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DX/900/AGM-2018

20 May 18

**MINUTES OF 26TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NAVY FOUNDATION HELD
AT VIZAG ON 11 MAR 18**

1. The 26th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Navy Foundation was held at Vishakhapatnam on 11 Mar 18 under the chairmanship of Admiral Sunil Lanba PVSM, AVSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff and President, Navy Foundation. The following were present: -

(a) **Invitees.**

- | | | |
|------|----------------------------------|-----------------|
| (i) | V Adm Karambir Singh, PVSM, AVSM | FOC-in-C (East) |
| (ii) | Cmde K A Bopanna, NM | CO, INS Circars |

(b) **Members.**

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------|--------------------|
| (i) | V Adm R Hari Kumar, AVSM, VSM | Vice President, NF |
| (ii) | R Adm Pradeep Joshi, VSM | Secy RGC (West) |
| (iii) | R Adm Deepak Kapoor, VSM | Secy RGC (East) |
| (iv) | Cmde Joginder Chandna, VSM | Secy RGC (South) |
| (v) | Cmde Vivek Karnavat | Secretary, NF |
| (vi) | Cmde HS Chopra (Retd) | Treasurer, NF |

(c) **In Attendance.**

- | | | |
|-------|--------------------------|---------------|
| (i) | Cmde B K Munjal | PDECHS (Navy) |
| (ii) | Capt V K Gupta | PDPA |
| (iii) | Capt Dalbir S Rana | Secy INCCB |
| (iv) | Capt Subroto Mukherji | JDESA, NF |
| (v) | Cdr Swanuj Harshavardhan | JDESA, NF |

(d) **Chapter Representatives.**

- | | | |
|--------|--|----------------------------|
| (i) | V Adm R P Suthan(Retd),PVSM, AVSM, VSM | President, NF Kerala |
| (ii) | R Adm Sushil Ramsey (Retd), YSM | President, NF Delhi |
| (iii) | R Adm S Srikhande (Retd), AVSM | President, NF Goa |
| (iv) | R Adm T Sudhakar (Retd), AVSM, NM | Vice President, NF Vizag |
| (v) | Cmde VK Gautam (Retd), NM | President, NF C'digarh |
| (vi) | Cmde D Jena (Retd) | President, NF Odisha |
| (vii) | Cmde S K Pawnday (Retd) | Vice President, NF L'know |
| (viii) | Cmde KM Nair (Retd) | Vice President, NF B'gluru |
| (ix) | Capt R S Chowdhary (Retd) | Treasurer, NF Kolkata |
| (x) | Cdr Vijay Vadhera (Retd), NM | Secy, NF Mumbai |
| (xi) | Cdr L Radhakrishnan (Retd) | Secy, NF Chennai |
| (xii) | Cdr Mohan Philip (Retd) | Secy, NF Pune |
| (xiii) | Cdr G Eswara Reddy (Retd) | Secy, NF Hyderabad |
| (xiv) | Cdr Ashutosh Sharma (Retd) | Secy, NF Jaipur |
| (xv) | Cdr I Aravanan (Retd) | Secy, NF Coimbatore |

Item I: Welcome Address by Vice President, NF

2. The Vice President, NF extended a warm welcome to all present and thanked the outstation representatives who had made the effort to attend the meeting. He brought out that the Indian Navy was a modern, capable and combat ready force today due to the efforts and foresight of officers of yesteryears. He also expressed his gratitude towards the veteran officers for having helped the current generation to take initial steps into the naval world.

3. He emphasised that all present in the AGM represented the nation's collective wisdom regarding the maritime domain and matters pertaining to national security and hence the onus was on all of them to help shape the dialogue on matters maritime.

4. He also brought out that the Navy Foundation chapters were proactive and interactive during the meetings which were conducted at regular intervals. Good work had been done by all the 15 chapters in spreading awareness about the Navy, enriching the society at large and eradicating the negative effects of social media. He further elaborated the role of the veterans in motivating the younger generation of requisite calibre to join our fine service.

