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Veteran Sailors' Forum  
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DX/VSF/46/AGM/Goa/17(II)

12 Dec 17

**MINUTES OF 9<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
VETERAN SAILORS' FORUM HELD AT GOA ON 15 Oct 17**

1. The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the VSF was conducted from 1030h to 1430h on 15 Oct 17 at Goa. The AGM was chaired by Vice Admiral R Hari Kumar, AVSM, VSM, Controller Personnel Services in his capacity as the President, VSF.

2. The meeting was attended by approximately 250 VSF members. The following officials were present:-

(a) **Governing Council Members.**

(i)	R Adm Pradeep Joshi, VSM	President, VSF Mumbai Charter
(ii)	Cmde Joginder Chandana	President, VSF Kochi Charter
(iii)	Cmde BK Munjal	PD ECHS
(iv)	Cmde Vivek Karnavat	Vice President, VSF
(v)	Cmde C L Saini	LOIC, NAVPEN
(vi)	Capt VK Gupta	PDPA
(vii)	Capt DS Rana	MS, INCCB
(viii)	Capt DS Hada	Secretary, VSF
(ix)	Cdr AK Sharma	Secretary, INBA
(x)	Cdr V Viswanath	Secretary, NWWA
(xi)	Lt Cdr Vikram Shrivastav	Rep, DNL

(b) **Charter Representatives.**

(i)	Capt Rajeev Kishore	Secretary, VSF Mumbai Charter
(ii)	Capt S Sreekanth	Secretary, VSF Vizag Charter
(iii)	Capt Anup Kumar	Secretary, VSF Karwar Charter
(iv)	Cdr A K Kukreja	Secretary, VSF Kochi Charter
(v)	Cdr NA Singh	Secretary, VSF Kolkata Charter
(vi)	Lt Cdr VP Senthil	Secretary, VSF Chilka Charter
(vii)	Lt Cdr Inderjeet Yadav	Secretary, VSF Zamorin Charter
(viii)	Lt Sanket Karve	Secretary, VSF Chennai Charter
(ix)	Lt Atul Viswas	Secretary, VSF Gujrat Charter
(x)	Lt V Dalal	Secretary, VSF Goa Charter
(xi)	Nand Lal, MCPO I	Rep, VSF Dehradun Charter
(xii)	LEMAR Anil Yadav	Rep, VSF Jabalpur Charter
(xiii)	Sathish K, LPM	Rep, VSF Delhi Charter

(c) **ESM Charter Representatives**. Following ESM representatives of respective VSF Charters were present:-

- |       |                               |                         |
|-------|-------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (i)   | Shri Mohan Lal, Ex- H/SLt     | ESM Rep, Vizag Charter  |
| (ii)  | Shri Benny PO, Ex- H/SLt      | ESM Rep, Kochi Charter  |
| (iii) | Shri Rajesh Tiwari, Ex- POAOF | ESM Rep, Delhi Charter  |
| (iv)  | Shri DP Sharma, Ex-POME       | ESM Rep, Mumbai Charter |

### **President's Address**

3. The President welcomed VSF members and veer naris to the 9<sup>th</sup> AGM. He expressed that it was a matter of great honour for him to chair the AGM of VSF. At the outset he stated that the veterans were the permanent navy and the uniformed personnel were the transient navy as all serving personnel would retire one day and become veterans. He then stated that he always looked forward to opportunities to interact with veterans in order to get feedback on important issues from them. He exhorted all present that, veterans had to uphold naval ethos, maintain the image and reputation of Indian Navy and work to increase awareness amongst general public about the Navy.

4. He highlighted that the Navy of today was a force to reckon with. It commanded respect among the world powers which would not have been possible without the foresight and commendable service of the veterans. The Navy was now enjoying the fruits of their hard work. He stated that the nation would always remain thankful to the veterans who laid a strong foundation and charted a clear course for the Navy to grow from strength to strength. He then said that the Navy is not only thankful to veterans for what they have done but also remains indebted to them for it. It is with this sense of gratitude that the Navy established the Veteran Sailors' Forum in April 2008 to reinvigorate the bond with them and provide a platform to address issues faced by the retired community. He then stated that a hostel, to provide temporary accommodation to widows of naval personnel who died in harness, was being constructed at Delhi.

5. He informed that starting 2017, 14 January would be annually celebrated as the Armed Forces Veterans' Day. This was to recognize the collective contribution of the veterans in the growth of the nation and to remember their selfless devotion and sacrifice. He brought out that the inaugural event held this year was a huge success not only in Delhi but also in all major stations where it was conducted.

