

Tele : 24102305  
Fax : 26880943

Veteran Sailors' Forum  
Directorate of Ex-Servicemen Affairs  
Integrated Headquarters, MoD (Navy)  
4<sup>th</sup> Floor, Chanakya Bhawan  
Chanakyapuri  
New Delhi 110021

DX/VSF/46/AGM/MUMBAI/14

31 Oct 14

**MINUTES OF 6<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF VETERAN SAILORS'  
FORUM (VSF) HELD AT NAVPEN ON 21 SEP 14**

1. The Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the VSF was conducted from 1000h to 1430 h on 21 Sep 14 in Release Hall of Naval Pension Office (NAVPEN). The AGM was Chaired by VADM HCS Bisht AVSM, President, VSF.

2. Following were present in the AGM:-

(a) **Charter Representatives.**

- |        |                          |   |   |
|--------|--------------------------|---|---|
| (i)    | RADM Shankar Mathur VSM  | - | President, VSF Mumbai                           |
| (ii)   | RADM Pradip Rana VSM     | - | President, VSF Vizag                            |
| (iii)  | Cmde Ajay Saxena VSM     | - | President, VSF Delhi and<br>Vice President, VSF |
| (iv)   | Cmde GS Negi             | - | President, VSF Kochi                            |
| (v)    | Cmde AC Tiwari           | - | PDNL / JA                                       |
| (vi)   | Cmde Muneesh Kumar Jetly | - | PDPA  |
| (vii)  | Capt Sanjeev Malhotra    | - | Secretary, Mumbai                               |
| (viii) | Capt CS Panda            | - | President, VSF Chilka                           |
| (ix)   | Cdr Sanjay Kumar         | - | Secretary, VSF Porbandar                        |
| (x)    | Cdr RM Kumar             | - | President, VSF Kolkata                          |

- |         |                     |   |                         |
|---------|---------------------|---|-------------------------|
| (xi)    | Cdr Anurag Tiwari   | - | Secretary, VSF Vizag    |
| (xii)   | Cdr Jayaraman       | - | Secretary, VSF Kochi    |
| (xiii)  | Cdr TV Mohan        | - | Secretary, VSF Chennai  |
| (xiv)   | Cdr George Verghese | - | Secretary, VSF Jabalpur |
| (xv)    | Cdr Deo Saran       | - | Secretary, VSF Goa      |
| (xvi)   | Lt Cdr B Suresh     | - | Secretary, VSF Ezhmala  |
| (xvii)  | Lt Lijo George      | - | Secretary VSF Karwar    |
| (xviii) | Dharampal MCPO I    | - | VSF Dehradun            |
| (xix)   | Cdr George Abraham  | - | Secretary               |

(b) **Invitees**

- |        |                       |   |                         |
|--------|-----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| (i)    | Cmde Sanjay Bhutani   | - | CO, INS Tanaji and CABS |
| (ii)   | Capt Ranadeep Bose    | - | LOIC NAVPEN             |
| (iii)  | Capt DR Sharma        | - | MS INCCB                |
| (iv)   | Capt SS Mann          | - | Director, ECHS          |
| (v)    | Capt HC Patro         | - | JD(Policy), KSB         |
| (vi)   | Cdr AK Meelu          | - | SSO (Pension), NAVPEN   |
| (vii)  | Cdr NA Singh          | - | OIC Release Centre      |
| (viii) | Lt Cdr Sandip Murarka | - | Secretary, INBA         |

(c) **ESM Representatives.**

- |      |                         |   |                       |
|------|-------------------------|---|-----------------------|
| (i)  | Partap Singh, Ex PO     | - | Rep. Delhi charter    |
| (ii) | Jagdish Prasad, Ex POME | - | Rep. Jabalpur Charter |

- (iii) Abraham Varghese, EX CHEAP - Rep. Kochi Charter
- (iv) RK Saha, Ex CPO (STD) - Rep. Kolkata Charter
- (v) Ajit Singh, Ex CPO WTR - Rep. Goa Charter

### **Item I – Welcome Address by Vice President**

3. At the outset, Vice President welcomed all present to the 6<sup>th</sup> AGM of the VSF. He provided the framework for conducting the proceedings of the day so as to be able to transact the business for the day as set out in the agenda. He further clarified the objectives of the VSF as also the role and responsibilities of other agencies like DGR/KSB etc for better understanding of all. He reiterated the fact that VSF would continue to be the facilitator towards resolving issues of the ESM by taking them up with various authorities/agencies and with other Directorates as well.

### **Item II – President’s Address**

4. The President acknowledged the contribution of the veterans towards building today's Navy. He emphasised the commitment of Navy and VSF to the cause of ex-servicemen and widows.

5. The President updated the gathering on the developments that have taken place in the Navy by way of latest inductions and assured the gathering that the Navy remains committed to providing maritime security in support of the growing stature of the nation. He highlighted the efforts of the Navy to reach out to the veterans through various means such as DESA web page in the IRFC website, DESA Blog and Toll Free Helpline. He also informed that the recommendations put forth by the veterans have been taken up with the Pay Commission Cell (Navy) in arriving at their final recommendation.

6. He informed the General body that the VSF membership now stands close to the 10,000 mark and urged the veterans to be the brand ambassadors of the Navy in civil world.