5. He then requested all veterans to keep interacting with DESA, the nodal point of contact for resolving their issues whether major or minor. He further brought out that DESA maintained a helpline and also operated a webpage, which was a part of the IN website which one could access to keep abreast of latest happenings in the Navy. The e-newsletter which was published quarterly by DESA brought out the latest policies affecting veterans. He also informed the gathering that Indian Navy was also

on the 'Facebook'. He then brought out that the Indian Navy Facebook page gave all the important happenings of interest and was updated on a daily basis.

6. He thereafter listed the new initiatives that had been taken to strengthen the Navy Foundation since the last AGM. In order to increase the membership numbers of the foundation, a new policy had been brought into force to ensure all officers retiring become NF Members. A new INPA (Indian Navy Placement agency) website was being launched to help veterans transition to a second career. The Indian Navy had tied up with M/s Monster.com to assist in placement of veterans. Commencing 2018 the octogenarians were also being felicitated with mementoes. A common headgear for naval veterans in line with the Army and the Airforce was being contemplated. A new initiative to tap into Corporate Social Responsibility funds for funding ESM welfare ventures like Old Age Home, Widow's Hostel and other veteran affairs was being worked out. A new policy for priority employment to widows was being progressed and it could come into force in the near future. A bill to ensure assured employment to widows of battle casualties/dependents of personnel who have died in harness was being aggressively pursued with the Ministry of Defence. He brought out that skill certification was now being conducted for retiring sailors over and above the pre-release courses in order to prepare them for their second career. He brought out that Samoa certification for IN personnel for transition to merchant navy was already in place through NAMAC. Constant effort was being made with DG Shipping for increasing availability of options to retiring personnel.

7. He then brought out that self help was the best help citing the example of an ESM organisation in Kerala who had bought land and ensured that an ECHS polyclinic was setup. He emphasised on the need to improve the finances and influence of the foundation. He offered all help to NF chapters including deputing officers of DESA towards achieving this goal. He concluded by once again welcoming everyone present for the AGM and wished a long, happy and healthy life to all the veterans.

Item II: Presentation by PDNPF

8. PDNPF provided details of the various welfare measures undertaken by the DNPF and in particular highlighted the following aspects:-

- (a) Post Retirement Death Insurance Extension Scheme (PRDIES).
- (b) INBA Welfare Schemes.
- (c) Social Security Deposits.

Item III: Presentation by PDECHS (Navy)

9. The PDECHS (Navy) covered the following aspects in his presentation:-

- (a) Details of the ECHS Scheme.
- (b) Regional Centres.

- (c) Types of Polyclinics.
- (d) Management of Polyclinics.
- (e) Proposal for Additional ECHS Polyclinics.
- (f) ECHS Membership and eligibility.
- (g) Disease Pattern.
- (h) On-Line Processing of Bills.
- (j) ECHS Budget.
- (k) Recent Developments.
- (l) Mitigation of Medicine Shortages.

Item IV: Discussion on New Agenda Points (Part I)

10. Five new agenda points were discussed under the chairmanship of V Adm R Hari Kumar, CPS and Vice President Navy Foundation. Details of discussions and decisions arrived at are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

Item V: Status of Old Agenda Points

11. Status of five actionable points from the last AGM was provided to the forum. Details are placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Item VI: Address by President, NF

12. At the outset, the President, Navy Foundation extended a warm welcome to all the members present and especially the outstation members for attending the AGM. He then requested all present to join him in paying homage to members who had departed for their heavenly abode since the last meeting by observing a minute's silence.

13. He stated that the meeting gave an opportunity to renew the bonds and expressed gratitude to the veterans for giving the Indian Navy a rock-solid foundation. He acknowledged that the navy was privileged to rely on the experience and wisdom of the veterans and looked forward to continued guidance in future. He brought out that it was his firm belief that all present were privileged to be a part of the Indian Navy, which not only had a rich history but had also seen tremendous growth over the years. He was certain that everyone present had been watching the Navy closely and had kept themselves abreast of the recent developments.

14. The President, Navy Foundation thereafter provided a broad overview of the prevailing regional and global environment and recent developments in the Navy. He highlighted that India's maritime vision had been undergoing a transformation over the

years. In sync with our nation's maritime vision, the Navy too had expanded its footprint and maintained a high operational tempo. The Navy had re-oriented its deployment philosophy to mission-based deployments which had given a high degree of presence, visibility and situational awareness in important maritime areas of interest.

