

DEPARTMENT OF EX-SERVICEMEN WELFARE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA



NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025

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



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NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



"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



DESW INTRODUCTION



Pension Policy
and Regulations
of Armed Forces
Pension
disbursement
through CGDA
One Rank One
Pension OROP
Scheme

PENSIONS

Welfare schemes
through Kendriya
Sainik Board
Armed Forces Flag
Day Fund
Armed Forces
Battle Casualties
Welfare Fund

WELFARE

Cashless and
Capless Medical
cover through
Ex-Servicemen
Contributory
Health Scheme
(ECHS)

HEALTH CARE

TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

Training courses
and resettlement
opportunities
through
Directorate
General of
Resettlement
(DGR).

AFFDF CSR CONCLAVE



Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has called upon the people to contribute whole-heartedly to the welfare of the soldiers and their families, terming it as the national duty of every citizen. Addressing the Armed Forces Flag Day Corporate Social Responsibility (AFFD CSR) Conclave in New Delhi on March 03, 2025, he stated that India's soldiers always stand firm, vigilant and ready at the borders in difficult conditions to protect the country from all kinds of threats with courage & promptness.

The Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence has been working for the welfare and rehabilitation of war widows, wards of fallen soldiers and ex-servicemen, including disabled ones by providing financial assistance for their identified personal needs such as penury grant, children's education grant, funeral grant, medical grant and orphan/disabled children grant.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Sanjay Seth, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal AP Singh, Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare) Dr Niten Chandra, other senior officials of MoD, members from the CSR fraternity and serving & retired personnel of the Armed Forces attended the conclave.



