

Dte of Ex-Servicemen Affairs
Naval Headquarters
Ministry of Defence
Talkatora Stadium Annexe
New Delhi 110004

DX/900/AGM-2024

15 Apr 24

**MINUTES OF 31ST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF NAVY FOUNDATION HELD ON
21 MAR 24 AT VISAKHAPATNAM**

1. Admiral R Hari Kumar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, Chief of the Naval Staff and President, Navy Foundation (NF) chaired the 31st Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the NF held on 21 Mar 24 at Visakhapatnam. The following were present: -

(a) **Invitees.**

- | | | |
|------|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| (i) | VAdm Rajesh Pendharkar, AVSM, VSM | FOC-in-C (East) |
| (ii) | Cmde Happy Mohan, VSM | CO, INS Circars |

(b) **Members.**

- | | | |
|--------|--------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| (i) | VAdm Gurcharan Singh, AVSM, NM | VP, NF |
| (ii) | RAdm Rajat Kapoor, AVSM | VP, RGC (West) |
| (iii) | RAdm M Murali Mohan Raju, NM | VP, RGC (East) |
| (iv) | Cmde AP Shaji Kutty | Treasurer NF |
| (v) | Cmde Viju Samuel | VP, RGC (South) |
| (vi) | Cmde CP Sanga | Cmde (ESM Affairs) and
Secy NF |
| (vii) | Cmde Varun Singh | Legal member |
| (viii) | Capt Ajay Mandal | Jt Secy, NF (Desig) |
| (ix) | Cdr T Dutta | Jt Secy, NF |
| (x) | Lt Cdr Manoj Gupta | Secy, RGC(E) |

(c) **In Attendance.**

- | | | |
|--------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| (i) | Cmde Sandeep Verma | Cmde (P&A) |
| (ii) | Cmde A Muthuraman | Cd Wel O, HQENC |
| (iii) | Cmde Kartik Murthy | Cmde (SCT) |
| (iv) | Capt NR Chakravarthy | RM, INCS Visakhapatnam |
| (v) | Cdr Vijay Kumar | Secy INCCB |
| (vi) | Cdr Sachin Joshi | Cdr (P&A) |
| (vii) | Lt Cdr Akash Anand | Lt Cdr (ECHS) |
| (viii) | Shri Jayant Kumar, SAO | PCDA (Pen) |
| (ix) | Shri Dinesh Pratap Singh, AAO | PCDA (Pen) |

(d) Chapter Representatives (Retd Officers).

(i)	VAdm BK Verma, AVSM	Pres, NF Bhopal
(ii)	VAdm M P Muralidharan, AVSM*, NM	Pres, NF Kerala
(iii)	VAdm AG Thapliyal, AVSM*	Pres, NF Dehradun
(iv)	VAdm VK Namballa, AVSM, NM	Pres, NF Visakhapatnam
(v)	VAdm RK Pattanaik, PVSM, AVSM, YSM	Pres, NF Odisha
(vi)	VAdm Jaywant Korde, PVSM, AVSM, VSM	Pres, NF Pune
(vii)	VAdm KO Thakare, AVSM, NM	Pres, NF Nagpur
(viii)	RAdm PS Byce, AVSM	Pres, NF Jaipur
(ix)	RAdm S Ramsay, YSM	Pres, NF Delhi
(x)	RAdm NK Mishra, NM	Pres, NF Bangalore
(xi)	RAdm T Sudhakar	VP, NF Visakhapatnam
(xii)	RAdm K Ravikiran	Member, NF Visakhapatnam
(xiii)	RAdm Philipose G Pynumootil, AVSM, NM	Pres, NF Goa
(xiv)	RAdm V Mohan Doss, AVSM, VSM	Pres, NF Coimbatore
(xv)	Cmde VK Gautam, NM	Pres, NF Chandigarh
(xvi)	Cmde Ashok Bhal, VSM	Rep, NF Lucknow
(xvii)	Cmde Pravin Rajpal	Secy, NF Hyderabad
(xviii)	Cmde Suprobho K De	Pres, NF Kolkata
(xix)	Cdr LM Krishnan	VP, NF Chennai
(xx)	Cdr Vijay Vadhera, NM	Pres, NF Mumbai

