

**BOMBAY SAPPERS ASSOCIATION (BSA)**  
**MINUTES OF ELEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM)**  
**HELD ON 20 SEP 2009 AT RANE AUDITORIUM, BEG & CENTRE, PUNE**

**GENERAL**

1. The Eleventh Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of The Bombay Sappers was held on 20 Sep 2009 wef 1545 hrs onwards at Rane Auditorium, BEG & Centre. The Meeting was convened by Col R N Tiwari, Secy-cum-Treasurer. The meeting was adjourned due to lack of quorum and recommended to be re-convened after 30 minutes at 1645 hrs.

2. Once the Meeting was reconvened, a total of 432 members, consisting of 67 officers, 72 JCOs and 293 Other Ranks, including retired Bombay Sappers, attended the meeting.

**SECY-CUM-TREASURER'S INTRODUCTORY REMARKS**

3. The Secy-cum-Treasurer, Col RN Tiwari, Dy Comdt, BEG & Centre, Kirkee in his introductory remarks, welcomed all the members of the Management Committee and serving and retired BSA members to the Eleventh AGM of the BSA.

**OPENING REMARKS BY THE CHAIRMAN**

4. On calling the meeting to order, the Chairman, Lt Gen Noble Thamburaj, PVSM, SM, ADC, Col Comdt, the Bombay Sappers, in his opening remarks welcomed all the BSA members to the Eleventh AGM. Chairman expressed that the BSA is almost a unique association. There is a similar association only in the Indian Air Force. Lot of progress has been made in last ten year's of its existence due to the suggestions of COs and retired offr. Maj Gen SG Pitre (Retd) had presented a paper giving path breaking new ideas to expand the 'Vision' of the BSA. Col Comdt mentioned that the motto of "Serving Bombay Sappers, for retired Bombay Sappers" must be upheld in letter and spirit. He emphasized the need to look after widows. Grants from BSA are given for edn, sports and for those who are distressed. He mentioned the achievements of Jor Mela held in Amritsar for ret'd PBOR. He pointed out that the office of BSA has been established in new location with more modern facilities. Regional office has started functioning a Chandimandir. He thanked commanding officers for sending donations to the BSA. He appealed to all members to work for getting more funds to the BSA so as to increase welfare activities and achieve long term 'Vision'. He then asked the Director to progress the meeting.

5. **Confirmation of Min of 10<sup>th</sup> AGM.** The min of 10<sup>th</sup> AGM were sent to all units and were also circulated. It was proposed that, if no one has any objection, the min of the meeting be passed. Lt Col C J Rego proposed and Lt Col TS Thami seconded it.

**BSA ACTIVITIES**

6 **Membership.** The present state of membership is as under:-

<b>Sr No.</b>	<b>Category</b>	<b>Up to 31 Jul 2008</b>	<b>Up to 01 Sep 2009</b>
01.	Offrs	1043	1106
02.	JCOs	2039	2149
03.	OR	31081	31890
	<b>Total</b>	<b>34163</b>	<b>35145</b>

It was highlighted that there is a need to increase the corpus which can be done if more number of Bombay Sappers pay membership and enhanced membership fee as applicable. The BSA will have more funds by way of interest, if the corpus amount increases.

## 7. Networking.

(a) With the help of our Record office, we have names and addresses of all Bombay Sappers who were enrolled from 1940. We can reach them any time we want to. Instead of contacting them (for News letter etc) through post (which is a very expensive proposal), we are putting all info on the net at our website. [www.bsakirkee.org](http://www.bsakirkee.org). Some JCOs & senior NCOs have volunteered to receive our Newsletter and disseminate info to known Bombay Sappers in their district/tehsil.

(b) Regional Centre Punjab has been opened and is functioning at Chandimandir since Mar 09.

8. **Placement.** This activity is being done at Pune and Chandimandir. There are large number of vacancies at Pune in private sector. However, the pay scales are generally in the region of Rs 6000/- to Rs 8000/-. Expectations of our Jawans are higher. We have given recommendations to more than 500 PBOR since Sep 08. Many PBOR have got jobs due to our efforts. BSA also gets info about vacancies for jobs for officers.

