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WE/1022/RGC/6/28-A

15 Oct 24

MINUTES OF THE IXth REGIONAL GOVERNING COUNCIL (WEST) MEETING

1. The IXth meeting of the Navy Foundation Regional Governing Council (West) was held at WNC(O) Mess Conference Room on 28 Sep 24. Vice Admiral Sanjay Jasjit Singh, AVSM, NM, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Western Naval Command and Chairperson of Regional Governing Council (West) chaired the meeting. The following were present:-

(a) **Council Members.**

Ser	Rank and Name	Appointment/ Designation
(i)	RAdm Sundeeep K Verma, NM	CSO(P&A) & Vice Chairperson RGC(W)
(ii)	Cmde JP Chiplunkar	CEDO & Secy RGC(W)

(b) **Invitees.**

Ser	Rank and Name	Appointment
(i)	RAdm Anil Jaggi	FOMA
(ii)	Surg RAdm Dilip Raghavan	CO, Asvini
(iii)	Surg Cmde P Gokulakrishnan	ACMO
(iv)	Cmde Sunil Kumar Roy	CO, Kunjali
(v)	Cmde Sunil Rajasekharan	CO, Tanaji
(vi)	Cmde Satyen Vartak	Dir, RC ECHS(Mbi)
(vii)	Cmde Pushkar Kumar	GM, INCS(Mbi)
(viii)	Cmde Rishiraj Kohli	CO, Angre
(ix)	Capt Anto Joseph	LOIC NAVPEN
(x)	Capt Saju Joseph	OIC ECHS Mumbai Upnagar
(xi)	Capt RS Saini	CRSO(W)
(xii)	Cdr Amit Bhalerao	SSO(Welfare)
(xiii)	Maj PP Jadhav (Retd)	ZSWO(Thane)

(c) **Chapter Representatives.**

Ser	Rank and Name	Designation
(i)	VAdm J Korde, PVSM, AVSM, VSM (Retd)	President, NF Pune Chapter
(ii)	VAdm KO Thakare, AVSM, NM(Retd)	President, NF Nagpur Chapter
(iii)	RAdm PG Pynumootil, AVSM, NM (Retd)	President, NF Goa Chapter

Ser	Rank and Name	Designation
(iv)	Cmde Sridar Ramaswamy (Retd)	Secretary, NF Pune Chapter
(v)	Cdr Devendra Singh	Secretary, NF Bengaluru Chapter
(vi)	Cdr Anupam Mishra	Treasurer, NF Bengaluru Chapter
(vii)	LtCdr Farokh Tarapore, VSM (Retd)	Secretary, NF Mumbai Chapter

OPENING ADDRESS BY THE CHAIRPERSON RGC(W) & FOC-IN-C (W)

2. The Chairperson extended a warm welcome to the Presidents of NF Chapters of Pune, Nagpur, and Goa as also to the Chapters Reps from Bengaluru and Mumbai and expressed heartfelt gratitude to each one of them for the continued and significant contribution being made by them to the Navy as also the veteran community. He mentioned that this meeting enables us to take stock of various ongoing measures to progress the vision and charter of the Navy Foundation.

3. The Chairperson reiterated the vast charter of the Navy Foundation whilst emphasising on its federal structure as an umbrella organisation with the constituent regional chapters in an essentially hub-and-spoke configuration. He complimented all the chapters for their nonidentical yet parallel and synchronized efforts and thrust in furtherance of the vision of the Navy Foundation and acknowledged the efforts undertaken by the chapters in accordance with the broad vision and principles that have been laid down allowing the Navy Foundation to grow in the manner it has over the past seven decades.

OLD AGENDA POINTS

Item No. XV { 7th RGC(W) Meeting }

Point. Provision of Community Hall in Kharghar
(Point from NF MC)

Background

4. The agenda point was initially discussed during the 4th RGC (W) meeting held on 13 Aug 18 and was retained.

5. During the 5th RGC Meeting, it was brought out that the building plan was sanctioned by CIDCO and that a payment of ₹ 25,26,353 /- to CIDCO by Dept. of Sainik Welfare (DSW) was also made.

6. During the 6th RGC Meeting, FOMA apprised the gathering that Chief Secy, Govt of Maharashtra had directed CIDCO to prepare revised plan and forward the same to Dept of ESM Welfare, since building norms had been revised by the State Government and additional FSI was likely to be available for the project.

