

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2025-26

Common Issues

1. Ongoing issues Related Medical treatment welfare, jobs pertaining to Disabled War Veterans with **DESW, DIAV, AG, QMG, ECHS** are listed below which need attention and execution by concerned authorities.

ECHS

- (a) Display of Sign Board: Priority treatment of War Disabled / Battle Casualties in each and every ECHS Polyclinics.
- (b) Reduction of staff in ECHS Polyclinics: Results fatigue harassment & Demoralizing to beneficiaries.
- (c) ECHS card with Annotation “**War Disabled**”.
- (d) Refund of ECHS Membership amount charged from War Disabled Soldiers.
- (e) Upgrading the Ward for War Disabled Soldier Soldiers / Battle Casualties and their spouses.
- (f) Problem faced by War Disabled Soldiers / Battle Casualties due to new software.
- (g) Local Purchase, Procedure for NA medicines and other arbitrary practices.
- (h) Issue of Repair of Prosthesis.
- (j) Revision of rates for procurement on purchase of hearing aids.
- (k) Priority for employment for wards for war disabled soldiers in ECHS.

QMG. Unique CSD “**smart card**” to War Disabled Soldiers / Battle Casualties and their families for priority in billing etc.

AG.

(a) **Introduction Of Badge For War Disabled Soldiers / Battle Casualties.** DIWAVE has requested to AG introduce a badge appropriately designed for War Disabled Saddlers / Battle Casualties.

(b) Implementation of Order No 200847/Pen-C/1971 Dated 24 Feb 1972.

(c) Priority for Reservation /preference to the wards of Armed forces personnel by states /UTs for admission to medical /professional /non professional courses.

(d) Reversing the priority for Wards of War Disabled / Battle casualty retained in service.

(e) Extend invitations to the War Disabled / Battle casualties and ensure separate enclosures for them in Armed Forces and National functions.

2. **Points and Issues taken up with DIAV On 05 May 2025.** DIAV is yet to respond or give an appointment for discussion.

(a) Recognition of the sacrifice of war disabled / battle casualties. Conspicuous looking badge and instead of war disabled they should be called as “**Veer Youdha**” for their recognition.

(b) Implementation of order No. **200847/Pen-C/1971 dated 24 Feb 1972.**

(d) Sparsh: the problems being faced by war disabled soldiers / battle casualties.

- (e) Priority for reservation / preference to the wards of armed forces personnel by States/UT's for admission to medical/professional/ non-professional courses.
- (f) Reversing the priority for wards of war disabled / battle casualty retained in service.
- (g) Revising the education grant.
- (h) Constant attendant allowance.
- (j) Liberalized pension for the widow of the war disabled.
- (k) Honorary rank for war disabled soldiers / battle casualties.
- (l) Home for the war disabled soldiers / battle casualties with specialized care by specially trained staff.
- (m) Issue of smart CSD card with orange strip to war disabled soldiers / battle casualties
- (n) Priority in employment for wards for war disabled soldiers in ECHS.
- (o) Awareness of the war disabled / battle casualties, invite and separate enclosures for war disabled / battle casualties in armed forces and national functions.
- (p) **Display of boards:** priority for the war disabled veterans / battle casualties and their spouses in all armed forces hospitals.
- (q) Transfer from one hospital to the other hospital: all arrangements should be done by the hospital as being then earlier.
- (r) Standby prosthesis.
- (t) More artificial limb centres time taken for prosthesis should be reduced for war disabled / battle casualties: empanelment of endolite.

(u) Up-gradation of wards for the war disabled soldiers / battle casualties in armed forces hospitals & empanelled hospitals.

(v) Parking of vehicle used by war disabled veterans / battle casualties, near the department or treatment place for the war disabled veterans / battle casualties.

(w) Appointment of nodal officer in Army Headquarter/DGMS for immediate resolution of issues faced by war disabled soldiers / battle casualties.

(x) IT exemption for war disabled battle casualties.

3. **Yoga Day.** International Yoga Day is celebrated annually on 21st June 2025 every year to promote the many benefits of practicing yoga for physical, mental, and spiritual well-being. Celebrations involve mass yoga session in various locations worldwide. A large No. of War Disabled Veterans participated in Yoga Day celebration at their respective places of residence.

4. **Points Taken Up with HQ ECHS and Reply Recd on 11 Jul 2025.**

(a) **Revision of Rates for Procurement of Hearing Aids.** The current ceiling of Rs. 9,000/- for hearing aids (vide CO ECHS letter No. B/49761/AG/ECHS/Medicine Policy/2022 dated 10 Jun 2022) is inadequate for procuring quality devices. Hearing aids are essential sensory aids with a 5-year usage life. A further upward revision is recommended to ensure veterans receive efficient, durable devices.

ECHS Reply. ECHS rates are aligned to CGHS rates. The downtrend noted is mainly due to technologies getting cheaper every year and wide distribution. The Govt prefers to permit purchase of only basic hearing aids to beneficiaries (CGHS or ECHS) and allowed to buy costlier hearing aids by the beneficiary by paying difference in cost.

(b) **Local Purchase - Reimbursement of Bills.** All bills for NA medicines are pre-verified by ECHS Polyclinics. It is recommended to:-

- (i) Set definite timelines for bill reimbursements.
- (ii) Intimate beneficiaries in advance in case of fund constraints. This ensures transparency and trust among the veteran community.

ECHS Reply. Noted for improvement.

(c) **Display of Priority Boards for War Disabled Veterans.** As per DGAFMS letter No. 5515/Gen Comp/4E/DGAFMS/DG-A dated 08 Aug 2019, War Disabled Veterans and their spouses are to receive priority specialist consultations. A multilingual board in bold font should be displayed prominently in Armed Forces Hospitals and ECHS Polyclinics.

ECHS Reply. Instrs on the subject have already been promulgated. Fresh instrs have again been disseminated.

