

Deadline for higher pension extended till May 3; web link up

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The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) on Monday enabled a link on the members' section of its website for employees and pensioners to opt for higher provident fund pension based on actual salary. The EPFO also extended the time for submitting the options till May 3. The deadline set by the Supreme Court was March 3.

The decision is part of implementing the Supreme Court verdict on November 4, 2022 allowing pensioners and workers who were members of the Employees Pension Scheme (EPS), 1995 as on September 1, 2014 to opt for higher pension. "The joint option for employees who were in service prior to September 1, 2014, and continued to be in service on or after September 1, 2014, but could not exercise joint option under the Employees' Pension Scheme can do so now on or before May 3, 2023," the EPFO said on its website. There is a separate Web link for employees who retired before September 1,

The link is available under the members' section on the EPFO website epfindia.gov.in

2014 to validate their joint options with the employer.

Gurmukh Singh, president, National Confederation of Retirees, which is an all-India federation of associations of retired employees, said in a letter to Central Provident Fund Commissioner Neelam Shami Rao on Monday that forcing about 25,000 pensioners who retired before September 1, 2014 and did not use the then non-existent provisions for submitting joint options under paragraphs 11(3) and 11(4) of the EPS, to verify their joint options is illogical.

"This is surely an action of inconsiderate high handedness on your part and quite unprecedented ever and has been unleashed on old, frail, and poor senior citizens who had all along toiled hard in their working lives to build and strengthen the nation's economy. It is unfair, unethical and devoid of any logic," Mr. Singh said.