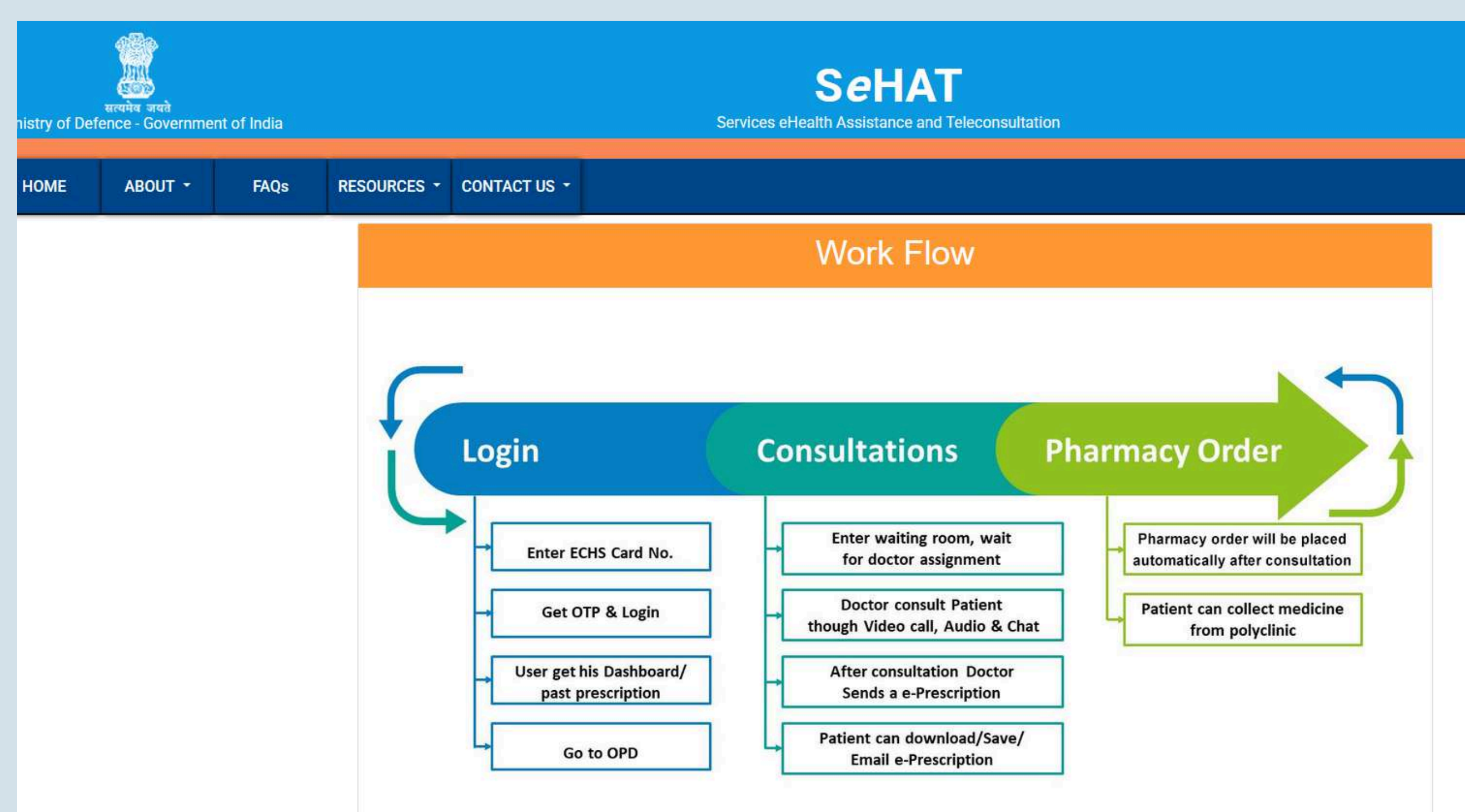
A GLIMPSE OF ECHS EVENTS

Empanelment of All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) In a significant step towards ensuring quality healthcare to Veterans and their dependents the ECHS signed Memorandum of Agreement with All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS), Rishikesh on 08 Mar 25 and Jodhpur on 18 Mar 25 for state of art, cashless and cap less treatment to the ECHS beneficiaries and their dependents. During last two years, several hospitals of eminent repute including **AIIMS Bhopal, Raipur, Hyderabad, Bhatinda, Rae Bareilly and Gorakhpur** have been empanelled



Meeting with ESM Associations. On 07 Mar 25, a meeting with ESM Associations was organized at Central Organisation, ECHS. The meeting is conducted on quarterly basis to update the ESM Associations on ECHS related aspects, existing facilitative measures and ongoing initiatives.

Tele Consultation Services through E-SeHAT. With an aim to provide online video consultation platform to ECHS beneficiaries, a project to link ECHS to the SeHAT OPD platform has been formulated. A pilot project to validate the software was conducted at all ECHS Polyclinics in Delhi and measures are being taken to resolve identified issues in the software and gradually spread the project to other polyclinics. The ECHS beneficiaries can login at <https://www.sehatopd.gov.in/echs/> and seek online consultation with the concerned doctors.



EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

Medical Treatment Related Expenditure during last 10 years Statewise (Amt in Rs Crores)

