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# Aayakar

THE JOURNAL OF THE INCOME-TAX EMPLOYEES FEDERATION

**AAYAKAR**

Journal of the Income Tax  
Employees Federation

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**Vol. 65**

**No.07**

**JULY - 2024**

Single Copy : Rs. 7/-  
Annual Subscrpn : Rs.84/-

Cheques and Drafts  
meant for the Journal  
may please be drawn

in the name of

**Income Tax**

**Employees**

**Federation only.**

**Editorial**

**8<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission**

The National Council of JCM (Staff Side) has demanded setting up of the 8<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission immediately. The staff side have been demanding for quite a long time that the Central Government Employee's pay should be revised every 5 years as is the case with employees of public sector undertakings like banks, Insurance etc. But this was never conceded by the successive Governments. The pay revision every 10 years was also the result of protracted struggle waged by the Central Govt. Employees. The pay revision awarded by the successive pay commissions, every 10-Year, had also failed to take in to consideration the cost of inflation and price rise of essential commodities that goes in to the basket for calculation of minimum wage as per the Dr.Akroyed formula in its true spirit thereby supressing the wages. As we all know the 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission(CPC) proposed just 14.29% increase in the salary which was the lowest rise since the 3<sup>rd</sup> CPC. The minimum wage was fixed at Rs.18000 applying the fitment formula 2.57 which was not based on any solid foundation. Our demand for a minimum wage of Rs.26000 applying the multiplication factor of 3.68 which was calculated considering the need based minimum wages on the basis of the then prevailing retail market prices was neither accepted by the Pay Commission nor by the Govt. The difference in the calculation of the ratio arose due to the faulty methodology adopted by the pay commission for arriving at the minimum wage as per the Akroyed formula. The local retail market prices were not applied in arriving at the formula resulting in this disparity. As a consequence, the Central Govt. Employees had to live with the lowest ever increase in wages for the next ten years.

Since we will be entering in to 10<sup>th</sup> year of implementation of 7<sup>th</sup> CPC in 2026, it goes without saying that the setting up of 8<sup>th</sup> CPC can't be further delayed, as the Commission takes it own time to come out with therecommendations and Govt. takes further time to implement them. It is pertinent to have a cursory look at the increase in the revenue and wages as ratio to Revenue Expenditure, as the Govt. always expresses its inability to increase the pay and allowances of Central Government employees



owing to financial constraints. While the Revenue Receipts of the Government has seen a massive surge since the 4<sup>th</sup> CPC, the declining trend in wages as part of the Revenue Expenditure is discernible. Even if we were to consider the financial year 2016-17, when the last pay Commission recommendations came into effect, the Revenue Receipts were Rs.1374203 crores which has nearly doubled in 2022-23 to Rs.2204422 Crores. However, the wages part of the Revenue Expenditure has shown a declining trend which is a pointer to erosion in real wages. In 2006-07 when the salaries of Central Govt. employees constituted 8% of total Revenue Expenditure in 2016-17 it came down to 7.8% and presently the wages constitute around 7% of the Revenue Expenditure of Govt. of India. At the time of 5<sup>th</sup> CPC this was 12.8%. The wage as part of the Revenue Expenditure has shown a declining trend over the years and therefore the argument of a burgeoning wage bill doesn't hold good.

The Finance Minister of our country had said recently that India is expected to overtake Japan and Germany to emerge as world's third largest economy by 2027. In this endeavour, the Central Govt. employees have a pivotal role to play. With more than 10-lakh vacancies in the Central govt. departments and ever increasing workload, the employees are putting in maximum effort to ensure that the Govt. machinery is moving with dedication and determination in order to achieve the goals set out by the Govt. Therefore, the Central Government employees need a better deal and constitution of 8<sup>th</sup> Pay Commission will be a step in that direction. And of course the 8<sup>th</sup> pay commission needs to resolve the aberrations of the past in order to ensure that a decent living wages is provided to the govt. employees which will fuel them to perform better and better.

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## JCM NEWS

No.NC-JCM-2023/Pension (NPS)

The Secretary,

Government of India, Department of Pension & P.W,  
Lok Nayak Bhawan, New Delhi

**Sub:- Request for meeting with the Staff Side to discuss about the anomalies in implementation of DOP&PW OM dated 03/03/2023 as decided in the meeting held under the Chairmanship of Additional Secretary (PP) on 15/12/2023**

**Ref:- 1. This office letter even number dated 20/11/2023 and 19/02/2024 Addressed to Secretary P&PW**

**2. Minutes of the meeting held on 15/12/2023 circulated vide DOPT letter dated 26/12/2023**

Dear ir,

Kindly refer to the two letters of this office and also the minutes of the meeting of the Standing Committee of National Council - JCM held on 15/12/2023. it was decided in the meeting that to discuss the following three major issues on conversion from NPS to Pension under CCS Pension Rules 1972, a meeting would be convened by the Department of Pension & P.W with the Staff Side. Despite our above two representations your department has not convened any meeting with the Staff Side.

a. In case of Ex Apprentices of Railways and Defence who were recruited directly on batch wise seniority basis, there is no notification / advertisement and hence the vacancies sanctioned for recruitment prior to 22/12/2003 should be treated as notification. This is not happening in the units.

b. In the case of Compassionate Appointment also there is no notification and hence the employees recruited on the basis of the Call Letters issued to them / date of application for compassionate appointment etc should be treated as notification. This matter is also remaining unsettled.

c. In some cases the senior employees are kept in NPS and the junior employees are converted to Old Pension Scheme. Apart from the above this office is



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receiving innumerable representations with regard to the issue of "Notification of vacancies" / "Advertisement etc". wherever the recruitment has taken place on the vacancies released by the concerned Ministry / Department prior to 22/12/2003, but the selected employees who were recruited on or after 01/01/2004 then such employees all should be brought under the coverage of CCS Pension Rules 1972. These issues needs to be addressed and settled through mutual discussions.

In view of the above as decided in the meeting of the Standing Committee of NC-JCM, the DOP&PW may kindly convene a meeting with the Staff Side of NC-JCM at the earliest to resolve the above issues through mutual discussions.

