

Tele: 26113163

Integrated Headquarters
Ministry of Defence (Navy)
Dte of Ex-Servicemen Affairs
6th Floor, Chanakya Bhawan
Chanakyapuri
New Delhi 110021

DX/900/AGM-2013

Nov 14

**MINUTES OF THE 23RD ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING (AGM) OF NAVY
FOUNDATION HELD AT DELHI ON 28 SEP 14**

1. The 23rd Annual General Body Meeting of the Navy Foundation was held at NOM Kota House on 28 Sep 14 under the Chairmanship of Admiral RK Dhowan, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC, the Chief of Naval Staff and President Navy Foundation. The following were present: -

(a) **Invitees**

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------|
| (i) | Vice Admiral P Murugesan, AVSM, VSM | COP |
| (ii) | VAdm HCS Bisht, AVSM | CPS |
| (iii) | Cmde Vijesh Kumar Garg | CO INS India |

(b) **Members**

- | | | |
|-------|-------------------------|--------------|
| (i) | RAdm SP Gupta, JAG (N) | Legal Member |
| (ii) | Cmde HS Chopra, PDNPF | Treasurer |
| (iii) | Cmde Ajay Saxena, PDESA | Secretary |

(c) **In Attendance**

- | | | |
|-------|----------------------|-------------------------|
| (i) | Cmde MK Jetly | PDPA |
| (ii) | Cmde Subhash Gadhavi | PDECHS (Navy) |
| (iii) | Capt DR Sharma | Member Secretary, INCCB |
| (iv) | Capt SS Mann | Director, ECHS (Navy) |

(d) **Charter Representatives.**

- | | | |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| (i) | VAdm Harinder Singh(Retd) | President Delhi Charter |
|-----|---------------------------|-------------------------|

(ii)	RAdm Arun Auditto (Retd)	President Mumbai Charter
(iii)	Cmde SR Vasan (Retd)	Member Chennai Charter
(iv)	Cmde BR Sen (Retd)	President Kolkata Charter
(v)	Cmde VK Gautam (Retd)	President Chandigarh Charter
(vi)	Cmde RB DSouza (Retd)	President Bengaluru Charter
(vii)	Cmde MVS Kumar (Retd)	Member Vizag Charter
(viii)	Cdr Sharan Singh Ahuja (Retd)	Secretary Delhi Charter
(ix)	Cdr Vijay Vadhera (Retd)	Secretary Mumbai Charter
(x)	Cdr AK Wilson (Retd)	Secretary Lucknow Charter
(xi)	Cdr G Eswara Reddy (Retd)	Secretary Hyderabad Charter
(xii)	Lt Cdr Deepak Sikand (Retd)	Secretary Jaipur Charter

Item I

2. The Controller of Personnel Services extended a warm welcome to all the present specially the outstation representatives who had taken time off from their busy schedule for the Annual General Body Meeting of Navy Foundation. He apprised them regarding the format of the meeting and informed them that the CNS who was at Rastrapati Bhawan for the swearing-in ceremony of the Chief Justice of India would preside over the second part.

Item II Presentation by PDNPF

3. PDNPF apprised all present on the following aspects:-

- (a) Post Retirement Death Insurance Extension Scheme (PRDIES).
- (b) Social Security Deposit.
- (c) INBA Grants.
- (d) Special Scholarship Scheme

Item III Presentation by Director ECHS

4. The Dir ECHS(N) covered the following aspects:-

- (a) Details of the ECHS Scheme.
- (b) Current status of the Scheme.
- (c) Membership Data.
- (d) Recent development.
- (e) Procedure of Treatment and Referral.
- (f) Processing of Bills
- (g) Enhancement of Financial Power.
- (h) Cases under consideration.
- (i) Challenges.
- (j) Shortage of medicines.
- (k) Status of bills
- (l) FAQs

Item IV Presentation by ACOP (AC)

5. The Assistant Chief of Personnel (Administration Civilian) covered the following aspects:-

- (a) Pay Structure
- (b) Proposal of Pensionary Benefits Included in the JSM.
- (c) One Rank One Pension (OROP)
- (d) Rank Pay Case.
- (e) Existing GoI orders on Pensionary Benefits to Ex-Servicemen.
- (f) Present Status of Joint Services Memorandum (JSM) for the 7th CPC.

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

6. Eight new Agenda Points were discussed during the Part I. The same is placed at **Appendix 'A'**.

Item VI Status of Old Agenda Points.

7. Status of eight old actionable Agenda Points were provided. The same is placed at **Appendix 'B'**.

Item VII President's Address

8. The President extended a very warm welcome to all the members to the Annual General Meeting - 2012.

9. The President requested all the members to join him in paying marks of respect to members who had departed for their heavenly abode since the last meeting.

Item VIII Confirmation of Minutes of Meeting of last AGM

10. The Secretary confirmed that the minutes of 22nd AGM had been forwarded to all charters. The motion for confirmation of the 22nd AGM minutes was proposed by Sec NF Mumbai and seconded by Sec NF Hyderabad.

Item IX President's Address (Contd)

11. The President stated that the august gathering represented a collective wisdom and was indeed strength in terms of knowledge and experience that our seniors harbour. Those in uniform and those who had 're-attired' in different set of clothes need to work in Synergy. There was no difference between those in uniform and those who are out of service since anybody in uniform today will be retired tomorrow and therefore the retired fraternity is a pool of information, experience and professionalism that we have around us and which we need to leverage towards projecting the image of the Navy in correct perspective as far as the nation is concerned. There was a need to undertake certain changes and initiatives so that there is no feeling of retired officers being considered different or not part of navy and undertake services together as a team with our retired community so that we can delve in and leverage the wealth of experience that retired community brings along with them. The retired officer have the right to be part of the navy since they have given the best part of their services to the navy and at the end of the distinguished career they are leading the second innings.

12. As regards welfare of Retired community the President informed the forum that in the past few months or the year since the last meeting was held, Navy had put in lot of initiative with the aim that it is networked in a better manner with our retired community. Towards this DESA now has a very active site and has initiated means for retired personnel to get in touch with DESA through its 24 x 7 help line. Navy web site has been made more interactive and updated with the happenings that are of interest to the retired community. He also stated that now a well networked Navy Pension Office has been setup in Mumbai which was not there earlier.

