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DX/900/AGM-2016

 Dec 16

**MINUTES OF THE 25TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF NAVY
FOUNDATION HELD AT MUMBAI ON 12 NOV 16**

1. The 25th Annual General Body Meeting of the Navy Foundation was held at IMSC, Sea Lounge, Mumbai on 12 Nov 16 under the Chairmanship of Admiral Sunil Lanba PVSM, AVSM, ADC, the Chief of Naval Staff and President Navy Foundation. The following were present: -

(a) **Invitees.**

- (i) Vice Adm Girish Luthra, PVSM, AVSM, ADC FOC-in-C (West)
- (ii) Cmde M M S Shergill ,CO,INS Angre

(b) **Members.**

- (i) Vice Adm R Hari Kumar, AVSM, VSM Vice President
- (ii) R Adm Pradeep Joshi, VSM Secy RGC (West)
- (iii) R Adm Pradeep Rana, VSM Secy RGC (East)
- (iv) R Adm JS Sekhon Legal Member
- (v) Cmde VK Pisharody, NM Secy RGC (South)
- (vi) Cmde Saleem M Anwer Secretary NF
- (vii) Cmde HS Chopra (Retd) Treasurer

(c) **In Attendance.**

- (i) Cmde Subhash Gadhavi PDECHS (Navy)
- (ii) Capt V K Gupta PDPA
- (iii) Capt Dalbir S Rana Member Secy INCCB
- (iv) Capt Subroto Mukherji JDESA (NF)

(v) Lt Cdr Swanuj Harshavardhan DDESA (NF)

(d) **Chapter Representatives.**

(i)	V Adm VK Namballa (Retd)	President, NF Vizag
(ii)	V Adm Raman P Suthan (Retd)	President, NF Kerala
(iii)	R Adm SR Samapathgopal (Retd)	President, NF Bengaluru
(iv)	R Adm RM Bhatia (Retd)	President, NF Mumbai
(v)	Cmde VK Gautam (Retd)	President NF Chandigarh
(vi)	Cmde Dinabandhu Jena (Retd)	President, NF Odisha
(vii)	Cmde SK Pawnday (Retd)	Rep, NF Lucknow
(viii)	Cmde Sanjoy Gupta (Retd)	Vice President, NF Goa
(ix)	Cmde RS Vasan (Retd)	Rep, NF Chennai
(x)	Cmde VK Thakur (Retd)	Vice President, NF Delhi
(xi)	Cmde Sunil Minhas (Retd)	Vice President NFKolkata
(xii)	Cdr G Eswara Reddy (Retd)	Secretary, NF Hyderabad
(xiii)	Cdr Mohan Philip (Retd)	Secretary, NF Pune
(xiv)	Cdr Sanjay Bal Subramaniam (Retd)	Secy, NF Coimbatore
(xv)	Cdr Vijay Vadhera (Retd)	Secretary, NF Mumbai

Item I: Welcome Address by CPS

2. The Controller Personnel Services extended a warm welcome to all present and in particular, thanked the ladies and outstation representatives who had taken efforts to attend the AGM of the Navy Foundation. He brought out that the Service today is in a fine shape due to the efforts and foresight of officers of yesteryears. He also expressed his gratitude towards the veteran officers for having helped the current generation to take baby steps into the naval world.

3. CPS emphasised the role of the veterans to motivate the younger generation of requisite calibre to join our fine service. He requested the veterans to constructively use the social media to further the interests of the Navy and exercise due restraint while expressing their opinions on various social platforms. He assured the veterans that Navy is committed to look after their well being.

4. He also invited constructive suggestions from all veterans in order to improve conditions for the serving as well as the retired personnel. He also stated that “rules were made by men like us”, Hence, he and his team will spare no effort to resolve any issues facing the veteran community and pursue changes as required, raising the matter to the highest levels.

5. He concluded by once again welcoming everyone present for the AGM and wished a long, happy and healthy life to all the veterans.

