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

**SOP for utilization of the Defence Lines of Credit extended to Friendly Foreign Countries (FFC)**

1. During the month of April, 2019, the Ministry of Defence, (the Departments of Defence and Defence Production) took a very major decision and finalized an SOP that could henceforth substantially enhance the pace of utilization of the Defence Lines of Credit (LOC) extended to friendly foreign countries.

2. The SOP will also help boost our defence exports. For the present, the SOP is to be operationalized for the DPSUs and the OFB. After the working stabilizes, the SOP will be extended to the private sector entities in the defence sector. The Ministry of External Affairs has also conveyed its concurrence for the SOP for both unutilized and fresh defence LOCs. The general idea is to shorten the negotiations and the price discovery process.

**International Cooperation**

3. A delegation led by Additional Secretary (SC) visited Thailand from 3rd to 5th April, 2019 to attend the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting – Plus (ADSMO – Plus).

4. A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) regarding Employment of ex-officers/sailors of Indian Navy in Qatar Emiri Naval Force was signed between India and Qatar on 5th April, 2019 during the visit of Commander, Qatari Emiri Naval Forces.

5. A delegation led by Defence Secretary visited Sri Lanka to attend the 6th Annual Defence Dialogue (ADD) from 8th to 9th April, 2019 and Bangladesh to attend the 2nd Annual Defence Dialogue (ADD) from 10th to 11th April, 2019.
(6) A delegation led by Portuguese Minister of National Defence visited India from 16th to 19th April, 2019 and had bilateral meeting with Hon’ble Raksha Mantri on 17th April, 2019.

(7) A delegation led by Defence Secretary visited Russia from 23rd to 26th April, 2019 to participate in the 8th Moscow Conference on International Security and held bilateral meetings with the Russian officials.

(8) A delegation led by Hon’ble Raksha Mantri visited Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic to participate in the meeting of Defence Ministers of SCO Member States and meeting of Heads of International Cooperation Departments of SCO Member States from 28th – 29th April, 2019. Raksha Mantri also held bilateral meetings on the margin of the Meeting, including with Defence Ministers of Russia and China.

**Acquisition**

(9) A contract for Acquisition of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (08xASW SWC) for Indian Navy has been signed with M/s GRSE, Kolkata on 29th April, 2019 at a total cost of Rs. 6311.32 crore plus taxes at actual.

(10) A contract for Acquisition of eight Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (08xASW SWC) for Indian Navy has been signed with M/s CSL, Kochi on 30th April, 2019 at a total cost of Rs. 6311.32 crore plus taxes at actual.

**Army Commanders Conference**

(11) The Army Commanders’ Conference, an apex level biannual event, which formulates important policy decisions was held in New Delhi from 8th to 13th April, 2019. Army Commanders’ Conference is an important event in planning & execution process of Indian Army. To ensure due diligence, decisions are taken through collegiate system comprising Army Commanders & Senior Officers. The Army Commanders’ Conference has comprehensively deliberated all aspects of extant security dynamics, emerging security scenarios, enhancing operational capability in near and long term and enhancement of combat edge over potential adversaries.
Air Force Commanders' Conference

(12) The first bi-annual Commanders' Conference of Indian Air Force for the year 2019 held on 11th April, 2019 at the Air Headquarters. Raksha Mantri addressed the Air Force Commanders.

Swachh Bharat

(13) Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has taken up various Swachhta Activities at Headquarter and projects under their command. Such activities, inter-alia, include cleanliness drive in Unit Line Area, Outside Camp Area, Inside Camp Area and Unit Mess Area.

Miscellaneous

(14) ICGS Veera was commissioned by Chief of Army Staff on 15th April, 2019.

(15) ICGS C-444 and C-446 were commissioned by Hon'ble Administrator UT. of Lakshadweep on 23rd April, 2019.

(16) ICGS C-441 was commissioned by Hon'ble Chief Secretary, Kerala on 24th April, 2019.

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