COVID-19 management

(1) Setting up Quarantine Facilities: On request received from the MoH&FW, quarantine facilities for civilians were created and are currently functional at 6 stations for civilians evacuees from Italy, Iran, China, Malaysia and Japan. Standby quarantine facilities have also been created at other stations. Starting 1st February, 2020 these facilities have housed 1738 individuals and 1334 were still under quarantine as on 31st March, 2020 (at Manesar, Hindan, Jaisalmer, Jodhpur, Ghatkopar and Tambaran).

(2) Identifying dedicated/ mixed COVID hospital: To cater for isolation and treatment (including ICU based care) for COVID-19 cases, orders notifying 50 AFMS hospitals as dedicated COVID hospitals and Mixed COVID hospitals have been issued on 31st March, 2020. These hospitals have a combined bed capacity of 9038. Civilians COVID-19 cases would also be admitted in these hospitals as a surge capacity to augment the state healthcare facilities. The details of these hospitals have been shared with MoH&FW.

(3) Augmenting Trained Manpower: A list of retired AMC Officers and Paramedical Staff has been readied who may be requested to volunteer for working in AFMS hospitals at their current home stations in case the need arises. 43 Officers and 990 paramedics have volunteered till date.

(4) Diagnostic Capability: 4 viral testing labs have already been established with the help of ICMR and are functional at various AFMS hospitals.

Ayurveda treatment in AFMS Hospital

(5) The Ministry of Defence (MOD) and Ministry of AYUSH (MOA) had signed a MoU on 21st October, 2019 titled "Integrating Ayurveda under the Health Establishments in Ministry of Defence/ DGAFMS", in presence of Hon'ble Raksha Rajya Mantri at Base Hospital Delhi
Cantt. Following the MoU, the Government of India issued a Sanction vide dated 6<sup>th</sup> March, 2020.

(6) The technical Ayurveda staff for facilities at 11 AFH Hindan and Base Hospital Delhi Cantt have been detailed by the MOA and administrative support with manpower has been provided by DGAFMS. Currently, 01 Ayurveda Doctor, 02 Panchkarna Therapists and 01 Ayurveda Pharmacist are available at the Palliative Care Centre at Base Hospital Delhi Cantt. 01 Ayurveda Doctor is visiting on a daily basis to attend OPD patients at Air Force Hospital, Hindan.

**AFMS hospital to be upgraded as PG hospitals**

(7) In-Principle approval of upgradation of AFMS Zonal Hospitals to PG Teaching Hospitals which includes both MD/MS programme under aegis of MCI and DNB PG programme under the aegis of NBE have been obtained. This will help in increasing the number of specialists in the country and thus it will go a long way in fulfilling the objectives of Ayushman Bharat Programme. The PG students of these hospitals/colleges will also be utilized for the better patient care in the Service hospitals under these programmes.

(8) DGAFMS has informed that the case is under process for start of NBE Courses in specialties like Surgery, Medicine, Anesthesiology, Obstetrics & Gynecology and Paediatrics at 05 hospitals with financial support from M/o H&FW. Accordingly, DGAFMS is processing the case for release of funds from M/o H&FW.

**AFMS doctors to teach in Medical college**

(9) A proposal for augmenting Medical teachers' workforce has been received from NITI Aayog. The Scheme is titled SRESTA "A Scheme for Redeployment of Superannuated Teachers of the Armed Forces Medical Services". The proposal envisages creation of SRESTA National Medical Faculty (SMNF) pool of superannuating medical teachers of AFMS for their re-deployment in the existing government medical colleges and opening of new medical colleges (new AIIMS) as there is prevailing shortage of medical teachers. The Ministry has
conveyed its whole hearted support to the initiative. DGAFMS has been asked to maintain a pool of eligible officers.

**Decision to move from cash based accounts to accrual based accounts**

(10) Cantonment Board Account Code, 2020 was notified in the Official Gazette of India as an Extraordinary Notification vide S.R.O. 02(E) dated 3rd March, 2020. Cantonment Board Account Code, 2020 has come into effect from 1st April, 2020 in all the 62 Cantonment Boards and which have now switched over to accrual based accounting system an IT platform in place of the existing single entry accounting.

