

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 10, 1943

Friday, December 31, 2021

Director General VS Pathania takes over as DG Coast Guard

Director General VS Pathania, took over as the 24th Chief of Indian Coast Guard on 31 Dec 21. He is an alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College, Wellington and National Defence College, New Delhi. The Flag Officer is a qualified helicopter pilot and holds a Master’s Degree in Defence & Strategic Studies from the University of Madras. He has also undergone specialization in Search and Rescue and port operations with US Coast Guard.

In his illustrious career spanning over 36 years, he has held several key appointments afloat and ashore, prominent among them are Commander Coast Guard Region (North West) at Gandhi Nagar, Commander Coast Guard Region (West) at Mumbai, Deputy Director General (HRD), Deputy Director General (Policy & Plans) at Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi. The flag officer has also commanded all class of Coast Guard ships namely Inshore Patrol Vessel ‘Ranjindan’, Offshore Patrol Vessel ‘Vigraha’ and Advanced Offshore Patrol Vessel ‘Sarang’.

He has also held various appointments viz Principal Director (HRD), Principal Director (Policy & Plans) at Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi, Chief of Staff at Headquarters, Coast Guard Region (North West), Chief Staff Officer (Operations) and Chief Staff Officer (Personnel & Administration) at Headquarters Coast Guard Region (West), Commanding Officer, Coast Guard Air Station at Chennai, Director (Personnel) and Joint Director (Aviation) at Coast Guard Headquarters and also as Squadron Commander of 848 Sqn at Chennai.

The Flag Officer was elevated to the rank of Additional Director General in Nov 2019 and took over the reins as Coast Guard Commander (Eastern Seaboard) at Visakhapatnam. The period under his apex watch on Eastern Seafront saw surge in major operations that included apprehension of gold and tons of drugs/narcotic substance worth thousands of crores, pollution response operations, joint exercises with Foreign Coast Guard, anti-poaching operations, mass rescue operations and humanitarian assistance during cyclones/natural calamities and strengthened Coastal Security.

He is also recipient of President’s Tatrakshak Medal for Distinguished Service, Tatrakshak Medal for gallantry and Director General Indian Coast Guard Commendation.

Nampi/Rajib

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Year End Review – 2021 of Ministry of Defence

Big boost to ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ with induction of MBT Arjun Mk-1A in Army, LCA (Tejas) in IAF, ALH Mk-III in Indian Navy and ICG

Women’s empowerment in Armed Forces; Permanent commission allowed to women officers in Army; Induction of women personnel into Corps of Military Police; NDA to induct women cadets; Sainik schools admit girls

Boost to border infrastructure: Around 100 bridges, roads, tunnels constructed by BRO inaugurated in 2021

India commemorates Swarnim Vijay Varsh remembering valour of Indian Armed Forces and Mukti Jodhas

OFB converted into seven new defence companies to provide autonomy, enhance efficiency & unleash new growth potential while safeguarding interests of all stakeholders

Initiative to expand Sainik Schools Infrastructure with 100 more schools to be opened in partnership with NGOs and private entities

NCC inducted one lakh more cadets in 173 border and coastal districts fulfilling the vision of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi

India and Pakistan DGMOs reached an understanding to achieve mutually beneficial and sustainable peace along LoC that continues to hold

IAC ‘Vikrant’ successfully accomplished its maiden sea voyage; Commissioning by August 15, 2022

Modernisation of IAF in full swing; apart from LCA (Tejas), Arudhra and Aslesha Radars, Astra Air to Air missile, Akash Surface to Air missile system, ALH, LCH and MRSAM Air Defence Missile System inducted

DRDO continues to play pivotal role in modernisation and indigenisation of the Armed Forces

Key highlights

Move towards Atmanirbhar Bharat

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- Several major initiatives have been launched during the year to make India self-reliant in the field of Defence manufacturing. Atmanirbharta in Defence is aimed at enhancing domestic manufacturing and making the country a net exporter in this field.
- 'Make in India' and 'Armanirbhar Bharat' have been given a major impetus during planning and procurement of equipment for Indian Army, wherein, there is endeavor to support the emerging defence industry in the Country.
- Induction of LCA (Tejas), Arudhra and Aslesha Radars, Astra Air to Air missile, Akash Surface to Air missile system, Advance Light Helicopter and Light Combat Helicopter etc. systems were added in IAF's inventory proving IAF's commitment to the vision of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.
- The MBT 'Arjun' Mk-1A was handed over to the Indian Army by Prime Minister on 14 Feb 2021 and Ministry of Defence (MoD) placed an order with Heavy Vehicles Factory (HVF), Avadi, Chennai for supply of 118 Main Battle Tanks (MBTs) Arjun Mk-1A for Indian Army on September 23, 2021.
- Advanced Electronic Warfare System 'Shakti', designed and developed by Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL) Hyderabad a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), was handed over to Indian Navy on 19 Nov 2021 by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.
- Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 'Vikrant' successfully accomplished its maiden sea voyage in August 2021. This milestone with few parallels reinforces confidence in the largest indigenously designed platform of Indian Navy and the resolve of countrymen in our quest for 'Atmanirbahar Bharat'. Commissioning of Vikrant is being targeted by August 15, 2022.
- INS Visakhapatnam, first ship of Project 15B, was delivered by Mazagon Dock Limited to Indian Navy on October 28, 2021 at Mumbai and commissioned into *IN* on November 21, 2021 by the Raksha Mantri.
- Two sophisticated and potent platforms *Karanj* and *Vela* were commissioned on 10 Mar 21 and 25 Nov 21 respectively, with over 75 percentage of Indigenous content, having State-of-the-art weapon fit to strengthen our security apparatus in the Western Seaboard.
- The forthcoming DefExpo-2022, scheduled to be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 10th to 13th March 2022, is being planned in line with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the wide expanse of the domestic Defence Manufacturing Industry will be co-opted to showcase India @75.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh handed over five Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed products to the Armed forces and other security agencies at an event held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi on 14 December 2021, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations and iconic week of Ministry of Defence.
- Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh handed over six Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreements to seven public and private sector companies. Products handed over to the Armed Forces & Ministry of Home Affairs include Anti-Drone system, Modular Bridge, Smart Anti Airfield Weapon, Chaff Variants and the Light Weight Fire Fighting Suit.

- Air version of BrahMos supersonic missile was successfully test fired from supersonic fighter aircraft Sukhoi 30 MK-I on December 8, 2021. BrahMos is a Joint Venture between India (DRDO) and Russia (NPOM) for the development, production and marketing of the supersonic cruise missile.
- DRDO-developed supersonic missile assisted torpedo system was successfully launched on 13 December 2021.
- To provide autonomy and enhance efficiency, and unleash new growth potential in Ordnance Factories, the Ordnance Factory Board has been converted into seven new Defence Public Sector Undertakings while safeguarding the interest of all stakeholders. The new Defence PSUs have become operational from 1st October, 2021.

Women's Empowerment in the Armed Forces

- Several initiatives have been undertaken by the Ministry of Defence towards empowering Women in the Services. Permanent Commission of women officers has been implemented in the Armed Forces.
- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made an announcement during his Independence Day speech this year that all Sainik Schools, across India, will now be open for girls. All the Sainik Schools are now offering admissions to girls and more than 350 girls have been admitted so far.
- BRO appointed women officers to command important Road Construction Companies (RCC) along border areas. In Apr 2021, EE (Civil) Vaishali S Hiwase, a GREF officer took over the reins of 83 Road Construction Company and was employed on an important Indo-China Road connecting Munisairi-Bughdiar-Milam.
- Government has now allowed girls of the country to appear in the National Defence Academy examination. The necessary administrative training and policy changes have been made. The NDA June 2022 course will have the first batch of women cadets.
- First batch of women Naval Operations officers were inducted into rotary wing and joined the helicopter squadron INAS 336 at INS Garuda, Kochi on February 03, 2021. Lt Kumudini Tyagi and Lt Riti Singh have operated onboard warships as combat aircrew.

Swarnim Vijay Varsh

- India celebrated year-long Swarnim Vijay Varsh, marking Nation's victory over Pakistan in December 1971 War, which led to creation of Bangladesh. This culminated with the celebration of Swarnim Vijay Diwas on December 16, 2021. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recalled the great valour and sacrifice by the *Muktijoddhas*, Biranganas and bravehearts of the Indian Armed Forces on this momentous occasion.
- President Shri Ram Nath Kovind also witnessed the Swarnim Vijay Diwas parade at Dhaka in Bangladesh as a special invitee.
- Contingent of the Indian Army along with other Services participated in the parade in Bangladesh on 17th Dec 2021 to commemorate the 50th year of Victory in 1971 War and creation of new state of Bangladesh.

Strengthening border infrastructure

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- A major thrust area of MoD in the border areas has been to enhance road and transport infrastructure aimed at strengthening defence preparedness as well as supporting local economic development in these areas.
- On 28 June 2021, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated 75 Projects of Roads and Bridges constructed by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in six States and two Union Territories (UTs).
- BRO constructed road over Umling La Pass, in Eastern Ladakh, at 19,024 ft above sea level has now officially become highest motorable road in the world. Road was inaugurated virtually by Raksha Mantri on Dec 28, 2021.
- Raksha Mantri dedicated to the Nation 24 bridges and three roads, built by BRO in four States and two Union Territories, on December 28, 2021. Of the 24 bridges, nine are in Jammu & Kashmir; five each in Ladakh & Himachal Pradesh; three in Uttarakhand and one each in Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh. Of the three roads, two are in Ladakh.
- BRO organised "India@75" Motorcycle Expedition to commemorate 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' by travelling across the country spreading message of National Integration, Nation Building and Road Safety Awareness. Expedition was flagged off by the Raksha Mantri on October 14, 2021. Defence Secretary flagged-in expedition on December 27, 2021.