15. He stated that mission based deployments of ships were being conducted in the Gulf of Aden, Malacca Strait, Persian Gulf, Central Indian Ocean, Sunda Strait and Northern Bay of Bengal. Additional deployment in the South Indian Ocean was likely to commence in Apr 2018. He stated that *IN* ships deployed in these areas were fully prepared to respond to any contingency and provide security to the international maritime community. The concept was already paying rich dividends with the Navy being the first responder to numerous crisis situations around the IOR. He thereafter apprised the audience about some of the activities conducted by the *IN* over the recent months.

16. He informed the gathering that rescue and relief operations by Indian Navy, had been widely appreciated. Some of the initiatives included, rescue of six crew members of Landing Craft Marina 3 on a request from Maldives, relief operations at Sri Lanka after severe flooding, relief operation in Bangladesh and Myanmar after cyclone Mora, SAR operation of a capsized fishing boat at Port Moresby on 12 Jun 17, shipment of 777 tons of relief aid by *INS Gharial* to Bangladesh in Sep 17 during Rohingya Crisis and HADR operation by 10 ships and 8 aircraft during cyclone 'Ockhi'.

17. He informed the gathering that as part of its wider role of providing security to shipping in the Indian Ocean Region, the Indian Navy continued to deploy one ship for anti-piracy patrol in the Gulf of Aden. A total of 67 *IN* warships had been deployed till date, to safely escort more than 3800 (including more than 400 Indian flagged) ships with over 25,000 mariners embarked. Till date the *IN* had thwarted 44 piracy attempts and apprehended 120 pirates.

18. He also highlighted that in addition to honing war fighting skills with rigorous exercises through the year, our ships proudly showed the flag in several countries across oceans. The Indian Navy had participated in various exercises and launched various initiatives to further bolster our bilateral relationship with friendly foreign countries.

19. He informed the gathering that Indian Navy units had participated in Naval Defence and Maritime Security Exhibition (NAVDEX) 2017 at Abu Dhabi, VARUNA with French Navy in Apr 17, KONKAN with Royal Navy and SIMBEX with Singapore Navy in May 17. The President, NF highlighted that Exercise Malabar which was widely covered by the media, saw participation of aircraft carriers from India, USA and Japan as well as other ships, submarines and a large variety of aircraft. The 10th edition of Exercise INDRA, which was held in Russia was unique as it involved elements of all the three Services of both the nations exercising together for the first time. He also stated that ships were deployed on Survey OSD to Sri Lanka, Mauritius and Tanzania. In addition, Joint EEZ patrols off Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius as well as Coordinated Patrols (CORPATs) with Myanmar, Thailand and Indonesia were also undertaken.

20. He stated that many in the gathering may have been following the voyage of INSV Tarini, with all women crew of six officers that departed Goa for circumnavigation voyage on 10 Sep 17. The crew had been awarded with the Nari Shakti Puraskar, 2017 that was presented by the Hon'ble President of India on International Women's Day on 08 Mar 18.

21. The President, NF brought out he has always believed that personnel are the navy's greatest strength. Hence, a number of initiatives towards community support measures had been initiated in order to make the Navy a taut, efficient and happy service. In the same vein, well being of the veterans and widows has always been an area of prime concern for the Navy and would always continue to remain so.

22. The President, NF thereafter highlighted the welfare aspects put in place by the Navy. He informed that over the last year the Navy had focussed its institutional endeavours to fructify on-going initiatives for the benefit of the veterans. In its bid towards improving delivery of health services through ECHS, the Navy was actively pursuing cases to set-up new polyclinics and empanel additional private hospitals. The ECHS management was working to resolve the problems, especially shortage of medicines.

23. The President, NF was very happy to note that naval veterans and veernaris were in receipt of the updated, post 7th CPC pensions. He stated that over the past one year he had not come across any serious case of pension anomaly.

