



Dear Readers,

I am pleased to hand over the third issue of 3rd year of AIACE Today to readers.

A record surge in Omicron cases around the globe has led to severe disruptions, hurting economic growth just when the world was slowly seeing some economic revival. In India, there has been a sharp rise in Omicron cases and many states have already announced fresh curbs to contain the new variant, even though it is believed to be milder than the Delta variant that caused havoc during the second wave. Given the fresh surge in cases and partial restrictions, economic recovery will face some disruption. One wonders whether the new variant severely impact India's economic recovery.

In this environment when the corona virus is undergoing several mutations, in the last three months (Oct-Dec21), AIACE had taken several steps for the welfare of its members and other coal pensioners. It's members along with AICPA members organised DLC camps at various places in collaboration with the India Post payment bank for generation of life certificate of pension payment and for continuing post-retirement medical benefits for executives and non-executive employees. Our members are meeting members of parliament and apprising them about the hardships being faced by the coal pensioners due to non-review of pension scheme 1998 and non- revision of pension. In the last one month, our members met Ms Himadri Singh, MP, Shahdol (MP), Sri Virendra Singh, MP, Ballia (UP), Sri Sanjay Seth, MP, Ranchi (Jharkhand), Sadhvi Pragya Thakur, MP, Bhopal(MP), Sri Rakesh Singh, MP, Jabalpur (MP), Sri Arun Sao, MP, Bilaspur (MP) and Sri Mahesh Sahu, MP, Dhenkanal (Odisha). Our association has decided to represent all the MPs representing coalfields and coal-bearing states of the country on the issue of the plight of coal pensioners. Our association has also decided to go for indefinite relay dharna at Jantar- Mantar, New Delhi along with AICPA members from the month of April 2022 to draw the attention of all concerned. Our association has also decided for legal action if the interest on NPS amount, which was kept with coal companies for about 12 years from 2007 to March 2019, is not paid back to the beneficiaries.

Lastly, our association is gaining ground slowly by the selfless efforts of all members. We could add about 1000 members including Associates (wives of deceased coal executives) in 2021 to our fold due to our works and committed members.

Let's make it the unique association of, not only India, but of the entire universe and entice other associations to take lessons from us and copy our working style of rendering service to members.

With best wishes.

P K Singh Rathor