

NEWSLETTER

DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA (DELHI)

D E C E M B E R - 2 0 2 4



DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER - 2024



"We will always do everything possible to strengthen our armed forces and further the welfare of those who serve us."

नरेंद्र मोदी

PRIME MINISTER
SHRI NARENDRA MODI



“

“Our Ex-Servicemen spread across the length and breadth of the country constitute a valuable resource pool. We are committed to fulfilling their aspirations and honour their contribution”.



SHRI RAJNATH SINGH
HON'BLE RAKSHA MANTRI



SHRI SANJAY SETH
HON'BLE RAKSHA RAJYA MANTRI



Key Highlights

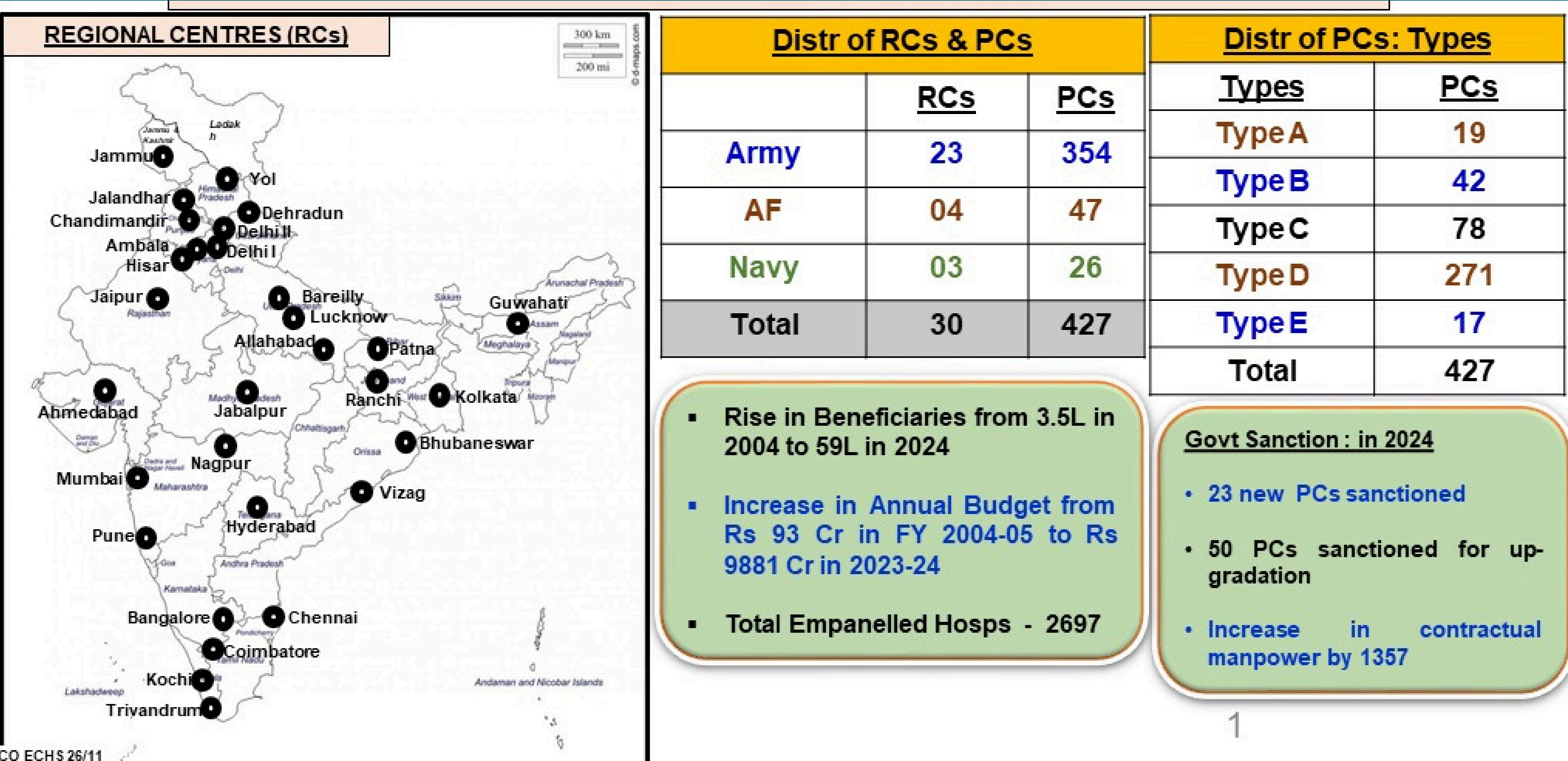
The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare is dedicated to providing comprehensive support for veterans and their families, encompassing healthcare, financial benefits, and career transition assistance.