Item I - Welcome Address by Vice President, NF

2. The Vice President, NF extended a warm welcome to Flag Officers, Commanding Officers, Officers, the esteemed Office Bearers of NF Chapters and reps of PCDA attending the 31st Annual General Body Meeting (AGM) of the NF. He placed on record his sincere thanks to HQENC for organising the event. He stated that all veterans have worn the uniform and served this great country and expressed his gratitude for the same. He highlighted that the meeting was an opportunity for all to express gratitude to the veteran community as well as to reaffirm commitment towards their welfare and well-being.

3. He brought out that from *IN's* humble beginnings in 1947 with just about 13 foreign origin second hand ships, the *Bhartiya Nausena* has transformed into a formidable force which is multi-dimensional, networked and technologically enabled. He stated that the care and welfare of the veteran community continues to be a priority focus for all of us. He mentioned that the *IN* has been working to find creative solutions to enable and strengthen our naval community and the staff at Naval Headquarters is well-aware of the teething issues of SPARSH and e-PPOs. He assured the gathering that the *IN* will not leave any stone unturned to resolve the SPARSH associated issues at an early date. He thereafter brought out that the reach and power of social media is beyond comparison and requested that this unfettered tool be utilised to extract maximum benefit for the Service.

4. He briefed the audience about the successful conduct of the 8th Armed Forces Veterans' Day on 14 Jan 24 at Mumbai, Kochi and Delhi and various outreach programmes and e-initiatives like e-newsletters and social media accounts to disseminate information. He also updated them on the various welfare schemes undertaken by the *IN* for veterans including INGRAMS, ESM Handshake, Pre-Retirement Capsule and '*Samanvay*'. He informed the gathering regarding the change in nomenclature of '*Directorate of Ex-Servicemen Affairs (DESA)*' to '*Directorate of Naval Veterans (DNV)*' wef 01 Apr 24 to ensure that the nomenclature as well as the work remains gender-neutral and inclusive. He indicated that a review of the CRSO organisation is in progress to make it more efficient.

Item II - Presentation by ECHS (Navy)

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

- (a) Introduction to ECHS.
- (b) Command and control.
- (c) Procedure for treatment.
- (d) Medicine management.
- (e) Recent developments.
- (f) Issues received.

6. During the presentation, members raised their query over validation of Aadhar for ECHS and expressed unavailability of medical treatment due to non-validation of the same. ECHS rep informed them that there is no stoppage of any kind of medical treatment for the want of Aadhar validation and the polyclinic/ empanelled hospitals would undertake the Aadhar OTP verification and connect the Aadhar database with the ECHS database. At this point, Vice President, NF clarified that there is no stoppage or any hurdle for medical treatment. Over a period of time, the data base is being authenticated and cross-checked to verify that the database existing with ECHS is correct and authentic. The members also suggested for ECHS cards in Digi-Locker akin to other documents like driving licence etc.

7. Members raised the issue of medical reimbursement of 55-60 percent of the medical bill for the treatment in non-empanelled hospitals and recommended 100 percent reimbursement. ECHS rep informed the members that the reimbursement was in accordance with the CGHS approved rates.

Item III - Presentation by DPA

8. DPA continued with the presentation and briefed the NF members on the following: -

- (a) SPARSH Overview.
- (b) Improvement in SPARSH since 30th GCM and AGM of NF.
- (c) Grievance Redressal Mechanism at SPARSH.

- (d) *IN* efforts towards Monitoring and Resolution.
- (e) Issues received.

9. During the presentation, members stated that SPARSH was not functioning properly and PPOs, corrected PPOs, Pension Entitlement, Form-16, Pay fixation details etc were not available in SPARSH and there was no feedback mechanism. The PCDA reps clarified that the mechanism of feedback is in development stage.