(d) **Issue & Repair of Prosthesis.**Referral procedures for prosthetics through OTTOBOCK/ENDOLITE are complex. (Ref: DIWAVE/21/ECHS/2024-25/1176 dated 17 Dec 2024).

Recommendation:-

- (i) Simplify guidelines to allow quick and practical access to prosthetic care and repair.

ECHS Reply. The guidelines for repair of prosthesis are based on DGAFMS guidelines and direct procurement and repair without opinion of a specialist is not in order and is likely to cause avoidable financial loss to exchequer. However, efforts are on to empanel more branches all over India to facilitate ease of access to prosthetic care.

(e) **Upgraded Wards for War Disabled Soldiers and Spouses.** Recognizing their sacrifice, it is proposed to provide upgraded/semi-private wards for War Disabled NCOs/ORs and their spouses. An amendment to MoD/DESW letter No. 12D(04)/2010/WE/D(Res-1) dated 29 Dec 2017 may be considered to this effect.

ECHS Reply. All entitlement are as per rank while in service or thereafter. Necessary privileges as per act of bravery is suitably awarded while in service. War disabled / battle casualty and senior citizens are kept in special category to accord priority in treatment at service hospitals. Since, ward entitlement is linked to the substantive rank at the time of retirement of a beneficiary as per MoD policy, no change is possible presently.

(This issue is being taken up again with Ministry of Defence and AG's Branch)

(f) **Strengthening ECHS Polyclinic Infrastructure.** Several polyclinics lack adequate space, staff, and equipment. A national-level infrastructure audit and funding support is proposed to modernize facilities with special care for aged/disabled veterans.

ECHS Reply. Various measures are being undertaken through HQs Comd and Equivalent for constr, upgradation and main of infra at PCs. Use of Stn Welfare fund for provisioning of better amenities at PCs is also being pursued.

(g) **Additional Staff for Motorised Wheel Chair.** At a No of ECHS Polyclinics ramps are at high gradients and require the help of a staff for supporting the chair for Disabled Soldiers. It is proposed that the ramps for motorized /non motorized chairs be suitably constructed keeping safety issues in mind. In case of steep ramps, placing of staff Ex ECHS Polyclinic be examined.

ECHS Reply. Presently 212 PCs has availability of Ramps. Wheel chairs are available in the remaining polyclinics.

(h) **Preventive health Check-up for ECHS Beneficiaries.** CO ECHS has issued necessary instructions regarding preventive health check up vide letter No. B/49770/AG/ECHS/Treatment /Policy dt 16 April 2019. It has been observed that the same be known to medical officers at ECHS polyclinics. The beneficiaries (war disabled in particular) may not remember all the tests and as a policy the MO should refer them for preventive health checkup as requested or as deemed medically appropriate.

ECHS Reply. Medical Examination/Health check up/screening tests as mentioned in Para 9 (h) of GOI, MoD letter No 24(8)/03/US(WE)/D(Res) dt 19 Dec 2003.

(j) **Specialist Doctor Availability.** Due to specialist shortages, veterans face delays or long travel. Recommendations:-

(i) Appoint visiting specialists on contract.

(ii) Enable tele-consultation linkups with service hospitals and empanelled experts.

ECHS Reply. Noted. Tele-consultancy through E-SeHAT is likely to be started soon.

(k) **Specialist Treatment to War Disabled / Battle Casualties without Referrals at Empanelled Hospitals.** Be authorized as being permitted for veterans above 70 yrs by producing white ECHS Card (vide letter No. B/49769/AG/ECHS dated 04 Oct 2024). The War Disabled / Battle Casualties and their spouse are already being permitted specialist consultation directly at OPDs of Armed Forces Hospitals on OPD days without a referral from ECHS Polyclinics vide DGAFMS /MoD Letter No. 5515 /Gen Comp/4E/DGAFMS/DG-3A dt 08 Aug 2019. It is requested similar facility be accorded for empanelled hospitals by producing white ECHS Cards.

ECHS Reply.It is intimated that the subject case in respect of white card holders ha already been taken up with MoD for consideration. It will be implemented as and when it is approved.

(l) **Timely Renewal of Empanelled Hospitals.** Delays in hospital empanelment result in patient inconvenience. Proposal:-

- (i) A centralized online system to track empanelment renewals and notify users of changes.

ECHS Reply. Automated system generated review of hospital emp status at BPA portal is in place. This system generated info would be visible to Dir Regional Centre, JD HS Regional Centre and JD Empanelment, CO ECHS minimum 90 days in advance before termination of the present duration of emp (MoA) for respective hospital.

(m) **Medicine Availability at Polyclinics.** Shortages in chronic disease medications cause major inconvenience. Proposal:-

- (i) Implement a real-time stock tracking system.
- (ii) Strengthen local purchase authorization for emergency meds.

ECHS Reply.

(a) The O/o DGAFFMSF procures medicines through 139 SEMOs across 456 PCs in the country. Medicine satisfaction varies between 50% to 60% due to vendor non compliance, delays by IFA, glitches on GeM and internally due to lack of capacity to receive and disburse stores at SEMO level as also deficiency in preparations of correct demands at PC level.

(b) These are being remedied by various changes to policy and capacity building. The promulgation of CDL-2023 and E-CDL 2025 as an improvement is one such measures.

(c) In such situations where life-saving and essential medicines are urgently required and not available at PC (due to non-supply by SEMO), such medicines may be procured through ALC as an interim measure. These ALC demanded medicines are expected to be delivered within 48 hrs.

Additionally, SEMOs are authorized to procure life-saving medicines for ECHS patients on an emergency basis, even if the medicines are not included in the CDL list, ensuring critical case.

(d) NA Medicines worth ₹ 230 Cr were bought last year. Last report is to purchase generic medicines only, in the interest of large number of beneficiaries.

(e) Beneficiaries should not insist on branded medicines prescribed by doctors in emp hosp as there is no provn for procurement of this Generic equivalent will be provided by one of the above means.