Operations

13. The President provided a spectrum and broad brush of what Navy has been doing in the recent months. In that he highlighted the challenges impinging on IN's Area of Operation and stated that it has been a period of very high Ops tempo with IOR emerging as the Centre of Gravity of the world. Not only was IOR an economic highway but also the interest of the Global economy is involved in it. The reason for it being the 66% of the global oil, 50% of container traffic and 33% of the cargo traffic that passes through our waters. Also, 80% of the trade in IOR is of extra regional which is different from what happens in Pacific and Atlantic. If there is any impediment in the free flow of oil and trade it will not only impact on our economy and the economy of the region but it will also have a devastating effect on the economy of the world. Therefore, at any given time there are over 100-120 ships from 20 different countries which are actively deployed in the IOR. China is now operating in the IOR 365 days, 24 X 7. The Task Force deployed by PLA (Navy) operate for 7-8 months continuously and they are relieved on task. The deployment is used for the patrol of Gulf of Aden for which they are deployed here; thereafter they spend a month or so for various 'Operational Turn Around' for which they have started visiting places like Salalah. Another 2-3 months they go around on deployments to various ports in the IOR as if they belong to the Indian Ocean. Even their SSNs are also deployed in the IOR which has also been stated by them. Pakistan on the other hand apart from their internal turmoil that is on in that country was making inroads into their strategic command will translate into Navy as acquisition of nuclear submarines. Also the assistance it is getting from China in the sub-surface area is a cause of concern. In our immediate neighbourhood what is happening in Iraq is well known. Hence, the environment can at best be called fragile or volatile. India Navy therefore has to take all this into account for its operational preparedness as well as deployment and showing our flag in areas of interest.

14. The President further stated that earlier this year IN had the largest ever TROPEX which is a Theater Level Exercise held once in a year. The settings covered the open expanse of Indian Ocean rather than being restricted to any coast of Bay of Bengal or Arabian Sea. 60 ships, 57 aircraft, Nuclear submarine Chakra, the aircraft carrier and P8-I aircraft (which are long range patrol and ASW aircraft) participated. Also the naval satellite Rukmani was validated bringing Navy closer to network centric operations.

15. The Fleets remained busy getting deployed across the world in addition to regular deployments in their respective areas with WFDEPS and EFDEPS. The Eastern Fleet ships carried out exercise with Russian Pacific Fleet as far away as Vladivostok then they came off Sasebo and exercised with United States Navy for Malabar Exercise with JMSTF embedded. Thereafter, they visited Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei. Western Fleet ships earlier deployed in Gulf were now slated for deployment in IOR with visits to Seychelles, Mauritius and East Coast of Africa and thereafter they will participate in IBSMAR which is a joint exercise involving Indian Navy, Brazilian Navy and South African Navy.

16. The training Squadron was on its way for deployment to Gulf Region and our Stealth Frigates had a very successful deployment to Qinhuangdao in China as part

of the WPNS. Another ship participated in the RIMPAC Exercise. For the first time that ships of Indian Navy were deployed in RIMPAC where ships of 22 navies participated and our Fleet ships have done the Navy proud by not only showing the flag across the seas but also displayed the aspect related to their professionalism. Coordinated patrol exercises with Thailand and Indonesia as well as with Myanmar and exercises with the Sri Lankan Navy were also undertaken for the first time. Ships are being deployed regularly for EEZ patrol in Maldives, Seychelles and Mauritius with the intention of capability enhancement and capacity building of our maritime neighbours.

Acquisitions

17. The President updated the forum regarding inductions and asset enhancement. The President mentioned that, Vikramaditya has been inducted and operationalised as has been reported in the newspapers and media. Recently inducted P-8Is, were one of the most potent platform for two aspects. Firstly, for the first time technology of that level has been inducted in Indian Navy at the same time as it is being inducted in the United States Navy. The second aspect was that as far as China is concerned, with their large number of SSBNs and SSNs, the only factor which tips the balance in our favour is perhaps the presence of this P-8Is long range maritime patrol and ASW aircraft which has been taken note of.

18. The President also apprised the gathering that in keeping with our maritime capability perspective plan we have inducted the last of the Shivalik class and the last of follow-up of Project 1053.6 from Russia, INS Trikhand, three offshore vessels from Goa Shipyard and the crowning glory (as far as our ship designer and indigenisation are concerned) was commissioning of the first project 15 A ship INS Kolkata by the Prime Minister. Also the first ASW corvette of Project 28 was commissioned by the Raksha Mantri at Vizag.

19. As far as the submarine programme is concerned he stated that it was an area of concern and various aspects were being looked at to ensure the operational availability of limited submarines in our inventory is ensured. Chakra will be made fully operational soon and Arihant in its final stages of harbour trials was expected to move out for sea trials very soon. Also, service life extension of submarines was being looked into. The Scorpine submarine programme has been pushed so that the first submarine will be at sea by Sep 2016 and rest will follow in quick intervals of nine months each. Also the prospect of pushing Project 75 I was being explored with the MoD.

20. The blue print of the future of the Indian Navy was anchored firmly on Self Reliance and Self Indigenisation. Currently, 41 ships and submarines were under construction at various public and private ship yards. The Navy ship designers had completed 50 glorious years and our shipyards have made us stand tall among a select group of countries which have the capability of designing and constructing frigates, destroyers, submarines and aircraft carrier. Our aircraft carrier construction (after launch of Vikrant) is undergoing fitment and integration of various systems and is slated for delivery by end 2018. These are some of the activities that have been happening in your Navy.

Initiatives

21. The President highlighted the other initiatives that have been taken. Towards that he informed the gathering regarding the following:-

(a) Drive towards a fully integrated network centric Navy with multi-spectral data fusion, high speed data links and sensor to shooter integration. Launch of Naval satellite Rukmani sometime ago has helped in this direction.

(b) Green footprint along with our Blue Water Operations for which future bases (Karwar Phase II and Advance Operating Base which is off Vizag) are being designed with zero carbon footprint. And in the existing bases all aspects related to other forms of energy weather its solar or any other from was being taken care of. Recycling, cutting off of power emission, optimizing use of fuel, water and electricity were also being done in a big way as far as our bases are concerned.

22. Regarding manpower related initiative the President stated that for men behind the machine a renewed vigour has been put towards training to ensure that each individual is a professional in his own right. Efforts to restore the prestige of our personnel weather he is a sailor or a junior officer were being put in, because unless he has the prestige of the job he is doing he will not be able to perform. Also a good healthy working environment was being provided. All this was being prioritised to run a taut, efficient and a happy Navy. He also apprised that additionally the following measures have been taken to: -

(a) Ensure that the residential areas and other welfare activities are taken on as well.

