**Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of February, 2018**

**Issue of S.R.O. Notification strengthening the C-in-C Andaman & Nicobar (CINCAN)**

(1) In order to strengthen the CINCAN and ensure that it becomes as a truly integrated unit of all the armed forces, the Central Government, in exercise of powers conferred by clause (e) of the rule 188 of the Army Rules, 1954, issued notification declaring that Officers of the Navy and Air Force will exercise command over persons subject to the Army Act, 1950 (Act 46 of 1950), who are attached to or are serving in Air Force Units or Naval Ships or Establishments, or Army Units commanded by such Officers; or Unified Service Organizations or Establishments, including the Andaman and Nicobar command, comprising members of the Army, Navy and Air Force or any two of them. A similar notification has also been issued by the Air Force.

**Delegation of Power**

(2) A decision has been taken that Secretary (DP) will be the Competent Authority for disposal of requests permitting change/ addition/ deletion of Tier-1 sub-vendors for the following:

(a) In respect of offset contracts which are governed by the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2011 onwards where Tier-1 sub-vendors are permitted to discharge offset obligations on behalf of the main/ prime vendor; and

(b) In respect of the signed offset contracts wherever Tier-1 sub-vendors or Programme Partners, as applicable, had been permitted to the contracts but governed by DPP 2006 and 2008.

(3) With the approval of Raksha Mantri it has been decided that irrespective of the authority which approved the proposal in–principle or considered the case during the procurement process, the final sanctioning authority will be determined as per the present delegation of financial powers, i.e., the procurement proposal will be considered by the authority presently competent. Although the procurement process will be governed by the applicable Defence Procurement Manual (DPM) under which the RFP was issued, the sanctioning authority would be determined
by currently delegated financial powers. Hitherto, the practice was to go by the powers that existed at the time of the administrative approval (of necessity).

**Perimeter Security**

(4) The powers for strengthening of the perimeter infrastructure and access control mechanisms covering military bases/aviation bases of six Army Commands with the estimated expenditure of Rs. 1487.27 crore have been delegated to VCOAS/Army Commanders under Schedule 23 to execute this work in specified time frame by 31st December, 2018.

(5) For round-the-clock surveillance, detection and delay of any unwanted intrusion through perimeter, Air Force has embarked upon a multi sensor based technology intensive Integrated Perimeter Security System (IPSS) for 23 sensitive and high risk bases. Full powers have been delegated to the Vice Chief of Air Staff (VCAS) to undertake the project on priority.

**ARMY**

(6) It was observed that 9 porter companies were being raised every year since 2009-10 for repair and maintenance of LC Fence in Northern Command and 5 porter companies were being raised since 2010-11 for construction of operational defence works in Northern Western and Central Command. Keeping in view this recurring requirement of Army, Standing Sanction has been given for raising of 14 x Porter Coys [09 x Porter Coys for repair of Line of Control (LoC) Fence in Northern Command and 05 x Porter Coys for carrying out Operational Defence Works in Northern, Western and Central Command] for 179 days every year for a period of three years i.e. FY 2018-19 to 2020-21.

(7) Approval-in-principle for the procurement of Qty-09 All Terrain Vehicles (ATVs) for 14 Corps in Northern Command, for extremely urgent operational requirement, under the powers delegated to the VCOAS, has been approved by the competent authority on 22nd February, 2018.

(8) Approval-in-principle for one-time procurement of 50 Light Bullet Proof Vehicles (LBPV) for troops in Northern Command, for extremely urgent operational requirement, under
the delegated powers of the VCOAS, has been approved by the competent authority on 28th February, 2018.

**International Cooperation**

(9) Tajik Defence Minister visited India from 6th - 9th February, 2018 as part of India-Tajikistan Defence Cooperation.

(10) A delegation led by Additional Secretary visited Thailand to attend the meeting of 6th India-Thailand Defence Dialogue (DD) from 15th - 16th February, 2018.

(11) A delegation led by Permanent Secretary of Defence, United Kingdom visited India and had a meeting with the Defence Secretary on 26th February, 2018. During the meeting, they discussed the progress of India-UK Defence Consultative Group (DCG) meeting held in London on 9th – 10th October, 2017. A courtesy call on between Raksha Mantri and the Permanent Secretary of Defence, UK was also held on 27th February, 2018.

**GeM Portal – purchase made thereunder**

(12) Since 2016, MoD (Sectt.)/ Department of Defence is making procurement of all Goods/Services through GeM which are available on GeM Portal and thereby ensuring strict compliance of Rule 149 of GFR – 2017.

**Swachh Bharat**

(13) During the month of February, 2018, Ministry of Defence has undertaken various works relating to improvement in basic infrastructure (such as deep cleaning of sewage line) of South Block thereby giving major facelift to the heritage building. Besides, initiatives have been taken for beautification such as re-development of lawns etc. of the office premises of the Ministry of Defence.
Review of cases under FR 56(j)

(14) Assessment reports/ inputs after review under FR 56 (j) were forwarded to DoPT in respect of 42 Deputy Secretaries/ Directors, 56 Under Secretaries, 73 Section Officers, 17 Principal Private Secretaries and 27 Private Secretaries belonging to Central Secretariat Cadres for which DoP&T is the Cadre Controlling Authority.