Item II: Presentation by PDNPF

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

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

Item III: Presentation by PDECHS

7. The PD ECHS (N) covered the following aspects in his presentation:-

- (a) Details of the ECHS Scheme.
- (b) Regional Centres.
- (c) Types of Polyclinics.
- (d) Management of Polyclinics.
- (e) Proposal for Additional ECHS Polyclinics.
- (f) ECHS Membership and eligibility.
- (g) Disease Pattern.
- (h) On-Line Processing of Bills.
- (i) ECHS Budget.
- (k) Recent Developments.
- (l) Shortage of Medicines

Item IV: Status of Old Agenda Points

8. Status on four actionable Agenda Points from the last AGM was provided to the forum. Details placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

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

9. Three new Agenda Points were discussed under the Chairmanship of CPS. Details of discussions and decisions arrived at are placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Item VI: President's Address

10. At the outset, President extended a warm welcome to all the members present and especially the outstation members for attending the Annual General Body Meeting 2016 of the Navy Foundation.

11. He acknowledged the contribution made by the veterans during their service life which has helped the Indian Navy to grow into a blue water Navy. He said the Navy looks forward to their continued support, ideas and also criticism to chart out the best course for the Navy in future. He opined that AGM of the Navy Foundation provided an ideal platform for exchange of ideas and thoughts for our collective betterment.

12. The President requested all present to join him in paying homage to members who had departed for their heavenly abode since the last meeting by observing a minute's silence.

13. The President thereafter provided a broad overview of the prevailing regional and global environment and recent developments in the Navy. He highlighted that India's rise as a major maritime power is now being globally acknowledged. Conduct of International Fleet Review by *IN* in the early part of the year has firmly positioned Indian Navy as one of the finest in the world. The growing economic power of India coupled with its democratic and secular credentials, makes the world increasingly look upon India as the stabilizing factor in the Indian Ocean Region. He opined that as our country rises to take her rightful place in the comity of nations, its Armed Force and the Navy in particular have a pivotal role to play to propagate and safeguard the country's interests.

14. The President stated that security situation in our immediate neighborhood remained fragile. China has been playing an increasingly assertive role in the IOR and the interplay of tensions will keep our borders volatile along the LoC in the near future. He informed that all the Armed Forces are in a heightened state of alert and ready to meet any eventuality.

15. The President thereafter shared details of the naval operations conducted by the *IN* over the recent months with the members.

16. He informed the gathering that China has been regularly sending its submarines in the Indian Ocean Region under the pretext of anti piracy patrol. He stated that *IN* has been closely monitoring the activities of the PLAN submarines.

17. The President informed the gathering about the proactive role played by the *IN* in undertaking the Search and Rescue effort launched after the unfortunate incident of an IAF AN-32 going missing over the sea, when enroute from IAF Station Tambaram, to Port Blair on 22 Jul 16. *IN* immediately responded by deploying two each P8I's and Dornier aircraft to search for the missing aircraft. Subsequently, 18 ships and one submarine were deployed for the SAR mission, which were supported by 14 aircraft in providing the air effort.

18. The President also highlighted the efforts of the Navy in the "benign role" by way of Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations conducted within and outside the country. Diving assistance was provided at Delhi, Faridabad and Ghaziabad for Search and Rescue of personnel. The Navy provided major fire fighting help during the temple fire incident reported at Puttingal Temple, Kerala in Apr 16 and during a major fire accident at Duvvada SEZ, Visakhapatnam on 26 Apr 16. The Navy provided diving assistance during an unfortunate bridge collapse accident at Mahad, Raigarh District in Maharashtra on 03 Aug 16.

19. He informed the gathering about the role played by *IN* in rendering humanitarian assistance overseas. The Sri Lankan government had requested for HADR stores in the aftermath of Cyclone 'Roanu'. In response to the request, *IN* ships Sulej and Sunayna were deployed for flood relief operations at Colombo from 21-23 May 16. A major fire had broken out at Ambilobe, Madagascar, on 01 Sep 16, affecting more than 5000 people. The Madagascar civil administration approached the Indian Ambassador for assistance. *IN* Ship Trikand, on a port visit, rendered timely assistance by donating victuals, medical and surgical stores to the civil authorities.

20. The President highlighted the pursuit of Diplomatic Role of the Navy, in which Indian Naval ships were deployed across the globe '**Showing the Flag**' and leaving a wide footprint and building the '**Bridges of Friendship**'. He also highlighted some of the exercises undertaken during such deployments.

21. The International Fleet review 2016 was conducted at Visakhapatnam from 04 - 08 Feb 16 and culminated with Indian and foreign Naval ships undertaking a Passage Exercise (PASSEX) in the Bay of Bengal. The IFR witnessed participation by over 70 Indian ships and 24 foreign warships and delegations from 50 foreign countries. The conduct of the IFR was a major success for the *IN*.