**NMSAR Exercise (SAREX-20)**

(11) Indian Coast Guard (ICG) conducted biennial National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Exercise and Workshop to showcase India's M-SAR capability and preparedness towards associated maritime contingencies to international and national observers/participants. The theme of the exercise was 'NMSAR: Harmonization of Aeronautical and Maritime SAR Services'. The workshop had participation of 24 international observers from 19 countries. Representatives of commercial airlines, private helicopter operators and IATA participated for the first time.

**Opening of Jozila pass much earlier in March 15**

(12) Located on the main axis from Srinagar to Leh, the pass was covered with unprecedented snow of over 20-25 ft with temperatures from -20°C to -25°C. Keeping in view the necessity of early opening of the axis for essential supplies to Ladakh, action was taken by 'Project Beacon' from Srinagar end and 'Project Vijayak' from the Leh side simultaneously and snow clearance was undertaken through a well coordinated plan in conjunction with Army and Civil Administration. The Zozila Pass was thus opened on 15th March, 2020 well before the last year's opening date of 28th April, 2020.
New DPP for public comments

(13) The draft DPP-2020 with the objective of streamlining acquisition process, promoting Make in India (MII) and other acquisition related reforms was placed in public domain on 20th March, 2020 for comments/recommendations/suggestions on the draft DPP which were solicited by 17th April, 2020 from stakeholders viz. Ministry of Defence/ Service Headquarters/Integrated Defence Staff/ MoD (Fin). In view of lockdown, the last date of submission of comments on the draft DPP 2020 was extended to 8th May, 2020. The comments on Draft DPP 2020 received from the stakeholders are presently under examination in MoD, whereafter the revised draft DPP-2020 will be taken up in the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) for approval before notification.

Bridge/Road opening – BRO

(14) A 430 ft span Bailey bridge was constructed over Subansiri river at Daporijo in Arunachal Pradesh in record time during the COVID-19 lockdown in March/April 2020. The old bridge over Subansiri River was in a dilapidated condition and had to be dismantled for safety reasons. BRO undertook construction of this bridge to meet strategic requirements and ensure connectivity to 451 villages in upper Subansiri District bordering China.

Defence Acquisition Council Meeting in March 2020

(15) Consequent to the separation of duties between Department of Defence (DoD) and Department of Military Affairs (DMA), the first meeting of the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Raksha Mantri was held on 18th March, 2020 with the Acquisition Wing being the Secretariat of the DAC.

(16) The Light Combat Aircraft Tejas indigenously-designed by Aircraft Development Agency (ADA) under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and manufactured by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) is going to be the backbone of Indian Air Force in future. While order of 40 Tejas aircraft had been placed with HAL in initial configurations, DAC paved the way for procurement of 83 of the more advanced Mk1A version of the aircraft from HAL by finalizing the contractual and other issues. The proposal will now
be placed for consideration of Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS). This procurement will be a major boost to 'Make in India' as the aircraft is indigenously designed, developed and manufactured with participation of several local vendors apart from HAL.

(17) The Defence Acquisition Council also accorded approval for acquisition of indigenous Defence equipment for about Rs. 1300 crore. The proposals were for procurement of Aerial Fuses and Twin-Dome simulators for Hawk Mk32 aircraft for the Indian Air Force.

(18) The DAC approved an amendment to the Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) 2016 to enable review by a Costing Committee of bids submitted by Joint Ventures of Defence Public Sector undertakings (DPSUs)/Ordnance Factory Board (OFB)/DRDO from whom procurement of Defence items are undertaken on a nomination basis. This will bring about more transparency in costs and compress the timelines for negotiation of the contract.

India in Defence Exports hub for the first time

(19) For the first time, India has found a place among the world's top 25 exporters. During 2015-19, India was the 23rd biggest exporters, ahead of Brazil and Portugal. Between 2010-14 and 2015-19, India's arms export witnessed a whopping 426 per cent increase, which is the 3rd largest increase among the top 25 exporters.

Recommendations of Committee of Experts

(20) A meeting was held by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on 13th March, 2020 on the recommendations of "Committee of Experts to Enhance Combat Capability and Rebalance Defence Expenditures of the Armed Forces" and its implementation. Hon'ble Raksha Mantri desired that the Departments concerned shall examine and take a view on the recommendations in a time-bound manner.

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