NCC: In service of the Nation

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- The cadets of NCC paid tribute to fallen heroes, war heroes and freedom fighters by organizing cleaning of statues and organising Poem Recitation, Nukkad Natak at 75 locations as part of celebration of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations in the month of August 2021. NCC also conducted felicitation of NoKs of Fallen heroes at 13 locations which were broadcasted live on Gallantry Web Portal.
- Each NCC Unit has adopted statue of prominent persons/ fallen heroes in their Area of Responsibility. NCC has adopted 2187 statues which are cleaned on weekly basis. One such event is live webcasted on Gallantry Web Portal every week since July 2021.
- The PM launched the NCC Alumni Association on 19 Nov 21 and was registered as the first alumna of the NCC Alumni Association.

Contribution of MoD in fight against COVID-19

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- The MoD proactively coordinated with the Armed Forces in whole heartedly contributing to the Nation's fight against COVID-19. Defence Forces established quarantine facilities at 21 locations along with COVID 19 hospitals and 31 mixed hospitals.
- DRDO constructed 11 COVID Care hospitals at various locations across the country in Delhi, Ahmedabad, Lucknow, Varanasi, Gandhinagar, Rishikesh, Haldwani, Jammu, Srinagar, Guwahati and Imphal.
- Based on DRDO technology, 931 Nos. of Medical Oxygen Plants were installed & commissioned at 869 sites across the country funded by PM CARES, to make medical oxygen available to COVID patients.

- Anti-COVID-19 therapeutic application of drug 2-deoxy-D-glucose (2-DG) was developed by Institute of Nuclear Medicine and Allied Sciences, a lab of DRDO, in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad.
- INS Sharda of Southern Naval Command and a hired Multi-Purpose Vessel, MPV Meghna were deployed as part of IN's initiative 'Oxygen Express' in Apr 21 to maintain supply of oxygen cylinders to island territories of Lakshadweep & Minicoy islands during peak of COVID.

Other key highlights of the year 2021

- Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Defence Office Complexes at Kasturba Gandhi Marg and Africa Avenue in New Delhi on September 16, 2021. The construction was completed within a record time of 12 months, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- Government has approved scheme for setting of Sainik Schools in partnership with NGO's/Private schools/State Governments, etc on affiliation basis. In the first phase, it is proposed to have 100 Sainik Schools with 2-3 Schools from each State/UT.
- A concerted effort is being made to move forward from a Single Service approach to integrated planning and execution. Towards this, three **Joint Doctrines** have been formulated in the last one year, while four new joint doctrines namely Capstone, Space, Cyber and Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) are at an advantage stage.
- Numerous rounds of talks have taken place with the Chinese counterparts to deescalate the situation without compromising on India's stand of 'Complete Disengagement and immediate Restoration of status quo ante'. To this effect, 13 rounds of senior military commanders' meetings have already been concluded.
- Inimical elements reenergised their attempts at disrupting peace in the valley by selective targeting of minorities and non-locals, however, proactive measures in the non-kinetic domain and intelligence based kinetic operations by the security forces have been able to counter the nefarious designs of Pakistan sponsored terrorist outfits.
- The Army has also ensured that the internal situation in the Jammu and Kashmir remained under control. In the year 2021, a total number of 165 terrorists were neutralised by the security forces in which 39 security forces personnel also laid down their lives. The normalcy so brought in by the security forces in year 2021 was amply evident wherein the tourism as well as local employment showed shown positive trend.
- The Indian Army constantly endeavoured to encourage young sporting talent as part of 'Mission Olympics' and the effort paid off with one Gold Medal bagged by Subedar Neeraj Chopra in Tokyo Olympics.
- The year 2021 witnessed inauguration ceremonies of two new Emergency Landing Facilities. The first was along NH-925A (Gandhav-Bhakasar stretch, Rajasthan) which was inaugurated by the Raksha Mantri on 09 Sep 21. On 16 Nov 21 successful landings were executed by Mirage-2000, C-130J and An-32 aircraft at ELF Sultanpur in Uttar Pradesh. Prime Minister, Chief of Defence Staff and Chief of Air Staff were on board the C-130J aircraft which landed on ELF as part of the inauguration ceremony.

- Joint Coastal Patrol (JCP) by ICG and Coastal Police for enhancing coastal security, enshrined in the Prime Minister's Vision Document, was instituted in Aug 20. Despite challenges posed by COVID-19, enhanced co-ordination and synergy between local Coastal Police personnel and ICG units resulted in timely commencement of JCP on 15 Aug 20. A total of **383** sea sorties, **199** classroom instructions and **985** personnel have been embarked onboard for JCP sorties from 01 January to 16 December 2021.
- The procurement of 44 Microlight Aircraft Simulators and 60 Rowing Simulators has fructified during the year and delivery and installation is under progress. The simulators-based training has upgraded the Air Force and Naval Cadets training immensely.
- Air Marshal VR Chaudhari AVSM VM took over as the Chief of the Air Staff (CAS) on 30 SEP 2021. An alumnus of NDA, the CAS was commissioned in Dec 82 in the fighter stream of the IAF. He has flown more than 3800 hours on multiple fighter and trainer aircraft.
- Admiral R Hari Kumar took charge as the new chief of the Indian Navy on November 30, 2021. Kumar assumed charge as the 25th Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS) from outgoing Chief Admiral Karambir Singh who retired on superannuation after a career spanning over 41 years in service.
- The situation of Taliban takeover of Afghanistan posed a unique challenge for the Nation. IAF was called upon to evacuate Indians and some other nationals from Afghanistan. Evacuation activities were undertaken, first from Kandahar, then Mazar-e-Sharif and finally from Kabul. Chaotic situation existed in Kabul as a result of the withdrawal of troops belonging to US and its allies. IAF deployed its C-17 and C-130J aircraft for the evacuation. A C-17 each was utilised for evacuation from Kandahar (10 Jul 21) and Mazar-e-Sharif (10 Aug 21). In addition, five aircraft (four C-17s and one C-130J) were utilised between 15 and 28 Aug 21 to rescue 132 Govt officials, 316 Indian citizens and 126 persons of other nationalities.
- The country lost its first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 12 other personnel of the Armed Forces in a helicopter crash at Coonoor district in Tamil Nadu on December 08, 2021. They served the Nation with utmost diligence. General Bipin Rawat was an outstanding soldier. A true patriot, he greatly contributed to modernising the Armed Forces and security apparatus. As India's first CDS, General Bipin Rawat worked on diverse aspects relating to the Armed Forces, including defence reforms.

Department of Defence

Inauguration of Defence Office Complexes at Kasturba Gandhi Marg & Africa Avenue in New Delhi

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi inaugurated Defence Office Complexes at Kasturba Gandhi Marg and Africa Avenue in New Delhi on 16 Sep 2021. The shifting of Defence hutments offices to new Defence Office Complexes at KG Marg and Africa Avenue will facilitate inception of Central Vista Project as part of which three CCS Building (Defence Enclave) also proposed to come up by (two CCS Enclave Complexes) Jun 2024 and Third Defence Enclave Complex by Dec by 2026. The project has been driven by the commitment to usher modern and innovative construction technology. The construction has been completed within a record period of 12 months, in the midst of the Covid-19 pandemic. Concomitantly, a seamless coordination was ensured by a Joint Coordination Committee

(JCC) for manpower & space planning, allocation of space to stakeholders, completion and shifting process from hutments to Defence Office Complexes at KG Marg and Africa Avenue.

Setting Up Of 100 New Sainik Schools

Government has approved a scheme for setting of Sainik Schools in partnership with NGO's/Private schools/State Governments, etc on affiliation basis. Interested parties in any State/Union Territory, can apply for affiliation to the Sainik Schools Society subject to their fulfilling of the qualifying requirements and adherence to affiliation bye-laws. In the first phase, it is proposed to have 100 Sainik Schools with 2-3 Schools from each State/UT, in a graded manner class-wise, starting from Class 6 onwards, with an effort to cover as many States and UTs as possible. These schools will be affiliated to partner with Sainik Schools Society of Ministry of Defence to create a system that combines academic rigor with a degree of discipline and regimentation. As envisioned in the National Education Policy these schools will also provide increasing focus on value-based education like our teaching of ancient times which will enable the children develop pride in its rich culture and heritage.

Admission of Girl Cadets in Sainik Schools

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi made an announcement during his Independence Day speech 2021 that all Sainik Schools will now be open for girls. Following the announcement, all the Sainik Schools have offered admission to girls and more than 350 girls have been admitted so far. The strength is likely to increase in upcoming Academic Sessions. Transformation of Sainik Schools from all boys schools to co-ed would facilitate personality and traits development. Best possible interaction methodology is being adopted in all schools. This decision has opened doors of quality training of girls cadets at par with boys.

Launch of Digital Interactive Screens at National War Memorial

After dedication of National War Memorial, it was felt that there is an imperative need to enhance the digital appeal of the prestigious monument for the visitors, dignitaries & public at large at the National War Memorial to have a modern and state-of-art Digital display platform/facilities installed at the memorial commensurate with the sanctity of the prestigious National monument for Audio-Visual display of information about the battle casualties along with citations/acts of bravery for easy access and to enhance visitors & public pay homage and tribute, digitally. In this connection an initiative was taken by MoD for Enhancement of Digital Appeal at National War Memorial for a wholesome experience to the visitors and four digital screens have been installed. Besides providing information to visitors, the digital screens have facilitated paying of virtual tribute at the National War Memorial with Augmented Reality (AR) feature which incorporates provision of virtual photograph with Battle Casualties, interactive screens to search Roll of Honour of 26,275 Battle Casualties and OTP-based registration of visitors.

The Website and App of NWM showcase the Memorial history, significance, concept and details of the Battle Casualties. The features incorporated in the website/app include multilingual interaction in 21 regional languages to facilitate easier comprehension for visitors from all over the country, user friendly features for specially/differently abled persons, creation and integration of 166 Bluetooth Beacons for location and live mobile mapping with virtual tour guide, audio commentary in 21 languages providing information on various battles/ wars, Param Vir Chakra awardees and guided routes within the Memorial, High Definition 360 degree view of the National War Memorial including Param Yodha Sthal, search facility to locate individual names amongst 26,275 battle casualties, online quizzes/events and provision for online donations to Armed Forces Battle Casualties Welfare Fund. Both Interactive Digital Screens and NWM Website/App for NWM were inaugurated by PM in 'Rashtra Raksha Samarpan Parv' at Jhansi on 19 Nov 2021.

