

MINUTES OF MEETING
SPECIAL GENERAL BODY MEETING (SGM) &
INTERACTION WITH FOC-IN-C(WEST)
24 AUG 2023

1. A meeting of NFPC was scheduled on 24 Aug 2023 at 1145 hrs for conduct of a SGM followed by an interaction with the FOC-in-C (West) VAdm Dinesh K Tripathi AVSM, NM.

2. Post a welcome Tea on arrival of members, the meeting was brought to order for conduct of the SGM with a singular objective of passing of "Working Rules NFPC 2023". Prior to commencing of proceedings of the SGM, the members were requested to rise and observe a minute of silence as a mark of respect and obeisance to all members who departed us since last AGM held on 30 Apr 23 ie Late Mrs Bhagyashree Salodkar (spouse of Cdr MG Salodkar), Cmde SG Patankar, Cmde Ranjit Chaudhary, VSM NM and Mrs Nalini Kaith (spouse Capt S Kaith).

3. **Welcome Address by the President.** The President VAdm Jaywant Korde, PVSM, AVSM, VSM, addressed the General Body apprising them of the following undertaken by MC since 01 May 2023:-

(a) Salient aspects of GCM and Working Group meeting of Navy Foundation held at Naval Headquarters on 18 Jun 2023 under the Chairmanship of CNS.

(b) Visit to NAI(Pune) regarding status of land for NAI and for Office of NFPC cum space for NOI. Whilst the BPs pertaining land for NAI from Army, processed under Khadki Cantonment and DEO had reached its final approval stages, an observation from IHQ, MoD (Army) regarding no prior approval being sought from IHQ MoD Army prior proceeding with the BPs has led to stalemate on the issue.

(c) **Call on GOC-in-C Headquarters Southern Command.** The President informed the members on the issues brought out by him during his discussion with the GOC-in-C and decisions arrived at as follows:-

(i) The matter regarding allotment of suitable surplus unutilised Army land for Navy was taken up. The GOC-in-C appreciated the need for the Navy being allotted with 1 Acre of Army Land and requested the President to undertake the same through a formal proposal from NHQ.

(ii) Allotment of space in War Memorial and Museum for placing of Navy Artifacts/ Murals for furthering of Maritime Awareness in Pune being predominantly an Army Cantonment. The same was agreed to by the GOC-in-C.

(iii) Extension of RSI, Camp facilities to NFPC on Regimental Basis periodically as and when being sought by NFPC for conduct of its events. The GOC-in-C approved of the same and directed his staff to promulgate an order to that effect to RSI Management.

(d) Conduct of the next Nadkarni Memorial Lecture in end Oct 2023 wherein CNS shall be giving the Memorial Lecture.

(e) NFPC has bestowed an Annual Prize of Rs 5000 towards the Coastal & River Cleanup Drive undertaken by Schools / Organisation under the aegis of IMF.

(f) In addition to the above, an Annual Cash Award of Rs 2500 each for the Best Sea Scout & Best Sea Guide has also been instituted.

4. **Conduct of Special General Body Meeting (SGM).** As brought out at Para 2 above, the motion for passing of "Working Rules NFPC 2023" post initial discussions was submitted to the General Body (Quorum 72 Members). The motion for passing of the Rules was Proposed by Cdr RW Pathak and Seconded by RAdm CS Patham. The Working Rules were subsequently passed unanimously by the General Body in presence of *Cdr Sravan Sekhar T, Asst Secy Regional Governing Council (West)*.

5. **Address by LOIC NAVPEN.** The LOIC, NAVPEN Cmde S Supradeepan, addressed the members and highlighted the following:-

(a) SPARSH has its teething issues and the same is being addressed at all levels to iron out all flaws. He requested the members to have faith in the system and assured the gathering of the model meeting its objective in due time.

(b) Efforts on Digitisation of Pension Records of Officers and Sailors.

(c) SMART cell at NAVPEN and IHQ DOP established to support Veterans in their Pension queries and issues.

6. **Welcome Address by President.** On arrival of the FOC-in-C (West), the President addressed the members highlighting the illustrious career of the Admiral with special emphasis on his operational appointments and Flag Appointments. He informed the members of his extended stint in Plans Division of NHQ of over five to six years enabling the Navy to achieve a lot more consequent to him taking over duties there.

7. **Address by FOC-in-C (West).** The C-in-C thanked all present and on a personal note extended his gratitude to a number Veteran Officers present in the audience for mentoring him through his service career. Subsequently, he briefed the audience on various operational, personal & administrative issues initiated PAN Navy and by HQWNC as under: -

Operational.

- (a) Blue Water capability established by the Navy by undertaking across ocean deployments concurrently to the admiration of the visiting Friendly and Developed Countries.
- (b) Operational deployment and work up of two Carrier Battle Group(CBG) by HQWNC.
- (c) HADR to friendly countries and proactive support to local State Govts on western seaboard during cyclone/ natural calamities etc.
- (d) Theatre Command.
- (e) Shipbuilding and its offtake in GDP and Nation Building. 18% Capital Defence Budget Outlay for Navy after Long Time.

Personal & Administration

- (f) The induction of Agniveers and the challenges there off. He also brought out that there exists a lack of perception amongst the younger Officer and Sailors of the reality of Indian Navy having now established itself as a Blue Water Navy. This needs to be addressed by constant counselling by mentors and through the Divisional System.
- (g) The C-in-C briefly touched upon issues already discussed by LOIC NAVPEN as above. He requested the Veterans to enroll and utilise the "HANDSHAKE" site for better integration of Veteran Community.
- (h) Gol has off late accorded due credence to Sea Service & Training of Veterans whilst in service, thereby with a bridge course at NAMAC Colaba, the veterans would now be at level playfield to be accepted in the Merchant Marine and DG Shipping for lateral entry post retirement.
- (j) MoUs with Private Sector Global Giants like TCS etc has been progressed for employing retired veterans to facilitate easy and early reemployment. Also, periodic Job Fairs are being organised for the benefit of retirees.
- (k) Annual NWWA Western Region event "Anubhavi" is slated for 05 Nov 2023 at Navy House. The C-in-C requested the ladies to make good the event.

(l) Conduct of Navy Half Marathon is scheduled on 19 Nov at Mumbai and sought participation.

(m) Veterans Day Tri Service Parade on 07 Jan 2024.

8. **Presentations.** Post address of the C-in-C, following presentations were undertaken:-

(a) A Memento by President NFPC to the C-in-C.

(b) Presentation of INS Mormugao Model and a cheque of R 2.0 Lakhs to NFPC which was applauded and much appreciated by all Members.

(c) Presentation of Memento's by President NFPC to Commandant NDA VAdm Ajay Kochar AVSM, NM, LOIC NAVPEN Cmde S Supradeepan, NA to C-in-C Capt Sachin Dhir, Cd Welfare Officer Cdr Sravan Sekhar T & Flag Lt to C-in-C Lt SK Singh

9. The Guests and Members then proceeded for PLD followed by Lunch.

(Rajib Bhattacharjee)
Captain (Retd)
Hon Secretary
NFPC
Date :- Sep 2024