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Dte of Naval Veterans
Naval Headquarters
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Delhi Cantt
New Delhi 110010

DX/900/32ND AGM dated 30 Jun 25

**MINUTES OF 32nd ANNUAL GENERAL BODY MEETING OF
NAVY FOUNDATION HELD ON 21 MAY 25 AT NEW DELHI**

1. Admiral Dinesh K Tripathi PVSM, AVSM, NM, Chief of the Naval Staff and President, Navy Foundation (NF) chaired the 32nd Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the NF held on 21 May 25 at New Delhi. The following were present: -

Ser	Name	Designation
Members		
1.	VAdm Vineet McCarty, AVSM	Vice President, NF
2.	RAdm MMM Raju, NM	Vice President, RGC (East)
3.	RAdm Sandeep Verma, NM	Vice President, RGC (West)
4.	Cmde AP Shaji Kutty	Treasurer, NF
5.	Cmde Viju Samuel	Vice President, RGC (South)
6.	Cmde Vishal Rawal	Cmde (NV) and Secy, NF
7.	Cmde Varun Singh	Legal Member
8.	Capt (TS) Ajay Mandal	Joint Secy, NF
Invitees		
9.	RAdm Aditya Hara, NM	ACOP (AC), NHQ
10.	Cmde Saurabh Thakur, NM	CO, INS India
In attendance		
11.	Cmde Shobhit Srivastava, VSM	Cmde (ECHS-N), NHQ
12.	Cmde SS Sarna	Cmde (PS), NHQ
13.	Capt Anto Joseph	LOIC, NAVPEN
14.	Capt Shobhit Agrawal	Capt (NV), NHQ
15.	Capt (TS) Satish Kumar	KSB
16.	Capt (TS) Shishir Rai	O/iC, SPCIS, NHQ
17.	Capt (TS) Amit Puri	CRSO (North)
18.	Capt (TS) Vaibhav K Tripathi	Oi/C NLC, Prayagraj
19.	Cdr Mohit Kabra	Cdr (PA), NHQ
20.	Cdr Dashrath	CRSO (Central)
21.	Cdr Amar Shankar	MS INCCB, NHQ
22.	Lt Cdr Deepankar Padhi	Lt Cdr (PA), NHQ
23.	Lt Cdr Rishabh Raghuvanshi	Lt Cdr (ECHS-N), NHQ
NF Representatives (Retd)		
24.	VAdm BK Verma, AVSM (Retd)	President, NFC Bhopal

Ser	Name	Designation
25.	VAdm AG Thapliyal, AVSM & Bar (Retd)	President, NFC Dehradun
26.	VAdm VK Namballa, AVSM, NM (Retd)	President, NFC Vizag
27.	VAdm Ramakant Pattanaik, PVSM, AVSM, YSM (Retd)	President, NFC Odisha
28.	VAdm Jaywant Korde, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)	President, NFC Pune
29.	VAdm KO Thakare, AVSM, NM (Retd)	President, NFC Nagpur
30.	RAdm Sushil Ramsay, YSM (Retd)	President, NFC Delhi
31.	RAdm NK Mishra, NM (Retd)	President, NFC Bangalore
32.	RAdm S Madhusudanan	Vice President, NFC Kerala
33.	RAdm PG Phillipose, AVSM, NM (Retd)	President, NFC Goa
34.	RAdm VM Doss, AVSM, VSM (Retd)	President, NFC Coimbatore
35.	Cmde Sudheer Parakala (Retd)	President, NFC Hyderabad
36.	Cmde Yashwant Kumawat, VSM (Retd)	Vice President, NFC Jaipur
37.	Cmde Suprobho K De (Retd)	President, NFC Kolkata
38.	Cdr Vijay Vadhera, NM (Retd)	President, NFC Mumbai
39.	Cdr L Radhakrishnan (Retd)	Vice President, NFC Chennai
40.	Cdr Ashwani Bhardwaj (Retd)	Vice President, NFC Chandigarh
41.	Cdr RP Singh (Retd)	Secretary, NFC Lucknow
42.	40 Members of NFC Delhi	Special Invitees

Item I - Welcome Address by Vice President, NF

2. The Vice President, NF extended a warm welcome to Flag Officers, Commanding Officer INS India, Officers, and Office Bearers and Members of NF Chapters, attending the 32nd Working Level Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the NF. He extended a special welcome to the NF Office Bearers who had travelled from afar to attend the AGM. He stated that the veteran community has served the Navy and nation with distinction and dedication, and the Navy of today, is nothing but a product of their unflinching efforts, visionary leadership and selfless service. He assured that carrying forward this legacy is the singular goal of NHQ. He also brought out that the strength of the Foundation lies in its members, wherein each member plays a pivotal role in shaping the ethos of the Service.