(n) Grievance Redressal Mechanism. Veterans report difficulty in complaint resolution. Recommendations:-

(a) Establish dedicated grievance cells with defined timelines.

(b) Enable SMS/app-based complaint tracking.

ECHS Reply. Grievance module is under prep by SDCPL. With launch of module, each stakeholder will have resp to address the issue in a time bound manner. It is also confirmed that all efforts are being made to resolve the grievances in most effective ways in a time bond manner.

(o) Improvement and Awareness of ECHS Mobile App. App usage is limited due to lack of features and awareness. Proposal:-

(i) Upgrade app to include appointments, referrals, and reimbursement status.

(ii) Conduct user training at polyclinics.

ECHS Reply. Upgraded mobile app has been launched.

(p) Transport/ Ambulance Assistance for Senior/Disabled Veterans. Requisition of Ambulance with requisite Paramedical Staff from empanelled

hospitals/ Service Hospitals during Golden Hours of Emergency (during MI, Brain Stroke, Pulmonary cases or medical emergency) by veterans who are old and living by themselves be allowed. Even payment for services by beneficiary patient's family may be considered for which CO ECHS may consider inclusion of desired clause in the ECHS MoU with empanelled /Service Hospitals.

ECHS Reply.

(a) Ambulance services for picking up patient on call in emergency is not part of any CGHS package rate. However, ambulance from empanelled hospital is mandatory only if patient is admitted in empanelled hospital and if patient required referral to higher hospital.

(b) However, with involvement of Stn HQs, local arng for bedridden or immobile patients can be made utilizing stn welfare funds/other non PF.

5. Issues Projected to 8th CPC. Points received from members for 8th CPC has been fwd to CPC by email dt 11 Jul 2025. These included the following:-

- (a) Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP).
- (b) Double Increment on Promotion to Next Rank.
- (c) Enhanced Rate of Family Pension (ERFP).
- (d) Additional Pension for over age from 65 years instead of 80 years.
- (e) Financial Benefits for Honorary Ranks.
- (f) Pay for JCOs and Pay Level.
- (g) Higher Rank Pay/Pension not less than lower Rank of Equal Service.
- (h) Military Service Pay.
- (j) Restoration of Disability/War Injury Pension and replace impairment Relief as defined in MoD letter dt 21 Sep 2023.
- (k) Restoration of Commutation Portion of Pension (CPP) from 15 years to 12 years.

- (l) Gratuity Weightage from 5 years to 10 year.
- (m) Draft Fixation of Basic Pay for all Rank in 8th CPC.

6. **Independence Day.** A large No. of War Disabled Veterans participated in the locally organized functions thus fostering a sense of awareness, camaraderie social interaction and collective well being. A large no of Institutions felicitated the War Disabled Veterans on this special occasion.



7. **Annual General Meeting of DIWAVE:-** Annual General Meeting of DIWAVE held on 08 Sept 2025 in its office C6-18/1, SDA Hauz Khas New Delhi -110016.

8. **Swachhta Pakhwada** The Swachhta Pakhwada 2025 is to be conducted on 2nd October, 2025 as a dedicated cleanliness drive and as a citizen centric drive as Jan Aandolan.

9. DIWAVE provide **information about the number of sites at where DIWAVE conduct the cleanliness drive during the Swachhta Pakhwada.** 'Before & After' pictures are sent by email to DOPPW .

10. DIWAVE office is located in C6 Block (C6 18/1), Safdarjung Development Area behind Hauz Khas Telephone Exchange, New Delhi-110016. There are four sites of the block marked for Swachhta Pakhwada.



11. **Nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign.** The officials of DIWAVE attended the following activities conducted by DoPPW, Govt of India and Times Network Samarth Hyundai:-

(a) Nationwide Digital Life Certificate Campaign 4.0 on 03 Nov 2025 at NDMC Convention Centre, Jai Singh Road, opp Jantar Mantar, New Delhi- 110001.



(b) **Samarth India Conclave & Expo 2025-** An initiative dedicated to building a more inclusive India for persons with disabilities on 17 Nov 2025 at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.



12. **Meeting with DG Artillery.** Meeting will be planned at Artillery Centre, Nasik Road Camp in Dec 2025. DG Artillery has invited all War Disabled Veterans for Meet Artillery Centre Nasik.

13. **Diwave Foundation Day.** Disabled War Veterans (India) popularly known as DIWAVE was founded in 1978 and registered with Registrar of Societies vide Regd No 9904 dated 14 Dec 1978. In real sense, this is the only active organisation of War Disabled / Battle Casualties. It is a non-political, democratic, secular and voluntary organisation. A small get-together arranged in DIWAVE office for celebrate its Foundation Day on 14 Dec 2025.

14. **Vijay Diwas 2025.** was celebrated on Tuesday, December 16, 2025, marking India's decisive victory over Pakistan in the 1971 war, which led to the birth of Bangladesh and honored the sacrifices of Indian Armed Forces, with tributes from leaders like PM Modi and President Murmu. The day commemorates the historic surrender of Pakistani forces in Dhaka on December 16, 1971, a pivotal moment remembered with solemnity and pride across India.



Vijay Diwas celebrated by DIWAVE members

15. **Veterans Day Celebration.** President, Secretary General, officials and DIWAVE members, who are residing in Delhi NCR attended Veterans Day on 14 Jan 2026 at Manekshaw Centre, Delhi Cantt.





16. **Executive Committee Meeting on 18 Jan 2026** DIWAVE
Executive Committee Meeting held on 18 Jan 2026 at 11:30 hrs from it's office C6-18/1, SDA Hauz Khas New Delhi-110016.

