

All India Federation of Retired University and College Teachers' Organisations
(AIFRUCTO)

NEC of AIFRUCTO, Date: December 22, 2024, 10 am to 5 pm

Venue: Auditorium of Indian Institute of Management & Commerce, Hyderabad.

General Secretary's Report

Respected President, Patrons, Office Bearers, members of the NEC and other dignitaries attending the meeting. I have to convey my heartfelt thanks to Prof. A Pullaiah national secretary of AIFRUCTO and General Secretary of the Telangana Retired College Teachers Association (TRCTA), Prof S Rajeswar Rao Zonal Secretary of AIFRUCTO and the entire executive committee of TRCTA and its members for hosting the NEC at Hyderabad within a short notice. The leadership of TRCTA has always been generous enough to the AIFRUCTO's programs and meetings.

I am overwhelmed to find such an august gathering of eminent academicians, teachers of repute, celebrities and hon'ble participants.

Hyderabad, the capital of Telangana, is a city rich in history and modern significance. Known as the "City of Pearls" for its role in the pearl and diamond trading industry, it also boasts magnificent architectural landmarks like Charminar and Golconda Fort.

Today, Hyderabad is a major IT hub, housing giants like Microsoft, Google and Amazon, which contribute to the nickname "Cyberabad". The city is renowned for its vibrant culture and delicious cuisine- especially the iconic Hyderabadi biryani and its thriving film industry, Tollywood. Hyderabad's blend of historical charm and modern growth makes it a unique and important city in India.

International Concerns

The International political scenario is currently marked by significant upheavals, with Bangladesh experiencing notable turmoil. The resignation of Prime Minister Shiekh Hasina in August 2024 has led to a period of instability, with an interim government led by Nobel Laureate Muhammad Yunus attempting to restore order. This political shift was accompanied by economic challenges, including high inflation and social unrest. Additionally, there have been increased attacks on minority communities, raising concerns about human rights. The situation in Bangladesh is a critical point of focus for regional stability and international relations.

National Scenario

India's political landscape is characterised by a vibrant democracy with a multi-party system. The political scene is dynamic, with frequent elections and active public participation. Economically, India is one of the fastest-growing major economies in the world. Presently, India is 5th largest economy in the world and is trying hard to become number three. We have a diverse economy, with significant contributions from agriculture, manufacturing and service sectors. The country has made strides in technology and innovation, but challenges like unemployment, poverty and income inequality persist.

In the educational sector, however, there are disparities in access to quality education, especially in rural areas. The National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 aims to address these issues by promoting

holistic and inclusive education, focusing on critical thinking and creativity. Addressing these challenges is crucial for realising the NEP's vision of a robust and inclusive higher education and the biggest problem for attaining education in India. We understand the paucity of funds for attaining inclusive quality education is the biggest problem facing the nation.

The teaching community, students and civil society have been constantly opposing detrimental aspects of this policy. We all agreed that the education Policy needed a relook. We shall have to continue our opposition to NEP till a proper education policy is adopted.

The world and the Indian economy

The global economy is currently experiencing steady but slow growth, with projections of around 3.2% for 2024. Challenges such as inflation, trade tensions and policy uncertainties are impacting growth rates. Advanced economies are expected to see slight improvements while emerging markets face more modest growth.

In contrast, the Indian economy has shown resilience and robust growth. India's GDP grew by 8.2% in the first quarter of FY 2024, making it one of the fastest-growing major economies. Strong domestic demand, government capital expenditure and the focus on infrastructure development are the key drivers of this growth. However, India also faces challenges such as high inflation, unemployment and inequality.

Overall, while the global economy navigates through uncertainties, India's economic outlook remains positive, supported by strong domestic factors and government initiatives.