3. The Vice President, NF brought out that the care and welfare of the veteran community is the topmost priority of NHQ. Accordingly, timely redressal of veteran-related grievances and issues, enhancing communication, digitisation of records and services, and fostering a sense of community through outreach programmes are being proactively pursued. He requested veterans to forward their valuable suggestions and provide guidance, so as to address issues faced by the veteran community in a more effective and timely manner.

4. The Vice President, NF also informed the attendees that NHQ is in the process of revitalising the Veteran Sailors' Forum to make it more vibrant, and sought assistance from the NF Chapters for the same. He also stated that NHQ is cognisant that SPARSH and

ECHS are the key issues for veterans, and accordingly, DPA and ECHS (N) would give presentations on these aspects.

5. The Vice President, NF requested the attendees to whole heartedly participate in the deliberations, and stated that he looks forward to constructive discussions and suggestions, which will help NHQ strengthen its support structures. He also brought out that NHQ will continue to work in close coordination with the NF Chapters across the country to ensure that every veteran officer and widow, feels connected and supported. With this, he once again extended a warm welcome to the attendees, and requested to continue with the proceedings of the AGM.

Item II - Presentation by ECHS (Navy)

6. ECHS (Navy) rep covered the following aspects in the presentation: -

- 6.1. Salient features of ECHS.
- 6.2. Beneficiary Issues.
- 6.3. ECHS Budget Issues.
- 6.4. ECHS (Navy) Initiatives.

7. During the presentation, President NFC Pune brought out that certain Empanelled Hospitals in Pune are asking for approvals, to carry out the line of treatment, which has already been referred to by the Polyclinic. Cmde (ECHS-N) stated that they will look into the issue. However, he brought out that 44% of the 'treatment related expenditure' pertains to only Cardiac Diagnostics. In this way, hospitals are charging substantial money for costly tests, such as CT Scan, which may not be required. In order to curtail this expenditure, there is a requirement to ratify the line of treatment by Polyclinic for its applicability.

Action: Cmde (ECHS-N)

8. President NFC Hyderabad brought out that there is a requirement for setting up ECHS hospitals, contiguous to the military hospitals, which will solve many issues being faced by veterans on ECHS. He stated that earlier a committee was also set up to look into this issue. Cmde (ECHS-N) stated that there are many issues wrt the proposal, such as manning, expenditure, resources, responsibility, Command and Control, provision of land etc. which are presently under deliberation. He highlighted that a similar project exists, wherein DRDO provided land to establish a hospital, and in turn the hospital kept 100 beds for the patients of DRDO. However, because of issues relating to revenue sharing model, and permissions to handover land to a private firm etc, such a project is unlikely to fructify in the near term.

9. President NFC Mumbai suggested that all hospitals undertaking CGHS treatment should also undertake ECHS treatment. A veteran member brought out that presently CGHS is also facing the same problems, as those being faced by ECHS. Hence, having dedicated ECHS hospitals is the only way ahead. President NFC Bangalore brought out

that having dedicated ECHS hospitals is not a good idea, as veterans will be stuck with only one type of hospital, which may not have the best specialists, equipment and infrastructure, when compared to private hospitals.

10. Cmde (ECHS-N) brought out that the primary issue being faced by ECHS is the tremendous increase in the expenditure, which has risen to nearly two and half times in just few years. He stated that the lack of adequate budget has been highlighted at the highest fora.

Item III - Presentation by DPA

11. DPA rep briefed the General Body on the following: -

11.1. SPARSH Overview.

11.2. Migration Status on SPARSH.

11.3. Update on SPARSH issues.

11.4. Efforts to mitigate SPARSH issues.

12. During the presentation, there were discussions on SPARSH 'AS_IS' cases, wherein ACOP (AC) stated that DPA has undertaken extensive efforts to progress their resolution. He brought out that through proactive deliberations with CGDA and other relevant agencies, breakdown of all recoveries and arrears has been made available to the pensioners, in their Pension Slips generated on SPARSH.

13. President NFC Delhi brought out the issue wrt payment of OROP-III arrears. ACOP (AC) stated that dedicated efforts by all stakeholders has resulted in disbursement of OROP-III arrears *iro* majority of naval pensioners.

14. ACOP (AC) stated that DPA has taken on the task to resolve pension issues of pre-2006 retirees. The task involves data updation of individuals, and detailed calculations, based on the number of Pay Commissions, the individual has come across. The issue of Life Certification was also discussed, wherein veterans brought out difficulties being faced on SPARSH Portal. President NFC Delhi brought out that in the earlier system, the banks were doing a good job as they understood the requirement of veterans.

