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DX/ 900/ GCM-2022

15 Jul 22

**MINUTES OF 28th & 29th GOVERNING COUNCIL 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 28th & 29th Governing Council Meeting (GCM) of the Navy Foundation held at Goa on 22 May 22. The following were present: -

(a) **Invitees.**

- (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)

(b) **Members.**

- | | | |
|--------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| (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) **Chapter Representatives.**

- | | | |
|-------|-----------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| (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 Vasan (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 - Opening Address by President Navy Foundation.

2. The President Navy foundation welcomed Adm Arun Prakash and Adm KB Singh, ex-CNSs, VAdm AB Singh, FOC-in-C West, Flag Officers, representatives of Navy Foundation different Chapters and Office bearers. At the outset, he welcomed Navy Foundation members who came from different parts of the country and stated that it was his honour to preside over the 29th General Council Meeting of the Navy Foundation after a gap of nearly of two years. He said that the pandemic had been a difficult time for all due to COVID restrictions and he was glad to meet senior retired officers at the GCM. He reiterated the significance of collective approach during the challenges faced by the ESM community. Navy Foundation is a vital enabler in binding the wider Naval community together and it's a matter of great pride and satisfaction to see it's evolution over the years into the vibrant organization that was evident. The Foundation has discharged its charter in an exemplary manner and remains committed to the original founding principle and objectives. Each Chapter is doing a great measure for social betterment and philanthropic causes and has ensured that retired community is well connected. He said that he was happy to note that the meeting of the Regional Governing Councils and the individual Chapters have recommenced and the members are utilizing these forums. He further mentioned that as we evolve and grow, it is logical that issues will arise from time to time, and that all stakeholders can come together for resolution from time to time. He said that as we progress into a better connected, more aware and technology driven age, this meeting provides an opportunity to discuss fresh ideas for further strengthening and for benefit of the community.

3. The President highlighted three aspects which are important for growth of any organisation. First is membership, second is participation and third is purpose. He said that if we want to be an organisation of relevance then we need to focus on all these three aspects. For this it has to be ensured that we remain united in terms of membership, have wholehearted participation by members and a purpose. Further, he stated that a lot of resources are available with the private sector and that their CSR is always looking for ideas and opportunities to expend these funds. Accordingly, the Chapters may tap these resources. He said that he was looking forward to constructive points and inputs from members to make the Navy Foundation more effective ensuring it's enduring relevance for the future. Thereafter, the President directed the Secretary to commence the proceedings.

Item II - Confirmation of 27th GCM Minutes.

4. The Secretary NF stated that the minutes of 27th GCM were forwarded to all Chapters. Cdr S Sriramakrishnan (Retd), President, Coimbatore Chapter proposed confirmation of the minutes of 27th GCM, The proposal was seconded by Cdr Vijay Vadhera (Retd), President, Mumbai Chapter. Thereafter, minutes of the 27th GCM were confirmed and signed by the President, Navy Foundation.

Item III – 28th GCM Agenda Points.

Agenda I - Memorandum of Association.

5. **Issue.** The following issues may be discussed:-

(a) Most of the Objectives of the Foundation enumerated in the MOA of Cmde (ESM Affairs) are not implementable. Suggest views of all chapters be obtained and redefine the objectives which are practical and can be implemented

(b) As enumerated by the Founding fathers of the Navy Foundation, each Chapter is supposed to be fully autonomous and the working rules framed and passed by AGM should not be superseded by MoA. MoA of IHQMoD(N) should only be taken as guidelines and not a directive by the Chapters if the Autonomy of the individual chapters is to be maintained in letter & spirit.

(c) As per MOA, President of India is supposed to be the Patron-in-Chief of the Navy Foundation. Whenever in future, we have Navy GCM/AGM in Delhi, consideration may be given for meeting of all the Presidents / Reps of all 16 Chapters with our Patron-in-Chief.

