

15 Jul 22

**MINUTES OF 29TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NAVY FOUNDATION HELD AT
GOA ON 22 MAY 22**

1. Admiral R Hari Kumar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff and President, Navy Foundation chaired the 29th Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Navy Foundation held at Goa on 22 May 22. The following were present: -

(a) **Invitees.**

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| (i) | Adm Arun Prakash (Retd) PVSM, AVSM, VrC, VSM | |
| (ii) | Adm KB Singh (Retd) PVSM, AVSM | |
| (iii) | V Adm AB Singh, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC | FOC-in-C (West) |
| (iv) | R Adm Vikram Menon, VSM | FOGA |
| (v) | R Adm AD Nair, VSM | ACOP(AC) |
| (vi) | Cmde Ashish Goyal | CSO, HQGNA |
| (vii) | Capt Abhishek Kumar | CO, INS Gomantak |

(b) **Members.**

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| (i) | V Adm Suraj Berry AVSM, VSM, NM | Vice President, NF |
| (ii) | R Adm Sandeep Pradhan, VSM | Secy RGC (East) |
| (iii) | R Adm Sanjeev Sharma, NM | Secy RGC (West) |
| (iv) | Cmde Vivek Karnavat | Treasurer, NF |
| (v) | Cmde Pankaj Sharma | Secretary, NF |
| (vi) | Cmde Sankardeep Bharali | Secy RGC (South) |
| (vii) | Capt Varun Singh | Legal member |
| (viii) | Cdr T Dutta | Jt Secy, NF |

(c) **In Attendance.**

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| (i) | Cmde Sandeep Verma | Cmde (PA) |
| (ii) | Cmde Dhiraj Sareen | Cmde (ECHS) Navy |

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| (iii) | Capt Pushkar Kumar | Capt (PS & PM) |
| (iv) | Capt Gopinath Narayanan | Secy INCCB |
| (v) | Lt Cdr Saumya Bahadur | Lt Cdr(ECHS) |

(d) **Chapter Representatives.**

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| (i) | VAdm AG Thapliyal (Retd), AVSM* | President NF Dehradun |
| (ii) | VAdm M P Muralidharan (Retd), AVSM*,NM | President, NF Kerala |
| (iii) | RAdm Sampath Gopal (Retd), AVSM,NM | President, NF Bangalore |
| (iv) | RAdm Amit Bose (Retd) | President, NF Kolkata |
| (v) | RAdm S Shrikhande (Retd), AVSM | President, NF Goa |
| (vi) | Cmde VK Gautam (Retd), NM | President, NF C'garh |
| (vii) | Cmde AJ Singh (Retd) | V President, NF Delhi |
| (viii) | Cmde RS Vasani (Retd) | President, NF Chennai |
| (ix) | Cmde LM Khanna (Retd) | Secy, NF Hyderabad |
| (x) | Cmde A Chinaverriyya (Retd) | Rep, NF Vizag |
| (xi) | Capt Atulya Dayal (Retd) | Rep, NF Lucknow |
| (xii) | Cdr Vijay Vadhera (Retd), NM | President, NF Mumbai |
| (xiii) | Cdr S Sriramakrishnan (Retd) | President, NF Coimbatore |
| (xiv) | Cdr DK Swain (Retd) | Secy, NF Odisha |
| (xv) | Cdr Sudheer Nadgouda (Retd) | Secy, NF Pune |
| (xvi) | Cdr Sanjeev Rawat (Retd) | Treasurer, NF Jaipur |

Item I - Welcome Address by Vice President, NF

2. The Vice President, NF extended a warm welcome to all present and in particular thanked ex-CNSs, other retired flag officers and out-station Navy Foundation representatives who had taken the efforts to attend Annual General Body meeting of the Navy Foundation. He also placed on record sincere thanks to members of Navy Foundation Goa Chapter who had turned up in large numbers to participate. The Vice President then added that Service was in a fine shape due to the efforts and foresight of officers of yesteryears.

3. He stated that a meeting in person was being conducted after a gap of two years. Last two years were very difficult as well as challenging and showed us the way to interact through virtual media. That has brought out the importance of meeting and remaining in touch with each other. He also expressed his condolences for the sad

demise of members due to COVID. He then assured that the present organisation is very committed towards understanding and resolving the problems of ESM. He then made a mention about the tragic incident where Navy lost four officers and one MCPO due to an avalanche on Mount Trishul on 01 Oct 21. He assured that necessary assistance, as far as possible, within the naval procedures has been provided to the family of the deceased personnel.