Department of Military affairs

Appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and creation of Department of Military Affairs (DMA) remains the most significant and transformative defence reform undertaken by any Government since Independence. Being seized of its import, the DMA has taken on the responsibility of spearheading several reforms within the military establishment towards ensuring optimum utilisation of scarce national resources, enhancing synergy and jointness between the Services and steering the modernisation of the military to face the 'ever changing challenges of modern warfare', as articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Under DMA, the Logistics structure is being fully revamped to make it more efficient. In this regard, three Joint Services Study Groups (JSSG) are developing common logistic policies for services that will enhance all supply chain functions such as planning, procurement, inventory-maintenance, distribution, disposal and documentation. A pilot project based on the establishment of **Joint Logistic Nodes** (JLN) each at Mumbai, Guwahati and Port Blair has already rolled off.

A concerted effort is being made to move forward from a Single Service approach to integrated planning and execution. Towards this, three **Joint Doctrines** have been formulated in the last one year, while four new joint doctrines namely Capstone, Space, Cyber and Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) are at an advantage stage.

In order to enhance Combat Capability and balance defence expenditure, more than 270 logistic installations of the Indian Army have been closed or scaled down, resulting in substantial savings to the exchequer, besides increasing the "Teeth to Tail" ratio. A holistic review of the **training methodology** is also underway to modernise, integrate and rationalise training as also ensure optimal utilisation of infrastructure and resources. Ten subjects have been fixed for conducting joint training among the three services. Of these, joint training has already started in Five areas.

Keeping in mind the goal of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence released the first **Positive Indigenisation List** of 101 items in August 2020 and the Second Positive Indigenisation List comprising of 108 items on 31 May 2021. These selected items will only be procured from domestic industry. These lists comprising major combat platforms, advanced weapon systems, armament and ammunition to make India self-reliant in Defence Sector. These lists besides signalling nation's resolve to cut down import of defence hardware, are also a recognition of the growing capability of domestic industry in defence manufacturing, built over the last six years based on a number of transformational steps initiated by the Government.

- The work of establishing **Theatre/Joint Commands** is also progressing swiftly. The Study group reports have been analysed and implementation Roadmap is under deliberation.
- A 'Tri-Services Joint working Group' has also been setup to study and work out the nuances of **integrating Communication Networks** between the Services.
- A review is being done to **right size/reshape** the units of the Army.

The Department is striving to promote integration of the three Services through joint planning, for the best use of military capabilities. Military procedures are being worked out to **integrate defence Planning, Procurement and Operations**. Some other measures are also being progressed to rationalise the utilisation of existing resources.

Prominent among these are:

- Bring about reforms in the functioning of three Services aimed at augmenting combat capabilities by reducing wasteful expenditure.

- Promote use of indigenous equipment and usher greater self-reliance in the defence industrial sector.
- Ensure optimal utilisation of Infrastructure and rationalise it through jointness among the Services.
- Promote Jointness and Standardisation between Services.
- Promulgate Joint Staff Assignments for Career Progression and increase cross staffing.
- IVth Cadre review of the Armed Forces.
- Abolition of obsolete Rules and Acts.
- Review terms of deployment of Territorial Army.

The Department has proactively coordinated with the Armed Forces in whole heartedly **contributing to the nation's fight against COVID-19**, evacuating more than 4000 Indian diaspora from Iran, Wuhan, China, Maldives, Sri Lanka and Iran. Defence Forces established quarantine facilities at 21 locations along with COVID 19 hospitals and 31 mixed hospitals nominated for national COVID pool. Defence Services were instrumental in setting up and operating medical facilities in Delhi (Narela, Shakurbasti and Delhi Cantt) and Bihar (Patna and Muzarfarpur). As part of International outreach, medical teams were provided and deployed at Maldives, Kuwait, Mauritius, and Comoros apart from assistance in terms of medical stores and items to China, Bhutan, Nepal, Mauritius, Seychelles, etc. Under operation *Samudra Setu 2*, *IN* ships were involved in transporting more than 1100 MT of liquid Oxygen, more than 14,000 oxygen cylinders with 314 kilo litres of oxygen and other critical medical aid to assist in the national effort against Covid.

The DMA has undertaken various steps towards **opening up defence airspace**. These initiatives have assisted in expanding the footprints of civil aviation industry in the country by facilitating the Flexible use of Airspace (FUA) & Joint User Aerodromes (JUA). A large number of initiatives have been instituted to ensure easy availability of defence airspace to the civilian operators, through accord of priority clearance for scheduled flights, time sharing of height bands, etc.

The country lost its first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) General Bipin Rawat, his wife and 12 other personnel of the Armed Forces in a helicopter crash at Coonoor district in Tamil Nadu on December 08, 2021. They served the Nation with utmost diligence. General Bipin Rawat was an outstanding soldier. A true patriot, he greatly contributed to modernising the Armed Forces and security apparatus. His insights and perspectives on strategic matters were exceptional. As India's first CDS, General Bipin Rawat worked on diverse aspects relating to the Armed Forces, including defence reforms. He brought with him a rich experience of serving in the Indian Army. The Nation will never forget his exceptional service.

Several initiatives have been undertaken by the Services towards **empowering Women in Services**. Permanent Commission of women officers has been implemented in the Armed Forces.

Some other key initiatives include:

- Induction of 10 women officers into the fighter stream of the Air Force.
- Appointment of women officers onboard ships.
- Streaming of Women officers into Seaking (Observer) and RPA streams of Navy.
- Appointment of women officers in Missions abroad.
- Induction of women personnel into the Corps of Military Police.

To provide autonomy and enhance efficiency, and unleash new growth potential in Ordnance Factories, the Ordnance Factory Board have been converted into 7 new Defence Public Sector Undertakings while safeguarding the interest of all stakeholders. The new Defence PSUs have become operational from 1st October, 2021. The Government has decided to retain indents/orders worth more than Rs. 62,000 crore, pending with OFB post corporatisation, to ensure continuity in supply of strategic arms and ammunition to the Services. The 7 new Defence PSUs were dedicated to the nation on 15th October 2021.

Two Defence Industrial Corridors (DICs) have been established at Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu to boost Defence manufacturing ecosystem in the country with intent to attract investment of Rs. 10,000 Crore in each DIC. To give further impetus to the growth of Defence Industrial Corridors, both the DICs have been integrated with the Prime Minister's 'Gati Shakti' National Master Plan. Till date, Rs. 1401.68 Crore and Rs. 2252 Crore have been invested in Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu DICs respectively.

Raksha Mantri launched the fifth edition of Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC 5) on 19th August 2021, as part of iDEX. The Challenges launched will act as a bridge between the requirements of the Armed Forces & Defence PSUs, and the solution providers, i.e. MSMEs, Startups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia. Under DISC-5, 35 challenges from Armed forces & Defence PSUs were thrown open to prospective Startups, Innovators, MSMEs to participate and become critical force multipliers in India's defence ecosystem.

Apart from the above, in a big boost to the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' campaign, and as a first for iDEX, the Indian Navy signed a Rs. 13 crore contract to procure country's first indigenously developed Robotic Lifebuoys under the iDEX challenge "Unmanned Surface Vehicles". The contract was bagged by a Startup - Saif Seas, based at Visakhapatnam.

The Government has approved a Scheme with an outlay of Rs. 500 Crore (2021-22 to 2025-26) to push innovation and support startups in Defence & Aerospace sector. This will enable more than 300 startups to participate in the new design and development projects.

The first contract for setting up first facility for manufacturing of 24 types of spares of Air Force, in Hyderabad have been concluded on 13th August 2021 under the Inter-Governmental Agreement (IGA) on "Mutual Cooperation in Joint Manufacturing of Spares, Components, Aggregates and other material related to Russian/Soviet Origin Arms and Defence equipment.

Aero India-21 was successfully conducted on three days from 03rd - 05th February 2021, as the world's first hybrid Aerospace and Defence (A&D) exhibition since the impasse on public gatherings due to the Novel Coronavirus. The event has set a model for the world to emulate in the new normal. Despite the numerous challenges posed due to Covid-19 viz. restrictions on International travel, De novo event without a benchmark etc., Aero India witnessed 26,000+ visitors physically over three days and 5+ lakh visitors virtually. A total of 710 exhibitors put up their stalls/pavilions towards promotion of their products and capabilities in the A&D sector.

The forthcoming 12th edition of DefExpo-2022, scheduled to be held at Gandhinagar, Gujarat from 10th to 13th March 2022, is being planned in line with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav and the wide expanse of the domestic Defence Manufacturing Industry will be co-opted to showcase India @75. On 25th October 2021, Raksha Mantri Chaired the Ambassadors' Round-table for DefExpo-2022. The event was well attended with 97 nations participating. Ambassadors' of many countries assured the Raksha Mantri of their participation at the highest level.

Raksha Mantri inaugurated several iconic events of the Department of Defence Production on 13th December, 2021 as part of the dedicated week of the Ministry of Defence to commemorate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The events included a virtual exhibition 'Path to Pride' showcasing India's 75-year journey and growth in Defence manufacturing alongwith public exhibitions at 75 locations across the country. Further, 7 unique curated 'Defence Museums' were also launched to inform, educate, and inspire the public. A booklet listing 75 commitments to the Nation was also unveiled during the ceremony.

Major achievements by DPSUs

Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) Light Combat Aircraft (LCA)-Tejas programme received a major boost with clearance from the Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) on 13th January 2021 for procurement of 'improved' Tejas fighters and trainers from HAL. This will enhance the capabilities of domestic defence production sector. The total contract value of the LCA MK1A contract received by HAL from MoD is Rs 36468.63 crore.

Prime Minister dedicated the Arjun Main Battle Tank (MK-1A) with world-class capabilities to the Indian Army on 14th February 2021 in a function at the Jawaharlal Nehru Indoor Stadium in Chennai.

Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL)'s Submarine 'Karanj' was commissioned on 10th March 2021.

INS Visakhapatnam (Destroyer) of MDL was delivered on 28th Oct 2021 and Commissioned into Navy on 21st November 2021 by the Raksha Mantri.