17. **Republic Day**. The Republic Day (26 January) celebrated on every year across pan India. A large No. of War Disabled Veterans participated in the locally organized functions thus fostering a sense of awareness, camaraderie social interaction and collective well being

18. Points and Issues taken up with DIAV during Meeting on 09 Feb 2026.

- (a) Implementation of order No **200847 /Pen-C/1971 dated 24 Feb 1972.**
- (b) Sparsh: the problems being faced by war disabled soldiers / battle casualties.
- (c) Constant Attendant Allowance be enhanced by 100% in 8th CPC.
- (d) Liberalized pension for the widows of the war disabled soldiers.
- (e) Upgradation of wards for the war disabled soldiers / battle casualties in armed forces hospitals & empanelled hospitals to Semi Private.
- (f) IT exemption for war disabled battle casualties and withdrawal of CBDT Circular No 13/2019 dt 24 Jun 2019.
- (g) Priority in employment for wards for war disabled soldiers in ECHS.
- (h) Education Reservation & Concessions.
 - (i) Priority for reservation / preference to the wards of armed forces personnel by States/UT's for admission to medical/professional/non-professional courses. MoD should issue instruction to Rajya Sainik Boards of states.
 - (ii) Reversing the priority for wards of war disabled / battle casualty retained in service. Wards of those BCs superannuated should also be under PRIORITY-II

AG

(j) Recognition of the sacrifice of war disabled / battle casualties. conspicuous looking badge and instead of war disabled they should be called as “**Veer Youdha**” for their recognition.

(k) Awareness of the war disabled / battle casualties, invite and separate enclosures for war disabled / battle casualties in armed forces and for national functions like Independence Day, Republic Day, Vijay Diwas etc at MH/CH/ECHS polyclinics/URCs.

(l) Special Parking for vehicles of war disabled veterans.

(m) Homage at National War Memorial India Gate by war disabled veterans twice a year.

19. **Minutes of the Meeting with DIAV are still awaited.** DIAV has shown very lukewarm response on issues enumerated above.

Issues taken up with MD ECHS

20. (a) Priority in employment for wards for war disabled soldiers in ECHS.

(b) Home for the war disabled soldiers / battle casualties with specialized care by specially trained staff at Military Stations preferably within MH/CH campus.

(c) Construction of ramps for use of wheel chair. Availability of wheel chairs with assistance at designated placed at hospitals/ECHS polyclinic/URCs etc.

(d) Display of boards: priority for the war disabled veterans / battle casualties and their spouses in all armed forces hospitals ECHS clinics. Order exist but implementation is lacking. The computer program should be designed for such priority/wait listing.

(e) **More Artificial Limb Centres.** Time taken for prosthesis should be reduced for war disabled / battle casualties; increase empanelment of hospitals for endolite.

(f) **Appointment of Nodal officer in Military Hospitals.** For immediate resolution of issues faced by war disabled soldiers / battle casualties. Separate Queue for War Disabled at Reception of Army Hosp (R&R) and Base hospital and all Commanded Hospitals.

21. DG AFMS and DGMS (Army) assured DIWAVE that our issues would be redressed and care of war disabled is their utmost concern.

Issues taken up with QMG

22. (a) Issue of smart CSD card with orange strip to war disabled soldiers / battle casualties URC Centers designated for war widows/war disabled soldiers.

(b) Transfer from one hospital to the other hospital: all arrangements should be done by the hospital as being done earlier. Case needs to be taken up with MoD through ECHS/AFMS.

(c) Guest room charges in Armed Forces Institutions, formations/units be 50% for war disabled solders.

23. There has been no response from QMG Branch till date despite repeated letters on subject.

Protest against IT Finance Bill 2026

24. DIWAVE has been putting best efforts for ensuring exemption of Income Tax on war injury pension for superannuated veterans by writing DO letters to Service Chiefs, Hon'ble RM, Hon'ble FM and letters/emails to 750 Hon'ble MPs, Union Ministers and State CMs. Meetings with several MPs at their residences were also undertaken by our members. The issue was raised by several MPs in the Budget Session of Parliament with the efforts of DIWAVE. Govt in its Finance Bill 2026 has maintained status quo

on taxation of Disability Pension till adjudication of ongoing case in the Hon'ble Supreme Court.

25. Letters of thanks were sent to all Hon'ble MPs, retired Senior Veterans who had shared our concern at various forums/Social Media. Six major media houses were also approached for publishing our cause/case in their newspapers. Efforts of our senior members at NOIDA, Bangalore and Chennai are laudable for media publicity.

26. DIWAVE has taken up issue regarding '**Serious Breach of Parliament Privilege and Misrepresentation of facts by CBDT**' in respect of Statutory Income-Tax Exemption of War Disabled Veterans to the Hon'ble Finance Minister, Hon'ble Defence Minister, Parliament Select Committee on IT Bills 2025 and Parliament Committee on Defence.

27. **Meeting with LoP at Parliament House.** A delegation of 10 war disabled veterans visited Parliament on 09 Feb 2026 and met Leader of Opposition regarding exemption of Income Tax on War Injury Pension for superannuated cases. Sh Rahul Gandhi, LoP wrote a letter to Hon'ble Finance Minister regarding ECHS funding and maintain status quo on income tax exemption for all disability pension cases.



Col DS Dube with Hon'ble RM on 02 March 2026



Lt Gen D P Vats met to the Hon'ble Finance Minister Smt Nirmla Sitharaman Ji on 13 March 2026

28. **DIWAVE Contact Program.** DIWAVE has launch a contact program through letters with its life members who are not part of WhatsApp Gps and whose contact numbers are not available. We have sent letters 714 upto 30 Mar 2026 to our war disabled members of 1965, 1971 and military/CI operations upto 1990. A numbers of family members responded and it was disheartening to know that some of our old war veterans have passed away. Our heartfelt condolences to the bereaved families.

29. **DoPPW Meeting.** Officials of DIWAVE attended online meeting on 12 Mar 2026 conducted by Dept of Pension & Pensioners Welfare (DoPPW).

MEMORANDUM TO THE 8th CENTRAL PAY COMMISSION (8CPC) – PAY CELL

30. Comprehensive Revision of Pay, Pension and Compensation Framework for War-Disabled Veterans

Introduction

30.1 Disabled War Veterans (India) Regd (DIWAVE) respectfully submits this memorandum for consideration by the 8th Central Pay Commission (8CPC), with a focused objective of addressing long-standing structural inequities affecting war-disabled veterans of the Armed Forces.

