Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of January, 2018

International Cooperation

(1) Raksha Mantri held the bilateral ministerial dialogue with Minister of Defence, Indonesia on 19th January, 2018 in New Delhi.

(2) The 5th Annual Defence Dialogue (ADD) with Sri Lanka, co-chaired by Defence Secretary, was held in New Delhi on 9th -10th January, 2018.

(3) A delegation led by Defence Secretary visited Kenya from 11th -13th January, 2018 to enhance bilateral defence cooperation.

(4) A delegation led by Additional Secretary visited Egypt from 22nd -23rd January, 2018 to attend the 7th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting between India and Egypt.

(5) A three member delegation led by Joint Secretary (PIC) visited Madagascar from 15th - 18th January, 2018 to enhance bilateral defence cooperation.

(6) A delegation led by Joint Secretary (PIC) visited Singapore from 29th - 30th January, 2018 to attend the Fullerton Forum/Shangri-la-Dialogue Sherpa meeting.

(7) Chief of Staff of the United States Air Force General-led delegation visited India from 31st January, 2018 to 4th February, 2018 on a goodwill visit.

(8) Chief of Royal Australian Navy led delegation visited India from 19th - 20th January, 2018 on a goodwill visit.

Republic Day Parade 2018

(9) Nation celebrated its 69th Republic Day on 26th January, 2018 with 10 Heads of State/Government from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) graced the Republic Day Parade on the historic Rajpath, the principal promenade of New Delhi. The presence of 10 Heads of State/Government in our midst to witness the most spectacular show of our nation, made this Republic Day Parade so special. It clearly signifies our strengthening relations with the ASEAN and ASEAN nations. Keeping in sync with our ‘Act East Policy’.
Eighteen children, including seven girls were selected for the National Bravery Award 2017. Three of the bravehearts were awarded posthumously. Prime Minister awarded these future leaders of the society at a function in New Delhi on 24th January, 2018.

National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp (RDC) 2018 commenced at the Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantt on 1st January, 2018. Director General National Cadet Corps (DGNCC) Lt Gen addressed the cadets and officials on the occasion and called upon all to derive a deep sense of purpose from each activity in the camp which is unique with no parallel. In all 2,070 cadets, including 695 girl cadets drawn from all 29 States and 7 Union Territories of the country, are taking part in this one month long camp. This also includes 102 cadets from Jammu and Kashmir and 162 cadets from North Eastern Region (NER).

On January 27, 2018 Hon’ble Prime Minister on January 27, 2018 interacted with tableaux artists, tribal guests, NCC Cadets and NSS Volunteers in connection with the Republic Day celebrations. Prime Minister met the group of NCC Cadets and spoke of the diversity of India. He said youth of India can bring transformative changes in the nation. Prime Minister mentioned the importance of cleanliness to fulfil Mahatma Gandhi’s dream of a Swachh Bharat. He said this Republic Day was special, because leaders of 10 nations joined us for the celebrations.

The President approved awards of 390 Gallantry and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others on the eve of the 69th Republic Day Celebrations. This includes Ashok Chakra (01), Kirti Chakra (01), Shaurya Chakras (14), Param Vishist Seva Medals (29), Uttam Yudh Seva Madals (04), Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals (02), Ati Vishisht Seva Medal (49), Yudh Seva Medals (10), Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry) (02), Sena Medals (Gallantry) (86), Nao Sena Medal (Gallantry) (01), Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry) (03), Bar to Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty) (02), Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty) (38), Nao Sena Medals (Devotion to Duty) (13), Vayu Sena Madals (Devotion to Duty) (14), Bar to Vishisht Seva Medal (01) and Vishisht Seva Medals (121).

Online quiz competition on gallantry awards was conducted by Ministry of Defence in coordination with MyGov from 1st – 10th January, 2018. Quiz has been conducted successfully. There has been more than 87000 entries on the quiz portal. MyGov has provided a list of top 100 entries under classification of 18 years and above and below 18 years, as on 1st January, 2018.
Swachh Bharat Abhiyan

(15) Attached and subordinate organizations of the Ministry undertook several activities across the country. Details along with visuals have been uploaded on the Swachhta Sameeksha Portal. With continuous efforts, 57 Cantonments out of 62 have been declared as Open Defecation Free (ODF) till date.