15. Veterans brought out the issue of grievances being closed without resolution on SPARSH. ACOP (AC) stated that all out efforts are being made to resolve all grievances related to pension in a timely manner. He brought out that one of the main issues faced by PCDA is multiple complaints pertaining to the same issue being raised by veterans on the portal, which overwhelm the grievance redressal mechanism at PCDA (P). Therefore, there is a need for central cataloguing of grievances. He also expressed confidence that 100% grievances wrt Pension issues would be resolved by next NF AGM. President NFC Mumbai stated that wrt grievances, priority needs to be accorded for veterans, who are above 80 yrs of age.

Action: Cmde (PA)

16. Vice President NF stated that NHQ intends to create a central database of grievances. Grievances raised by veterans would be sifted and sorted to obviate duplication, and catalogued in a Master Record. The database would be managed by DNV, in coordination with concerned directorates/ stakeholders. Therefore, the status of a grievance would remain updated with all stakeholders, at any point of time.

Action: Cmde (NV)

17. President NFC Nagpur stated that NLC (Prayagraj) needs to be more proactive. ACOP (AC) stated that NLC is doing a fine job of progressing issues, despite having a very limited mandate. He stated that any issue not getting resolved, should be brought to his notice or to DPA/ NAVPEN, and a response will be provided in 07-10 days.

18. President NFC Delhi brought out difficulties being faced by NRI pensioners wrt accessing SPARSH portal. ACOP (AC) stated that NRI pensioners are required to forward their grievances on email **sparshnri.dad@gov.in** created by PCDA (P), specifically for NRI pensioners.

Item IV - Agenda Points (Working Level AGM Chaired by CPS)

19. Two old and six new Agenda Points were discussed under the chairmanship of VAdm Vineet McCarty, CPS and Vice President, NF. Details of deliberations and decisions arrived at are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

Item V - Address by President, NF

20. Adm Dinesh K Tripathi PVSM, AVSM, NM, the CNS and President NF extended a warm welcome to all present, and requested all to rise to pay respect to 85 members of NF who departed since the last AGM, Late Lieutenant Vinay Narwal and 25 innocent tourists who died in the recent terrorist attack at Pahalgam.

21. The CNS briefed the attendees on the naval activities, as part of Op Sindoor. He intimated that *IN* platforms and its personnel continue to remain deployed, fully prepared to deliver a decisive punch, whenever called upon.

22. The President, NF stated that the Indian Navy is the result of untiring efforts, visionary leadership, and selfless service of veterans, who continue to support, propel and guide the Service, even after retirement. He stated that the Foundation enables *IN* to tap into veterans' knowledge and experience while maintaining an unbroken bridge between the serving and veteran community. He also brought out that over the last three decades, NF has evolved into a dynamic organisation dedicated to the welfare and well-being of retired community, and the credit for this transformation goes to the Office Bearers and the members, past and present.

23. The President, NF highlighted that during the last few months, it has been his priority and privilege to interact with NF members and their spouses, at New Delhi, Bengaluru, Secunderabad, Kochi, etc. He briefed the attendees about the Chiefs' Conclave held in

Feb 25 at New Delhi, wherein eight former Naval Chiefs attended the Conclave. He also briefed the attendees about the various initiatives being taken by NHQ to strengthen bonds with the veteran community and their families. The President, NF also drew attention of the members towards the pan-Navy initiative of 'Revitalization of the Veteran Sailors' Forum', espousing them to contribute to this cause whole heartedly.

24. He stated that as *IN* grows from strength to strength, NHQ remains committed to ensure that the veteran community receives the care, respect and support they deserve. He concluded by thanking all present for sparing their valuable time, and wished them good luck, health and happiness.

Item VI - Confirmation of 31st AGM Minutes

25. The Secretary, NF confirmed that the minutes of 31st AGM were forwarded to all Chapters. Cdr L Radhakrishnan (Retd), Vice President, NFC Chennai proposed confirmation of the Minutes of the 31st AGM. The proposal was seconded by RAdm V Mohan Doss, AVSM, VSM (Retd), President, NFC Coimbatore. Thereafter, Minutes of 31st AGM were confirmed and signed by the CNS, as President, NF.

Item VII - Secretary's Report

26. The Secretary presented the report on the activities of the NF, since the last AGM held on 21 Mar 24 at Visakhapatnam. He intimated that all Chapters have conducted their AGM and undertaken regular interactions. The Secretary also highlighted the various outreach programmes and activities undertaken by DNV. He gave a brief on SPARSH and ECHS issues being faced by veterans.