30.2 War-disabled veterans constitute a small but uniquely placed cohort, whose disabilities arise not from routine service conditions but from combat and operational engagements in defence of national sovereignty. Their compensation framework must, therefore, be distinct, equitable, and reflective of the extraordinary risks undertaken and lifelong consequences endured.

30.3 The current system, largely derived from conventional disability compensation models, does not adequately account for the nature of sacrifice, functional impairment, and socio-economic impact experienced by such veterans.

Guiding Principles

31.1 The framework for compensation should be guided by the doctrine of **Restitutio in Integrum**, i.e., restoration to the fullest extent possible.

31.2 The Hon'ble Supreme Court has consistently held that pensionary and disability benefits must be interpreted liberally in favour of armed forces personnel, recognising their unique service conditions:

* In **Union of India v. Ram Avtar, (2014) 14 SCC 680**, the Court extended the benefit of broadbanding of disability pension to all personnel, including those who retired normally, thereby affirming parity and non-discrimination.

* In **Dharamvir Singh v. Union of India, (2013) 7 SCC 316**, the Court held that any disability arising during service is presumed to be attributable to service unless proven otherwise, reinforcing a pro-veteran approach.

* In **K.J.S. Buttar v. Union of India, (2011) 11 SCC 429**, the Court emphasised that benefits relating to disability and pension must be granted in a just, fair, and equitable manner, keeping in view the sacrifices of armed forces personnel.

31.3 The Hon'ble Court has further recognised that classification leading to unequal treatment among similarly placed veterans is impermissible:

* **Union of India v. SPS Vains, (2008) 9 SCC 125**: Pensioners form a homogeneous class, and arbitrary distinctions violate Article 14.

31.4 **Compensation must reflect:**

- * Nature of injury (battle-related vs. non-battle)
- * Functional disability and loss of earning capacity
- * Lifelong medical and social impact

31.5 War disability should be treated as a distinct legal and policy category, separate from civil or routine service disability.

32. Key Recommendations

32.1 Pay Protection and Emoluments

(a) Full protection of last drawn reckonable emoluments, including:

- * Basic Pay
- * Military Service Pay (MSP)
- * All operational and risk allowances

(b) Such protection should be for life, indexed to inflation with appropriate Dearness Relief (DR) adjustments.

(c) Supported by **judicial principle of fair compensation in K.J.S. Buttar v. Union of India.**

(d) All war disabled battle casualty to get the pension of maximum length of service in their pay band, as their services are cut short by war injury (1972 letter which was not implemented in 7th pay commission).

32.2 Rationalisation of War Injury Element

(a) Replace the current percentage-based slab system with a minimum benchmark of 100% disability for all battle casualties.

(b) Introduce an Impact-Based Compensation Matrix, providing higher compensation for:

- * Loss of limbs
- * Loss of vision
- * Severe neurological or cognitive impairment

(c) Ensure no downward revision of disability element upon reassessment.

(d) **Judicial support: Dharamvir Singh v. Union of India – presumption in favour of the soldier.**

32.3 Parity Across Categories :

(a) Remove all distinctions between Invalided-out personnel and those who continue in service and retire normally.

(Judicial backing: **Union of India v. Ram Avtar - extension of benefits irrespective of mode of retirement.**)

(b) **Ensure parity in** Pension computation, Disability benefits and Tax treatment (tax exempt for all with disability)

(c) There is a fundamental issue and error. Commissioned officer Captains and Lt are getting pension of honorary Captain and honorary Lt, which is a non commissioned rank. Both are separate ranks and need to be treated accordingly for pay and pension. Need to resolve this issue in 8th pay commission.

(d) For invalid out, pension of minimum time scale rank is to be given as their services are cut short by war injury. Ie For officers, pension of time scale Col to be fixed for all war disabled invalid out.

32.4 **Inclusion of Military Service Pay (MSP).** MSP should be fully counted for pension and disability calculations and treated as a continuing compensatory component for war-disabled veterans.

32.5 Pension Structure Reform

(a) Create a distinct category titled:

“War Injury Compensation Pension”, separate from normal service pension.

Judicial principle: **Pension is not a bounty but a right earned for service rendered (D.S. Nakara v. Union of India, (1983) 1 SCC 305).**

(b) Ensure that this category reflects **Sacrifice-based compensation and** Not merely length of service. An amputated case or loss of eye/ hearing impairment war disabled veteran if invalided out gets 100% War Injury Pension (WIP) whereas those who with same disability , who continue to serve due to service requirements or their willingness to serve the nation, on superannuation get 60% of WIP that too after retirement. These superannuated war veterans are also

liable to pay income tax on their WIP, a compensation for the injuries sustained in war/ military operations. The exemption of Income Tax on WIP has been granted through Notification in IT Act 1922, continued in IT Act 1961 till date.

Strongly propose that WIP be exempt from IT for invalided out as well as superannuated war disabled veterans.

(c) **Liberalised pensionary awards for war injury pension be as per Gol/MoD policy letter No 200847/Pen-C/71 dated 24 Feb 1972.** Invalided out war disabled veteran should get the maximum scale of service element as applicable to his rank at time of invalid out.

(d) **OROP should be applicable for war disabled invaled out veterans** after fixing of his service element in accordance with MoD letter dated 24 Feb 1972.

(e) **Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pension) should restrict itself to administrative/ accounting office** as adjudicated by the Hon'ble Court(s). It should not arbitrary change, reduce or over-ride the disability percentage or service connection (attributability / aggravation) assessed by a duly constituted Medical Board or adjudicated by the Hon'ble Courts.

(f) Need to have a **Citizens Charter for PCDA (Pensions)** giving their Charter of Responsibilities along with time period to address grievances.