Make-II Procedure

(16) ‘Make’ procedure which was introduced initially in 2006, provides for collaboration between Government and private Indian Industry for indigenous design, development and manufacture of defence equipment. Two sub-categories viz. ‘Make-I’ & ‘Make-II’ were introduced in 2016. Make-II procedure is for projects of prototype development without Government funding. As a major boost to ‘Make in India’ in the defence sector, the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on 16th January 2018 cleared a simplified ‘Make-II’ procedure after a series of consultations with the industry. Salient features of the simplified procedure are as follows:

- Inviting suggestions for project from the industry, start-ups and individuals, especially in respect of items which are currently being imported;
- Approval of project by a collegiate comprising DRDO, HQ (IDS), DoD under a Committee chaired by Secretary (DP);
- Hosting of Expression of Interest (EoI) in respect of approved projects on MoD websites;
- No limit on number of industry players who may show interest and offer a prototype;
- Issue of RFP. RFP once issued, will not be retraced. The winning bidder is assured of an order;
- Service HQrs to constitute a project facilitation team to facilitate the process;
- Case to be progressed even if only one entity has offered an innovative solution;
- Industry which develops the project will retain the title, ownership and IPR (except for specified reasons like national security);
- Normally no negotiations in multi-vendor contracts.
The simplified ‘Make-II’ procedure will reduce the total time from in-principle approval to placing of order by 50 percent. The estimated time to finish the whole process will come down from 103 weeks to 69 weeks.

**Constitution of Advisory Committee to Expedite Capital Acquisition**

A 13-member Advisory Committee has been constituted to monitor and expedite capital acquisition projects for the modernization of the Armed Forces. The Committee will undertake an independent review and check status of ongoing critical projects worth more than Rs. 500 crore. The panel, headed by Shri Vinay Sheel Oberoi, will suggest measures to improve the Capital Acquisition process. It will present an initial status report to RM by March 31.

**Military Engineering Service (MES)**

(17) On 4th January, 2018, the “Military Engineering Service” has been awarded the best Performance Award by National Informatics Centre based on electronic tendering carried out in the year April 2016 – March 2017 under Central Procuring Entities Category. As per statistics compiled by NIC, more than 35,000 tenders were uploaded by MES annually as part of e-tendering process through its dedicated portal eprocuremes.gov.in.

**Indian Navy to get Boeing’s P-81 simulator for sophisticated mission training**

(18) The Indian Navy currently operates eight Boeing P-81 aircraft. Boeing is expected to start delivering four more P-81 starting 2020 as part of a follow-on order placed in 2016 by the Indian Navy. With the Ministry approving the purchase of the Boeing’s P-81 Training Solution at the cost of $304 million, Boeing will soon be setting up a maritime reconnaissance aircraft training suite in India, The contract would include setting up of the simulator module at the Indian Naval Station Rajali at Arakkonam in Tamil Nadu, along with a 10 year maintenance service agreement.

**National War Memorial**

(19) The tendering process for the project was completed during the month. The Empowered Apex Steering Committee (EASC) has approved the L1 bid of Rs. 161 crore. Consequently, a Final Administrative Order for Rs. 176 crore approximately (including
contingency and consultancy charges, security and house-keeping etc.). While according its approval, the EASC observed that quality of the project and timely completion as per the commitment made to the Government by the Ministry have been key considerations driving the decisions of the Committee. Accordingly, the Committee directed that adequate measures be taken to ensure quality and timely completion of construction. The Tender has since been formally awarded and work on the ground will commence shortly.

**Navy / Coast Guard**

(20) ICGS Shaunak and Rajshree departed Port Blair on January 5, 2018 for Overseas Deployment to South Asia (Bangladesh, Myanmar, Thailand and Malaysia) from January 5 to 31, 2018. During the interaction at the various foreign ports, the ships displayed SAR and Pollution Response capability besides interaction on maritime safety related issues to the concerned Coast Guard agencies.

(21) On January 13, 2017, MRCC Mumbai received information from ONGC regarding missing of a Pawan Hans Helicopter (Call sign – VTPWA) while transiting from Juhu to MHN Offshore Platform of the ONGC. The helicopter took off from Juhu, Mumbai with 2 pilots and 5 passengers. On receipt of the information, search operation code named ‘Operation Khoj-01/18’ was launched by Indian Coast Guard in which 6 ICG ships and aircraft participated. ICG ships located and recovered six dead bodies while Naval ship recovered one dead body. Thereafter, ‘Operation Khoj-01/18’ was terminated on January 18, 2018.

(22) On January 17, 2018, Deendayal Port, Kandla, Gujarat reported fire onboard MT Genessa (IMO No. – 9183647) anchored about 14 nautical miles from Kandla Port. Large scale fire-fighting assistance was coordinated by Indian Coast Guard, which resulted in successful extinguishing of fire onboard the oil tanker. Five ICG ships contributed effectively towards fire-fighting assistance.

(23) The Indian Coast Guard on January 5, 2018 commissioned the ICGS C-436 and C-161. Apart from it, ICGS C-435 has been commissioned on January 9, 2018.

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