(d) Para 4 (b) of Chapter 1 of MOA states that Widows of Naval Officers (as Hon. Members) may also be invited to be the Hon Members of the Foundation with Voting Rights whereas Para 6 of MOA states that Hon Members shall have no voting rights. Both the statements are contradicting each other. Please clarify?

(e) Para 13 of MOA says that all retired Chiefs shall be invited to be the patrons of the Foundation. What does it actually mean? Kindly elaborate.

Deliberations.

(a) The MoA was framed in 1988 by the founding fathers of Navy Foundation post ratification during the AGM. During the 22nd GCM at Delhi on 17 Feb 13, it was decided to revise the MoA with inputs from all chapters and the revised MoA was adopted in the 23rd AGM. Most of the objectives of the MoA are being implemented by various NF Chapters

(b) It is a norm that if regulations have been made by an Apex body then they are applicable for the organisation as a whole. In case the Apex body has not framed any rules and regulations on a particular subject then the local bodies administering

the subject matter may frame their own rules and regulations. For example, if the Central Government has made the Motor Vehicle Act then the Act is applicable throughout India. Administrative authorities cannot change the Act to suit local requirements. Therefore, the working rules framed by various NF Chapters are to conform to the Navy Foundation MoA. In any case, IHQ MoD(N) neither dictates terms nor interferes in functioning of any NF Chapter even if the Chapter tries to involve the IHQ MoD(N). Mumbai Chapter has framed working rules that do not conform to the Navy Foundation MoA.

(c) The Agenda Point is a suggestion which would be difficult to implement.

(d) Para 4, Chapter 1 of the MoA defines the 'categories of Members' whereas Para 6, Chapter 1 defines 'Voting Rights'. The typographical error in Para 4, Chapter 1 has already been clarified earlier and would be amended when the next revision of the NF MoA is undertaken.

(e) Respective chapters could invite the former Chiefs and request them to be Patrons for the respective Chapters. A Chapter can have more than one Patron.

Decision. The President directed that the Point be closed.

Agenda II - Publicity Material

6. **Issue.** Indian Navy annually publishes varied Naval Magazines (like Quarter Deck, Navy & Beyond, INBA Booklet etc.), Information Manuals (like Types of Recruitment in DMPR, Navy Foundation MoA in DESA) and Publicity Materials (like New Year Calendar, Diary, Planner etc.). Request if few sets of above mentioned Information materials can be supplied to NF Chapters across country for wide publicity and to facilitate further dissemination to our Naval Veterans community, their dependents and youth/school children planning to join Indian Navy.

(a) **Availability of Navy Calendars for Veterans.** Adequate number of Desktop and Wall Calendars may be made available for distribution among the NFKC members/ Veterans well in time before the close of the year. DESA mail dated 16 Jan 20 regarding non availability of calendars through DESA is also relevant.

(b) Unlike every year, this year no Desk / Wall calendars have been received by NFMFC.

(c) Wall and Desk Calendar 20 have not been issued to Lucknow Chapter. These are also used for naval publicity among the college principals and libraries.

(d) Promotional /Publicity material is needed to give naval publicity to Colleges and Universities.

Deliberations. Due to constraints in the Revenue Budget, printing of publicity material has been reduced and printing of DESA calendar has been stopped wef 2019. Hence the same could not be sent to NF Chapters. IHQ MoD(N) is making e-Calendars and the prints are available through vendors also. NF Chapters are

requested to have these printed from local sources.

Decision. The President directed that the Point be closed.

Agenda III - Memorial Lectures

7. **Issue.** While some of the chapters are conducting memorial lectures based on the grants received, there is a need to have such memorial lectures under the aegis of all chapters by allocating funds separately for conduct of such events. This will go a long way in getting the serving and veteran officers together to discuss issues of relevance at the national and international levels.