Initiatives like the Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) and the One Rank One Pension (OROP) scheme have significantly improved the well-being and financial security of veterans.

The Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) and the Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) play crucial roles in empowering ex-servicemen with skills and opportunities for their second careers, and providing support to their families.

Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS)

Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) was launched with effect from 1st April 2003. The Scheme aims to provide Medicare to Ex-servicemen pensioner and their dependents through a network of ECHS Polyclinics, Service medical facilities, Government hospitals, empanelled private hospitals/specified Govt. The Scheme has been structured on the lines of CGHS to ensure cashless transactions, for the patients.



- Rise in Beneficiaries from 3.5Lakhs in 2004 to 59 Lakhs in 2024
- Increase in Annual Budget from Rs. 93 Cr in FY 2004-05 to Rs. 9881 Cr in 2023-24
- Total Empanelled Hospitals - 2697



ECHS BENEFICIARIES : STATEWISE

Sl. No	State/UT	Primary	Dependents
1	Andaman and Nicobar Islands	813	2,279
2	Andhra Pradesh	49,967	1,37,642
3	Arunachal Pradesh	1,025	2,475
4	Assam	24,279	54,335
5	Bihar	61,878	1,57,108
6	Chandigarh	6,846	9,652
7	Chhattisgarh	5,893	18,397
8	D&N, D&D	61	136
9	Delhi	42,301	84,088
10	Goa	2229	4,751
11	Gujarat	21,706	60,380
12	Haryana	1,85,615	3,08,982
13	Himachal Pradesh	1,05,062	1,73,959
14	Jammu and Kashmir	68,049	1,72,732
15	Jharkhand	15,576	41,402
16	Karnataka	71,729	1,58,225
17	Kerala	1,29,389	2,26,611
18	Ladakh	1,858	4,676
19	Lakshadweep	66	191
20	Madhya Pradesh	46,188	1,12,333

Sl No.	State/UT	Primary	Dependents
21	Maharashtra	1,35,625	3,03,297
22	Manipur	4,330	12,467
23	Meghalaya	2,259	4,789
24	Mizoram	2,161	5,751
25	Nagaland	1,794	4,971
26	Odisha	32,485	78,080
27	Puducherry	1,467	2,673
28	Punjab	2,10,524	3,82,057
29	Rajasthan	1,21,687	2,79,239
30	Sikkim	1,209	2,248
31	Tamil Nadu	1,02,624	1,89,986
32	Telangana	28,882	58,713
33	Tripura	1,300	3,283
34	Uttar Pradesh	2,32,508	5,10,962
35	Uttarakhand	1,08,017	2,09,413
36	West Bengal	68,694	1,69,120
Total		18,06,096	39,47,403

ECHS BENEFICIARIES IN NEPAL

Sl. No	Country	Primary	Dependents
1	Nepal	46,592	58,578

RECENT INITIATIVES OF ECHS

ECHS has taken a number of initiatives to increase its coverage and improve the quality of services in its polyclinics and network hospitals like

- During last one year, reputed Government institutions like AIIMS Bhopal, Raipur, Hyderabad, Allahabad and Gorakhpur empanelled
- Enhanced Common Drug List (E-CDL) having 2500 medicines promulgated
- Tele Medicine E-SeHAT & Home Delivery of Medicines sanctioned for implementation
- Upgraded ECHS Mobile App launched - Facilitates in booking online appointment as also seek scheme related info
- Vigilance on Emergency Admissions - Geo Tagging of Photo
- Numerous workflow changes to improve beneficiary experience:-
 - (i) Change of Polyclinic, Mobile No & Referral from Non-parent Polyclinic
 - (ii) Validity of referral incr from 30 to 90 Days
 - (iii) No of sessions/ referral incr from three to six
 - (iv) Direct OPD at Empanelled Hosp - Age reduced from 75 to 70
 - (v) Exemption of Annual Validation for 80 yrs and above & for white card holders
 - (vi) Exemption of Annual Validation for white card holders
 - (vii) Executive Dashboard for real time visibility