INS Vela (Submarine) of MDL was delivered on 09th November 2021 and commissioned into Indian Navy on 25th November 2021.

The Prime Minister handed over 'SCG PS Zoroaster', a Fast Patrol Vessel (FPV) built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE), to Seychelles Coast Guard on 8th April 2021. The handing over ceremony was conducted in virtual mode.

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 08, 1943
Wednesday, December 29, 2021

‘Sankalp Smarak’ dedicated to the nation by CINCAN

In order to preserve this important event in history, a Sankalp Smarak was dedicated to the nation by Lt Gen Ajai Singh, Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN, exactly 78 years after Netaji’s arrival on 29 Dec 2021 at 11:30 am. The Smarak is a tribute not only to the resolve of the soldiers of the Indian National Army and their innumerable sacrifices but also reminds us of the values enshrined by Netaji himself, “Nishtha, Kartavya aur Balidan” or “Commitment, Duty and Sacrifice” that continue to underscore the ethos of the Indian Armed Forces and the resolve of the Indian Soldier.

In the saga of India’s freedom struggle, 30 December 1943 holds a special place etched in time. It was on this day that a national flag was hoisted for the first time on Indian soil, at Port Blair. It is also significant is that Netaji escaped British surveillance from Kolkata on 16 Jan 1941 and stepped back on Indian soil after nearly three years, at Port Blair Aerodrome on 29 Dec 1943 at 11:30 am and unfurled a National flag the next day. Netaji’s visit to the islands as the Head of the Provisional Government of Azad Hind and Supreme Commander of Indian National Army marked a symbolic fulfilment of his promise that the Indian National Army would stand on Indian soil by the end of 1943. This historic visit also marked a declaration of Andaman and Nicobar Islands as the “first liberated territory of India”.

The location of Netaji’s historic arrival on 29 Dec 1943 (accompanied by Sarvashri Anand Mohan Sahay (Secretary with Ministerial Rank), Captain Rawat - ADC and Col DS Raju (personal physician of Netaji), lies within the premises of what is now Andaman and Nicobar Command’s Air Station INS Utkrosh, in close proximity to the present-day runway. Upon his arrival as the Supreme Commander of the Indian National Army by a Japanese Air Force Aircraft, Netaji was accorded a ceremonial guard of honour by soldiers of Indian National Army at the Air Field.

During the dedicated ceremony held on the occasion, Soldiers of the only Quad Services Command of India led by the Commander-in-Chief himself along with other senior officers, soldiers and families paid homage, honouring the sacrifices of the soldiers of the Indian National Army. The event was conducted in a simple and solemn ceremony befitting the occasion.

Nampi/Rajib

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 08, 1943
Wednesday, December 29, 2021

MoD notifies positive indigenisation list of sub-systems/assemblies/ sub-assemblies/components to achieve self-reliance in defence & minimise imports by DPSUs

A positive indigenisation list of sub-systems/assemblies/sub-assemblies/components has been notified by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence, as part of the efforts to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing and minimise imports by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs). The list contains 2,500 imported items which have already been indigenised and 351 imported items which will be indigenised in next three years. This Aatmanirbhar initiative will save foreign exchange approximately equivalent to Rs. 3,000 cr every year. Details of these items are available on Srijan portal (<https://srijandefence.gov.in/DPSU%20Indigenization%20List.pdf>). They will only be procured from Indian Industry after the timelines indicated in the list.

Two positive indigenisation lists of weapons/platforms/ systems/ammunitions etc have already been notified by the Department of Military Affairs, in order to provide impetus to self-reliance in defence manufacturing, as part of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan’.

Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 07, 1943
Tuesday, December 28, 2021

Raksha Mantri virtually dedicates to the Nation 24 bridges & three roads built by BRO in four States & two Union Territories

shri Rajnath Singh says, the projects will bolster security; ensure socio-economic development of far-flung areas & contribute in developing a New India

'BRO Cafes' to be set up at 75 places in border areas, as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh dedicated to the Nation 24 bridges and three roads, built by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in four States and two Union Territories, through a virtual event from New Delhi on December 28, 2021. Of the 24 bridges, nine are in Jammu & Kashmir; five each in Ladakh & Himachal Pradesh; three in Uttarakhand and one each in Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh. Of the three roads, two are in Ladakh and one is in West Bengal. The main highlight was the inauguration of India's first indigenous Class 70 140-foot Double-Lane Modular Bridge, built at the height of 11,000 feet at Flag Hill Dokala, Sikkim and Chisumle-Demchok road at Umling La Pass at over 19,000 feet in Ladakh which also holds the Guinness World Record of world's highest motorable road.

The projects e-inaugurated by Shri Rajnath Singh have been completed on important road axis and laterals along the Northern and Eastern borders of the country. Speaking on the occasion, he termed the inauguration as a reflection of the BRO's commitment to the progress of border areas and exuded confidence that these construction works would go a long way in the development of a New India. He said, the road at Umling-La pass will enable faster movement of Armed Forces, boost tourism and ensure socio-economic development of the region. "Roads in border areas cater to the strategic needs and ensure equal participation of remote areas in the development of the nation," he said, commending BRO for its perseverance in achieving the feat despite the challenges of sub-zero temperatures and high altitude.

The Raksha Mantri described the indigenous Double-Lane Modular Bridge as a shining example of '*Aatmanirbharta*' and appreciated the fact that it has been developed at a much lower cost and can be dismantled, if need be. "It is an important milestone on the path to achieve 'Make in India' as envisioned by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. It is a symbol of the Government's resolve to provide faster connectivity to border areas. It will also pave the way for the construction of more bridges in such areas," he added.

The e-inauguration has taken the tally of infrastructure projects executed by BRO to a record 102 in a single working season, that too in the 75th year of India's Independence. The BRO has completed the construction in a record timeframe, with state-of-the-art technology used in most of them. Earlier in June this year, Shri Rajnath Singh had dedicated to the Nation 12 roads and 63 bridges – totalling 75 projects - in 75th year of Independence under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.

Shri Rajnath Singh defined the construction of roads, highways, tunnels & bridges in border areas as pivotal to building a strong and prosperous Nation, saying that a country, which develops its own paths, shows the way to the world. He lauded the contribution of the BRO towards Nation building by continuously improving the socio-economic condition of the people of far-flung areas and helping the country achieve its security, communication and trade objectives. He made special mention of the recent milestones of the BRO, including Atal Tunnel, Kailash Mansarovar road, recent inauguration of 54 bridges and setting up of Centres of Excellence on 'Road Safety' & 'Roads, Bridges, Tunnels, Air-fields'.

Reiterating the Government's resolve of holistic development of the Nation, the Raksha Mantri said, keeping in view the security needs of the country, the Government has accorded top priority to infrastructure development in border areas, just as the focus has been on strengthening the interior parts. "We faced our adversary in the Northern sector recently with grit and determination. It could not have been possible without proper infrastructural development. The BRO has been fulfilling its duties with utmost dedication. Strong infrastructure in border areas is essential in today's uncertain times as it strengthens strategic capabilities. As we move forward in the direction of strengthening our border infrastructure, we have to bolster our surveillance systems as well. Problems of infiltration, skirmishes, illegal trade and smuggling, etc often persist in border areas. In view of this, Government had started Comprehensive Integrated Border Management System sometime back," he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh expressed confidence that with this accelerated pace of construction and development, the BRO will complete many more such projects in the times to come and help in achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. He also remembered former Prime Minister late Atal Bihari Vajpayee and former Defence Minister late Arun Jaitley for their vision to develop border areas and equip the BRO with necessary infrastructure. He said, the Government has taken a number of steps in the last six-seven years to strengthen the BRO, including increasing their budget by three to four times. The Raksha Mantri lauded the BRO for their initiatives aimed at the welfare of its personnel. These include a special drive to provide good quality housing, jackets & ration in high-altitude areas; increase in the wages of construction workers; better healthcare facilities and ensuring vaccination to the personnel. This shows the BRO's responsibility towards the country and the government's support towards the BRO, he added.

To boost tourism and facilitate the Armed Forces personnel in border areas, the Raksha Mantri announced setting up of 'BRO Cafes' at 75 places, as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations. These Cafes will showcase the local traditions and facilities such as food, parking, sitting area, souvenir shops, medical inspection rooms and photo galleries. Praising the BRO for the initiative, Shri Rajnath Singh said, it will promote tourism & regional culture and improve the socio-economic condition of the local people by providing them with employment opportunities.

Minister of State (Independent Charge), Ministry of Science & Technology Dr Jitendra Singh; Chief of the Army Staff General M M Naravane; Director General Border Roads Lieutenant General Rajeev Chaudhry and senior officials of Ministry of Defence were present on the occasion. Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Jairam Thakur, Uttarakhand Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Minister of State, Ministry of Minority Affairs Shri John Barla, Lieutenant Governor of Jammu & Kashmir Shri Manoj Sinha, Lieutenant Governor of Ladakh Shri R K Mathur, Minister of Roads and Bridges, Government of Sikkim Shri Samdup Lepcha, Member of Parliament Shri Tirath Singh Rawat, General-Officer-Commanding, Chinari Corps Lieutenant General D P Pandey and BRO personnel attended the event virtually.

Nampi/DK/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 07, 1943
Tuesday, December 28, 2021

DRDO hands over technology of extreme cold weather clothing system (ECWCS) to five Indian companies

Three-layered ECWCS designed to provide thermal insulation between +15° to -50° Celsius

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) Dr G Satheesh Reddy handed over technology for indigenous extreme cold weather clothing system (ECWS) to 05 Indian companies in New Delhi on December 27, 2021.

The extreme ECWS is required by Indian Army for its sustained operations in glacier and Himalayan peaks. The Army, till recently has been importing extreme cold weather clothing and several Special Clothing and Mountaineering Equipment (SCME) items for the troops deployed in high altitude regions.

The DRDO designed ECWCS is an ergonomically designed modular technical clothing with improved thermal insulation and physiological comfort based on the insulation required at various ambient climatic conditions in Himalayan regions during different levels of physical activity.