7. The President acknowledged the success of many veterans after their retirement and informed the General Body that VSF would take steps to showcase such successful veterans.

8. He informed the General Body that Navy is in the process of consolidating the database on naval widows and is reaching out to them to provide all support through the Naval Regimental System. The progress made in various support schemes for widows, such as Widow's Hostel and scholarship schemes were highlighted.

9. He requested the gathering to put forward constructive feedback that would enable corrective steps towards ensuring better response mechanisms and measures, and emphasized the need to align the feedback with the aims and objectives set for VSF.

### **Item III – Secretary's Report**

10. Secretary VSF presented the organisational structure of VSF as well as its Aims and Objectives. He informed the gathering of major activities undertaken by VSF since the last AGM held on 17 Mar 13 at New Delhi. The presentation covered the following aspects:-

- (a) Introduction of VSF, Aims and Objectives of the Forum.
- (b) Organisational structure and hierarchy.
- (c) Details of Charters and membership strength.
- (d) Initiatives undertaken by VSF.
- (e) Activity report of various charters.

### **Item IV – Presentation on Key Issues**

11. Following presentations were made for the benefit of the members:-

- (a) Progress made in ECHS - Director, ECHS.
- (b) New schemes / scholarships by INBA - Secy, INBA
- (c) Overview of NAVPEN and handling of veterans issues - NAVPEN

### **Item V –Presentation by Shri Pratap Singh Shekhawat, ex-CHMECH**

12. In order to show case the outstanding success made by Naval veterans, a presentation was made by Shri Pratap Singh Shekhawat, ex-CHMECH, who currently operates a successful business in Rajasthan. He also highlighted the organisation and activities of Purva Nau Sainik Sanstha at Rajasthan under the patronage of Adm Madhavendra Singh (Retd).

**Item VI –Review of Old Agenda Points**

13. The details regarding review of action taken on agenda points of 5<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 17 Mar 13 at New Delhi are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

**Item VII – Discussion on New Agenda Points**

14. The details regarding discussion on agenda points and decisions arrived at are placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

**Item VIII – Concluding Remarks**

15. The AGM ended with concluding remarks by the President. The President expressed his gratitude to HQ WNC, INS Tanaji and NAVPEN for extending support towards conduct of the AGM

16. There being no further points, the meeting was adjourned with the permission of the Chair and all the members were requested to proceed for lunch.

17. These minutes have the approval of President, VSF.

(George Abraham)  
Commander  
Secretary VSF

**Distribution:** - Normal.

**REVIEW OF OLD AGM AGENDA POINTS**

**Item I - Permanency of ESM Appointed in Odisha Marine Police (Chilka Regional Charter)**

1. **Point.** The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM had decided that the case be taken up with Odisha State Govt and monitored by VSF Vizag Charter.
2. **Discussions.** The AGM was informed that the follow up action was undertaken by VSF Chilka through RSB Bhubaneswar. The issue is still under consideration of the Odisha State Govt despite elapse of a long time. It was, therefore, decided to request VSF Vizag to monitor and direct an officer from NOIC(Odisha) organisation to visit RSB and that this issue be included in the agenda of the next Apex Level meeting between HQ ENC and Odisha State Government.
3. **Decisions.** HQ ENC / VSF Vizag to direct NOIC (Odisha) to liase and visit RSB, Bhubaneswar for an early decision. HQ ENC could consider taking up the issue in the next Apex Level meeting between HQ ENC and Odisha govt. Point to be retained.

**Action:** VSF Vizag

**Item II - Job Opportunities for ESM in Security Agencies in Chhattisgarh (Vizag Command Charter)**

4. **Point.** The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM had indicated that the issues of ESMs employed by security agencies in Chhattisgarh be taken up with State Govt by VSF Vizag Charter and be monitored by Vizag Charter.
5. **Discussions.** The AGM was informed that the issue was taken up by VSF Vizag with RSB Raipur and RSB in turn had taken up the issue with KSB. Considering the fact that all security agencies employing ESM are required to register with DGR and not with KSB, it was opined that it would be more efficient for Secretary VSF to take up the issue with DGR.
6. **Decisions.** Secretary VSF to take up the issue with DGR and update the forum in next AGM. Point to be retained.

**Action:** Secretary VSF

### **Item III - Reservation for ESM in State Govt Jobs (Chilka Charter)**

7. **Point.** During the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM it was informed that the ESM reservation policies are not implemented in the State of Odisha. The AGM had decided to take up the issue with RSB Bhubaneswar.

8. **Discussions.** The AGM was informed that the issue was taken up by VSF Chilka with RSB Bhubaneswar and the RSB in turn had taken up the issue with KSB. The reservation for ESM in government jobs is likely to be improved with the designation of DGR as the nodal agency for implementation of ESM reservation. Towards this end, Cabinet Secretary has written a letter to all Ministers/ Govt agencies reiterating the need to fill ESM billets and that annual returns be forwarded to DGR/MoD being the nodal point to monitor implementation of ESM reservation policy. Moreover, it was decided that Secretary VSF is better positioned to monitor the progress of the issue with KSB and DGR.

9. **Decisions.** Secretary VSF to take up the issue with DGR and update the forum in next AGM. Point to be retained.