(b) Good medical facilities are provided.

(c) Suitable grants are made available so that Naval Community system is strengthened and taken care of.

23. The President also apprised the gathering of the inroads made through initiative taken up to project that India is essentially a maritime nation. It was the responsibility of the Navy (since protecting them is squarely on the shoulder of men in white uniform) to ensure that India's maritime interest which have a vital relationship with the nation's economic growth are allowed to grow unhindered both in peace and war. Hence, there was a need to create awareness across the country (weather it was in our schools or our civilian society) regarding the importance of a maritime nation like ours with large maritime interests. Towards this Navy is articulating that 'we want safe seas for a prosperous nation'.

24. The President concluded his address by thanking all for being there for the AGM and reiterating that we need to work shoulder to shoulder weather you are in uniform or out of it so that we can project our great service in a fine perspective.

Item X Secretary's Report

25. The Secretary presented the report on the activities of the Navy Foundation since the last Annual General Meeting held at New Delhi on 17 Feb 13.

26. He brought out that there had been few changes in the office bearers of some of the Charters since last AGM and the updated list was provided to all present in the forum (Placed in the folder given to each member).

27. He brought out that there has been a continuous endeavour to reach out to NF members and keep them updated on current policy issues. Regular advisories to all Charters were being communicated through e-mail and hosting on DESA page in the IRFC web site. Also current Flag Appointments in the Navy and relevant IGs were being hosted on the web page. From Jun 2014, a quarterly e-Newsletter has been started which comprehensively covers all aspects relating to veterans including details of current policy letters promulgated by various authorities from time to time. The next edition would be promulgated shortly. He sought inputs to make the newsletter more relevant and interesting. He also brought out that the existing helpline at DESA has been converted into a 24x7 Voice Interactive Helpline to assist all members including members of Veteran Sailors Forum to register their query, which are responded to after due processing.

28. The Secretary informed that the birth centenary of Late Adm AK Chatterji (Retd), our first four star CNS, will be commemorated on 22 Nov 14 at the 'Multipurpose Hall' in Kamladevi Block of India International Centre (IIC) between 1800 h – 2100 h for which the Chief of the Naval Staff has kindly consented to preside. He subsequently read out important activities carried out by various Charters in alphabetical order.

Bangalore Charter

29. Bangalore Charter held its Annual General Body Meeting on 25 Apr 13 that was well attended by majority of its members. The charter also conducted its maiden Adm RL Pereira Memorial Lecture delivered by the former Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral Arun Prakash (Retd) on the topic "India as the 21st Century Power – the Maritime Dimension". The charter facilitated interaction of its members with the Service Medical fraternity of Bangalore. In addition, regular get together were organized with party games and themes. During these get togethers, Octogenarian members of the foundation were felicitated with mementos and planting of saplings.

Hyderabad Charter

30. The Hyderabad Charter held two Annual General Body Meetings on 09 Apr 13 and 13 Apr 14 which were attended by over 120 members. The charter participated in the Navy Golf Tournament held with seven other teams from the units of the three Services located at Hyderabad. He made a special mention of Hyderabad Charter towards obtaining advertisement for Quarterdeck. The charter had arranged advertisement worth Rs 1.7 Lakhs for Quarter Deck 2014 edition. This year around, with absolutely no contributions from other charters, Hyderabad Charter has been the saviour by its lone contribution of Rs 3.4 lakhs for the forthcoming 2015 edition of the Quarter Deck.

Jaipur Charter

31. The Charter despite being the smallest charter in terms of strength has been very vibrant with regular interactions between all its members. The charter organised the Annual Meeting at the 'Devil's Club' on 19 Oct 13 followed by the annual Picnic on 15 Dec 13 at Castle Kalwad and the Annual Lunch at 'Spice Court' on 20 Jul 14.

Kerala Charter

32. The Charter had held its Annual General Body Meeting on 25 May 14 at the SNC Officers' Mess. Towards philanthropic service the Charter by way of contributions received from its members, celebrated Onam at an Orphanage with inmates of Old Age Home by gifting new clothes. In addition, monthly financial aid is being provided towards medicines to the OAH inmates and baby food for the orphanage.

33. Towards member interaction and bonding as a community, the Charter conducted a boat cruise picnic with families, organized a sponsored Golf Tournament and a visit to China this year from 24 to 29 Apr, by a team of 22 members that included token representation from other charters and Army retired personnel.

Kolkata Charter

34. The Charter, held its Annual General Body Meeting on 27 Apr 14 where the Governing Committee members were re-elected. The Charter has been conducting quarterly meetings for its members to facilitate interaction and take up welfare issues.

35. The last Admiral AK Chaterji Memorial Lecture was conducted on 06 Apr 13 on 'Maritime Dimensions of India's Security' with the then Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal Sri MK Narayan delivering the keynote address. The lecture was followed by a reception and dinner on board IN Ships by the FOC-in-C (East) who was also present for the event. The charter has planned the next memorial lecture in Feb/Mar 15 which will be commemorated as the Late Admiral's Birth Centenary edition.

Lucknow Charter

36. The Charter being the youngest Charter, held its third Annual General Body Meeting on 06 Apr 14 at Surya Officers' Institute. The charter celebrated Navy Day 2013 by hosting a cocktail evening also at the Surya Officers' Institute.

Mumbai Charter

37. The Charter annually conducts the Admiral Soman Memorial lecture, which for 2014 was conducted on 09 Mar 14 in Asvini Auditorium. The speaker was Mr Alyqe Pamsee who addressed the gathering on "Why is Bombay called the New

York of India". The Charter also organised a Golf tournament between Fleet Officers and Charter members on 06 May 14.

38. The Annual General Body Meeting was held on 25 May 14 at the IMSC, which was followed by a jamboree picnic attended by around 250 members and their families, with all its paraphernalia that included singing, dancing that were coordinated by an Event Manager and of course, plenty to drink and eat. The event was partially sponsored by Pipava Shipyard.

Vishakhapatnam Charter

39. The Annual General Body Meeting of the Charter was held on Nov 13 where the emphasis was on ECHS facilities. The charter held a welcome reception for the present FOC-in-C (East) and has been regularly meeting on the 2nd Sunday of every month where resolution of problems faced by veterans is facilitated. A model folder with comprehensive guidelines regarding actions by NoK on the demise of a veteran has been prepared by the charter.

