International Cooperation

(1) A delegation led by Additional Secretary visited Brazil to attend the 6th India-Brazil Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting from 11th to 15th February, 2019.

(2) Hon’ble Raksha Mantri visited Germany from 12 – 13 February, 2019 to attend the bilateral meeting with her German counterpart. An arrangement between the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and the Federal Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Germany on the Implementation of the Agreement of 6th September, 2006 concerning Bilateral Defence Cooperation was signed on 12th February, 2019 during the visit.

(3) Hon’ble Raksha Mantri visited Sweden from 13 – 14 February, 2019 and discussed issues related to bilateral defence cooperation with Prime Minister and Defence Minister of Sweden. An agreement on Exchange and Mutual Protection of Classified Information for Cooperation in the Defence Area was signed on 13th February, 2019.

(4) A delegation led by Assistant Chief of Defence Forces, Kenya Defence Forces visited India on 18th February, 2019 to attend the 1st Meeting of Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC), co-chaired by Joint Secretary (Planning and International Cooperation).

(5) 1st India-Uzbekistan Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Defence Cooperation, co-chaired by Joint Secretary (Planning and International Cooperation), was held on 27th February, 2019 in New Delhi.

(6) 9th meeting of India – Germany High Defence Committee (HDC), co-chaired by Defence Secretary, was held in New Delhi on 28th February, 2019.
Delegation/enhancement of existing delegation of financial powers for sanction of Capital Acquisition proposals covered in the Services Capital Annual Acquisition Plans

(7) Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) has approved the proposal of the Ministry of Defence for enhanced delegation of financial powers to Services HQrs [(upto Rs. 300 crore) to be exercised by VCOAS, VCNS, VCAS, CISC and DG(CG)], Defence Secretary (above Rs. 300 crore and upto Rs. 500 crore) and Raksha Mantri (above Rs. 500 crore and upto Rs. 2000 crore) for sanction of capital acquisition proposals covered in the Service Capital Annual Acquisition Plans. There is no change in the existing financial powers of Finance Minister (above Rs. 2000 crore and upto Rs. 3000 crore) and CCS (beyond Rs. 3000 crore).

Acquisition

(8) Contracts for procurement of 72,400 Assault Rifle through Fast Track Route at a cost of Rs. 671.71 crore with M/s Sig Sauer, USA was signed on 12th February, 2019.

(9) Contract for Acquisition of four 50 Ton Bollard Pull (BP) Tugs for Indian Navy has been signed with M/s HSL, Visakhapatnam on 14th February, 2019 at a total cost of Rs. 260.70 crore.

Defence Acquisition Council

(10) Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) chaired by Hon’ble Raksha Mantri met in New Delhi on 27th February, 2019 and accorded approval for acquisition of defence equipment for about Rs. 2700 crore.

National War Memorial

(11) Hon’ble Prime Minister dedicated the National War Memorial to the nation in a solemn ceremonial function on 25th February, 2019 near India Gate in New Delhi. He also addressed ex-servicemen on the occasion. The National War Memorial also commemorates the soldiers who participated and made the supreme sacrifice in Peace Keeping Missions and Counter Insurgency Operation.
Defence Budget 2019-20

(12) Union Budget for the financial year 2019-20, presented by the Finance Minister in the Parliament on 1st February, 2019, envisaged a total outlay of Rs. 27,84,200/- crore. Out of this Rs. 3,18,931.22 crore has been earmarked for Defence (excluding Defence Pension). For Defence Pension, an amount of Rs. 1,12,079.57 crore has been provided in BE 2019-20. Total Defence Allocation, including Defence Pension, accounts for 15.48% of the total Central Government expenditure for the year 2019-20.

Sela Tunnel

(13) Hon'ble Prime Minister laid the foundation stone for the Sela Tunnel Project in Arunachal Pradesh on 9th February, 2019. The Project costing Rs. 687 crore being constructed by the Border Roads Organisation (BRO) would be completed in the next three years. It covers a total distance of 12.04 kms which consist of two tunnels of 1790 and 475 meters.

Swachh Bharat

(14) Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has taken up various Swachhata Activities at Headquarter and projects under their command. Such activities, inter-alia, includes cleanliness drive in Unit Line Area, Outside Camp Area, inside Camp Area and Line Area.

Miscellaneous

(15) Interceptor Boat C-441 built by M/s L&T has been inducted on 21st February, 2019.

(16) Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) on routine patrol apprehended 05 Sri Lankan fishing boats alongwith 25 Sri Lankan fishermen operating in Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) and fishing off Nagapattinam on 18th February, 2019. The apprehended Sri Lankan fishing boats alongwith 25 crew were handed over to local Marine Police, Karaikal on 19th February, 2019 for illegal fishing in Indian EEZ.