**Action:** Secretary VSF

### **Item IV - Regularisation of Ex-Naval Personnel Employed at Hindustan Shipyard Ltd (Vizag Charter)**

10. **Point.** The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM had discussed the requirement take up the case of regularising ex-naval personnel employed by HSL on contractual basis. It was decided to take up the issue with MOD.

11. **Discussions.** The issue was taken up with MOD. In response to queries by MOD, HSL intimated that regularisation of personnel on contractual employment (both ex-Naval and others) would be taken up subsequently, as taking up a case only for ex-naval personnel would invite strong responses from other contractual employees. Since the action as decided by 5<sup>th</sup> AGM was completed and HSL had clarified the stand, it was decided to close the point.

12. **Decisions.** Point to be closed.

**Action:** All concerned.

### **Item V - Stay at Sainik Aaram Garh in Old Delhi Railway Station (Delhi Charter)**

13. **Point.** ESMs are not given accommodation in the Sainik Aaram Garh at Old Delhi Railway Station. Delhi Charter was asked to take up the issue with IHQ MOD(Army) / AG's Branch for clarification.

14. **Discussions.** The issue was taken up by VSF Delhi Charter with IHQ MOD(Army)/ AG's Branch, who clarified that as per the Army Order 57/2001/Q Mov, the facilities of Sainik Aaram Garh can be given to ESM only if they are called upon for Pension Appeal Board, Medical board or for interview by senior officers. The AG's Branch also intimated that ESMs are being accommodated if vacancy exists in the Sainik Aaram Garh. In addition, the General Body was also informed that Navy has initiated a case for a separate ESM accommodation in Delhi. JD(Policy), KSB intimated the General Body that the KSB is also setting up an Integrated Sainik Rest House at Narayana in Delhi, which is primarily meant for ESM. The Chair directed that point be closed.

15. **Decisions.** Point to be closed. **Action:** All concerned.

#### **Item VI – Non-Availability of Sainik Rest House in Odisha (Chilka Charter)**

16. **Point.** The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM was informed that there is a requirement of a Sainik Rest House in Bhubaneswar. HQ ENC had already taken up the case with RSB Bhubaneswar and VSF Chilka was requested to monitor the progress of the case.

17. **Discussions.** It was ascertained from RSB Bhubaneswar that two Sainik Rest Houses are operational in Behrampur and Cuttack. The RSB has approached State Govt for removing encroachment from the land allotted for Rest House in Bhubaneswar as the construction will begin after the encroachment is removed. VSF Chilka Charter was requested to monitor the case and if necessary project the issue to HQ ENC for taking up during the next Apex Level meeting between Chief Secretary and FOC-in-C East.

18. **Decisions.** VSF Chilka to monitor the progress of the case. Point to be retained. **Action:** VSF Chilka.

#### **Item VII - ECHS Polyclinics at Ambernath (Mumbai Charter)**

19. **Point.** The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM had requested VSF Mumbai to forward an SOC to Director ECHS by 31 Dec 13 for setting up new ECHS polyclinic at Ambernath.

20. **Discussions.** Director ECHS informed the General Body that the SOC has been forwarded to Central Organisation and is included in the Third Phase of expansion of ECHS. The EDC is estimated as 3-5 years. CSO(P&A), HQ WNC intimated the forum that ECHS polyclinic in Kandivali has been inaugurated and cases of setting up ECHS Polyclinics in Ambernath and Nerul are being processed by HQ WNC.

21. **Decisions.** The point to be closed. **Action:** All concerned.

### **Item VIII – Change of Nomenclature of Balasore ECHS Polyclinic (Chilka Charter)**

22. **Point.** Director ECHS was requested to take up the case for change of nomenclature of ECHS Polyclinic at Balasore with the Central Organization and VSF Chilka was requested to monitor the case.

23. **Discussions.** Director ECHS informed the General Body that the case was taken up with Central Organisation and is under process. VSF Chilka informed the gathering that case is being monitored by Station Headquarter. Since the action was not completed, the Chair directed that the point be retained.

24. **Decisions.** The point to be retained. **Action:** All concerned.

### **Item IX – Opening of Polyclinic at Cuttack (Chilka Charter)**

25. **Point.** The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM had requested VSF Chilka to take up a case for a polyclinic at Cuttack through ZSB / RSB / KSB and HQ ENC by 31 Dec 13. VSF Vizag was requested to monitor the case.

26. **Discussions.** VSF Chilka intimated that it had taken up cases for ECHS polyclinics at Cuttack, Keonjhar, Rourkela, Baripada and Bhadrak. VSF Vizag intimated the forum that HQ ENC has taken up the case with ECHS Central Organisation. Since the action was not completed, the Chair directed that the point be retained.

27. **Decisions.** The point to be retained. **Action:** All concerned.

### **Item X – ECHS Facilities at Chhattisgarh (Vizag Charter)**

28. **Point.** The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM had requested VSF Vizag to forward cases for two more polyclinics in Chhattisgarh to ECHS (Navy) through ZSB / RSB / KSB and HQ ENC by 31 Dec 13.

29. **Discussions.** VSF Chilka intimated that the case was taken up through RSB Raipur and the same is currently under process at Headquarters Chhattisgarh Odisha Subarea. Since the action as decided by previous AGM was completed and the current action is being taken by Army agencies, it was decided that the point be closed.

30. **Decisions.** The point to be closed. **Action:** All concerned.