40. In conclusion he highlight the concerns expressed by Mrs Shirley Ramsay, Editor Quarter Deck magazine for the luke warm response in forwarding articles despite repeated requests. He emphasised that the Quarter Deck was an initiative of the veterans with Navy as the facilitator. The magazine had not only made a mark and place amongst the Naval community but has also emerging as a collector's item for historians. Hence, he urged the veterans to continue supporting Quarter Deck which was synonym with Navy Foundation by contributions both by way of interesting articles that are original and have not been printed in any other magazine or editorial and also in obtaining advertisement sponsorships for the magazine.

Item XI Discussion on New Agenda Points (Part II).

40. Eight new Agenda Points were discussed during the Part II. The same is placed at ***Appendix 'C'***.

Item XII President's Concluding Remarks.

41. The President in stated that with the kind of expertise and experience that resided amongst both the retired and serving fraternity, there was a need to explore methods to make this forum vibrant. He stated that he was aware of the happenings in individual charters in terms of perks and would welcome suggestions since the retired fraternity was now reasonably well networked through DESA.

42. Reiterating his view that weather an officer was in uniform or out of it they were part of the same organisation and resource pool. Hence, he urged that leveraging the collective experience we need to work towards improving things in the Navy. He apprised the gathering regarding the very vibrant CNS's forum on the intranet which was proving to be very useful to get ideas and stated that brilliant ideas do not necessarily come from top or bottom but from across the spectrum.

43. The President concluded by stating that whatever suggestions our veterans or seniors had on improving the Navy in whichever aspect it may be – Operational, Logistics, Manpower or Welfare would be welcome so that we can take our very fine Service to greater heights.

Item XIII Vote of Thanks.

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

(Ajay Saxena)
Commodore
Secretary
Navy Foundation

Encl: As Above

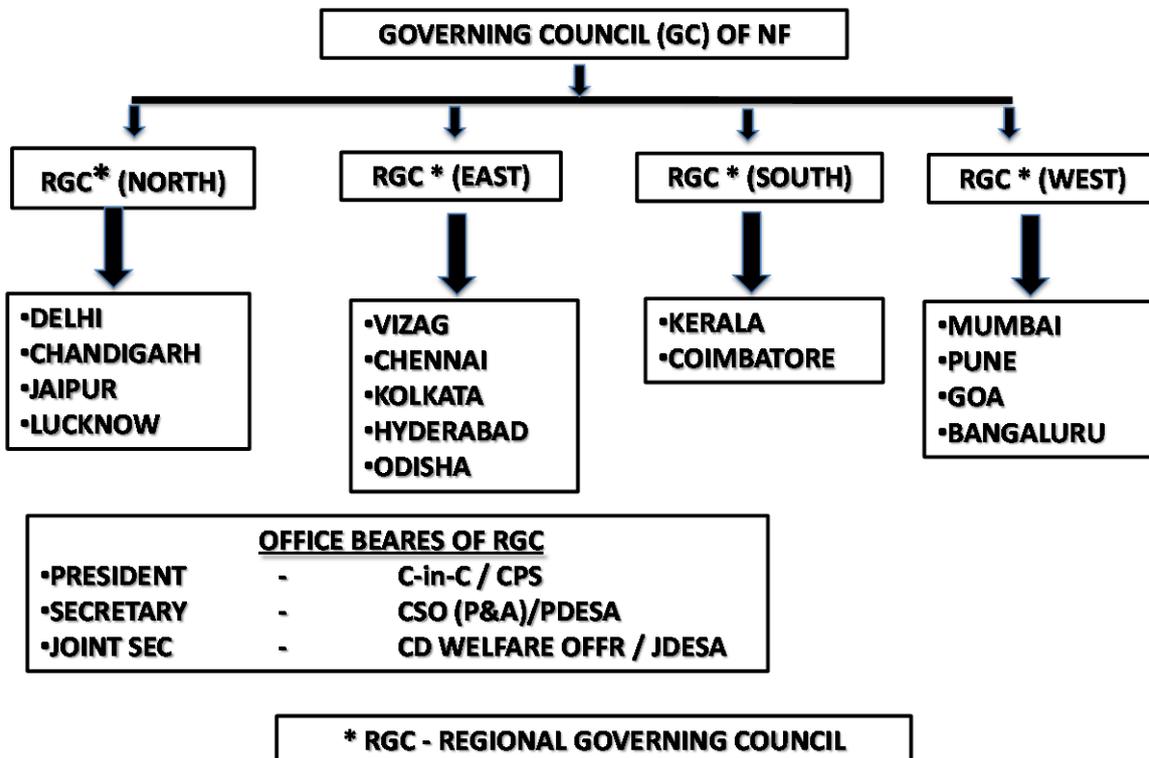
Distribution: Normal

NEW AGENDA POINTS (PART I)

Item I Adoption of the Revised MoA (Secy NF)

1. During the 22nd GCM it was decided that the NF MoA framed in 1958 be revised. The MoA has been revised incorporating earlier decisions of the GCM/AGM and changes necessitated with passage of time. The draft revised MoA was circulated to all NF Charters and suggestions received were factored in. Following proposed changes needed deliberation of the AGM:-

- (a) Change of Nomenclature from 'NF Charter' to 'NF Chapter'.
- (b) Reorganising the structure of NF to delegate responsibility to Command Headquarters [which hitherto was being done by IHQ MoD (N)] to look after a cluster of NF Charters based on geographical location retaining the autonomy of the charters as follows:-



2. **Deliberations.**

(a) It was brought out that all changing the nomenclature from 'NF Charter' to NF 'would cause difficulties in changing the names of existing Bank Accounts, FDs and in re-registration of title with the Registrar of Societies – leading to avoidable infructuous paperwork and man-hours. Also, for Charters with IT exemption the change may make the exemption null and void.

(b) Consequent to the reorganisation of NF, the representation of Charters in the Governing Council would need to be amended.

(c) Cmde RB DSouza (Retd) President NF - Bengaluru proposed that 'and others' be added in para 3 (c) after 'retired fraternity', since it will facilitate activities under CSR

3. **Decisions**

(a) "Status Quo" be maintained in respect of nomenclature and various charters be referred to as NF –Delhi, NF Hyderabad in future correspondence.

(b) The rotational representation of Charters in the Governing Council be enhanced from three (one per zone) to four (one per Regional Governing Centre).

(c) Addition of 'and others' as proposed by President NF-Bangalore be incorporated.