(g) **SPARSH** has failed to inits scope to address grievances in a time bound manner. To overcome this, Armed Forces have employed huge manpower at military stations and keeping in view of this added expenditure to the exchequer, it is recommended that we switch over to time tested banks as DPDOs. Need deep thinking.....

(h) **Application of NFU for Armed Forces.**

(j) **Pay levels 11A, 12A and 13A be merged with Pay levels 12, 13 and 14 respectively.**

32.6 **OROP Integration.** One Rank One Pension (OROP) must **dynamically incorporate the war disabled invalided out veterans instead of static fixation.**

32.7 **Strengthening Broadbanding**

(a) Continue and strengthen broadbanding of disability as under:

* 20–50% → 50%

* 50–75% → 75%

* 75–100% → 100%

(b) Ensure automatic application without litigation.

32.8 Constant Attendance Allowance (CAA) should be substantially enhanced. It should be linked to prevailing minimum wages of caregivers, particularly in urban areas. Remove outdated ceilings and periodic stagnation. **Judicial principle of dignified living for disabled personnel flows from Article 21 jurisprudence.**

32.9 Modified Assured Career Progression (MACP)

(a) MACP is applicable for post 01 Jan 2006 retirees only. So pre 01 Jan 2006 retirees of sepoy to Havildars are receiving less pension than post 01 Jan 2006 retirees. So, request for applicability of MACP to pre 01 Jan 2006 retirees to receive equal pension based on Rank, Group and QYS irrespective of date of retirement to fulfill the accepted OROP definition by GOI.

(b) Three MACP is to be considered after completion of each five years of service instead of 8 years i.e, after 5,10 and 15 and also completion of 05 years service remain in same rank for any rank treated as one MACP.

32.10 Additional Pension for over age from 65 years instead of 80 years

(a) As per acceptance of standing Parliament Committee in 110th Report the additional pension over age from the age of 65 years of pensioner / family pensioner is under consideration in Govt:-

(i)	65 to 70 years	-	5%
(ii)	70 to 75 years	-	10%
(iii)	75 to 80 years	-	15%
(iv)	80 to 85 years	-	20%
(v)	85 to 90 years	-	30%
(vi)	90 to 95 years	-	40%
(vii)	95 to 100 years	-	50%
(viii)	100 years and more	-	100%

33. **Allowances and Welfare Measures**

33.1 **Special War Disabled Allowance** should be introduced for those who continue to serve the Forces despite injuries sustained in operations. These additional allowances recognize Combat-related sacrifice and are independent of gallantry awards

33.2 **Medical Support and ECHS Strengthening**

(a) Ensure lifetime cashless treatment, including super-speciality care for war disabled veterans.

(b) Provide access to advanced prosthetics (AI-enabled devices, neuro-rehabilitation tools)

(c) Introduce annual prosthetic upgrade grants.

(d) Enhance ECHS grants from Consolidation Fund of India and delink same from Defence Budget.

*** Article 21 (Right to Life with dignity) as interpreted in multiple judgments including K.J.S. Buttar.**

33.3 **Housing and Mobility Support**

(a) Priority allotment under government housing schemes.

(b) Financial assistance for barrier-free housing modifications and vehicle purchase and adaptive retrofitting.

34. **Taxation and Financial Equity**

34.1 **Grant full income tax exemption** onWIP/WIE for invalid out and superannuated cases. **Compensation for injury is not income but restitution (principle recognised in compensation jurisprudence across Supreme Court rulings).**

34.2 **Ensure exemption is uniform**, irrespective ofMode of exit (invalided or superannuated). **Equality under Article 14 of Constitution.**

34.3 **Reform lump sum compensation** byenhancing ex-gratia amounts and providing structured annuity options

35. **Career Protection for Serving Disabled Personnel**

- 35.1 **Ensure no disadvantage** in Promotions and Career progression
- 35.2 **Provide alternative avenues** :Command, instructional, or technical roles
- 35.3 **Introduce a Rehabilitation Pay Package to offset reduced employability post-retirement.**

36. **Legal and Administrative Measures**

- 36.1 **Provide statutory backing to war disability compensation** through Dedicated legislation or codified schedule
- 36.2 **Ensure time-bound disposal of disability claims within 90 days.**
- 36.3 **Introduce Automatic interim relief in case of delays**
- 36.4 **Adopt a “No Litigation Policy” for war-disabled veterans** in line with repeated Supreme Court observations discouraging unnecessary litigation against veterans.
- 36.5 **Establish a Veterans’ Grievance Redressal Authority.**

37. **Data and Recognition**

- 37.1 **Create a National Registry of War-Disabled Veterans** forPolicy Planning and efficient benefit delivery.
- 37.2 **Provide non-monetary recognition:**
 - * Priority access in public services
 - * Educational support for dependents: wards of war disabled superannuated veterans should be placed under PRIORITY II for admissions in professional colleges as was prior to 2015.
 - * Statutory identity cards with defined privileges.

37. **Conclusion**

(a) The Hon'ble Supreme Court has, through a consistent line of judgments, emphasised that armed forces personnel and veterans are entitled to a liberal, humane, and equitable approach in matters of pension and disability benefits.

(b) War-disabled veterans represent a numerically small but morally significant constituency, whose sacrifices form the bedrock of national security. The existing compensation framework does not fully reflect the gravity of their contribution or the permanence of their disabilities.

The 8th Central Pay Commission has a historic opportunity to:

- * Correct longstanding anomalies**
- * Establish a humane and just compensation system**
- * Reinforce the nation's commitment to those who have borne the cost of its defence**

While keeping in view -Judicial mandates, Constitutional principles and National ethos of honouring sacrifice

38. **Prayer:**

In view of the above, DIWAVE respectfully urges the 8CPC Pay Cell to:

- * Recognize war disability as a distinct compensatory category**
- * Implement the recommendations outlined herein**
- * Ensure parity, dignity, and financial justice for all war-disabled veterans**

Follow up Issues of Veterans.