### **Item XI – Canteen Facilities in Chhattisgarh (Vizag Charter)**

31. **Point.** Considering the fact that there are only two CSD outlets in Chhattisgarh, the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM had requested VSF Vizag to take up a case for more CSD outlets through RSB / HQ ENC.

32. **Discussions.** VSF Vizag intimated that case was taken up through RSB Raipur and is currently under process at Headquarters Chhattisgarh Odisha Subarea. HQ ENC is monitoring the case. Since the action as decided in the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM was completed, the Chair directed that point be closed.

33. **Decisions.** The point to be closed. **Action:** All concerned.

### **Item XII – New Canteen Counters in Andhra Pradesh (Vizag Charter)**

34. **Point.** It was decided in the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM that VSF Vizag needs to take up a case for canteen outlets at Srikakulam, Vizianagaram and Parvathipuram.

35. **Discussions.** VSF Vizag intimated that case for canteen outlets at all three locations was taken up. MS INCCB intimated that the number of ESMs at Vizianagaram and Parvathipuram are below the specified numbers for setting up the new canteen outlets. However, there are sufficient number of ESMs at Srikakulam and therefore, the case for setting up the canteen counter there is being processed at IHQ MoD(Navy).

36. At this point, the Chair requested MS INCCB to updated the forum on the actions being taken to set up new canteen outlets in Mumbai. Various related points were also conveyed to both CSO(P&A) HQ WNC and MS INCCB from various ESMs residing in Mumbai.

37. **Decisions.** The point to be closed. **Action:** All concerned.

### **Item XIV – Allocation of Land for Landless NCOs in Odisha (Chilka Charter)**

38. **Point.** Considering the non-implementation of the Government policies in this regard, VSF Chilka was requested to take up the issue with RSB Bhubaneswar. The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM had requested VSF Vizag to monitor the case.

39. **Discussions.** The General Body was informed that VSF Chilka had taken up the case with RSB and the issue was raised by RSB Bhubaneswar with State Government. In turn, the Odisha Govt has issued a letter on 19 Feb 14 intimating that sufficient land was not available for allocation to the landless NCOs and therefore, the

State Govt has decided to pay money in lieu of land to admissible personnel. As the necessary action has been taken, the Chair directed that point to be closed.

40. **Decisions.** The point to be closed. **Action:** All concerned.

**Item XV – Non-Allocation of Defence Quota Seats by Technical Colleges in Kolkata (Kolkata Charter)**

41. **Point.** Non-publication of defence quota seats and re-allotment of defence quota seats by colleges in Kolkata has resulted in under utilisation of defence quota seats meant for wards of ESMs and defence personnel. Therefore, the 5<sup>th</sup> AGM had requested the VSF Kolkata Charter to take up the issue through Command Headquarters and NOIC (West Bengal) with the State Government.

42. **Discussions.** VSF Kolkata informed the General Body that the issue was taken up with the State Government through RSB Kolkata. Consequently, 12 seats have been earmarked for wards of ESM in various professional colleges in Kolkata. The Chair directed that the point should be monitored by VSF Kolkata.

43. **Decisions.** VSF Kolkata to monitor the issue. Point to be closed.  
**Action:** VSF Kolkata

**Item XV – Provision for Accommodation of Widows by West Bengal Government (Kolkata Charter)**

44. **Point.** The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM was informed that West Bengal does not have any provision for accommodation for Veer Naris, whereas such provisions exist in Kerala and Bihar whereby free accommodation is provided to Veer Naris. The AGM requested VSF Kolkata to take up the issue with State Govt through RSB and monitor the issue.

45. **Discussions.** VSF Kolkata informed the General Body that the issue was taken up with the State Government through RSB Kolkata. However, no decision has been given by the State Govt so far. Therefore, the Chair directed that the point is to be monitored by VSF Kolkata and retained for review during next AGM.

46. **Decisions.** VSF Kolkata to monitor the issue. Point to be retained.  
**Action:** VSF Kolkata

**Item XVI – Amendment of Land Act in Chhattisgarh (Vizag Charter)**

47. **Point.** The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM discussed the necessity of taking up a case for amending the Rent Control and Land Reform Act of Chhattisgarh to provide concession and

reservation for ESM in Chhattisgarh, in line with other States. The AGM had requested VSF Vizag to take up the issue through RSB Raipur with the State Govt.

48. **Discussions**. VSF Vizag informed the General Body that the issue was taken up with the State Government through RSB Raipur. However, no decision has been promulgated by the Chhattisgarh State Govt. Therefore, the Chair directed that the point be monitored by VSF Vizag and retained for review in the next AGM.

49. **Decisions**. VSF Vizag to monitor the issue. Point to be retained.

**Action**: VSF Vizag

#### **Item XVII – Exemption of House Tax for ESM in Uttar Pradesh (Delhi Charter)**

50. **Point**. The 5<sup>th</sup> AGM was informed that ESMs are not exempted payment of house tax in Uttar Pradesh unlike many other States. It was clarified that only widows whose husbands died in war are exempted from paying House Tax. Accordingly, the AGM had requested VSF Delhi to take up the case with Uttar Pradesh State Government through RSB Lucknow.

51. **Discussions**. The AGM was informed that issue was taken up with RSB Lucknow. Consequently, the RSB has taken it up with the State Government. VSF Delhi is pursuing the case through RSB. However, no decision has been intimated by State Govt. Therefore, the Chair directed that the point be monitored by VSF Delhi the same be retained for review during next AGM.

