



MINUTES OF MEETING

Committee for Scrutiny and Evaluation of Proposals (CSEP)

1. MEETING DETAILS

Purpose	To review the death-in-service assistance application filed on behalf of the bereaved family of Late Sh. Shyamu Mahagu Sharnagat, Forest Guard, who died on 05.08.2026 while on patrol duty in the buffer area of Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra, and to determine the compensation payable to his family in light of the ex-gratia compensation and other benefits already extended by the Government of Maharashtra.
Date/Time/Mode	09 August 2026 (Sunday) / 4:30 PM to 5:15 PM (approx.) / Google Meet
Chaired by	Sh. Surendra Kumar, Vice-Chairman, CSEP

2. MEMBERS PRESENT

1	Sh. Surendra Kumar, IFS (Retd.) — Vice-Chairman, CSEP (In the Chair)
2	Sh. A.K. Johari, IFS (Retd.)
3	Sh. Anil Ganeriwala, IFS (Retd.)
4	Ms. Cheshta Singh, IFS
5	Sh. Kunal Satyarthi, IFS

3. BACKGROUND OF THE CASE

Late Sh. Shyamu Mahagu Sharnagat (Age-45), Forest Guard, died on 5th August 2026 while on patrol duty in the buffer area of the Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Maharashtra, after being attacked by a sloth bear at around 5:15 PM. While attempting to escape by climbing a tree, his leg became entangled in the branches, enabling the animal to overpower him. The post-mortem report attributed death to haemorrhagic shock consistent with a wild-animal attack. The Field Director, Navegaon-Nagzira Tiger Reserve, Gondia, Maharashtra certified that the death occurred in the line of duty and without negligence on the part of the deceased.

Sh. Surendra Kumar, IFS (Retd.), presented the case before the Committee for scrutiny.

4. DISCUSSION

- The Committee noted that the deceased's family had already been paid ₹25,00,000 as ex-gratia compensation by the Government of Maharashtra on 7th August 2026, held as a 10-year fixed deposit in the joint name of the legal heirs, as per the state policy.
- Sh. Surendra Kumar, IFS (Retd.) apprised the Committee of the Government of Maharashtra's policy for forest personnel who die or are disabled while protecting forests, under which if the family declines a compassionate appointment, the pay of the deceased is made fixed as if he had not died, including due promotions and annual increments, and paid to the family until the date of his original superannuation. The State also bears the full cost of hospital treatment and surgery for injured employees.

- The Committee noted that a compassionate appointment was not presently admissible on account of the age of the surviving children, and even that the spouse had expressed her unwillingness to accept such an appointment.
- Sh. A.K. Johari and other members observed that Maharashtra's policy was an exemplary model that merited being brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister.
- Sh. Anil Ganeriwala and Sh. Kunal Satyarthi noted that, since the State's compensation package effectively guaranteed the family an income equivalent to full salary until the deceased's date of retirement, the family's distress was primarily emotional rather than financial, and that the Committee's assistance in such cases is customarily a token amount.
- The Committee agreed that the present case qualified for assistance from the Trust.

5. FAMILY CONDITION & FINANCIAL BACKGROUND

The deceased is survived by his wife, aged 40 years, who is not employed and has no independent source of income, and two minor children, one aged 17 years. The family was entirely dependent on the income of Late Sh. Shyamu Mahagu Sharnagat. The Government of Maharashtra has, however, already secured the family's long-term financial position through the ₹25,00,000 fixed deposit and the pay-protection benefit noted above, materially reducing the family's financial vulnerability as compared to cases previously considered by the Committee.

6. FURTHER DISCUSSION

- The Committee noted that the State's comprehensive compensation package comprising the ₹25 lakh fixed deposit, pay protection till the date of superannuation, and coverage of hospital and related costs provides the family strong long-term financial security.
- Members agreed that, notwithstanding this security, a token grant from the Trust remains appropriate as a mark of solidarity with the bereaved family.
- The Committee agreed for a financial assistance of ₹2,00,000 to the bereaved family.
- The Committee further agreed to recommend that Maharashtra's compassionate compensation policy be circulated to other State Governments and brought to the notice of the Hon'ble Minister, as suggested by Sh. A.K. Johari to encourage the adoption of similarly clear and compassionate benefit frameworks for the families of forest personnel who die in the line of duty.

7. DECISION TAKEN

Having considered the certified line-of-duty nature of the death and the substantial financial security already extended to the family by the Government of Maharashtra, the Committee resolved to sanction a token financial assistance of ₹2,00,000 (Rupees Two Lakh only) to the family of Late Sh. Shammu Maghru Sarnagat, Forest Guard, to be disbursed to Smt. Bhumeshwari Shyamu Sharnagat, wife of the deceased. The grant may be released to her SBI bank account no. 38671260522, Branch-Tirora.

The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks to all members.


(Surendra Kumar)

Vice-Chairman

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IFSBWT, New Delhi