9. **HIV Cases.** Any HIV affected PBOR who approaches us for any assistance is being given help. Persons suffering from AIDS, require emotional support and medicines. Since all medical facilities are being given by the Govt free of cost to serving, retired PBOR and their families throughout India, the requirement of HIV affected persons are very few. The life span of AIDS patients is about 65 years. They should be advised to make arrangement for financial support to the family keeping this aspect in mind. One PBOR, L/Nk Nirmal Singh, required short term loan to pay back to Govt, in order to reinstate himself in the Army. Rs 50,000/- were given to him. He has since been reinstated and returned all the money.

10. **Orphans.** BSA has decided to look after Master Arjun Dev son of late Nk Jagir Singh who is an orphan and is now studying in class 7<sup>th</sup>. All his expenditure is being shared by 270 ER, BSA, Gurnam Academy, and donation from Col MM Bhushan. Details are given in table below. We can follow this model for other orphans as well. No one has approached us so far.

S.No.	Contribution From	Amount
01	270 Engr Regt	1000/-
02.	Col MM Bhushan (Retd)	1000/-
03.	Gurnam Academy	1000/-
04.	BSA	800/-
	<b>Total</b>	<b>3800/-</b>

## 11. Edn Scholarship

Rs 500 to 1000/- are being given to a child as scholarship. Although the amount is small but interaction with PBOR indicates that it is a sort of incentive to the child and therefore the scheme is welcome. Last year 377 children were given this scholarship as given in the Table below. The cut off percentages here also been shown. This year we have received 458 applications, which shows the popularity of the scheme. There probably is a case for increasing the scholarship amount.

### Education Scholarship: 2007-2008

Sr No.	Class	OR	AMOUNT	JCOs	AMOUNT
		VACANCY		VACANCY	
1.	V	38x500	19000/-	09x500	4500/-
2.	VI	58x500	29000/-	12x500	6000/-
3.	VII	50x500	25000/-	12x500	6000/-

Sr No.	Class	OR	AMOUNT	JCOs	AMOUNT
		VACANCY		VACANCY	
4.	VIII	50x700	35000/-	14x700	9800/-
5.	IX	30x800	24000/-	09x800	7200/-
6.	X	30x1000	30000/-	15x1000	15000/-
7.	XI	07x1000	7000/-	08x1000	8000/-
8.	XII	23x1000	23000/-	12x1000	12000/-
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>268</b>	<b>1,92,000/-</b>	<b>91</b>	<b>68,500/-</b>

**Cut-Off Percentages 2007-08**

Sr No	Class	OR	Cut % of OR	JCOs	Cut % of JCO
1.	V	38	70.00%	09	96.67%
2.	VI	58	75.22%	12	88.80%
3.	VII	50	70.30%	12	83.30%
4.	VIII	50	70.00%	14	82.00%
5.	IX	30	78.00%	09	85.00%
6.	X	30	82.00%	15	87.00%
7.	XI	07	81.06%	08	75.20%
8.	XII	23	65.17%	12	81.00%

(a) Maj Gen AL Suri (Retd) has proposed to give scholarship for higher edn for children of Bombay Sappers. Details will be circulated to all.

(b) Lt Cdr Warudi, IN (Retd) gave scholarship to two children of Late Hav Anant Dalvi. This scholarship caters for all fees of schooling of son (Class IV) & daughter (Class IX).

12. **Edn loan**

(a) So far, only those NCOs who do their diploma course of two years with IGNOU, are being given loan of Rs 30,000/- per year. They return the loan as per EMI every month and by the time they finish the course the loan is paid off.

(b) Edn loan for children of PBOR for higher edn is in our Agenda Points.

13. **Gurnam Academy**

(a) Gurnam Academy is housing approx 40 children (boys). Rs 17 lac & Rs 8.6 lac were given to the Academy by the BSA in last two years. The children of this Academy are groomed to become offrs in defence/civil.

(b) Girls hostel would be opened once the new building of Boys Hostel is ready. Preparatory work for the hostel is underway.

14. **Distress Grant**

(a) So far, the distress grant catered for only those who are distressed due to man-made or natural calamities but from this year onwards, this grant will also cater for needy widows. The amounts given in last three years and budgeted amount during the current year is as under :-

<u>Year ending</u>	<u>Rs in lacs</u>
31 Mar 07	2.39
31 Mar 08	1.20
31 Mar 09	1.78
31 Mar 10	3.00 Budgeted

(b) We are in the process of writing letters to 1179 widows asking them if they require any help. This data has been compiled from the info of those PBOR who were enrolled in 1980 and thereafter.

