



FEBRUARY - 2025

# NEWSLETTER

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





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MINISTRY OF DEFENCE  
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# NEWSLETTER

F E B R U A R Y - 2 0 2 5



"On Armed Forces Veterans Day, we express gratitude to the brave women and men who dedicated their Lives to safeguarding our nation. Their sacrifices, courage and unwavering commitment to duty are exemplary. Our Veterans are heroes and enduring symbols of patriotism. Ours is a Government that has always worked for the welfare of veterans and we will keep doing so in the times to come."

श्री नरेंद्र मोदी

**SHRI NARENDRA MODI**  
**PRIME MINISTER**

January 14, 2025





# ARMED FORCES VETERANS DAY



The ninth Armed Forces Veterans' Day was observed on 14.01.2025. This year, the celebrations were up-scaled and major events were held at nine locations with Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh presiding over the main function in Akhnoor. The Veterans' Day event at Mumbai was presided over by Raksha Rajya Mantri, Shri Sanjay Seth. The celebrations in New Delhi, Nagpur, Visakhapatnam, Bangalore, Bareilly, Jaipur and Siligudi (Bengdubi) were graced by Dignitaries. All State and District Civil Administrations were also requested to observe the Day with greater participation by citizens. The officers of the Armed Forces, Next of Kin, Veterans and representatives of various Ex-servicemen organisations were honoured at these events.

## MAIN EVENT AT AKHNOOR

AHon'ble Raksha MANtri Sh Rajnath Singh led the celebrations by addressing around 1,000 ex-servicemen during an event at Tanda Artillery Brigade, Akhnoor in Jammu. He interacted with the ex-servicemen and expressed gratitude to the Armed Forces personnel, both retired & serving, for their selfless service towards protecting the borders with unmatched bravery, dedication, sacrifice and patriotism. J&K Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha; J&K Chief Minister Omar Abdullah; Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan; General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, other senior civil & military officers attended the event.





## A GLIMPSE OF VETERANS DAY



Hon'ble Union Minister Minister of Road Transport & Highways, Sh Nitin Gadkari Presided over Veterans Day event at Headquarters Maintenance Command, Indian Air Force, in Vayusena Nagar, Nagpur

Hon'ble Raksha Rajya Mantri Sh Sanjay Seth laid a wreath at Gaurav Stambh (Victory at Sea Memorial), Naval Dockyard to mark the day. This was followed by a Tri-Services Veterans' Rally at Indian Navy Sailors Institute (INSI Sagar), where he interacted with the ex-servicemen.



Hon'ble Minister of State of Ports, Shipping and Waterways , Sh Shantanu Thakur Presided over Veterans Day event at Begdubi(Siligudi)



## A GLIMPSE OF VETERANS DAY



Over 500 veterans including gallantry awardees from all three services marched in a #VeteransDay parade along the Marine Drive promenade #Mumbai on 12Jan25 to mark the upcoming Tri-Services Veterans Day. The Hon'ble Maharashtra Governor Shri C P Radhakrishnan flagged off the parade.

Dr. Niten Chandra Secretary ESW Presided over Veterans Day event at Bareilly



Veterans Day event at Manekshaw Centre Delhi Cantt.



# A GLIMPSE OF VETERANS DAY





# DESW INTRODUCTION



The resettlement, health care and welfare of the men and women, who served in the Indian Armed Forces after they leave active duty and to demonstrate that the nation cares for the Armed Forces in their retirement, constitute an important national mission.

The Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence has been working to develop a more effective framework to set up and sustain wide ranging support systems for ESM and their families and to demonstrate that Ex Servicemen (ESM) are a positive force for nation building.

## PENSIONS

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

## WELFARE

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

## HEALTH CARE

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

## TRAINING & EMPLOYMENT

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



Construction of New Bulidings for ECHS Polyclinics

The construction of new buildings for the ECHS Polyclinics which are presently operating through the hired buildings is being underaken at various locations. Out of the 75 locations where new buildings have been planned, Construction has been completed at 4 locations and ongoing at 4 locations. Approval in Principle for 48 locations has been accorded and funds for 28 locations have also been released to the commands for early start of construction.