Thanking you,

Yours faithfully,  
(Shiva Gopal Mishra)  
Secretary

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No.NC-JCM-2024/8<sup>th</sup> CPC                      June 03 , 2024  
The Cabinet Secretary,  
Government of India, &  
Chairman, National Council- JCM  
Cabinet Secretariat  
Rastrapati Bhawan, New Delhi

**Sub:- Immediate constitution of 8<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission for revising the pay / allowances / Pension and other benefits of Central Government Employees.**

Respected

The 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commissions recommendations were implemented by the Government w.e.f. 01.01.2016. However, the demand of the Staff Side to the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC and subsequently to the Government of India for revising the minimum pay to Rs. 26,000/- per month as on 01.01.2016 calculated on the basis of the various components of the ILC norms and Dr. Aykroyd Formula etc. We have also submitted before the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC that the minimum pay proposed by the Staff Side of National Council (JCM) is still on the lower side. Unfortunately all our

arguments were rejected by the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC without any basis and recommended for Rs. 18,000/- as minimum pay w.e.f. 01.01.2016. While the Staff Side demanded that the Fitment Factor should be 3.68%, the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC recommended only for 2.57% which the Government straightaway agreed without holding any negotiation with the Staff Side which usually takes place. Aggrieved by the adverse recommendations of the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC and the acceptance of the same by the Government without holding any discussion with the Staff Side and without considering the proposals given by the Staff Side, the constituent organizations of the National Council (JCM) served a Strike Notice on the Government demanding for revision of minimum pay and Fitment Factor. The Government constituted a Committee of Ministers to negotiate with the Staff Side under the Chairmanship of Shri. Rajnath Singh Home Minister, Late Arun Jaitley the then Finance Minister, Shri Suresh Prabhu the then Railway Minister, and Shri Manoj Sinha the then State Railway Minister after discussion the Government agreed that the demands of the Staff Side would be further discussed with them to reach an amicable settlement. Based on the assurance given by the Committee of Ministers the indefinite strike was also postponed. Unfortunately no positive steps were taken by the Government to negotiate with the Staff Side and to increase the minimum pay and the Fitment Factor.

**Government itself says that the inflation is in the range of 4 % to 7% on average it shall be about 5.5 % . The post covid the inflation is higher than pre covid levels .**

If we compare the retail prices of essential commodities and goods which are required for daily life from 2016 to 2023 they have increased by over 80 % as per the local market, but we are provided by only around 46 % Dearness Allowance as on 1/7/2023 . Hence there is a gap between the actual price rise and DA provided to the employees and pensioners.

The Central Government revenue has also doubled from the year 2015 to 2023 as per the budget statements we can notice a considerable increase in the revenue



collection.

The Central Government's actual revenue has increased by over 100 % . Hence the Central Government has more paying capacity compared in the year 2016. The GST collection has also increased in April 2023 Rs 1.87 lakh crores has been collected. Income tax collections were highest in the year 2022-23 . The gross Personal Income Tax collection (including STT) (provisional) in FY 2022-23 is at Rs. 9,60,764 crore and has shown a growth of 24.23% over the preceding year

India's indirect tax collections rose 7.21% in 2022-23 to <sup>1</sup> 13.82 lakh crore from <sup>1</sup> 12.89 lakh crore in the previous year. Source Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC).

The Budget estimate for the year 2023-24 revenue collection is expected to be Rs 33,60, 858 crores , Gross revenue in 2022-23 was Rs 30,43,067 crores . After state share net Central Government actual revenue was Rs 20, 86,661 crores

The staff strength of Central Government employees has decreased from the last decade with about 10 lakhs vacancies .The work pressure is on the existing employees.

The actual expenses for wages (salary) and allowances is only 7.29% of the total revenue expenditure for the Central Government employees for the year 2020-21. In respect of Pensioners the actual expenses on pension is around 4% of the total revenue expenditure.

Hence the salary and pension should increase by over 50% over the existing 7th CPC pay scales as the Government is a model employer or a good employer as per the earlier pay commission statements.

It is now 8 years after the implementation of the 7<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations. The 7<sup>th</sup> CPC while discussing about the future Pay Commissions and wage revisions of the Central Government Employees have stated the following.

*"1.22 It is also recommended that the matrix may be reviewed periodically without waiting for the long period of ten years. It can be reviewed and revised*

*on the basis of the Aykroyd formula which takes into consideration the changes prices of the commodities that constitute a common man's basket, which the Labour Bureau at Shimla reviews periodically. It is suggested that this should be made the basis for revision of that matrix periodically without waiting for another Pay Commission."*

The Government so far neither accepted the above recommendations nor constituted the 8<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission. DA of the Central Government Employees and Pensioners have already reached 50% w.e.f. 01.01.2024 the DA element will cross 50% considering the inflation and the price rise. It is also pertinent to mention here that more than 20 lakhs of Civilian Central Government Employees are governed under the National Pension System and every month they have to contribute 10% of their Basic Pay and DA to the NPS. This considerably reduce their take home pay. The Government have so far not agreed to our demand to scrap NPS and to restore the Pension under CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972 (now 2021) to the Central Government Employees recruited on or after 01.01.2004.

Considering all the above aspects and today's requirement of life and also to attract qualified and talented candidates to the Government service time has now come to immediately constitute the 8<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission and to revise the Pay Scales / Allowances / Pension and other benefits of the Central Government Employees through mutual discussions and settlements. Therefore, the Staff Side demands that the Government of India may immediately constitute the 8<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission.

With Kind Regards,

Sincerely yours,  
(Shiva Gopal Mishra)  
Secretary

oOo



No.NC/JCM/2024

JULY - 2024

To

The Finance Secretary Ministry of Finance,  
(Government of India),  
North Block, New Delhi Dated: June 25, 2024

Respected Sir,

**Sub: Consideration of the important issues of the Central Government Employees - Reg.**

I, on behalf of Staff Side of the National Council (JCM), wish to draw your kind attention towards the undernoted significant issues of the Central Government Employees, which are creating serious sense of disappointment amongst them and agitating their mind, and need to be finalized by the Government, with the fervent hope that the same would be addressed on priority.

**1. Restoration of the “Defined and Guaranteed Pension Scheme” in place of National Pension System(NPS) for the Government Employees appointed on or after 01.01.2004**

We have thorough discussion with the Committee constituted by the Government of India, under your Chairmanship, to review the Pension System for the Government Employees. We had been hopeful that, as per our demand, the Government will decide that, 50% of the salary will be paid as “Pension” with neutralization of Dearness Allowance, so that, life of the pensioners should not be miserable.

We had thought that this committee will submit its report to the Government and the employees, appointed after 01.01.2004, will get relief, however, it is quite unfortunate that, up till now, nothing fruitful has been done in this regard.

It is, therefore, requested that the issue, which is creating lot of mental agony and anguish in the Government Employees, particularly Railway Employees, where large-number of Loco Pilots running trains as “Frontline Staff”, are always feeling aggrieved, should not be forced to work under depression, which may cause train accident and can be a potential threat to Rail Safety.

**2. Constitution of the 8th CPC**

The Government of India appointed 7th Central Pay Commission in the year 2014, and it was assured that the Pay Commission would finalize its recommendations within 18 months’ time. Accordingly, 7th CPC submitted its report to the Government on 19th November, 2015. Subsequently, the Government constituted a “High Level Committee” to examine the recommendations of the 7th CPC for implementation thereof. The Central Government Employees were highly disappointed on certain important recommendations of the 7th CPC, and the first was “Minimum Wage”, while the other was “Fitment Formula” for Fixation of Pay in the 7th CPC. It was just after serving of Strike Notice for “Indefinite Strike”, the Government invited the Staff Side/National Council (JCM) for holding discussion, and the entire issue was discussed with the Group of Ministers, in a meeting held on 30th June, 2016 at the residence of Shri Rajnath Singh, the then Hon’ble Home Minister(Govt. of India), wherein the then Hon’ble Finance Minister, Shri Arun Jaitley, Hon’ble Minister for Railways, Shri Suresh Prabhakar Prabhu and Hon’ble MOSR, Shri Manoj Sinha, were also present, whereupon it was assured that the Government would consider these two aspects in a positive manner. However, Minimum Wage continues to be Rs.18,000 against duly justified demand, based on Aykroyd Formula, for Rs.26,000, and Fitment Formula has also not been improved as assured by the GoMs in the meeting held with the Staff Side (NC/JCM) on 30.06.2016.