27. This was followed by a presentation on 'Revitalisation of VSF', wherein President, NF sought suggestions from members on the same: -

27.1. President NFC Hyderabad stated that there should be more outreach programmes and database of veteran sailors be shared with NF Chapters. This will enable NF Chapters to contact veteran sailors residing in their area for veteran related activities. President NFC Mumbai stated that dissemination of information to veterans should be provided more impetus. Cmde (NV) assured that the data of VSF Veteran Coordinators and veterans sailors (state-wise) would be shared with respective NF Chapters. Further, dissemination of a host of veteran related information is being undertaken through NF, CRSO and VSF groups, as well as DNV website, publication and e-Newsletters.

27.2. President NFC Dehradun stated that the Chapter regularly interacts with local VSF members. He suggested that Chapters could interact with the local VSF periodically i.e. every 06 months. Vice President, NF concurred with the same and recommended that NF Chapters should reach out at Chapter-level to respective CRSOs, as well as meet local VSF Veteran Coordinators, so as to guide them.

Action: NF Chapters

27.3. ACOP (AC) stated that in case NF Chapters can assist veteran sailors in resolving their SPARSH issues through DPA, then this will act as a catalyst for more veteran sailors to become members of VSF.

Action: NF Chapters

27.4. President NFC Hyderabad stated that there exists a requirement to form a common organisation for veteran officers and sailors, as numerical strength of members of any organisation is a key aspect of its influence. Secretary, NF brought out that this issue has been earlier deliberated at length, and had not been approved.

Item VIII - Agenda Points (AGM Chaired by the CNS)

28. The President, NF presided over the deliberations for the balance old and new Agenda Points. Details are placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Open House

29. During the Open House, President NFC Delhi brought out that they have moved a proposal for USI to form a three-member committee with reps from all the three Services to undertake a SWOT analysis on 'SPARSH vs Legacy system'. The committee would submit its report to DG USI for evaluation and further submission to relevant authorities.

30. President NFC Mumbai sought clarification, if the Army Helpline, established for handling disputes with civil police is applicable for the naval veterans. Cmde (PS) confirmed the same, and intimated that in addition to the Army Helpline, efforts are also in hand to extend the *IN* Helpline being operated by INS Kunjali for veterans.

Action: Cmde (PS)

31. President NFC Delhi raised the issue wrt difficulties being faced by veterans in contacting DNV, as smartphones are not permitted in DHQ zone. The CNS stated that there exist numerous modes to contact DNV including landline, IVRS, email etc, which are adequate. He directed that if required, few DNV officers could be provided official smartphones for ease of communication with veterans.

Action: Cmde (NV)

32. President NFC Hyderabad brought out that the conduct of Armed Forces Veterans' Day on 14 Jan, be re-considered, as it is a major festival in Southern India, and the veterans are not keen to participate on that particular day. Secretary, NF brought out that Armed Forces Veterans' Day is celebrated on 14 Jan every year, since it was the date of retirement of the first Commander-in-Chief of the Indian Army, Field Marshal KM Cariappa; and hence the date cannot be changed.

Item IX - Concluding Remarks by President, NF

33. The President, NF thanked everyone for being part of the AGM. He conveyed his appreciation for the suggestions from the members, and intimated that the same would be addressed in a time bound manner. He reiterated that NF Chapters are doing excellent work despite various limitations as brought out during the discussions. He assured that all possible assistance will be provided to the veterans by the Indian Navy. He wished good health and success to everyone in all endeavours.

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

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



(Vishal Rawal)
Commodore
Secretary, Navy Foundation

Copy to: -

The Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief
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The Commander-in-Chief
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The Commanding Officer
INS India

All NF Chapters

Internal. Cmde (ECHS-N) Cmde (NPF) Cmde (PA) Cmde (PS) JAG (N)

For Info.

NA/ CNS

SO/ COP

SO/ CPS

ACOP (AC)

32ND WORKING LEVEL AGM (CHAIRD BY CPS)

OLD AGENDA POINTS

Old Agenda I - ZSWO at Kharghar (NFC Mumbai)