24. The President, NF acknowledged the yeoman role played by the Navy Foundation. In addition to enriching the society at large, the efforts of the foundation had helped spread awareness about the Navy amongst civilian population of the country. He suggested that the Navy Foundation Chapters could work in close co-ordination with the Navy's recruitment agencies to reach out and spread awareness about our fine Service amongst the student community to attract the best talent available. He informed the gathering that the Navy had successfully conducted the maiden computer based entrance test across 135 centres in 59 cities this year.

25. The President, NF observed that there was a vast pool of information, experience and professional wisdom that resided with veterans which needed to be tapped. Accordingly, the Navy had put in place a number of enablers with the aim to remain networked. The Directorate of Ex-Servicemen Affairs was accessible to all through email and its helpline. The Indian Navy website as well as a 'Facebook' page were regularly updated to keep everyone abreast of latest happenings in the Navy. He requested all present to go through the e-newsletter published quarterly by DESA as it contained information that was valuable to the veterans. He was fully conscious of the fact that much more needs to be done for the retired fraternity and looked forward to suggestions. He thereafter, thanked everyone again and conveyed the Navy's sincere gratitude to its veterans for their leadership and contributions whilst in service, and for their steadfast support and guidance even after swallowing the anchor.

Item VII: Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of last AGM.

26. The Secretary confirmed that the minutes of 25th AGM had been forwarded to all Chapters. The motion for confirmation of the 25th AGM minutes was proposed by

Cdr Eshwar Reddy (Retd), Secy NF, Hyderabad and seconded by Cdr L Radhakrishnan (Retd) Secy NF, Chennai.

Item VIII: Secretary's Report

27. The Secretary presented the report on the activities of the Navy Foundation since the last Annual General Meeting held at Mumbai in Nov 16.
28. He highlighted the change in the stewardship of a few Chapters since the last AGM and that he looked forward to a fruitful interaction ahead. He informed that DESA has constantly endeavoured to serve as the bridge of friendship between the 'Uniform' and the 'Civvies' by providing all the relevant information through emails, DESA Blog and the e-newsletter. He brought out that the guiding principle at DESA was 'Enhancing Index of Satisfaction of the Retirees Life'.
29. He informed the gathering that two of the veteran officers along with their spouses attended the 'Victory Day' celebrations of Bangladesh at Dhaka in Dec 17. He thereafter highlighted the various activities undertaken by the respective Chapters. The collated activity report indicated that "Navy Foundation" remained a lively organisation engaged in social, philanthropic and larger nation building work.
30. He brought out that the Bangalore, Delhi and Mumbai chapters conducted their customary annual memorial lectures. At Bengaluru, Adm P S Das spoke on Indo China Indo America Pacific Aspirations and Constraints during the Adm Pereira Memorial lecture. Dr Gurcharan Das spoke about 'The Difficulty of Being Good' during the Adm Katari Memorial lecture in Delhi. In Mumbai, Brig Sushil Bhasin spoke about "Passion with Mission" during the Adm Soman memorial lecture. The Bangalore chapter also organised a talk by Dr Ali Khwaja on 'Life Begins at 60'. During the AGM of Goa chapter, Mrs Alka Damle spoke about 'Social Responsibility'. The Pune chapter conducted a three lecture series on 'Coastal Security and Impact of Environment on Global Security'. The veterans of Pune chapter were actively involved in river bank clean up and their president attended the global seminar on coastal cleanup.
31. He brought out that the 'Immortal Soldier' monument on a traffic island in Borivali had been in a dilapidated state for long. As the local authorities were indifferent to the condition of the monument, Lt S Bhende (Retd) of Mumbai Chapter decided to take the matter in his own hands. He chose to fund the replacement from his own savings as there was reluctance on the part of local authorities. Despite the delay in obtaining permission from various government departments that stretched over many months, he persevered and Borivali now has an 'Immortal Soldier' monument that would make all soldiers proud.
32. NF Chapters had periodic get-togethers which also included international travel. Members of Kerala chapter chose to bond with each other during a trip to Europe whereas Odisha chapter members headed to South East Asia. The Mumbai chapter chose a walk down the memory lane wherein a 'Heritage Walk' in Naval Dockyard Mumbai was conducted for their interested members.
33. The Kerala chapter has put together a 'Veteran Family Support System' directory. Mumbai chapter introduced the practice of volunteer mentors for widows wherein a naval veteran couple living in the vicinity volunteers to help and guide the

widow in getting on with life after her spouse passes away. The positive feedback from widows has led to more members volunteering for this noble support system. In-fact some widows have also come forward to offer their support in such cases. Other chapters could consider adopting these practices.