SNo	Location of ECHS Polyclinic	State	HQ Command	Status
1	Mohali	Punjab	HQ WC	Completed
2	Sindhudurg	Maharashtra	HQ SC	Completed
3	Bhilwara	Rajasthan	HQ SC	Completed
4	Vikasnagar	Uttarakhand	HQCC	Completed
5	Iritty	Kerala	HQ SC	Ongoing
6	Sasaram	Bihar	HQ CC	Ongoing
7	Jaunpur	Uttar Pradesh	HQ CC	Ongoing
8	Bilashpur	Chhattisgarh	HQ CC	Ongoing



# EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME (ECHS)

## Inauguration of New Buliding for ECHS Polyclinic, Vikasnagar.

In a significant step towards enhancement of health care for Ex-serviceman, Veer Naris and next of Kin, the newly constructed ECHS Polyclinic building at Non-Military Station Vikasnagar was inaugurated by GOC, Uttarakhand Sub Area on 15 February 2025.

The Polyclinic building has been completed in a record time of 12 months by cohesive efforts of Indian Army, CPWD and other civil agencies.

The Polyclinic features state of art medical facilities and will serve approximately 7,300 ECHS beneficiaries including those from remote region of districts of Poanta Sahib, Jaunsar and Sirmour in Himachal Pradesh, Chakrata and Vikasnagar in Uttarakhand. The new complex incorporates Green Building norms to include Roof Top Solar Power and Rain Water Harvesting Systems.





## A GLIMPSE OF ECHS EVENTS

**Visit of Secretary, Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare to RC Guwahati.** Dr Niten Chandra, IAS, Secretary Ministry of Defence (Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare) visited Regional Centre Guwahati on 06 February 2025. The secretary was updated on the functioning of various polyclinics under the Regional Centre. Issues related to ECHS were also discussed. The Secretary assured that all concerning issues will be deliberated at appropriate level with an aim to provide medical care to the veterans and their families in North Eastern Region.



**VISIT OF MD ECHS TO REGIONAL CENTRE BAREILLY :** On 15 February 2025, Maj Gen Manoj Natarajan, SC, VSM, MD ECHS visited Uttar Bharat Area and RC Bareilly. During the visit to RC Bareilly, ECHS related issues including command and control of polyclinics, training of stake holders, arbitration issues, Performance Evaluation Matrix and Annual Validation were discussed. The MD also visited Empaneled Hospitals of ECHS to get first-hand information on treatment being provided to ECHS beneficiaries and issues involved. The MD also interacted with the Chief of Staff of HQ Uttar Bharat Area to discuss various issues for improvement of ECHS.



# 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 and DGR is entrusted with the responsibility to provide a suitable and convenient employment and self-employment opportunities to these retired/ released service personnel. In this endeavour, DGR organised a Job Fair for ESM on 17 Jan 2025 at INS Gomantak, Goa to bring ESM seeking re-employment and the Employment providers on a common platform. Event received an overwhelming response from ESM from Goa & nearby region.

## AWARENESS CAMPAIGNS

The Directorate General Resettlement (DGR) spreads awareness about welfare/resettlement schemes and initiatives taken up by DGR for Re-Settlement of ESM through various platforms i.e. Veterans' Day, etc. On 14 Jan 2025, Directorate Resettlement Zone (North) which comes under DGR participated in 9th Veterans Day celebration at Akhnoor (J&K) presided by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh Ji and attended by Lieutenant Governor and CM Govt of UT J&K, Chief of Defense Staff, Army Cdr Northern Command. DRZ (North) established the publicity stall showcasing the employment opportunities by DGR for Veterans and veernaris and distributed publicity material.





## DGR TRAINING COURSES

### DGR RESETTLEMENT TRAINING COURSES:-

DGR conducts Resettlement/ Skill Development Training courses for retiring/ retired service personnel through recognised and reputed Government Institutions. During the month of January, 2025 a total of 140 Officers and 927 JCOs & OR and their equivalent were detailed for various courses.