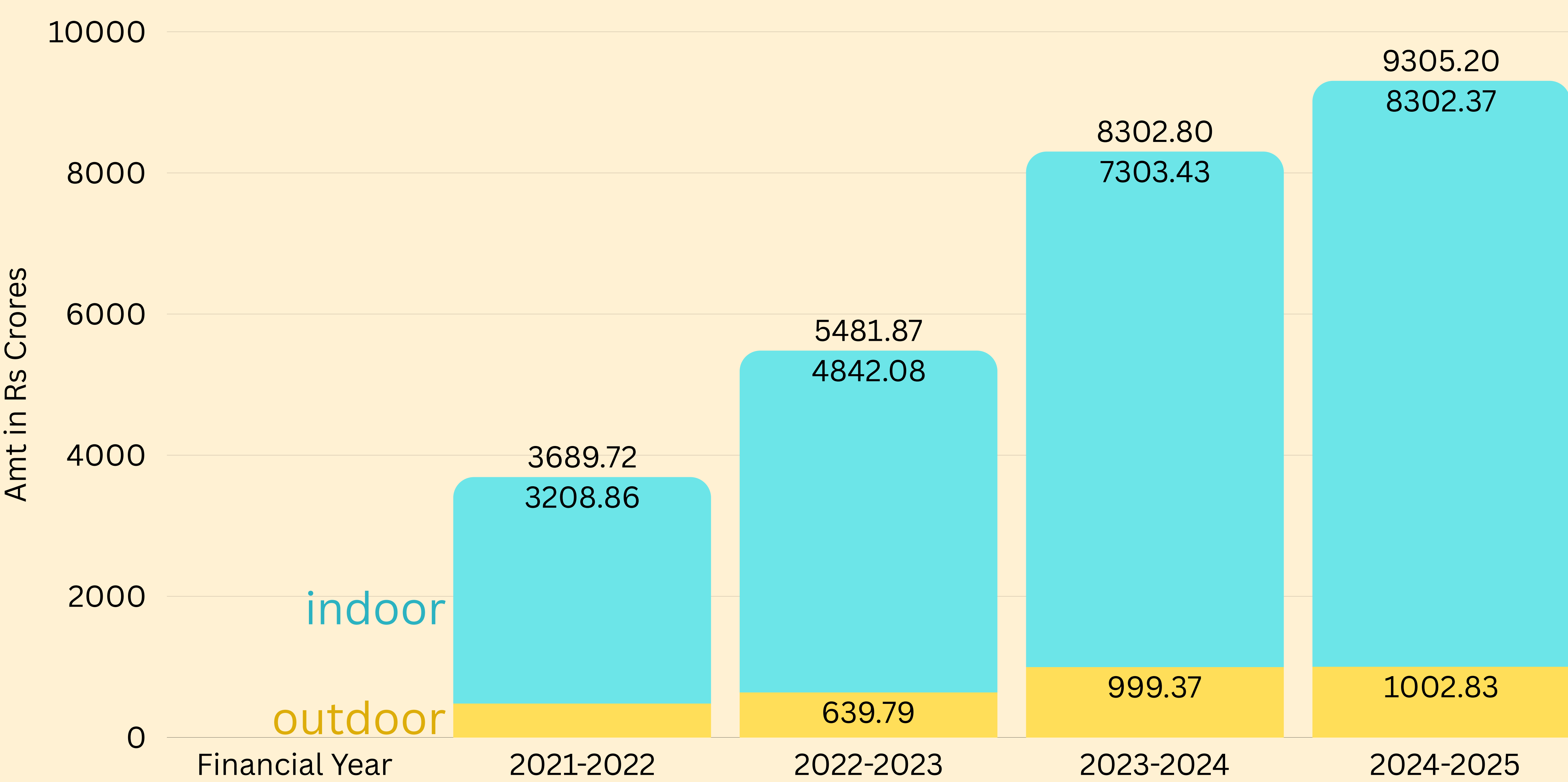
S.No.	Regional Centre	States Covered	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25
1	Visakhapatnam	Andhra Pradesh	3.8	8.7	13.4	13.5	26.3	17.6	19.1	33.5	41.4	44.1
2	Guwahati	North Eastern States	2.4	6.2	10.4	7.5	11.8	9.5	10.2	15	20	30.8
3	Patna	Bihar	5.4	12.5	18.9	18.9	35.1	30.1	33.6	59.3	99.6	114.8
4	Chandimandir	Chandigarh	205.1	276.7	384.8	244.4	489.6	393.2	396.5	586.5	823.8	955.9
5	Delhi	Delhi NCR	215.3	289.9	332.9	246.1	434.6	600.2	560.8	842.7	1198.8	1159.1
6	Delhi 2	Delhi NCR	164.4	199.6	238.9	159	258.3	244.2	216.7	462.4	597.4	840.9
7	Ahmedabad	Gujarat ; Rajasthan	7.3	20.8	35.5	28	59.8	47.2	60.6	71.2	110.9	119
8	Ambala	Haryana	35.9	50.6	126.2	86.2	195.9	236	249.3	295.4	448.5	533.3
9	Hisar	Haryana ; Rajasthan	25.9	34.9	82.9	97.7	123.3	166.9	311.4	347.5	614.3	644.2
10	Yol	Himachal Pradesh	0	0	0	0	0	0	4.9	47.4	81.8	95.5
11	Jammu	J&K ; Ladakh	20.9	43.5	107.4	83.9	121.1	94.5	100.1	112.4	170.4	151
12	Ranchi	Jharkhand	4.9	8.3	21.3	13.3	39.4	30.2	17.8	19.8	27.9	30.2
13	Bangalore	Karnataka	19.7	46.7	58.4	35.9	103.8	87.1	116.5	154.5	180.1	163.1
14	Kochi	Kerala	81	93.1	106.4	103.8	168.9	210.2	178.4	149.7	314.9	300.8
15	Trivandrum	Kerala	81.7	91.1	102.4	66.9	152.1	105.5	139.7	187	278.1	296.7
16	Jabalpur	MP	4.9	9.7	24.5	20.1	50.4	29.6	45.9	53.2	90.8	75.6
17	Mumbai	Maharashtra	1.4	5.1	7.9	8.4	27.3	20.7	23.4	32.4	60.1	70.4
18	Nagpur	Maharashtra	2.9	5.7	6.4	4	10.8	10.1	15.7	19.9	31.4	46.4
19	Pune	Maharashtra	29.2	39.4	71.6	40.5	101.7	85.7	126.3	135.7	198.6	256.4
20	Bhubaneswar	Odisha	0	0	0	0	0	0	15.7	25.1	41.8	38.2
21	Jalandhar	Punjab	266.9	328.8	442.8	304.4	621.6	541.8	307.5	720.1	966.3	1053.8
22	Jaipur	Rajasthan	77.9	60.4	148.1	117.8	218.4	182.2	216	324.9	621.9	864.7
23	Secunderabad	Telangana	55.9	66.9	74.4	45.8	105.2	72	67.5	86	173	159.6
24	Coimbatore	Tamilnadu	7.9	22.3	26.9	19.9	48.8	36.8	49.9	53.9	74.6	79.7
25	Chennai	Tamilnadu	18.4	32.1	53.4	51.2	60.9	24.6	33.7	63.9	66.3	88.2
26	Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh	5.4	23.4	31.5	22.2	52.4	33.4	42.1	78.9	141.5	155
27	Bareilly	Uttar Pradesh	20	43	91.9	177.5	198.8	149.7	143.3	202.2	286.9	332
28	Lucknow	Uttar Pradesh	22.4	30.4	42.9	36.6	34.4	89.8	60.8	82.1	162.8	172.9
29	Dehradun	Uttarakhand	29.4	40.4	60.9	58.2	70.7	52.1	62.5	94.9	152.4	175.1
30	Kolkata	West Bengal	27.9	28.7	51.9	41.1	94	35	34.5	67.8	139	152.8
		Total	1444.2	1918.9	2774.9	2152.8	3915.4	3635.9	3660.4	5425.3	8215.3	9200.2