6. He said that great focus and attention was being paid to enhance the skill-sets of personnel to ensure their smooth absorption in the industry after they leave Indian Navy. The ongoing skill certification courses would ensure that naval personnel would be skill certified before their retirement. Veterans desirous of taking up a second career on board Merchant ships could now seek Samoa certification after undergoing requisite competency and STCW certification courses at NAMAC. He also informed that an amount of Rs 1.33 Cr had been sanctioned for skill training of naval personnel under the Prime Minister Kaushal Vikas Yojana. This would cover training for about 2900 sailors till Mar 18. Further, INPA was developing a new website which was expected to be operational in near future. The

website was being designed to encourage direct interaction between naval veterans and prospective employers.

7. He then stated that ECHS had been identified to become a part of the government initiative of Direct Benefit Transfer and was likely to be rolled out by Mar 18. A special sanction for widows of martyrs declared “Battle Casualty” who had not rendered requisite service had now been accorded for purchase of four wheelers through CSD. Further, in order to give impetus to “**Beti Bachao - Beti Padhao**” campaign of the Government, INBA had approved enhancement in rates of Special Scholarship from Rs 75,000 to Rs 1 Lakh for the ‘Girl Child’, for pursuing professional courses in Engineering and MBBS.

8. He then stated that the corpus of Veteran Sailors Forum fund at Rs 28 lakhs was quite less considering the number of retired naval sailors. He expressed his confidence in the naval veteran community working in big companies to make an effort to approach and influence their management to contribute to VSF fund. He also exhorted all the VSF members to persuade the retired community working with big firms to contribute towards VSF fund and seek funds under CSR.

9. He then brought out that to ensure that the Veterans Sailors’ Forum reaches its critical mass in quick time, it had been decided that INBA would fund the VSF membership expenses of retiring sailors wef 01 Oct 17. With this, he hoped that annual addition of new members would see a definite increase in the membership. Thereafter, he introduced the members at the dais to the audience and directed the Secretary, VSF to commence the proceedings of the AGM.

### **Confirmation of Minutes of Last AGM**

10. The Secretary, VSF proposed confirmation of the minutes of the 8<sup>th</sup> AGM held at Kochi on 25 Sep 16. The minutes were confirmed by the members and subsequently approved by the President, VSF.

### **Secretary’s Annual Report for FY 16-17**

11. The Secretary, VSF then presented the annual report. He informed the gathering of major activities undertaken by VSF since the last AGM held on 25 Sep 16 at Kochi. The presentation covered the following aspects:-

- (a) Introduction to 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.

## **Consideration and Adoption of Audited Balance Sheet of VSF Fund for FY 2016-17**

12. The Treasurer, VSF presented the audited Balance Sheet of VSF Fund for FY 2016-17 to the General Body.

13. President, VSF Kochi proposed that the General Body could adopt the audited Balance Sheet. Secretary, VSF Goa seconded the proposal. Thereafter, the General Body adopted the audited Balance Sheet of VSF Fund for FY 2016-17.

### **Presentation on the Key Issues**

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

- |     |                                      |   |             |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---|-------------|
| (a) | Progress made in ECHS                | - | PDECHS (N). |
| (b) | New schemes / scholarships by INBA   | - | Secy, INBA. |
| (c) | Update on NAVPEN and Pension issues- |   | NAVPEN.     |

### **Review of Old Agenda Points**

15. The details of action taken on decision of 8<sup>th</sup> AGM held on 25 Sep16 at Kochi are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

### **Discussion on New Agenda Points**

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

### **Concluding Remarks**

17. In his concluding remarks the Chairman, VSF expressed his happiness for having had the opportunity to be present for the meeting and expressed satisfaction on the way various issues that had been discussed. Besides the agenda, many issues including local issues were brought up. He assured that the points would be looked into and requested local units to look into the local issues brought out by the members. He exhorted all to live upto the motto of service before self.

18. He assured the gathering that the regimental system had been gradually strengthened but Indian Navy could not work in isolation without the help of the retired community. He stated that many times, Indian Navy was unable to contact the desired person because of lack of details and therefore, it was important to become VSF member and also update contact details. There are many channels for communicating with the concerned Indian Navy agency for issues faced by the retired community which should be explored so as to resolve the problems well in time instead of writing to external agencies and wasting time.

19. He thanked all members for making it convenient to attend the meeting and actively participating in the discussions. He also thanked FOGA, HQGNA, CO Gomantak and their teams for excellent arrangements for the event.