15. **Sports Scholarship** It has been decided that only very good sport person having potential to reach up to national level will be given help from BSA. Salient points from the SOP of sports scholarship were explained. (SOP forwarded to all units vide our letter No 10002/NL/6/BSA dt 22 May 2009 and is also available on BSA's website).

16. **Sapper Sarai** Sapper Sarai has been functioning in Pune in Depot Bn. Rs 10 lac were spent last year to improve the Sarai which included a new toilet block. A similar Sapper Sarai is being est at Chandimandir. Rs 10 lacs have been given for the purpose. Rs 10 lacs have also been budgeted for a Sapper Sarai at Delhi. These Sarais are meant to be utilized by PBOR & their families for any work in these cities such as visits to Comd, RR & Base Hosps.

17. **ECHS Cell:** A cell has been established in BSA office to inform all retiring/retired PBOR of the benefits of ECHS and various procedures of ECHS. Importance of knowing the procedures for admission in empanelled hosp & loss of ECHS cards was explained.

18. **Jor Mela:** Jor Mela was held at Amritsar on 02 Aug 09. Large number of retd PBOR attended the Mela. 594 PBOR put up grievances to the staff of BEG present there. 521 cases were resolved on the spot. 73 cases are under progress.

19. **Misc Jobs done by BSA:** The office of the BSA functions in such a manner that any member having any problem can approach the Director & Staff. They interact with BEG & Centre and other agencies to provide whatever help possible. Some examples are:-

- (a) Provide trg opportunity to son of a JCO with L&T.
- (b) Arrange sports facility to daughter of a JCO in ASI.
- (c) Provide help in getting admission in school to children of a widow.
- (d) Provide job opportunities to offrs and their wives.
- (e) Provide job opportunities to the children of Bombay Sappers.
- (f) Provide comptr training to a paraplegic JCO

20. **Points raised by members during discussion**

(a) No 1581150 Ex NK D Tale informed that there are vacancies of Electricians in Maharashtra Electricity Depts for ESM but as we do not possess ITI certificates, we are not allowed to apply for these posts. Chairman clarified that efforts are on at the level of Army HQ to get ITI certificate to our PBOR. It may take some time.

(b) Sub Maj Balvinder Singh of 111 ER informed that there is case of three orphans of ex CHM Kashmir Singh of his regt who need help. No pension is being given to children. Dir BSA expressed his sympathy with the family and promised to help the children from the BSA. The case will be progressed immediately after the AGM.

(c) Col R S Manral (CO 268 ER) informed that Spr Chatur is being boarded out due to his physical condition. He is not likely to get pension as he is short by a few months required to complete pensionable service. Vice-Chairman explained that the PBOR will be sent on pension after he completes pensionable service.

(d) Col S D Kulkarni (Retd) suggested that while receiving the amounts specifically given for edu purpose, it should be taken in separate sub-head in our books of accounts so that the money is spent only for the purpose it is given

21. **Agenda Points 1. Edn Loan.**

(a) A proposal is under consideration to give loan at concessional rate to children of members of the Association for higher education. Essential points of the SOP were explained, which are :-

**KEY POINTS OF EDN LOAN**

- (i) For higher edn Engg, Med, MBA, Hotel Mgmt.
- (ii) Meritorious & needy children.
- (iii) Only Tuition Fee, Direct to Institute.
- (iv) Child to pass every year with good mks.
- (v) Not eligible, if already getting loan.
- (vi) Loan docu to be signed by father & ward.
- (vii) ROI on loan = SBI saving rate.
- (viii) If fails to repay, ROI = SBI one year F.D. rate + 2%.

(b) Some members had obsn and suggestions which are given below:-

(i) **Maj Gen S D Pitre (Retd)**. He was of the view that fd area service need not be an attribute for consideration while working out inter-se priority as the decision to serve in fd area is not decided by a PBOR. Some PBOR whose units are stationed in peace area will be at a dis-advantage for no fault of theirs.

(ii) **Col Vikram Gulati (CO 114 ER)**. He was of the view that while deciding inter-se priority admission in Govt institution need not be a consideration. Dir BSA explained that getting admission in Govt colleges is more fair and also more difficult. This aspect was covered by this condition.

(iii) **Sub Jalaluddin (Depot Bn)**. He supported the view expressed by Maj Gen S G Pitre (Retd) that service in fd area should not be consideration for selection for grant of edn loan. He was also of the view that other disciplines like MCA,BCA etc should also be included for edn loan. Dire BSA explained that initially we have taken these four disciplines (as given in the SOP) due to limitation of funds and difficulty of managing the scheme. This point can be considered at a later stage.