7. During the 7th RGC Meeting, FOMA apprised the gathering that the preparation of the revised plan by CIDCO had been hampered due to COVID. It was also intimated that approval had been accorded by the Mantralaya for a fresh plan to CIDCO and that the plan was likely to be approved by end-Aug 22.

8. During the 8th RGC meeting, FOMA apprised and reiterated to the gathering that considerable delay is experienced in executing the project due to clarification sought by Principal Secretary, ESM on the issue of inclusion of Old Age Home in the project.

9. FOMA further brought out that in view of revision of building norms {increasing Floor Space Index (**FSI**)} by the State Government, the issue was re-examined and Govt of Maharashtra had accorded approval iro CIDCO to provide clearance for increased FSI and extended the construction period of the project on a Turnkey basis by three years.

10. The project of Integrated Welfare Centre (IWC), Kharghar is steered by the Rajya Sainik Kalyan Board. Open land of 2499 Sq Mtrs at Kharghar is allocated by Government of Maharashtra and is in possession of the Sainik Kalyan Board.

11. AoN of ₹ 40 Cr sanctioned by the State Govt. for the project for construction of seven storied Integrated Welfare Centre. The State Govt. had approached CIDCO for executing the project. Initial cost indicated by CIDCO was ₹ 40 Cr. However, the final costing for the project submitted by CIDCO is ₹ 89 Cr.

12. An internal meeting was chaired by FOMA on 31. May 24 to determine way ahead and explore the options to bridge the deficit amount of ₹ 49 Cr during which the following options emerged:-

- (i) Obtaining budgetary quote from a Private Builder/ CPWD/ CE(Navy).
- (ii) Feasibility of obtaining funds from KSB/ Special Funds under custody of the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra.

Discussions

13. ZSWO(Thane) apprised the gathering that the case for financing was being actively pursued since Jul 24 with the Government of Maharashtra view the escalatory change in costing from ₹ 40 Crores to ₹ 89 Crores. No action was taken on the same to-date since the the Secretary who was heading the department had changed three times. The Principal Secretary, Mrs Anshu Sinha has taken over w.e.f 01 Aug 24 and she was given a comprehensive presentation on the entire issue on 27 Sep 24 along with the proposal of a budget of ₹ 100 Crores being borne by the Government of Maharashtra over a period of three years. ZSWO(Thane) further mentioned that the Principal Secretary had agreed to the same and that the final proposal would be sent to her by 01 Oct 24. If the State Government were to agree, then the requisite clearances would also be received immediately, failing which it could happen with the new government in Nov 24.

14. Chairperson brought out that it was expected that the elections would be announced by the first week of Oct 24 with which the Model Code of Conduct would come into force and perforce the issue would be delayed till Nov 24. He requested the ZSWO(Thane) to

try and get the requisite clearances by 07 Oct 24.

15. Chairperson also directed Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) to formally inform Managing Director, CO ECHS that the next polyclinic of the ECHS would be accommodated in the Integrated Welfare Centre. Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) stated that while he had prepared the draft letter, he had not yet informed the MD, CO ECHS and would do so based on the decisions taken in the meeting. He further queried if the ECHS PC Thane be linked (which is presently located at CABS) to this case. Chairperson brought out that these were two separate issues. ZSWO(Thane) reiterated that the proposal for inclusion of a ECHS PC within the new IWC had already been agreed to and the same is a part of the revised plan given by CIDCO. In fact, one complete floor out of the proposed eight floors of the IWC would be allotted for the ECHS PC. Dir RC ECHS brought out that there was already AIP accorded for a ECHS PC at Navi Mumbai which was put on hold in 2020, and that he would prepare a SOC for revival of the case and link it with the IWC proposal. This would be separate, and in addition to, the already sanctioned ECHS PC for Thane, which is currently operating from Tanaji

Chairperson's Decision

16. Chairperson directed that **the Point be retained** with the following actions to be initiated :

- (a) ZSWO(Thane) to try and obtain requisite clearances from the Government of Maharashtra for the IWC.
- (b) Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) to progress the proposal for ECHS PC at IWC as follows:
 - (i) Revive the 2020 case for the ECHS PC at Navi Mumbai.
 - (ii) Prepare budgetary estimates and process case for the outright purchase of one floor for ECHS PC within the IWC, if required.