4. The motion for adoption of the revised MoA was proposed by Cdr G Eswara Reddy (Retd) Secretary NF- Hyderabad and seconded by Cdr Vijay Vadhera (Retd) Secretary Mumbai Charter. The house thereafter unanimously voted for adoption of the revised MoA. The house was informed that the revised MoA will be forwarded now be taken up by the GCM and after its accent, it would be put up to the Registrar of Societies for its implementation.

Action: Secy NF/PDESA

Item II Election of Members to Governing Council for the Ensuring Year (Secy NF)

5. The AGM has to elect NF members from different charters for the GCM for the ensuing year since the tenure of the present members will come to an end.

6. **Deliberations** . Due to modification in the organizational set-up, for ensuing year's GCM, four NF members comprising one from each region be elected by the respective Regional Governing Councils.

7. **Decision**. Regional Governing Councils be requested to forward names of their representatives to Secy NF by 10 Dec 14.

8. **Deliberations.**

(a) Election by the Regional Governing Councils to nominate 4 members comprising one from each region for the ensuring year's GCM was recommended by President Navy Foundation.

(b) Point be closed.

Action : PDESA

Item III Incentive for Veterans on attaining 75 years (Mumbai Charter)

9. Navy to pay an incentive to its veterans on attaining the age of 75 yrs.

10. **Deliberations.**

(a) Platinum Grant to Army Officers is paid by AHQ/AG Branch Account Section. Towards this Rs 50,000/- is paid to an officer having served for 20 years or more and having attained age of 75 years from Army Officers' Benevolent Fund. If the same officer dies before the age of 75 yrs, his widow is paid this amount. In the event of death after receiving the platinum grant, no payment as death grant is made. In case of death in harness, the officer's NoK is paid Rs 50,000/- irrespective of the length of service rendered.

(b) There is no scheme of Old Age Grant for retired officers in Air Force. However, a funeral grant of Rs. 7,500/= is paid on demise of Air Veterans.

(c) The scheme is akin to Navy's demise grant which unlike in the Army covers both officers and sailors. The demise grant has been increased to Rs. 25, 000/=for sailors and Rs 30,000/= for officers during the last INBA meeting. Further enhancement could be considered in due course of time.

(d) There are certain legal issues as only officers contributed for Army Officers Benevolent Fund. Whereas in case of Navy, both officers and sailors contribute for this.

(e) Cmde RB DSouza (Retd) President NF - Bengaluru proposed that memento and a letter by CNS could be given on attaining the age of 80 years.

11. **Decision.**

(a) Status quo be maintained and further enhancement could be taken up in due course of time.

(b) Proposal regarding memento and a letter from CNS to a veteran on attaining 80 years be examined.

- (c) Point be retained.

Action: PDNPF

Item IV Exemption of Toll Tax for ESM (Mumbai Charter)

12. Immediate case be taken up with the NHAI for restarting Toll Tax exemption for the Retired Officers also on the Toll Booths of all the National Highways.

11. **Deliberations.**

(a) NHAI has confirmed that Toll Tax exemption is only for Serving Personnel as per Indian Tolls (Army and Air Force) Act 1901 applicable to Navy also. ESM and their families have never been accorded Toll Tax exemption. However, a fake doctored letter dated 17 Nov 06 has been in circulation which has given rise to this doubt. Hence, there is no case for ***'restarting Toll Tax Exemption for Retired Officers'***.

(b) Department of Roads and Highways under Ministry of Surface Transport (which formulate policies regarding toll tax) has informed that the toll tax exemption for Ex-MPs permitted in 2008 was withdrawn in 2010. With this as the backdrop, taking up a fresh case with NHAI for exemption to ESMs of the three Services may not find favour.

12. **Decision.**

(a) Case be taken up through PPOC and thereafter at COSC/ Ministry of Transport.

(b) Point to be retained.

Action: PDESA

Item V Launching of Naval Veterans Grievance handling Portal Akin to Army (Mumbai Charter)

13. PDESA to launch a Naval Veterans Grievance Handling portal like the one started by Indian Army

14. **Deliberations.**

(a) Examination of the Army's portal reveals that to initially register / get a grievance recorded a Veteran / NoK/ Dependent needs to go to the nearest ESM Cell / Stn HQ.

(b) As per feedback the various mechanisms and channels put in place by Navy for expeditious registering of the grievances of veterans, (NoK and widows are, toll free 24 x 7 DESA Help Line, NAVPEN Toll Free Help Line, DPA Help Line, DESA e-mail for sending messages, DESA Blog and periodic reach out by the NRS teams including the publication of the quarterly newsletter) are working satisfactorily.

(c) The auto acknowledgement of e-messages sent to DESA has been disabled to facilitate manual acknowledgement after comprehension of the message by concerned individual.

15. **Decision.**

(a) Specific difficulty being experienced by a veteran in having his grievance heard be intimated to DESA to modify the existing system for addressing the same. Should the need arise, a separate grievance portal for the Naval ESMs would be considered.

(b) DESA to monitor the issue.

(c) Point be retained.

Action: PDESA

Item VI Periodic News Letter for Veterans (Chandigarh Charter)

16. It would be appropriate if some periodic newsletter could be put up on the site or disseminated to the charter on the gossiping issues for the benefit of the veterans.

17. **Deliberations.**

(a) DESA is now issuing a quarterly e-news letter that commenced from Jul 14 edition and covers the updated status on all issues. Notwithstanding the same, latest orders and circulars on important issues pertaining to veterans are disseminated through handouts and hosting them on DESA page of IRFC website. DPA's response or PCDA (P) circulars on pay / pension revision consequent to AFT / SC Rulings such as Major Dhanapalan vs Union of India are passed on to the veterans on receipt and without any delay.

(b) For wider dissemination, publication of the e-newsletter by DESA in Hindi could also be considered in future editions.

18. **Decision.** NF members to treat all unofficial inputs with caution and ignore unsubstantiated reports.

Action: PDESA/ All Charters

Item VII Six Monthly Status Report on OROP (Kolkata Charter)

19. Of late the web is flooded with mails on OROP as also various views are being expressed. Since this is a major issue that concerns all veterans, it is suggested that a six-monthly status of OROP be disseminated by the Naval Headquarters for information of veterans.