Now, after the end of the COVID-19 Pandemic situation, revenue collection of the Government has improved remarkably and the GDP growth of the country is also ranging between 5-6% as of now. The GST collection has also shown a steep increase and has been around Rs.2 lakh crore during the preceding month. Income Tax collection has also been around Rs.10 lakh crore during the previous financial year, and the entire Tax collection was around Rs.14 lakh crore. Actual expenditure on Wages and Allowances of the Government Employees is around 7.3% of the total revenue expenditure of the Central Government



and the expenses on Pension is around 4% of the total revenue expenditure.

The 7th CPC, under para 1.22 of its report had recommended as under:-

**1.22 “It is also recommended that the matrix may be reviewed periodically without waiting for the long period of ten years. It can be reviewed and revised on the basis of the Aykroyd formula which takes into consideration the changes prices of the commodities that constitute a common man’s basket, which the Labour Bureau at Shimla reviews periodically. It is suggested that this should be made the basis for revision of that matrix periodically without waiting for another Pay Commission”.**

Regrettably, the above recommendation of the 7th CPC remains Non-Accepted, with the result that, while Consumer Price Index has increased remarkably, as a result of which Dearness Allowance/Relief has already reached to 50% w.e.f. 01.01.2024, but no revision of the Matrix has taken place till date.

It would not be out of context to mention here that, conventionally there has been practice of revising Wages and Advances of the Central Government Employees by appointing Central Pay Commission at an interval of 10 years during the last five decades as per practice in vogue. The recommendations of the 7th CPC were also implemented w.e.f. 01.01.2016 and Dearness Allowance having been crossed 50% in January, 2024, there is gross justification for constitution of the 8th CPC to consider and recommend revision of the Wages and Allowances of the Central Government Employees, that should take effect from 01.01.2026 as per previous practice in vogue.

I would, therefore, request you to personally intervene in the matter, so that, 8th CPC is appointed without any further delay.

### **3. Creation of additional posts in commensurate with increased workload in Indian Railways**

Your goodself is well aware that the Indian Railways, the second line of the Defence of the

country, is the cheapest, convenient and safe mode of transportation of passenger and freight in this country and operate round-the-clock 24X7 throughout the year in all weathers and odd and peculiar conditions for overall development of the country over the years.

With tremendous increase in the population of the country, an urgent need has always felt to expand and increase Railway Service to cope-up with enhanced requirement of the Railway Customers, for which new trains are regularly introduced. Doubling and tripling of railway tracks is a regular process and electrification of the entire railway track is the prime objective of the Government, as a result of which, majority of railway track has been electrified. Semi-High Speed and High Speed Trains are also on priority of the present Government.

It may also be appreciated that, majority of the categories of Non-Gazetted Cadre in Indian Railways are uncommon and are totally involved in maintenance and safe operation of the Indian Railways. With the increase in workload, caused due to introduction of new train services(both passenger and freight), addition of new tracks and other infrastructure and rolling stocks, doubling and tripling of railway tracks, electrification of majority of routes, unconventional requirement creation of additional posts in Mechanical, Electrical, S&T, Civil Engineering and Operating and Commercial Categories of the Indian Railways, without which safe and efficient train operation cannot be imagined. Thumb rule of “**Matching Saving**” for creation of additional posts is absolutely impracticable in case of the Indian Railways being a round-the-clock operating system.

It would, therefore, be quite appropriate and in the larger interest of safe and efficient Rail operation that the Ministry of Railways be permitted to create additional posts, in commensurate to additional workload and providing requisite manpower for enhanced workload due to addition of new trains and infrastructure.

### **4. Filling-up of vacancies**

A large-number of vacancies are existing in almost all the Government Departments, causing lot of



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frustration among the existing staff because of increased workload. It is, therefore, requested that, all such vacancies should immediately be filled-up. We sincerely hope that, the above-mentioned important issues of the Central Government Employees would attract your kind attention and will be considered favourably.

Yours faithfully,  
(Shiva Gopal Mishra)  
Secretary(Staff side)

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No.NC-JCM-2024/CS/PM June /8, 2024

To

**Shri. Jitendra Singh ji,**

Honourable Minister of State for Personnel,  
Public Grievance and Pension Government of India.  
North Block, New Delhi - 110001.

Respected Sir,

I am writing to offer my heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the Staff Side of the National Council (JCM), Government of India which represents the more than 30 Lakh Central Government Employees and also the Pensioners on the occasion when your honour has taken over as the Minister of State for Personnel, Public Grievance and Pension. You are the Minister for 2 major Departments i.e. the DOP&T and the Department of Pension and Pensioners Welfare which the Central Government and the Pensioners look forward with regard to their service matters while in service and also after retirement. Therefore the expectations of the employees and the pensioners are a lot from your honour.

The undersigned has also written a letter to the Hon'ble Prime Minister who is also the Minister In-charge of Ministry of Personnel Public Grievances and Pension in this regard. I am enclosing a copy of our letter dated 18/6/24-addressed to the Hon'ble Prime Minister in which we have listed out certain important issues which needs the favourable consideration of the Government of India.

I am confident that you will use your good office to settle the issues which we have represented to the Hon'ble Prime Minister.

A delegation of Staff Side of the National Council JCM would also like to meet you in person in the near future according to your convenience.

Awaiting for your favourable response.

With kinds regards

Yours Sincerely  
(Shiva Gopal Mishra)  
Secretary

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No.NC-JCM-2024/CS/PM June 18, 2024 To

**Shri Narendra Modi Ji,**

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India,  
South Block, New Delhi - 110 011.  
Respected Pradhan Mantri Ji,

I on behalf of the Staff Side of the National Council (JCM), Government of India which represents the more than 30 Lakh Central Government Employees and also the Pensioners convey our warmest congratulations to your honour on your assuming the office of the Prime Minister of one of the world's largest country for a record consecutive 3rd term. We have the strong conviction that with your vast experience in governance and administration our country will continue to navigate through all the challenges successfully bring about all round achievements in national development and inclusive growth to all the sections of the society.

As Secretary Staff Side of the National Council (JCM) it is my duty to draw your kind attention to some of the major issues which are agitating the minds of the Central Government Employees and pensioners. Your honour will appreciate that only a motivated workforce can give the maximum output, therefore I take this opportunity to request your honour to personally intervene and settle these issues which will go a long way in maintaining harmonious Industrial Relations between the Government Employees and the Government as Employer which ultimately will benefit the people of the country.