10. Members requested the *IN* to take up the matter of 20 percent increase in pension on attaining the age of 80 years for the sake of octogenarians, based on the judgement of Hon'ble High Court of Guwahati. Cmde (P&A) clarified that the said judgment is under scrutiny of Hon'ble Supreme Court and further course of action would be decided based on the outcome of the case.

Item IV - New Agenda Points (Part I)

11. Five new agenda points were discussed under the chairmanship of VAdm Gurcharan Singh, CPS and Vice President, NF. Details of deliberations and decisions arrived at are placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

Item V - Address by President, NF

12. Adm R Harikumar PVSM, AVSM, VSM, ADC, President, NF extended a warm welcome to all present and requested all to rise to pay respect to Late Admiral Laxminarayan Ramdas, former CNS and 27 other officers who left for the heavenly abode since the last AGM. He mentioned that it was an honour to be amongst the members of the NF, many of whom have played an instrumental role in grooming and mentoring him over the last 40 years. He was of the firm belief that the Navy was privileged to have the continued benefit of experience and wisdom of the seniors through such interactions. He welcomed their guidance and requested all veterans to remain engaged with the Service in whatever way possible, even post retirement.

13. He assured the gathering that the *IN* would leave no waters uncharted in carrying forward their legacy and efforts towards building a fully *Aatmanirbhar* and potent naval force befitting a rising and resurgent *Bharat*. Towards that end, he mentioned about the naval focus on being a Combat Ready, Credible, Cohesive and Future Proof Force. He briefed the gathering about the recent developments in the *IN* in the past year including commissioning of stealth destroyer *Imphal*, Scorpene Class submarine *Vagir* and successful integration of air arm of *Vikrant*. He also highlighted the *Bharatiya Nausena's* expanding reach and sustenance, extending from France and West Coast of Africa in the Atlantic to Japan and New Zealand in the Pacific. *IN's* persistent presence had enabled response and rendering of assistance during contingencies such as national crisis, natural disasters, critical incidents and medical emergencies - be it timely evacuation of Indian citizens from war-torn Sudan in '*Operation*

Kaveri”, humanitarian aid to Myanmar ravaged by cyclone in ‘Operation Karuna’ or rendering SAR assistance to a sinking Chinese fishing vessel in Southern IOR and rescuing Pakistani fishermen from piracy attacks in South-Central Arabian Sea. Additionally, the drug haul of 3,300 kg from a vessel off Gujarat last month, the largest seizure of narcotics in recent times had added further credibility to the Navy’s forward presence and surveillance. He stated that all these measures have showcased that the *IN* is at the forefront of Maritime Domain Awareness.

14. The Chairman apprised the gathering of the *IN*’s **affirmative approach** and **assertive actions** through deployment of warships as well as manned and unmanned surveillance aircraft to undertake anti-drone, anti-piracy and anti-hijacking operations in view of the current volatile situation in the North Arabian Sea. He highlighted that recently in a daring operation about 2,600 km from our shore, an Indian Naval Ship had set free MV Ruen and 17 of her helpless crew from 35 Somali pirates, after nearly three months sending a clear message that the *IN* remained poised to protect, promote, pursue and preserve our maritime interests, wherever they may lie. The *IN* had also completed a very successful multilateral naval exercise, MILAN-2024 in Feb 24 that saw participation by about 50 navies from across the globe, furthering our national interests and pursuing foreign policy goals through naval cooperation.