Action : Dir, RC ECHS (Mumbai)/
ZSWO(Thane)

Item No. VII { 7th RGC(W) Meeting }

Point. Empanelment of Additional Hospitals in Goa
(Point from NF GC)

Background

17. The point was discussed during the 7th RGC meeting when it was brought out that only one hospital viz., Manipal Hospital, Goa was empanelled in Goa and that other hospitals were not keen for empanelment. Dir RC ECHS(Mbi) brought out that empanelment of SMRC, Vasco is being monitored closely. The Chairperson directed Dir RC ECHS(Mbi) to get the empanelment of SMRC, Vasco as committed. SMRC Hospital, Goa has since, been empanelled on 08 Dec 23.

18. Further, President NF NC had apprised the gathering of issues being faced by few empanelled hospitals wrt clearance of pending bills by CDA. Chairperson had directed CMO to dispatch DO letters to all empanelled hospitals clearly bringing out the requirement to exercise due diligence when forwarding requisite documents to CDA in order to avoid delayed payments. In Oct 23, DO letters were sent by CMO to management of empanelled hospitals requesting due diligence when forwarding bills to CDA in order to ensure expeditious clearance of the same.

Discussions

19. Chairperson asked President , NF GC as to whether the issues has been resolved. President, NF GC apprised the gathering that Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) had personally visited Goa to ensure the empanelment of SMRC and that the same was functioning satisfactorily. He also mentioned that clearance of bills submitted by the empanelled hospitals in Goa was also being done expeditiously.

20. Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) apprised the gathering that payment of bills was not an issue as long as funds were available:

Chairperson's Decision

21. Chairperson directed that the **Point be closed.**

Item No. VIII { 7th RGC(W) Meeting }

Point. Empanelment of additional multi-specialty hospitals in the Western suburbs
(Point from NF MC)

Background

22. On the issue of empanelment of Hiranandani hospital, it was brought out that the hospital administration had suggested few amendments in the MoA and the same were forwarded to Central Organisation, ECHS. However, the changes proposed were not accepted by Central Organisation, ECHS as the MoA is a standard one across all hospitals.

23. Cashless Transaction facility is already functional in the Tata Memorial Hospital, as confirmed by Director, RC,ECHS during the 7th RGC.

Discussions

24. Dir RC ECHS further informed the gathering about the state of fresh negotiations with Hiranandani after a new CEO at Hiranandani has been appointed and that they are keen to get empanelled, but with unacceptable caveats like willingness to provide only super speciality services, unwillingness to do consultancy at CGHS rates, etc. The draft of

the MoA had been shared with the new CEO, but on 27 Sep 24, the new CEO communicated the hospital's unwillingness to include Radiology.

25. Chairperson directed Dir RC ECHS to continue his efforts with the hospital, delve deeper into the issue and mentioned that the issue would need to be addressed at multiple levels through negotiations with the management. Secretary, NF MC stated that the issue requires a top-down approach and that the hospital was asking only for minor amendments. Chairperson mentioned that Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) has brought out that the amendments asked for are not minor ones and the hospital wants a brand new MoA customised as a business model, which is not feasible. Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) informed the gathering about the large number of hospitals already empanelled on the Western and Central lines. Chairperson directed Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) to continue with empaneling as many hospitals as possible.

26. Insofar as the issue of cashless transaction facilities at Tata Memorial Hospital is concerned, Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) informed the gathering that all payments to the hospital were already being done at actuals. He also informed that there was absolutely no issue wrt payments at the hospital.

Chairperson's Decision

27. Chairperson directed Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) to continue efforts at empanelment of additional hospitals including Hiranandani Hospital. **Point to be retained.**

Action : Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai)

Item No. : II { 8th RGC(W) Meeting }

Point. 'Pratishtha' to be considered for Old Age Home for Veteran officers
(Point from NF MC)

Background

28. During the 8th RGC meeting, President, NFMC brought out that due to paucity of suitable accommodation in vicinity of service/civil hospitals in Mumbai. 'Pratishtha' may be considered for Old Age Home for Veteran Officers.