1. Government of India during the year 1966 constituted the Scheme of Joint Consultative Machinery and Compulsory Arbitration for the Central Government Employees with the aim of maintaining harmonious



Industrial Relations in the Government Organisations and Department. The scheme will be celebrating its Diamond Jubilee during the year 2026. The JCM scheme has contributed a lot in improving Productivity, Quality, resolving jointly the issues and problems of the employees and pensioners and to maintain Industrial harmony. However for the past 2 decades the JCM Scheme has been completely diluted and the meetings of the National Council JCM and Departmental Council JCM's are not taking place as per its constitution. Even though at the national level few meetings are taking place but the Departmental Council level despite the directions from Cabinet Secretary and DOP&T meetings are not taking place, thereby the employees losing confidence in the JCM Scheme and are forced to approach Court of Law to settle their service related matters. The JCM Scheme needs to be strengthened at all levels by ensuring regular meetings and solving the problems, so that the purpose for which the JCM Scheme was established will be fulfilled.

2. More than 12 Lakh Civilian Posts are lying vacant in the Central Government Departments including Railways, Defence, Postal, Income Tax, CAG, etc. Due to this there is an acute shortage of manpower resulting in work pressure on the existing employees and unwanted outsourcing of permanent and perennial jobs. We request you to kindly take a policy decision **to** fill up all the vacant posts, **so** that the unemployed youth of our country especially those who belongs **to** the socially and economically downtrodden communities are benefited.

3. To re-consider and withdraw the National Pension System implemented for the Central Government Employees from 01/01/2004 and **to** restore the Defined and Guaranteed Pension Scheme under CCS(Pension) Rules 1972 (now 2021).

4. To re-consider and withdraw the decision taken and implemented by the Government by Corporatizing the 222 years old Indian Ordnance Factories and to restore its status as a Government Organisation as Ordnance Factory Board. Pending the same a notification may please be issued to retain the status

of the Defence Civilian Employees of Ordnance Factories as Central Government Employees till their Retirement from Service at par with the Prasar Bharati Employees.

5. To constitute the 8th Central Pay Commission since the next wage revision / pension revision is due from 01/01/2026.

6. To release the 18 months DA Arrears frozen during the COVID-19 pandemic to the Central Government Employees and Pensioners.

7. To extend the benefit of various Supreme Court Judgements on Service Matters to all the similarly placed employees. Despite multiplicity of Court Cases and Judgements the Government is not issuing orders for grant of notional increment for Terminal Benefits **to** those employees who have retired / retiring on the last working day of June / December.

8. To grant 100% Compassionate Appointment **to** the wards/ dependants of the deceased employees by removing the 5% Ceiling limit.

9. Grant of Compassionate Appointment to the wards / dependants of the Central Government who died during the Covid-19 pandemic period while performing their duty due to the infection.

10. Restoration of the Commuted portion of the Pension to the pensioners after 12 years instead of the present 15 years.

11. Implementation of the recommendation of Parliamentary Standing Committee to enhance the Pension of the Pensioners by 5% once in 5 years from the date of retirement.

12. Revision of the Insurance Coverage in the Central Government Employees Group Insurance Scheme by ensuring atleast Rs.15 Lakhs **to** the Group-'C' Employees.

13. To establish CGHS wellness Centre in all the districts as recommended by the Parliamentary Standing Committee **of** the Ministry **of** Health and also to strengthen the CGHS by empanelling more Multispecialty Hospitals **and** also revising the rates regularly.

14. Restoration of the Railway concession given





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to the Senior Citizens which was suspended during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Sir, these are all only a few issues but very important issues which we have projected before your honour. The Central Government Employees and Pensioners are expecting a lot from your honour during your 3rd Tenure as Prime Minister of India. We are confident that you will personally look into all the above issues and direct the concerned authorities to settle these issues.

Sir, in the past the Hon'ble Prime Minister used to meet the Staff Side of the National Council JCM once in a while to understand the problems of the Government Employees who are ultimately the backbone and the driving force of the Government. A delegation of the Staff Side of the National Council of JCM would like to meet you in person in the near future.

Awaiting for a favourable response from your honour.

With kinds regards  
Yours Sincerely  
(Shiva Gopal Mishra)  
Secretary

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## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA MINISTRY OF FINANCE  
DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE CENTRAL BOARD OF  
DIRECT TAXES DIRECTORATE OF  
INFRASTRUCTURE

Room no.160, 2nd Floor, Gate No.1, 'K' Ramp, Jawahar  
Lal Nehru Stadium, Pragati Vihar, New Delhi-110003  
F. No. DIT(Infra)(Coord.)/Local Committee/ Project  
TARANG/2023-24 347 Dated:26.06.2024

To,

**The Pr. Chief Commissioner of Income Tax,**

Ahmedabad, Bengaluru, Bhopal,  
Bhubaneswar, Chandigarh, Chennai, Delhi, Guwahati,  
Hyderabad, Jaipur, Kanpur, Kochi, Kolkata, Lucknow,  
Mumbai, Nagpur, Patna and Pune.

**The Pr. DGIT (Trg.), NADT, Nagpur.**

Respected Sir/Madam,

**Subject: Revisiting facilities and quality of service offered by BSNL/MTNL under Project TARANG - regarding:**

- Kindly refer to the subject mentioned above.
2. The CBDT has observed that there are several complaints regarding the service quality of BSNL/MTNL to the Income Tax Department under project TARANG, which has been operational since 2010.
  3. To explore the possibility of alternate service providers or stick to the reimbursement scheme respecting the individual choice of the stakeholders, all the stakeholders i.e. field stations are requested to send their views/recommendations/suggestions with proper justification at the earliest.
  4. This issues with the prior approval of the Pr. ADG(Infra), CBDT, New Delhi.

Yours faithfully,

(C.M. Meena)  
ADIT (Infra), (Coord.)  
CBDT, New Delhi

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## SERVICE MATTERS

No. 11013/13/2023-Pers. Policy-A.III  
Government of India Ministry of Personnel,  
Public Grievances and Pensions  
Department of Personnel and Training  
North Block, New Delhi Dated 15<sup>th</sup> June, 2024

### OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject: Instructions regarding implementation of Aadhar Enable Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) for attendance of all Government employees, by various Ministries/Departments/Organizations (MDOs)**

Instructions have been issued by this Department from time to time for observing punctuality by the Government employees. Responsibility for ensuring punctuality in respect of their employees rests with the concerned Ministry! Department! Organization



(MDO). In this regard, instructions on implementation of Aadhar Enabled Biometric Attendance System (AEBAS) by Ministries/Departments/Organizations (MDOs) have also been issued from time to time. In its instructions issued by this Department vide OM of even number dated 23<sup>rd</sup> June, 2023, all the MDOs were, inter alia, advised to ensure strict implementation of AEBAS and periodically monitor the marking of attendance to ensure punctuality. However, it has been observed that despite clear instructions, several employees are not registering their attendance in Biometric Attendance System (BAS) and some of the employees have been coming late on a regular basis.