Item IX: Discussion on New Agenda Points (Part II)

34. The President, NF presided over the discussions for balance two new agenda points. Details are placed at **Appendix 'C'**.

Item X: President's Concluding Remarks


35. The President, NF once again thanked all the participants for coming over and actively participating in the discussions. He wished all the members good health and long life.

Item XI: Vote of Thanks

36. The AGM ended with a vote of thanks by Secretary, Navy Foundation on behalf of the President, Navy Foundation.

37. There being no other points, the meeting was adjourned.

38. These minutes are issued with the approval of President, Navy Foundation.


(Vivek Karnavat)
Commodore
Secretary, Navy Foundation

Distribution:- Normal

NEW AGENDA POINTS (PART I)

Item I - Last Rites of Deceased Naval Veterans.

1. **Issue.** There has been a persistent demand from the veterans' community for adoption of additional ceremonials and procedures similar to Army and Air Force for accord of dignified last rites to the departed naval veterans. NF Mumbai has now requested that along with laying of wreath on the body of the deceased veteran, Naval Ensign be also draped on the mortal remains of the veteran as is being done by IAF for their departed.

2. **Deliberation.** It was highlighted that the issue was discussed earlier in 23rd AGM of Navy Foundation and based on the outcome of discussion a Policy letter was also issued on the subject. However, the issue was again raised during last year's GCM by President Kerala Chapter. It was brought out that the IN and IAF depute serving personnel in uniform to lay a wreath on the mortal remains of departed veteran. IAF ensign is also draped over the body/coffin of the departed. In case of Army, a separate mechanism known as 'ADLRS' (Assured Decent Last Rites Scheme) has been instituted for Army veterans. ADLRS functions at the level of local URC and one retired JCO & NCO each have been employed at CSDs who in turn visit the family of the deceased veteran, attend the funeral and lay a wreath on behalf of the Army Chief. An amount of Rs. 17,000.00 and Rs 12,500.00 is provided by the Army & the IAF respectively on demise of a veteran whereas IN provides a demise grant of Rs 30,000.00. In addition, IN has also been parading a Guard of Honour for departed gallantry award winners. As per extant orders on the subject issued vide NO 18/16, military funerals can be accorded only to the retired Service Chiefs, C-in-C/VCNS and equivalent. No other category of retired personnel, including gallantry award winners are eligible for military funeral. CPS opined that the matter had been deliberated extensively at a tri services level and recommended that status quo be maintained. Secy NF, Mumbai brought out that draping of the Ensign, as was being done in the case of IAF Veterans, would give a sense of pride to the NOK of the deceased veteran and would also motivate the people attending the funeral to send their children to the Armed Forces. President NF Delhi opined that status quo be maintained. President NF Kerala suggested that the veterans themselves needed to formulate a way to bid farewell to their comrades. Secy NF Mumbai suggested that the local Naval Commander could send a Naval Ensign with the customary wreath and the body of the deceased veteran could be draped with a Naval Ensign.

3. **Decision.**

- (a) Feasibility of providing the Naval Ensign for last rites is to be examined at IHQ MoD (Navy).
- (b) Point to be examined and status be updated in the next AGM.

Action: - DESA

Item II – Pensionary issues.

4. Consequent to implementation of OROP and 7th CPC, major changes have taken place in matters concerning Pension/Family pension. Therefore it is considered essential that fresh PPOs be issued to all pensioners. Though CDA (Navy), Mumbai had agreed to this, but so far none of the pensioners/ family pensioners have received the same. NAVPEN looks after all issues connected with pension. Currently no query number is assigned whenever veterans approach them on e-mail/ phone or by post. This results in lot of confusion, wastage of time and difficulty in following up progress of a query/ grievance. All banks should be persuaded to convert their pension accounts into 'DSP' type accounts being operated by SBI.