MEDICAL CLAIMS IN ECHS EMPANELLED HOSPITALS

The details of claims raised and the amount disbursed during the last 4 years

	Indoor Patients (IP)			Outdoor Patients (OPD)		
Financial Year	Total number of Claims settled in a FY	Hospital claim amount (Rs. Crore)	Approved amount (Rs. Crore)	Total number of Claims settled in FY	Hospital claim amount (Rs. Crore)	Approved amount (Rs. Crore)
2021-2022	574,770	3663.73	3208.86	1,853,229	500.07	480.86
2022-2023	779,310	5369.76	4842.08	2,723,115	669.44	639.79
2023-2024	1,070,102	8037.68	7303.43	4,260,600	1052.89	999.37
2024-2025	995,808	9289.31	8302.37	4,273,954	1058.05	1002.83

Amount (in Rs Crores) disbursed during the last 4 years



DIRECTORATE GENERAL RESETTLEMENT



Motihari Job Fair. A Job Fair for ESM was organized on 07 Mar 2025 at Motihari. The Job Fair was inaugurated by Sh Radha Mohan Singh, MP & Chairperson, Standing Committee on Defence, Lt Gen PS Shekhawat, PVSM, AVSM, SM, GOC HQ MB Area & Maj Gen SBK Singh, SM, DG(R). ADG DRZ (Central), Dir Veterans, HQ Central Comd were also present during Event. Event was beneficial for both Corporates & Veterans. While veterans got a platform to showcase their technical & administrative prowess acquired during their years in service, Corporates benefitted by screening gp of experienced, disciplined & trained ESM. Appx 1150 Ex-Servicemen from Army, Navy and Airforce registered for seeking employment. 52 companies participated in the Job Fair offering appx 1600 Job Vacancies.



Danapur Job Fair. A Job Fair for ESM was organized on 21 Mar 2025 at Danapur, Bihar. The Job Fair was inaugurated by Governor of Bihar Shri Arif Mohammed Khan, Dr Niten Chandra, IAS, Secy, ESW, Maj Gen SBK Singh, SM, DG Resettlement, Brig Vikas Batra, ADG, DRZ Central were present in the fair. Mr Gaurav Sah, Chairman, CII Bihar State Council was Corporate Guest of Honour. Hon'ble Governor shared his deep appreciation for ESM as well exhorted Corporates to give opportunities to ESM. Event received an overwhelming response from ESM from Bihar & nearby regions. Appx 2000 ESM from Army, Navy & Airforce registered for seeking employment. 48 plus companies participated in Job Fair offering appx 1800 Job Vacancies.

TRAINING DIRECTORATE, DGR

Training Initiatives: Strengthening Skills for the Future - The Directorate General of Resettlement (DGR) under the Ministry of Defence continues to uphold its commitment to skill development and career enhancement for officers and Junior Commissioned Officers/Other Ranks (JCO/OR). Currently, a total of eight courses for officers and 72 courses for JCO/OR are actively running, providing valuable training in various fields to facilitate a seamless transition into civilian careers.

Training Courses Conducted - During the months of March, DGR successfully completed two training courses for officers and 44 training courses for JCO/OR. These courses provided specialized knowledge and practical experience, empowering trainees with industry-relevant skills.

In the same period, a new training cycle commenced, with 21 courses for JCO/OR being initiated. These programs are meticulously designed to ensure relevance and effectiveness in today's competitive job market.

Continuous Engagement & Feedback from Institutions - To enhance the quality and effectiveness of training, visits were conducted to more than 20-25 training institutes. These visits focused on gathering valuable feedback from both students and institutional partners, ensuring that the training remains aligned with industry standards and the evolving needs of the job market. Such proactive engagement plays a vital role in refining the training framework and optimizing outcomes for all participants.

Empowering Warriors Beyond the Battlefield: Soldiers Turn Agri-Entrepreneurs - On April 20, 2025, a landmark moment unfolded as serving soldiers from the Armed Forces successfully completed a specialized module on “Entrepreneurship Development in Poultry Production,” under a groundbreaking collaboration between the Armed Forces and Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel University of Agriculture and Technology (SVPUAT), Meerut. This initiative, part of a first-of-its-kind MoU, is a bold step toward equipping soldiers with entrepreneurial skills for life beyond service. With training in poultry biology, feed management, biosecurity, and agri-marketing, the program empowers soldiers to transition into agri-entrepreneurs, leveraging their discipline and leadership for rural development. As certificates were awarded to the first batch, the event marked more than course completion – it signalled a visionary shift in veteran resettlement, where India's defenders prepare to become its cultivators, driving self-reliance and innovation in the agriculture sector.



