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DX/900/GCM-2023

19 Jul 23

**MINUTES OF 30TH GOVERNING COUNCIL MEETING OF NAVY FOUNDATION HELD
AT NEW DELHI ON 18 JUN 23**

1. Admiral R Hari Kumar, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff and President, Navy Foundation (NF) chaired the 30th Governing Council Meeting (GCM) of the NF held at New Delhi on 18 Jun 23. The following were present: -

(a) **Invitee.**

(i) Adm RK Dhowan (Retd) PVSM, AVSM, YSM

(b) **Members.**

(i)	VAdm Krishna Swaminathan AVSM, VSM	VP, NF
(ii)	RAdm Sandeep Pradhan, VSM	VP, RGC (East)
(iii)	RAdm Rajat Kapoor, NM	VP, RGC (West)
(iv)	Cmde Viresh Das	Cmde (ESM Affairs)
(v)	Cmde AP Shaji Kutty	Treasurer NF
(vi)	Cmde Alok Ananda, YSM	Cmde (ESM Affairs) Desig & Secy NF
(vii)	Cmde Viju Samuel	VP, RGC (South)
(viii)	Capt Varun Singh	Legal member
(ix)	Cdr T Dutta	Jt Secy, NF

(c) **Chapter Representatives (Retired Officers).**

(i)	VAdm BK Verma, AVSM	Pres, NF Bhopal
(ii)	VAdm MP Muralidharan, AVSM*, NM	Pres, NF Kerala
(iii)	VAdm AG Thapliyal, AVSM*	Pres, NF Dehradun
(iv)	VAdm Jaywant Korde, PVSM, AVSM, VSM	Pres, NF Pune
(v)	RAdm Sampath Gopal, AVSM, NM	Pres, NF Bangalore
(vi)	RAdm PS Byce, AVSM	Pres, NF Jaipur
(vii)	RAdm S Ramsay, YSM	Pres, NF Delhi

(viii)	RAdm T Sudhakar, AVSM, NM	Rep, NF Vizag
(ix)	RAdm Amit Bose, VSM	Pres, NF Kolkata
(x)	RAdm Philipose G Pynumootil, AVSM, NM	Pres, NF Goa
(xi)	Cmde Sudheer Parakala	Pres, NF Hyderabad
(xii)	Cmde Dinabandhu Jena, NM, VSM	Pres, NF Odisha
(xiii)	Cmde VK Gautam, NM	Pres, NF C'garh
(xiv)	Cdr LM Krishnan	VP, NF Chennai
(xv)	Cdr Vijay Vadhera, NM	Pres, NF Mumbai
(xvi)	Cdr RP Singh	Secy, NF Lucknow
(xvii)	Cdr S Sriramakrishnan	Pres, NF Coimbatore

Item I - Opening Address by President NF

2. The President NF welcomed Adm RK Dhowan, ex-CNS, Flag Officers, representatives of NF Chapters and Office bearers to the meeting. He stated that as the country is evolving and growing at a rapid pace, it is imperative that the *IN* and all its associated functionaries also evolve concomitantly to keep pace with the changes in the environment and remain poised to tackle the emerging challenges. In this regard, the Navy Foundation Governing Council Meeting provides an apt forum where all stakeholders come together to discuss issues related to retired officers and their families, who because of their large number and extensive reach provide an important interface between the Armed Forces and the society. Additionally, as the country and our society progress into a better connected, more aware, and technology driven age, this meeting provides an opportunity to brainstorm fresh ideas and thoughts to further strengthen the organisation for the benefit of our community.

3. The President emphasised on the positive aspects of real-time, instantaneous communication that is afforded now to every citizen because of the advent of Social Media and the resultant changes in erstwhile practices and procedures. He also cautioned on the associated disadvantages of this medium, and advised the members to guard against misuse of Social Media platforms to portray Armed Forces in poor light.

4. The President in his remarks also highlighted the importance of seamless flow of correct information to and among the ESM community. He exhorted the NF Chapters to establish suitable linkages with the co-located VSF Charters in order to facilitate two-way flow of information and sharing of best practices towards collective good of the entire community. He was of the opinion that the Navy Foundation, because of its inherent strengths, can evolve further in to a multifunctional, multipurpose entity, which within the parameters specified in the MoA can undertake several activities that would provide employment opportunities to the veterans as also generate resources, which can then be further utilised for welfare activities. He cited example of Veteran Organisations in countries such as USA and UK and emphasised that there is a need to redefine the Navy Foundation towards making it fruitful for the ESM community and the nation. He concluded by stating that he would look forward to fresh ideas and thoughts, suggestions and inputs from all members.

Item II - Confirmation of 29th GCM Minutes

5. The Secretary NF stated that the minutes of 29th GCM were forwarded to all Chapters. RAdm Amit Bose (Retd), VSM, President, Kolkata Chapter proposed confirmation of the minutes of 29th GCM. The proposal was seconded by Cmde Sudheer Parakala (Retd), President, NF Hyderabad. Thereafter, minutes of the 29th GCM were confirmed, and signed by the President, NF.

Item III – 30th GCM Agenda Points

Agenda I – Expanding Scope of NF

6. **Issue.** The NF caters to the requirement of officers, and provides help in various situations by contacting DESA and other agencies. Similarly, VSF aids the sailors, but these are limited to those in proximity to Command HQs or RSUs. The migration of pension accounts to SPARSH is causing some anxiety among the veteran officers, sailors and widows, especially in smaller cities and villages, where the flow of information is not seamless.