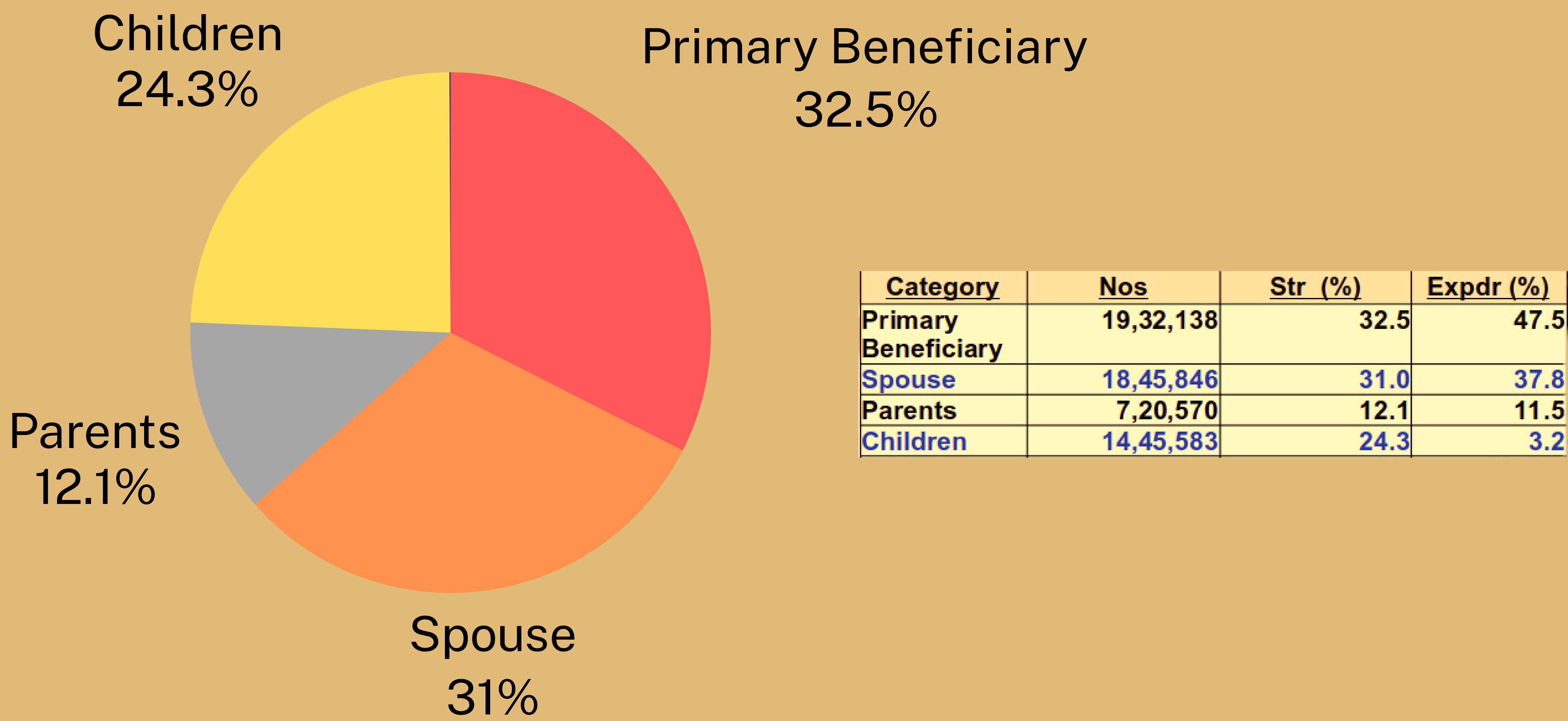


MD ECHS Visit to an empanelled ECHS hospital in Ahmedabad

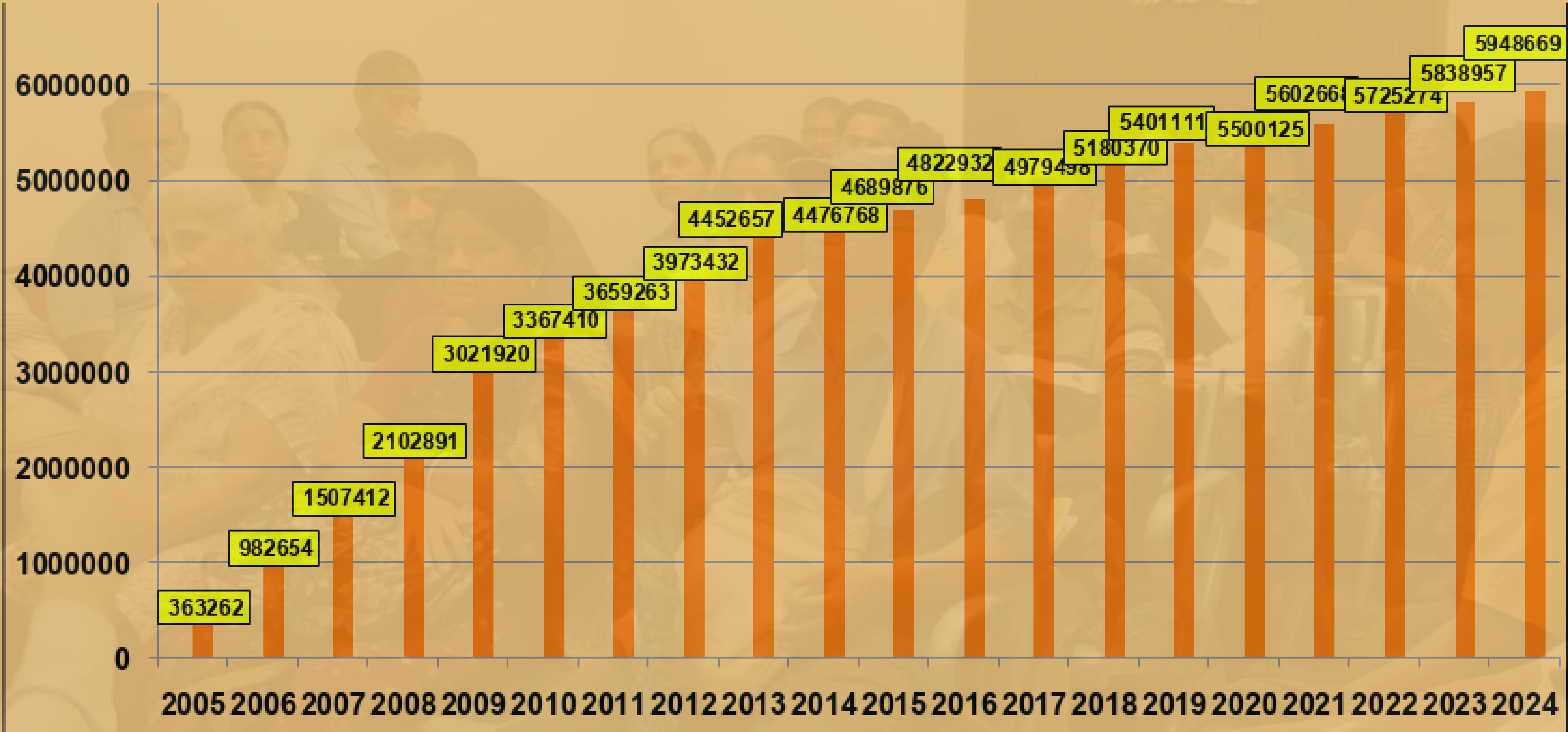
ECHS BENEFICIARIES : CATEGORIES AND GROWTH

To be eligible for ECHS membership, one must meet following twin conditions of ESM status and should be drawing normal service/ disability/ family pension from CDA. Scheme also extended to Premature Retirees, Assam Rifles, WW-II veterans and others.The following table and chart shows the categories of ECHS beneficiaries and its growth over these years.