Deliberations. Memorial Lectures are conducted by five Chapters as on date (DESA Policy letter DX/900/Memorial Lectures dated 29 Jul 19) to commemorate former Chiefs of Naval Staff. Conduct of Admiral Nadkarni Memorial Lecture was approved by President NF during the 27th AGM. NF chapters are requested to forward firm proposals in this regard. Further, President brought out that instead of conducting these lectures only for naval community, endeavour to be made to conduct these lectures for civil populace to increase their awareness of maritime issues. Therefore, efforts are to be made to reach out to the larger audience of civil society. On being given the example of Rotary Club for larger audience, the President mentioned that the larger audience should be youth and Chapters can look for various options available.

Decision. The President directed that the Point be closed.

Agenda IV - Victory Day Celebrations at Bangladesh

8. **Issue.** It is requested that all the Presidents of Navy Foundation, by turn, may also be given a chance to represent IHQ MoD(N) in the Victory Day celebrations in Bangladesh in December every year.

Deliberations. As on date there are a total of 43, 1971 war veterans who have shown keen interest in visiting Bangladesh for Victory Day celebrations. The President further mentioned that the main issue was the number of participants of the war and that they had to be felicitated first.

Decision. The President directed that the Point be closed.

Item IV – 29th GCM Agenda Points.

Agenda I – Simplification and Rationalization of Membership to NF

9. **Issue.** Retired officers become members of Navy Foundation in accordance with the MOA. Navy Foundation is on a voluntary basis with a token onetime fee of ₹500/- as entry fee & ₹1500/- as Life Time Membership Fee (LTMF). On transfer to another chapter, a sum of ₹1500/- is to be transferred to the next chapter irrespective of duration of stay or

the number of times. In 2017 IHQ MoD(N)/DESA, vide their letter DX/VSF/331/17 dated 27 Jul 2017, agreed to provide funds through INBA for naval officers retiring after 01 Oct 2017, **as many officers were not joining Navy Foundation**. The letter makes **no mention of any transfer of money in case of shift of a member from one chapter to another**. Perhaps, to keep it simple, devoid of money transfer procedures and accounting. The MoA & the letter have resulted in a few issues which need to be addressed:-

(a) **Membership subscription.**

(i) Those who retired **before** Oct 2017 are still required to pay for themselves. Besides the payment it is the administrative hassles of filling up forms, payments etc. which are a deterrent.

(ii) A dichotomous situation – defeating the very purpose of trying to make the membership more inclusive, by not having to pay for the membership fee has risen. For this, the change was brought in by the DESA letter of 2017. Ironically, it is not applicable for the very same category for whom the change was brought in. Pre Oct 2017 retirees still have to pay.

(b) **Proposal.** Payment of LTMF for all ESM and Veer Naaris retired before 2017 be dispensed with to bring them at par with new retirees. The amount is very miniscule to make any fiscal impact. All new retirees be given NF membership form, as part of the retirement papers to be completed to ensure that all retired officers take NF membership.

(c) **Shift from Chapters and Transfer of Membership Fee.**

(i) Retirees especially the new and young have plenty of job opportunities and need to move from station to station. The older ones need to move with their children.

(ii) The MOA stipulates that on every transfer to another chapter ₹1500/- collected out of the ₹2000/- is to be transferred to other chapter, irrespective of duration of stay or the number of times.

(iii) The DESA letter makes **no mention of any transfer of money in case of shift of a member from one chapter to another**. Nor is there a reference link to the MoA resulting in another dichotomous situation and different interpretations.

Deliberations.

(a) The President brought out there is a need to introspect why officers are not interested in taking membership of Navy Foundation. Navy Foundation should offer something relevant to attract membership. He requested the Presidents of Chapters to examine why membership was not being sought by retired officers.

(b) He further mentioned that payment of membership fee by officers having retired prior 2017 would be dispensed with, however, it is worth examining whether this will attract 100% membership. It is pertinent to mention that despite the

Membership amount being paid by INBA, the number of retiring officers joining NF has not increased as expected. A total of 1782 officers retired from Oct 17 till Mar 22 and only 302 officers, amounting to only 16 percent of officers who retired, have become Navy Foundation members. The reasons for officers not becoming NF members, therefore, lies elsewhere. Widows, being honorary members, are not required to pay any membership fee.