The ECWCS embodies physiological concepts related to reduction in respiratory heat and water loss, unhindered range of motions and rapid absorption of sweat while providing water proof, wind proof features with adequate breathability and enhanced insulation as well as strength features required for high altitude operations. The three layered ECWCS is designed to suitably provide thermal insulation over a temperature range of +15 to -50° Celsius with different combinations of the layers and intensity of physical work.

Considering the widely fluctuating weather conditions in the Himalayan peaks, the clothing provides an advantage of fewer combinations to meet the required insulation or IREQ for the prevailing climatic conditions, thereby providing a viable

import alternative for the Indian Army. Speaking on the occasion, Dr G Satheesh Reddy emphasised on the need for developing indigenous industrial base for SCME items, not only to cater to the existing requirements of the Army but also to tap its potential for export.

Nampi/DK/RP

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 06, 1943
Monday, December 27, 2021

**Defence Secretary inaugurates BRO Annual Chief Engineers & Equipment
Management Conference in New Delhi;**

Flags-in India@75 BRO Motorcycle expedition

Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar inaugurated the Annual Chief Engineers and Equipment Management Conference of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in New Delhi on December 27, 2021. Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry, Additional Directors General Border Roads and 18 Chief Engineers (Projects) were present on the occasion and will be participating in the three-day conference. The Conference, which is taking place after nearly two years, provides an opportunity for the core group of BRO to discuss key issues focusing on improvement of road infrastructure along the border areas, use of new technology in road construction, incorporation of environment friendly means of construction; road safety aspects and efforts to upgrade facilities for labourers. During the conference, the BRO will also carry out holistic review of the current projects and prepare strategies for the upcoming working season in 2022.

In his address, the Defence Secretary commended the BRO for contributing immensely in national building by constructing strategic infrastructure including roads, bridges, tunnels and airfields along the border areas, which has bolstered the operational preparedness and facilitated speedy movement of equipment & personnel to far-flung areas. He lauded the BRO for constructing 102 new roads and bridges connecting remote border areas to the mainland in a single working season, despite challenges posed by inhospitable terrain, inclement weather and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Ajay Kumar also praised the grit and determination of the BRO personnel for the construction of Umling La Pass, Atal Tunnel & Zojila Pass recently. He lauded the DGBR and all officers & personnel for conducting the breakthrough blast of the Sela Tunnel and speeding up the construction of Nechiphu Tunnel, both part of Balipara-Charduar-Tawang road in Arunachal Pradesh. He said, the BRO is contributing towards realising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’.

The Defence Secretary commended the BRO for their efforts to increase the participation of women and appointing them as Officers Commanding of road construction companies along the border areas. He appreciated the creation of an all-women road construction company and women being employed as Casual Paid Labours.

Urging the BRO to carry forward their vision, Dr Ajay Kumar suggested them to expedite the work towards sharing their expertise of construction on high-altitude areas with friendly foreign countries. He called upon them to use the International Seminar, being planned on the sidelines of DefExpo-2022, to showcase their capabilities to the international audience.

On the occasion, the Defence Secretary also distributed Best Project, Best Task Force, Best Road & Bridge Construction Company and Best workshop trophies to various units of BRO. He also unveiled a fitness manual 'Fit BRO Fit India' for its personnel. The book contains fitness guidelines and protocols prepared for holistic development of body and mind of all ranks and families of BRO. He also launched four software, namely Inventory Management System; BRO Posting Management System; Border Roads Automated HR Management Application (BRAHMA) and BRO Documentation System.

Later, Dr Ajay Kumar flagged-in India@75 BRO Motorcycle Expedition which was flagged-off by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh from India Gate, New Delhi on October 14, 2021. 75 BRO personnel participated in the 75-day event. They traversed important passes & places across 24 States and four Union Territories, covering more than 20,000 kms. The aim of the expedition was to deliver a message of national integration, nation building & road safety. To achieve these objectives, the expedition team members conducted numerous public outreach programmes, organised visit to schools and colleges, interacted with BRO/Army Veterans, organised medical camps, visited orphanages and old-age homes and paid homage at War Memorials. The Defence Secretary interacted and praised the members of the team on successfully completing the expedition.

Nampi/Savvy/ADA

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 06, 1943
Monday, December 27, 2021

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt pays homage to fallen heroes at KRC War Memorial, Ranikhet

Mrs Pushpa Bhatt felicitates veer naris

Raksha Rajya Mantri and Minister of State for Tourism Shri Ajay Bhatt paid tribute to fallen heroes at Kumaon Regimental Centre (KRC) War Memorial in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand on December 27, 2021. He also honoured the veer naris as a mark of respect and gratitude. They were felicitated by Smt Pushpa Bhatt, wife of Shri Ajay Bhatt.

The couple also visited KRC Woollens, a rehabilitation project run by veer naris of KRC since 1976. Raksha Rajya Mantri is on official tour to Uttarakhand as part of Vijay Sankalp Yatra that commenced from December 26, 2021.

Shri Ajay Bhatt said, the supreme sacrifices of the families of the soldiers always helped in winning wars and ensured safety of the Nation. He added that the whole nation will always remain indebted for the supreme sacrifices made by our brave soldiers and Government of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi stands firmly with their families.

Kumaon Regiment Centre Deputy Commandant Colonel Sanjay Kumar Yadav was also present during the wreath laying ceremony at KRC War Memorial, Ranikhet.

Nampi/DK/RP

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 05, 1943
Sunday, December 26, 2021

**Raksha Mantri lays foundation stone for Defence Technology & Test Centre and
BRAHMOS Manufacturing Centre of DRDO in Lucknow**

**Exudes confidence that they will play a pivotal role in bolstering national security,
defence production & economy**

**The units will generate revenue, provide employment opportunities to the youth &
help in achieving ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’: RM**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for Defence Technology & Test Centre and BRAHMOS Manufacturing Centre, established by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on December 26, 2021. The foundation for the two units was laid in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath. A first of its kind Defence Technologies & Test Centre (DTTC), over approximately 22 acres is being set up to accelerate the growth of the defence and aerospace manufacturing clusters in Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UP DIC). It will consist of the following six subcentres:

1. Deep-Tech Innovation & Startup Incubation Centre
2. Design & Simulation Centre
3. Testing & Evaluation Centre
4. Centre for Industry 4.0/Digital Manufacturing
5. Skill Development Centre
6. Business Development Centre

The BRAHMOS Manufacturing Centre, announced by BrahMos Aerospace, is a modern, state-of-art facility in the Lucknow node of UP DIC. It will cover over 200 acres and produce the new BRAHMOS-NG (Next Generation) variant, which carries forward the lineage of the BRAHMOS weapons system. This new centre would be ready over the next two to three years and will commence production at a rate of 80-100 BRAHMOS-NG missiles per year.

Congratulating the scientists and engineers of DRDO & BrahMos Aerospace, Shri Rajnath Singh exuded confidence that the two units will play a pivotal role in bolstering national security, defence production as well as the economy of Uttar Pradesh. He said, the state-of-the-art facilities will prove to be an important milestone in the defence sector. He added that the establishment of these units will generate revenue; provide employment opportunities to the youth and help in achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He said that the message of Make in India, Make for India and Make for World has been sent out globally.

On the 'Defence Technology and Test Centre', the Raksha Mantri said, the Centre will provide the technological base to develop defence products keeping in mind the young innovators and startups in Amausi region of Uttar Pradesh. He added that the Centre will make all endeavours to fulfil the creative energy, capabilities and aspirations of the youth of Uttar Pradesh. It will help in bringing the MSMEs of Uttar Pradesh together and bring the state at the forefront in the field of defence and aerospace manufacturing, he said. He added that the Centre, through skill development, will create direct and indirect employment in the field of defence and aerospace manufacturing.

Recalling India's history, Shri Rajnath Singh said "we have never been an aggressor, but are ready to defend our people against any nation with hostile intentions". He added that the purpose of the BRAHMOS supersonic cruise missile system is to act as a deterrent. He said, the system not only reflects the technical cooperation between India and Russia, but also the long standing cultural, political and diplomatic ties. He termed BRAHMOS as the world's best and fastest precision-guided weapon which has strengthened India's credible deterrence in the 21st century.

The Raksha Mantri added that BRAHMOS has empowered the Armed Forces and raised India's military stature at the international level. On BRAHMOS-NG, he said, the more advanced missile system, which has proven its firepower in land, water and air will greatly strengthen the modern combat capability of the Indian Army in the coming years. He appreciated that the establishment of UP DIC has opened up new avenues for all-round technological progress of the state, besides providing employment opportunities for the youth of the region. "At the time of its inauguration, we had estimated an investment of Rs 3,732 crore. Investment of more than Rs 1,400 crore has already been received and the process is progressing rapidly," he informed.

Shri Rajnath Singh stated that India has attained a respectable position in areas of defence technologies, including the development of state-of-the-art missile systems in the last few years and has made commendable progress in building its defence industrial base. He applauded scientists of DRDO for their crucial role in increasing India's military stature by strengthening the Armed Forces and achieving

'Aatmanirbharta' in the development and production of modern missile systems. Shri Rajnath Singh ended his address by calling on all in attendance to resolve to raise the State of Uttar Pradesh to new heights.

The Rajnath Singh expressed confidence that the foundation stone laying of the two units heralds a new chapter in the defence of the nation as well as defence manufacturing and the economy of the state of Uttar Pradesh and the city of Lucknow. He applauded the state government under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath for taking various initiatives for improving infrastructure and the welfare & progress of people from all sections of society.

Speaking on the occasion, UP Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath thanked Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh for the initiatives of Ministry of Defence such as UP DIC, DefExpo-2020 and the establishment of a unit of Bharat Dynamics Limited in Jhansi. He said, the work had started in all six nodes of the UP DIC and that the foundation stone laying of the two units is a fulfilment of the vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' in the defence sector. The Chief Minister added that the units will provide avenues for employment for youth of the state and expressed confidence that the units will make a significant contribution to the progress of the state as also the nation. Shri Yogi Adityanath highlighted Uttar Pradesh's potential for progress in the defence sector due to the large number of Medium, Small Scale and Micro Enterprises (MSMEs) in the state. He assured all possible support of the state government to defence sector industries coming to the state.