1. **Issue.** Provision be made for ZSW Office at Kharghar (Navi Mumbai). At present, veterans and widows have to go to the ZSW Office at Raigad, which is almost 55 kms away from Navi Mumbai.
2. **Discussions during Previous AGM.** Secy, NF brought out that a ZSB can be set up by the concerned State Govt if the population of Ex-Servicemen and families of serving/ deceased service personnel is 7,500 and above. In other cases, prior approval of the Central Govt is required for setting up of new ZSB. He brought out that KSB has not received any proposal from RSB Maharashtra/ State Govt for setting up of ZSWO at Kharghar. Members requested *IN* to approach KSB or Chief Secretary/ Chief Minister in this regard for the sake of around 30,000 veterans to make their identity cards who are residing in this area.
 - 2.1. Vice President, NF stated that ZSBs are a Tri-Services set-up functioning under the respective State Govts and requested NF, Mumbai Chapter to take it up with concerned RSB.
 - 2.2. The Vice President, NF requested NF Chapter, Mumbai to progress the case with RSB Maharashtra and directed that the point be kept open for monitoring.
3. **Deliberations.** Vice President, RGC (West) intimated that the issue has been resolved with ZSWO, Raigad, and he has agreed to visit Kharghar, on a monthly basis. He also intimated that a suitable office space has been considered in the upcoming Community Hall Project in Kharghar, and State Govt has assured requisite funds for the project. President, NFC Mumbai concurred with the comments.
4. **Decision.** The Vice President, NF directed that the **point be closed**.

Old Agenda II - Eligibility Criteria for Issue of ROIC (NFC Mumbai)

5. **Issue.** ROIC is being issued to SSC Officers, whereas premature retirees, even after putting 15 years service are being denied this privilege. Understand that premature retirees do not come under the category of ESM, thus they are not eligible for ROIC. It is submitted that premature Retirees are also entitled to make ECHS and Canteen Card. It is opined that premature retirees, with at least same number of years of service as SSC Officers, be also permitted to make their ROIC.

6. **Discussions during Previous AGM.** Secy, NF brought out that the Navy Order and Policy letter on the subject stipulates that officers (PC and SSC) retiring on completion of initial term of engagement with ESM status, are only entitled for issuance of ROIC. The officers taking premature retirement are not accorded ESM status, and are therefore not entitled for ROIC. Vice President, NF brought out that the ESM status has now been linked with pension or gratuity and every entry/ induction scheme into the Navy has its own terms and conditions whilst in service and post retirement/ release. He stated that every document issued on retirement has an intended purpose and cannot be inter-linked. However, he stated that he understood the sentiments behind the issue, and that NHQ would re-look at the case. The Vice President, NF directed that the point be re-examined by NHQ/ DPS and status update be provided in the next AGM or on finalisation of the issue, whichever is earlier.

7. **Deliberations.** Cmde (PS) stated that *IA* is issuing a Veterans' Card to all retired officers including PMR, whereas *IAF* has limited it to only those having ESM status. He stated that *IN* is inclined towards the proposal, and brought out the following: -

7.1. ROIC has been provided to the veterans for the purpose of identity, when the veterans are attending any function and to avail facilities of canteens and medical entitlement. The discussions with Army and *IAF* have highlighted that this point primarily has emerged, because veterans are not able to access canteen facilities inside the *IA* and *IAF* establishments, on production of the ESM I-Card, issued by ZSBs.

7.2. The conditions for issuance of a veterans' card/ ROIC are central to the three services, and are laid down in the CNO 03/12. Hence, the CNO will need to be revised for issuance of this card to the officers, who have not obtained ESM status. There is a requirement to collate data of such veteran officers, so as to take up the issue. There exists a requirement for standardisation in terms of service conditions by the three services. Hence, the issue would have to be taken up in PPOC Meeting for consideration.

7.3. Vice President, NF stated that there is no problem in issuance of a Veterans' Card to all retired personnel irrespective of ESM Status. However, the effectiveness of ROIC will be limited, unless *IA* and *IAF* recognise the card. He requested all NF Chapters to collate data of premature retiree officers, and forward the same to DNV at the earliest.

7.4. Vice President, NF directed that post receipt of the data, feasibility of issuing ROIC to premature retiree officers be examined in a time bound manner. Concurrently, a case be taken up in PPOC for revising the criteria of ROIC/ Veterans' Card to premature retiree officers, being a Tri-Services issue.

8. **Decision.** The Vice President, NF directed that the **point be kept open for monitoring.**

Action: Cmde (PS)/ NF Chapters

NEW AGENDA POINTS

New Agenda I - Toll Tax for Gallantry Awardees (NFC Mumbai)

9. **Issue.** As per Ministry of Road, Transport & Highways (MoRTH) (Toll Section) Letter H-25016/0/2018-Toll dated 08 Jan 19 regarding issuance of FAST Tag to exempted categories, it has been observed that on Page 7, NM(G), SM and VM, which are also Gallantry Awards, and entitled to Income Tax exemption, have not been included in the exempted categories. This matter may please be taken up with the Ministry for inclusion of NM (G), VM and SM, in the exempted categories.

10. **Deliberations.** Cmde (PS) intimated that the case was taken up earlier with MoRTH by Indian Ex-Servicemen League (IESL), and was declined, with justification that exception is applicable only to Chakra Series of awards, under Rule 11 of National Highway Rules 2018. It was further stated that any further addition to the exemption list would make it financially unviable for private players involved in road/ highway construction projects. Cmde (PS) stated that nevertheless, the case is being reinitiated, in coordination with IA and IAF.

