



Dear Readers,

I am glad to hand over Year -6, Volume-I of AIACE Today in your hand. The year 2023-24 was one of the best years for the coal sector. Our country produced 997 MT of coal domestically for achievement of the objective of ATMA NIRBHAR BHARAT. For meeting the energy need of the country, we have been increasing the coal production by adoption of modern technology based on IR 4.0 and Mining 4.0 and also by adding high capacity machines in open cast and underground mines to increase production, productivity, safety, The Indian coal mines are slowly moving towards green mining by deploying Ripper and surface miners in OC mines and continuous miners in underground mines, thus reducing blasting by explosive. The FMC projects along with IPCC in mega mines have been able to reduce coal transportation of coal by road thus reducing air pollution and emission green house gases and particulate materials. In spite of appreciable growth in coal production, the country had to import about 265 MT of coal during 2023-24. We need to check it by increasing production within the country.

Coal India, one of the biggest companies of the world, produced 773.64 MT of coal in 2023-24 and posted a profit of Rs.37,369 Crores logging 17.8% year-on year growth. CIL's PAT during FY 2022- 23 stood at Rs.31,723 Crores. It also paid a dividend of Rs.25.50 per share which is 255% of face value of a single share. For increasing the production, it is in the process of awarding mines to private players on revenue sharing model. The advantages are conservation of resource, effective substitution of imported coal for non-regulated sector with good quality coal locked up in these mines and provision of livelihood to the local communities where these mines are revived.

CIL raised its coal production to 189.3 million tonnes (MTs) in the first quarter ending, June FY 2025 and will be very well in position to achieve the target for the year.

The activity of the association was a bit slow from March to May due to parliamentary election. Now, the election is over and the government has been formed at the Centre. We have to restart the movement for revision of pension to coal employees. Since formation of the govt, AIACE, AICPA and other coal pensioners' bodies have been meeting MPs and ministers and apprising their demands for pension increase. Till now our members have met Sri D D Uike, Union Minister of State in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs-at Betul; Sri Bhupathiraju Srinivasa Varma , Union Minister of State for Heavy Industries & Steel, at Narsapuram (AP); Sri Tokhan Sahu, Union Minister of State for Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, at Bilaspur(CG) and Sri G Kishan Reddy, Union Minister for Coal at Hyderabad. Our members have tried to depict the pitiable and miserable condition of coal pensioners who retired long back.

As far as, CIL and SCCL are concerned, the organizations are doing their best for employees' welfare. CPRMS E&NE are being streamlined, hospitals at different places are being empaneled, doctor's consultation charges have been enhanced, bill payment system has been revamped. CIL has issued all type of promotion orders for eligible candidates below E8 grade and the interview is going on for promotion to E8 grade. It is expected that promotion order will be issued by the end of July. AIACE is actively pursuing pay conflict issue of the executives with that of wage board employees. Though, the court cases have delayed the justice, but surely we will be able to succeed and the association will not sit idle till the executives get their due.

As far as the functioning of CMPFO is concerned, the pensioners are very much frustrated due to slow progress on issuance of revised PPO and also on the issue of faulty PPO and in some cases without photos of the beneficiaries. AIACE has taken up this matter with CMPFO authority. Our association is very much worried on late start of pension to retirees even more than 6-12 months due to mismanagement and corruption in the CMPF Organisation. The depleting pension fund is due to unwise decision of the trust regarding instrument of investment and selecting the wrong and doubtful company.

Our association organized AIACE Foundation Day functions starting from 16th May. Most of the branches organized these functions including North East branch Guwahati and Kerala branch by active involvements of local coal clubs. The lady members deserve special appreciation for organising cultural programmes at all the places. The Kolkata Coal Club, Bengaluru Coal Club and Delhi NCR Coal Clubs also organised musical evening on zoom and goggle meet platform. Other Coal Clubs are aspiring to organise online musical programmes.

Lastly our association along with All India Coal pensioners Association (AICPA) and other local coal pensioners and welfare bodies are striving hard for enhancement of pension. We will be meeting with MPs and ministers till September on the issue of enhancement of pension and stopping corruption in CMPFO and from October onwards, we will start massive movement all across the country.

Regards,

P. K. Singh Rathor