

AK Tiwari takes over as Member, PNGRB



Anjani Kumar Tiwari assumed charge as Member, PNGRB on December 1. Before joining as Member, PNGRB, Tiwari worked in GAIL (India) Limited as Director (Finance). He held the position of Director in GAIL Gas Ltd., Green Gas Ltd., Bhagyanagar Gas Ltd, GAIL Gas (USA) Inc., & GAIL Global (USA) LNG LLC.

Rakesh Kumar Jain joins as Director (Finance), GAIL



Rakesh Kumar Jain assumed charge as Director (Finance) of GAIL Ltd. A Cost & Management Accountant by profession, Jain started his career in GAIL as a Management Trainee and spent nearly 30 years as he rose through the ranks. Prior to his appointment as Director (Finance), he held position of Executive Director (Finance & Accounts), GAIL.

NPS returns high, cover widening fast: PFRDA

FE BUREAU

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SUBSCRIBERS TO THE National Pension System (NPS) have got average return of 10-12% over the last 12 years, Pension Fund Regulatory and Development Authority (PFRDA) chairman Supratim Bandyopadhyay on Monday said, adding that equity schemes fetched comparatively higher returns.

“Over a period of 12 years, the returns from equity schemes have been more than 12%, and investments in government securities fetched close to 10%. In corporate bonds, we have seen a CAGR of 9.6%. Fortunately, our pension fund assets were, to a great extent, protected from post-credit events,” Bandyopadhyay said, while speaking at a CII event.

Returns on NPS are far better than from other superannuation funds. For example, one-year return for the government sector subscribers under NPS was 12.6% in FY21, while it was 8.5% under EPFO and around 8% under superannuation funds run by insurance companies. “Currently, we are sitting on a total corpus of about ₹6.85 lakh crore,” he said. According to PFRDA’s internal assessment, the NPS corpus will reach ₹7.5 lakh crore by end-FY22, an annual rise of about 30%.

More than 50 CPSEs, including biggies IOC, ONGC, NTPC, BPCL, GAIL (India), PFC and various railway companies, have come aboard the NPS with over one lakh employees over the last few years, helping expand the cover, even as there has been a stagnation in new job creation by the Centre and a slowing of the pace of recruitment by many state governments. Helped by distribution partners — mainly banks and banking correspondents —, the NPS subscriber base, which stood at 4.24 crore at the end of FY21, is seen expanding by a record one crore in the current financial year.

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To bridge the disparity between higher life-expectancy and lack of income support in the old age, the Centre is considering launching a mission to provide credible retirement benefit cover to nearly 38 crore hitherto uncovered workforce, sources told FE earlier.

The pension regulator said that a person has to start early in NPS to realise a higher sum post retirement. “There is flexibility in the sense that just for keeping an account running, you have to pay only ₹1,000. There is no fixed contribution, and you can contribute up to whatever level, obviously subject to the PMLA (Prevention of Money Laundering Act rules) and supported by all your known sources of income,” Bandyopadhyay said.

Atal Pension Yojana (APY) in the NPS fold is a government-backed, voluntary scheme meant to provide old-age income security in the form of minimum assured pension (ranging from ₹1,000-5,000/month), in proportion to individual contributions, even as it is market-linked. It forms 68% of the subscriber base under the NPS, remaining 32% includes users from central government sector, state government, corporate sector and individuals.