BENEFICIARY CATEGORIES



NO OF ECHS BENEFICIARIES SINCE INCEPTION



ECHS EXPANSION

To improve healthcare services for ex-servicemen, the ECHS has received government sanction in 2024 to establish 23 new polyclinics, upgrade 50 existing ones, and add 1,357 contractual personnel. These enhancements aim to reduce wait times, increase access to specialists, and provide more comprehensive care.

ECHS Manpower enhanced

Ser No.	Appointment	Authorized Manpower	Actual Manpower	Additional Sanctioned in 2024
(i)	Medical Officer	955	955	175
(ii)	Medical Specialist	200	124	66
(iii)	Radiologist	61	27	34
(iv)	Gynaecologist	61	58	34
(v)	Dental Officer	471	425	57
(vi)	OIC Polyclinic	410	405	23
(vii)	Para Medical	2528	2528	286
(viii)	Driver	488	488	57
(ix)	Non Medical Staff	1640	1640	625
	Total	6814	6650	1357

ECHS POLYCLINIC TYPE AND CATEGORIES

Polyclinics are categorized as either **Military or Non-Military**, depending on whether a Military hospital is co-located or not and are further categorized into five types, i.e.

Type A to E, based on the number of Ex-servicemen residing in that area.

Type A >20,000 ESM

Type B >10,000 ESM

Type C >5,000 ESM

Type D >2,500 ESM

Type E (Mobile) Above 1500 (for Remote Areas)

ECHS EXPANSION: CREATION OF NEW POLYCLINICS

The Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) is expanding its reach to provide better healthcare access for veterans and their families, with new facilities and services.

LIST OF 23 NEW POLYCLINICS SANCTIONED

Ser No	Polyclinic	State /Country
1	Vijayanagram	Andhra Pradesh
2	Vishakhapatnam II	Andhra Pradesh
3	Patna II	Bihar
4	Dwarka	Delhi
5	Nalagarh	Himachal Pradesh
6	Bhoranj	Himachal Pradesh
7	Gagret	Himachal Pradesh
8	Bagalkote	Karnataka
9	Bangalore Whitefield	Karnataka
10	Pune (Nyati)	Maharashtra
11	Butwal	Nepal
12	Dhangadi	Nepal
13	Rourkela	Odisha
14	Cuttack	Odisha
15	Jaipur III	Rajasthan
16	Balesar	Rajasthan
17	Sainikpuri Hyderabad	Telangana
18	Gomti Area	UP
19	Sec 21 JVV Noida	UP
20	Sec 82 Noida	UP
21	Meerut II	UP
22	Clement Town	Uttarakhand
23	Hooghly	West Bengal

ECHS EXPANSION: UPGRADATION OF POLYCLINICS

During the year 2024, sanction for upgradation of the following 50 ECHS polyclinics have been given. This will entail more number of doctors and other medical facilities to the ECHS beneficiaries.

Ser No.	Polyclinic	State/UT	Present Type	Upgraded Type
1	Vishakapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	C	A
2	Danapur (Patna)	Bihar	C	A
3	Chandigarh	Chandigarh	B	A
4	Chandimandir	Chandigarh	C	A
5	Gurgaon(Sohna Road)	Haryana	B	A
6	Rewari	Haryana	B	A
7	Ambala	Haryana	C	A
8	Rohtak	Haryana	D	A
9	Faridabad	Haryana	C	B
10	Charkhi Dadri	Haryana	D	B
11	Palwal	Haryana	D	C
12	Palampur	Himachal Pradesh	D	A
13	Samba	J&K	C	B
14	Akhnoor	J&K	D	C
15	Belgaum	Karnataka	B	A
16	Mavelikara	Kerala	D	A
17	Kozhikode	Kerala	C	B
18	Kottarakara	Kerala	D	C
19	Jabalpur	Madhya Pradesh	D	B
20	Gwalior	Madhya Pradesh	D	B
21	Bhopal	Madhya Pradesh	D	C
22	Pune	Maharashtra	B	A
23	Khadki (Pune)	Maharashtra	D	A
24	Ahmednagar	Maharashtra	C	B
25	South Pune (Lohegaon)	Maharashtra	D	C
26	Devlali	Maharashtra	D	C