29. The Chairperson had directed the CSO(P&A) to take up the issue on file considering various aspects like allotment procedures, maintenance, functional issues, safety, security, medical, legal issues etc. into consideration.

30. Inputs were sought from Tanaji and the same were examined. Tanaji had indicated that in light of the 'Key-on-Arrival' initiative and the existing crunch in provision of accommodation for serving personnel at Tanaji, it would not be feasible to allocate Pratishtha as Old Age Home. Tanaji had cited further additional requirements of support and peripheral services that would be attendant for the purpose which the station was not

in a position to cater for.

31. The legal implications of the proposal were sought from CJA who observed that proposed allotment/ provision of accommodation to veterans on Government land as 'Old Age home' or otherwise was not legally permissible and , therefore, not recommended.

32. In light of the same the case was taken up on file and was '**Not Approved**' by HQWNC.

Discussions

33. Chairperson apprised the gathering that funding for the 'Pratishtha' project had been obtained through CSR for Veer Naris. Consequently, it would send a very wrong message if something that was meant for widows, especially sailors' widows, is reappropriated for veteran officers. Secretary, NF MC immediately agreed and recommended that the point could be closed.

Chairperson's Decision

34. Chairperson directed that the **Point to be closed.**

Item No. III { 8th RGC(W) Meeting }

Point. Opening two additional ECHS Polyclinics in Pune
(Point from NF PC)

Background

35. The point was discussed during the 8th RGC meeting. President, NFPC brought out that Pune has three polyclinics and that, considering the vast area of Pune city and the large numbers of veterans spread out in the city, opening of two additional polyclinics was requested.

36. One additional PC, Pune (Nyati) has since been approved by Central Organisation, ECHS. GSL awaited from MoD. With this, there will a total of four polyclinics operational in Pune.

Discussions

37. Dir RC, ECHS(Mumbai) apprised the gathering that there were three polyclinics operational in Pune, one each at Air Force Station, Lohegaon, MH Khadki, and, at the CH(SC). The fourth one for which approval has been accorded is at Nyati in the NIBM Annexe. The GSL for the same is awaited.

38. Chairperson requested inputs from President, NF PC who stated that the Nyati

ECHS PC is only hearsay to which Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) responded stating that this was already committed by the CO ECHS.

39. President, NF PC apprised the gathering that two additional polyclinics have already been sanctioned by the government. The Army is required to identify the land and setup the polyclinic, which is not progressing for reasons not known. The requirement is to prevail upon the army to identify the land and setup the polyclinics. He further stated that the ECHS PC at Nyati is planned to be setup in close proximity of Pune ECHS PC, which may not serve the intended purpose.

40. President, NF PC brought out that the requirement was more at places like Dehu Road and Pimpri-Chinchwad. Chairperson asked President NF PC for specific locations where the polyclinics could possibly be setup to which President, NF PC recommended Dehu Road and Wagholi.

41. Chairperson then enquired about any other cases for ECHS PC being pursued by Dir RC ECHS(Pune) to which Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) responded stating that as ECHS PC at Nyati has already been sanctioned and ECHS Pune would not be pursuing any other cases.

42. Chairperson directed Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) to initiate correspondence with RC ECHS(Pune) and a DO letter to be sent by CSO(P&A) to HQSC intimating the requirement of additional Polyclinic at Pune, with a copy to the President, NF PC so that NF PC could initiate local liaison for resolution of the issue.

Chairperson's Decision

43. Chairperson directed that the **Point be retained.**

Action : CSO(P&A)/
Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai)/
President NF PC

Item No. IV { 8th RGC(W) Meeting }

Point. **Empanelment of a few additional hospitals with RC ECHS (Pune) that are famous and centrally located (Point from NF PC)**

Background

44. President, NF PC during the 8th RGC proposed that famous hospitals giving best medical aid in Pune and centrally located in the city may be empanelled with cashless facility. During discussions, it was informed by Dir RC ECHS that 19 hospitals in Pune city were already empanelled with ECHS (Pune).

45. Subsequently, opportunity letters for empanelment with ECHS were forwarded to

famous Health Care Organisations (HCOs) at Pune. No interest, however, has been shown by any HCOs for empanelment with RC ECHS, Pune. NFPC may like to informally approach potential hospitals who would like to get empanelled and intimate the details to HQWNC/ RC ECHS(Mumbai) to take up the request formally.