11. **Decision.** The Vice President, NF directed that the **point be kept open for monitoring.**

Action: Cmde (PS)

New Agenda II - Renewal of CSD Cards (NFC Dehradun)

12. **Issue.** Procedure for renewal of CSD cards on completion of 10 years needs to be revisited, especially in the event of change of permanent address of a veteran. The requirement of NOC from the last station be re-considered.

13. **Deliberations.** Cmde (PS) stated that the requirement of NOC from last station for change of dependency of URC has been withdrawn, vide IHQ MoD(A)/ QMG Branch/ DDGCS letter dated 11 Apr 18. However, it is understood that there may still be some URCs who are insisting on NOC. Accordingly, NHQ/ DPS has requested DDGCS/ AG's Branch, for dissemination of the policy to the environment, and compliance.

14. **Decision.** The Vice President, NF directed that the **point be closed.**

New Agenda III – Updation of NF MoA (NFC Dehradun)

15. **Issue.** MoA of NF needs an addendum, as it does not list Dehradun, Bhopal and Nagpur Chapters. The other noticeable issues, include change in address of DNV and nomenclature of PDESA, which has been revised to Cmde (NV).

16. **Deliberations.** Cmde (NV) concurred with the need to revise the MoA, which was last revised in 2017. Since then, there have been numerous additions and changes to the

Foundation. The process of revision involves atleast two meetings of NF GCM/ AGM, with earliest feasibility of adoption being in second meeting. Thereafter, revised MoA would be forwarded to Registrar of Societies. Accordingly, the adoption of Revised MoA, is being targeted for NF GCM/ AGM in 2026, post consultation and holistic examination of the MoA. Cmde (NV) requested all NF Chapters to provide inputs for revision of the NF MoA.

17. **Decision.** The Vice President, NF directed that the **point be kept open for monitoring.**

Action: Cmde (NV)

New Agenda IV - Support for Conduct of Funeral of Naval Veterans

18. **Issue.**

18.1. **NFC Jaipur.** Jaipur and similar locations in the state of Rajasthan lack a direct naval presence. Establishing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for funeral arrangements in Rajasthan would ensure due respect and recognition of the veteran's service, ideally through a wreath-laying ceremony conducted on behalf of the CNS. It is recommended that *IA* or Naval NCC units (Jaipur/ Ajmer/ Udaipur) conduct the wreath-laying ceremony, on behalf of NHQ. It is also understood that *IA* (SWC) has such an SOP with IAF.

18.2. **NFC Lucknow.** NCC Lucknow is required to provide regimental support duties and also ceremonial support during last rites of veterans in Lucknow area. It is felt that NCC Lucknow is short of resources for meeting these duties. It is recommended that NCC Lucknow, be adequately empowered for these responsibilities.

19. **Deliberations.**

19.1. Vice President, NFC Jaipur stated that the Chapter is finding it difficult to conduct funeral arrangements, in case of the demise of a veteran, as there is no direct naval presence in the State.

19.2. Cmde (NV) stated that NFC Jaipur has proposed a formal SOP with the *IA*; in this case, with the South Western Command, so that funeral arrangements and ceremonials could be undertaken by *IA*. NFC Lucknow has projected a similar point, wherein, NCC Lucknow could be provided resources, so as to undertake such arrangements. He stated that issue has been analysed under the ambit of Naval Regimental System (NRS), which was established in 2010 to institutionalize a support system for such a purpose. In accordance with Navy Order 10/23 on NRS, the CRSO/ Local Naval Authority needs to reach out to the widow and NoK of the deceased veteran, with the aim that the family receives comprehensive support at this tragic hour, as well as guidance towards receiving post demise emoluments.

19.3. Cmde (NV) stated that in case the last rites are held at a station with a naval unit in vicinity, then a wreath is to be laid on behalf of the CNS by the respective CRSO or Local Naval Authority rep. However, in areas, where there is no such *IA*

unit, the same is to be dispensed with. He stated that discussions with Brigadier Veterans, South Western Command indicate that while there is no such formal SOP with IAF, the *IA* has been forthcoming in providing support, as and when required.

19.4. Cmde (NV) also brought out that if *IN* progresses an SOP with *IA* or *IAF*, then it would have to reciprocate in case of demise of veterans from the other two Services. As per available data, there are at least 15 such stations, which do not have an *IA* unit within 40 km. Considering the strength of *IA* veterans pan-India, handling of additional charter iro last rites, would not be feasible for the leanly manned *IN* units. He also stated that NCC units are not mandated as per NCC Act to provide such support. Accordingly, he requested NF Chapters to render support to veterans, whenever required, in line with the objectives laid down in the MoA. He further stated that if there is any financial gap that needs to be filled, DNV would certainly assist, based on the requirements.