(c) Dir also explained the points of views of some retd offr which were received in email. Most of them favoured the scheme. However, Maj Gen M Suman, AVSM, VSM (Retd) was of the view that the scheme is risky as it may become difficult to recover the loan. Lt Gen A Joshi, PVSM, AVSM (Retd) observed that the scheme may be implemented on a trial basis for few years. Chairman was of the view that the scheme should be implemented in good spirit and even if there are some defaulters, Bombay Sappers as community is likely to benefit.

(d) The Edn loan scheme was approved by all present for implementation after taking into account concerns of Maj Gen SG Pitre (Retd).

22. **Agenda Points 2. Distress grant to widow of PBOR who die during service.**

(a) It has been noticed that when a PBOR expires during the service (for any reason), the financial support to the family is immediately cut off. It takes about two to three months for the financial help that comes from the establishment.

(b) It is proposed that financial help of Rs 5000/- be given to the widow immediately from the funds of the BSA. AWWA releases Rs 5000/- immediately. Generally, the unit where the person was last serving, should also be willing to give Rs 5000/- to Rs 10,000/- as one time grant. Thus with Rs 15,000/- - 20,000/- the widow can manage day-today expenditure for about two to three months by which time, financial help from Govt, AG's Branch etc will start coming in.

(c) The data of number of deaths occurred during last seven years is given in following table, from which it could be concluded that, on an average, the BSA should earmark approx Rs 2.5 lacs per year for this cause. It should be possible to allocate this amount every year.

Year	BC	Phy Causality	Total
2002	20	37	57
2003	08	39	47
2004	06	44	50
2005	04	44	48
2006	03	54	57
2007	03	40	43
2008	02	35	37
<b>Total</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>339</b>

(d) Col Birender Singh (CO 109 ER) expressed that there is no need to give this money as enough money is given by units to the NOK.

(e) Col V Gulati (CO 114 ER) expressed that such help creates problem of whom to give money as the family members have dispute over the NOK.

(f) Gp Sub Maj H N Singh was of the view that the help should be given as it is immediate requirement. Contribution from units invariably takes time in collecting donations from offr and PBOR.

(g) The proposal was approved for implementation.

**Budget Presentation**

23. The budget FY 2008-09 presentation was done by Secy-cum-Treasurer as per tables shown below:-

S, NO	BUDGET HEAD	ALLOTMENT FY 08-09	EXPDR FY 08-09
1.	Edn Scholarship	2,61,100.00	2,60,500.00
2.	Sports Scholarship	50,000.00	NIL
3.	Army school Beas/GBH	7,92,915.00	8,06,754.00
4.	Distress Grant	1,78,000.00	1,78,000.00
5.	News Letter	8,000.00	2,704.00

S, NO	BUDGET HEAD	ALLOTMENT FY 08-09	EXPDR FY 08-09
6.	Salary	1,49,500.00	1,00,700.00
7.	Maint of Comptr	17,659.00	17,367.00
8.	Audit Fee	15,000.00	15,000.00
9.	Telephone Bill	12,874.00	12,720.00
10.	Office Functioning	15,000.00	14,004.00
11.	Membership Card	10,650.00	10,650.00
12.	Misc/Reserve	15,000.00	22,495.00
13.	Sapper Sarai Pune	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00
14.	Sapper Sarai Chandigarh	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>35,20,402.00</b>	<b>34,40,894.00</b>

### **Passing of Balance Sheet for the Year 2008 – 09**

24. The Balance sheet as on 31 Mar 2009, duly audited by the Chartered Accountant was displayed on the screen and adequate copies were placed in the house for consideration by the Members. Income & expenditure statement for the period 01 Apr 2008 to 31 Mar 2009 and Receipt & Payment Account for the period 01 Apr 2008 to 31 Mar 2009 was also put up to the house for consideration and discussion. These are as shown in the subsequent paragraphs.

