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

New Institutional Mechanism for Defence Planning

(1) On 18th April, 2018, Defence Planning Committee (DPC), a permanent body, has been set up under the chairmanship of National Security Advisor to facilitate comprehensive and integrated planning for Defence matters. DPC will comprise the Chairman, Chief of the Staff Committee (COSC), the Service Chiefs, Defence Secretary, Foreign Secretary and Secretary (Expenditure). The Chairman of the Committee can co-opt other experts/members as needed from time to time.

(2) The DPC would analyse and evaluate all the relevant inputs relating to Defence Planning, inter-alia, national defence and security priorities, foreign policy imperatives, operational directives and associated requirements, relevant strategic and security related doctrines, defence acquisition and infrastructure development plans, defence technology, development of the Indian Defence industry and global technological advancement.

(3) The DPC would prepare, for consideration by the RM/CCS drafts of National Security Strategy, Strategic Defence review and doctrines, international defence engagement strategy, roadmap to build defence manufacturing ecosystem, strategy to boost defence export and prioritised capability development plans for the armed forces over different time frames in consonance with the overall priorities, strategies and likely resource flows.

(4) There will be number of sub-committees concerning different related aspects to provide inputs to the DPC on specific issues.

Issue of NoC to National Institute of Wind Energy (NIWE) to carry out Met-Ocean, Geo-Physical Investigation, Geotechnical bore hole Studies etc.

(5) Naval HQrs has conveyed ‘No Objection’ from naval security point of view for Stage - I to NIWE to carry out Met-Ocean Studies, Geo-Physical Investigation, Geotechnical bore hole studies and other associate studies like Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) in the identified Zone B off Gujarat in the area bounded by the following co-ordinates:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Sl. No.</th>
<th>Zone - B</th>
<th>Latitude</th>
<th>Longitude</th>
<th>Area (KM²)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>B - 1</td>
<td>20.314</td>
<td>71.809</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>B - 2</td>
<td>20.356</td>
<td>71.660</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>B - 3</td>
<td>20.779</td>
<td>71.660</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>B - 4</td>
<td>21.118</td>
<td>72.138</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The above clearance is subject to the condition that prior to commencement of the above work, NIWE will seek clearance from Ministry of Defence for the Naval Inspection of the vessel(s) deployed by them for the above work, as per the extant GOI Regulations for Maritime Research, Survey, Exploration and Exploitation of Resources in Coastal and Maritime Zones of India.

**Sainik School – Major Initiatives**

(6) There has been a growing demand for admission of girl cadets to Sainik Schools to enable them to serve the nation by joining defence services. A pioneering initiative was taken to admit girl cadets in Sainik School, Chhingchhiip, Mizoram as a pilot project from 2018-19 academic session. To cater to the requirements of the girl cadets inducted into this Sainik School, additional infrastructure and manpower has also been provided to the school.

(7) With a view to bring about greater objectivity and higher transparency, the All India Sainik School Entrance Examination procedure was revamped. The earlier subjective system of examination has been replaced by objective multiple choice question on OMR sheet. This new system was successfully implemented in respect of students seeking admission from the academic session 2018-19.

**International Cooperation**

(8) A delegation led by Raksha Mantri visited Moscow, Russia to attend the 7th Moscow Conference on International Security from 3rd – 5th April, 2018.


(10) A delegation led by Raksha Mantri visited Beijing, China to attend Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Defence Ministers’ meeting from 22nd – 25th April, 2018.
Swachh Bharat

(11) NCC has taken up various Swachhta Activities on massive scale. NCC has conducted cleanliness drive in 1580 locations including schools, hospitals, public parks, public statues, historical monuments, beaches and adopted villages. Apart from that, Awareness Drive in total 844 locations has also been organized including Rallies, door to door Campaign, *Nukkad Natak* and lectures/talks/seminars.

In addition to this, Indian Coast Guard has also conducted special cleanliness drives with various communities in nearby fishing villages followed by Community Interaction Programme.

**ARMY**

(12) A contract for procurement of 1.86 lakhs Bullet Proof Jackets at a cost of Rs. 570.51 crore with M/s SMPP Pvt. Ltd. NDSE, Part-II, New Delhi was signed on 9.4.2018. The jackets are of contemporary, state-of-the-art specifications with added protectional level and coverage area. The case was processed as ‘Buy Indian’ and will meet an operationally-critical requirement about which concerns had been raised at the highest levels.