Ser No.	Polyclinic	State/UT	Present Type	Upgraded Type
27	Bhubaneshwar	Odisha	C	B
28	Patiala	Punjab	B	A
29	Mohali	Punjab	C	A
30	Pathankot	Punjab	D	A
31	Unchibassi	Punjab	C	B
32	Tarantaran / Patti	Punjab	D	B
33	Batala	Punjab	D	C
34	Jaipur	Rajasthan	B	A
35	Jodhpur	Rajasthan	B	A
36	Ajmer	Rajasthan	D	C
37	Secunderabad	Telangana	B	A
38	Meerut	Uttar Pradesh	B	A
39	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	C	A
40	Kanpur	Uttar Pradesh	C	A
41	Agra	Uttar Pradesh	C	A
42	Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	C	A
43	Ghaziabad (Hindon)	Uttar Pradesh	D	A
44	Prayagraj (Allahabad)	Uttar Pradesh	D	A
45	Mathura	Uttar Pradesh	D	A
46	Gorakhpur	Uttar Pradesh	D	B
47	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	D	B
48	Haldwani	Uttarakhand	B	A
49	Roorkee	Uttarakhand	D	A
50	Barrackpore	West Bengal	C	A

SAMADHAN CAMPAIGN : REACHING OUT TO EX-SERVICEMEN

The 'Samadhan Campaign' is an initiative by the Department to honor the sacrifices made by ex-servicemen and their families, by proactively engaging with them and addressing their grievances related to the department's various welfare schemes.

Seeking feedback and insights into the challenges veterans come across while availing various welfare schemes of the Department, Dr. Niten Chandra directed Rajya & Zila Sainik Boards, ECHS and other agencies under the department to set-up proactive communication and collaboration mechanism in finding solutions to the problems of ex-servicemen. He reiterated the government's unwavering support for the veteran community.



Interaction with Ex-Servicemen in Ghamar , Ghazipur, UP

DIRECTORATE GENERAL RESETTLEMENT

The Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) is an Inter Service organization functioning directly under the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (Ministry of Defence). In order to maintain a youthful profile of the Armed Forces, approximately 60,000 service personnel are retired/released every year at comparatively young age.



DGR SCHEMES FOR ESM

S.no.	Scheme/ Year	2022	2023
(a)	Security Agencies & State ESM Corporations Empaneled	732	750
(b)	ESM sponsored in security agency	32440	48525
(c)	ESM sponsored in Coal Companies	-	12
(d)	Widows/ disabled ESM attached in Coal Cos	-	16
(e)	Management of CNG Station in NCR/Pune	47	66
(f)	Sponsored for COCO Scheme (Petrol Pumps)	47	138
(g)	Issue of Eligibility Certificates for allotment of Oil Product Agencies	1	44
(h)	Mother Dairy Milk Booths/Safal Booth	835	553
(i)	ESM Sponsored/ Placement by DGR (Emp Dte)	8974	3388
(k)	DGR Technical Service Scheme	56	313
(l)	Post completion of PRC through Trg Institutes	33	83
(m)	Job fairs/Seminars/PMBJP	769	7922
	Total	43734	61810

DIRECTORATE GENERAL RESETTLEMENT

DGR conducts number of training courses for the retiring/retired service personnel through recognised and reputed Government Institutions. Besides these, it also conducts Job Fairs for the ESMs for placement in the corporate /private sector.

Training Courses during last 5 years

FY	Category	Courses	Instts	Subscription	Total
2019-20	Officer	10	6	441	6626
	JCO/OR	151	32	6185	
2020-21	Officer	4	3	225	644
	JCO/OR	11	31	419	
2021-22	Officer	12	5	606	4240
	JCO/OR	97	35	3634	
2022-23	Officer	21	11	921	6968
	JCO/OR	162	37	6047	
2023-24	Officer	25	36	995	9123
	JCO/OR	256	79	8128	



DGR presenting memento to Hon'ble RRM during Job fair at Ranchi.