A GLIMPSE OF DGR EVENTS IN MAR 2025



51st Meeting of UP Sainik Punarwas Nidhi held at Rajbhawan on 22 Mar 2025. The Meeting was chaired by Smt Anandiben Patel, the Honorable Governor of UP in presence of Lt Gen Mukesh Chadha, SM, VSM, COS Hq Central Command and Maj Gen Salil Seth, GOC MUPSA.

DGR SECURITY AGENCY SCHEME

During the month of Mar 2025, DGR have issued **50 Empanelment Certificates** to Ex-Servicemen (Officers) to run DGR Security Agencies in various States of India and sponsored a total of **3601 Ex-Servicemen Guards** to various PSUs from whom requisitions were received on pan-India basis.



Maj Gen SBK Singh, SM, DG(R) visited Amity University, Noida Campus on 04 Mar 25 & interacted with Lt Gen (Dr) SK Gadeock, AVSM (Retd) and faculty of Amity to discuss further Collaboration and modalities for conducting Courses with University. Directorate General (Resettlement) also interacted with Prof(Dr) Balwinder Shukla Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Amity University.



MNS : Key points of Hon'ble Supreme Court judgment

The Supreme Court has ruled that Indian Military Nursing Service (IMNS) personnel should be recognized as "ex-servicemen" under the Punjab Recruitment of Ex-Servicemen Rules, 1982. This means they will now be eligible for the same benefits and job opportunities as other military personnel who have left service.

A case was brought by a former Army Captain, and the judges—Justice Pamidighantam Sri Narasimha and Justice Manoj Misra—decided that IMNS members are officially part of the armed forces. Since the Punjab Rules aim to help ex-military personnel find jobs, the court saw no reason to exclude IMNS members from the category of "ex-servicemen."

This decision will likely impact recruitment policies and ensure better support for retired military personnel.

Issue The issue before the Bench was whether the recruitment advertisement issued by the Punjab Public Service Commission providing reservation for “ex-servicemen” would include personnel from the Indian Military Nursing Service.

Factual Background The appellant, an ex-serviceman, having worked as a Captain in the Medical Core of the Indian Army, was selected and appointed under the advertisement as Extra Assistant Commissioner (Under Training) in the Punjab Civil Services (Executive Branch). She joined the service on December 9, 2022. The contesting party, fourth respondent, was released from IMNS and also applied under the same advertisement as an ‘ex-serviceman’, but her candidature was rejected by the State on the ground that she did not qualify under this category. Her writ petition against the rejection of her candidature was dismissed by the single judge. The Division Bench, however, allowed the fourth respondent’s writ appeal by the impugned order and directed that the fourth respondent, if found meritorious, be appointed forthwith and be given notional benefits of service. Pending disposal of the Special Leave Petition filed by the appellant, the High Court granted an interim order staying the judgment and order passed by the High Court. As such, the appellant continued in service.

Reasoning The Supreme Court ruled that the Central Rules, 1979, do not apply to determining eligibility for the "ex-servicemen" category under Punjab's recruitment rules. Instead, it emphasized that the Indian Military Nursing Service (IMNS) is a recognized part of the Indian military and armed forces. A past ruling (Jasbir Kaur v. Union of India, 2003) also confirmed IMNS as an auxiliary force within the army.

The judgment highlighted the importance of resettling ex-servicemen to maintain military morale and attract young recruits. It referred to Rule 2(c) of the Punjab Recruitment of Ex-Servicemen Rules, 1982, which defines an "ex-serviceman" as someone who served in the Naval, Military, or Air Force and was released under specific conditions. Respondent No. 4, a Short Service Commissioned officer in the IMNS, met these criteria and was found eligible under this category.

The court noted that the appellant and respondent competed for the same government post, with the appellant having served uninterruptedly since 2022. Given the time passed and her continued service, the court ruled that canceling her appointment would be unfair. While the respondent qualifies as an "ex-serviceman" and must be considered for appointment, her selection will not affect the appellant’s job status. She will receive service-related benefits but not back wages.

The Bench said, “Effective resettlement of ex-servicemen is necessary to keep the morale of the serving members of the defence forces. If the resettlement of veterans is neglected, the talented youth of the nation may not be motivated to join armed forces.