20. There being no further points, the meeting was adjourned. These minutes have the approval of President, VSF.

(Digvijay Singh Hada)  
Captain  
Secretary VSF

**Distribution:** - Normal

**REVIEW OF OUTSTANDING ACTION POINTS**

1. **Item XV: Provision of Accommodation at Navy House Bhubaneswar (7th AGM).**  
It is proposed to allocate one room at Navy House, Bhubaneswar for naval ESM.

(a) **Previous Decision.** Since actions as decided by previous AGM are not completed, it was decided to retain the point.

(b) **Status.**

(i) There is no Navy House at Bhubaneswar. The available space is hired residential accommodation as office for the DyNOIC and staff. It being office space, no suitable room is available for utilisation for accommodation for naval ESM.

(ii) Sainik Aramgraha at Cuttack is currently being renovated with an aid of Rs 80 Lacs from State Govt Odisha. EDC of renovation is Jan 18. It will cater for 20 veterans (2 officers + 18 ORs).

(iii) The State Govt has allotted 6000Sq Ft land at prime location near CRP Square, Bhubaneswar for construction of Sainik Aramgraha. Infosys has agreed to finance the project costing Rs 7 Crores under CSR. The construction will commence in Mar 18 with EDC of 18 months. This will have accommodation for 5 officers and 35 ORs.

(iv) In addition to this, State Govt has agreed in principle to allot 1 acre of land each at Koraput, Sambalpur, Bhavanipatna and Keonjhar for construction of Sainik Aramgraha.

(v) In view of the above, there is no need of a separate accommodation for naval veterans at Bhubaneswar as Sainik Aramgraha at Cuttack will be ready by Jan 18.

(c) **Decision.** Action completed. The point be closed.

**Action:** All concerned

2. **Item XVI: Availability of Sailor's Institute/ Rest Room for Veterans at Chennai (7<sup>th</sup> AGM).** Sailors' Institute / Rest Room may be made available to veteran sailors in Chennai whenever they visit for their wards in schools / colleges and ECHS Polyclinics in Chennai.

(a) **Previous Decision.** Since actions as decided by previous AGM are not completed, it was decided to retain the point.

(b) **Status**. Four guest rooms at Naval Coast Battery, Chennai are available for use by ESM. Bar and catering facilities are being provided at INS Adyar. A case has been taken up to create Sailors Institute at Naval Coastal Battery.

(c) **Decision**. Action completed. The point be closed.

**Action**: All concerned

3. **Item I –X Proposed Amendments to Rules of VSF (8<sup>th</sup> AGM)**. Amendment Nos I to X to the Rules of the VSF were put up for consideration.

(a) **Previous Decision**. DESA to take up for MoA amendment with Registrar of Societies.

(b) **Status**. All the amendments of MoA have been approved by the Registrar of Society, New Delhi. The amended MoA booklet has been uploaded on DESA website for information to all.

(c) **Decision**. Action completed. The point be closed.

**Action**: All concerned

4. **Item IV – Writing of Full Names in the Service and Pension/ Discharge Documents (8<sup>th</sup> AGM)**. Present practice of writing of sailors' name in short creates confusion / causes difficulty. Endorsing sailors' name in full at the time of joining/ retirement and continued intra-Navy usage of names in short for intra-naval use be considered.

(a) **Previous Decision**. Secy VSF to take up the matter with IHQ MoD (N)/DOP to issue suitable policy letter. Point to be retained.

(b) **Status**. Policy letter issued by DOP on 24 Jan 17.

(d) **Decision**. Action completed. The point be closed.

**Action**: All concerned

5. **Item V – INBA Welfare Scheme for Non-Pensioners (8<sup>th</sup> AGM)**. Welfare scheme from INBA may also be extended for those non pensioner ex-servicemen who contributed towards INBA.

(a) **Previous Decision**. Secretary INBA to progress the proposal and update the Forum during the next AGM. Point to be retained.

(b) **Status**. The point was discussed in the INBA AGM in Jun 17. INBA welfare schemes are applicable to pensioners only.

- (c) **Decision.** The Chairman directed to close the point.

**Action:** All concerned

6. **Item VI – Organising a Job Fair in Goa (8<sup>th</sup> AGM).** Job fair may be organised at Goa on yearly/ half yearly basis.

(a) **Previous Decision.** DESA to examine proposal in consultation with HQ FOGA and DGR and update the forum during next AGM. The point to be retained.

(b) **Status.** DGR conducts 4 job fairs for retired / retiring Armed Forces personnel every year under the aegis of the three Services. Two of these job fairs are conducted by Army, and one each by Navy and Air Force. The next job fair under Navy is scheduled to be held on 20 Feb 18 at Kochi under the aegis of HQ SNC. A case for job fair at Goa has been taken up with DGR. During the discussions it was brought out to the members that job fair at Goa depended on participating companies/ hiring agencies willing to hire retired personnel.