Job fairs onducted during last 2 years

Financial Year	Job Fairs	ESM Attendance	Corporate	Job Vacancies
2022-23	6	9004	176	5689
2023-24	8	12198	258	8724



Common Service Centre (CSC) stall at Job fair, Kolkata on 29 Nov 2024.



ONE RANK ONE PENSION SCHEME (OROP)



The OROP scheme, implemented in 2015, has significantly improved the financial well-being of veterans. Over 2.5 million pensioners have benefited, with a total financial benefit exceeding ₹ 1,24,000 crore over the last decade. The scheme provides veterans with greater financial security and stability.

Government of India had taken historic decision to implement One Rank One Pension (OROP) in November 2015 and issued orders on 7.11.2015 for implementation of OROP wef 1.07.2014 and its revision w.e.f. 01.07.2019 on 04.01.2023.

Government also approved the next revision due on 01.07.2024. Detailed instructions along with tables indicating revised pension for each rank and each category issued on 04.09.2024.

As on date 25.13 lakh Armed Forces Pensioners/family pensioners have been benefited. The benefit also extended to family pensioners, including war widows and disabled pensioners.

So far Rs 1,24,974.34 crore has been additionally spent on this scheme in the last 10 years (2014-2024). OROP has increased the income of the veterans which has enhanced their purchasing power and ensured better quality of life.

KENDRIYA SAINIK BOARD : KSB

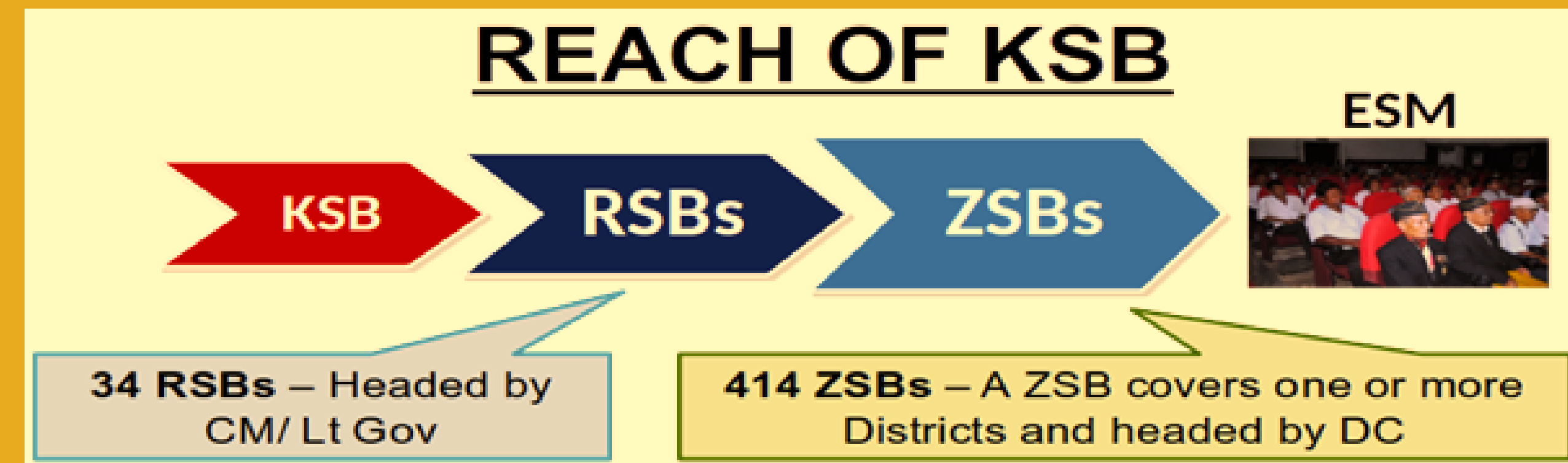
Kendriya Sainik Board Secretariat is an attached office of Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare (DESW), Ministry of Defence which coordinates with various Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards. It also manages the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund and Prime Minister's Scholarship Scheme (PMSS)

KSB Website (<https://online.ksb.gov.in/>)