22. The *IN* participated in over 20 bilateral exercises with friendly foreign Navies, this included Royal Oman Navy, Brazilian Navy, South African Navy, Indonesian and Singapore Navies. Exercise Malabar was conducted with Japanese Maritime Defence Forces and US Navy. A ship was deputed to take part in exercise RIMPAC off Hawaii and *IN* deputed observers for exercise Kakadu in Australia.

23. The President brought out the increasingly proactive role being played by the women officers in the Navy and he informed that currently an all women crew is preparing to circumnavigate the globe in a sailing vessel commencing Aug next year.

24. The President thereafter highlighted upon the welfare aspects put in place by the Navy. He informed that improvement in ECHS facilities for the veterans has been one of his focus areas. Navy was entrusted with the responsibility of managing 22 ECHS Polyclinics. Out of these 21 are currently operational and the last allotted Polyclinic will be made operational very soon. Case for sanction of 08 additional Polyclinics for Navy is under active consideration at the Central organisation. A new system of rating of Polyclinics has been introduced as part of the plan to ensure improvement in overall performance of the Polyclinics. A Rolling Trophy has also been introduced w.e.f. 2016 for 'Best ECHS Polyclinic in Navy' to inculcate healthy competition. He brought out that 2028 hospitals/diagnostic centres are currently empanelled under ECHS.

25. The President informed that in a major initiative, it has been decided to set up an INCS at Delhi. This is planned as an Integrated Complex which will come up at NOM Varuna and would serve the needs of the community. This new facility is likely to be operational by Dec 2017.

26. The President informed that great focus and attention has been paid to enhance the skill-sets of our retired and retiring personnel towards ensuring their smooth absorption in the industry at the appropriately deserving level and status. Certificates to the first set of 70 such personnel are going to be handed over at Delhi by the Raksha Mantri and the Minister for Skill Development.

27. The President assured all present that Navy would continue to provide as much support and care as possible. He advised everyone to remain in touch with DESA, keep their contact details updated, and keep abreast with the latest Naval news and happenings through *IN* website, DESA blog and *IN* facebook page. He thereafter informed the gathering on OROP related issues.

28. The President informed that due to persistent efforts by the Service Headquarters, enhanced pension based on 7th Pay Commission report is going to be effected as OROP multiplied by a factor of 2.57. He informed that one man judicial commission set up by the Govt to look into the OROP anomalies has already submitted its report and it is currently being examined by the MoD. Similarly, the issue of disability pension has been referred to the national anomalies committee and the earlier percentage system has been retained in the interim. He advised the veterans to have faith in the system and refrain from any kind of public protests.

29. He thanked everyone again for their presence and assured Navy's continued support to the Navy Foundation in all its efforts to uphold naval traditions and spread awareness about the 'whites' in the civvy street.

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

30. The Secretary confirmed that the minutes of 24th AGM had been forwarded to all Chapters. The motion for confirmation of the 24th AGM minutes was proposed by Cmde Sunil Minhas (Retd), Vice President NF Kolkata and seconded by Cmde VK Thakur (Retd) Vice President NF Delhi.

Item VIII: Secretary's Report

31. The Secretary presented the report on the activities of the Navy Foundation since the last Annual General Meeting held at Kochi in Oct 15.

32. He highlighted the change in the stewardship of a few Chapters since the last AGM and that he looked forward to a fruitful interaction ahead. He informed that DESA has constantly endeavoured to serve as the bridge of friendship between the 'Uniform' and the 'Civvies' by providing all the relevant information through emails, DESA Blog and the e-newsletter. He hoped that by now OROP linked pensionary issues had settled down and all veterans were in receipt of updated pensions. He underscored the fact that there was an expansion of Clinics and facilities under ECHS and further streamlining of the re-imbursement/claims procedures. Enhancing the index of satisfaction of the retirees' life through all means has been the guiding principle at DESA.

33. He informed the gathering that two of the veteran officers along with their spouses will be attending the 'Victory Day' celebrations of Bangladesh at Dhaka in Dec this year. He thereafter highlighted the various activities undertaken by the respective Chapters. The collated activity report indicated that "Navy Foundation" remained a lively organisation engaged in social, philanthropic and larger nation building work.

