

MINUTES OF THE 55TH YAI ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
20 DEC 24

1. The 55th YAI Annual General Meeting was held at 1430h on 20 Dec 24 on Webex Online Portal. The following Council Members were present: -

Chairman

Admiral Karambir Singh (Retd) - President

Members

Lt Gen SK Shrivastava (Retd)	Senior Vice President
Lt Gen TSA Narayanan (Retd)	Chairperson Asian Games and Olympics Classes Committee
Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd)	Chairperson Youth Classes Committee
Mr. Atul Kulkarni	Chairperson Sailing and Club Development Committee
Mr. Ashok Thakkar	Chairperson Fund Raising and Publicity Committee
Mr. Suheim Sheikh	Chairperson Sailing Performance and Development Committee
Ms Nilma Shah	Chairperson Women Development Committee
Cmde Amit Srivastava	Honorary Secretary General
Captain Jitendra Dixit	Honorary Joint Secretary General
Captain Manish Sain	Treasurer
Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd)	Co-opted member

2. **Attendance by Member Units and Long Term Members.** The following affiliated State Associations, Class Associations and Clubs and Long-Term Members were present during the meeting: -

<u>Name</u>	<u>Organisation</u>
Lt Cdr Pravin Prabhakar	470 Class Association of India
Mr. Ajay Yadav	-
Mr. Rainer Dias	Goa Yachting Association
Mr. Rakesh Kumar	-
Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd)	Co-opted member
Mr. Ajay Kumar Singh	RMSC



Mr. Ajit Diaz	Chennai Sailing Academy
Lt Col Anil K Kashyap	Long Term Member
Mr. Arjun Pradipak	Secunderabad Sailing Club
Captain Tarandeep Bakshi	MWTC INA
Mr. Dan	-
Lt Col Deepak Singh Dikhit (Retd)	International Judge
Maj Liju	EMESA
Mr. Gopal Amin	Board Sailing Association
INSA Rep	INSA
Captain AS Patankar	Dir Trg / INWTC(Mumbai)
Mr. Jolly Thomas	KWSO
Mr. Jehan Driver	Long Term Member
MCEME Rep	EMESA
Lt Col MP Jaggi (Retd)	Long Term Member
Hon Captain Narendersinh Rajput (Retd)	NSS Bhopal
Mr. Nitin	NACRA Class Association
Offshore Sailing Node Rep	Offshore Sailing Node, Mumbai
Mr. Philippe Dartnel	Premier Kiteboarding Association
Mr. RV Gautam	Umiam Sailing Club
Lt Col Alok Kumar Yadav	Long Term Member
Mr. Vikas Kapila	Long Term Member
Mr. Ramakrishnan Venkitachalam	TNSA
Mr. Shahid Basheer	TSC
Ms. Taramati Matiwade	Long Term Member
Lt Col Utpal More	Army Yachting Node
Mr. Vivek Shanbag	RMYC
Capt Arvind Sharma	KSSA
Maj Mukta S Gautam	EMESC Bhopal

Item No. 1 – Opening Remarks by President YAI

3. The President extended his warm welcome to all members for attending 55th General Body Meeting. The President informed the General Body that the Indian sailing teams have been actively participating in various international events and have been performing relatively well. With continued focus on achieving excellence, our sailors

will bring home many more medals for India in future events as Indian team won three medals in the Asian Games 2023 in China. He highlighted that Brig GS Julka (Retd), International Judge, Mr Ajit Diaz, International Measurer and Chandra Shekhar Dalai, Havildar, International Race Officer have successfully officiated at Asian Games 2023. Further, two YAI sailors, Sub Vishnu Saravanan and Ms Nethra Kumanan had a satisfactory outing at Paris Olympics 2024. Hav Chandra Shekhar Dalai has also made sailing fraternity proud by officiating as International Race Official at Paris Olympics.