15. He highlighted some pathbreaking HR initiatives to enable, equip and empower the ‘*men and women in whites*’. He stated that dedicated outreach activities in the recent past aimed at recruitment from each district, each block and eventually each village of the nation have resulted in induction of more than 7,800 *Agniveers* from 647 of the 785 districts across the country. He also brought out that the induction of women across the rank and file has seen an enthusiastic response and there are more than 1,100 women *Agniveers* in the *IN* as on date. With the appointment of first female Commanding Officer of an operational ship at sea, he stated that new benchmarks are being set and progressing steadily on the vision of ‘*All Roles and All Ranks for Women*’. Introduction of 360-degree appraisal mechanism, reverse war and peer assessment and *Saabhar/ Aabhar* ceremony for retiring personnel were a few more initiatives that were covered by the Chairman, NF.

16. He briefed the gathering on several ongoing initiatives like ‘Key on Arrival’, renewed impetus on mental and physical well-being, MoUs with various educational institutions and reputed corporates such as Uber, CultFit, etc. including for veterans, discontinuation of the practice of sharing of accommodation, policy on fixing seniority in accommodation roster in respect of both officers and sailors from the date of occurrence of out transfer from previous station, 50% of available Transit Accommodation reserved for personnel serving in afloat units and ante-dated seniority on afloat grounds extended to sailors. He then brought out that the implementation of a Single Point Helpline Number (IVRS) for all matters related to HR, admin of personnel and pay and allowances – for both serving and retired personnel, has been a significant enabler. On a similar note, INGRAMS, establishment of a dedicated Naval Welfare Cell, empowerment of MCPOs to administer the role of Divisional Officers for leadings and below as well as creation of a single window for veterans (NAVPEN) were a few steps aimed at strengthening the HR management framework.

17. He stated that in continuation of *IN*'s digital initiatives, most of the administrative chores and formalities have been shifted online including Naval Pay Office Chat Assistant for real time support, discontinuation of forwarding printed copy of sailor's IN-52, registration and allotment of accommodation, booking medical appointments and online ticketing among many others. There have also been consistent efforts to enhance customer satisfaction at INCS by introducing online shopping and home delivery facilities.
18. As a progressive Navy, he informed the gathering on several steps that have been taken to move away from archaic and redundant practices, procedures and nomenclatures and to shed colonial vestiges and enhance the operational focus. He brought out that the adoption of Ethnic Wear for naval messes is another subtle, yet significant step towards recognising and embracing our cultural traditions. He stated that this attire was '**not in lieu**' of the existing western wear which are required functionally. Instead, the use of 'Naval Ethnic Attire' was an enunciation of the '**new**' and '**confident**' **India** that does not shy away to wear its identity of **Bharat**. He stated that the overall aim of these steps was to create a happy and healthy naval community that does not need to worry about the basic requirements of accommodation, allowances, education and well-being.
19. While pursuing these efforts, he emphasised that *Bharatiya Nausena* is specifically committed in ensuring the welfare of our veterans. In that context, he brought out that the past year had been special as there was a hat-trick of Centennial Celebrations, Late Admiral Ronnie Pereira ex-CNS as well as two of the oldest naval veterans, Sardar Sujan Singh, ex-CHME, who turned 102 and JC Simon, ex-CHERA, who touched 100 in 2023. He stated that formal interactions and grievance redressal opportunities are being pursued through established mechanisms and fora like the Directorate of Ex-Servicemen Affairs (DESA), Naval Regimental System, NF, VSF, Pension Adalat, etc to facilitate smooth transition to a veteran. The conduct of 58 outreach programmes through Command Regimental System Officers at various locations including Leh, Ladakh and North Eastern States was informed to the gathering alongwith institutionalisation of the interaction between NF and VSF through a common platform called '*Samanvay*'.
20. He briefed the gathering that the 8th Armed Forces Veteran Day, celebrated at Manekshaw Centre at Delhi recently had been a success with over 2500 veterans attending the function. He stated that the '*Sagar Samvaad*' magazine, released during this event features various policy, welfare issues and major events conducted for veterans and would be an annual feature. He informed all present that the Veterans' Tableau during the 75th Republic Day Parade, based on the theme '**राष्ट्र निर्माण – पहले भी, अब भी, आगे भी और हमेशा**', included participation by veteran and serving women officers from each Service. He informed that dedicated efforts have ensured a steady rise in the number of vacancies available to the *IN* in the DGR sponsored Pre-Release Courses in 2023-24. To ensure that the vision of the *IN* was publicised formally across all spheres, he stated that we have started conducting a media capsule for our veterans who are active on national TV and electronic media. The maiden capsule, conducted in Jul 23, was well-received and the next media capsule is scheduled in Jul 24. He requested all present for wider dissemination of the capsule and sought volunteers