5. **Deliberation.** It was brought out that the matter regarding issue of corrigendum PPOs consequent to implementation of 7th CPC i.r.o pre-2016 retirees was under consideration at Tri-services level. It was further reiterated that grievances received at NAVPEN through post/E-mail were recorded with a proper diary number and promptly addressed. Grievances received telephonically were instantly addressed on phone if feasible, otherwise a feedback was provided after due examination of the case. It was also brought out that Indian Navy had MoU with SBI, PNB and Corporation Bank. Almost all facilities as admissible to serving personnel were extended to ESM by these banks. No complaints regarding delay in issue of PPOs by PCDA (Navy) Mumbai have been received at NAVPEN/DPA. However, specific cases where inordinate delay in issue of PPO had been observed, could be forwarded to IHQ MoD (N)/DPA for necessary action.

6. **Decision.**

- (a) Issue of corrigendum PPOs is to be pursued energetically.
- (b) Point to be monitored. Update to be provided through DESA newsletter and in the next AGM.

Action: - DPA

STATUS OF OLD AGENDA POINTS

Item III - Adoption of Revised MoA (23rd NF AGM)

1. **Issue**. The existing MoA was adopted in Dec 1988 with the establishment of Navy Foundation. To ensure organisational efficacy, changes were adopted in the MoA by the subsequent GCMs and AGMs. However, these amendments needed approval by the Registrar of Societies. In order to withstand legal scrutiny in future, a revised MoA was drawn up and it was duly approved during 23rd AGM in 2014 and thereafter by a special GCM in 2015. The revised MoA needs the formal approval of the Registrar of the Societies towards legal conformity in future. Accordingly, documents required for approval were filed with the Registrar in Jan 16.
2. **Update**. Approval of the revised MoA by the Registrar of Societies, Delhi was obtained in Aug 2017. Copies of approved MOA have been distributed to all NF Chapter.
3. **Decision**. Point closed.

Item IV - Felicitation of Octogenarian Veterans by Navy (25th AGM)

4. **Issue**. There has been a persistent demand from the veterans for felicitation of octogenarian members by way of presentation of a memento. The issue was discussed during the 25th AGM of Navy Foundation and it was decided that all octogenarian members will be felicitated and the methodology of felicitation including type of memento will be worked out by NHQ.
5. **Update**. In accordance with CPS directives, DESA has already obtained and dispatched 330 mementoes to various NF chapters as per details provided by them. Navy Foundation Chapters have been requested to present the mementoes to the octogenarian veterans at appropriate function. NF chapters may forward the names of octogenarians to DESA and DESA would dispatch personalized mementoes to the respective NF Chapters.
6. **Decision**. Point closed.

Item V – Financial Support to NF Chapters from INAF/Canteen Profits (25th AGM).

7. **Issue**. During the 25th AGM of Navy Foundation, Kerala Chapter raised the matter of providing funding for the Navy Foundation from the IN Amenities fund/Canteen profit. CPS had suggested that all chapters need to seek sponsorship from corporate bodies to augment the corpus. Further, the possibility of providing support from the INAF/ Canteen profit would be explored.

8. **Update.**

(a) The guidelines for maintenance of Non Public Funds have been promulgated through Navy Order (Spl) 01/2011. The distribution of Canteen profits generated by ships and establishments is governed by Para 15 and 16 of the Navy Order.

(b) The profits generated by INCS including Quantitative Discount is transferred to Naval Amenities Fund at IHQ MoD (N) on completion of each financial year. No profits are retained by INCS Regions. The funds are further sanctioned from INAF to Commands and lower formations for conduct of various activities including welfare schemes of the Navy.

9. **Decision.** Navy Foundation chapters to project the requirement of funds for specific activities to respective Regional Governing Councils on as required basis. Point closed.

Item VI - Functioning of Navy Foundation Chapters (25th AGM).

10. **Issue.** Navy Foundation Chapters operating from locations without presence of any Naval unit/infrastructure have been persistently taking up the issue of lack of financial/administrative support for conducting the activities of the Foundation. The issue was last discussed at AGM of the Foundation held during Nov 2016, wherein it was decided that all Command Headquarters which function as the Regional Governing Councils may provide requisite support as deemed fit to the NF Chapters to enable them conduct their meetings/other activities

11. **Deliberations.** An advisory has been issued to Secretaries of Regional Governing Councils to provide necessary support to NF Chapters.