Discussions

46. Chairperson asked President, NF PC if he had any specific hospitals in mind. President NF PC informed the gathering that two hospitals had been added since the last RGC(W) meeting, which were not the high-end but fringe hospitals. He stated that high-end hospitals were not forthcoming view problems being faced in payments. He further stated that veterans were in no position to give any assurance to these hospitals wrt the payment issues.

47. Chairperson noted that the points brought out were two separate and distinct issues, first - regarding existing empanelled hospitals not providing services because of bills not being paid or facing issues in clearance of bills on time, and second – fresh empanelment of hospitals not happening because of the issues related to bill clearance. President, NF PC stated that there was no problem wrt the existing hospitals.

48. Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) apprised the gathering that 36 hospitals were empanelled to-date with RC ECHS(Pune). He also stated that three hospitals namely Ruby Hall, Jahangir and Dinanath Mangeshkar were discussed during the 8th RGC(W) meeting and they were not keen to get empanelled.

49. Chairperson requested President, NF PC to inform Dir RC ECHS(Mumbai) in case of any other new hospitals that may be identified by veterans in Pune and willing to get empanelled, the same would be progressed officially.

Chairperson's Decision

50. Chairperson directed that the **Point be closed** and any further inputs that may be received could be put up as a fresh point.

NEW AGENDA POINTS

Item No. I

Point. Requirement of a small piece of suitable land for creation of ESM facilities and a Naval Museum of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj.
(Point from **NF PC**)

Background.

51. The requirement of land for setting up facilities for ESM and a Naval Museum in honour of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj at Pune was taken up with HQ SC, Pune.

52. HQ SC, Pune intimated that Pune is a land deficient station and transfer of land to Indian Navy by HQ SC is not feasible as the mandatory Zonal Plan requirements of Pune Military Station are not being met within the current land holding.

53. HQ SC, suggested that the Naval Museum may be co-located within the premises of the existing National War Memorial at HQ SC, so as to represent a holistic tri-service perspective.

54. Notwithstanding, the aforesaid, 5.5737 acres of land at Khadki, Pune has been earmarked for *IN* with the initial plan of the boundary wall to be constructed, followed by construction of office spaces in Phase I and Officers Mess, Transit Home and Holiday Home in Phase II respectively. This should suffice to meet the requirements of Naval Veterans at Pune. The construction of the Museum has not been envisaged at this stage and is not recommended.

Discussions.

55. President, NF PC brought out the fact that despite Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj being known as the father of the Indian Navy, there is zero visibility afforded either to him or to the Indian Navy in Pune. He also stated that land admeasuring 5.5737 acres had indeed been allotted to the Navy by the Army, but the same was grossly insufficient to meet the requirements of a museum of the desired nature, since the entire allotted land would be taken up in the construction of office spaces, accommodation and Officers' Mess. He requested the Chairperson to give the desired thrust to the project.

56. Chairperson requested President, NF PC to share as to what ESM facilities was being envisaged, since there were two separate and distinct parts to the entire issue - firstly, the ESM facilities and, secondly, the Naval Museum. He suggested that we should prioritise our limited land availability for official/ unit needs and extend the same to meet ESM needs as feasible.

57. President, NF PC reiterated that the allotted land parcel was grossly inadequate to even accommodate all ESM requirements projected. The Chairperson apprised the gathering that HQWNC had taken up the matter in all earnest with CWO himself having gone to recce the land prior consultation with CSO(P&A) and a draft plan has been submitted. All facilities as indicated, including Office spaces , Officers' Mess , Transit Home and Holiday Home have

been catered for in the draft plan. The same notwithstanding, he further requested President, NF PC to share inputs wrt any other requirements, so that the same could also be factored to the extent feasible in the Master Land Utilisation Plan (MLUP) of the area prior to inclusion of the proposal for AMWP listing.

Chairperson's Decision

58. Chairperson directed that the **Point be closed**.

Item No. II

Point. Mechanism to Call on Chief Minister through ESM Minister/ ESM Secy
(Point from **NF MC**)

Background.