Our Condolences

I would like to pay homage to our departed leader Dr G Sridhar Reddy for his distinguished role in strengthening the teachers' movement in the country. He passed away on the night of July 14, 2024, in Hyderabad. His demise is a great loss to us and the entire teachers' fraternity of the country. Prof Reddy worked as a general secretary of the Affiliated College Teachers Association of undivided Andhra Pradesh for 18 years and served at the national level as National secretary of AIFUCTO. Prof Reddy along with Prof A Pullaiah was given full credit for obtaining various benefits to the aided college teachers in Andhra Pradesh. He worked day and night along with Prof Pulliah for the implementation of UGC pay scales in 1976, 1986 and 2006. He also played an important role in the leadership of legendary teachers' leader Prof Manik Rao for direct payment of salaries to the staff of aided colleges, pension, gratuity and security of employment to the aided college staff. We feel proud that he joined the AIFROCTO movement in 2014 as a founder National Secretary and later as Vice President.

We pay tribute to Prof Shyamapada Pal, the departed veteran teacher leader and former AIFUCTO president, as well as other AIFRUCTO members who passed away during this period.

About our demands

The following representation along with the Charter of Demands was sent to the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India and the Hon'ble Education Minister for necessary action. Unfortunately, we failed to get any response from the Union Education Ministry. The teachers are the most intellectual persons in society and keystones of the educational arch. Therefore, the government should have faith in teachers and fulfil the long pending demands.

1. Fixation of pension of retired Associate Professors of colleges in the Professor scale. Since the UGC gave the post of professor in its 7th Pay Revision to Colleges and promoted Associate Professors as Professors, the pension of retired Associate Professors should also be fixed in the Professor scale.
2. The 6th CPC has recommended payment of 20% additional quantum for pensioners above 80 years of age w.e.f. Jan 2006. Some states have awarded an additional quantum of pension to pensioners aged 75 years 15%, 10% at 70 years and 5% to pensioners aged 65 years. We demand that this scheme should be implemented uniformly across the country.
3. One notional increment should be given to those who retire from the service on June 30, since the date of increment falls on the next day of retirement i.e. 1st July. The Hon'ble Supreme Court of India has already established law in the case Union of India vs. P. Ayyamperumal R. P. (c) No. 1731/2019 in SLP (C) No. 22008/2018.
4. The commutation period of pension should be reduced from the current 15 years to 10 years throughout the country due to a drastic decrease in the interest rates.
5. Senior pensioners of Universities and Colleges should also be given the benefit of a 20% additional quantum of pension from the first day of the calendar month in which it falls due and not from the date of completion of 80 years of age.
6. We request the Govt. of India to formulate a 'Medical Scheme' for University and College retired teachers that will help them to get lifesaving treatment.
7. Our organisation requests the Govt. of India to implement the 7th UGC Pay Scale and pension based on the concordance table without any modification to all retired University and College teachers in all states and union territories.
8. We request the Govt. of India to give some sort of relief to all pensioners in the payment of income tax. Either the slabs of income tax should be modified or the ceiling amount should be increased.
9. We demand a uniform pension scheme for all university and college teachers in all states and union territories. There are still some states where pension is not being paid to university and college retired teachers. For instance, Punjab, Himanchal Pradesh and some Northeastern states like Manipur and Meghalaya don't pay any pension to the retired aided -college teachers.

We tried to press our demands in the Ministry of Education Govt. of India by sending representations directly and through Member of Parliament and approached the PMO for our demands. We also discussed our demands at the official level in the Union Education Ministry several times.

We tried to seek the help of Sri Rajnath Singh, the Hon'ble Defence Minister of India. Our delegation met the Defence Minister at his Lucknow residence on September 04, 2024, and gave him a copy of the representation. The Defence Minister forwarded the representation with his recommendation to the Union Education Minister Sri Dharmendra Pradhan. The Defence Minister assured us of full cooperation and promised to arrange a meeting with the Union Education Minister after the J&K and

Haryana assembly election. Delegation included Dr J N Shukla General Secretary, Dr S S Chauhan, National Secretary and two veteran teacher leaders of Uttar Pradesh Dr A P Singh and Dr U K Shukla.

Again, we met Shri Rajnath Singhji, Hon'ble Defence Minister of India at his official residence in New Delhi along with Dr S S Chauhan National Secretary to seek his help to fix an appointment with the union Education Minister for the AIFRUCTO delegation regarding the demands. The appointment could not be fixed due to the foreign visit of the Hon'ble Education Minister.