52. **Decisions**. VSF Delhi to monitor the issue. Point to be retained.

**Action**: VSF Delhi

(George Abraham)

Commander

Secretary

Oct 14

**Appendix 'B'**  
(Para 14 refers)

### **DISCUSSION ON NEW AGENDA POINTS**

#### **Item I – Re-employment Opportunities for ESM through DGR (Mumbai Charter / NK Pradhan ex-CHELP)**

1. **Point.** Re-employment opportunities by DGR to be discussed and new opportunities may be explored.
2. **Discussions.** The General body was informed that DGR has taken up case for increasing the reservation in Group C to 20% as also for an additional reservation of 10% in Group B posts. 6<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendation of lateral absorption is being followed up by DGR with the Government. In order to enhance ESM employment in corporate sector, DGR – CII Corporate Conclave was held on 19 Aug 14 with Raksha Mantri as Chief Guest. Consequently, DGR has forwarded a concept paper on “Employment of ESM in Nation Building” to Govt. Various employment schemes are published in DGR and INPA websites.
3. **Decisions.** Point to be closed. **Action:** All concerned

#### **Item II – Monitoring Body for ESM Employment (Sachidananda Singh ex-SCPO)**

4. **Point.** A dedicated body is required for regular monitoring of employment of ESM as per Govt rules. Unfilled ESM vacancies should not be surrendered to General category but carried forwarded for filling up in the next recruitment.
5. **Discussions.** On 06 Jun 14, the Cabinet Secretary note designated DGR as the nodal monitoring body for ensuring implementation of ESM reservation in government jobs. All Govt Dept/Agencies have been directed to forward annual return on ESM reservation to DGR.
6. ESM reservations are horizontal and hence will get surrendered to general category. Carry forward of unfilled vacancies in horizontal reservation is not permitted as per Govt rule. It was also clarified by the Vice President that a case is being taken up with the Govt for making the age relaxation rules same for the Direct Recruitment and recruitment based on All India Competitive Examination to the Group A posts and services.
7. **Decisions.** Point to be closed. **Action:** All concerned

### **Item III – Trade Certificate with NCO Code (Ram Lakhan Soni ex-CHELRL)**

8. **Point.** Govt/ Public sector employers seek ESM to obtain certification to the effect that Trade Certificate is equivalent to civil certificate. Case may be taken up for Navy to certify that Trade Certificate is equivalent to civil certificate and online application forms be amended suitably with 'nil' marks and 'percentage' to accommodate the Trade Certificate issued by Navy.

9. **Discussions.** Trade Certificate is issued in accordance with Directory of National Code of Occupation published by DESW. All Govt employers are required to accept it. Limited knowledge of Directory of NCO Code among employers necessitate more publicity. There is also a need to examine necessity of modifying Trade Certificate with NCO code and inclusion of marks awarded. In order to take up a case for amendment to the NCO Code, specific inputs are required from the ESM regarding the amendments to the existing NCO Code.

10. **Decisions.** ESMs to forward specific inputs on the shortcomings observed in the current NCO codes and ways to make them widely acceptable to the civil employers. Based on these, Secy VSF to take up case with DGR for amending NCO Code. Point to be retained.

**Action:** Secy VSF

### **Item IV – Recognition of Naval Certificates by Civil Employers (VSF Ezhimala)**

11. **Point.** The professional competency certificate issued by Navy is not recognised by civil authorities for getting civil job. It is requested that mechanism for the same may please be instituted.

12. **Discussions.** Government sanction exists for equivalence of In-service examinations with Matric / Degree / Diploma for the purpose of employment in Government jobs. A number of technical trades are certified by various universities to facilitate better acceptance by civil agencies. It was clarified that Navy issues an Equivalence Certificate on Educational qualification based on the in-service examinations, which is not same as the Certificates issued by an Educational Institution. Therefore, new efforts such as Sagardeep, IGNOU-Navy Education Programme (INEP), etc., are initiated by Navy to provide educational certificates directly from the universities.

13. **Decisions.** Point to be closed.

**Action:** All concerned.

**Item V – Pension Calculation for Pre-1983 Retirees (VSF Kochi)**

14. **Point.** Personnel retired after 28 Jun 83 are granted half year of service for pension if service is more than 90 days over a complete year. However, for personnel retired before 28 Jun 83, more than 180 days service is required for the same benefit. This may be taken up with the government.

15. **Discussions.** GOI letter dated 28 Sep 1960 treats 180 days and above as complete year for pension w.e.f. 22 Apr 60. GOI letter dated 06 Aug 84 treats 90 days and above as half year for pension w.e.f 28 Jun 83. Therefore, IHQ MOD(Navy) has taken up a case with MoD/Department of Pension / Policy for extending benefits of MoD letter dated 06 Aug 84 to pre-28 Jun 83 retirees.

16. **Decisions.** Secy VSF to update the forum on the progress in the next AGM. Point to be retained.

