

**Grand Conduction of NFTE Circle Executive Committee Meeting of Maharashtra on 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> November 25 at Kolhapur:-**

Comrade Amrut Mane conducted the proceedings. More than 200 employees, officers, and pensioners attended the program. Office-bearers of BSNLEU, SEWA, SNEA, and directors of cooperative societies were specially present. The remarkable presence and active participation of women further highlighted the importance of the session.

On the dais were National Vice-President Comrade Deepak Jadhav, special invitees Comrade Ulhas Jawlekar, Comrade R. P. Joshi, Comrade Shivaji Chavan, Comrade Vivek Yadav, and other leaders.

The strong leader of Kolhapur, Comrade Suryakant Patil, skilled organizer Comrade Amrut Mane, fighting leaders Comrade Vivek Yadav and Comrade Atul Patil, along with their entire team, through tireless efforts and excellent creativity, organized a meeting that was truly unprecedented and will never be repeated in the future. The entire Maharashtra NFTE feels proud of this achievement...!

Due to the invaluable guidance, strong support, and constant encouragement from Circle President and experienced leader Comrade Aslam Patel and senior leader Comrade C. G. Jagtap, this grand and magnificent event became possible. On behalf of the Circle Organization, we offer **\*\*Red Salute\*\*** to all these leaders and workers...

On 20th November, at 2 PM, in the beautifully decorated Mangalya Hall in Kolhapur — adorned with colorful rangolis, huge banners, and red flags — amidst thunderous slogans, Circle President Comrade A. A. Patel and Secretary Comrade Ranjan Dani inaugurated the meeting with great enthusiasm.

At the start of the inaugural session, tribute was paid and homage offered to former National President of NFTE and legendary leader Comrade Islam Ahmed for his lifelong contribution.

In his introductory speech, Secretary Comrade Ranjan Dani gave detailed information on issues such as the Wage Agreement, ground reality of 4G services, cashless hospital facilities, medical funds, customer service centers, delay in pension cases, CCM decisions, and the current state of the union, clearly presenting the union's stand.

In the subsequent delegates' session, 22 district secretaries and office-bearers expressed their views on the agenda items. They particularly highlighted that 4G services are still not stable, causing customers to port out in many areas. The irony of "darkness under the lamp" — no network range right under the tower — has become a daily occurrence. The situation is even worse in major cities like Mumbai, Pune, and Kalyan.

Serious discussions were held on delays in medical payments for working and retired employees, issues of E-Cadre in Maharashtra (severe shortage, workload, non-implementation of transfers as per rules), HRA issues, the pathetic condition of customer service centers, non-conduct of LCM meetings as per rules, etc., and many suggestions were made.

On 21st November, at 10 AM, in the presence of General Secretary Comrade C. Singh and before nearly 100 activists, the newly renovated NFTE office at Telephone Bhavan, Kolhapur was inaugurated with fireworks, drums, aarti, flower showers, and resounding slogans.

Speaking on the occasion, Comrade C. Singh said that though despair and adverse conditions are widespread today, the unity, enthusiasm, and energy of workers is definitely a ray of hope — his words were greeted with thunderous applause.

BSNLEU District President Comrade Vijayanand Mane was specially present at the program. Comrade Singh particularly noted that his presence shows that despite some organizational differences, workers can come together today for the larger interest of workers.

After this program, a rally was taken out from Telephone Bhavan to Mangalya Hall under the leadership of the union. Around 150 employees participated in the rally led by Comrade C. Singh, Comrade Ranjan Dani, Comrade A. A. Patel, Comrade Shivaji Chavan, Comrade C. G. Jagtap, Comrade Suryakant Patil, Comrade Amrut Mane, Comrade Atul Patil, Comrade Vivek Yadav, Comrade Namdev Gaud, Comrade Veerbhadra Potdar, etc. A notable number of women participated.

After the rally, the open session began in a packed hall under the chairmanship of Comrade Patel.

The session started with lamp lighting, followed by garlanding of portraits of great union leaders Comrade O. P. Gupta and Comrade Madhav Vichare by the guests.

Invited guests from the service union — Circle Secretary Mr. Valvi and Chief Advisor from Service CHQ Mr. Gharde — could not attend due to unavoidable reasons, but Mr. Gharde's goodwill message was read out.

In this session, dignitaries spoke on the topic \*\*\*"Third Wage Agreement, Present Condition of BSNL, and Challenges Before Employees."\*\*

Secretary Comrade Ranjan Dani, initiating the discussion, reminded everyone that employees and unions have always adopted a constructive and cooperative approach for the revival of BSNL. Everyone is happy that 4G services have started, BSNL is moving toward profit, and even the Hon'ble Prime Minister has publicly praised BSNL services. However, while management verbally acknowledges that this has been possible due to employees' hard work, in reality, they are snatching work from employees' hands and giving it to contractors. Due to the rampant contractor system everywhere, workers are being exploited and the quality of work is also deteriorating. He urged management to accept this bitter truth and bring radical changes in its policy.

Kolhapur Division GM Mr. Arvind Patil informed about the current status of BSNL. He said

customer inclination is increasing toward BSNL's FTTH, EB, and 4G services. Due to the financial package given by the Government of India and the efforts of employees and officers, BSNL has achieved operational profit and is moving toward net profit. He emphasized that apart from profit-loss considerations, providing data security, rate regulation, and network in rural and remote areas are important national and social responsibilities of BSNL.

Speaking as the chief guest, General Secretary Comrade C. Singh gave a detailed analysis of the struggle for the third wage agreement and its present form. Bringing a wage agreement in a loss-making company is a major achievement in the present circumstances. Due to this agreement, stagnation of thousands of employees will be removed, and new pay scales will be implemented with a multiplication factor of approximately 2.4/2.5 without any pay loss. Though some lower scales have been accepted in this long-pending (8 years) agreement, he clarified that those scales will not become the basis for the next wage revision — a clear clause to this effect is included in the agreement.

However, even after 40 days of signing the agreement, the file has not moved forward from the Corporate Office, which is highly regrettable. All unions and associations have recently met Hon'ble CMD regarding this. He warned that if management further delays or neglects this agreement, everyone will have to come together again and wage a struggle — he called upon all to be prepared for it.

President Comrade Patel appreciated the collective working style of Kolhapur comrades and made an earnest appeal to strengthen the union for the growth of BSNL and the welfare of employees.

Overall, the magnificent organization of the union program by Kolhapur comrades in today's adverse circumstances will definitely inspire all BSNL employees, leaders, members, and workers across Maharashtra — there is no doubt about it...! Senior leader Comrade C. G. Jagtap concluded the session and proposed the vote of thanks.

Heartfelt congratulations and thanks to Kolhapur Comrades, and a deep salute from the heart to all...

**\*\*Red Salute...\*\***



**GM Kolhapur Shri Arvind Patil addressing the open session**