2. The matter of strict implementation of AEBAS has recently been reviewed and taking a serious note of the laxity in implementation of AEBAS, it is hereby reiterated that all MDOs will regularly monitor the attendance reports of their employees after downloading the same from the portal (**attendance.gov.in**). The MDOs will also ensure the following:

a. All employees mark their attendance using AEBAS without fail. This will ensure that there will be no discrepancy between 'registered' and 'active' employee on AEBAS.

b. In case any employee is not registered over AEBAS, immediate steps should be taken to register his/her biometric data on BAS portal; MDOs may also reconcile the data of registered employees on AEBAS with the employee data on other portals such as eHRMS portal/PFMS portal and the list of employees maintained by the Department.

c. In respect of Divyaang employees, MDOs will make appropriate arrangements for providing convenient and easily accessible machines for capturing biometrics through suitable alternative modes.

d. HODs of the MDOs shall sensitize their employees to adhere to the instructions relating to office hours, late attendance etc. They would download the consolidated report from the portal on a regular basis and identify the defaulters. Habitual late attendance and early leaving of office should be viewed

seriously and be essentially discouraged. Strict action against the defaulters may be initiated under the extant GOT rules.

e. MDOs shall ensure that the biometric machines remain functional at all times.

3. Besides above, it may be noted that UIDAI has now rolled out face-based authentication applications using **Android/IOS based phones**. The face Authentication offers robust features like faster authentication, live location detection, geo-tagging, etc. The Nodal Officer of respective MDO shall configure personal mobile policy in attendance portal for the employees of their Organizations and get the geo-coordinates fed into the entry locations of the office. The minimum OS requirements for smart phones would be OS 9.0 or above for Android smartphones and OS 14.0 or above for IOS smartphones. NIC officers and staff of the respective MDOs will facilitate registration of their Departmental employees on such IOS/android applications.

4. It may kindly be noted that BAS is only an enabling platform and there is no change in the punctuality instructions relating to Office Hours, late attendance etc. which will continue to apply. As per extant instructions contained in DOPT OM No. 28034/8/75-Estt(A) dated 04.07.1975; DOPT OM No. 28034/10/75-Estt(A) dated 27.08.1975 and DOPT OM No. 28034/3/82-Estt(A) dated 05.03.1982, half-a-day's Casual Leave (CL) should be debited for each day of late attendance, but late attendance upto an hour, on not more than two occasions in a month, and for justifiable reasons may be condoned by the competent authority. In addition to debiting Casual Leave (or Earned Leave, when no CL is available), disciplinary action may also be initiated against Government servants coming to office habitually late as it amounts to 'misconduct' under the CCS(Conduct) Rules, 1964. Early leaving is also to be treated in the same manner as late coming. The data relating to punctuality and attendance of an employee should also be taken into account, while considering him/her for important assignments, trainings, deputations and transfers/postings.



5. Secretaries of the Ministries/Departments etc. are, therefore, requested to kindly bring the contents of these instructions to the notice of their employees and put in place a robust monitoring mechanism to ensure complete compliance by the employees and initiate suitable action against the defaulting employees.

**(Manoj Kumar Dwivedi)**

Additional Secretary to the Government of India  
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F. No. S.11012/1/2024-EHS(Comp No. 8283407)  
I/3687003/2024 Government of India  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
EHS Setion  
Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi Dated 27-06-2024

**OFFICE MEMORANDUM**

**Subject: Guidelines for Issue of CGHS Card to serving employees and pensioners-reg.**

In continuation of this Ministry's OM No . S.11012/3/2011-CGHS(P) dated 29.12.2011, the undersigned is directed to issue the following guidelines, in view of technological changes and change in payment methods of CGHS Contribution, for issuing of CGHS cards to serving employees and pensioners, as follows:

**A. Serving Employees**

a. Serving employees shall mandatory apply for a new CGHS card online ([www.cghs.nic.in](http://www.cghs.nic.in)) to generate a temporary reference number. After online submission of the application form, they should take a printout of the same and submit the hard copy duly signed and photographs affixed thereon, to the department currently employed, for processing and onward submission to the concerned Office of Additional Director, CGHS for issuing the cards. One copy is to be forwarded to the Additional Director of the concerned City and the other copy is to be retained by the Employer Department of the Central Government (hereinafter referred to as 'sponsoring authority) for CGHS benefits.

b. The requisition shall be sponsored by the Head of Department/Head of Office of the employee.

c. A Specimen copy of the application form for

the New CGHS Card is enclosed at **Annexure-1**.

d. CGHS shall scrutinize the application based on the documents provided:

i. Pay Slip indicating the pay scale and CGHS deduction.

ii. Aadhaar Card/PAN card or any other valid document as per RBI guidelines, as ID Proof for Self and Dependent Family Members.

iii. Disability Certificate of Dependant (If applicable) as per OM No.4-24/96- C&P/CGHS(P)/EHS dated 07th May 2018. (Enclosed at **Annexure-2**)

iv. Photographs of self and Dependant Family Members.

The Standard Operating Procedure is enclosed at **Annexure-3**.

**B. Pensioners**

a. CGHS card(s) will be issued to eligible pensioners and family pensioners, drawing pension from Central Civil Estimate and his/her dependent family members, when the pensioner is not availing the Fixed Medical Allowance (FMA).

b. The pensioners also has the option for availing Fixed Medical Allowance with a CGHS card (IPD Card) by paying the full subscription, however, the CGHS 'IPD only' card shall be valid only for 'cashless' indoor treatment at CGHS Empanelled Private Hospitals/ designated Government Hospitals. The beneficiary of 'IPD only' CGHS card shall also be eligible for reimbursement of expenses incurred for indoor treatment at any Government/Private Hospital only in case of a Medical Emergency.

c. The pensioners can submit his/her duly filled application form for the new Pensioner CGHS card, in the new Card Application Form (Annexure 3) to the Additional Director of CGHS city concerned.

d. The applications shall be accompanied with payment of CGHS Contribution on Bharat Kosh, along with the Challan generated from Bharatkosh as proof of payment.

e. The contribution (equivalent to 120 times i.e 10 years of existing CGHS contribution rate, at the time of retirement). The existing rates shall be as



per the details provided below:

S. No.	Pay Level (7th CPC Paymatrix)	Contribution
1	Level 1 to 5	Rs. 30,000/- for whole lifeCGHS Card
2	Level 6	Rs. 54,000/- for whole lifeCGHS Card
3	Level 7 to 11	Rs. 78,000/- for whole lifeCGHS Card
4	Level 12 and above	Rs. 1,20,000/- for whole lifeCGHS Card

f. CGHS shall scrutinize the application based on the documents provided:

i. Self-attested PPO/ Provisional PPO or Last pay certificate

ii. Aadhaar card ID/PAN card or any other valid document as per RBI guidelines as ID proof for Self and dependent family members

iii. Disability Certificate of Dependant (If applicable)

iv. Photographs of self and dependent Family Members.

v. Copy of Bharat Kosh Challan for CGHS subscription paid

vi. Proof of availing/non-availing FMA (if applicable).