**Action:** Secy VSF

**Item VI – Pension for Sailors Who Served for Ten Years and Grant of Reservist Pension (UA Doss ex-LEMP No. 200499-F, Varghese Mathew ex-POLER No. 200511-H, Awadhesh Pratap Singh Ex-LRO(Tel) No. 203066-R and Niranjan Chakraborty ex-LRO(Tel))**

17. **Point.** An ex-naval sailor who has put up 10 years of active service from 1974 to 1984 was kept on 10 years as Fleet Reservist from 1984 to 1994. According to regulation No. 92 of Navy Pension Regulation Act 1964, he was entitled to draw the Pension. Also, implementation of the judgment delivered by the Hon'ble AFT Chennai in OA 83/2012 on Reservist Pension issue be considered.

18. **Discussions.** It was clarified by NAVPEN that minimum pensionable service is 15 years and therefore pension was not admissible for sailors who served for ten year. NAVPEN also briefed the forum on the various aspects of Reservist Pension. It was brought out that an appeal challenging the judgement of AFT Chennai in respect of OA 83/2012 is pending with Supreme Court. Since the issue is subjudice, it was decided that it was not appropriate for the forum to take any decision on the matter till the Supreme Court delivers its judgment.

19. **Decision.** Point to be closed and reviewed based on judgement of Supreme Court as and when delivered.

**Action:** All concerned

**Item VII – Reduction of Age Limit from 80 Years to 70 Years for Additional Pension (VSF Goa)**

20. **Point.** As per 6<sup>th</sup> CPC, additional pension is granted to ESM at the age of 80 years. The age limit could be revised to 70 years for the same.

21. **Discussions.** It was brought out that this proposal was received earlier and consequently forwarded to Pay Commission Cell (Navy) (PCC(N)) for inclusion in the recommendations for 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission (CPC). The President directed Secretary to update the forum on the issue after the recommendations of 7<sup>th</sup> CPC were published.

22. **Decision.** The forum is to be updated on the decision of 7<sup>th</sup> CPC. Point to be retained. **Action:** Secy VSF

**Item VIII – Education Allowance from Kendriya Sainik Board (Sachidananda Singh, ex-SCPO)**

23. **Point.** Post implementation of MACPS, NCOs who served in same grade pay for 08 years get grade pay of Rs 4200/-, which is same as that of JCOs. However, only NCOs are granted Education Allowance by KSB. A case may be taken up with KSB for grant of Education Allowance to all ranks of PBOR.

24. **Discussions.** The issue was also discussed in the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM of Delhi Charter in Jul 14 and was accordingly taken up with the KSB. In response, KSB has brought out that available funds are limited as they are raised from Armed Forces Flag Day Fund to cater for 15 different schemes, including Education Allowance. It was also brought out that highlighting financial parity between JCOs and NCOs might result in adverse effects. The General Body was informed that Navy does not distinguish between ranks for education grants / scholarships. The Chair directed that notwithstanding these aspects the case be taken up with KSB and the forum is to be updated accordingly.

25. **Decision.** The forum is to be updated on the decision of KSB. Point to be retained. **Action:** Secy VSF

**Item IX – Old Age Homes in All Cities (VSF Goa)**

26. **Point.** Old Age Home facility may be provided for Veteran Sailors in all major cities.

27. **Discussions.** The forum was informed that the case can be taken up only if economically viable number of confirmed volunteers for 'Old Age Home' facility is available along with details of place where required. The audience were informed that

detailed surveys (two in number) conducted recently indicated very few volunteers and therefore the project was terminated. The issue was also discussed during Commanders Conference, 2013. It was also highlighted that similar facility existing with IAF at Tuglakabad, New Delhi has been undersubscribed since its creation. The members were therefore requested to forward firm requirements to their respective Charters who would inturn forward the data to secretary VSF for further progressing the case. Case is recommended to be closed and taken up afresh on receipt of details from members/VSF charters.

28. **Decision.** Point to be closed and revisited if any specific inputs are received.  
**Action:** All concerned.

### **Item X – Toll Tax Exemption for ESM (VSF Mumbai)**

29. **Point.** Ex-Servicemen should be exempted from Toll Tax.

30. **Discussions.** The issue was discussed in the 6<sup>th</sup> GBM of Delhi Charter also. Subsequently, the matter was taken up with NHAI and Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. These agencies clarified that exemption of defence personnel is specified in Indian Toll (Army and Air Force) Act, 1901 as amended from time to time, which is also applicable to naval personnel. As per this Act, private vehicles of serving personnel are exempted only on official duty and a certificate (in specified format) needs to be carried by serving defence personnel to that effect. Moreover, ESMs are not exempted from Toll Tax. It was also brought out that Toll Tax exemption for ex-MPs, which was implemented in 2008, was revoked in 2011. Notwithstanding this, the Chair directed that the case needs to be pursued with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways for exempting Toll Tax from ESMs.

31. **Decision.** Secy VSF to take up the case accordingly. Point to be retained.  
**Action:** Secy VSF.

### **Item XI – Special Priority for Wards of Widows and Disabled Sailors for Recruitment in Navy (VSF Vizag)**

32. **Point.** Special priority may be given to children of widows and disabled sailors (akin to disability which is attributable to Service) for enrolment in Navy.

33. **Discussions.** The forum was informed that Sponsorship Scheme is extended to widows of Naval Personnel (serving and retired) as per Navy Order 26/2007. In addition, additional marks and points are awarded to the sons of widows of Naval personnel who die whilst in service for recruitment through SSR / MR / NMR Entry. Also, relaxation in upper age limit up to 12 months is admissible for wards of naval personnel killed in action or who died while in service. Bonus marks are also awarded

to sponsored candidates who qualify in written, PFT and Medical examination as per Navy Order 26/2007.

