Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of June, 2017

Delegation of Financial Powers

(1) With a view to empowering the Armed Forces and other entities under the Department of Defence, as also to reduce the time taken in decision-making, a number of powers exercised hitherto by the Ministry have been delegated to the Service Headquarters/other entities. Some of the areas where such delegation has already been effected are:-

(a) Certain powers, in respect of post-contract management of capital acquisition contracts, hitherto exercised by the Ministry, have been delegated to Service Headquarters.

(b) With respect to a number of items relating to Post-Contract Management of revenue expenditure, the Ministry has delegated powers to the Vice Chief/Principal Staff Officer of the Service concerned.

(c) More financial powers have been delegated to the Director General and other authorities of National Cadet Corps (NCC) and the Indian Coast Guard.

(d) Ministry of Defence had delegated Financial Powers for Critical Ammunition/Spares to Service Headquarters to be exercised by Vice Chief of the Services in consultation with their respective IFA/PIFA.

International Cooperation

(2) The Raksha Mantri paid a three-day official visit to Russia with a high level delegation. Raksha Mantri co-chaired 17th meeting of the Indo-Russia Inter-Governmental Commission on Military Technical Cooperation with his Russian counterpart General Sergei Shoigu in Moscow on June 23. Raksha Mantri co-chaired the first meeting of the India-Russia High Level Committee on Science & Technology with the Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Mr. Dmitry Rogozin. In a major outcome, both sides agreed to a roadmap for the development of bilateral defence cooperation for which a Protocol was signed. The roadmap includes specific activities to be concluded by both sides and aims to enhance cooperation in field of political and military dialogue, exercises, exchange of visit, military cooperation and training of military personnel.

(3) As part of high level defence exchange and Prime Minister’s historic visit, Admiral Sunil Lamba, Chairman COSC & Chief of the Naval Staff travelled to Israel from 12 to 15 June, 2017. During his visit, Admiral Lamba held bilateral discussions with Chief of the General Staff, Israeli Defence Force, Lt Gen Gadi Eisenkot to explore avenues for greater cooperation between the two Armed Forces.

Research & Development

(4) The DRDO carried out successful test flight of anti-tank guided missile Nag on June 12, 2017 in the desert ranges of Rajasthan. The Fire and Forget 3rd generation ATGM Nag is incorporated with many advanced technologies including the Imaging Infrared Radar (IIR) Seeker with Integrated avionics, a capability which is possessed by few nations in the world.

**International Yoga Day**

The 3rd International Day of Yoga was observed throughout the country and across the seas on June 21, 2017. The major highlights included the large presence of the armed forces at main function in Lucknow attended by the Prime Minister, practicing of yoga in the seas onboard INS Vikramaditya and other vessels of the Indian Navy and the Coast Guard.

The National Cadet Corps conducted yoga exercises all over the country on the occasion of 3rd International Day of Yoga (IDY). The main function was held at DGNCC Camp, Delhi Cantonment where many cadets, in the age group of 13 to 21, participated.

The Directorate General of Defence Estates enthusiastically participated in the IDY at all its establishments across the country, including Delhi Cantonment where Defence Secretary led thousands of volunteers exercising yogasanas.

**National War Memorial and National War Museum**

The Contract Agreement with the consultant of the Project has since been finalised. Nomination of Executing Agency for National War Memorial, Museum and Connecting Tunnel has also been finalized.

**Miscellaneous**

The Government enhanced penury grant to non-pensioner Ex-servicemen/Widows to Rs. 4,000/- per month from the existing rate of Rs.1,000/- p.m., payable from April 2017. The step of enhancement of penury grant was taken to give relief to non-pensioner Ex-servicemen/widows, who are above 65 years of age to save them from state of penury.

A contract for procurement of 130 mm guns at a cost of Rs. 219.06 crore from M/s Electronic Corporation of India Ltd. (ECIL) was signed on 19.6.2017.

One Fast Patrol Vessel (ICGS Kanaklata Barua) was decommissioned on June 23, 2017 at Chennai.

Two Interceptor Boats (ICGS C-431 and ICGS C-432) were inducted in Indian Coast Guard on May 31, 2017 and have been based at Chennai and Karaidal respectively.

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