The Standard Operating Procedure is enclosed in **Annexure-3**.

g. Retiring employees have the option to apply for a pensioner card along with pension papers 6 months before the date of Retirement (Online as a pensioner new card). The office shall observe the same procedure as for a serving employee for getting his/ her CGHS card(s) prepared.

**C.** Consequent to verification of CGHS Card, the electronic form of CGHS card shall be accessible to the beneficiary using the option of 'Beneficiary Login' on CGHS Website, myCGHS app & Digilocker app for Android/iOS-based mobile devices. The electronic CGHS card shall be at par with CGHS plastic Card for availing benefits. The authenticity of CGHS card can be verified using the option of 'Verify beneficiary' available on CGHS Website (www.cghs.nic.in).

**D.** For the issue of a new CGHS plastic card

upon mutilation, renewal or loss of the CGHS Card, application Form AA or BB (**Annexure 4 & 5**) along with the Bharatkosh Payment challan for **Rs. 100/-** shall be submitted for issuing a new card to the concerned Additional Director. To encourage the CGHS beneficiaries to use digital CGHS cards, it has also been decided that No fee shall be levied, in case the beneficiary opts for renewal/reissue of card without a fresh printed plastic card.

**E.** The Instructions issued for the CGHS beneficiaries from Member of Parliament, Ex-Member of Parliament; eligible Autonomous Institutions, Air India and PIB accredited Journalists shall remain as per extant rules.

**F.** The CGHS Beneficiary shall inform CGHS immediately, if there is any change in dependency criteria of his family members included in the CGHS Card. If he fails to intimate and if CGHS comes to know of the change, then the CGHS facility is liable to be withdrawn and the CGHS shall be free to write to the appropriate authority for recommending action under Service Rules or Pension Rules.

These guidelines issues with the approval of the competent authority and these guidelines shall be effective from one month from the date of issue.

(Hemlata Singh)

Under Secretary to the Government of India  
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F. No. 25013/01/2024-Pers. Policy A-IV  
Government of India Ministry of Personnel,  
Public Grievances and Pensions  
Department of Personnel and Training  
(Personnel Policy A-IV)  
North Block, New Delhi Dated : 27th June, 2024

#### OFFICE MEMORANDUM

Subject: - **Periodic Review of Central Government Employees for strengthening of administration under Fundamental Rule (FR) 56(j)(I) and rule 48 of CCS(Pension) Rules, 1972 [now, revised as Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021] — reg.**

The undersigned is directed to refer to the



subject cited above and to state that instructions have been issued from time to time for undertaking periodic review of performance of Government servants with a view to ascertain whether the Government servant should be retained in service or retired from service prematurely, in public interest, as per relevant provisions of Fundamental Pension Rules referred to in the subject cited above. In addition to the various instructions/guidelines issued in the subject matter, the DoPT vide its OM No. 25013/03/2019-Estt.A-IV dated 28.08.2020 (copy enclosed) has issued a comprehensive and consolidated guidelines detailing the procedures to be followed in identifying the cases of premature retirement under FR 56 (j)/(l) and Rule 48 of CCS (Pension) Rules directing all the Ministries/Departments to follow the content of the said OM strictly and ensure its wide circulation amongst all concerned. The detailed guidelines on the above subject are already available in public domain at <https://dopt.gov.in-Archives-Orders-Establishment-Premature-retirement>.

2. Similarly, in so far as strengthening of administration by periodical review under FR 56(j) in respect of Autonomous Institutions and Statutory bodies is concerned, the DoPT's OM No. 26012/8/2022-Estt.A-IV dated 20.12.2022 and OM No.25013/1/2016-Estt.A-IV dated 11.03.2016 (copies enclosed) respectively may be referred to.

3. It may be noted that the objective of Fundamental Rule (FR) 56 (j)/(l) and Rule 48 of CCS (Pension) Rules [now, revised as Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021] is to strengthen the administrative machinery by developing responsible and efficient administration at all levels and to achieve efficiency, economy and speed in the disposal of Government functions.

4. The Administrative Ministries/Departments have repeatedly been requested to adhere to guidelines issued in this regard and furnish a report to this effect to the Department of Personnel and Training. However, it has come to notice that various Ministries/Departments are not adhering to the said guidelines resulting in delay in identifying the Government

employees due for review under relevant provisions of FR- 56 (j)/(l) and Rule 48 of CCS (Pension) Rules [now, revised as Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021].

5. In view of the above, the Ministries/Departments are requested to take immediate action to identify the employees due for review under relevant provisions of Fundamental/Pension Rules and ensure that their cases are expeditiously submitted for consideration before the duly constituted Review Committee as per extant instructions. Further, all Ministries/Departments are also requested to direct the Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs)/Banks, Autonomous Institutions and Statutory bodies under their administrative control to undertake the exercise of periodic review of employees under the relevant provisions.

6. Further, all the Ministries/Departments/Organisations are also requested to strictly adhere to the timeline mentioned in DoPT's OM dated 28.08.2020 for undertaking the exercise of review of performance of the Government servants and for the employees of PSUs/Banks/autonomous institutions/statutory organisations under their administrative control to ensure that the employees with doubtful integrity or found to be ineffective are not allowed to continue in Government and to furnish a report to DoPT in format given below by 15<sup>th</sup> day of each month starting from July, 2024:

Number of employees to be reviewed under FR 56 (j)/(l) Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021, group-wise (NB/C)	Number of employees reviewed under provisions of FR- 56 (j)/(l) Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021 group-wise (NB/C)	Number of employees reviewed and against whom the provisions of FR- 56 (j)/(l) Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021 invoked! Recommended group-wise (NB/C)	Number of employees retired prematurely invoking FR- 56 (j)/(l) Rule 42 of CCS (Pension) Rules, 2021 group-wise (NB/C)
1	2	3	4

7. Hindi version will follow.

Ends: as above.

(Shankra Nand Bharti)  
Deputy Secretary to the Government of India  
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JULY - 2024

File No. Z15025/19/2024/DIR/CGHS/EHS(Comp No.8281286) I/3687286/2024 Government of India Ministry of Health & Family Welfare (EHS Section) Nirman Bhawan, New Delhi  
Dated the 28-06-2024

OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject: Revised guidelines for Referral Process in CGHS-reg.**

In partial modification of MoHFW OM No. Z.15025/117/DIR/CGHS/EHSS dated 15.01.2018, the undersigned is directed to convey approval of the Competent Authority for issue of revised guidelines for referral procedures for Consultation. Investigations and Treatment in Government and Private hospitals (empanelled with CGHS). as per details given below:

**A. In continuation of OM No Z.15025/18/2020** dated the 09.10.2020 the term "Government hospital", shall also include all AIIMSS, Institutions of National Importance (INIs), North East Institutions, Tata Memorial Hospital and all other medical institutions under central government. No referral/permission/endorsement shall be required for undergoing consultation/investigation / treatment procedure including unlisted investigation/ procedures.