Bangalore Chapter

34. The Chapter held a special GBM on 01 Nov 2015. Farewell visit of the FOC-in-C, West and dinner took place on 09 Nov 15 at NOM. A veterans' get-together was held on 20 Mar 2016 at NOM. Implementation of OROP and future plans of the IEMS were briefed. Octogenarians of the Chapter were felicitated and saplings were planted by them in the NOM premises.

Coimbatore Chapter

35. The Coimbatore Chapter conducted its AGM on 23 Jul 2016 at NOM Agrani. Balance Sheet for FY 2015-2016 of the Navy Foundation Fund was approved during the meeting.

Goa Chapter

36. The Goa Chapter conducted its AGM on 24 Jul 2016 at INS Hansa Wardroom Mess. Balance Sheet for FY 2015-2016 of the Navy Foundation Fund was approved during the meeting. The gathering was apprised of a large number of topical issues of relevance to the veteran community.

Hyderabad Chapter

37. The Hyderabad Chapter celebrated Navy Day 2015 by participating in wreath laying ceremony at DMDE, Hyderabad on 04 Dec 2015. 130 veterans along with their spouses attended veteran's lunch at DMDE as part of the Navy Day celebrations. The Chapter conducted its AGM on 10 Apr 16. 132 members participated in the meeting. Balance sheet for the FY 2015 -16 was presented and approved by the general body.

Jaipur Chapter

38. The Navy Foundation, Jaipur Chapter organised get-togethers and meetings for the members in Feb, Mar, Apr and Jul 16. The annual meeting was conducted on 01 Nov 15. The NFJC celebrated Navy Day with an evening get together of members at Sapta Shakti Officers Institute on 04 Dec 15. Naval Headquarters had approved a three day programme of display and performance by Navy Band from 26 to 28 Feb 16. The Navy Band performances were a runaway hit with housefull attendance by serving and retired Armed Forces personnel, State and Central Govt personnel and civilians with families.

Kerala Chapter

39. The Chapter members conducted their outreach program in the form of conducting a free Homeopathic Medical Camp for the residents of Morakkal and Pallikara in the outskirts of Kochi. An institution 'Home of Hope' which caters to the need of housing and caring for the differently abled children were provided with an Automatic Washing Machine and a computer to meet their needs. The Annual General Body Meeting of the Chapter was held on 24 July 2016 at the SNC officers Mess. The Chapter celebrated Onam with all traditional gaiety at the NWWA Kala Kendra, the old sailing club of Kochi. C-in-C South presided over the function.

Mumbai Chapter

40. The AGM of the Navy Foundation Mumbai Chapter was conducted on 05 Jun 16 at INS Shivaji, Lonavala. R Adm RM Bhatia (Retd) took over as the new President of the Chapter from R Adm Arun Auditto (Retd). Mementoes were presented to the octogenarians by the President, who wished them happy and healthy life. A cash award of Rs. 5000.00 was given out to six veteran officers whose articles had appeared in the Quarter Deck.

Odisha Chapter

41. Cmde D B Jena, NM, VSM took over as the President of the Odisha Charter from Capt BK Sahu, after due process during AGM of the Charter. NOIC, Odisha invited all the veterans to INS Chilka as part of celebration of the Navy week celebration. The visit on 29th Oct 15 included a visit to Kalkajai by boat followed by a reception.

Pune Chapter

42. AGM of the Chapter was held on 24 Jun 2016. Under the aegis of the IMF, a seminar on 'Indigenisation in the Maritime Domain' was organised by the Pune Chapter on 05 Nov 15. A series of three lectures on maritime Security were conducted by Vice Admiral Pradeep Chauhan (Retd). In conclusion he re-assured all the members that DESA remained committed in its endeavour to reach out to NF members and keep them updated on current policy issues affecting the veterans as also address their concerns.

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

43. The President, NF presided over the balance two new Agenda Points. Details placed at **Appendix 'C'**.

Item X: President's Concluding Remarks

44. The President once again thanked all the participants for coming over and participating in the discussions. He assured everyone that OROP linked issues will be resolved very soon. He wished all the members good health and long life.