4. It was informed that the ACTC for the year 2024-25 had been approved in Apr 24 for a budget of Rs 4.87 Cr. The ACTC for 2025-26 is under preparation.

5. The President apprised the General Body that in view of the ongoing Court case at Delhi High Court, YAI had sought waiver from MYAS to retain its present voting structure, in which all member units viz. State Associations, Class Associations and Sailing Centres/ Nodes/ clubs vote. MYAS is yet to renew the Annual recognition for 2024 of few Federations, including YAI, and the grant-in-aid funding was suspended in compliance with the Delhi HC order. Notwithstanding, the Hon'ble court had set up a committee in SAI to commence disbursement of funds directly to the athletes and coaches, and our sailors participated in the international events as approved in ACTC.

6. The President highlighted that Asian Games 2026 are scheduled to be held from 19 Sep – 04 Oct 26 at Gamagori (Aichi Prefecture), Japan where Indian sailors will be participating in 14 events (07 Senior and 07 Junior classes). The YAI and all stake holders have to put in focussed efforts towards training of sailors in order to get a rich medal haul at the event. The planning and preparations for major sailing events including LA 2028 Olympics and beyond will require dedicated efforts from all stake holders.

7. The President brought out that apart from supporting our elite sailors towards winning of medals at international events, YAI has an important charter of promoting sailing at the grass-root level. The efforts being put in by the member units towards conduct of training camps at various locations across the country are praiseworthy. Dedicated training and learning camps for junior sailors have been conducted by INWTC Mumbai & RBYC at Colaba, MG&G Club/ AYN at Girgaum Chowpatty in Mumbai, by the GYA at Dona Paula, Goa, EMESA/ SSC at Hyderabad and by TNSA/ RMYC at Chennai. YCH and NSS Bhopal have continued with the good work for Youth Sailors. In addition to this it was very heartening to see the 'Inclusive Sailing' event conducted by RMSC/ KSSA at Mysuru for the paraplegic sailors in Hansa class of boats in Aug 2024 and the dedicated efforts need to be sustained in promoting sailing amongst the youth.

8. The President brought out that the circumnavigation seminar hosted by the Royal Mysore Sailing Club (RMSC) and Karnataka State Sailing Association (KSSA) on 30 Nov 24 was well appreciated. The sailing fraternity got the privilege of interaction with Sir Robin Knox Johnston, the first solo sailor to non-stop circumnavigate the globe under sail in 1969 on a sailing yacht Suhaili built in India. Major AK Singh (Retd), the first differently abled yachtsperson to sail around the world being part of the crew of Trishna in 1987. Captain Dilip Donde (Retd), the first Indian to complete a solo circumnavigation of the



globe as part of Project Sagar Parikrama in 2009-10. Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd), who made history by becoming the first Indian to complete a non-stop solo circumnavigation of the world under sails in 2013. He also participated in the Golden Globe Races in 2018 and 2022, finishing second in the latter. Lt Cdr Payal Gupta (Retd) who was part of India's first all women crew to sail around the world on Tarini in 2018. She was also the first Indian to participate in the Ocean Globe Race with her team winning the race. The sailing fraternity acknowledged the grit, determination and the immense contribution of these sailors towards the Ocean sailing endeavours with their stupendous achievements.

9. The President informed the General Body that the YAI has been focussed in promoting sailing both at grass roots and elite level in India and the Indian sailing teams are regularly competing at the Olympics, winning medals at the Asian Games and other international championships. YAI has also been promoting offshore sailing wherein various offshore events at national level and expeditions across the country and the world have been supported. Even at the present moment, two women naval officers are circumnavigating the globe in INSV Tarini, showcasing women's empowerment.

10. The President emphasised that the development of women teams in all classes as well as bringing in gender equality into the sport are issues of utmost importance and urgency. We all have to work collectively towards achieving these goals. YAI must continue upholding the principles of good governance and international best practices, while maintaining the ethos of a democratically constituted body. With the whole hearted support from Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Sports Authority of India and IOA, YAI is confident of producing a historic result at the forthcoming Asian Games and beyond.