**B. Treatment at Private empanelled hospital(s):**

i. Single referral for Specialist Consultation: A referral issued by any Medical Officer of a CGHS Wellness Centre will be valid for three months. During this period. the beneficiary may consult two more specialists i.e. up to total of three specialists, if recommended by the primary specialist. A maximum 6 consultations shall be allowed during this validity period of 3 months.

ii. Investigation and treatment Procedures advised by specialist of empanelled private hospital after referral by CGHS: No further endorsement from CGHS shall be required for undergoing routine listed investigations and minor procedures, not requiring admission in the hospital, as advised by the specialist, within the validity period of 3 months from the date of issue of the initial referral. However, Referral/ endorsement from CGHS shall be required for special

investigations like CT Scan, MRI Scan, PET Scan and any other investigation costing over Rs. 3.000/- and the referral will be valid for 3 months.

iii. Correspondingly, referral endorsement would be required from Medical Officer of CGHS for any procedure requiring admission in the hospital, which would be valid for 3 months.

iv. Unlisted investigation(s) and treatment procedures advised by the Specialist of CGHS empanelled hospital: Permission for undergoing such investigations and treatment procedures shall be considered as per the delegated powers vide OM Z.15025/14/2023/ DIR/CGHS dated 27.12.2023 in case of pensioners and OM No. S 12020/4/97-CGHS(P) dated 07.04.1999 in case of serving employees. i.e. a. CGHS (Additional Director/ Director) in case of Pensioner beneficiaries. b. Head of the Department/ Office (HOD/HO) in case of serving employee(s)

v. In partial modification of O.M. No. Z15025/35/2019/ DIR/CGHS/CGHS(P) dated 29.05.2019, the special provision for CGHS beneficiaries to avail Consultation/investigations/treatment procedures shall hereinafter apply to CGHS beneficiaries aged 70 years and above. as against 75 years prescribed in OM as mentioned above dated 29.05.2019. The other conditions shall remain unchanged. The beneficiaries can also avail of the services through tele-consultation facility available through e-Sanjeevani (<https://esanjeevani.mohfw.gov.in/>)

vi. In case of treatment under emergency and post-operative follow-up treatment, the instructions shall remain as per extant rules. Reference Instructions:

a. O.M. No. S.1101V29/2019-EHS dated 13.09.2019.  
b. O.M. No. Z15025/35/2019/DIR/CGHS/CGHS(P) dated 29.05.2019 (regarding post-operative follow-up treatment).

Signed by  
Hemlata Singh  
Under Secretary to the Government of India  
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JULY - 2024

F No 44/88/MCTC/CGHS/2024 /DIR

Govt. of India Min. of Health & Family Welfare  
Directorate of CGHS  
CGHS Bhawan, RK Puram –Sector-13,  
New Delhi. Dated the June , 2024

and its recommendations were implemented in January 2016.

They also want income tax slabs under the old tax regime to be adjusted or the tax exemption limit increased for the new tax regime.

To boost consumption, the government may provide some tax relief to those with income above <sup>1</sup> 15 lakh annually and may also explore reducing the income tax rates for annual income of <sup>1</sup> 10 lakh, according to a report by news agency Reuters.

In a pre-budget meeting on Monday, trade unions made some key demands to the finance minister.

The unions had asked the government to stop the privatisation drive of PSUs, scrap the new pension scheme, fill all the existing vacancies in the central government departments and PSUs, and stop the practice of contract and outsourcing.

“The ceiling limit for the income tax rebate for the salaried class on their salary and gratuity must be substantially raised. Government-sponsored social security fund for the unorganised workers and agricultural workers has to be set up to provide them with defined universal social security schemes including minimum pension of <sup>1</sup> 9,000 per month and other medical, educational benefits,” the Central Trade Unions said in their memorandum.

“Over the decades, corporate tax rates have been slashed unjustly and at the same time increasing indirect tax burden on common people resulted in an utterly regressive tax structure. That must be corrected in the interests of fairness, equity and propriety. Even one per cent inheritance tax on the super- rich with the ceiling can fetch huge amount to the budget receipts,” it said.

Several industry leaders had also urged the government to focus more on infrastructure development to maintain high economic growth.

**Move ahead: On GST and reform**The GST Council must not dither any further on pending reforms

Revenues from the Goods and Services Tax (GST), which completes seven years at the end of

### OFFICE MEMORANDUM

**Subject: Keeping in abeyance the Implementation of OM dated 28.03.2024 regarding linkage linkage of CGHS Beneficiary ID with ABHA ID**

Reference is invited to the Office Memorandum No Z 15025/23/ 2023/ DIR/ CGHS dated the 28.03.2024 vide which Linkage of CGHS Beneficiary ID with Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID (ABHA ID) has been made mandatory and to state that the matter has been reviewed in the Ministry and the undersigned is directed to convey the approval of Competent Authority that the implementation of the above referred **OM dated 28.03.2024 is kept in abeyance** till further orders.

Linkage of CGHS Ben ID with Ayushman Bharat Health Account ID (ABHA ID) is made voluntary/ Optional till further orders.

(Dr. Satheesh YH)  
Director, CGHS

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### FROM THE PRESS:

**Budget 2024 expectations: Income ax relief, old pension scheme — what the salaried class wants from FM**

As the Union Finance Ministry is gearing up to present the full Union Budget for the fiscal year 2025 in July, several stakeholders have urged Finance Minister to provide tax relief for salaried employees.

#### **Budget expectations**

Salaried employees are hoping to see several favourable announcements, including an increase in income tax rebate, restoration of the old pension scheme (OPS) and formation of the 8th Pay Commission.

The last pay commission was formed in 2014



this month, hit a record high of <sup>1</sup> 2.1 lakh crore in April that typically sees higher inflows due to a year-end compliance rush. Receipts in May, for transactions undertaken in April, were the fifth highest ever at <sup>1</sup> 1,72,739 crore, rising almost 10% from a year ago, compared with a 12.4% uptick in the previous month. This was the slowest rise since July 2021 when the second COVID-19 wave had dented economic activity. In the nearly three years since then, GST revenues have generally grown at least 11%. Compared with the average monthly receipts of <sup>1</sup> 1.68 lakh crore in 2023-24, taxes pertaining to the first month of this fiscal are 3% higher. Although gross revenues from domestic transactions grew 15.3%, accelerating from a 13.4% rise a month earlier, revenues from goods imports dipped for the second time in three months. Domestic revenue growth has also been uneven across States, with five recording a decline in May, and eight growing far slower than the national average. However, broader worries about GST revenues being underwhelming, voiced by the Union Finance Minister at a GST Council meeting in late 2021, have now receded.

This is, therefore, an opportune time for the Council, which is meeting this Saturday, to press the pedal on its pending reform agenda to make it a truly Good and Simple Tax as originally envisaged. Meeting for the first time since last October, the Council may have much routine work on its plate, including clarifications related to, and reviews of, past decisions such as the 28% levy on online games and casinos. However, it is hoped the Council will also find time for bigger things such as reviving the plan to rationalise GST's complex, multiple-rate structure. A ministerial group, tasked with this agenda since 2021, must be asked to restart its work expeditiously. A new rate structure might also entail lower levies on items such as cement and insurance, for instance. A road map is also needed to bring excluded items such as electricity, natural gas, and petroleum products into the GST net to ensure businesses can avail credits for these inputs.