39. DIWAVE had taken up cases with PCDA(P) Allahabad and respective Record Offices regarding correct War Injury Pension/ Entitled Disability Pension and stoppage of recovery in respect of the followings veterans which were effectively rectified/notified by PCDA (P) Pryagaraj:-

War Injury Pension

(a) No 4181725 Ex-Sep Shyam Sunder Singh, KUMAON. Non receipt of War Injury Pension and its arrear wef 04 May 1991. **Case resolved.**

(b) No 12467315W Ex-Nk Patil Rajendra Vishnu, SIGNALS. Non receipt of War Injury Pension and arrear wef Jul 2025. **WIP restored.**

(c) No 2653031Ex-Sep Hadish Khan, GRENADIERS. Deduction in Pension (Service Element & WIP) from Jul 2025. **Deduction topped and amount refunded.**

(d) No 3387601A Ex-Hav Sahib Singh, SIKH- Stoppage of WIP. **WIP Restored.**

(e) No 1031585K Ex-Sep Joginder Singh, SIKH. Correct rate of WIP. **Case resolved.**

(f) **No 14804038Y Ex NK Aswar Ganesh Shriram.** Non reflecting war injury Element. A corrigendum PPO duly reflecting War Injury Element has been issued to the individual on 02 April 2025. **Case resolved.**

Massive Recovery

(g) No13693696P Ex-Hav Jagannath Padhiary, The BRIGADE of GUARDS.

Irregular recovery of ₹ 7,93,205/- and stoppage of WIP. **Recovery stopped and recovered amount refunded.**

(h) No 2660440F Ex-Sep Baney Khan of GRENADIERS. Irregular recovery of ₹ 4,72,866/- stoppage of WIP. **Recovery stopped and recovered amount refunded.**

40. **Non Receipt of Entitled Pension/Massive Recovery/Stoppage of War Injury/ Disability Pension.** DIWAVE has taken up following cases with PCDA (P) Allahabad and concerned Record offices for non receipt of entitled pension/massive recovery/Stoppage of War Injury/Disability Pension in respect of following war disabled veterans, which are yet to resolved. DIWAVE endeavours to ensure that the effected war disabled veterans are granted their entitled dues:-

(a) Smt Sushma Sharma Widow of EC-55776 Late Capt Vijay Shankar Sharma. For grant of Ordinary Family Pension.

(b) No 13660306 Ex- Gdsm Gour Chandra Gain, The BRIGADE of GUARDS. War Injury Element stopped after migration of DATA in SPARSH (Amendment of Date of Discharge and Clause of Discharge in SPARSH) and Re-Start of War Injury Pension.

(c) No 2687985 Ex-Hav Ramraj Meena, GRENADIER. Irregular recovery of ₹ 2,85,059/- from Oct 2025

(d) No 15313717L Ex-Hav Perumal Samy P, MEG. Non receipt of War Injury Pension.

(e) No 1292647 Ex-Sep R Tahnakappa Panicker, AAD- Anomaly in War Injury Pension

(f) No 3188636Y Ex-Sep Kuldeep Kumar Sirohi, JAT. Non receipt of RSMB and other medical documents from Records JAT Regt.

41. **Refund Of ECHS Amount.** DIWAVE has taken up case with PCDA (P) Prayagraj and Respective Records for refund of ECHS amount charged

from the following war disabled veterans in accordance with Govt of India, Dept of ESW, Min of Def letter No 105/US/WE/D(Res) dt 16 Feb 2006:-

(a) No 2792078F NK Kakade Sanjay Vasant

(b) No 13621900P Hav Shaminder Singh.

42. **Non Receipt of Education Claim.** Diwave has taken up cases with Adjutant General's Branch/CW3 regarding non receipt of Education Claim for the academic year 2024-25 in r/o of following war disabled veterans:-

(a) JC-581429 Ex-Sub Ramesh Kumar Thakur. Amount Received.

(b) 14653937A Ex-Hav Neeraj Ranjan

(c) 2804446A Ex-Nk Subhan Seikh

(d) Ex-Sep Dilip Rao Mohite

43. DIWAVE has raised the issue of delay in disbursal of Educational Claims by AG's Branch/CW-3 for Academic Year 2024-25. DIWAVE would continue to pursue and expedite disbursal of claims of war disabled veterans.

44. DIWAVE has taken up a case with the Adjutant General, Army Headquarters on removal of clause of 'arrears restricted by 3 years, as adjudicated by the Hon'ble Courts as per Hon'ble Supreme Court order dated 12 Mar 2026 in case of Ex-Hav Shailendra Pratap Singh vs Union of India. DIWAVE has raised the issue of payment of arrear of disability pension to the effected petitioners as per Hon'ble Supreme Court Order dated 12 Mar 2026.

DIWAVE-Follow Up Ongoing Issues.

45. **Constant Attendance Allowance .** DIWAVE, once again requested to Secretary, DESW to consider our War Disabled Veterans genuine concern and recommend the Enhancement of CAA by 25% from the

existing Rs. 6750/- to 8438/- per month with effect from 01 Jan 2024. The same has been sanctioned by the Govt, Min of Def, Dept of ESW letter No F.No5(I)2025/D(P/P) dt 30 Apr 2025 wef 01 Jan 2024.

46. **Grant of Enhanced Pension Of 20% On Completion Of 79 Years of Age.** The various AFTs & High Courts have issued orders that 20% enhanced pension should be granted on completion of 79 yrs of age instead 80 yrs of age. The Gauwahati High Court on 15/03/2018 gave judgment to grant the same was challenged by Govt of India by filling SLP in Hon'ble Supreme Court and SLP was dismissed on 08/10/2019. **DIWAVE** has requested to Secretary, Defence Finance, for issue of directions to enhanced 20% pension of all soldiers on completion on 79 years at earliest.