(c) **Decision.** The Chairman directed to monitor the point and pursue with DGR to conduct a job fair at Goa.

**Action:** DESA

7. **Item VII – Quota for Ex-Servicemen in Professional Courses (8<sup>th</sup> AGM).** There are very few seats reserved for wards of ex-servicemen for B.Tech, MBBS, etc., in good professional college/institutions under State Govts. Children of very few veterans were able to use reservations in State educational institutes due non availability of domicile certificate.

(a) **Previous Decision.** DESA to take up the case for relaxation of criteria for award of Domicile Certificate for wards of Armed Forces personnel with MOD through KSB. Point to be retained.

(b) **Status.** A case was taken up with KSB for rationalizing parameters for issue of domicile certificate by States/ UTs to wards of ESM. The following eligibility criteria had been proposed:-

(i) Last duty station of the ESM irrespective of duration of stay.

(ii) State/ UT from where last qualifying exam cleared by ward of ESM.

(iii) Place of permanent residence of the ESM post retirement as per service records irrespective of which State/ UT he belongs to.

(c) KSB had taken up the issue with MoD on 13 Sep 17. Decision of MoD is awaited. The Chairman observed that this was an issue which may not fructify in a short time. Therefore, continuous persuasion at all levels would be needed to resolve it. Being a State issue it needed to be accepted by all States and the Central Govt prior implementation.

- (d) **Decision**. The Chairman directed to retain the point and monitor it.

**Action**: DESA/ KSB

8. **Item XI – Facility for Debit / Credit Cards in Canteen Outlets (8<sup>th</sup> AGM)**. Debit/Credit card payment facilities to be made available in Defence canteens.

- (a) **Previous Decision**. MS INCCB to take up the point with GM CSD and update the Forum during next AGM. Point to be retained.
- (b) **Status**. A directive to implement cashless transactions in Unit Run Canteens has been issued. The Chairman observed that this was in line with the Govt initiative of cashless transitions.
- (c) **Decision**. Action completed. The point be closed.

**Action**: All concerned

9. **Item XIII – Removal of Restriction on Purchase Car by JCO/ORs from Canteen (8<sup>th</sup> AGM)**. JCO/Ors be allowed to purchase car from Canteen at shorter intervals.

- (a) **Previous Decision**. MS INCCB to take up a case for revision of the time period of purchase of car by JCOs/ORs from canteen, after implementation of 7<sup>th</sup> CPC recommendations by the Govt. Point to be retained.
- (b) **Status**. Case regarding the periodicity for purchase of four wheelers by JCOs/ ORs from CSD was taken up with IHQ MoD (Army)/ AGs branch in Feb 17. The DDGCS has intimated the following:-
- (i) Policy for purchase of four wheelers has been framed based on various factors such as cadre strength of officers and JCOs/ORs, budgetary constraints and recommendations from the environment. The guidelines for purchase of four wheelers from CSD have been accordingly promulgated.
- (ii) Primary aim is to provide suitable opportunity to all JCOs/ ORs to buy a four wheeler at least once while in service and once post retirement.
- (c) **Decision**. Action completed. The point be closed.

**Action**: All concerned

10. **Item XXIII – Issue of Naval ESM I-Card to Retired Sailors (8<sup>th</sup> AGM)**. Ex-sailors be issued with a veteran's I-Card by the Navy in similar to the Retired Officers I-Card issued by INS Kunjali.

(a) **Previous Decision**. DESA to take up a case with DPS for issuing identity card to all retiring sailors and to take up a proposal with PPOC for Tri-Service implementation of the scheme. Point to be retained.

(b) **Status**. Indian Navy is undertaking a smart I-card pilot project in which GOI/MoD has already approved issuance of RFID based smart Identity cards for serving and retired service personnel. It is being implemented in two phases, Phase - I will complete by Aug 18 and the entire project in 2019.

(c) **Decision**. The Chairman directed to close the point as action was already being taken.

**Action**: All concerned

**NEW AGENDA POINTS- 9<sup>th</sup> AGM****Item I – ECHS Reimbursement (VSF Gujarat)**

1. **Point.** ECHS reimbursement facility for OPD cases may be granted where nearest ECHS, Polyclinic is located at distance of more than 50 km away from residence.
2. **Discussions.** PD ECHS brought out that as per current orders there is no provision in ECHS for re-imburement for such OPD cases. However, the case has been taken up with Central Organization, ECHS for forwarding to MoD for consideration /approval. The Chairman directed PDECHS to progress the proposal and update the forum during the next AGM.
3. **Decision.** ECHS (Navy) to progress the case.

