangana Finance Commission and Sri Pathuri Sudhakar Redddy ex Chief Whip were present. There was distribution of Walking Sticks.

--- **Sri. Narasimha Rao P, President, TASCA**

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--- adrianmonck, World Economic Forum <agenda@e.weforum.org> www.weforum.org

Fri, 2 Dec. 91-93 Route de la Capite, CH-1223 Cologny/Geneva, Switzerland.
AOSCH Welfare (R.N. Mital) Trust has arranged on 18th Dec. a health check up by Dr Babu Rao, General Physician, accompanied by Sri M. Seshagiri and Sri. B.Omprakash, Trust members in Lahiri Old Age Home, Narlapally, near Ghatkesar RR dist. It is one of the five homes adopted by the Trust. A BP machine was donated and prescribed generic medicines supplied by Sri P. Ramachandriah.  

-- Sri B. Omprakash.

Tarnaka Senior Citizens have visited with families on 24th Dec. Wargal and Konda Pochamma reservoir, as a part of Karthika Vana Bhojanam, by bus. The visit covered on the way Ratnalayam a famous Sri Venkateshwara temple with vast greenery. Later, the famous Saraswathi temple on hillock in Wargal was visited and took part in the Pooja ceremony. After lunch, they proceeded to Konda Pochamma enormous artificial water body, which is a beautiful scenic picnic spot, where 15 tmc of water from an elevated level is impounding. In between, the talented elders like Sri V. Subba Rao, Sri Y.R.K. Paramahamsa and Sri G. Sudhir Babu kept us all busy with their songs, short kits, divine messages and experiences. Every one was involved and participated. The visit was well monitored and arranged by Dr. TV Rao, Gen Secty.

-- Sri B. Omprakash. Advisor/FSCT

The Telangana State Employees Association of Devarakonda in Nalonda district have felicitated Mrs. Sandhya Reddy, president of the old age home for her having received an award from AISCCON.
The Telangana State Human Rights Commission has organized a fare-well function at the end of their term of its chairman Justice Gunda Chandraiah, Judicial member Sri. Nadipalli Ananda Rao, and Non-judicial member Sri. Mohd. Irfan Moinuddine in the presence of retired High Court Justice Dr. Yetirajulu, justice P.S. Nrayana and Dr. Janardhana Reddy, chairman Telangana Public Service Commission.

Gulmohar Journalists’ Colony Senior Citizens Forum
1. Gulmohar Journalists’ Colony Senior Citizens Forum has arranged on 12th Nov. a soulful musical evening with artists from the Malwa region of Madhya Pradesh who presented a great rendition of Malvi Folk Songs as well songs based on bhajans of Meera and Kabir. A few members have opened their money purses and started showering money on the artistes for their talent.
2. Dr. Daya Upadhyay, MD, Associate Professor Medicine, University of California, US gave a lecture on “Post Covid: Taking care of your lungs, boosting immunity.
3. Holidaying on 12th Dec. in the open farmland of Sh. Amrit Sharma.

-- Sri.Subhash Saluja, Secretary,09811939379, gulmoharseniorsforum@gmail.com
**Uttarakhand**

**I. Haridwar:** Dr V K Kaul, Mrs V Kaul and Sh. Sarvesh Gupta were the speakers for the weekly program ‘Kuchh To Boliye’ at Shehjaar Center Haridwar on 14th Dec.

On 17th Dec. there was an interactive meet with SSP Haridwar Sh Ajay Singh, SP Sh Swatantra Kumar and CO Sh B S Chouhan, presided by Sh Sarvesh Gupta. The members put forth their concerns and Sh Ajay Sing was very positive and expressed his confidence that 90% issues could be resolved by the concerned dept.

**At Mussorie**

उत्तराखंड सरकार के मंत्री मंत्री में बेठक कल दिनांक 13/12/2022 में मसूरी में गांधी चौक स्थित गुंडवार में उत्तराखंड की विराट नगरिक संस्थाओं हरिद्वार, अम्बिका, भरतपुर, मसूरी, रामनीवेंद्र, आदि संस्थाओं ने उत्तराखंड सरकार का घुमाव संबंधित से संबंधित कर नव गठन कार्यकारिणी इस प्रकार है कि नई कार्यकारिणी गठित किया।

जिसमें,
1. प्रत्येक अध्यक्ष - न्यूज प्रकाश गुप्ता। 2 वरिष्ठ उपाध्यक्ष - श्री एन. के. साहिन। 3 उपाध्यक्ष - आमीर तौर पर मंत्री मंत्री शर्मा। 4 कोषाध्यक्ष - श्री एस. पी. अग्रवाल। 5 सचिव - श्री उपेन्द्र कुमार शर्मा। 6 सह सचिव - श्री विकास मोहन। 7 सदस्य - श्री विनोध नैनियाल।

विशेष अध्यक्ष श्री विनोध मोहन ने कहा कि अधिकारियों ने सीधी संस्थाओं के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियों के पदाधिकारियo

**At Rishikesh:**

-Compiled by Shri Suresh Palgay

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