34. **Decision.** Point to be closed. **Action:** All concerned.

**Item XII – Financial Assistance to Widows Not in Receipt of Pension (VSF Vizag)**

35. **Point.** Grant of financial assistance to the widows of sailors not in receipt of pension may be considered.

36. **Discussions.** Current rules of INBA permits grant of financial assistance only to widows of pensioners. However, KSB provides various welfare schemes specifically targeting the non-pensioners and their widows and the forum was informed of such schemes. Notwithstanding this, the Chair directed that point be forwarded for the next AGM of INBA for consideration.

37. **Decision.** Point is to be forwarded for next AGM of INBA. Point to be retained. **Action:** Secy VSF

**Item XIII – Financial Assistance to Bed-Ridden Widows (VSF Vizag)**

38. **Point.** Feasibility of providing periodic financial assistance to bed-ridden widows (pensioners/non-pensioners) may be examined. However, providing one time grant is not advisable as the grant may be misused by blood relation.

39. **Discussions.** INBA provides Financial Assistance to serving and retired naval personnel on merit of each case. However, presently, there are no provision with INBA for grant of family pension to widows of non-pensioners. Various grants are given by KSB to widows of non-pensioner as mentioned in previous point. Both KSB and INBA did not recommend periodic financial assistance. However, members were requested to forward details of such widows (who are bed-ridden and financially not sound) to Secy VSF for consideration at IHQ MoD(N)/DESA as special cases.

40. **Decision.** Secy VSF to take up the case with KSB and INBA and update the forum. Point to be retained.

**Action:** Secy VSF

**Item XIV – Financial Assistance to Participants of 1946 Naval Uprising (VSF Chennai)**

41. **Point.** Sailors who took part in Naval uprising in 1946 against British rule are non-pensioners and do not receive any financial help from the GoI, unlike the War

Widow pension paid to civilians. They could be granted one time grant of Rs One Lakh in line with the 1971 war heroes who were paid Rs One Lac by Army authorities.

42. **Discussions**. Secy INBA clarified that no provision exists for extending financial assistance to non-pensioners. However, as a special case, point could be forwarded for next INBA AGM based on number of such personnel. Consolidation of details of such personnel is required for arriving at the financial implication. All VSF Charters and members present were requested to forward details of any such sailors or widows of such sailors to VSF. Secy VSF to then take up a consolidated case for consideration by INBA.

43. **Decision**. All Charters to forward details of veterans who participated in 1946 Naval Uprising to Secy VSF. Secy VSF to forward the data to INBA for its consideration. Point to be retained.

**Action**: All Charters / Secy VSF

#### **Item XV – Extending NGIS to Veterans (VSF Karwar)**

44. **Point**. NGIS should be extended to ESM. Army and Air Force provide similar schemes where the insurance coverage is extended upto 75 years of age or death. Some amount is being deducted from their pension for facilitating the extension of scheme for life.

45. **Discussions**. Navy provides Post Retirement Death Insurance Extension Scheme (PRDIES), under which naval personnel are insured for Rs. 5 lakhs for a period of 30 years after retirement or 75 years of age whichever is earlier. The one time premium paid towards PRDIES is automatically deducted at the time of retirement.

46. **Decision**. Point to be closed.

**Action**: All concerned

#### **Item XVI – INBA Grant on Death of Naval Pensioner (VSF Chennai)**

47. **Point**. INBA grant on death of Naval pensioner may be increased from Rs 25000 to 50000.

48. **Discussions**. Rates of death grant has been enhanced from Rs. 20,000/- to 25,000/- in Jun 14. Therefore, Secy INBA proposed that the point be forwarded for next AGM of INBA.

49. **Decision**. Point to be forwarded for next AGM of INBA. Point to be retained.

**Action**: All concerned

**Item XVII – Increase in Canteen Quota (VSF Mumbai)**

50. **Points.**

(a) Upper cash limit for purchase of Canteen items needs to be increased from existing limit, due to inflation.

(b) ESMs who are staying in remote locations may be allowed to purchase two/three month quota at one time.

51. **Discussions.** Consequent to 6<sup>th</sup> CPC, monetary limits of Smart Cards were increased on 21 Aug 2006 and again on 27 Oct 2008. In addition, provision for groceries enhanced to Rs. 1,500/- on the Liquor Smart Card w.e.f. 01 Nov 2011. The General Body was updated on the current Cash limits on the Canteen Smart Cards. MS INCCB intimated the General Body that notwithstanding these aspects, review of purchase limits shall be carried out after the next Pay Commission recommendations are known. He also informed the gathering that entitled ESMs are allowed to purchase two months liquor quota at one time vide IHQ MoD(Army) policy letter No 96219/Q/DDGCS dated 07 Oct 2008. However, purchase of grocery items in bulk for 2-3 months were not recommended view budgetary, storage and shelf life constraints.

52. **Decision.** Point to be closed.

**Action:** All concerned

**Item XVIII – Opening of CSD Depot at Odisha (VSF Chilka)**

53. **Point.** There are 4-5 major defence establishments in Odisha. The canteens in these organisations are dependent on CSD Depot Visakhapatnam and Kolkata which are located at a distance of 300-400 Kms. Therefore, the feasibility of opening of a CSD Depot in Odisha may be considered.