Item XI: Vote of Thanks

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

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



(Saleem M Anwer)
Commodore
Secretary
Navy Foundation

Distribution:- Normal

STATUS OF OLD AGENDA POINTS

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

1. **Issue.** The existing MoA was adopted in Dec 1988 with the establishment of Navy Foundation. To ensure organisational efficacy, changes were adopted in the MoA by the subsequent GCMs and AGMs. However, these amendments needed approval by the Registrar of Societies. In order to withstand legal scrutiny in future, a revised MoA was drawn up and it was duly approved during 23rd AGM in 2014 and thereafter by a special GCM in 2015. The revised MoA needs the formal approval of the Registrar of the Societies towards legal conformity in future. Accordingly, documents required for approval were filed with the Registrar in Jan 16.

2. **Update.** The process of approval of the revised MoA by the Registrar of Societies, Delhi has been delayed due to their reorganization in accordance with the current structure of the New Delhi Municipal Corporation. The Office of the Registrar has undergone trifurcation during 2015 -16. The trifurcation process was completed during Jul 2016. However, original documents pertaining to Navy Foundation were found missing and could not be located in the new office premises despite repeated efforts by the staff. The documents were finally located by DESA team in Aug 16. Documents required for adoption of the MoA have now been filed again with the Registrar. The process of adoption of the MoA is likely to be completed by Dec 16. All chapters will be intimated upon receipt of approval.

3. **Status.** Point being monitored.

Action: - DESA

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

4. **Issue.** Navy (DESA) was the lead service to take up the issue regarding exemption of Toll Tax for ESMs with the PPOC.

5. **Update.** Chairman PPOC has taken up this issue with MoD vide letter DX/VSF/164/16 dated 13 Oct 16. Case will be further taken up by MoD with Ministry of Road Transportation and Highways. The process has been delayed as another case for exempting serving officers, whether in uniform or in private vehicle was being processed by Army HQs with the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways at the ministerial level. Resolution of this issue is likely to take time.

6. **Status.** Point being monitored.

Action: - DESA

Item III - Admission to Army/Navy/Air Force Schools for Grand Children of ESM (24th NF AGM)

7. **Issue.** The issue regarding provision of a special category for grandchildren of ESM was discussed during 24th AGM. No decision was arrived at and it was decided that matter needed to be examined in detail.
8. **Update.** The issue was deliberated during Naval Education Society (NES) meeting 2016 and did not find favour with Commands. The proposal has been declined due to acute shortage of seats and infrastructural constraints at the Navy Children Schools.
9. **Status.** Point closed.

Action: - DESA

Item IV - Compilation of Compendium/Directory of all Veterans (24th AGM)

10. **Issue.** The issue was taken up by Kolkata Chapter during the last AGM. The Chapter had brought out the need for the veterans to keep in touch and remain connected. They had requested that a printed version of the Directory be published by DESA.
11. **Update.** Retired Officers Directory being maintained by DESA is based solely on the update/inputs received from the veterans. Retired Officers Directory has been hosted on *IN* website. Regular requests have been made to veterans through all available forums for updation of records. ROD has been updated as on 31 Oct 16 and contains data of 9549 veteran officers. The Directory if printed would be bulky, not easy to handle and searching for any record would be a time consuming task. CDs of updated ROD in MS Access Format have been handed over to reps of all Chapters during the AGM.
12. **Status.** Point closed.

Item V –Miscellaneous Point.

VAdm R P Suthan from Kerala Chapter raised the matter of providing funding for the Navy Foundation from the IN Amenities fund/Canteen profit. CPS suggested that all chapters need to seek sponsorship from corporate bodies to general /shorten the corpus. The issue of sponsorship for Navy Foundation would also be pursued by the IN all Delhi. Further the possibility of providing support from the INAF/ Canteen profit would be explored.

Action: - DESA/DNPF

NEW AGENDA POINTS (PART I)

Item I - Functioning of Navy Foundation Chapters (Hyderabad Chapter)

1. **Issue.** Hyderabad Charter has no resources / infrastructure to provide adequate assistance/help to naval veterans and their families. The Chapter has brought out that in order to function effectively and be in a position to provide help/assistance to the naval veterans and their family members a suitable plot in Secunderabad Cantonment area under the Army authorities may be earmarked for construction of office building. Alternatively, an existing building in the Cantonment Area could be re-appropriated as Navy Foundation Office.