In his opening address, Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy thanked the Raksha Mantri for making land available for the DTTC in Lucknow. He expressed gratitude to UP Chief Minister for providing 200 acres of land for the BRAHMOS manufacturing centre. He assured all support from DRDO to the industries coming up in the region.

The state-of-the-art Defence Technologies & Test Centre is being set up to implement the MoU exchanged between Uttar Pradesh Expressways Industrial Development Authority (UPEIDA) and DRDO during DefExpo-2020 at Lucknow in presence of the Raksha Mantri and the UP Chief Minister. The DTTC, Lucknow will follow the design-build-test-learn cycle for technology consultancy & handholding of the Deep-Tech Startups & industries.

It will facilitate industries through establishing a centralized state of the art technology infrastructure which will accelerate the product development and reduce the induction time & the turnaround time for the futuristic systems development through its 6 subcentres. This unique setup will act as a bridge for Industries & Startups to grasp the DRDO's IPRs, Patents & ToTs. It will extend holistic handholding to Industries, Startups & Academia in UP DIC. It will promote the growth of Industries &

Startups in UPDIC and Ease of Doing Business and contribute to building an AtmaNirbhar Bharat.

The BRAHMOS supersonic cruise missile system is one of the most successful missile programmes in the world. India has undertaken jointly in partnership with its closest strategic ally Russia. As the world's best and fastest precision-guided weapon, BRAHMOS has fortified India's deterrence power in 21st century. Designed and developed by India-Russia JV entity BrahMos Aerospace, supersonic cruise missile BRAHMOS has continued to evolve as the most versatile weapon in its genre. To carry forward this excellent lineage, BrahMos Aerospace has initiated work on a new, more advanced variant of the missile - BRAHMOS-NG. This new missile, having smaller, lighter and smarter dimensions, would be designed for deployment on a wider number of modern military platforms, including land, sea, underwater and air. It will hugely bolster Indian military's modern combat capability and flexibility in the next few years.

Union Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Kaushal Kishore, UP Industrial Development Minister Shri Satish Mahana; other Ministers of the state government; MPs, MLAs and public representatives from the state; officials of Ministry of Defence, DRDO and the state government were present on the occasion.

Nampi/SPS/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 03, 1943
Friday, December 24, 2021

**Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt reviews DIBER, DRDO, Haldwani
Inaugurates the first container-based BSL - III facility of Uttarakhand**

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, visited DRDO’s Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (DIBER) laboratory, Haldwani and its Field station Pithoragarh, Uttarakhand. He reviewed the progress of various Research & Development efforts by DIBER. The efforts of DIBER to generate energy from Pine Forest waste, are directed towards finding solutions for space heating and electricity generation in remote areas where grid supply is frequently interrupted due to adverse climatic conditions. Since pine forest waste causes thousands of forest fire incidents; utilization of pine forest waste towards energy generation is a win-win situation.

The Biodiesel prepared by DIBER, is matching IS 15607 standards. It has been rigorously tested, found suitable and recommended in Army vehicles and Gen Sets at a blend of 20% in Petro - diesel. Another mission mode activity of DIBER is to transfer advanced technologies for cultivation of native and exotic vegetables to farmers located in remote border villages of Uttarakhand. More than 4,000 farmers are registered with DIBER and are being benefited. The enhanced income and socio-economic status are understood to have long term effects on curtailing migration from borders.

Shri Ajay Bhatt highly appreciated the Hydroponics (soilless cultivation) and suggested to spread this technology in those areas where cultivable land is in scarcity. The herbal medicine produced by DIBER for treating leukoderma has already been used by nearly one lakh patients. He urged that this medicine should reach to the larger population for benefit of mankind.

The technology to grow *Ophiocordyceps*, an endangered high value medicinal mushroom, by tissue culture, has far-reaching implications in providing nutritional benefits to larger population and also in improving the economy.

The Raksha Rajya Mantri also inaugurated Container-based BSL-III facility at Haldwani. This is the first container-based BSL-III facility of Uttarakhand. Being a container-based facility, it can be easily deployed in hills, wherever there is a space crunch. The capacity of the facility is 96 samples per shift. This facility operates at negative pressure and therefore, offers higher protection to the frontline health workers.

Nampi/ADA

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 02, 1943
Thursday, December 23, 2021

DRDO successfully conducts Flight-Test of Indigenous Aerial Target ‘Abhyas’

DRDO successfully conducted the flight test of Indigenously developed High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) Abhyas today from Integrated

Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast, Odisha. During the flight trial, High subsonic speed trajectory at a very low altitude with high endurance was demonstrated. Two boosters provided initial acceleration during launch and a small turbo jet engine is used to sustain high subsonic speed with long endurance. The indigenous data link designed by Bengaluru based Industry partner has been successfully flown and tested during the flight.

The performance of the system during the entire flight duration has been confirmed from the data captured by various Range instruments deployed.

Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru based DRDO laboratory along with other DRDO laboratories has developed this indigenous unmanned aerial target system to meet the requirement of aerial targets of Indian Armed Forces. The aircraft is controlled from a ground based controller and an indigenously developed MEMS based Inertial Navigation System along with the Flight Control Computer which helps it to follow the pre-designated path in a fully autonomous mode.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh said that the successful test is noteworthy testimony of synergy between scientists and industry.

Secretary DD R&D & chairman DRDO complimented scientists of the laboratory, their team members and associated industry partners for the successful development efforts.

Nampi/Rajib

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 02, 1943
Thursday, December 23, 2021

**DRDO successfully conducts second flight-test of indigenously developed
conventional Surface-to-Surface missile ‘Pralay’**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted second flight-test of indigenously developed conventional Surface-to-Surface missile ‘Pralay’ from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on December 23, 2021. For the first time, two consecutive flight tests of a ballistic missile have been conducted successfully on two consecutive days. The flight test met all the mission objectives. This launch proves the system in both the configurations of the missile.

In today’s launch, the ‘Pralay’ missile was tested for heavier payload and different range to prove the precision and lethality of the weapon. This launch was monitored by all the range sensors and instruments, including Telemetry, Radar and Electro-Optic Tracking System deployed across the eastern coast and the down range ships positioned near the impact point.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO and associated teams for this consecutive successful development flight trial. Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy appreciated the associated team and said, with this successful flight test, the country has proved strong design and development capabilities in defence R&D.

Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 01, 1943
Wednesday, December 22, 2021

DRDO conducts maiden launch of indigenously developed new generation surface-to-surface missile ‘Pralay’

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully conducted maiden flight test of indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile ‘Pralay’, from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on December 22, 2021. The mission has met all its objectives. The new missile followed the desired quasi ballistic trajectory and reached the designated target with high degree accuracy, validating the control, guidance and mission algorithms. All the sub-systems performed satisfactorily. All the sensors deployed near the impact point across the eastern coast, including the down range ships, tracked the missile trajectory and captured all the events.

The Missile is powered with solid propellant rocket motor and many new technologies. The missile has a range of 150-500 kilometre and can be launched from a mobile launcher. The missile guidance system includes state-of-the-art navigation system and integrated avionics.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO and associated teams for this maiden development flight trial. He complimented DRDO for the fast track development and successful launch of modern surface-to-surface missile.

Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy appreciated the team and said that this is a new generation surface-to-surface missile equipped with modern technologies and induction of this weapon system will give the necessary impetus to the Armed Forces.

Nampi/DK/RP/SAVVY

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Pausa 01, 1943
Wednesday, December 22, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh interacts with Indian students of Harvard
Business School & Harvard Kennedy School in New Delhi**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh interacted with Indian students of Harvard Business School and Harvard Kennedy School, in New Delhi on December 22, 2021. Expressing happiness over meeting with the students, Shri Rajnath Singh termed them as the soft power of the country, who are being exposed to best-in-class management and governance practices from the two top-class institutes. He urged them to use their innovative ideas and play their part in nation building.

The Raksha Mantri exuded confidence that the students will play an important role in the holistic development of the country by making right use of their ability & network and sharing latest best practices. He hoped that the students will work as the ambassadors of Indian value system all over the world not just in their student phase but in future as well.

During the interaction, the students shared their views on India's changed perception in the world, especially after the roll out of the largest vaccination drive in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic and schemes like 'Make in India'. They expressed their willingness to return to India, saying that the atmosphere created due to the policies of the Government in the last few years, such as ease of doing business and providing opportunities to startups, will help them contribute in the holistic development of the Nation. Additional Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Sanjay Jaju was among those present on the occasion.

Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraayana 30, 1943
Tuesday, December 21, 2021

Raksha Mantri witnesses multi-agency HADR exercise PANEX-21 in Pune

Calls for improved coordination among BIMSTEC nations to tackle future natural & man-made disasters

Shri Rajnath Singh reiterates India’s vision of security and growth for all in Indian Ocean Region

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh witnessed a Multi-Agency Exercise (MAE) and inaugurated an equipment display on the second day of PANEX-21, a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise for BIMSTEC member nations, organised at College of Military Engineering in Pune, Maharashtra on December 21, 2021. The Raksha Mantri witnessed demonstration of the capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces to launch swift, coordinated and incremental relief efforts in case of occurrence of any natural calamity in a particular region. The exercise saw a coordinated display of rescue and relief efforts by Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. In simulated disaster conditions, the synergised application of resources of the Armed Forces and other premiere disaster relief agencies of the country resulted in rescue of the stranded people as well as early restoration of essential services and opening of all lines of communications.

The equipment display, organised in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), is aimed to showcase the niche industrial capabilities and capacities of the Indian industry on disaster relief operations. Many innovative solutions, capabilities and range of products to assist government agencies in planning, preparation and conduct of HADR operations were demonstrated to the delegates of member nations of BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation). A compendium of the products was also released by Shri Rajnath Singh on the occasion.

In his address, Shri Rajnath Singh termed BIMSTEC as one of the most important and closely-knit group of countries which has the potential to build a symbiotic partnership amongst like-minded nations by strengthening existing civilisational bonds. Lauding the member nations for standing by each other during natural calamities, he said, the PANEX-21 provides a fresh impetus for creating a more cohesive mechanism to respond to the HADR challenges in the region.