**Action:** ECHS (Navy)**Item II – ECHS Facility at INS Zamorin (Jose Mathew, ex- CHELP)**

4. **Point.** Veterans may be permitted to avail ECHS facility (at least OPD and Physician) from INS Zamorin/ INHS Navajivni as many veteran sailors are living around Naval Academy Ezhimala. At present ECHS Kannur is the nearest ECHS Polyclinic which is about 100 kms away.
5. **Discussions.** PDECHS brought out the following:-
  - (a) In accordance with the laid down norms of the ECHS, each district of the State is authorized an ECHS. Presently 23 ECHS Polyclinics are located in 14 districts of Kerala. INA is located in Kannur district which already has two ECHS, i.e, at Kannur and Irrity. Further, for the Northern Kannur/ Kasargod populace, support is provided by Kanhangad (Mavungal) ECHS.
  - (b) A case for opening additional 4 ECHS in Kerala has already been taken up with MoD. A new Polyclinic at Vadakara is likely to be approved by Govt. Some of the veterans residing close to Vadakara are likely to shift to this Polyclinic.
  - (c) There is no additional empanelled hospital near INA which could give advantage to veterans even if a Polyclinic is established. For any new type 'D' Polyclinic to be opened, minimum strength of 2500 veterans is required.
  - (d) Therefore, establishment of an ECHS Polyclinic at INA is not feasible at this juncture.

6. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by PDECHS, the Chairman directed to close the point.

### **Item III – Relaxation in Pensionable Service (VSF Karwar)**

7. **Point.** A special dispensation should be given to facilitate veterans who have served less than 15 years but were in service during the war to avail pension or at least should be enrolled as ECHS members.

8. **Discussions.** PDPA brought out that the Hon'ble AFT, Kochi had directed GOI to consider relaxation of pension rules for such personnel. The case was examined by the MoD and it was opined that minimum requirement criteria to earn pension by PBORs is 15 years and for Commissioned Officers is 20 years. Further, no change in the existing policy is contemplated as of now.

9. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by PDPA, the Chairman directed to close the point.

### **Item IV – Issue Corrected PPOs (VSF Karwar)**

10. **Point.** Post implementation of 7<sup>th</sup> Central Pay Commission, the pension received is not fully corrected for arrears. IAF has already actioned on the said matter and issued corrected PPOs.

11. **Discussions.** PDPA brought out the following:-

(a) Pension is revised by PDA as per Para 5.1 of the Circular No. 570 dated 31 Oct 16 issued by PCDA (P), Allahabad. Further, the Govt. vide letter No. 17(01)/2017/(02)/D(Pen/Pol) dated 05 Sep 17 has also directed PDAs to revise the pension/family pension of Pre-2016 retirees by notionally fixing their Pay Matrix plus MSP, 'X' Gp Pay, Classification Allowance etc.

(b) Based on both these formulae, i.e, by multiplying the pension as on 31 Dec 15 by factor 2.57 or notionally fixation in the Pay Matrix, whichever is beneficial, the pension/family pension will be paid to the pensioner/family pensioner.

(c) Naval Headquarters/NAVPEN will initiate the case with PCDA (N) for issue of corrigendum PPOs in respect of pensioners/family pensioners, where applicable.

(d) Further, NHQ has also taken up the issue with MoD through PPOC to revise PPOs of all defence pensioner/family pensioners, so that requisite information is available to all. Further, he brought out that efforts are in hand by CGDA to issue e-PPOs to all defence pensioners/ family pensioners.

12. LOIC NAVPEN then brought out that as far as 7CPC arrears for the retired naval personnel were concerned, it should have been paid by now. However, if any veteran has not received arrears he should approach NAVPEN with all the details so as to resolve the anomaly at an early date. The President, VSF Mumbai stated that considering large number and various types of pensioners, the PCDA was not able to handle issuance of corrected PPOs of the retired community. Many details of the ESM were not available/ updated with the PCDA which had further compounded the problem of issuance of corrected PPOs. SANGAM project started by CGDA has been shelved and presently all the pension related issues were handled through Suvigya program of the CDA.

13. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by the members, the Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item V – SANGAM PPO (Poorav Nau Sainik Kalyan Samiti, Haldwani, Nainital)**

14. **Point.** Whether Sangam PPO is to be claimed or will be dispatched to all veterans automatically.

