Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of October, 2019

International Cooperation

(1) MOU between Ministry of Defence of the Republic of India and Ministry of Defence of the Kingdom of Netherlands on Mutual Protection of classified information in the field of Defence was signed on 16th October, 2019.

(2) Raksha Mantri's visit to France: Hon'ble Raksha Mantri visited France from 7th – 9th October, 2019. He took part in the handing-over ceremony of Rafale fighter aircraft at Merignac in Bordeaux. He held talks with French President in Paris. Hon'ble Raksha Mantri participated in 2nd India-France Ministerial level Annual Defence Dialogue with his French Minister wherein wide ranging issues of defence cooperation were discussed. The summary of action points are as under:-

- Next High Committee on Defence Cooperation (HCDC) to be held at the earliest in 2020.
- Indian side's proposal for holding Joint tri-services exercises may be held at the earliest.
- The French aircrafts (Rafale/ A44M) to visit India in August 2020.
- Indian side to consider French proposal to welcome Indian experts to check the performance of the Rafale at the French base in the UAE (in an environment of high temperatures).
- French side to consider the Indian request for 8-10 Meteor missiles to be given to India by 2020 with the first 4 aircrafts.

Defence Acquisition Council

(3) Defence Acquisition Council, chaired by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, met in New Delhi on 21st October, 2019 and accorded approval for Capital Procurement of
indigenously designed and developed equipment, amounting to over Rs. 3300 crore for the Armed Forces.

**Acquisition**

(4) Phase-III of contract for construction of Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (P-71) was signed on 31st October, 2019 at fixed cost of Rs. 3235 crore plus variable cost with M/s CSL, Cochin.

**Apprehending**

(5) An input was shared by Cabinet Secretariat on 30th September, 2019 regarding presence of suspect entity involved in narcotics smuggling. The suspect entity was in touch with Pak based handler and contacting with receiving end in Maldives. Trilateral cooperation between ICG, MNDF (CG) and SLCG was invoked and the information was shared with these agencies in real time. MNDF (CG) along with the Maldivian police successfully apprehended the suspect Pak entity on 5th October, 2019 and 50 kg narcotics was seized in two packets and the six crew onboard were arrested.

(6) ICGS Samar, ICGS Shaurya and ICGS Anagh whilst on routine patrol apprehended 09 Sri Lankan fishing boats along with 24 Sri Lankan fishermen operating in Indian EEZ on 1st October, 3rd October and 3rd October, 2019 respectively.

**Swachh Bharat**

(7) During 'Swachhta Hi Sewa' campaign 2019, a community cleaning drive was carried out at Gate No. 9 and 10, South Block under the leadership of Secretary (ESW) on 2nd October, 2019 wherein senior officers and a large number of staff of Ministry of Defence participated on the occasion. Single Use Plastic collected during the Campaign 2019 was handed over to an NGO named 'Chintan' for its proper disposal.
(8) In addition, a workshop on 'Plastic Waste Management' was conducted in Sena Bhawan on 10th October, 2019 by 'Chintan' NGO.

**Miscellaneous**

(9) Hon'ble Raksha Mantri inaugurated strategically important Col Chewang Rinchen bridge connecting Durbuk and Daulat Beg Oldie in Eastern Ladakh on 21st October, 2019.

(10) Hon'ble Raksha Mantri approved issuance of two Open General Export Licenses for export of certain parts and components and intra-company transfer of technology to select countries in a major push for defence exports.

(11) Hon'ble Raksha Mantri unveiled a statue of Mahatma Gandhi in Delhi Cantonment and paid rich tribute to the Father of the Nation on 2nd October, 2019.

(12) Hon'ble Raksha Mantri administered 'Rashtriya Ekta Diwas Pledge' to the senior military and civilian officers of Ministry of Defence in New Delhi on 31st October, 2019 on the occasion of the 144th birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel.

(13) Hon'ble Raksha Mantri approved a proposal for admission of girls in Sainik schools starting from academic session 2021-22 in a phased manner.