**PARTICIPATION OF DGR IN 9th ARMED FORCES VETERANS' DAY:-** On occasion of 9th Armed Force Veterans Day, DGR established an Info & Facilitation Kiosk at Manekshaw Centre wherein information on various Resettlement Avenues/new initiatives taken by DGR for Re-Settlement/welfare of the Ex-Servicemen was disseminated amongst the Ex-Servicemen. Commodore Vikrant Kishore, Principal Director along with Officers & Staff of DGR attended the event.

**DGR SECURITY AGENCY SCHEME:-** During the month of January 2025, DGR have issued 76 Empanelment Certificates to ESM(Officers) to run DGR Security Agencies in various States of India and sponsored a total of 4310 ESM Guards to various PSUs from whom requisitions were received on pan-India basis.





# A GLIMPSE OF DGR EVENTS IN JAN 2025



DGR Kisok at Manekshaw Centre on occasion of 9th Armed Forces Veterans' Day.



ADG, DRZ (South) delivered Opening address for DGR sponsored Independent Director's course being conducted by IIM Mumbai.



Dr Niten Chandra, Secretary ESW MoD alongwith Maj Gen S B K Singh, SM, DG(R) at 9th Armed Forces Veterans Day event at Bareilly. Around 1500 Veterans and dependents from tri services including Civil Defence Employees attended.



# Republic Day Celebrations: Recognising Veterans Contribution

The Republic Day Parade 2025 at Kartavaya Path New Delhi featured a Veterans Tableau, showcasing India's military heritage and progress. The theme of the tableau, "Viksit Bharat Ki Aur Sadaiv Agrasar" (Towards a Developed India, Always Advancing), highlighted the nation's forward march while paying tribute to its veterans. One banner of One Rank One Pension was also prominently displayed.



Veterans Tableau At Republic Day Parade 2025



on the occasion of Republic Day 2025, Shaurya Samman Ceremony was organized at Gandhi Maidan in Patna in which 12 Gallantry Award winners were given Incentive Money and appreciation letter by the Honourable Governor of Bihar, Shri Arif Mohammed Khan

Shri Rajeev Verma, IAS Chief Secretary Union Territory, Chandigarh laid wreath at the Chandigarh war memorial on the 76th Republic day.

On the eve of Republic Day Lt Gen JS Dhaliwal, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd), ex Director General Infantry, paid homage to the fallen soldiers at Chandigarh War Memorial, Sector 3, Chandigarh on the behalf of Armed Forces Veterans.