7. It is proposed that NF Chapters, wherever feasible, be authorised to employ suitable retired sailors in the NF office on full / part time basis. This sailor can be the nodal point of contact for retired sailors/ their NoK to provide support in times of need, and act as an information centre. It is reiterated that this arrangement will be in addition to the support accorded through CRSOs and the VSF, especially to those ESM/ widows, who are away from the nearest CRSO/ RSU. A retired sailor can be employed within the resources of the Chapter, by additional grants from the NF or through donations.

Deliberations. NF is primarily an organisation set up by retired officers, for retired officers and their families. The organisations of VSF and NRS, which are mandated to look after sailors and NoK respectively, already exist and have a larger presence than NF Chapters, since every naval unit functions as an RSU/ RCU. Further, *Kendriya Sainik Board*, mandated for the welfare of ESM and their NoK, under the aegis of DESW has *Rajya Sainik Board* at State level and *Zila Sainik Board* Office at district level, and thus creation of an additional agency would only lead to duplication of efforts. Therefore, the proposal to increase the scope of NF Chapters by employing retired sailors is not recommended. President NF brought out that NF should not be taking over the tasks of CRSO and VSF, however, there is a need to strengthen the NF & VSF through formation of a common link. He encouraged everyone to follow the digital path, and utilise the available applications, viz. Handshake, Samuha, etc. He directed that the CRSOs must visit every district, where naval ESM are present, and provide requisite support.

Decision. The President directed that the point be closed.

Agenda II – Conduct of Memorial Lectures

8. **Issue.** Memorial Lectures are conducted by NF Chapters to commemorate the memory of former Chiefs of the Naval Staff. At present, only five Memorial lectures have

been authorised. Lately, Chapters have been seeking approval to conduct Memorial Lectures for Officers other than former Chiefs.

Deliberations. As per MoA, Chapters are supposed to hold periodical conferences, meetings, seminars, lectures, exhibitions, film shows etc on matters of interest to the Navy or ex-naval personnel and their families. However, these cannot be conflated with Memorial Lectures, which are restricted to former Chiefs of the Naval Staff. It is recommended that any other lecture proposed need not have a specific title/ should not be called Memorial Lecture. The President NF stated that these can be designated as seminars, lectures, etc. as Memorial Lectures are only meant for ex-CNSs.

Decision. The President authorised Regional Governing Councils (RGCs) to approve these lectures, and directed that the point be closed.

Agenda III - Opening NF Nagpur Chapter

9. **Issue.** Authorise opening of a new chapter at Nagpur, which will be placed under NF RGC West.

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

Decision. President NF authorised opening of NF Nagpur Chapter, and directed that the point be closed.

Item IV – Venue for Next GCM & AGM

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

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. Accordingly, the Secretary NF proposed that the 31st GCM & AGM be held under the aegis of RGC (East) at Vishakhapatnam. The venue was unanimously supported by all members present for the meeting.

Decision. President NF directed that the 31st GCM & AGM be held at Vishakhapatnam, under the aegis of RGC (East).

Item V - Presentation of Accounts

11. Cmde (NPF), Honorary Treasurer NF presented the accounts for FY 2022-23. A summary of the NF Central Account maintained at DESA and accounts of various Chapters is placed at ***Appendix 'A'***.

Item VI - Grant to NF Chapters

12. All Chapters of the NF are given annual financial grant by the *I/N*. Factors such as number of members, resource generating capability and non-naval station location were earlier considered to determine the quantum of grant. President, NF has directed that henceforth ₹ 2,00,000.00 (₹ Two Lakh Only) annually be provided to Delhi and Mumbai Chapters whilst all other NF Chapters will receive an equal annual grant of ₹ 1,00,000.00 (₹ One Lakh Only). Enhanced grant to NF Delhi and Mumbai Chapters has been decided based on their higher membership numbers. Accordingly, the amounts as directed by President, NF have been disbursed to all Chapters.

Item VII - Closing Remarks by President NF

13. There being no other points, the President thanked all members for providing valuable inputs, and reiterated that the decisions/ suggestions emerging from the meeting should be taken to their logical conclusion. He requested all NF Chapters to continue with their good work and explore ways to become more vibrant. He asked all present to share ideas and thoughts, and continue to serve as a valuable interface between the Society and the Service.

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



(Alok Ananda)
Commodore
Secretary, Navy Foundation

Distribution: - Normal

Appendix 'A'
 (Refer to Para 11)

NAVY FOUNDATION ACCOUNT HELD BY CHAPTERS

The corpus growth/decline of Navy Foundation Chapters for FY 2022-23:-

<u>Ser</u>	<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Opening Balance (₹)</u>	<u>Closing Corpus (₹)</u>	<u>Corpus Growth (₹)</u>
1.	Bangalore	24.03	26.06	2.03
2.	Bhopal	-	-	-
3.	Chandigarh	7.35	7.41	0.06
4.	Chennai	14.47	15.42	0.95
5.	Coimbatore	5.13	5.02	(-)0.11
6.	Dehradun	3.10	3.95	0.85
7.	Delhi	31.44	36.92	5.48
8.	Goa	11.65	14.00	2.35
9.	Hyderabad	24.49	24.47	(-)0.02
10.	Jaipur	1.05	3.72	2.67
11.	Kerala	19.77	19.27	(-)0.50
12.	Kolkata	15.01	16.58	1.57
13.	Lucknow	4.60	4.84	0.24
14.	Mumbai	59.24	64.06	4.82
15.	Odisha	2.47	7.93	5.46
16.	Pune	42.69	48.12	5.43
17.	Visakhapatnam	19.69	21.77	2.08
18.	Navy Foundation (DESA)	33.36	11.30	(-)22.06