(c) The Secretary, Navy Foundation brought out that Membership amount of ₹2000/- has two components ₹500/- as entry fee and ₹1500/- as life time fee. Accordingly, the Chapter in which the member joined retains ₹500/-. The requirement to transfer Life Time Membership Fee of ₹1500/- is laid down in the MoA of Navy Foundation.

(d) The Vice President stated that a new methodology is being worked upon wherein, based on the permanent address of the retiring officers, they will be made members of Chapters and same will be intimated to them during retirement. Thereafter, they can migrate to any other Chapter as convenient.

Decision. The President stated that modalities, to make all retiring officers members of NF is being worked out and will be implemented. He further waived off membership fees for pre-Oct 2017 retirees. Thereafter, the President directed that the Point to be closed.

Agenda II – Enhancing Annual Grant to Charters/ Chapters of Navy Foundation.

10. **Issue.** During 26th GCM of Navy Foundation held at Visakhapatnam on 11th March 2018, vide Item VII – Grant to Navy Foundation Chapters, **“the President also accepted the request from members for changing the periodicity of grant from once in the tenure of CNS to annual.”** “Consequently, Annual Grant for the year 2019 was remitted on time to all Charters/ Chapters. However, Annual Grants for past two years namely 2020 and 2021 which were due; **only once in 2021** this grant was received. Hence, Annual Grant for **one more** year is still due. It is, therefore, hoped that during forthcoming 29th GCM, Annual Grant for **two years: namely for year 2022 and arrear of one more pending Grant will be made.** Enhancing annual grant to NF chapters to a min of ₹ One lakh, due to the all-round inflation be considered.

Deliberations. Treasurer, NF brought out that Annual grants for FY 2020-21 and FY 2021-22 have been clubbed into one grant due to reduced INAF income and cancellation of Navy Foundation events due to COVID restrictions in FY 2020-21. Specific expenditure undertaken as per Navy Foundation Charter in FY 2020-21 may be forwarded to DESA for reimbursement. Further he requested the NF Chapters to avoid building huge corpus in their funds and start expending the money already held in their accounts. The President NF, brought out that most of the Chapters have put their funds in fixed deposit and getting low interest rates and therefore it has been decided that funds will be provided to NF Chapters as per the requirements projected. He also requested Chapters to generate funds/ corpus from CSR funds of corporates like Hyderabad Chapter had been doing by generating advertisements for the Quarterdeck Magazine.

Decision. The President asked NF Chapters to undertake expenditure from their own funds and reduce the corpus generated. Thereafter, the President directed that the Point be closed.

Agenda III - Opening NF Bhopal Chapter.

11. **Issue.** Authorise opening of a new chapter at Bhopal which will be placed under Navy Foundation Regional Governing Council North.

Deliberations. Secy NF brought out that as per the MoA, the Governing Council had powers to authorise opening a new chapter and provide for its management. VAdm AG Thapliyal (Retd), President Dehradun Chapter proposed formation of Navy Foundation Bhopal Chapter and VAdm M P Muralidharan (Retd), President Kerala Chapter seconded the proposal. President Navy Foundation approved the proposal.

Decision. President directed that a new NF Chapter at Bhopal to be opened and placed under Regional Governing Council North and the Point be closed.

Item V – Venue for Next GCM & AGM

12. As per existing norms, the Governing Council was required to decide the venue for the next GCM/AGM.

13. **Deliberations.** Secy NF brought out that the GCM & AGM are held at Naval Stations in rotation which have a NF Chapter. For administrative convenience locations with adequate naval infrastructure are considered suitable. Post deliberations and suggestions from the members, the Secretary NF proposed that the 30th GCM & AGM be held under the aegis of RGC (North) at Delhi. The venue was unanimously supported by all members present for the meeting.