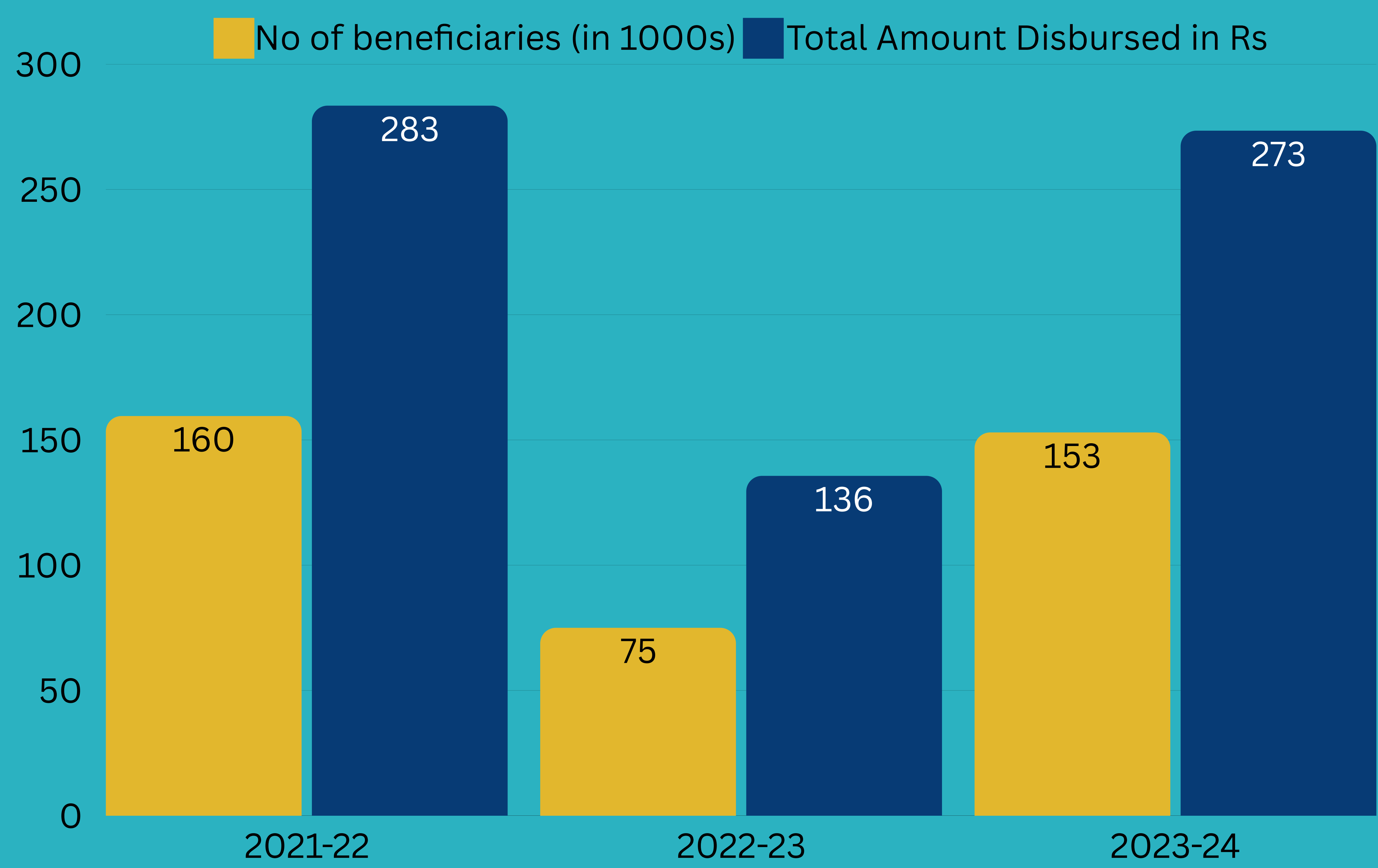
# Children Education Grant by KSB

Education is an area that is important for the progress and development for any nation. However, poverty acts as an impediment for those who require it the most. A small help in terms of financial assistance helps ameliorate this barrier.

This scheme to provide financial assistance to ESM and their widows for helping them in educating their wards was started in 1981 with an amount of Rs 15/- per child per month for a maximum of three children up to Class XII. This scheme was last revised in Oct 2011 into a monthly grant of Rs 1000/- per month per child (for maximum two children) up to graduation and also for widows to pursue Post Graduation degree.

At present, the financial assistance is provided @ Rs.1000/- per month per head of eligible ESM and their widows, for the previous academic year, payable in one installment in a financial year. This is applicable for classes 1 to 12 of school and undergraduate classes of a degree college.

This grant is also admissible to widows who wish to pursue 2-year post graduate degree. This grant is not applicable for any of the professional or technical courses/degrees. The assistance is limited to two dependent children of ESM, up to the ranks of Havildar in the Army and equivalent in the Navy and Air Force and to their widows for post graduation degree course.





# Central Share of Financial Assistance to States by KSB

The Ministry of Defence via the KSB, pays 75% of the expenditure share towards establishment cost of RSBs/ ZSBs to special category states/ UTs namely Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Uttarakhand, Jammu & Kashmir, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Tripura, and 60% to others.

The Secretary KSB advises the Departments of Sainik Welfare in States / UTs on policies for resettlement and welfare of ESM, widows, disabled personnel invalid out from Service and their dependents and seeks reports from the Director, RSB and ZSWOs, towards the implementation / success rate. Advisories are also issued on the welfare schemes required for the clientele, which are financed from funds allotted by Govts of States/UTs and the Amalgamated Special Funds.

KSB Sectt shares 50% of the cost of construction of new Sainik Rest House (SRH) , after prior (and due) approval of the Department of Ex-Servicemen Welfare, MoD through KSB Sectt; eventually to be maintained by State Govts/UT Admns from their resources/funds.