from active veterans, especially in vernacular media. He stated that the people in uniform are a 'Transit Navy', while the veterans, who have swallowed the anchor after decades of service, are actually the 'Permanent Navy', providing the much-needed moorings.

21. He concluded by thanking all present for sparing their valuable time and wished them good luck, god speed, health and happiness – on behalf of all ranks of the *Bhartiya Nausena*.

Item VI - Confirmation of 30th AGM Minutes

22. The Secretary, NF confirmed that the minutes of 30th AGM were forwarded to all Chapters. VAdm Jaywant Korde (Retd), President, NF Pune Chapter proposed confirmation of the Minutes of the 30th AGM. The proposal was seconded by VAdm KO Thakare (Retd), President, NF Nagpur Chapter. Thereafter, Minutes of 30th AGM were confirmed and signed by the President, NF.

Item VII - Secretary's Report

23. The Secretary presented the report on the activities of the NF, since the last AGM held on 18 Jun 23 at New Delhi.

24. He welcomed all the members, especially those who were attending the AGM for the first time and thanked all the Office Bearers who had handed over their posts recently for their contribution to the respective NF Chapters. He emphasised that DESA has constantly endeavoured to be the bridge between the serving and retired personnel. He brought out that in the present digital age, technology was being effectively harnessed to provide relevant information to all veterans through various measures, namely, ESM Handshake, e-Newsletters, social media, digital applications etc. Thereafter, the Secretary highlighted various activities undertaken by the NF Chapters since the last AGM.

25. The Secretary also highlighted the various outreach programmes and interactions along with activities undertaken by DESA in his report.

Item VIII - New Agenda Points (Part II)

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

Open House

27. During the Open House, members raised the issue of accommodation for veterans at New Delhi. President, NF informed them that Station Commanders/ IN messes have been

directed to facilitate accommodation to all veterans based on availability. The Chairman then briefed the members about a new hospital building with facilities, including ECHS, being set-up at Chanakya Bagh, New Delhi. He stated that the building is nearing completion and would be inaugurated shortly.

28. The President, NF then briefed the members about *IN* pursuing direct entry CPOs under the Group 'B' Scheme of the Central Government and elaborated on the highlights of the entry scheme.

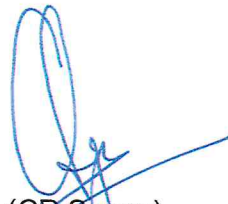
29. The President, NF thereafter announced the award of CNS Commendation to two veterans, namely, Cmde RB D'Souza and Cdr VK Santhanam for their yeoman service to the naval community.

Item IX - Concluding Remarks by President, NF

30. The President, NF thanked everyone for being part of the AGM. He conveyed his sincere gratitude to all participants on behalf of *IN* and the nation for their contribution and leadership whilst in Service as well as after retirement. He assured everyone present that all possible assistance would be provided to the veterans by the *IN* and wished them good health and success in all endeavours.

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

32. These minutes are issued with the approval of the President, NF.


 (CP Sanga)
 Commodore
 Secretary, Navy Foundation

Distribution: - Normal.