2. **Deliberations.** It was highlighted that similar point was discussed during 23rd AGM, wherein it was brought out that extant regulations do not permit expenditure from Non Public Funds by the Service Headquarters for the veterans as the same is being made available by the Govt through DGR and KSB by promulgating various welfare schemes. Moreover, NPF can not be used for construction of any infrastructure on Defence lands. Option of acquiring land independently and construction from NPF has also been examined and the same has not been found feasible in the light of severe constraints imposed due to reduction of interest rates on all NPF fixed deposits and imposition of service tax on all transactions of DNPF. As the way ahead and as also discussed earlier it was proposed that Chapters could procure office equipment from their respective Navy Foundation Funds. Any additional requirement of funds for any specific purpose could be projected to the Regional Governing Councils for one-time grant. Secy, NF Hyderabad brought out that naval units in Secunderabad do provide some support to the Foundation, but they themselves are constrained for resources and a long term solution needed to be found for this issue. CPS opined that Naval units located in the area need to provide requisite support to the Chapter.

3. **Decision.** Chapters located in the Non Naval stations are to procure office equipment from Navy Foundation Funds and presently, there is no requirement for any permanent infrastructure. An advisory may be issued to all commands to extend every possible help in the given circumstances, to the NF Chapters. The same be given wide publicity.

Action: - DESA

Item II - Dissemination of Information (Mumbai, Pune & Kolkata Chapters)

4. **Issues.** Mumbai, Kolkata and Pune Chapters have brought out that whenever any change takes place in the Office Bearers of the Charter, it should be promulgated by DESA to all concerned with the complete contact details of the new incumbent. NHQ has started appointing CRSOs, one of the duties of CRSO is to assist NF chapters on various issues. Chapters are not being informed about changes of these appointments. Chapters have recommended that CRSOs be requested to interact more often with all chapters and make at least one visit.

IGs/Naval News/general information like promotions/flag appointments etc may be disseminated to NFs for the information of veterans. Chapters have felt that in the recent past veterans have not been kept officially informed of the status of cases viz OROP, Pay Commission, etc though there has been much unauthenticated information in social media. It is for consideration that Veterans be kept educated in these contexts to obviate disinformation.

5. **Deliberations.** It was brought out that Naval Headquarters always endeavoured to keep the veterans informed on all important issues. Promotion IGs and related news items have been intimated to the NF Chapters through e-mails as the first step and subsequently through the newsletters//IN web page. The most authentic orders and information on pensionary matter are available on the PCDA (Allahabad) website. Relevant information is also circulated through NAVPEN and DESA newsletters. Some members wanted the Navy to authenticate the messages which circulate on Whatsapp groups. It was clarified that institutionally, Navy will not intervene to rebut or circulate any messages on the social sites and veterans were advised not to fall prey to any misinformation being circulated.

6. **Decision.** Relevant information be circulated through NAVPEN and DESA newsletters. Judicious use of the IN facebook page and the Indian Navy website be undertaken whilst disseminating information.

Action: - DESA/DNPF/ECHS/NAVPEN

Item III - Felicitation of Octogenarian Veterans by Navy

7. **Issue.** Mumbai, Pune and Vizag Chapters forwarded the point that during the last AGM/GCM, it was intimated that suitable memento along with a letter signed by CNS would be presented to all the members who attain the age of 80 years. This, so far, has not been implemented by NHQ. A few Chapters have been following the tradition of felicitating the octogenarian members by presenting them with mementos. The Chapters also brought out that Army provides a grant of Rs. 50,000/- to every veteran crossing 75 years of age. Similar grant could be considered.

8. **Deliberations.** The Secretary, Navy Foundation brought out that this Issue was discussed during 23rd and 24th AGMs, wherein, it was decided that NHQ will felicitate octogenarians. Subsequently, issue was examined in depth on file at IHQ MoD (Navy) and all aspects of the case including costing; procedure, inclusion of sailor veterans etc. were considered. The case could not be taken to its logical conclusion due financial, administrative and logistical issues involved in felicitating officer and sailor veterans settled throughout the country. Hence, the case was not approved and proposal could not be implemented. PD NPF submitted that presentation of a silver salver or silver Navy Crest to all octogenarian veteran officers and sailors would involve a substantial burden on the NHQ NPFs. Secy, NF Mumbai submitted that the memento to be presented on this occasion need not be a costly one and he offered his services for selection of a reasonably priced memento. CPS intervened to say that all octogenarians will be felicitated by the Navy and the methodology of felicitation including type of memento will be worked out by NHQ.