11. The President thanked the Yachting community at large, for their mature and whole hearted support which has helped propel the sport throughout the country.

Item No. II - To Approve & Confirm Minutes of the AGM held on 31 Jul 23

12. The HSG, Cmde Amit Srivastava requested for confirmation of the minutes of meeting held on 31 Jul 23 and the same was approved by the General Body. The motion was proposed by Lt Gen TSA Narayanan (Retd) and seconded by Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd).

Item No. III – Treasurer's Report for FY 2023-24

13. The broad overview of income and expenditure status for FY 2022-23 & 2023-24 was elucidated to the General Body. The HSG highlighted that balance sheets have also been uploaded on YAI website for information.

14. The balance sheets for FY 2022-23 & 2023-24 were approved by the General Body, the motion having been proposed by Mr Atul Kulkarni and seconded by Lt Gen TSA Narayanan.

Item No. IV – Appointment of Auditors for FY 2024-25

15. **Appointment of Auditors.** Sanjay K Pathak & Associates were proposed to be re-appointed as statutory auditors. According to MYAS directives, only CAG empanelled audit firms are to be appointed as auditors. Since, Sanjay K Pathak & Associates meet the guidelines, they were appointed as auditors for the FY 2024-25. The same was proposed by Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) and seconded by Mr. Suheim Sheikh.

Item No. V – Honorary Secretary General's Report

16. **ACTC.** HSG informed the General Body that ACTC for the current year has been approved for a budget of 4.87 Cr and ACTC for the year 2025 is under preparation.

17. **International Events Participation.** The HJSG covered the event wise participation by Indian Team in various International Competitions during Aug 23 to Dec 24. It was highlighted that Indian Sailors had won three medals in Asian Games, China and the two Indian sailors had improved performances in Paris Olympics 2024. It was brought out that there is scope of improvement in IQ Foil and Formula kite classes. It was stated that though ACTC for current year was complete with Paris Olympics, but SAI has, in principle, agreed to include two junior events and one major event for seniors in Feb, Mar & Apr 2025. Budget of approx. Rs. 3 Crs has been agreed to 'in principle' and proposal for the same has been sent for approval.

18. **Asian Games 2026.** HJSG brought out that there will be seven events each for Junior and Senior classes scheduled in Asian Games 2026. The finalised classes for the same were shared with the General Body. It was informed that the NACRA 17 (Mixed), Formula Kite (Men & Women) classes have been dropped from Asian Games 2026. However, the issue has been strongly taken up in ASAF AGM and Japan sailing federation has been requested for re-consideration.

19. **Domestic Events Participation.** HJSG brought out that the domestic events are being organised by the respective OAs and the same is commendable. The event wise performance of sailors in various domestic ranking competitions during Aug 23 to Dec 24 was highlighted. The domestic events scheduled in 2025 were also covered. It was brought out that the year 2025 is an important one being the pre-Asian Games year. Three Asian Games trials have been scheduled to be held in Nov, Jan and Feb-Mar based on which Indian team will be selected for Asian Games 2026. Selected sailors will be get the international exposure and training wef Apr 2026 till Asian Games in Sep 2026.

Item No. VI – Agenda Points

20. **Agenda Points.** Nil agenda points were received for the AGM.