**AIR FORCE**

(13) The Indian Air Force (IAF) has conducted pan-India Exercise Gagan Shakti-2018 from 8th – 22nd April, 2018. The aim of the exercise was real-time coordination, deployment and employment of air power in a short and intense battle scenario. IAF exercised its entire war fighting machinery to validate its concept of operations and war-waging capability. The focus of the exercise was to check the viability of IAF operational plans and learn meaningful lessons. All the laid down objectives were achieved.

**Navy & Coast Guard**

(14) 6th Indo-Korean Coast Guard Joint Exercise (SAHYOG-HYEOLLYEOG-2018) was conducted off Chennai on 5th April, 2018 at Chennai. Korean Coast Guard Ship Badaro, 09 ICG ships and 02 ICG aircraft participated in the joint exercise.

(15) Coastal Security Exercise “Sagar Kavach-01/2018” for Karnataka Coast was conducted on 11th – 12th April, 2018.
(16) Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Vikram built by M/s L&T was commissioned on 11th April, 2018. Apart from it Interceptor Boat C-438 built by M/s L&T was commissioned on 25th April, 2018.

(17) The third ship of Landing Craft Utility (LCU) MK-IV project was inducted into the Navy on 25th April, 2018.

DefExpo 2018

(18) The 10th edition of DefExpo was held at Tiruvidanthai, Kancheerpuram district on the East Coast Road near Chennai from 11th to 14th April, 2018. DefExpo 2018, for the first time, projected India’s Defence manufacturing capabilities to the world as reflected in the tagline for the Expo, ‘India: The Emerging Defence Manufacturing Hub’. 542 Indian exhibitors, including 160 MSMEs, and 160 international exhibitors participated in the event.

Conference on International Security

(19) Raksha Mantri paid a three-day official visit to Russia to attend VII Moscow Conference on International Security from 3rd April, 2018. The Raksha Mantri addressed the II Plenary Session of the Conference on the theme titled ‘Global Security in a Polycentric World’ covering aspects related to current global defence, security and strategic scenario on 4th April, 2018 in the Russian capital. She met Minister of Industry and Trade of the Russian Federation in Moscow on 3rd April, 2018. Both the leaders reviewed ongoing military technical cooperation projects between the two countries, including measures to promote India-Russia joint industrial activities under the ‘Make in India’ programme with respect to defence production, especially for after-sales support.

Defence Cooperation with foreign countries

(20) Raksha Mantri addressed a meeting of India’s Defence Attaches (DAs) in New Delhi on 9th April, 2018. It was the first such conference held with our DAs, with a view to enhance their role towards implementation of India’s defence cooperation and engagement with foreign countries. India has Resident Defence Attaches in 44 countries, who are accredited to a total of 95 countries.

Gallantry and Distinguished Service Awards

(21) The President and Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces conferred three Kirti Chakras and thirteen Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces Personnel for displaying
conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty at a solemn ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 23rd April, 2018. Two Kirti Chakras and two of the Shaurya Chakras were given posthumously. The President also conferred thirteen Param Vishisht Seva Medals, two Uttam Yudh Seva Medals, two Bar to Ati Vishisht Seva Medals and twenty six Ati Vishisht Seva Medals to senior officers of the Armed Forces for distinguished service of an exceptional order.

**Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO)**

(22) India participated in the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Raksha Mantri Meeting for the first time. The 15th SCO Defence Ministers Meeting was held at Beijing in China on 24th April, 2018. Speaking at the meeting, Raksha Mantri highlighted India’s keen interest in developing an expanded partnership with the broader Eurasian region.

**Defence Acquisition Council**

(23) The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), chaired by the Raksha Mantri, met on 27th April, 2018 in New Delhi and accorded approval to Capital Acquisition Proposals of the Services valued at over Rs. 3,687 crore. In a boost to indigenization and in realization of India’s growing technological prowess, the DAC approved procurement of Defence Research and Development Organization’s (DRDO) designed and developed NAG Missile System (NAMIS) at the cost of Rs. 524 crore.