47. **Special Vehicle Number Plates And Other Concession In Recognition, Respect And Honouring The Sacrifice Of War Disabled Soldiers / Battle Casualties.** DIWAVE once again requested that special vehicle number plates and other concession in recognition, respect and honoring the sacrifice of War Disabled Soldier / Battle casualties may please be considered. The minor gestures not only create respect honour and recognition of the sacrifice of the War Disabled Soldiers / Battle Casualties in the mind of public, also encourage the serving soldiers to perform their duty without fear and sends invite to the young to join Armed Forces.

48. **Grant Of State Government Concessions To War Disabled Soldiers No. 1392738 Ex Nk Mohammad Firoz Khan.** Ex NK Mohammad Firoz Khan was a Battle Casualty with 60% disability. He had sustained IED blast and his right leg below the knee has been amputated during his medical treatment to save his life. He was discharged from service in 01 Feb 2008 after completion of total service of 20 years 10 Months. However, authorities are not responding inspite of many letters written to Director Sainik Kalyan Vibhag Jaipur. In view of above DIWAVE wrote letters and requests concerned authorities for necessary action.

On going Court Cases Status

49. Cases in AFT No. **248/13 & 431/14**, for implementation of Govt letter dated 24 Feb 1972. **Next date of hearing is 06 Jul 2026.**

50. Case for **“Priority For Admission In Professional Courses & Medical Colleges For Wards Of War Disabled Retained In Service’** filed in Hon’ble High Court Delhi in **WP No 3973/2022** dated **07 Mar 2022**. Next date of hearing is awaited.

51. **Enhanced / Liberalized pension for the Widows of War Disabled Soldiers / Battle Casualties** WP(C) **14747/2023**. The case was listed for hearing at Delhi High Court on 30 Oct 2025. This Hon’ble Bench is fixing dates with six Months gap. DIWAVE has requested our advocate to seek placing our case with different bench for early hearing.

52. **WP No 953/2019** dated **26 Jul 2019** on **“Exemption of Income Tax for War Disabled Soldiers / Battle Casualties retained in Service”**. The matter was last listed for hearing on 10/10/2025. Next date of hearing awaited. This case has assumed importance due to legislation of Amendment to Schedule III Clause 108, Serial No 38A wherein Govt has allowed exemption for invalided out cases only.

53. The following Govt of India letters received during the year on issues related to pensioners/war disabled veterans were circulated to our members for wider publicity/information. These important circulars were uploaded on the website of DIWAVE :-

(a) Central Organisation ECHS, Adjutant General’s Branch, IHQ of MoD(Army) letter No B/49761/AG/ECHS/Medicine Policy/2025 dt 05 May 2025 for Domiciliary medical Equipment for ECHS Beneficiary – Provision of Ex-Post Fact Approval and reimbursement of the cost of life saving domiciliary medical equipment Oxygen Concentrator/CPAP/BIPAP/BILEVEL Ventilatory system or any other listed domiciliary medical Equipment required urgently.

(b) Central Organisation ECHS, Adjutant General’s Branch, IHQ of MoD(Army) letter No B/49711-NSC/AG/ECHS/Gen Corr dt 10 Jun 2025 for online procedure to change Parent Polyclinic.

(c) Central Organisation ECHS, Adjutant General’s Branch, IHQ of MoD(Army) letter No B/49711-NSC/AG/ECHS/Gen Corr dt 10 Jun 2025 for online procedure to change Registered Mobile Number.

(d) Central Organisation ECHS, Adjutant General’s Branch, IHQ of MoD(Army) letter No B/49711-NSC/AG/ECHS/Gen Corr dt 10 Jun 2025 for

Annual Validation of ECHS Membership of dependents by submission of eligibility documents by primary beneficiaries.

(e) Govt of India, Min of Defence, Dept of ESW letter No 22D(21/2024/(WE)/D(Res-I) dt 24 Jul 2025 for revision of rates for permission/reimbursement of cost of Neuro-Implants under ECHS.

(f) Central Organisation ECHS, Adjutant General's Branch, IHQ of MoD(Army) letter No B/49711-NSC/AG/ECHS/Gen Corr dt 29 Jul 2025 for online procedure to change wrong mobile number during registration.

(g) Govt of India, Min of Defence, Dept of ESW letter No 18 (5)/2024-D(WE) dt 29 Aug 2025 for grant of Medical Facilities under Ex-Servicemen Contributory Health Scheme (ECHS) to officer cadets who are invalidated from their training on medical ground due to cause attributable to or aggravated by military training.

(h) Central Organisation ECHS, Adjutant General's Branch, IHQ of MoD(Army) letter NoB/49711-NSC/AG/ECHS/Gen Corr dt 10 Sep 2025 for Management of 64 KB ECHS Faulty Cards.

(j) Central Organisation ECHS, Adjutant General's Branch, IHQ of MoD(Army) letter NoB/49711-NSC/AG/ECHS/Gen Corr dt 25 Sep 2025 for Blocking and Unblocking of ECHS cards.

(k) Central Organisation ECHS, Adjutant General's Branch, IHQ of MoD(Army) letter No B/49701-PR/Gen/AG/ECHAS/2025 dt 28 Oct 2025 for exemption for pre-1996 pensioners from payment of ECVHS subscription.

(l) Govt of India, Ministry of Personnel, PG & Pensions, Deptt of DoPPW letter No 1/1(90)/2024-P P & PW(E)-Part-I/10344 dt 27 Oct 2025 for Clarification regarding Enhanced Rate of Family Pension: Death after Retirement cases.

(m) Govt of India, Min of Def, Kendriya Sainik Board letter No 199/Welfare/SOPs/2024-25 dt 31 Oct 2025 for Revision of Financial Assistance Amount of penury Grant, Marriage Grant and Education Grant under Armed Forces Flag Day Fund.

(n) Central Organisation ECHS, Adjutant General's Branch, IHQ of MoD(Army) letter No B/49769/AG/ECHS dt 16 Dec 2025 for implementation of Newly revised CGHS Rates for ECHS Empanelled Health Care Organisation regarding city-class/Tire mapping in terms of HRA continuation orders.