- Information on welfare schemes
- Online submission and processing of applications of all Schemes
- Facilitate online registration of ESM/ widows with RSB/ZSB
- Grievance Redressal

RSB/ZSB CHARTER

- RSB/ZSB function through Dept of Sainik Welfare of State/UT
 - Headed by Director/ZSWO at State/district level
 - Staff includes Dy Directors, Asst Secy, Supdts, Welfare Organisers, etc depending of strength of ESM in district
- Register and Issue ESM and dependent I-Cards
- Conduct ESM rallies/ outreach prog
- Monitor welfare and resettlement measures
- Provide grants to ESM from State Schemes
- Grievance redressal & assistance to ESM to resolve issues with other orgns
- Assist families of serving Defence personnel during their absence on duty
- Pursue issues wrt ESM/ dependents reservation in State institutions/ jobs
- Explore avenues to provide educational and vocational training
- Provide facilities such as Sainik Rest Houses (SRH), hostels
- Organise Armed Forces Flag Day events at State/ district level



Secy KSB addressing Company Secretaries at the National Conference in Mumbai

ARMED FORCES FLAG DAY FUND

1. Armed Forces Flag Day (AFFD) is commemorated on the 7th Dec every year to honour and pay tribute to ESM those who have laid down their lives and those who have been disabled.
2. AFFD Fund instituted in 1993 for financial support for welfare schemes for
 - i. Individual ESM/widows and their dependents
 - ii. Assisting various Rehabilitation Institutions/ Organisations
3. Management Committee headed by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri and Executive Committee headed by Secy (ESW).
4. Source of funding for AFFDF
 - (i) Govt of India and Defence Services
 - (ii) Direct contributions from citizens and online through website www.affdf.gov.in
 - (iii) CSR Support from various PSUs, PSEs, Industry and corporate world



**Armed
Forces Flag
Day**



WELFARE SCHEMES

AFFDF - INDIVIDUALS

Annual Grants	Amount (₹)
Penury	48,000
Orphan	36,000
Disabled Child	36,000
Education	12,000
Daughter/ Widow Marriage	50,000 one time
Medical Treatment	50,000 max/year
Vocational Training	50,000 one time
Modified Scooter	One Lakh
Serious Diseases	1.50 Lakhs
Cancer and Dialysis	75,000 max
Interest subsidy Home Loan	One Lakh max

AFFDF - INSTITUTIONS

Grants	Rate (₹)	Annual Amount (₹)
PRC Kirkee	30000/- per inmate	1.6 Crores
PRC Mohali	30000/- per inmate	45 Lakhs
Cheshire Homes Lucknow, D'dun, Delhi	15000/- per inmate pa	15,000/- per inmate
War Memorial Hostels (36)	1350/- per month	16,200/- per inmate
AI Gorkha ESM Welfare Assn	12 Lakhs pa	12 Lakhs

PM SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME (PMSS)

- Fund allotted by PMO for higher technical and professional education for dependents of ESM
- Rs 30,000/- pa for boys and Rs 36,000/- pa for girls (revised in 2019-20)
- 5500 scholarships every year (2750 boys/girls each)

Grant	Enhancement Amount	Enhanced w.e.f
Cheshire Homes	Rs 9,000 to Rs 15,000/- pa per inmate	01 Apr 2021
Disabled Child grant	Rs. 1000/-pm to Rs. 3000/-pm	01 Apr 2021
Mobility Equipment	Rs 57,000/- to Rs 1,00,000/-	01 Apr 2022
Orphan grant	Rs. 1000/-pm to Rs. 3000/-pm	01 Apr 2022
Vocational Training	Rs. 20,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-	01 Apr 2023
Serious Disease	Rs. 30,000/- to Rs. 50,000/-	01 Apr 2023
Medical Treatment	Rs. 1,25,000/- to Rs. 1,50,000/-	01 Apr 2023





Scan the QR code for access
to e-newsletter

We welcome articles, suggestions and feedback from the readers for continuous improvement of the e-newsletter.
Contact : secyesw@nic.in

Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare
Ministry of Defence
Government of India
www.desw.gov.in