Case Title: Irwan Kour v. Punjab Public Service Commission & Ors. (Neutral Citation: 2025 INSC 494)

Financial assistance to Orphan children of ESM (All ranks) by KSB

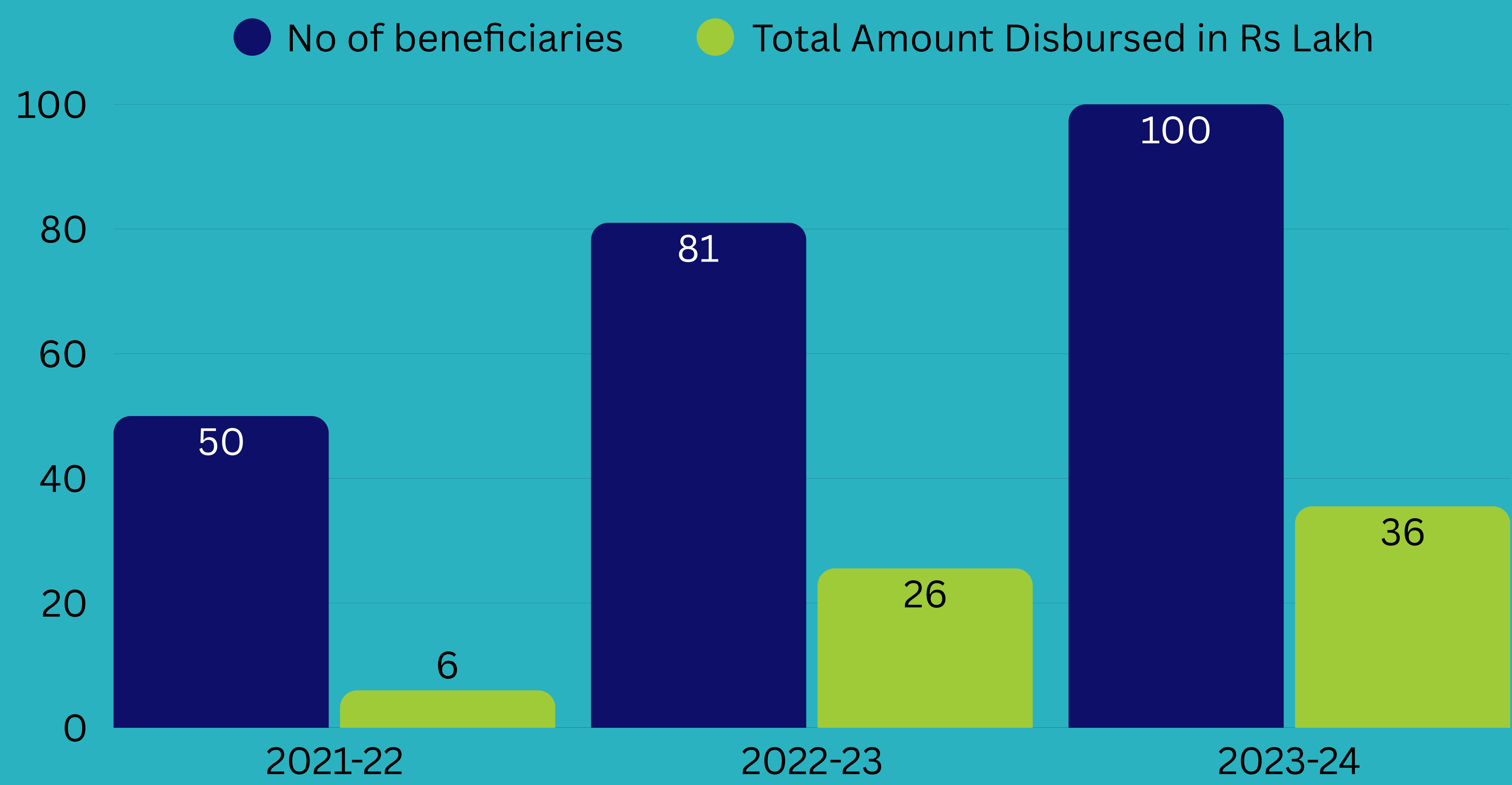
Background

The Armed Forces personnel by virtue of isolation imposed by service conditions generally remain cut off from society. Some of them get married after their release from service, and consequently have children at a late stage in life. In the unfortunate event of the demise of both ESM and his spouse in an accident or due to natural causes/disease, the young offspring is left orphaned. Most of time, orphaned child is neglected by his/her relatives and is financially handicapped. The problem is more pronounced in the case of orphans of non pensioner ESM. In such a case, it is responsibility of the organization to support such orphans and ensure their education-cum-settlement.

This scheme to provide financial assistance to the orphaned children of ESM was started in May 2007 with an amount of Rs 500/- per month for girls and was amended in Oct 2011 to increase the amount to Rs 1,000/-pm and extended to all children irrespective of gender.

Present Scheme

The orphan sons up to the age of 21 years and orphaned unmarried daughters of ESM of all ranks are given financial assistance at a rate of Rs.3000/- per month during the financial year as a small measure of relief from total penury.