19.5. Vice President, NF stated that such support is feasible only if *IN* can post few sailors at every NCC unit. However, *IN* does not have manpower for the same. He stated that if we request *IA* for the funeral arrangements of veterans, then they will also ask for reciprocal arrangements, which *IN* will not be able to fulfil.

20. **Decision.** The Vice President, NF directed that the **point be closed**.

New Agenda V - Honorary Membership of NF Chapters (NFC Delhi)

21. **Issue.** Instances were reported that retired Coast Guard officers were granted Honorary Membership by some NF Chapter. This was in contravention of Rule 4(b) of MoA of NF which stipulates Honorary Membership can only be granted by the Governing Council.

22. **Deliberations.**

22.1. Cmde (NV) stated that as per MoA, the Governing Council of Navy Foundation, may at its discretion invite eminent persons interested in maritime affairs to become Honorary Members of the Foundation. Hence, grant of Honorary Membership by a NF Chapter without approval of Governing Council is in contravention of the rules. Chapters are to take up cases of Honorary Membership, on case-to-case basis for approval of the Governing Council, through DNV.

22.2. Veteran members stated that NF Chapters are autonomous and independent bodies, who should have the rights to decide wrt who can be members of their Chapters. It was also suggested that an individual could be accorded approval by a Chapter to be its Honorary Member, without him/ her becoming a NF Member. Vice President, NF stated that the aspect needs deliberation, and sought inputs from the NF Chapters on the same, as part of revision of MoA.

23. **Decision.** The Vice President, NF directed that the **point be closed**.

New Agenda VI – Employment of Naval Veterans in Maritime Sector (DNV)

24. **Issue.** The CNS has written a letter to Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways to leverage the envisaged growth of Indian Maritime Sector by GoI initiatives, viz; Sagarmala Programme, Maritime India Vision-2030 and Maritime Development Fund (MDF) towards resettlement of naval veterans/ Agniveers. Based on the CNS directives, suggestions/ feedback on additional areas that need to be pursued/ difficulties experienced by veterans in gaining employment in maritime sector, were sought by DNV from all NF Chapters.

25. Deliberations.

25.1. Cmde (NV) stated that there has been a boom in the shipping sector starting with the Sagarmala Programme, followed by MIV-2030, MDF, and the allocation of Rs. 25,000 Crores for the shipbuilding sector in the Union Budget this year. Accordingly, a letter has been written by the CNS to the Minister, with a request to provide employment opportunities to naval veterans in the maritime sector, as there is a projected growth of over 20 lakh jobs, over the next decade.

25.2. President, NFC Coimbatore commented that it is a welcome step and similar initiative can be taken for the aviation sector too. President, NFC Mumbai stated that the retired officers could be given preference for employment as Harbour Pilots and Chief Engineers by relaxing the existing norms. He also stated that veteran communication sailors could join as VTMS operators at commercial ports.

25.3. President, NFC Bangalore stated that there exists a 25% quota for ESM in Shipyards. However, veterans are not able to utilise the quota due to preference given to local populace. President, NFC Odisha stated that it may be feasible in the upcoming new projects.

25.4. Cmde (NV) stated that NHQ/ DNV would be forwarding the letter written by the CNS to all Command HQs, requesting them to take it up with their State Administration and Maritime Boards. He also requested the NF Chapters to leverage their positions, so as to facilitate such resettlement avenues, and provide inputs to DNV, as and when received.

25.5. Vice President, NF stated that it is an ongoing process, which has just commenced, and more clarity would come in due course. Nevertheless, NF Chapters may examine how they can augment efforts of NHQ and Command Headquarters.

26. **Recommendation.** The Vice President, NF directed that the **point be closed.**

32ND AGM (CHAired BY THE CNS)

OLD AGENDA POINTS

Old Agenda III - Representation of NF Rep at KSB (NFC Mumbai).

1. **Issue.** In order to ensure efficient and quick resolution of problems being faced by ESM, it is recommended that rep of NF be also asked to join ZSWO, whenever they meet Secretary ESM Affairs/ ESM Minister. ZSWO should also keep President of NF Chapter informed of all deliberations being held with State Government on the issues concerning ESM. A mechanism may be worked out by the Station Commander in facilitating meeting of President of NF Chapter with ESM Secretary/ ESM Minister and the Chief Minister.