### **25. Balance sheet for the period from 01 Apr 08 to 31 Mar 09.**

ASSETS		LIABILITIES	
Cash in hand	NIL	Subscription	2,16,52,814.00
Cash in Bank	3,09,271.14	Bank Commission	222.00
Investment (Fds)	2,18,00,000.00	Donation	1,35,000.00
Loan	4,47,250.00	Budget	7,36,844.14
Property	14,548.51	Interest	31,641.00
		Property	14,548.51
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,25,71,069.65</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>2,25,71,069.65</b>

### **26. Income and expenditure statement from 01 Apr 2008 to 31 Mar 2009**

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	INCOME	AMOUNT
Education Scholarship	2,60,500.00	Donation	14,70,000.00
Distress Grant	1,78,000.00	Interest on FDs	23,49,101.00
Salary	1,00,700.00	Interest From Saving A/C	48,502.00
Tele Bill	12,720.00	Interest From Edn Loan	37,758.00
Office Functioning	14,004.00	Charge for Duplicate Membership Card	950.00
GBH/APS Beas	8,06,754.80	Income from Sappers Sarai	6,000.00
Computer Maint	17,367.00	Non Encashment of Sch Cheque	14,200.00

EXPENDITURE	AMOUNT	INCOME	AMOUNT
Sapper Sarai Pune	10,00,000.00	Cheque Cancelled	435.00
Sapper Sarai Chandigarh	10,00,000.00		
Printing of Broch	2,704.00		
Audit Fees	15,000.00		
Printing of Membership Card	10,650.00		
Misc Expdr	22,495.20		
Depreciation	58,069.77		
Net Surplus Tfr to Balance Sheet	4,27,981.23		
<b>Total</b>	<b>39,26,946.00</b>		<b>39,26,946.00</b>

27. **Loan disbursed in the FY 2008-09**

Diploma Student	10 x 21000	=	2,10,000.00
Diploma Student	11 x 21000	=	2,31,000.00
Diploma Student	05 x 21000	=	1,05,000.00
L/Nk Nirmal Singh	01 x 50000	=	50,000.00
Diploma Student	07 x 21000	=	1,47,000.00
			-----
<b>Total Rs</b>		<b>=</b>	<b>7,43,000.00</b>
			-----

Total No of JCO/OR Benefitted 34

28. **Proposed Budget for FY 2009-10 is given below:-**

SR NO	BUDGET HEAD	ALLOTMENT FY 2008-09	EXPDR FY 2008-09	PROPOSED BUDGET 09-10
1.	Edn Scholarship	2,61,100.00	2,60,500.00	3,00,000.00
2.	Sports Scholarship	50,000.00	NIL	50,000.00
3.	Army School Beas/GBH	7,92,915.00	8,06,754.00	NIL
4.	Distress Grant	1,78,000.00	1,78,000.00	3,00,000.00
5.	News Letter	8,000.00	2,704.00	NIL
6.	Salary	1,49,500.00	1,00,700.00	7,00,000.00
7.	Maint of Compnr	17,659.00	17,367.00	25,000.00
8.	Audit Fee	15,000.00	15,000.00	18,000.00
9.	Telephone Bill	12,874.00	12,720.00	20,000.00
10.	Office Functioning	15,000.00	14,004.00	20,000.00
11.	Membership Card	10,650.00	10,650.00	10,000.00
12.	Misc/Reserve	15,000.00	22,495.00	1,35,000.00
13.	Sapper Sarai Pune	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	NIL
14.	Sapper Sarai Delhi	-	-	9,00,000.00
15.	Sapper Sarai Chandigarh	10,00,000.00	10,00,000.00	NIL
	<b>Total</b>	<b>35,20,402.00</b>	<b>34,40,894.00</b>	<b>24,78,000.00</b>

29. **Open House** Dir asked all present if there were any points that any one wished to express. No points were raised.

**Election of Mgmt Committee.**

30. Director asked all present whether any one wants to become member of mgmt committee or wants to suggest name of any member for the committee. There was no fresh proposal. All members of the present mgmt committee gave their willingness to continue.

**Vote of Thanks**

31. In the end, the house thanked the Management Committee for the excellent work done during the year, and desired that the good work should continue in the coming year.

**Closing Address**

32. The Chairman, in his closing address, thanked all members for their presence and the excellent work done by the Management Committee members. He conveyed his best wishes to all the members and their families.

33. There being no other point, the tenth AGM was concluded with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

(R N Tiwari)  
Col  
Secy-cum-Treasurer  
For Vice Chairman

10002/AGM-11/BSA

Bombay Sappers Association  
C/O Headquarters  
Bombay Engineer Group & Centre  
Kirkee, Pune-411003

Oct 2009

**Distribution:-**

Chairman.  
Vice Chairman.  
All members of the Management Committee.  
All Bombay Sappers Units  
Websites of BSA and the Bombay Sappers.