Appendix 'A'
(Refer to Para 11)

AGM Part I (Chaired by CPS)

New Agenda Points

Agenda I - NAI Nagpur be made the Regimental Support Unit (RSU) for Nagpur

1. **Issue.** NHQ/ DESA has promulgated details of Naval Regimental System (NRS) vide letter DX/0300-18/NRS dated 19 Jul 23. With reference to Nagpur, INS Shivaji is the RSU and NCC Baroda is the RCU. Both these units are at a distance of 790 km and 960 km respectively from Nagpur with no direct connectivity. Therefore, a real time support coming from these two units to Nagpur is unlikely. NAI Nagpur has been providing administrative support to NF Nagpur Chapter and is considered to be in a position to become RSU for Nagpur.
2. **Deliberations.** Secy, NF informed the members that details of NRS including RSUs and RCUs is contained in a Navy Order and has also been promulgated to NF and VSF. He brought out that the said Navy Order is under revision and comments have been sought from all the Commands. The revised list of RCUs and RSUs will be promulgated to NF and VSF in due course, post amendment.
3. **Decision.** Vice President, NF directed that NAI Nagpur be included in the revised list of RSUs and closed the point.

Action: - HQWNC /CSO (P&A) and NHQ / DESA

Agenda II - ZSWO at Kharghar

4. **Issue.** Provision be made for ZSW Office at Kharghar (Navi Mumbai), post development of Community Centre. At present, veterans and 'veer naaris' in Navi Mumbai have to go to the ZSW Office at Raigad, which is almost 55 kms away from Navi Mumbai.
5. **Deliberations.** Secy, NF brought out that a ZSB can be set up by the concerned State Govt if the population of veterans and families of serving/ deceased service personnel is 7,500 and above. In other cases, prior approval of the Central Govt is required for setting up of new ZSB. He brought out that Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB) has not received any proposal from Rajya Sainik Board (RSB) Maharashtra/ State Govt for setting up of ZSWO at Kharghar. Members requested /IN to approach KSB or Chief Secretary/ Chief Minister in this regard for the sake of around 30,000 veterans who are residing in this area. Vice President, NF stated that ZSBs are a Tri-Services set-up functioning under the respective State Govts and requested NF, Mumbai Chapter to take it up with concerned RSB.

6. **Decision.** The Vice President, NF requested NF Chapter, Mumbai to progress the case with RSB Maharashtra and directed that the point be kept open for monitoring.

Action: - NF Chapter, Mumbai

Agenda III - PRDIES Benefits for Earlier Retirees

7. **Issue.** The revised insurance cover under Post Retirement Death Insurance Extension Scheme (PRDIES) be extended to earlier retirees by paying the difference of the premium and the insurance cover be extended up to 85 years instead of existing 75 years.
8. **Deliberations.** Cmde (NPF), Treasurer, NF informed the members that the option for earlier retirees, who have retired prior 01 Jan 24, to join revised PRDIES is not applicable as NGIF does not have the mandate to collect money from retired personnel. Members queried if there was a provision to amend the mandate to include retired personnel. Cmde (NPF) clarified that NGIF is a scheme meant only for serving personnel iaw Govt regulations and does not include retired personnel.
9. **Decision.** The Vice President directed that status quo be maintained and closed the point.

Agenda IV - Eligibility Criteria for Issue of ROIC

10. **Issue.** ROIC is now being issued to SSC Officers vide NHQ/ DPS letter DL/1764/036 dated 04 Sep 23 whereas Premature Retirees, even after putting 15 years service are being denied this privilege. It is understood that Pre-Mature Retirees do not come under the category of ESM, thus they are not eligible for ROIC. It is submitted that Premature Retirees are also entitled to make ECHS and Canteen cards. It is opined that Premature Retirees, with at least same number of years of service as SSC Officers, be also permitted to make their ROIC.
11. **Deliberations.** Secy, NF brought out that the Navy Order and Policy letter on the subject stipulates that officers (PC and SSC) retiring on completion of initial term of engagement **with ESM status** are only entitled for issuance of ROIC. The officers taking premature retirement are not accorded ESM status and are therefore not entitled for ROIC. Vice President, NF brought out that the ESM status has now been linked with pension or gratuity and every entry/ induction scheme into the Navy has its own terms and conditions whilst in service and post retirement/ release. He stated that every document issued on retirement has an intended purpose and cannot be inter-linked. However, he stated that he understood the sentiments behind the issue and that NHQ would take a re-look on the case.