The Raksha Mantri exuded confidence that the exercise will facilitate improved coordination for meeting future challenges related to cyclones & earthquakes and threats like COVID-19. “Efforts by a nation directly affected by natural disaster, may quite understandably fall short due to the huge magnitude of such disasters. Thus, a multilateral effort, involving partners in Bay of Bengal region, will act as a force multiplier in pooling-in resources and orchestrating relief measures. It will accelerate the process of providing relief to people who are already distressed due to the natural disaster,” he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh reiterated India's vision for the Indian Ocean region (IOR), which is based on the concept of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He called for deepening economic and security cooperation in the littorals; enhancing capacities to safeguard land and maritime territories; working towards sustainable regional development; blue economy and promoting collective action to deal with non-traditional threats like natural disasters, piracy and terrorism. He said, while each of these elements requires equal attention, developing an effective response mechanism to address humanitarian crisis and natural disasters is one of the most important pillars of SAGAR.

The Raksha Mantri praised the Indian Armed Forces and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) for incorporating HADR operations as one of the foremost elements in their vision and for being the first responder in IOR. He made special mention of the pivotal role played by the defence forces and ICG in the fight against COVID-19. This commitment is reflected equally in the performance of the Armed Forces of each of the partner countries in the Bay of Bengal region, he added.

On the COVID-19 pandemic front, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that such calamities demand very specific resources which need to be moved to areas facing an emergency in a short span of time. He emphasised on the need for seamless information sharing mechanism at the regional level, establishment of protocols for moving responders & material and creating requisite capacities on the basis of country specific needs.

The Raksha Mantri mentioned about some notable HADR missions in IOR undertaken by India, including Operation Rahat in Yemen in 2015 – when India evacuated over 6,700 people; cyclone in Sri Lanka in 2016; the earthquake in Indonesia in 2019; Cyclone Idai in Mozambique; and flooding and landslides in Madagascar in January 2020; Oil spill in Mauritius in August 2020 and Oil tanker fire in Sri Lanka in September 2020 during the pandemic.

Shri Rajnath Singh also lauded National Disaster Response Force, State Disaster Response Forces and other agencies at Central, State and district levels for working bravely and tirelessly to provide relief to the people during disasters. He stressed that not only government agencies, but the participation of the private sector, local population and NGOs is critical for ensuring the success of HADR initiatives.

The Raksha Mantri hoped that the PANEX-21 will create the necessary groundwork for BIMSTEC nations to strengthen protocols, involving all stakeholders, to respond to future disasters. He called for consolidating and publishing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to aid member states, expedite the conduct of disaster relief operations and save precious lives. "Each one of you, participating in this joint endeavour, brings a degree of expertise to the table. You also come with your own unique experiences. There is a need to synthesise these into a document that can be shared, circulated and be built upon for the benefit of member countries and subsequent endeavours of this kind," he said.

Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane, General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command Lieutenant General J S Nain and senior civil & military officials of Ministry of Defence were present on the occasion. The PANEX-21 is being held between December 20-22, 2021.

Nampi/DK/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 29, 1943
Monday, December 20, 2021

ICG launches website for online recruitment of officers

Recruitment for officers in Indian Coast Guard (ICG) became digital on December 20, 2021 with the introduction of computer-based screening examination and automation of selection process by launching of a recruitment website (<https://joinindiancoastguard.cdac.in>).

Director General ICG Shri Krishnaswamy Natarajan launched the website in New Delhi in the presence of Director General of Centre for development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Colonel A K Nath (Retd). The website has been designed by C-DAC, Pune. The paradigm shift from the existing process to computer-based examination for selection of officers will enhance transparency, minimise human intervention, facilitate automation and offer equal opportunity, level-playing field to aspiring candidates, resulting in the selection of aspiring candidate from a larger pool. The digital recruitment process will cover around 100 cities spread throughout the country and would be conducted twice a year ensuring far wider reach, talent and also provide an unprecedented opportunity to the individuals aspiring to serve the Nation.

The website will include features such as online filling of application, generation of personal login facility, details of CG training procedures and job profiles, pay & allowances with facilities in ICG along with notification about various processes of the recruitment procedures from time to time. The migration of CG recruitment processes from traditional method is a quantum digital leap in compliance with GOI vision of Digital India initiative.

Nampi/DK/RP

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 29, 1943
Monday, December 20, 2021

GIS Based Automatic Water Supply System for citizens of Cantonment Board under eChhawani project

The GIS Based ‘Automatic Water Supply System’ for citizens of Cantonment Boards has been launched recently by Raksha Mantri Shri. Rajnath Singh on the occasion of Defence Estates Day 2021.

The module of GIS based Water Supply system for Cantonment Boards has been developed by Bhaskaracharya Institute for Space Applications and Geo informatics (BISAG) under the guidance of Defence Secretary and Director General of Defence Estates, Delhi.

It is easy and fast application to provide water connection to the citizens of Cantonment. It is completely automated which :-

- a) Provides facility to its citizen to identify the location of water supply connection.
- b) It automatically determines nearest water pipeline.
- b) Also capacity of all water supply lines have been defined.
- c) It calculates distance based on the location and;
- d) Amount payable by the Applicant including connection charges can be paid online.

The module further facilitates sanction for water connection online. Once the system issues sanction, the concerned Department in Cantt Board will ensure actual water connection within given time-lines. The system is highly user friendly, efficient and transparent.

This GIS System is first of its kind in the country. It is based on "minimum government and supports the concept of "maximum governance" as there is no manual intervention for clearance/sanction of the water connection.

In conventional Water Supply System, citizens apply to the local bodies and the application is processed which takes time. The charges are required to be deposited offline and no time period is defined for grant of water connection. BISAG has successfully implemented the GIS module and its integration with the e-Chhawani portal is done by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).

Defence Estates Day was celebrated on 16th December, 2021 by Director General, Defence Estates.

Nampi/RP

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 28, 1943
Sunday, December 19, 2021

DRDO conducts flight demonstration of Controlled Aerial Delivery System

Aerial Delivery Research and Development Establishment (ADRDE), Agra conducted a flight demonstration of Controlled Aerial Delivery System of 500 kg capacity (CADS-500) on December 18, 2021. ADRDE, Agra is an R&D laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and the flight demonstration is part of a series of activities organised towards celebrating ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, commemorating 75 years of Independence.

The CADS-500 is used for precise delivery of payload upto 500 kgs at predetermined location by making use of manoeuvrable capabilities of Ram Air Parachute (RAP). It uses Global Positioning System for the coordinates, altitude and heading sensors for the heading information during its flight. The CADS, with its onboard electronics unit, autonomously steers its flight path using waypoint navigation towards target location by operating controls.

System performance was demonstrated at Drop Zone, Malpura from an altitude of 5000m. The system was para-dropped from AN32 aircraft and then steered to the predesignated landing point in autonomous mode. Eleven paratroopers of Indian Army and Indian Air Force chased the CADS-500 in air and landed simultaneously.

Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraayana 27, 1943
Saturday, December 18, 2021

National Cadet Corps and National Highways Authority of India signs MoU to reuse plastic waste

Key highlights:

- **A total of 3,40,000 cadets from 127 coastal area NCC Units are participating in the month-long activity**
- **NCC cadets at different locations have collected plastic wastes amounting to almost six tons**
- **Collected plastic wastes to be handed over to NHAI to use in road construction**

The National Cadet Corps (NCC) and National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to reuse plastic wastes collected by NCC Cadets during Puneet Sagar Abhiyan and other Swachhta activities for construction of roads by NHAI throughout the country. To promote and create favourable conditions for environmental safety, NCC has initiated a nationwide campaign Puneet Sagar Abhiyan to clean seashores/beaches off the plastic & other wastes along the seashores and increase awareness about importance of keeping the seashores free from plastic wastes.

The aim of the Campaign is to propagate the message of ‘Importance of clean seashores/beaches’ amongst the local population and future generations. A total of 3,40,000 cadets from 127 Coastal Area NCC Units are participating in the month-long activity. So far, the NCC cadets at different locations have collected plastic wastes amounting to almost six tons from these areas.

The plastic wastes collected is planned to be handed over to NHAI which they can use in road construction. The MoU between NCC and NHAI has been signed and exchanged on 17 December 2021 by Director General NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh and Chief General Manager, NHAI Mr Sushil Kumar Mishra.

The National Cadet Corps has also approached IITs and NIITs for their cooperation in recycling and gainful utilisation of the plastic wastes collected. IIT Kharagpur has already agreed to extend their technical expertise in this. The National

Cadet Corps is also approaching NGOs who are involved in recycling of plastic wastes, one of whom, Odisha Yuva Chetana Sangathan has already agreed to provide assistance.

In addition to physically cleaning the beaches the cadets have also taken up mass awareness campaign to educate the people regarding the evils and harms of plastic use and the damage plastic is doing to our natural resources. The cadets are also interacting with public, tourists, local shopkeepers/vendors and fisherman along the coastal areas, distributing pamphlets, administering oaths to the target population, performing theme based Nukkad Nataks & rallies/foot patrols to drive home the message of importance of clean sea beaches. Till date, almost 1.5 lakh cadets at 64 different locations have participated in the Puneet Sagar Abhiyan and have impacted a population of approximately 17 Lakh.

Nampi/ADA

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Aagrahayana 27, 1943
Saturday, December 18, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh spells out broad contours of Government’s vision of ‘India beyond 75’ at FICCI Annual General Meeting

Says, the aim is to make India a global defence manufacturing hub

Armed Forces modernisation and creating an ‘Aatmanirbhar’ defence industry to deal with present & future security threats is our focus: RM

Focusses on ‘Make in India, Make for India and Make for the world’

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the 94th Annual General Meeting of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), on the theme ‘India Beyond 75’, in New Delhi on December 18, 2021. He voiced the Government’s vision to make India a global defence manufacturing hub in the coming times, stressing that the focus is to modernise the Armed Forces and create a strong & ‘Aatmanirbhar’ defence industry which can help in safeguarding the country from conventional and non-conventional, present and future security threats.

