International Cooperation

(1) A delegation led by Minister of Defence, Japan visited India on 20th August, 2018 and had a bilateral meeting with Raksha Mantri.

(2) A delegation led by Minister of National Defence, Republic of Korea visited India on 10th August, 2018 and had a bilateral meeting with Raksha Mantri.

(3) A delegation led by State Councillor and Defence Minister, China visited India on 21st – 24th August, 2018 to hold delegation level talk with Raksha Mantri.

(4) A delegation led by Raksha Mantri visited Thailand from 27th – 28th August, 2018 for holding bilateral meeting with the Defence Minister of Thailand to enhance bilateral defence cooperation.

(5) A delegation led by Senior Lt Gen, Deputy Minister of Defence, Vietnam visited India on 1st August, 2018 to attend 11th India-Vietnam Security Dialogue (SD) co-chaired by the Defence Secretary.

(6) A delegation led by Air Marshal, Secretary General of Defence Ministry, Indonesia visited India on 9th August, 2018 to attend 6th India-Indonesia Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting co-chaired by the Defence Secretary.


(8) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and Technical Agreement between India and Kazakhstan concerning Arrangements for Joint Deployment of the Kazakh Peacekeeping Contingent as part of Indian Battalion in the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) was signed on 21st August, 2018.
A four member technical delegation led by Vice Chief of Air Staff visited United States of America (USA) from 22nd – 23rd August, 2018.

Joint Secretary (Planning and International Cooperation) visited United States of America (USA) from 24th – 25th August, 2018 for negotiation of India-USA Communication Compability and Security Agreement (COMCASA).

**Delegation of Enhanced Financial Powers to CINCAN**

Commander in Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) is one of the CFAs in IDS schedule in DFPDS (Delegation of Financial Powers in Defence Services) whose financial powers were covered under the delegation at C-in-C level in ISP 2016 (IDS Schedule of Powers). ANC (Andaman and Nicobar Command) has operational significance and is a remote area far off from mainland and hence enhancements in financial powers of CINCAN in various sub-schedules of ISP 2016 were notified on 10th August, 2018. By this CINCAN has been empowered with greater financial autonomy.

**Aid to Civil Authorities**

**ARMY**

Aid to Civil Authorities for providing relief to flood victims of Kerala:
Kerala State witnessed very heavy rainfall with effect from 9th August, 2018. Request for provision of Army Assistance was received on 9th August, 2018. Accordingly, Indian Army carried out execution of Disaster Relief Operations on war footing. Details of the rescue & Relief assistance provided by the Indian Army are as under:-

(i) Total 10 Flood Relief Columns & One Special Force Team carried out rescue operations, constructed of bridges, restored connectivity and provided medical aid in affected districts of Kerala.

(ii) Eight Engineer Task Forces & Four BAUT Teams were deployed which worked round the clock.
Air Force

(13) **Assistance to Civil Authority:** Flood Relief Operations have been carried out for Government of Kerala, Nagaland and Government of Uttarakhand during which 863 persons were rescued by IAF aircraft/helicopters involving total flying effort of 815 sorties involving 653:55 flying hours.

Navy & Coast Guard

(14) **Assistance to Civil Authority – Kerala Flood:** In response to Kerala Floods in August 2018, the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) launched Disaster Response Operation code named ‘Op Rahat’. ICG mobilized eight ships, four Dornier aircrafts and three Helicopters for the Flood Relief Operation. 36 Disaster Response Teams each comprising of 7-9, ICG personnel were formed and deployed in the flood affected districts of Kerala viz. Calicut, Thrissur, Idduki, Ernakulam and Pathanamthitta. During the rescue & relief operations conducted by ICG for the Kerala flood victims, 3521 persons were evacuated, 7427 persons were guided to safety, 26941 food packets distributed and 14000 food packets air dropped, 27 persons were airlifted and in addition 107 animals were also rescued.

Approvals by Defence Acquisition Council

(15) The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) on 25th August, 2018 accorded approval for procurements amounting to approximately Rs. 46,000 crore. The council approved procurement of 111 Utility Helicopters for the Indian Navy at a cost of over Rs. 21,000 crores. This is the first project under the MoD’s prestigious Strategic Partnership (SP) Model that aims at providing significant fillip to the Government’s ‘Make in India’ programme. SP Model envisages indigenous manufacturing of major defence platforms by an Indian Strategic Partner, who will collaborate with foreign OEM, acquire niche technologies and set up production facilities in the Country. The DAC also granted approval to certain other procurement proposals amounting to approximately Rs. 24,879.16 crore, which included 150 Indigenously Designed and Developed (IDD) 155 mm Advanced Towed Artillery Gun Systems for the Indian Army. To enhance the capability of Navy at sea, approval was granted for procurement of 24 Anti-Submarine capable Multi Role Helicopters, which are an
integral part of the frontline warships like the Aircraft Carriers, destroyers, frigates and corvettes. This will plug the existing capability gap. In addition, procurement of 14 Vertically Launched Short Range Missile Systems was also cleared by the DAC. Of these, 10 systems will be indigenously developed. These systems will boost the self-defence capability of ships against Anti-Ship Missiles.

(16) Separately, the DAC also accorded approval for the procurement of six indigenously designed and manufactured Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels (NGOPVs) for the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of Rs. 4941 crore during the month. The NGOPVs will be built in indigenous shipyards. These platforms will strengthen maritime security by undertaking a multitude of operational roles including seaward defence, protection of offshore assets, maritime interaction operations and search & seizure operation, surveillance missions, mine warfare, anti-piracy missions, counter infiltration operations, anti-poaching/trafficking operations, humanitarian assistance and disaster relief and search and rescue missions.

(17) **Swachh Bharat:** The NCC took up various Swachhta Activities on a massive scale. NCC has conducted cleanliness drive in 2,216 locations including schools, hospitals, public parks, public statues. Historical awareness drive in total 1,230 locations has also been organized including Rallies, door to door campaign, nukkad natak and lectures/talks/seminars.

### Independence Day—2018

(18) On the occasion of Independence Day 2018 the President and Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces has approved 139 Gallantry Awards to Armed Forces Personnel and members of Parliamentary Forces which include on Kirti Chakra, 20 Shaurya Chakras, three Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 93 Sena Medals (Gallantry), 11 Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry), three Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry). One President's Tatrakshak Medal (TM) (Meritorious Service) were also awarded to the Indian Coast Guard Personnel for their act of conspicuous gallantry and distinguished/meritorious service.

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