2. **Discussions during Previous AGM.** Secy NF brought out that PPOC Sectt selects ESM as members of KSB and RSBs, and the reps of any ESM Association are not part of KSB/ RSB/ ZSB. He further brought out that PPOC provides names of volunteers only, and the selection is undertaken by the respective State Governments.

2.1. President, NFC Mumbai suggested that some mechanism could be brought in place, wherein NF members could be provided an opportunity to address their issues to Secretary ESM Affairs of the State, through concerned Area Commanders/ Station Commanders.

2.2. President, NF directed CSO (P&A), WNC to examine the issue in consultation with FOMA, and provide a status update in the next meeting.

3. Deliberations.

3.1. Vice President RGC (West) stated that this point was discussed in the 9th RGC (West) Meeting, which was chaired by the FOCINC (West). The ZSWO was also present in the meeting. The C-in-C was of the opinion that there is already an official mechanism, where the ZSWO represents the ESM and interacts with the State Government. Therefore, the points from all the three Services are supposed to be taken up with the Chief Secretary, through the ZSWO. In addition, FOMA as the Area Commander, interacts with the State Administration on a regular basis, during the Civil-Military Liaison Committee (CMLC) Meetings. It was decided that the points of NFC Mumbai will be taken up in the CMLC or through the ZSWO. Hence, including an NFC Mumbai rep in the meeting, is unlikely to be agreed upon.

3.2. President, NFC Mumbai stated that he is not requesting for being part of all meetings. But, wherever it affects the welfare of the veterans, NF rep can be invited, so that he can be part of the decision making. He brought out the case of ECHS Polyclinic at Kharghar, wherein the ECHS building has been shifted to Nerul, and as a result, veterans at Kharghar now travel, one hour plus, to Nerul to consult the ECHS doctor and take referral. Such a decision could have been avoided, if a NF

rep was part of the decision making. Vice President, RGC (West) stated that the ECHS Building at Kharghar was not in a good condition, and therefore, there was a need to shift the Polyclinic. Though some veterans have to travel long distance, but overall the response has been encouraging. The space is bigger and the Station Commander has provided funds, for development of facilities. In addition, ECHS building is at the proximity to one of the Harbour Line stations, and is at just five minutes walking distance.

3.3. Vice President, NF stated that KSB should recognize NF and VSF, as a conduit/ facilitator for connect with the veterans. Veteran members, also brought out that various veteran organisations and the State Government are supposed to interact regularly, which is not happening.

3.4. President, NF stated that veteran organisations should have regular interactions with the State Governments. Due to the present scenario, the State Governments are willing to listen to the veterans. He requested all NF Presidents to proactively seek such interactions, irrespective of what had happened earlier.

4. **Decision.** The President directed that the **point be closed**.

NEW AGENDA POINTS

New Agenda VII - NF Annual Day (NFC Mumbai)

5. **Issue.** On 15 Sep 2024, Air Force Association celebrated its 44th Annual Day. It is recommended that NF, should also celebrate its 'Annual Day', on the day, it was formed.

6. **Deliberations.**

6.1. Cmde (NV) brought out that NF was registered on 29 Sep 1988 under the 'Societies Registration Act - 1860'. However, various NF Chapters have been registered subsequently, on different dates. Unlike Air Force Association, which is a singular veteran organisation, *IN* has separate organisations for retired officers and sailors viz. NF (18 Chapters) and VSF (14 Charters). Hence, establishment of an 'NF Annual Day' is not recommended, since there is no singular date which can be commemorated as the Annual Day. However, NF Chapters may commemorate their individual Annual Days, if deemed suitable.

6.2. President, NFC Mumbai stated that the date of NF formation is 29 Sep 88, and it should be taken for consideration rather than the individual dates of formation of NF Chapters. As the Annual day is symbolic, this date can be promulgated.

6.3. President, NF sought views of other members who stated there exists no requirement of laying down a particular date for the celebration.

7. **Decision.** The President stated that NF Chapters may celebrate their Annual Days, if deemed suitable, and directed that the **point be closed**.

New Agenda VIII - Clarification on Patron-in-Chief (NFC Dehradun)

8. **Issue.** As per Para 13 of Chapter 1 of MoA of NF, the President of India is the Patron-in-Chief. However, in the President's Sectt Website, the President is the Patron/ Chief Patron/ President of only three organisations, which does not include NF.

9. **Deliberations.** Cmde (NV) stated that the President of India is the Chief Patron of the NF, vide President's Secretariat letter 009/CER/32(87) dated 22 Sep 1987, and a case for inclusion in the President's Sectt Website would be taken up with Military Secy to the President.

10. **Decision.** The President directed that the NF Chapters are to be updated regarding the matter, and directed that the **point be closed**.

Action: Cmde (NV)