4. The Vice President, thereafter, informed the forum that in order to ensure smooth transition post retirement, capsules for retired/ retiring officers and sailors are being conducted regularly. He then mentioned that enhancing the quality of second innings for retiring/ retired naval personnel has been a focus area. MoUs have been signed with five companies to provide employment to retired naval personnel, the latest being with M/s L&T Shipbuilding.

5. He briefed NF members, about 'Vijay Parv', a Tri-Services event that was celebrated from 11 to 16 Dec 21, as part of *Swarnim Vijay Varsh* at New Delhi. 1971 war veterans were felicitated during the celebrations. VAdm SH Sarma, PVSM (Retd), Fleet Commander of the Eastern Fleet during 1971 war was part of the celebrations. He also added that, Hon'ble Raksha Mantri mentioned that it was an honour for him to meet VAdm SH Sarma and other war veterans like divers, technicians and family members of personnel who laid down their lives during 1971 war.

6. He drew attention of the forum to few initiatives that have been taken recently to meet the ESM requirements like HANDSHAKE, digitizing of HR records, common database etc. The Vice President concluded by welcoming everyone once again and requested the Secretary to commence proceedings of AGM.

Item II - Presentation by PCDA (N) & CDA (Pensions), Prayagraj

7. The teams of PCDA (N) and CDA (Pensions), Prayagraj gave a detailed presentations and addressed the queries of the retired officers on the following :-

- (a) System for Pension Administration (Raksha) - SPARSH.
- (b) Transition to e-PPO.

Item III - Presentation by Cmde (ECHS Navy)

8. Cmde (ECHS Navy) covered the following aspects in his presentation:-

- (a) Types of emergencies and procedure for reimbursement.
- (b) Status of empanelled hospitals.
- (c) Online processing of bills.
- (d) Recent ECHS developments.

- (e) Medicine Management.
- (f) Channel for of grievance redressal.

9. During the presentation, the members aired their concern over shortage of medicines in various polyclinics. Cmde (ECHS) informed the members that the issue was specific to only a few locations where vendors were not able to supply medicines within 24 hours. Vice President, NF advised members to shift to Naval polyclinics, wherever, feasible.

Item IV - New Agenda Points (Part I)

10. Two new agenda points were discussed under the chairmanship of VAdm Suraj Berry, CPS and Vice President Navy Foundation. Details of discussions and decisions arrived are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

Item V - Address by President, NF

11. The President, Navy Foundation extended a warm welcome to all present and in particular thanked ex-CNSs, other retired flag officers and out station Navy Foundation representatives who had taken the efforts to attend Annual General meeting of the Navy Foundation. He requested all present to rise and to join him in paying homage to members who had departed for their heavenly abode since Jan 21. He mentioned that the Annual General Body meeting gives the Navy an opportunity to reaffirm Navy's commitment to the retired community, as well as re-state Navy's gratitude for their invaluable contribution towards laying a firm foundation. He mentioned about the establishment of Navy Foundation and how it has developed over time and has been assisting ESM. He added that even as the Indian Navy grows from strength to strength, the Indian Navy would remain committed to maintaining a robust and meaningful relationship between the serving and retired members of the family. The President NF further added that the Indian Navy was privileged to have the continuing benefit of experience and wisdom of our ESM. Their guidance would always be welcomed, and he requested all members to continue to remain engaged with the Service.

12. He mentioned about the turbulence in the international arena and how it has added to the existing dynamism in landscape and intense political & economic turmoil in our immediate neighbourhood. He cautioned that such unrest could affect us and the present naval leadership has been observing these things very closely. He focused on the visible transition of India's maritime missions in last few years and how Indian Navy has expanded its footprint and maintained high operational tempo in the IOR and beyond. In this regard, he mentioned about President Fleet Review 2022 and Milan 2022 where Service Chiefs and senior diplomats from 39 countries and 13 operational platforms of Foreign Navies took part. He also acknowledged the role of naval innovation and indigenization organization to promote innovation and *Atmanirbharta*.

13. He said that our personnel are our greatest strength and Navy has taken a number of initiatives to keep the Navy a happy force. Similarly, wellbeing of our retired personnel has always been an area of prime concern and navy continues to remain focused towards welfare of our ESM and their families. He then highlighted few significant steps which have been taken recently to empower ESM and their families which included, conclusion of MoUs with multinational corporations and PSUs towards second career opportunities, procurement of Medical equipment worth four crores, plans to establish widows' hostels at Mumbai, Vizag and Kochi through CSR funds.

14. Thereafter, he touched upon about the expansion of accommodation schemes and initiatives towards providing single accommodation to all serving personnel in Delhi. He brought out that Brar Square has been renamed as Pereira enclave with clearance from the Supreme Court and planning has been done for housing 600 sailors in that location. He also informed the audience about central hiring of accommodation by the Navy, reimbursement of which is through HRA in Mumbai and Delhi.