Revised policy on shared communication tower and other telecom infrastructure to extend communication network in Military Stations/ Cantonments

(15) A revised policy on shared communication tower and other telecom infrastructure to extend communication network in Military Stations/ Cantonments has been issued on 26th February, 2018. This will improve the quality of communication services and benefit the resident of Cantonments and Military Stations and they will be able to avail telecom facility at par with people residing outside these areas.

Navy & Coast Guard

(16) Contract for acquisition of 131 (130 Combat and 1 Inert Barak 1 Missiles), 3 sets ‘O’ Level Special Tools and Test Equipment (STTE) and one set of spares for the Indian Navy has been signed with M/s Rafael Advanced Defence System Ltd., Israel under option clause on 2nd February, 2018 at a total cost of Rs. 460.11 crore.

(17) Contract for supply of 1 Low Intensity Conflict (LIC) Electronic Warfare System for 16 Corps with M/s BEL, Hyderabad was signed on 21st February, 2018 at a total cost of Rs. 470 crore.

(18) Interceptor Boats ICGS C-437 and ICGS-438 have been inducted on 20th February, 2018.

(19) Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Vajra was decommissioned on 20th February, 2018.

(20) ICGS Vaibhav departed Port Blair on 8th February, 2018 for overseas deployment to East Asia (Singapore, Australia and Malaysia) from 8th February to 13th March, 2018. During the interaction at the various foreign ports, the ship displayed Search and Rescue (SAR) and
Pollution Response capabilities besides interaction on maritime safety related issues to the Coast Guard agencies concerned.

(21) On 13th February, 2018, ICGS Meera Behn apprehended 1 Pak fishing boat ‘Al Hilal’ along with 7 crew. The boat was handed over to ICGS C-413 for further passage to Jakhau and thereafter handed over to Marine Police, Jakhau on 13th February, 2018 for further necessary action.

(22) ICGS Atulya and ICGS Rani Durgavati effected R/V with Sri Lanka Coast Guard ship 409 and SL Naval ship P 341 on 20th February, 2018 and handed over 6 Sri Lankan fishermen to Sri Lankan Coast Guard ship. ICGS Rani Durgavati and Atulya also took over 109 Indian fishermen from the Sri Lankan ships. The fishermen were handed over to fisheries authorities on arrival at Karaikal Harbour.

**Defence Budget**

(23) Union Budget for the financial year 2018-19, presented by the Finance Minister in the Parliament on 1st February, 2018, envisaged a total outlay of Rs. 24,42,213 crore. Out of this, Rs. 2,95,511.41 crore has been earmarked for Defence. This accounts for 12.10% of the total Central Government expenditure for the year 2018-19. Raksha Mantri informally interacted with the media on Defence Budget.

**Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**

(24) Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by Raksha Mantri met on 13th February, 2018 and accorded approval to Capital Acquisition proposals of the Services valued at approximately Rs. 15,935 crore. These included procurements of essential quantity of Light Machine Guns for the three Services through the Fast Track Procedure at an estimated cost of over Rs. 1,819 crore. This procurement would meet the operational requirement of the troops deployed on the borders. A concurrent proposal is being processed for the balance quantity to be procured under the ‘Buy and Make (Indian)’ categorization.

**Constitution of Advisory Committee to Expedite Capital Acquisition**
(25) Raksha Mantri has constituted a 13 member Defence Minister’s Advisory Committee on Ministry of Defence Capital Project on 7th February, 2018. The decision has been taken to expedite Capital Acquisitions to bolster armed forces preparedness.

Miscellaneous

(26) Raksha Mantri on 23rd February, 2018 presented the Best Marching Contingent Trophies to the Punjab Regiment and the Indo Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) who participated at the Republic Day Parade on 26th January, 2018 at the historic Rajpath, New Delhi. Commandant, the Punjab Regiment Centre, received the Trophy on behalf of the Punjab Regiment while Director General, received the trophy of behalf of ITBP.

(27) As part of Indo-US Bilateral Defence Cooperation, the 8th Defence Technology and Trade Initiative (DTTI) Inter Agency Task Force Meeting was held in New Delhi on 26th February, 2018. The meeting was co-chaired by Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff Vice Admiral and Acting Director, International Cooperation. The DTTI was initiated as an idea by former US Secretary of Defence in 2012.

(28) A four member Indian Army Delegation participated at Naypyitaw in Myanmar to impart training on UN Peacekeeping Operations to Myanmar Army. The training has been conducted from 5th – 6th February, 2018. This is the fourth edition of such training event. The two weeks capsule aims at covering nuances of United Nations deployment and operations, with an objective to enhance Myanmar Army’s capacity towards undertaking United Nations assignments in near future.

*****