Along with easing compliances for smaller firms as promised in the Bharatiya Janata Party's election manifesto, there is room for simplifying the system for all businesses, including large ones which are compelled to register in each State and face varying compliance diktats. Not all of this can be discussed in one go. So, it is most critical that the Council, which is usually expected to meet every quarter but has been convened just six times since 2022, resolves to meet more often.

### **A torrid crisis: On heatwaves in northern India A prolonged summer should be classified as a natural disaster**

Northern India has been bearing the brunt of the longest stretch of heatwaves in the last 15 years. The minimum day temperatures in some States have consistently remained above 45° C and those in the relatively cooler ones, at least 3°-6° C above what is usual for this time of the year. Even night temperatures have consistently been 3°-6° C above normal, a consequence of the near-absence of moisture and rain. To add to this, the monsoon has been sluggish. After an early start, the monsoon has stalled since June 12 and is stuck in central India. Before its onset over Kerala, the India Meteorological Department had forecast the rainfall in June over India to be 'normal'. It has now updated that estimate to be 'below normal' or, in quantitative terms, a minimum 8% shortfall over the month's expected quantum of 16.69 cm. This update, however, is not useful as it does not give an insight into the progress of the monsoon. The normal dates of the monsoon's arrival over the northwestern and northern States are those spanning the June 25-July 1 timeframe. Whether the monsoon's current hiatus will push these dates even further remains to be seen. A prolonged hiatus could mean an even greater load on the infrastructure in these States.

On June 17, the Power Ministry said that demand in northern India had surged to 89 GW (89,000 MW) — the highest in a single day. To meet this power requirement, nearly 25%-30% had





to be “imported” from the other four regions — south, west, east and north-east — and possibly Bhutan. A precise break-up was not provided. Though the Ministry claimed credit in meeting the demand, it indirectly reveals the strain on the infrastructure. The installed power capacity in northern India is 113 GW (1,13,000 MW) and if the northern grid still needed to import power, it suggests an inability to utilise its full capacity. Delhi’s international airport had a half-hour blackout on the same day and it stands to reason that prolonged heatwaves and demands on cooling are only going to further strain the grid. Compounding this is the water crisis that has gripped Delhi. While water pilferage is a common woe, the heat has exacerbated demand, and Haryana, a key source of water for Delhi, has refused to increase supply citing its own constraints. It is high time that politics is set aside and the prolonged summer is holistically addressed by the Centre and States as a natural disaster.

**Food factor: On food inflation : Policymakers must keep in mind that inflation hits the poor the hardest**

May’s provisional headline retail inflation may have marginally eased to a 12-month low of 4.75%, but food price gains remained unrelenting last month giving little reason to cheer. Yet again, vegetables and pulses were key contributors in keeping food inflation as measured by the Consumer Food Price Index little changed at 8.69%, with urban consumers feeling the heat more than their rural counterparts as the pace of year-on-year change in food prices in India’s cities and towns hit a three-month high of 8.83%. Vegetable inflation not only continued to hover above 27% for a sixth straight month, at 27.3%, but month-on-month gains too accelerated by almost 200 basis points to a six-month high of 3.22%. Tomato, onion and potato prices led the charge, with these heavyweights in the vegetables sub-group logging sequential gains of 1.5%, 0.5% and a bruising 15.1% in the case of potato. Nor is the outlook for vegetable

inflation particularly reassuring with June’s retail price trends as well as the lag from escalating wholesale costs pointing to more pain ahead for consumers running their household budgets. Data from the Department of Consumer Affairs Price Monitoring Division show the all-India average retail price of tomato, onion and potato, as on June 14, were 21%, 14% and 8% higher, respectively, month-on-month, and a significantly steeper 35%, 58% and 44% costlier, respectively, when compared with their year-earlier prices. At the wholesale level, sequential inflation in tomato, onion and potato was disconcertingly faster at 28%, 18% and 9%, respectively, underlining the challenges policymakers face in containing prices through trade measures.

Food inflation also manifested last month with a quickening in price gains in the category’s largest constituent — cereals and products — to a five-month high of 8.69%. Retail cereal prices from the price monitoring division’s daily dashboard show rice was 13% costlier than on June 14, 2023, wheat was 5.7% more expensive and inflation in wheat flour (atta) was 4.7%, signalling that here again the prospects of a let-up in price pressures are remote, at least for now. Pulses saw inflation quicken again, after a mild slowing in April to 17.1% with the pace of sequential price rise hitting a six-month high of 1.53%. Official price data for June 14 showed gram dal, tur, urad and moong costlier by 17%, 27%, 13% and 8.5% than a year earlier, respectively. Rainfall data from the India Meteorological Department as on June 14 that show a 12% deficit since June 1 is also a cause for mild concern, an ‘above normal’ monsoon forecast notwithstanding. With food inflation particularly hitting hardest the poorer sections, policymakers can ill afford to drop their guard.

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## **CIRCLE NEWS**

The 14th Biennial Conference of the Income Tax Employees Federation, Madhya Pradesh & Chhattisgarh Circle was held at Jabalpur (M.P.) from 24th to 26th June, 2024. During the inaugural function of the conference on 24.06.2024, Comrade Rupak Sarkar, Secretary General, ITEF, CHQ, New Delhi and Senior Com. Yashvant Purohit, along with around 114 Delegates and 30 Observers of all the 51 Branches entire the ITEF, MP&CG, Circle were present.

On 25th & 26th, the subject session was held, wherein all the Delegates had taken part in the session and discussed at large on all the vital matters.

The Circle Election Officer conducted the Election Process in which Com. rashant Pandey and Com. Mahendra Singh Thakur elected as Circle President & Circle Secretary respectively in consequent second time.

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The 14th delegate conference of the ITEF Western UP & Uttarakhand Circle was held on 28/06/2024 in Ghaziabad. Com. Rupak Sarkar, Secretary General, Com. Ajai Tiwari, Working President of ITEF CHQ, New Delhi, and Com. Manish Kumar, Secretary of ITGOA, Ghaziabad unit, graced the inaugural session with their presence.

The Circle election for the ensuing term was convened in which the following office bearers were elected:-

1. Com. Ranjeet Sharma, President
2. Com. Santosh Kesri, Working President
3. Com. Brajesh Kumar and
4. Com. Yatendra Singh, Vice Presidents
5. Com. Sunil Kumar, General Secretary
6. Com. Brajesh Bajpai, Finance Secretary

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**XIV CIRCLE CONFERENCE OF MP & CG CIRCLE HELD AT  
JABALPUR, 24-26 JUNE 2024**





**The 14th delegate conference of the ITEF Western UP & Uttarakhand Circle was held on 28/06/2024 in Ghaziabad.**



**On the occasion of Com. Puspendu Sen birth centenary celebration, Book publishing even at Multipurpose Hall, Aayakar Bhawan, Kolkayta.**