12. **Decision.** The Vice President, NF directed that the point be re-examined by NHQ / DPS and status update be provided in the next AGM or on finalisation of the issue, whichever is earlier.

Action: - NHQ / Cmde (PS)

Agenda V - Felicitation

13. **Issue.** It is understood that 'Octogenarian Memento' is being re-designed by NHQ. A sample of the new Memento, if finalised, may please be shown at the AGM.

14. **Deliberations.** Secy, NF informed the members that a new memento is being designed and RGCs will be authorised to procure and present the mementos. He also displayed a few samples that had been designed and short-listed. Vice President, NF stated that each individual has their own opinion on the format, type and colour of the memento and hence it would be difficult to arrive at a common sample. He invited suggestions from the members and requested them to forward their recommendations / suggestions to DESA. Members were unanimous in the opinion that the memento should be designed in keeping with the standards of the Service.

15. **Decision.** The Vice President, NF directed the Secretary and Treasurer to re-design the memento in keeping with the naval standards post incorporation of NF suggestions, if any and closed the point.

Action: - Secy and Treasurer, NF
All NF Chapters

Appendix 'B'
(Refer to Para 26)

AGM Part II (Chaired by the CNS)

Agenda VI - Representation at KSB

1. **Issue.** NF reps be included in Kendriya Sainik Board (KSB), State and Zila Sainik Boards, DESW and ECHS Committees at various levels for better resolution of issues concerning naval veterans.
2. **Deliberations.** Secy, NF brought out that as per Govt Notifications, PPOC Sectt selects ESM as members of KSB and RSBs and the reps of any ESM Association are not part of KSB/ RSB/ ZSB. President, NFC Mumbai brought out that naval representative should be a part of KSB and also in RSB located at Mumbai. President, NF brought out that NF is recognised only by *IN*. Secy, NF brought out that PPOC provides names of volunteers only and the selection is undertaken by the respective State Governments. President, NFC Mumbai suggested that some mechanism could be brought in place wherein NF members could be provided an opportunity to address their issues to Secretary ESM Affairs of the state through concerned Area Commanders / Station Commanders.
3. **Decision.** The President directed CSO(P&A), WNC to examine the issue in consultation with FOMA and provide a status update in the next meeting and directed that the point be kept open.

Action: - HQWNC/ CSO(P&A)

Agenda VII - Veterans Tableau at RD Parade

4. **Issue.** It was indeed heartening and a matter of great pride to see for the first time, Veterans Tableau at 2024 RD parade, depicting the theme of '*Rashtra Nirman - Pehle Bhi, Ab Bhi, Aaage Bhi aur Hamesha*'. The Tableau was manned by three serving officers. It would have been nice if volunteer veteran officers and sailors from all Chapters (may be Gallantry awardees) were also invited to man the Tableau. It is suggested that at 2025 RD Parade, we have a Tableau depicting 'Veterans Day Parade', manned by nominated Reps of all NF and VSF Chapters.
5. **Deliberations.** Secy, NF brought out that the Veteran's Tableau is a Tri-Services tableau and is manned by veterans and serving personnel. *IN* was responsible for this year's tableau and would be undertaking the same next in 2028 (once in four years as per norms). The theme of the 2024 RD Parade tableau was women-centric and the tableau was manned by one serving and one retired women officer from each of the three Services. Volunteers were sought from the retired women officers for the same. President, NFC Mumbai suggested

that there could be a tableau depicting 'Veterans Day Parade'. Vice President, NF brought out that the theme could be proposed to the concerned Service for the forthcoming year.

6. **Decision.** The President, NF directed DESA to propose the theme to the lead Service for the next Veterans' Tableau i.e. Indian Army and closed the point.

Action: - NHQ/ DESA