20. **Deliberations.** Orders pertaining to OROP issued by PCDA (Pension) Allahabad and other authorities are being hosted on DESA webpage, DESA Blog and in newsletter. The Chairman opined that this is not practicable since proposals and inputs are being deliberated and will have to go through a process for acceptance / finalisation

21 **Decision.** DESA to provide feedback on the issue, as and when input(s) on any important development is received from ACOP (AC) who is the Naval Rep of the Joint Services 7th CPC Group.

Action: PDESA/ ACOP (AC)

Item VIII Provision of Resources/ Infrastructure to Navy Foundation (Hyderabad Charter)

22. Presently Hyderabad Charter has no resources / Infrastructure to provide adequate assistance/ help to Naval Veterans and their families. Hence, suitable funds may be provided for construction of Office Building, employment of Office Staff, procurement of Office Equipment and meeting recurring expenditure on running the Office.

23. **Deliberations.**

(a) As per Govt guidelines, no permanent structure can be constructed on defence land from Non Public Funds. Hence funds from DPNF cannot be released for the purpose of construction of office building. All charters located at non naval stations are functioning without office or paid staff. There is no provision to provide funds for setting up or running of Charter Secretariat.

(b) Charters could acquire office equipment such as heavy duty printer, wireless internet connection laptop progressively for use by the Executive Committee member of their charter who provide secretariat support.

(c) Specifically with reference to the point raised by Hyderabad Charter, CINA (Hyderabad) had been requested to provide its premises for use by Hyderabad Charter for conduct of quarterly or six monthly meeting.

(d) Secretary Mumbai Charter stated that there was no requirement for an office to run charter activities in today's it enabled environment. He has been functioning for the last so many years from his house.

(e) Secretary Hyderabad Charter stated that use of CINA mess was not practicable since its size is too small. Also DMDE mess was too small for accommodating 120-130 charter members for functions and meetings. However, with the intervention of CPS the issue has been resolved (for the next 3-4 years) with the CDM mess being available for use by the charter.

24. **Decision.** The point be closed.

Action : PDESA / Hyderabad Charter

STATUS OF OLD AGENDA POINTS

Item II Canteen Smart Cards (Chennai Charter)

1. **Issue.** Chennai Charter had brought out that Canteen smart cards to be honoured irrespective of geographical limits and that Army was giving an additional card to its personnel.
2. **Update.** Deputy Director General Canteen Services (DDG CS) has conveyed that:-
 - (a) URC can serve its clientele to their best satisfaction if the strength of personnel drawing canteen items from it is known with some certainty. This facilitates in raising appropriate demand and stock holding. Large variation from this attached strength directly affects availability of items in that URC. Therefore, it is desirable that ESM must select one URC of their choice and be attached to it. This will facilitate URC's planning its demand and stock holding process. Option to draw from any other URC of choice is to be exercised only on need based.
 - (b) DDGCS has further confirmed that no special or additional cards are being issued to Army personnel. Number of cards and monetary limits are same in all three services in respective categories.
3. **Status.** Point Closed.

Item III Inability to Utilise Railway Passes Issued to Gallantry Award Winners (Kolkata Charter)

4. **Issue.** Kolkata Charter had brought out that gallantry award winners are unable to utilise the facility of free railway pass since they were being allotted side upper berth in II AC.
5. **Update.** Railway authorities have confirmed that no separate software programme exists for allotment of berth to concession or privileged pass holders. Berths allocated are as per computer generated sequence taking into account age and choice of berth indicated by customer while filling online.
6. **Status.** Issue be checked by obtaining inputs from Railway Board.

Item IV Charter Run OAH for Needy Widow / Widower Spouses/Veterans (Mumbai Charter)

7. **Issue.** Mumbai Charter had proposed for Charter run one-bedroom accommodation for needy single veterans or spouse be set aside in AFNHB or Adarsh Building (if given to Defence).

8. **Update.**

(a) AFNHB has indicated that all its projects are undertaken after a demand survey. After construction of the Dwelling Units, AFNHB transfers the same to the allottees on full payment. Hence, for future AFNHB projects, if demand exists, customised one bed room apartments for needy veterans/spouse can be projected to AFNHB and the same could be dovetailed in the allotment. However, these have to be purchased by the Navy or Air Force or the concerned NF Charter and thereafter control its allotment to the senior veterans as required. AFNHB has no provisions to set aside customized DUs.

(b) OAHs was also examined at IHQMoD(Navy), and as directed, Commands had identified suitable land to be sought from State Government for construction of OAHs. In addition, privately run Old Age Homes were also approached in and around NCR as also Mumbai region. For the NCR, DESA had come to an agreement with two privately owned OAH for 10 DUs each at discounted price for Naval Veterans. Since there were no volunteers for the private OAHs (both from veterans and serving officers) a repeat survey was undertaken by the Commands including requirements from veterans. The response received during the revised survey was discouraging.

(c) With specific reference to Mumbai Charter, about 150 responses were received from veterans with no firm requirement emerging in these responses. Also there was no requirement for AFNHB Jalandhar project.

(d) Adarsh being sub judice is not being discussed.

9. **Status.**

(a) Firm requirements available with the NF Charters be indicated along with the preferred place for such OAHs. The proposal could also indicated the likely model on which these OAHs could be managed and a rough indication of cost that can be paid by the veterans. Based on these inputs the issue would be progressed further by the Navy.

(b) Point be retained for taking up based on response from Charters.

Item V Status of NF Members who have Migrated Abroad (Pune Charter)

10. **Issue.** Pune Charter had sought clarification regarding the status of NF Members who had taken citizenship of other countries.

11. **Update.** Based on inputs from NF Charters and extant regulations the status of Naval Veterans acquiring Foreign Citizenship has been incorporated in the revised MoA as:-

“Indian Navy veterans with foreign citizenship will continue to be enrolled members of the Navy Foundation at any charter. Should such veterans be in India and are in a position to attend a get together being held in a mess or service institution, their security clearance from DNI will be sought by the concerned charter. However, they shall have no right to vote”.

12. **Status.** Point Closed.

Item IX Talk by NMF Scholars (Kolkata Charter)

13. **Issue.** Kolkata Charter had sought lectures by NMF scholars to prepare senior veterans for discussions, addresses and interviews.

14. **Update.** The issue was taken up with NMF. NMF has concurred with the proposal and indicated that a scholar could be deputed from time-to-time to deliver lectures. With specific reference to the Kolkata Charter, the initially proposed dates being unsuitable to NF Kolkata charter mutually acceptable dates were to be arrived at. The same needs to be finalized. Though the issue has been raised by Kolkata Charter, other Charters may also liaise with NMF for their respective requirements.