Item No. VII - Presentation of YAI Annual Awards for the year 2024

21. The YAI Awards Committee considered the nominations received from 'member units' for the YAI Annual Awards for the year 2024. The list of awardees is as follows:-

Ser	Trophy	Awarded To
(a)	YAI Life Time Achievement Award	Mr. Ashok Thakkar, TNSA
		Lt Col MP Jaggi (Retd), EMESA
(b)	Admiral Kohli Trophy	Lt Col Alok Yadav
(c)	Admiral RH Tahiliani Trophy for the yachtsperson of the year	Vishnu Saravanan, Sub, AYN
		Eabad Ali, Nb Sub, AYN
(d)	E-in-C Trophy for most promising lady sailor	Ms Nethra Kumanan, TNSA
		Ms Neha Thakur, NSS/ INWTC Mbi
(e)	Admiral Nadkarni Trophy for most promising yachtsperson of the year	Sikhansu Singh, Hav, AYN
(f)	Race Official Trophy	Chandra Shekar Dalai, Hav, (International Race Officer)
		AN Swamy, PO COM (Tel) (National Measurer)
(g)	Admiral Ramdas Trophy	Lt Cdr Roopa A, OSN
		Lt Cdr Dilna K, OSN
(h)	Admiral RK Dhowan Trophy for best sailing club	EME Sailing Association

Item No. VIII - Any other business with permission of the chair

22. The President highlighted that there have been no sponsorships available for the YAI, and no progress has been made on the funding issue to date. Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd) added that he had approached the Goa Government to adopt the sport of sailing, but they have not responded yet. He further suggested that an alternative option is to work on social media by getting some interns to handle the social media profile of YAI, which could influence potential sponsors as they would become more aware of the sport. Currently, there are limited views on the official social media handles of YAI.

23. HJSG highlighted the need to form a team or committee proficient in managing social media accounts. The President noted that hiring a social media team would also involve costs. Mr Suheim Sheikh and Lt Gen TSA Narayanan (Retd) recommended that Lt Col Alok Yadav could be involved in the planning and oversight of financial resource and budget management for the YAI. The President agreed and sought the general body's views on this suggestion.

24. Capt Arvind Sharma mentioned that efforts are ongoing to garner funds from sponsors for KSSA. However, companies have asked about the credentials of the

National Federation and how CSR funding will be managed and dispersed, seeking legal contracts akin to how government funds the ACTC. Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd) added that several companies and private organizations work on a commission basis for sports marketing. Lt Col Alok Yadav expressed his willingness to assist with budget management for YAI and to strategize on financial resources. Cdr Abhilash Tomy (Retd) reiterated that funding directly depends on visibility through social media, press articles, and news. Mr. Atul Kulkarni suggested that print media, such as The Times of India, could be engaged for this purpose.

25. **Decision.** The President directed that Lt Col Alok Yadav be tasked with overseeing the strategy for managing financial resources and budget for YAI in FY 2025-26.

Action by – YAI Sectt & Lt Col Alok Yadav

26. Mr. Suheim Sheikh requested the President to write to all Army and Navy nodes to start Girls Sports Companies in addition to Boys Sports Companies. Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) seconded the same as the same is also being followed up in other sports like shooting. Lt Gen SK Shrivastava (Retd) added that Boys Sports Companies are funded and supported by Govt. and hence, approval will be required for Girls Sports Companies too.

27. **Decision.** The President agreed to issue letters to explore the feasibility of forming Girls Sports Company for sailing.

Action by – YAI Sectt

28. Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) brought out that 20% of ACTC budget could be utilised for the purchase of sailing equipment and building up the fleets and propose to the Govt to increase the ACTC funding. Lt Gen TSA Narayanan (Retd) seconded the idea of getting money from the Govt to buy the sailing equipment. Mr. Suheim Sheikh stated that the new equipment must be reserved for the international participation/ top participants rather than for practice.

29. **Decision.** The President directed to examine the issue.

Action by – YAI Sectt

30. Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) brought out the point of building boats in India. Mr. Ashok Thakkar highlighted that when boat is imported, the duty exemption is given, however, the same is not the case when boat builder imports the parts/ accessories which results in increase of cost of boat built in India. He suggested a case be taken up with Govt. for reduction of GST on sailing boats and duty exemption in customs duties.

31. **Decision.** The President directed that a letter to Gol/ Finance Minister on the issue of GST be made.