14. **Decision.** President NF directed that 30th GCM & AGM be held at Delhi under the aegis of RGC (North).

Item VI - Presentation of Accounts.

15. Cmde (NPF), the Honorary Treasurer presented the Navy Foundation accounts for Financial Year 2020 - 21. A summary, of the Navy Foundation Central Account maintained at DESA and accounts of various Chapters is placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

Item VII - Grant to Navy Foundation Chapters.

16. All Chapters of the Navy Foundation are given annual financial grants by the Indian Navy. Factors such as number of members, resource generation capability and non-naval station location are taken into account to determine quantum of grant. Accordingly, annual grants to various chapters is placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Item VIII - Closing Remarks by President Navy Foundation.

17. There being no other points, the President thanked former Chiefs of Naval Staff Adm Arun Prakash & Adm KB Singh, CINC (West) and all members for providing valuable inputs and reiterated that suggestions given by them during the deliberations would be taken to their logical conclusion. He hoped that Navy Foundation Chapters would continue with their good work and become more vibrant and will continue to serve as a valuable interface with the service.

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



(Pankaj Sharma)
Commodore
Secretary, NF

Distribution: - Normal

Appendix 'A'
(Refer to Para 15)

NAVY FOUNDATION ACCOUNT HELD BY CHAPTERS

The corpus growth/decline of Navy Foundation Chapters for FY 2020-21:-

Ser	Chapter	(Amount in Lakhs of Rupees)		
		<u>Opening Corpus</u> <u>(Closing of 2019)</u>	<u>Closing Corpus</u>	<u>Growth/Decl</u>
(a)	Mumbai	43.10	59.24	16.14
(b)	Delhi	26.00	31.44	5.44
(c)	Bangalore	21.65	24.03	2.58
(d)	Pune	19.93	30.20	10.27
(e)	Kerala	17.25	23.46	6.21
(f)	Hyderabad	16.37	24.49	8.12
(g)	Vizag	13.11	17.22	4.11
(h)	Chennai	12.56	16.38	3.82
(j)	Kolkata	11.89	16.15	4.26
(k)	Goa	8.26	11.65	3.39
(l)	Chandigarh	7.31	7.42	0.11
(m)	Odisha	6.51	7.93	1.42
(n)	Lucknow	4.36	4.84	0.48
(p)	Coimbatore	3.80	5.13	1.33
(q)	Jaipur	3.50	3.72	0.22
(r)	Dehradun	-	1.50	-
(s)	Navy Foundation (DESA)	42.92	33.36	(-) 9.56

Appendix 'B'
(Refer to Para 16)

DISTRIBUTION OF GRANT TO VARIOUS CHAPTERS

<u>Ser</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>2020</u>	<u>2021 & 2022</u>
		<u>Amount in Rupees</u>	
(a)	Mumbai	1,00,000.00	1,00,000.00
(b)	Pune	1,00,000.00	1,00,000.00
(c)	Delhi	1,00,000.00	1,00,000.00
(d)	Odisha	50,000.00	50,000.00
(e)	Chennai	65,000.00	65,000.00
(f)	Coimbatore	40,000.00	40,000.00
(g)	Kochi	1,00,000.00	1,00,000.00
(h)	Kolkata	65,000.00	65,000.00
(j)	Chandigarh	50,000.00	50,000.00
(k)	Vizag	50,000.00	50,000.00
(l)	Goa	65,000.00	65,000.00
(m)	Bangalore	1,00,000.00	1,00,000.00
(n)	Hyderabad	1,00,000.00	1,00,000.00
(p)	Jaipur	50,000.00	50,000.00
(q)	Lucknow	50,000.00	50,000.00
(r)	Dehradun	50,000.00	50,000.00
<u>Total</u>		11,35,000.00	11,35,000.00