59. This was an agenda point (Agenda VI, Appendix 'B' of the MoM of 31st NF AGM Part II) regarding representation of NF & VSF at RSB Maharashtra, to be able to put across ESMs burning problems directly to CM, through ESM Minister / Secy ESM. NF MC have requested that some mechanism be worked out with Chief Secretary, wherein nominated NF & VSF reps, could call on Chief Minister through ESM Minister / ESM Secretary, for early resolution of problems being faced by ESMs in Mumbai.

60. ZSB is the official body which directly interacts with the Principal Secy at State level and co-ordinates with DESW through KSB at the National level. The ZSB, therefore, remains the nodal agency for arranging such meetings with the CM or Chief Secy of the State Govt.

Discussions

61: Secretary, NF MC stated that it is a request to HQWNC to institutionalise a mechanism for arrangement of such meetings. Chairperson noted that in the backdrop of an already existing procedure for ESMs through the ZSB, the proposal to institutionalise another identical mechanism through the Navy would not stand scrutiny. The Chairperson suggested that every time there is a proposed interaction through CMLC, points could be forwarded, which could be taken up if they were found to merit inclusion. ZSWO(Thane) also apprised the gathering that the CMLC meetings happen separately for all three Services and that the same should happen as one single combined meeting. Chairperson stated that a combined CMLC meeting should be the norm in which all three Services ought to be represented. Chairperson asked the ZSWO(Thane) to seek inputs from all three Services, so that pertinent issues affecting the Services could be taken up for discussions in the CMLC meetings.

Chairperson's Decision

62. Chairperson directed that the **Point be closed**.

Item No. III

Point. Veterans' Day Parade to be held on Sea side road instead of the Promenade at Marine Drive
(Point from **NF MC**)

Background

63. NF MC have been organising a Veterans' Day Parade on the Promenade at the Marine Drive, Mumbai for the past three years drawing inspiration from the ANZAC parade in Australia that was instituted to coincide with the 50th Anniversary of the ANZAC landing in Gallipoli on 25 Apr 15.

64. NF MC have requested that a case be taken up with the Commissioner of Police, Mumbai through Kunjali for allowing Annual Veterans' Day Parade to be held on the Sea side road instead of the Promenade, on the Marine Drive. In addition to the conduct of the parade, approval may also be sought for the Drone shooting of the Parade.

65. In the month of Oct each year, orders regarding celebration of Veterans' Day are received from NHQ based on policy directives from HQ IDS. The following salients iro Veterans' Day are pertinent and merit attention :-

(a) In accordance with the COSC directives, 14th Jan each year is commemorated as the 'Armed Forces Veterans Day' as an annual Tri-service event to acknowledge and honour the selfless devotion and sacrifices of our veterans.

(b) Each year, two Naval Stations are nominated by name. For the year 2025, it is likely that Mumbai and Visakhapatnam would be nominated, though formal communication to the effect is yet to be received. Understandably, the Navy being the larger Service in the station will be nominated as the lead Service for conduct of the functions at Mumbai.

(c) It is expected that Hon'ble RM and CDS may attend the function at one of the selected stations.

(d) HQWNC is mandated to conduct only two officially promulgated functions for the purpose :-

(i) Wreath Laying Ceremony at War Memorial

(ii) Veterans' Day Rally at central location with adequate space for making suitable arrangements for setting up helpdesks/ kiosks wrt ECHS/ Pension/ Canteen, etc. and refreshments.

(e) There is no reference or mention of any formal parade mandated for the occasion.

(f) Apart from the two activities mentioned above, all other activities being conducted by the NF MC are their internal events.

66. The Veterans' Day Parade on the Promenade at the Marine Drive is, therefore, an independent initiative of the NF MC, organised, sponsored and conducted by the NF MC. For the past three years, President NF MC has been personally inviting the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra to flag off the parade. FOC-in-C(W), Flag officers and senior hierarchy from the

Navy attend the same on invitation from the President, NF MC.

67. Accordingly, responsibility for progressing clearance for parade with civil authorities should rest with NFMC as it is an event involving veterans from all Services. While HQMNA/Kunjali could provide the necessary guidance, NFMC may liaise with ZSB who would co-ordinate with the state authorities, police, MCGM, etc. through the Principal Secy for necessary arrangements.