12. **Decision.** Point Closed.

Item VII - Exemption of Toll Tax for ESM (23rd AGM)

13. **Issue.** Exemption of Toll Tax for ESMs.

14. **Update.** The issue regarding exemption of Toll Tax to veteran community is being pursued by the Services with Ministry of Road Transport and Highways. The issue was taken up by the Chairman PPOC with MoD in Oct 16. The issue is currently pending with MoD and MoRTH and likely to take a long time being an Inter-ministerial and Taxation related issue.

15. **Decision.** Update to be provided through DESA newsletter and in the next AGM.

Action: - DESA

NEW AGENDA POINTS (PART II)

Item I – Provision of Retirement Home for Veterans.

1. **Issue.** Senior veterans especially those aged 75 years and above desire a Retirement Home where they are able to enjoy the last phase of their life. Although financially, retired personnel are capable of maintaining and living in an independent house of their own, lack of safety, security, peer Group Company and help during emergencies pose challenges. Proposed accommodation suggested be cottage type, decent single bed room. Multi-storeyed accommodation may be considered for cities where land resources are scarce. The location should be close to Military Hospital, canteen and be provided with requisite entertainment facilities. The proposed Retirement Home is based on the model of a paid resident without ownership.
2. **Deliberation.** It was brought out that the issue of construction of an Old Age Home (OAH) akin to proposed Retirement Home was extensively deliberated on file at NHQ and views of all Commands were obtained. It was also brought out that the demand survey was undertaken in Sep-Oct 2013, which revealed that number of veteran that volunteers was extremely low (8 officers and 6 sailors). Four options of operating an OAH were explored which included; an outright purchase, deposit model, payback scheme, lifetime lease and tie up with privately run OAHs. The case could not be progressed due to grossly insufficient response from veteran community. The President, NF brought out that among the three services only the Army had setup retirement homes. They were operating two such projects in Chandimandir and Lucknow. The Lucknow project had been shut down due to lack of patronage and the only successfully running project was at Chandimandir. He further reiterated that the Navy had endeavoured to have such a retirement home at Delhi through DDA on an ownership basis which had not materialised. However, the Navy was in dialogue with the Coast Guard to identify and setup such a retirement home in the NCR.
3. **Decision.**
 - (a) Feedback to be collated from NF Chapters regarding particulars of volunteers who wish to stay in a retirement home along-with their choice of location as also the willingness to relocate wherever the facility comes up.
 - (b) Feasibility of setting up a retirement home with the Coast Guard at NCR be examined.
 - (c) Point to be monitored.

Action: - DESA

Item II - Headgear for Naval Veterans.

4. **Issue.** Currently, no regulations/ guidelines exist regarding wearing of headgear by naval veterans. Traditionally, *IN* veterans have not been wearing any headgear at ceremonial events. However, Indian Army veterans have traditionally been wearing their Regimental Side Caps. Air Force Association in Dec 16 permitted all its members to wear the service side cap post retirement at all ceremonial/formal functions. There has been a persistent demand from *IN* veterans for introduction of a suitable headgear. Views and suggestions were sought from all NF Chapters in May 17. Although there exists a divergence of opinion on the type of headgear to be introduced, near unanimity exists on the need for a standardize headgear for *IN* veterans.

5. **Deliberation.** The issue was also deliberated on file at IHQ MoD (Navy) and the headquarters were in favour of introducing a 'Side Cap' for *IN* veterans. Sample of the proposed side cap was displayed to the General Body, for approval/introduction as naval veterans' headgear. It was also brought out that there was divergence in view with regards to the type of headgear but the large majority felt the need of a headgear for naval veterans. The quorum debated extensively in favour and against side cap/beret/sea cap. The argument against the side cap was that it was alien to the navy. However, it was also felt that the beret/sea cap on a national dress or suit was not appropriate.

6. **Decision.**

- (a) The need to have an appropriate headgear for naval veterans' is justified.
- (b) National Institute of Design be tasked to design a cap akin to a sea cap.
- (c) Design to be put up in next AGM.

Action: - DESA / DCV