15. **Discussions.** PDPA brought out that the Sangam project steered by CGDA had been shelved and new project Centralized Pension Disbursal System (CPDS) was being implemented by CGDA. EDC of the project is 2020. In the interim, wef 01 Jan 2018, all current pensioners' issues will be handled/ monitored by CGDA through Suvigya.

16. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by PDPA, the Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item VI – Grant of Special Pension (T Selvraj, Ex- POME, 168452)**

17. **Point.** The Hon'ble Supreme Court directed to grant Special Pension to non-pensioners vide judgment on Civil appeal no, 2147 of 2011) dated 27 Oct 16.

18. **Discussions.** PDPA brought out that the judgment on Civil appeal no, 2147 of 2011 dated 27 Oct 16 by the Supreme Court had been implemented for the applicants. For similarly placed ESM, NHQ orders had been issued to NAVPEN.

19. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by the members, the Chairman directed to monitor the point till it is fully implemented.

**Action:** DPA

**Item VII – Provision of Aadhar Card to NRI ESM (PJJoseph, Ex- POWTR, 144168 F)**

20. **Point.** Provision of Aadhar Card to NRI ESM as they are unable to obtain the following benefits:

- (a) Link PAN with Aadhar.
- (b) Complete KYC.
- (c) Apply for SIM card.
- (d) Apply for LPG connection.
- (e) Apply for Govt subsidies.
- (f) Register with KSB for benefits.

21. **Discussions.** It was informed to the members that Aadhar Act was absolutely clear regarding eligibility to apply for Aadhar number. If the individual met the conditions he could apply and if he did not meet them there were no exceptions. Secy VSF then brought out that KSB has intimated that for registration of ESM on KSB web portal, Aadhar was not mandatory.

22. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by PDPA, the Chairman directed to close the point.

### **Item VIII – Reservation for ESM in Group B Posts (VSF Karwar)**

23. **Point.** Presently, the reservation for ESMs in Govt. job caters to only Group C and D posts resulting in limited opportunities for senior sailors leaving service. Therefore, reservation in Group B posts for ESMs should also be considered.

24. **Discussions.** JDESA VSF informed the forum that a case was taken up with the Govt regarding grant of 10% reservation in Group 'B' Posts and increase in reservation to 20% in Group 'C' posts for ESM. The case was under consideration and decision was awaited. The Gol decision would be informed to all through DESA website.

25. **Decision.** The Chairman expressed hope of early resolution of the issue and directed DESA to continue monitoring the issue.

**Action:** DESA

### **Item IX – Levying of House Tax in Karnataka (VSF Karwar)**

26. **Point.** Karnataka Govt. has given 50% exemption in the House Tax to the ESM; the same should be enhanced to 100%.

27. **Discussions.** It was brought out that it was a State subject and every State has different house tax exemption limit for ESM. Karnataka Govt provides 50% exemption to ESM from house tax for self-occupied house. Many states like Haryana, HP, Jharkhand provide 100 % exemption. States like Assam, Bihar, Sikkim do not extend any house tax exemption to ESM. Secy, VSF Karwar stated that the issue was not only exemption of house tax at cities but also at various smaller cities and towns of Karnataka. Rep Karnataka ESM forum brought out that the local bodies were not aware of the regulations.

PDESA stated that the details of the case be forwarded by VSF Karwar to DESA for examination so that it could be taken up with the concerned agency.

28. **Decision**. The Chairman directed DESA to study the case in detail and take up with Karnataka Govt through KSB.

**Action**: DESA/ VSF Karwar

### **Item X – Exemption from Professional Tax (VSF Karwar)**

29. **Point**. Professional tax being levied for the services being provided by ESM should be exempted.

30. **Discussions**. It was brought out that the professional tax was levied by the State where an individual was working and was limited to a maximum of Rs. 2500 per annum. Further, the professional tax could be claimed by the individual as exemption in the income tax return for that financial year.

31. **Decision**. Taking note of the clarifications put forth by DESA, and the fact that IT exemption was available on the amount of tax paid, the Chairman directed to close the point.

### **Item XI – Upper Age Relaxation in ESM Quota ( VSF Karwar)**

32. **Point**. The ex-servicemen are given age relaxation for a job but upper age limit is also prescribed for such jobs, which must be done away with.

33. **Discussions**. JDESA brought out that as per extant regulations, age relaxation of **complete military service plus three years** was admissible to ESM appearing for recruitment to Group 'A' and 'B' posts through **Direct Recruitment**. Age relaxation of **five years** was admissible to ESM, if the recruitment was **based on an All India Competitive Examination**. The case had already been forwarded to MoD through PPOC on 16 Jul 15 to consider a common age relaxation norm of complete military service plus three years for all types of recruitments to Group 'A' and 'B' posts in Central Government posts and services. The decision of Gol was awaited.