54. **Discussions.** MS INCCB informed the gathering that prima facie, suggestion merits consideration. However, approval for opening of depot is accorded by BOCCS (chaired by RRM) based on concrete details on number of CSD outlets, report from State Govt & ZSB, comments / feasibility study by CSD HO, etc. Therefore, it was brought out that for this proposal to be initiated by DDGCS, it would first entail a detailed study on the above issues, which would take time. MS INCCB would not be able to take up with DDGCS for initiating the process without such data.

55. **Decision.** Point to be closed.

**Action:** MS INCCB

**Item XIX – Non-Issue of Liquor at Bangalore Military Canteen (V Selvan, ex-MCEAR-II)**

56. **Point.** Military canteens are not entertaining ESM for issue of entitled liquor quota. They need the NOC from the canteen which issued the ESM card. The agency (CABS), who issued the card, is reluctant in issuing the NOC.

57. **Discussions.** Veterans were advised to change dependency to nearest URCs frequently visited by them. The Canteen Smart Card policy was developed after incorporation of views of the Tri-services that change of URCs should not be frequent. MS INCCB requested members to forward details of URCs refusing to change dependent URCs or asking for 'NOC' from original card issuing URC for further action. It was also informed that HQ WNC has issued directives to CABS and INCS (MB) to issue NOC to ESM who wish to avail canteen/ liquor facilities from other canteens.

58. **Decision.** Point to be closed. **Action:** All concerned

**Item XX – Representation of Naval Veteran in ZSB/RSB (VSF Chennai)**

59. **Point.** Zila Sainik Board/ Rajya Sainik Boards in all the States should have representation of Naval veterans.

60. **Discussions.** Secy VSF Chennai highlighted that there are no naval sailors in RSB Chennai and therefore the point was forwarded. The General Body was informed of the existing provisions for inclusion of ESM in the ZSB / RSB. It was also intimated that a case has been taken up with MoD for having a three star Serving officer appointed in DESW/MoD to ensure effectiveness to address issues related to ESM welfare. The Chair directed that the point be retained for updating the forum on the appointment of Service Representative in the Department of ESM Welfare.

61. **Decision.** Point to be retained. **Action:** Secy VSF

**Item XXI – Conduct of VSF Activities (VSF Vizag and VSF Goa)**

62. **Point.** Following activities can be conducted by VSF:-

- (a) Half yearly VSF members get together in rotation at all charters.
- (b) Participation of VSF with local police in maintaining Law & Order.
- (c) Celebration of Navy Day in all charters.

63. Annual grant of Rs.20, 000/- to Regional Charters for meetings/interactions/get together could be considered.

64. **Discussions**. It was highlighted that similar activities are undertaken by various ESM associations, such as Indian Ex-Services League (IESL), utilising local resources. Therefore, Charters were advised to undertake such events and inform VSF Delhi for according publicity. Command Charters were requested to process fund requirements at Command HQ level. It was highlighted that assistance of local naval organizations could be sought separately for celebration of Navy Day.

65. **Decision**. Point to be closed. **Action**: All concerned

#### **Item XXII – Abolition of Residential/ Domiciles Certificates (VSF Goa)**

66. **Point**. The requirement of residential/domicile certificates from ESM by Educational Institutions for admission of their wards may be waived off.

67. **Discussions**. The issue was taken up with MoD much earlier, through Principle Personnel Officers Committee (PPOC). In response, Raksha Mantri had written a DO letter to all the Chief Ministers and Lt Governors on the issue. Whilst some States have implemented the decision (like no domiciliary restriction exists for wards of Serving Personnel and Ex-Servicemen in Kerala and Gujarat for admission in academic and professional institutions), a few have not implemented in their State / UT. Issue to be taken up again for implementation.

68. **Decision**. Point to be closed. **Action**: Secy VSF

#### **Item XXIII – Establishment of ZSB in the UT of Daman Diu and Nagar Haveli (VSF Mumbai)**

69. **Point**. There is no Zilla Sainik Board in Daman area. The Daman & Diu Gazette notification published on 06 Dec 2000 had indicated that a ZSB needs to be established.

70. **Discussions**. KSB intimated that approval of GOI/MOD has not been accorded for constitutions of District Sainik Board of Daman, Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli due to lesser strength of ESM/Families and dependents being than the requisite number of 7500. Therefore, the following District Sainik welfare and Resettlement offices have been requested to look after the welfare issues of ESMs staying Daman & Diu area:-

(a) Daman Dadra & Nagar Haveli - DSW&R Surat

(b) Diu

- DSW&amp;R Jamnagar

71. However, the ESM from the UT of Daman, Diu and Dadra Nagar Haveli informed that the above-mentioned DSW&R officers have refused to issue the ESM I-card citing absence of any provision for issue of ESM I-card for personnel staying in other States / UTs. They intimated that due to absence of the ESM I-card, they are not in position to avail any of the ESM welfare schemes. The Chair directed Secy VSF to take up the issue with KSB.

72. **Decision.** Secy VSF to take up the point with KSB. Point to be retained.

**Action:-** Secy VSF

(George Abraham)  
Commander  
Secretary  
Oct 14