15. **Status.** Point closed.

Item XII Lump-Sum Grant of Attaining 80 Years. (Pune Charter)

16. **Issue.** Pune charter had sought a lump-sum grant for veterans attaining the age of 80 years.

17. **Update.**

(a) The Navy had '**Octogenarian Grant**' scheme which was initiated in 1987 but the same was discontinued by the Governing Council in the year 2000. The Council discontinued the grant to address the increasing number of ex-servicemen and their families in indigent circumstances, the Council decided that the limited resources of INBA ought to be channelised towards elevating financial hardships and distress rather than providing ad-hoc grants/gifts.

(b) INBA (unlike AOBF) is applicable to both sailors and officers.

(c) INBA provides death grant to all irrespective of age of the veteran and given to NoK. Hence, all naval pensioners– officers and sailors would receive this grant irrespective of the years of service rendered and age.

18. **Status**. Status quo be maintained and the point is closed.

Item XVI Benefits for Mention in Despatches Awardees (Kolkata Charter)

19. **Issue**. Kolkata Charter had proposed that case for some pecuniary benefit to awardees of 'Mention in Despatches' be taken up.

20. **Update**. Mention in Dispatches although Gallantry in nature is below NM (gallantry) and does not qualify for any benefits.

21. **Status**. Point Closed

Item XV Grants to Charters not having support of Naval Infrastructure (Pune, Lucknow, Chandigarh, Jaipur & Bhubneshwar Charter)

22. **Issue**. Charters not having support of Naval Infrastructure proposed that they be given Rs. 20,000/= grant for incidental expenses for meetings etc

23. **Update**. In light of re-organization proposed in the revised MoA wherein Charters are being placed under Commands / IHQ MoD (N) as per their Geographical Location, the point was taken up as New Agenda Point (Item XII)

24. **Status**. Point closed

NEW AGENDA POINTS (PART II)

Item IX Action on line of Air Force on the Death of a Veteran (Mumbai & Kerala Charter).

1. The issue regarding dignified last rites of naval Veterans as received from Mumbai and Kerala Charters were as follows:-

(a) **Mumbai Charter.** Actions similar to those followed by Air Force Association (AFA) with reference to their message posted on the net

(b) **Kerala Charter.** The last rite of veterans must stand out differently from others. There is no military touch to the last rites. Also many a veteran stay by themselves in old age and their last rites are not done appropriately. IAF has a SOP in place for the same. Navy could also consider a similar SOP. Alternately a bugler sounding the last post and reveille may be considered.

2. **Deliberations.**

(a) The army has an assured decent last rites scheme called ADLRS. The ADLRS cell is established at every CSD under the Oi/C CSD who is assisted by one retired JCO and two retired NCOs who, if feasible, place a wreath on behalf of the army. The ADLRS cell pays Rs. 5000/- only to the NOK of the Army ESM. Army despite its large manpower base & footprint it does not involve service elements.

(b) Air Force provides homage to departed veterans institutionally but **within the municipal limits** of the nearest Air Force Station. Wherein adequate number of uniformed personnel attend the funeral and drape the mortal remains in IAF Ensign, which is handed over to the family of the deceased veteran. In addition, a sum of Rs. 7,500/= is paid as a grant from IAF Benevolent Association Fund. Post death support for NOK of an IAF veteran is coordinated by the Air Force Association.

(c) Intimation of death of naval ESM is being received at DESA through e-mail / Fax from charters and signals from Service Hospitals. The bereaved family is immediately contacted and all assistance is provided for facilitation of post death benefits (as applicable) as also commencement of family pension. Concurrently, condolence letter is issued by the CNS for officer veterans and by PDOP for Sailor veterans.

(d) The Naval Regimental System policy guidelines lays down SOPs on demise of a veteran, which states that ***.. "In case of death of a naval pensioner, suitable personnel are to be deputed for wreath laying ceremony on behalf of the Service by the appropriate Regimental Support Unit/Regimental Coordination Unit. In case of death of a***

gallantry medal awardee holding Nau Sena Medal (Gallantry) or above, as far as possible, a full contingent for ceremonial funeral will be deputed by the RSU In cases, where deputing a full contingent is not feasible, it may be endeavoured to depute a limited contingent without arms.”

(e) The INBA pays a demise grant of Rs. 30,000/ and 25,000/= to Officer and Sailor pensioners' widows, which is not done by any other Service. After the demise of a naval veteran, all follow up actions are handled by uniformed component irrespective of geographical location/municipal limits.

(f) All actions laid down in NRS policy guide lines are taken to the extent feasible, governed primarily by the time when the intimation is received and connectivity available.

(g) The Chairman stated that this is a very important aspect and as it has brought out that there are laid down guidelines and stipulations which we have modified and reiterated even recently and he has issued instructions that these be followed in letter and spirit. He further stated that to get the intimation at the earliest opportunity so that due rites and traditions can be observed and Navy is able to do whatever it we can need to be better networked. This will facilitate quick information flow to the Commands / IHQ MoD(N) and timely necessary action.

(h) Secretary Mumbai Charter stated that their charter had initiated a process of nominating a mentor for widows. He expressed his doubt if the procedure for a Naval Contingent for gallantry awardees veteran's funeral was known to all as he was learning about it for the first time. The President stated that the intention was promulgated and it will be the intention to get better networked so that this is known to all.

(j) CPS apprised the gathering regarding the NRS and the one of the main functions of CRSOs was to get in touch with the widows. Secretary Mumbai Chartered informed that WNC was deputing two uniformed personnel to lay the wreath but the draping of mortal remains in ensign could be considered. The Secretary NF brought that it was the practice in Air Force. Cmde Ranjit Rai (Retd) and Rear Adm Ramsay (Retd) both of Delhi Charter opined that every service has its own tradition and Navy has very old established traditions. Hence, draping of mortal remains in Naval Ensign may not be appropriate. Moreover, funerals have a religious connotation.

(k) President Bangalore Charter suggested that handing over of the condolence letters written by the CNS for officer veterans and by PDOP for sailor veterans in person by a uniformed personnel to the NoK could be considered as it will make a lot of difference. The President stated that the suggestion has been taken note of and will be examined.

3. **Decision.** Point be retained and feedback be obtained

Action: PDESA

Item X Enhancement of Purchase Limit of Grocery and Expensive Items from Canteen for Retired Personnel (Delhi Charter)

4. Delhi Charter had proposed enhancement of purchase limit of grocery & expensive items from canteen which has remained stagnant for quite some time.