VACANCIES POSITION OF ZILA SAINIK WELFARE OFFICERS

The vacancies as per reports of Rajya Sainik Board (RSB) in various Zila Sainik Board(ZSB) is as under:-

Vacancy Position of Officers in ZSBs						
S.No.	State	Auth	Held	ESM	Civ	Def
1	Andhra Pradesh	13	5	1	4	8
2	Assam	19	16	16	0	3
3	Bihar	13	6	6	0	7
4	Chhattisgarh	10	9	9	0	1
5	Gujarat	13	11	11	0	2
6	Haryana	22	13	13	0	9
7	Himachal Pradesh	10	7	7	0	3
8	J & K (UT)	13	8	8	0	5
9	Jharkhand	5	3	3	0	2
10	Karnataka	18	12	10	2	6
11	Kerala	24	15	15	0	9
12	Madhya Pradesh	24	24	24	0	0
13	Maharashtra	31	15	15	0	16
14	Manipur	2	0	0	0	2
15	Meghalaya	2	2	2	0	0
16	Mizoram	4	4	4	0	0
17	Nagaland	5	2	2	0	3
18	Odisha	8	0	0	0	8
19	Punjab	22	3	3	0	19
20	Rajasthan	36	32	21	11	4
21	Sikkim	3	3	3	0	0
22	Tamil Nadu	30	14	11	3	16
23	Telangana	10	4	1	3	6
24	Uttarakhand	14	14	14	0	0
25	Uttar Pradesh	75	75	75	0	0
26	West Bengal	14	10	10	0	4
27	Chandigarh (UT)	1	1	1	0	0
28	Ladakh (UT)	2	2	2	0	0
	Total	443	310	287	23	133

LEVERAGING AI FOR DAY-TO-DAY WORK IN GOVERNMENT OFFICES: OPPORTUNITIES AND CAUTIONS

By: Vinay Pratap Singh, Under Secretary
Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare

Artificial Intelligence (AI) is steadily transforming the functioning of government offices by making routine tasks faster, smarter, and more efficient. As departments across the public sector face increasing workloads and tight timelines, AI presents a valuable tool to streamline operations without compromising quality or compliance.

Key Benefits of AI in Government Office Work

1. Automation of Routine Tasks

Government employees often spend a large portion of their day on repetitive activities like data entry, file movement, scheduling meetings, and drafting standard communications. AI-powered systems can automate these tasks, allowing officers and staff to focus on more policy-driven and decision-making roles.

2. Analysis of Large Documents and Preparation of Briefs

One of the most impactful applications of AI in government settings is its ability to scan, understand, and summarize large volumes of documents. Through Natural Language Processing (NLP), AI tools can:

- Extract key points from policy files, reports, and court judgments.
- Prepare concise briefs for senior officers.
- Generate summaries that highlight critical issues, precedents, and recommendations.

This drastically reduces the time needed to review voluminous documents and helps in preparing note-sheets or minutes with better clarity and accuracy.

3. Enhanced Decision Support

AI systems can analyze historical data, departmental records, and trends to provide decision-makers with insights that guide policy formulation or administrative action. Predictive models can also be used for resource planning, grievance analysis, or assessing the impact of schemes.

4. Improved File and Document Management

AI can assist in tagging, categorizing, and retrieving digital files faster than traditional methods. This helps in maintaining a well-organized e-office environment, especially when integrated with document management systems.

5. Time and Resource Efficiency

By reducing clerical workload and speeding up document processing, AI helps government offices achieve better turnaround time, reduces pendency, and improves overall productivity without requiring additional manpower.

Precautions While Using AI in Government Offices

While AI brings clear benefits, careful use is essential in the public sector due to the sensitive nature of work and data involved. Some **key precautions include:**

- **Data Confidentiality:** Ensure AI tools are deployed in secure environments. Avoid uploading classified or sensitive information to open or unsecured platforms.
- **Human Oversight:** AI-generated outputs should always be reviewed by human officials to avoid errors, bias, or misinterpretation.
- **Regulatory Compliance:** Use AI tools that comply with government data protection norms and ensure vendor platforms follow ethical AI practices.
- **Transparency and Accountability:** Decisions or summaries generated with AI should be traceable and explainable, especially when they influence policy or administrative action.
- **Avoiding Overdependence:** AI should be used as a supporting tool, not a replacement for official judgment or institutional knowledge.

Conclusion

The integration of AI into the day-to-day functioning of government offices holds immense potential for improving efficiency, transparency, and service delivery. From preparing briefs to managing files and analyzing data, AI can be a valuable digital assistant. However, its use must be guided by robust safeguards to ensure it serves the public interest without compromising the values of governance.

FROM UNIFORM TO AGRI-FORM: HOW INDIA'S VETERANS ARE CULTIVATING A NEW FUTURE IN AGRIBUSINESS

Mission Agri-Next: Veterans Leading India's Rural Revolution

By: Dr. Mahesh Kadam, Associate Professor, VAMNICOM

In a nation where agriculture is not just an occupation but a lifeline, a quiet revolution is taking place—led by those who once defended our borders. Now, they're guarding something just as vital: our food systems, our rural economies, and our agribusiness future.