Action by – YAI Sectt

32. Capt Arvind Sharma highlighted about the maiden para sailing event held in 2024. He added that there is a need to form a YAI committee on para sailors.

33. **Decision.** The President directed that a YAI Para Sailing Committee be constituted.

Action by – YAI Sectt

34. Mr. Jolly Thomas brought out that KWSO has been issuing YAI Power boat handling certificates. However, Kerala maritime board has declared that the PBH certificates issued by various agencies are invalid except the ones issued by them. Mr. Suheim Sheikh highlighted that YAI should write to concerned Ministry indicating that YAI certificate is valid across the country. Capt AS Patankar highlighted that the issue of PBH certificates have been paused as on date since as per syllabus the PBH course being conducted is an introductory course which is done in two days on 60 HP boats with throttle time for each person upto 2 hrs in duration of the course and is not for commercial purpose. Mr. Suheim Sheikh stated that there is a need to revise the syllabus as same is almost 15-20 years old.

35. **Decision.** The President directed that a suitable committee be constituted to study/ review the YAI training syllabus.

Action by – YAI Sectt

36. Lt Gen TSA Narayanan (Retd) brought out that lectures should be organised for the sailors to generate awareness about banned drugs as per WADA list of prohibited drugs. Lt Col Utpal More of AYN stated that in the forthcoming Sail India 2025, AYN will conduct the same for all the participating sailors.

37. **Decision.** The President directed that lectures should be organised at major sailing events for the sailors to generate awareness about banned drugs as per WADA list of prohibited drugs.

Action by – YAI Sectt/AYN

38. Mr. Suheim Sheikh brought out that the ACTC should be finalised only after Asian Games classes are officially known. Further, the current ranking system should be modified as the Nationals is non discardable and becomes mandatory for sailors to participate. In case of the top performing sailors missing out the Nationals due to injury, they may have to miss the participation in Asian Games/ other international events. HJSG highlighted that as per the YAI policy, nationals are non-discardable and there will be three separate selection trials scheduled for Asian Games 2026. Maj Gen MS Pillai (Retd) highlighted that in case of top player missing Nationals due to any valid reason, the case may be referred to the YAI selection committee.

39. **Decision.** The President directed that the YAI Selection committee is to consider the issue of injury suffered top ranking sailors on a case-to-case basis.

Action by – YAI Sectt

40. Hon Capt Narendrasinh from NSS Bhopal requested that junior sailors of NSS be provided access to sea for training of sailors at Mumbai. Mr. Ashok Thakkar brought out that NSS Bhopal had already signed an MoU with TNSA for the open sea training of sailors. However, Hon Capt Narendrasinh requested that the training be facilitated in Mumbai as all the Asian Games trials are scheduled in Mumbai.

41. **Decision.** The President directed that the feasibility of assisting NSS Bhopal be explored at Mumbai.

Action by – YAI Sectt

42. Hon Capt Narendrasinh requested that the Govt may be requested to include the sports quota of Yachting post-retirement.


43. **Decision.** The President directed that the proposal of inclusion of yachting sports quota for retired armed forces personnel needs to be examined by the respective service Headquarters.

Action by – INSA/AYN/EMESA

Item No. IX - Vote of Thanks

44. Lt Gen SK Shrivastava (Retd), Senior Vice President proposed the vote of thanks to the chair. He appreciated the efforts of all the members for lively discussions on various issues related to the sport of Yachting. He highlighted the contribution and selfless service of Mr. Ashok Thakkar to the sport of sailing. He further appreciated the efforts of Lt Col MP Jaggi (Retd) for his contribution. He also appreciated the efforts of YAI Sectt on various issues including coordination of all sailing & training activities and management of Govt funding. He thanked the President, council members and other attendees for their valuable time and active participation during the discussions.

45. These minutes are issued with the approval of the President YAI.


 (Amit Srivastava)
 Commodore
 Hon Sec Gen YAI
 09 Jan 25