15. He spoke about the present pension system which has been functioning in accordance with digital India scheme. He reiterated that the system has been providing a single window system to address all issues of ESM. He requested all retired personnel to visit DESA website regularly as the quarterly e-newsletter published by DESA contains valuable and useful information.

16. He requested the members to keep forwarding their ideas and suggestions. He expressed his views about strengthening veteran organisations viz Navy Foundation and VSF. He said that the three key aspects of these organisations are membership, participation and funding. He urged all retired personnel to act as ambassadors of the Navy & to inspire the best of our youth to join Navy and to spread maritime consciousness in the country. He mentioned about the power of social media and how it may be used to spread consciousness about the positive and constructive image of Navy. He further mentioned that participation in negative discussions on social media should be avoided. He also expressed his expectation from retired personnel to support changes in Navy keeping with the aspirations of India and Indians.

17. He thanked everyone once again for sparing their valuable time to be at the meeting. The President Navy Foundation, on behalf of the Navy and the Nation, conveyed sincere gratitude to ESM for their leadership and contributions whilst in service, and for their steadfast support and guidance even after swallowing the anchor. He wished everyone good health, happiness and success in every endeavour.

Item VI - Confirmation of 27th & 28th AGM Minutes.

18. The Secretary NF confirmed that the minutes of 27th & 28th AGM were forwarded to all Chapters. Cdr Sudheer Nadgouda (Retd), Secy, Pune Chapter proposed confirmation of the minutes of 27th & 28th AGM, it was seconded by Cmde VK Gautam (Retd) NM, President, Chandigarh Chapter. Thereafter, minutes of the 27th & 28th AGM were signed by the President, Navy Foundation.

Item VII - Secretary's Report.

19. The Secretary presented the report on the activities of the Navy Foundation since the last Annual General Meeting held over VC on 29 Jan 21.

20. He highlighted the change in the Management Committee of a few Chapters since the last AGM and that he looked forward to a fruitful interaction ahead. He informed the gathering that the ROIC, being issued by the *IN* on retirement, has been standardised and now its design and layout is **exactly the same for all** the three services. He further emphasised that this ROIC should not be confused with the ESM I Card issued by the KSB through the Sainik Boards. The I-Card issued by Sainik Board is required to avail various benefits provided to ESM by the Govt. Also, the Sainik Boards have been asking for the Certificate of Service in booklet format and he requested members to spread the message so that all retired officers, not in possession of the same can now apply through DESA.

21. He further brought out that Kendriya Sainik Board has informed the *IN* about reluctance of retired naval personnel in registering with the Local Sainik Boards. He reiterated that since retired naval personnel are not registering with sainik boards, the actual strength of *IN* retirees does not translate to ZSBs and hence is not factored towards establishment of new ZSBs/ ECHS Polyclinics as the same are tri-service organizations functioning under Secy ESW.

22. Thereafter, he stated that the annual magazine of Navy Foundation, the Quarterdeck, could not be published last year. However, the delay was due to restructuring of the Magazine and he informed the gathering that Quarterdeck 2022 would be printed in a new *avatar* and would be published by early Feb 23. With this, he concluded his report and informed that Navy Foundation Chapters have re-commenced their activities and they would continue to be a lively organisation and would strive towards nation building.

Item VIII - New Agenda Points (Part II).

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

Item IX - Concluding Remarks by President NF.

24. The President, NF stated that he was thankful to senior retired officers for being present for the meeting. He conveyed his sincere gratitude and once again thanked all the participants on behalf of Navy and nation for their contribution and leadership even after retiring from service. He assured that no stone will be left unturned at Naval Headquarters looking into all aspects for retired personnel and that navy remembers all retired personnel every day. He wished good health and success to all in their endeavours.

Item X - Vote of Thanks.

25. The AGM ended with a vote of thanks by Secretary, Navy Foundation on behalf of the President, Navy Foundation.
26. There being no other points, the meeting was adjourned.
27. These minutes are issued with the approval of President, Navy Foundation.



(Pankaj Sharma)
Commodore
Secretary, Navy Foundation

Distribution: - Normal

AGM Part I (Chaired by CPS)

New Agenda Points

Agenda I - Centralized Procedure for NF Membership

1. **Issue.** The procedure has been implemented since 01 Oct 2017. The following info is requested:-

(a) Total numbers of officers retired post 01 Oct 2017 with station wise breakdown.

(b) Chapter wise breakdown of Officers retired after 01 Oct 2017 who have joined – various NF Chapters.