34. **Decision**. The Chairman directed DESA to monitor the case.

**Action**: DESA

### **Item XII – Abolish Sub-Reservations in ESM Quota (VSF Karwar)**

35. **Point**. Quota exists for SC/ST and OBC under the head of ESM for recruitment in the Govt. sector. The sub quota system under the ESM head pertaining to jobs in the Govt. sector should be abolished as there is no caste specific quota in service.

36. **Discussions.** JDESA brought out that DGR has provided inputs on the issue as follows:

(a) DoPT OM No.36012/58/92-Estt. (SCT) dated 01 Dec 94 states that the Hon'ble Supreme Court has held that the Reservation for SC/ST/OBCs made under Article 16(4) of the Constitution may be called **Vertical Reservation** and the reservation made under Article 16(1) of the constitution like the reservation for physically handicapped persons as **Horizontal Reservation**.

(b) The ibid DOP&T OM further states that in the light of the above-said observation of the Supreme Court, it has been decided that the **percentage of reservation for ESM** should remain same as at present. Therefore, an ESM selected under the reservation provided for them should be placed in the appropriate Category, viz., SC/ST/OBC/General category depending upon the category to which he belongs.

(c) From the above, it is seen that there is **no quota for SC/ST and OBC under the head of ESM for recruitment in the Govt sector**. An ESM selected under the reservation provided for them is only placed in the appropriate category, Viz., SC/ST/OBC General category depending upon the category to which he belongs.

37. The rep Karnataka ESM forum brought out that since there is no caste quota in the Armed Forces, then why ZSB and RSB recruitment in Karnataka is being discriminated by DESW Karnataka for employment. PDESA stated that this point needs to be studied in detail so as to take up with KSB and requested for details. The Chairman observed that this point appears to be unique to Karnataka DESW and directed DESA to look into the matter.

38. **Decision.** The Chairman directed VSF Karwar to forward details to DESA for taking up the issue with KSB.

**Action:** DESA/ VSF Karwar

**Item XIII – ZSB Office at Daman (VSF Mumbai).**

39. **Point.** ZSWO be opened at Daman.

40. **Discussions.** JDESA brought out that KSB has intimated that Daman & Diu administration has been requested to forward SoC along with financial implication for opening of new ZSWO. Once this is received, the case will be processed further by KSB/ MoD.

41. **Decision.** Based on the status update, the Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item XIV – Penury Grant Delayed (T Selvraj, Ex- POME, 168452)**

42. **Point.** Action may be initiated to mitigate undue delay in disbursing Penury Grant from KSB.

43. **Discussions.** JDESA brought out that KSB has intimated that there is no delay in penury grant at KSB. However, payment is made once a year depending on availability of funds. The major problem being faced in authorizing penury grant payment is non-submission of life certificate within stipulated time frame by non-pensioner veterans. A timetable of all the KSB schemes has been promulgated and is uploaded on KSB website for information. All eligible veterans are requested to apply in time rather than wait for last date.

44. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by DESA, the Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item XV– Medical PG Seat Quota for Wards of ESM on NEET Examination Rank(KNSudhakaran Ex- MCEAP-I)**

45. **Point.** At least one or two PG medical seats should be reserved for bright wards of ESM in Medical Colleges in India based on NEET examination rank.

46. **Discussions.** JDESA brought out that medical and engineering colleges have specified quota for UG courses and there is no quota for PG courses. Having qualified as a doctor, merit for PG course would decide the quality of medical professionals who treat the patients. Reservation in PG was not recommended.

47. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by DESA, the Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item XVI – Medical PG Students to be included for PM Scholarship (KNSudhakaran, Ex- MCEAP-I)**

48. **Point.** Medical PG students may be included for PM Scholarship.

49. **Discussions.** JDESA VSF brought out that KSB has intimated that as per policy on PM Scholarship Scheme, only the first professional degree course could be provided with PM Scholarship. Medical PG is therefore not a part of the PM scholarship.

50. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by DESA, the Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item XVII – Children Education Allowance (VSF Mumbai)**

51. **Point.** Presently Children Education Allowance is being paid to ESMs up to rank of POs through ZSB. It should be extended to CPOs and above also.

52. **Discussions.** JDESA VSF brought out that KSB has intimated that the funds are not adequate to cover veteran JCOs/ equivalent ranks in Navy and Air Force. Further, JCOs are allowed to serve till the age of 50 or more and have better financial condition than NCOs. Therefore, Children Education Allowance is not feasible for CPOs and above. The Chairman stated that the funds are limited and benefits should be given to the needy individuals. The schemes are open to NCOs who generally serve for lesser duration and needy widows, orphans etc.