Discussions

68. Secretary, NF MC apprised the gathering that the for the past three years the Veterans' Day Parade has been conducted on the Promenade at the Marine Drive. He brought out that due to the large number of spectators and general public present on the Promenade, it becomes increasingly difficult to identify the veterans from the general populace. He further stated that it would be better if the permission for the same to be conducted on the road could be obtained, which would help in organising a smarter and organised parade with larger participation.

69. Chairperson brought out the genesis of the Tri-services Veterans' Day and the reasons for the same having been finalised for 14 Jan. He apprised the gathering that the functions to be conducted for the event are ordained by date, with the same being non-negotiable. It was also stated that for the past three years, NF MC has been organising the Veterans' Day Parade with active support from the Navy. Chairperson also elaborated upon the difficulties associated with conduct of such an event on 14 Jan in Mumbai, especially if it was a working day.

70. Secretary, NF MC brought out that the rationale behind having the parade on Sunday was that 14 Jan is not a holiday, and would, therefore, not attract the kind of publicity and spread awareness as it does when conducted on a Sunday.

71. Chairperson agreed and stated that, as of now, it cannot be called the formal Veterans' Day Parade because it is not necessarily being done on the designated Veterans' Day. Currently, it is a NF MC event and not a Navy event, and the dynamics would change if the same were to be promulgated as a Service event. However, we could examine a model wherein the two, presently separate, events could be linked and co-ordinated, with NF MC continuing to be the lead for the Parade (with Navy's support), and post-parade "rally" events spearheaded by the Navy.

72. FOMA opined that the point was centred around shifting the event from the Promenade to the road. Administrative support for the event was anyways being provided by Kunjali and Angre. CO Kunjali brought out that he has approached the BMC for seeking permission for the event to be conducted on the road but was told that apart from the Tata Mumbai Marathon, no other event is being permitted to be organised on the roads. Hence status quo would need to be maintained wrt parade on the promenade.

Chairperson's Decision

73. Chairperson directed CSO(P&A) to send a letter to CPS with reference to last year's

HQ IDS/ NHQ directives, elaborating on the difficulty of conducting the Rally on a working day in a place like Mumbai, and that for this year, we would be conducting only the wreath laying ceremony on 14 Jan with the Rally and all other activities to be done on the Sunday preceding 14 Jan. Chairperson directed FOMA and CO Kunjali to work out the coordination for conduct of the Rally, accordingly, in coordination with the other Services. Chairperson directed that the **Point be closed.**

Action : CSO(P&A)/ FOMA

Item No. IV

**Point. Permanent Type 'C' ECHS Polyclinic at Thane District
(Point from NF MC)**

Background

74. Sanction of the Central Organisation for a permanent Type 'C', ECHS Polyclinic in Thane district was accorded vide letter No. 18(222)/2019- D(WE/Res-I) dated 10 Jun 22. Last year, President, NFMC, Oi/C ECHS Nerul and CIDCO rep identified a suitable place (for lease / outright purchase) 2910 sq ft empty hall (Model No B- 301) on 3rd Floor of Sanpada Railway Station under Thane District for a permanent Type 'C', ECHS Polyclinic which is best suited for veterans residing in Navi Mumbai and Thane. It is requested that the same be pursued.

75. Board was appointed by Station HQ to hire / lease suitable location for ECHS PC Thane including location proposed by NFMC at Sanpada Railway Station.

76. Board Proceedings of the shortlisted location were forwarded to Central Organisation ECHS through HQWNC/ CWO in Apr 24. The case was returned by Central Organisation in Jul 24, indicating re-bidding of the case. Additionally, case for vacant unit up to 2500 sq ft was processed with CIDCO and the same was advertised for commercial offer. Nil response, however, was received from CIDCO.

77. Further, it is pertinent to mention that the sanction accorded vide Central Organisation letter No. 18(222)/2019- D(WE/Res-I) dated 10 Jun 22 is towards construction of New Polyclinic and **No lease / outright purchase is allowed.**

Discussions

78. Chairperson informed the gathering that he had personally taken up the case with the Def Secy who had further taken up the issue with Directorate of ESW. The case is being held up since all polyclinics perforce have to be on Defence land, a condition which all three Services had agreed to since inception.