Some of our retired teachers are going to the courts and getting favourable orders. Our demand of reducing the commutation period from the present 15 years to 10 years is getting full support from various High Courts. Retirees from Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Uttar Pradesh successfully received favourable orders from the courts. Retirees from other states are also trying to seek relief from their respective High Courts.

Our demand regarding grant of notional increment on 1st July to the teachers retiring on 30th June for the purpose of calculating pension getting support through several decision from Hon'ble Supreme Court and Hon'ble High courts. Some states have already issued G.O.s for granting one notional increment. Govt. of India also issued an Office Memorandum on October 14, 2024, No.19/116/2024-Pers.Pol.(Pay)(Pt), Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Personnel & Training.

Organisational activities

The National Secretariat meeting of AIFRUCTO was held on June 09, 2024.

AIFRUCTO supported and participated in the action program of JFME by wearing black badges on September 5th while participating in the functions of Teachers' Day and action programmes in protest against NEP and other retrograde govt. policies on education in response to the call given by AIFUCTO.

We expressed our solidarity and participated in the AIFUCTO demonstration on November 19, 2024, at Jantar Mantar, New Delhi

Zonal meetings

Zonal meeting of Zone III was organized by All Odisha Retired University and College Teachers' Association in Bhubaneshwer on September 18, 2024 and office bearers of Jharkhand and Odisha Participated in the deliberations.

The zonal meeting of Zone II was organised by Prof. Chandana Jha, Zonal Secretary and General Secretary of The Federation of Retired University and College Teachers Association of Bihar (FRUCTAB) in Teachers Training College, Katihar on November 28, 2024. Office bearers of Bihar and West Bengal participated in the deliberations. Prof Pawan Kumar Jha, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Purnea University inaugurated the meeting. Prof Asok Barman, Patron of AIFRUCTO was the Chief Guest and Prof S Bhattacharjya, Treasurer of AIFRUCTO was the guest of honour. Prof. Barman emphasized the necessity of creating a strong network at all levels of the state units. Retired teachers facing problems due to age should be provided with all assistance by the relatively younger retired teachers. Dr J N Shukla General Secretary Presided over the meeting. Prof Tarun Kumar Patra General Secretary WBUCRTWA and Patron of AIFRUCTO addressed the meeting. In addition to this Prof Santosh Chaudhary Vice President of WBUCRTWA, Prof Rakesh Chaubey from Patilputra University, Prof Prakash Kumar of Munger University, Prof Piyush of B N Mandal University, Prof C K Yadav from

Purnea University, Prof Sikander Prasad Yadav, Treasurer, FRUCTAB and other office bearers participated on the deliberations. Prof Gauri Kant Jha conducted the meeting.

Sub-committee meeting to create medical Fund

A virtual meeting of a committee to create a Medical Fund was held on December 15, 2024. It was the second meeting of the committee. The following members participated in the deliberations:

Prof Sudhakar S Mankar- President

Prof J N Shukla – General Secretary

Prof S Bhattacharjeya – Treasurer

Prof V Swaminathan – National Secretary

After a long discussion, it was finalised that a document regarding the creation of a Medical Fund would be presented by Professor S Bhattacharjeya at the NEC in Hyderabad.

AIFRUCTO News Magazine

We acknowledge the valuable services being provided by Prof. R Halesh Editor AIFRUCTO News Magazine in bringing out quarterly issues regularly. Next issue will be published after the NEC.

5th Academic Conference at Haridwar, Uttarakhand

Uttarakhand University- College Pensioners Federation is going to organize the 5th Academic Conference of AIFRCTO on the 8th & 9th of February 2025 at Haridwar. The brochure and the circular related to the conference will be issued soon. Accommodation for the delegates/ observers will be arranged for two days by the host. Please book your tickets to ensure a comfortable journey and make this Conference a grand success.

Long Live AIFRUCTO!

Long Live Teachers' Unity!

Fraternally Yours,



Dr J N Shukla

General Secretary