53. **Decision.** Based on the present status furnished by KSB, the Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item XVIII – INCS Outlet at Naval Academy Ezhimala (Jose Mathew, ex- CHELP)**

54. **Point.** INCS outlet may be opened at Naval Academy Ezhimala as at present URC is unable to handle the crowd.

55. **Discussions.** Secy, VSF Zamorin informed the forum that URC at Zamorin was being expanded which would reduce the load. The Chairman stated that Navy was already looking at opening INCS at Zamorin, but it would take some time. In the meantime, Zamorin URC is being expanded to provide more counters which should reduce load and improve facilities.

56. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by Secy VSF Zamorin, the Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item XIX – Cease Liquor Quota on Demise of the ESM (VSF Karwar)**

57. **Point.** The liquor quota on the demise of the ESM should be ceased as more often than not the same is misused in the form of consumption by non- entitled persons.

58. **Discussions.** MS INCCB brought out that the liquor is issued to service personnel, ex-servicemen and NoK as per entitled scales promulgated by IHQ MoD (Army)/QMG's/DDGCS. CSD facilities and liquor quota is a privilege granted by the Gol and termination would amount to denial of CSD facilities.

59. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by MS INCCB, the Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item XX–Procedure for Renewing Dependent I-Card (Poorav Nau Sainik Kalyan Samiti Haldwani, Nainital)**

60. **Point.** Following is proposed:-

(a) The verifying or countersigning authority may be allowed to Zila Sainik Board Officer instead of CABS. If not possible then only photo copy of dependents cards be allowed to be sent to CABS for verification.

(b) Renewal of damaged dependent I-cards due to wear & tear or loss be allowed by postal dispatch system. Cheque/Demand draft be accepted at INS India instead of cash.

61. **Discussions.** JDESA brought out that KSB has issued a policy in July 2017 wherein ZSBs/RSBs had been authorized to issue dependent I-cards to eligible personnel. Issue of dependent I-cards by Navy is governed by Navy Order 1/2011. Policy details on the issue have been uploaded on DESA website for information to all.

62. **Decision.** Taking note of the clarifications put forth by DESA, the Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item XXI – Daughter’s Marriage Grant (VSF Mumbai)**

63. **Point.** Daughter’s marriage grant is presently being given to widows of ESM from INBA. ESM have requested it to be considered for extending to all ESM.

64. **Discussions.** Secy INBA brought out that the grant for daughter’s marriage was started in 1989 for naval personnel who die in harness. The grant was extended to the naval widows in 1997 with an aim to provide financial assistance. The extension of this grant to all ESM is not feasible at this stage. The Chairman stated that this scheme was introduced to provide financial relief to widows. Once sufficient funds were available, this could be considered for all ESM at that stage.

65. **Decision.** The Chairman directed to close the point.

**Item XXII –Train Facilities for Helping Serving and Retired Naval Personnel (Jose Mathew, ex- CHELP)**

66. **Point.** Naval Academy is important defence establishment and Payannur is the nearest Railway Station. Stoppage of Rajadhani and extension of Kannur- Ernakulam Intercity express, Kannur Trivandrum Jan Shadabdi to Payannur be provided. Also, MCO may be opened at Payanur Rly Stn.

67. **Discussions.** Secy VSF Zamorin brought out that Zamorin reps had a meeting with Southern Zone Railway reps on 08 Sep 17 to discuss issues brought out by the

veteran. MCO was currently functional at Kannur. Once Indian Railways agreed on stoppage of major trains at Payannur station, MCO quota would be revised and then MCO could also be opened. Opening MCO at Payannurat this stage would not serve any purpose as MCO quota was only from Kannur.

68. **Decision**. Taking note of the clarifications put forth by Secy VSF Zamorin, the Chairman directed to monitor the point.

**Action**: VSF Zamorin

**Item XXIII – Revise NCO Code(PooravNau Sainik KalyanSamitiHaldwani, Nainital)**

69. **Point**. NCO code and Trade Certificate issued to retiring PBOR is required to be revised as these had not been revised since more than 40 years.

70. **Discussions**. Secy VSF brought out that the National Classification of Occupation (NCO) Codes were revised by the Ministry of Labour on a periodic basis. The last revision was undertaken in 2015. Navy and IAF codes had been revised and Army codes would be revised after Diwali. Status would be updated on DESA website upon promulgation by the MoL.

71. **Decision**. Taking note of the clarifications put forth by Secy VSF, the Chairman directed to close the point.