79. He also shared with the gathering that, on assumption of office, he had queried as to why was the polyclinic was functional in a dilapidated structure that was to have been vacated on safety requirements, and was informed that there was enormous pressure from all quarters including the NF MC not to shift the same. Chairperson reiterated that convenience cannot possibly trump safety, since safety takes priority over everything else. Hence, even as case for

hiring was pursued, he had instructed CABS to get interim facility ready at Tanaji at the earliest. As of date, we have a fully functional facility which has been well received by the veteran fraternity, the DASR of about 150 – 160 (same as it was in the hired location at Nerul) being an indicator of the same.

80. Chairperson further informed the gathering that efforts are still on to progress the case of hiring, where the monthly rental/ hiring charges were upwards of ₹ 1.90 Lakhs per month. Chairperson briefed the gathering about the latest status of the case wherein the BPs were returned by the CO ECHS requesting rebidding with revised QRs with no specific inputs on which QRs were required to be amended/ altered/ changed, etc. He opined that it was highly unlikely that the case would go through in the near term. Chairperson indicated that a better long term solution was the planned ECHS PC at the IWC.

81. ZSWO(Thane) stated that Thane as a district has been bereft of a polyclinic ever since the polyclinic was placed in Nerul and it was, therefore, essential that data wrt the dependency footfall be obtained before deciding on the location of the polyclinic. He informed the gathering that the major concentration of ESMs was in Kalyan, Badlapur, Ambarnath, and in Thane city, where the polyclinic should go back to.

82. Chairperson in response stated that a polyclinic could well be setup on naval land in Kalyan, but it would not be possible to setup any administrative support. In contrast, with the polyclinic at Tanaji, all expenditure for supporting the polyclinic gets absorbed within the station expenditure apart from being administratively convenient. He further informed the gathering that a similar situation existed in Thane city where we face acute problems arising out of lack of connectivity.

83. Chairperson summed up the point by reiterating that the viable long term solution was establishment of the Navi Mumbai ECHS PC within the IWC, which would cater to the requirements of all ESMs from Thane, Navi Mumbai and Kharghar. Concurrently, he also mentioned that the ECHS PC at Tanaji would not be shut down unless there was an extremely drastic drop in the DASR or till a suitable location near Nerul was identified.

Chairperson's Decision

84. Chairperson directed that the **Point be closed.**

Item No. **V**

Point. **Temporary Polyclinic at Vashi due to closure of Polyclinic at Nerul**
(Point from NF MC)

Background

85. NF MC had put up the point that ESMs residing in Navi Mumbai are facing a lot of inconvenience due of the polyclinic in Nerul which was having a daily footfall of 150 – 160 ESMs. Shifting to Temporary Polyclinic in Vashi may please be expedited, as going for referral and medicines all the way to Mankhurd is causing lot of heartburns to the ESMs residing in Navi Mumbai.

86. Post temporary shifting of the Polyclinic at Mankhurd, the Polyclinic continues to have

beneficiaries, it was understood that the present arrangement is comparatively safer and better than earlier location at Nerul.

87. Notwithstanding, efforts are in progress for relocation of the polyclinic to a suitable area and a fresh tender for hiring of an immovable property for the same has been floated on 26 Sep 24 with TOD 05 Nov 24.

Discussions

88. There were no further discussions on the point since all relevant, attendant and pertinent issues were adequately addressed during discussions for Item No. IV above, which was a linked point. Chairperson, however, directed Dir RC ECHS and Stn Cdr Tanaji to take all stakeholders on board prior finalising any location for hiring, and assessing its suitability and utility vis-à-vis the facility at Tanaji.

Chairperson's Decision

89. Chairperson directed that the **Point be closed**.

CLOSING ADDRESS OF THE CHAIRPERSON

90. On completion of discussions on these agenda points and there being no other points for discussions, the Chairperson complimented all members for active, healthy and forward looking discussions. He thanked all present for their whole hearted participation and assured every possible support to the veteran community, within inherent constraints. He reiterated the charter of the Navy Foundation in taking the Navy to the people through the veterans, thereby facilitating outreach and awareness of the Navy amongst the general population.

91. These minutes are issued with the approval of the Chairperson.

J. P. Chiplunkar

(JP Chiplunkar)
Commodore
Command Education and Welfare Officer &
Secretary
for Chairperson, RGC (West)

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