5. **Deliberations.**

(a) After Sixth Central Pay Commission, monetary limits of CSD Smart Cards were revised upwards twice on 21 Aug 06 and 27 Oct 08. Presently the monthly limit of items costing less than Rs. 750/= was Rs. 7,500/= and the annual limit of items costing more than Rs 750/= was Rs. 95,000/=. Also provision of groceries has also been enhanced to Rs 1,500/= on the liquor smart card w.e.f 01 Nov 11.

(b) An upward review regarding canteen purchase limits is under consideration and is likely to take place after the promulgation of 7th CPC.

6. Decision. President stated that since the point is under consideration and forwarded to 7th CPS the point to be closed.

Action: PDESA

Item XI Adequate Publicity to Posts in Think Tanks (Delhi Charter).

7. Appointments to posts in which the Navy has a say, like INDU, NMF, think tanks etc should be advertised / circulated to get the best talent and give everyone a chance to volunteer and not done on personal network as it appears to happen now.

8. **Deliberations.**

(a) Presently, NMF has a total of six billets, five of these are tenable by serving officers i.e. one Executive Director plus four research scholars. One post that of Director NMF, who is the Executive head of the organization, is tenable by a retired naval officer. The present incumbent Cdr Vijay Sakhuja (Retd) was appointed to the post in Jul 14. The appointment as per procedure was approved by the Governing Council of NMF. NMF being administered by DNT, Both DNT and Chairman NMF would be requested to give wider publicity on NMF and other websites for filling up the post of Director NMF as and when the vacancy would arise in the future.

(b) There are no appointments in the Indian National Defence University (INDU), as the same is not yet functional. Dissemination of posts required to be filled up in the Indian National Defence University (INDU) would be given wider publicity through all available options as and when the University gets functional.

(c) The President stated that DNT has very little to do with the appointment of retired personnel in NMF. However, Chairman NMF will be

requested to accord publicity for the one post for Retired officer as and when it falls due.

9. **Decision.** Point be closed.

Action: PDNT/PDESA

Item XII Annual Grant for NF Charters at Non Naval Station (Chandigarh Charter)

10. Navy Foundations Charters in places that do not have any Naval infrastructure support, have to operate from the resources collected from the members. The task becomes difficult as these are also the places where little is known about Navy. Charter located in the geographical region of the Command get annual grant from Commands for Navy Week celebration. It is appropriate that annual grant as deemed fit may be given to these Charters to facilitate organising activities related to the Navy Week.

11. **Deliberations.**

(a) In light of the new organization that places each Navy Foundation Charter under respective Command HQs or IHQ MoD (Navy) the issue would be examined accordingly.

(b) For the current year, Chandigarh, Jaipur and Lucknow Charters were being allotted Rs. 30,000/= each from NHQ AF for conduct of Navy Week Activities.

(c) Commands being advised to provide assistance, as feasible, to charters located in non-naval stations.

(d) CPS stated that IHQ MoD (Navy) was providing some kind of assistance to northern area Charters not co-located with any Naval unit. A similar assistance for other regions is being put up for CNS consideration and subsequent formulation of guidelines after getting modalities from Command depending on the strength of the Charter.

(e) The President stated that the reorganization of the charters was well intentioned so that no charter is treated like a small/ peripheral or outlying charter. From the present practice of all 15 charters being administered by IHQ MoD (N) now each command will have 3-4 charters under them for administration as was being done hitherto by IHQ MoD (N)

12. **Decision.** Point to be retained and monitored by DESA.

Action: PDESA

Item XIII Grant for NF Charters by CNS from IHQ MoD (Navy) Funds (Mumbai Charter)

13. As per the norms, once during the CNS tenure, grant from NHQ is given to all the Chapters, depending upon their strength. The same for Adm. DK Joshi's tenure as CNS, could be given during the AGM/GCM being held on 28 Sep 14.

14. **Deliberations.**

(a) The gathering was informed that during the annual meeting of INAF held on 01 Jul 14, under the Chairmanship of CNS, a grant of Rs. 16,00,000/= for all Charters had been approved. The same will be handed over by the Chairman.

(b) The distribution of the amount between Charters was worked out factoring in the following:-

(i) Strength of the charters.

(ii) Their ease to obtain sponsorship based on their location (Industrial / Business Towns).

(iii) Requirement to support new charters in establishing themselves.

15. Action. The president handed over the cheque to charter reps.

Action: PDNPF

Item XIV Open House

16. The president asked all present if there were any other points.

17. **Navy Calendars.**

(a) Issue. Secretary Mumbai Charter stated that the Navy Calendars were being despatched to the charters through courier duty personnel of Commands. This was causing delay in of up to Feb – Mar thereby losing its relevance. Hence, he proposed that a policy needs to be formulated for direct disbursement of the calendars to the charter.

(b) **Deliberations.**

(i) CPS stated that it was an administrative issue and probably there was a communication gap between the charters and Commands. Since someone has to come and collect the items since they are very

voluminous. need to improve the liaison between Commands and Navy Charters.

(ii) The President stated that the communication gap needs to be addressed. Since this was an activity that was being undertaken and the calendars were ready well in time there was no point for the calendars reaching the charters after 2-3 months.

(c) **Decision.** The President directed that the Commands be told to take necessary action for deputing reps in time for collection of the calendars. A feed back be sent by the charters on receipt of calendars.

Action: PDMPR /PDPS/PDESA

18. **Last Rite of Veterans who Donate Their Body.**

(a) **Issue.** On Delhi Charter Member stated that there should be a clause included in the procedure of last right of veterans who have donated their whole body to a hospital

(b) **Deliberation.** CO INS India stated that there was a case wherein a veteran sailor who joined DSC had pledged his body to PGI Chandigarh. When this information was received from a Medical Officer doing a specialisation at that institute, The CO Naval Unit NCC of Chandigarh along with two sailors escorted the body and all actions due to a veteran was taken. He further stated that anywhere in the Northern Region he would do the same provided the information reaches in time.

(c) **Decision.** The President directed that this be ratified and standardised as a procedure.

Action: PDESA

19. **Discontinuation of Naval Diary.** Rear Adm AR Radhakrishnan (Retd) proposed that diaries are not used these days. Hence, it may be worthwhile to consider discontinuing it or making it a reusable one for 25 years. This would also contribute towards Navy's Green initiative.

Action: PDMPR