2. Till date only 48 Veterans have opted to join NFMC. If the overall number of Officers retired after 01 Oct 2017 does not equal to the members who joined NF Chapters following the new procedure, the very purpose of NHQ's initiative gets defeated. This needs to be deliberated upon, to find out the reason for new retirees not joining even though their joining fee is being paid by NHQ.

Deliberations. A total of 1782 officers have retired since Oct 2017 and 302 have joined various chapters of Navy Foundation. Membership of Navy Foundation is voluntary as per the Societies Registration Act. The NF Membership form has been included as part of retirement forms generation module e-Vigam hosted on Naval Unified Domain. Retiring officers are briefed regarding Navy Foundation during the Pre-retirement capsule conducted quarterly. NF Mumbai Chapter was requested to interact with the retiring officers during the Pre-Retirement Capsule scheduled on 03 Jun 22. The Vice President further brought out that CNS had passed directives regarding enrolment in NF Chapters by retiring officers and that would resolve all issues.

Decision. The Vice president directed that the Point be closed.

Agenda II – ZSWO at Kharghar

3. **Issue.** At present Zila Sainik Office, catering to ESM population of about 1200 Officers & 8000 Sailors in Navi Mumbai is located at Raigad, Distt Alibag which is good 45 kms from Navi Mumbai. This is causing lot of inconvenience to the Sr Veterans & Veer Naaris residing in Navi Mumbai for making their ESM Identity cards. The ZSWO Maj Subhash Sasne (cell no. 9970856438) resides in Pune and comes to his office in

Raigad only once a month. There is, therefore, an urgent need to have a separate Zila Sainik Office in Kharghar to cater for large population of ESM residing in Navi Mumbai.

Deliberations. KSB has intimated that a minimum strength of 7500 ESM/ families of deceased personnel is mandated for instituting a ZSB Office. It is pertinent to mention that a sizable number of *IN* retirees are reluctant in registering in various ZSBs or having an ESM I-Card issued by KSB as the many post retirement requirements of such individuals is accomplished by registration in INPA or by *IN* (retired personnel) I-Card. The actual strength of *IN* retirees, therefore, does not translate to ZSBs and hence is not factored towards establishment of new ZSBs/ ECHS Polyclinics as the same are tri-service organizations functioning under Secy ESW. KSB rep had intimated the same to the retired *IN* sailors, at the VSF AGM held in Mumbai on 03 Apr 22. It is, therefore, recommended that *IN* ESM be encouraged to register with RSBs/ ZSBs to avail maximum benefits provided by Centre/ State in addition to benefits provided by Indian Navy. The Vice President directed that KSB be requested to set up a help desk so as to enable the registration of *IN* ESM at Kharghar.

Decision. The Vice president directed that the Point be closed.

AGM Part II (Chaired by CNS)

Agenda III – Auto Renewal of Canteen Smart Card

1. **Issue.** Banks have a system of renewing Credit and Debit cards automatically when their validity expires. A new card comes by post at your doorstep with instructions on how to activate it, and you are requested to destroy the old, deactivated card. Our CSD Canteen cards need to introduce such a system. The present system is archaic and involves filling up forms, pasting fresh photographs, furnishing PPO copies (for the nth time), and shuttling between residence and various offices. For aging officers to go through such procedures is torturous. The replacement cards also take months to materialize.

Deliberations.

(a) The Canteen Smart Cards are issued only to entitled beneficiaries. The present procedure is a time tested procedure to ensure that no one tries to defeat the system in order to obtain a Canteen Smart Card through incorrect means.

(b) **Annual Renewal.** Annual renewal of Canteen Smart Card is to be carried out by all retired beneficiaries. A copy of PPO is to be submitted at the time of renewal. For renewal of canteen cards beneficiary can approach any URC. Annual renewal does not require fresh application to be submitted.

(c) **Expiry of Card.** Intimation of card expiry appears in the bill of the beneficiary six months prior expiry of card. All URC employees are sensitized to inform beneficiaries the same as it appears on the screen during billing. The average time for processing a canteen smart card application is 45 to 60 days. Beneficiaries can start the renewal process six months prior expiry. During this period, the existing card continues to be valid. In case the beneficiary does not receive the smart card after three months and the existing card ceases to work, the URC can bill the beneficiary using the bronze card.

(d) DDGCS is working on a revised simplified procedure for annual renewal and fresh application. They aim to make the process online. The modalities of the new procedure are being worked out and will be intimated through DESA to all retired beneficiaries.

(e) In the interim, no change is envisaged in the existing procedure.

Decision. The President directed that the Point be closed.