**Details of Central Share during last 3 Financial year is as under:-**

Financial Year	Amt Allotted in Rs Crore	Amt Expended in Rs Crore	Balance Amt in Rs Crore
2022-23	170.976	170.878	0.098
2023-24	340.000	319.287	20.713
2024-25	179.900	143.605	36.295



## GLIMPSE OF OUTREACH PROGRAMME BY RAJYA 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.



Widow Sneh Milan at ZSB Vadodara



Outreach programme at Bhavnagar by ZSB Surendernagar on 16 Jan 2025



Outreach programme at Hazaribag






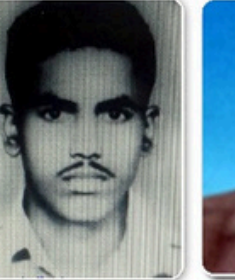

Department of Sainik Welfare , Andhra Pradesh have designed and released first off it's kind calendar 2025 displaying all the martyrs of each district with information of welfare schemes and distributed to all kin and kith of all martyrs





### DEPARTMENT OF SAINIK WELFARE




#### ANDHRA PRADESH

#### OUR WAR HEROES





#### VARIOUS GRANTS UNDER THE SPECIAL FUND

- Education Scholarship for Intermediate/Diploma Courses @Rs.8000/- per year
- Education Scholarship for all Graduate Courses @ Rs.8000/- per year
- Education Scholarship for Professional Courses @ Rs.10000/- per year
- Educational Grant for Professional Course of CA/ICWA/CS for Children of EX-Servicemen@ Rs 30,000/- (On completion of course)
- Educational allowances for PHD. (DOCTORATE)for Children of EX-Servicemen who completed PHD course. This scholarship is restricted to the unemployed /un married children@ Rs 30,000/- (On completion of course)
- Educational Allowances for Higher Studies ABROAD (MS) for Children of EX- Servicemen.this scholarship is restricted to the unemployed / unmarried children only(50,000/-One time grant on proceeding ABROAD)



#### MARCH - 2025

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
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2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Veterans Day Outreach programme at Chaibasa



## Graduation Certificate by Andhra University

### Background.

The provision has been made vide Government of India, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension (Department of Personnel & Training) OM No 15012/8/82 Estt(D) dated 12 Feb 1986, wherein an Ex-Servicemen (ESM) who has put in 15 years of service in the Armed Forces having minimum qualification of Matriculation is considered eligible for appointment to the post for which the essential educational qualification prescribed is Graduation. Based on this order, the Regimental Centre have been issuing 'Graduation Certificate' to the eligible ESM on retirement, in order to facilitate their re-employment. However, due to lack of awareness, most of the "Appointing Agencies" refuse to accept the 'Graduation Certificate' issued by Regimental Centre and the reserved vacancies in Group 'C' and Group 'D' posts for ESM either remains vacant or are filled by person other than ESM.

### Objective.

**A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Andhra University, Visakhapatnam has been designed on 29 Oct 2018 for academic progression of ESM of Indian Armed Forces by providing 'Graduation Degrees'.**

### Terms and Condition of issue of Graduation Certificates to ESM.

- (a) The first party has agreed to provide graduation certificates of Bachelor of Arts (Human Resource Management), BA (HRM), to all the eligible ESM who have successfully fulfilled the criteria laid down by GoI Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances letter No 15012/8/82-Estt(D) dated 12 Feb 1986.
- (b) Requests for issue of graduation certificates to eligible ESM will be vetted and forwarded by Zila Sainik Welfare Officer (ZSWO) of each state in the form of registration list and credit/grade sheets as per existing University format with the different subjects covered in the respective Graduate Degree.
- (c) Requisite fee as levied by the University towards issue of graduation certificates will be borne by individual ESM and future revision of these charges will be as per mutual agreement of University Controller of examinations and Kendriya Sainik Board.
- (d) On receipt of request from ESM through respective Zila Sainik Boards, the University will issue Graduation Certificate within a time frame of 90 days.
- (e) Any complaint arising with respect to fee structure, delay in certification, etc. will be reported by the ESM to their respective Zila Sainik Boards.

**A detailed SOP on the issuance of the Graduation Certificate is disseminated vide KSB letter No 512/ACCOUNT/Graduation ESM dated 27 Oct 2021.**









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