9. **Decision.** All Octogenarian veterans are to be felicitated by the Navy. All aspects of felicitation including costing, type of memento, procedure etc to be examined on file and the way ahead proposed for implementation.

Action: - DESA/DNPF

NEW AGENDA POINTS (PART II)

Item I - Pensionary Issues (Bangalore, Pune & Vizag Chapters)

1. **Issues.** A total of four agenda points received on pensionary issues were clubbed together for discussions due to similarity of issues involved. Vizag Chapter forwarded a point regarding setting up of a Digital Pension Locker for all pensioners in line with the Digital Locker Scheme of Govt of India, which is part of the e-governance initiative. The digital Pension Locker could contain all the info about the PPOs and subsequent corrigendum besides Retirement/Release Book, spouse name and DOB etc. The Vizag Chapter forwarded another point regarding PPOs of pre-1996 veterans which do not indicate either the name of the spouse or her DOB. As most of these veterans are at an advanced age, their spouses will have difficulty in getting family pension without lengthy legal proceedings. The Chapter submitted that when corrigendum of 7th CPC is issued, these should mandatorily include name of spouse and her DOB. Bengaluru Chapter also forwarded a similar point regarding the need for re-issue of PPOs post implementation of 7th pay commission. Pune Chapter put forth the point regarding delay in issue of revised PPOs by CDA (Navy).

2. **Deliberations.** The issue regarding inclusion of the name of wife, daughter (unmarried/widowed) and sister (unmarried/widowed) in the PPOs of all pre-1996 retirees was deliberated in depth. PDPA brought out that the case of joint notification was taken up with PCDA Allahabad. The issue thereafter shifted to issue of revised PPOs for all pre-2006 retirees. CNS stated that the same issue has been deliberated at the highest level with PCDA Allahabad who have stated that re-issue of PPO is a Herculean task and is not a practical solution. CSO P&A (West) brought out that an initiative had been taken earlier through Project Sangam by CDA Allahabad. However, it could not be implemented on ground due sheer volume of work involved. He emphasized that the root cause of the problem was non-digitisation of PPOs. He advised veterans to inform those individuals who are the affected party to send an application to DPA/NAVPEN with their contact number and the inclusion of names would thereafter be taken up. He also stated that parallel efforts are on to digitize these records. He re-emphasized the point that digitization of records was a precursor to shifting towards a digital locker regime. Further, he brought out that on inclusion of the names of dependents, issues of dependent card, ECHS card, etc., will get resolved. CNS directed that the same be publicized in the Navy's website.

3. **Decision.**

- (a) Concerted effort to be made towards resolving the issue regarding inclusion of spouse/dependent name in the older generation PPOs.
- (b) Feasibility of implementation of the Digital Locker scheme for all naval pensioners be examined.
- (c) Point to be monitored.

Action: DPA/NAVPEN

Item II - Navy Veterans Day (Visakhapatnam Chapter)

4. **Issue.** Vizag Chapter forwarded a point regarding the need for an earmarked day to celebrate the naval veterans on the lines of Army Veteran's Day. Chief of the Army Staff had announced that 14 Jan will be celebrated as Veteran's Day by Army. Navy and Air Force Chiefs did not endorse this date. The Chapter requested for a separate day for Navy Veterans.

5. **Deliberations.** The Secy, NF brought out that Army had unilaterally announced observance of 14 Jan as the Veterans Day. The CNS took up this issue in the COSC meeting with the Army Chief and emphasised on the need to have a common Veteran's Day. The issue was deliberated in the subsequent COSC meeting where DESA gave a presentation on the issue. Post deliberations, 14 Jan has now been adopted as the Veterans' Day for all the three services. The CNS interjected to inform the audience that 14 Jan was chosen, as, this was the day of remitting of office by two Field Marshals Cariappa and Manekshaw. Detailed modality of observance of Veteran's Day is under finalization at PPOC. Secy NF informed that post finalisation of modalities by PPOC, the same would be informed to the Commands and the Navy Foundation Chapters.

6. **Decision.** President directed that 14 Jan be celebrated as the common Veterans' Day and is to be included in the Navy Day calendar of events.

Action: DESA