The Innovations and Agribusiness Management course, jointly conducted by the prestigious (Vaikunth Mehta National Institute of Cooperative Management)VAMNICOM, Pune sponsored by Directorate of Resettlement, Ministry of Defense, has now entered its fourth successful edition, continuing to redefine India's defense resettlement landscape. Tailored specifically for Junior Commissioned Officers (JCOs) and Other Ranks (ORs) of the Indian Army, Navy, and Air Force, the course serves as a transformative platform connecting two of India's most vital sectors—defense and agriculture. With every new batch, VAMNICOM is unlocking fresh opportunities for veterans to explore emerging avenues in agribusiness, rural entrepreneurship, and the cooperative ecosystem. By blending the discipline and leadership of defense personnel with the innovation and potential of modern agriculture, the program continues to empower participants to become agri-leaders, startup founders, and community change-makers across India's rural landscape.

But this isn't just about a career transition—it's about transformation. And not just of the individual, but of India's rural fabric. What makes these veterans uniquely positioned for agribusiness is not just their discipline or grit—it's their inherent leadership, their experience with logistics, crisis management, and mission-oriented execution. These are the very traits our fragmented agricultural value chains desperately need.

The course dives deep—right from the basics of setting up agribusiness enterprises to exploring cutting-edge innovations like vertical farming, hydroponics, drone-based crop monitoring, and blockchain for traceability. Classroom sessions are combined with field visits, case studies, and workshops where theory meets muddy boots. It's not just about learning to farm—it's about learning to lead the agri-ecosystem with a startup mindset and a rural heart.

One doesn't have to look far to witness the tangible impact of this course. Many retired personnel who have completed the program are now leading successful agribusiness ventures across the country—ranging from organic farming units supplying pesticide-free produce to urban markets, to cooperative-led dairy enterprises engaging hundreds of local farmers. These initiatives are not only generating employment in rural areas but also introducing innovative practices like hydroponics, digital marketing, and integrated farm management. Backed by the discipline and operational skills honed during their service years, these veterans are bringing professionalism, scalability, and community focus to the agribusiness ecosystem—turning villages into vibrant centers of entrepreneurship.

These are not isolated success stories—they are blueprints. Blueprints that showcase how our defense veterans are reimagining rural India not as passive recipients of schemes, but as active developers of cooperative enterprises, agri-startups, and rural innovation hubs. And it couldn't be more timely.

As India moves toward doubling farmer incomes, building resilient rural livelihoods, and scaling agritech, we face a severe crunch in skilled rural entrepreneurs and change agents. This course fills that gap. It's not just an educational intervention—it's a strategic investment in national development.

The critical advantage here is the mindset. Veterans do not wait for direction—they take charge. This proactive attitude is what allows them to identify gaps in rural markets, organize producer groups, build distribution networks, and bring professionalism to often-overlooked rural enterprises. Where others see subsistence farming, they see enterprise potential. Where others see logistical nightmares, they see supply chain opportunities.

FROM UNIFORM TO AGRI-FORM: HOW INDIA'S VETERANS ARE CULTIVATING A NEW FUTURE IN AGRIBUSINESS

Mission Agri-Next: Veterans Leading India's Rural Revolution

And let's not ignore the broader socio-economic impact. Empowering veterans with agribusiness knowledge not only provides them with dignified livelihoods post-retirement, it also directly contributes to rural employment generation, local economic development, food security, and community leadership. Many become mentors, trainers, and incubators for others in their villages and districts—multiplying the impact manifold.

The way forward is clear. This course needs to scale. More seats, more outreach, stronger post-training handholding, and structured linkages with government schemes like PM-FME, NCDC support, Atal Innovation Mission, and RKVY-RAFTAAR. Incubation support must follow training. Veterans who show entrepreneurial promise must be nurtured through grant access, marketing networks, and digital platforms. A national network of veteran-led agri-enterprises could be the next big thing in cooperative development and rural revitalization.

After all, who better to lead India's agribusiness renaissance than those who've already served the nation with honor?

From securing borders to securing food systems, the Indian soldier is proving once again—they never stop serving. They just change the battlefield.



GLIMPSE OF OUTREACH PROGRAMME BY RAJYA/ZILA SAINIK BOARDS

Sainik Welfare in States / UTs have been organising various outreach programmes in cities, towns and various villages to reach out to the veterans and their families. The Rajya Sainik Boards and Zila Sainik Boards coordinate with pension disbursing agencies, SPARSH team, CGDA and various record offices to organise pension outreach programmes for the defence pensioners.



ESM Rally at YSR KADAPA, Telangana on 16.03.2025



BETHAMCHERLA, NANDYALA DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH



PRAKASAM DISTRICT, ANDHRA PRADESH



ANAKAPALLI, VISAKHAPATNAM, ANDHRA PRADESH

Veterans Day Outreach programme at Chaibasa

A GLIMPSE OF OUT REACH ACTIVITIES BY ZSBs



Kumaon Regimental Centre, Ranikhet., Uttarakhand

Kangra, HP



New Tehri District, Uttarakhand



Kanyakumari, TamilNadu



Ananthamangalam, Tamil Nadu



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