Underscoring the importance of achieving ‘Aatmanirbharta’ in defence, Shri Rajnath Singh said, India cannot depend on other countries for defence technologies due to its stature, its geographical location as well as the security challenges it faces. “For the security of India and its people, it is necessary that we develop our defence capacity and capability that even the most powerful country in the world has to think a thousand times before planning anything that endangers our interests. Our government’s aim is not to attack anyone, but prepare our Armed Forces to be ready at all times to give a befitting reply to the country’s enemies,” he said.

The Raksha Mantri asserted that, on one side, there is one country born out of the partition and is worried seeing the progress of India, while on the other, there is a nation which keeps on creating new plans. He highlighted the recent visits of Defence Ministers of US, Russia & France, and said, “countries across the world have friendly relations with us and we have told them that we wish to manufacture defence equipment in India as national security is our top priority”. He also mentioned about the recent agreement with Russia, worth more than Rs 5,000 crore, to manufacture over six lakh AK-203 Rifles in Amethi, inviting every country to ‘Make in India, Make for India and Make for the world’.

Shri Rajnath Singh listed out measures taken by the Government to promote foreign investment, including increasing the FDI limit to 74 per cent through automatic route and 100 per cent through Government route under certain circumstances. He said, foreign investment will help to create an ecosystem of defence manufacturing in the country and achieve ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’, envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He also spoke about the initiatives taken by the Government to reduce dependency on imports, such as notifying two positive indigenisation lists of over 200 items.

“The items in ‘Positive List’ will cross the 1,000-mark in this decade. This is our vision of ‘India Beyond 75’,” he said.

Saying that the defence sector has been able to overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19 due to policy reforms brought out by the government, the Raksha Mantri exhorted the private sector to take advantage of the policies and contribute towards nation building. He said, the decision to corporatise Ordnance Factory Board was taken in order to provide fair competition between public and private entities in the defence sector and bring efficiency in government companies. He appreciated the industry for working with the Government to achieve self-reliance. He made special mention of the order of 10 lakh Multi-Mode Hand Grenades given to Economic Explosives Limited following Transfer of Technology from Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO); the first batch of which has already been handed over to the Indian Army.

Voicing the Government’s aim to tap the potential of MSMEs and ensure their progress, Shri Rajnath Singh said, a series of steps have been taken to encourage indigenisation, development & design in the defence and aerospace sector. “At present, India’s defence and aerospace manufacturing market is worth Rs 85,000 crore. I believe, in 2022, it will increase to Rs one lakh crore. When I talk about ‘India Beyond 75’, I see defence and aerospace manufacturing market in India to be Rs five lakh crore by 2047. The present contribution of private companies is Rs 18,000 crore in the market of Rs 85,000 crore. According to the current situation, more than Rs one lakh crore will be the contribution of the private sector in the market Rs five lakh crore in the future,” he said.

On the Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative, the Raksha Mantri stated that while it is solving the technical problems of the Armed Forces, it has identified many technologies such as military security systems, secure hardware encryption devices, unmanned surface and underwater vehicles, 4G/LTE strategic local area networks, radar, artificial intelligence-based image analysis satellites. Stressing that the future wars will be fought in the digital war zone inter-connected through Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality & Virtual Reality, he urged the educational institutions to focus on specialised courses in defence technologies to meet the demand of professionals who can convert the future challenges into opportunities and bolster the security framework of the country. He called upon FICCI to play an important role in the collective efforts to take India to newer heights.

To realise its vision of making India a global manufacturing hub, Shri Rajnath Singh said, the Government has taken several measures, including increase the defence capital outlay by 18.75 per cent in the last budget. He added that 64 per cent of our total capital outlay, which is about Rs 70,221 crore, has been reserved for domestic procurement. He appreciated the fact that the country’s defence exports have grown by 325 per cent in the last five years and exuded confidence that India will not only achieve its export target of Rs 35,000 crore by 2024-2025 but will also become a net exporter of defence equipment. The private sector accounts for 95 per cent of the country’s defence exports, he said.

The Raksha Mantri lauded the industry for their contribution to the Government’s efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. “Work was done on a war footing to meet the huge demand of PPE kits, ventilators, masks and sanitizers across the country. In addition, in a country where there was always a delay in vaccination, we took the pledge at the very beginning. As a result, today 55 per cent of India’s population has been vaccinated. The work, which earlier governments did in years, our government did it within days,” he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh concluded his address by extending his best wishes to Shri Sanjiv Mehta who took over as the Chairman of FICCI in place of Shri Uday Shankar. He hoped that the industry & organisations like FICCI will help in making India the world’s leading exporter of defence equipment.

Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agra Hayana 27, 1943

Saturday, December 18, 2021

**RAKSHA MANTRI INAUGURATES NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF DEFENCE
ESTATES MANAGEMENT**

As a part of the Capacity Building initiative of the Government of India, National Institute of Defence Estates Management one of the premier Central Training Institutes has established a Centre of Excellence in Land Survey. This centre was inaugurated on 16th December 2021 by the Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh.

Defence Estates Organisation constantly undertakes land surveys as a part of their domain specialization and thereby developed expertise in this area of activity. The Centre of Excellence will cater to the training needs of Government officers and technical personnel who are involved in surveys exclusively in emerging survey technologies like Drone surveys and Satellite imagery-based surveys. Nowadays real-time monitoring systems based on digital photogrammetric techniques, high-resolution satellite imagery, airborne and terrestrial laser scanner devices can give a set of powerful tools for geometric surveying and modelling. The Centre of Excellence is focused on such new techniques of the survey. The expertise developed in this regard will be shared with other Central and State Government Departments including autonomous bodies who are willing to sponsor participants to the basis and specialized courses to be conducted at the Centre of Excellence. The Centre of Excellence obtains services from premier institutions like NRSC, NIGST, SPA Delhi and experts from the survey industry as resource faculty and aims to develop inhouse capacities very soon.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, speaking on the occasion, reiterated the need for undertaking a land survey on a continuous basis and felicitated the Defence Estates Department for the path-breaking initiative of setting up the Centre of Excellence Land Survey and also emphasised the need for opening up the facility to all other Government Department also.

Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, DGDE while speaking on the occasion informed that the Centre of Excellence at NIDEM is the culmination of one of the thought processes enunciated by Dr. Ajay Kumar, the Defence Secretary as part of DGDE’s Capacity Building process and all

steps will be taken to bring the Centre of Excellence on the national arena to become a premier Training Centre for Survey in latest techniques.

Nampi/Rajib

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraayana 27, 1943
Saturday, December 18, 2021

New generation ballistic missile ‘Agni P’ successfully test-fired by DRDO

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile ‘Agni P’ from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha at 1106 hrs on December 18, 2021. Various telemetry, radar, electro-optical stations and down range ships positioned along the eastern coast tracked and monitored the missile trajectory and parameters. The missile followed text book trajectory meeting all mission objectives with high level of accuracy.

The Agni P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with dual redundant navigation and guidance system. This second flight-test has proven the reliable performance of all the advanced technologies integrated into the system.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO for the successful flight test and expressed his happiness for the excellent performance of the system. Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy appreciated the efforts of the team to have done the second development flight trial with many additional features and congratulated for the consecutive success within the same calendar year.

Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraayana 27, 1943
Saturday, December 18, 2021

Nampi/Rajib

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
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Saturday, December 18, 2021

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As a part of the Capacity Building initiative of the Government of India, National Institute of Defence Estates Management one of the premier Central Training Institutes has established a Centre of Excellence in Land Survey. This centre was inaugurated on 16th December 2021 by the Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in the presence of Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, the Director General Defence Estates. Officers of the Armed Forces, DRDO, Defence Accounts and Defence Estates participated in the ceremony.

Defence Estates Organisation constantly undertakes land surveys as a part of their domain specialization and thereby developed expertise in this area of activity. The Centre of Excellence will cater to the training needs of Government officers and technical personnel who are involved in surveys exclusively in emerging survey technologies like Drone surveys and Satellite imagery-based surveys. Nowadays real-time monitoring systems based on digital photogrammetric techniques, high-resolution satellite imagery, airborne and terrestrial laser scanner devices can give a set of powerful tools for geometric surveying and modelling. The Centre of Excellence is focused on such new techniques of the survey. The expertise developed in this regard will be shared with other Central and State Government Departments including autonomous bodies who are willing to sponsor participants to the basis and specialized courses to be conducted at the Centre of Excellence. The Centre of Excellence obtains services from premier institutions like NRSC, NIGST, SPA Delhi and experts from the survey industry as resource faculty and aims to develop inhouse capacities very soon.

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Nampi/Rajib

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraayana 26, 1943
Friday, December 17, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launches Rashtriya Ekta Geet by composed by
NCC Cadets in 22 languages**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched ‘Rashtriya Ekta Geet’ composed by the National Cadet Core (NCC) cadets in 22 languages on the theme of National Integration during the grand finale of ‘Vijay Shrankhla aur Sanskrityon ka Mahasangam’ campaign in New Delhi on December 17, 2021.

The mega event was conducted by NCC as part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, which is presently being celebrated to commemorate 75 years of India’s Independence. It comprised of honouring and felicitating of bravehearts of 1971 Indo-Pak War at 75 locations across the country under the NCC *Vijay Shrankhla* including live streaming on the Gallantry Award Portal. The campaign culminated today with ‘Sanskritiyon ka Maha Sangam’ wherein selected NCC cadets from across the country congregated in Delhi and showcased their shared cultural heritage.

Highlighting the glorious history of NCC, Shri Rajnath Singh said, “NCC has produced a number of stalwarts who have brought glory and laurels to the Nation. Leaders like Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, PM Narendra Modi, former External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj, former Raksha Mantri Manohar Parrikar, sports personalities like Hima Das, Anjali Bhagwat, world famous cardiologist Dr Naresh Trehan and many others are NCC alumni who have contributed towards Nation building.”

Talking about Prime Minister Narendra Modi’s keen interest in the NCC, the Raksha Mantri said, “The Prime Minister recently launched NCC alumni association. I believe that such steps would enhance the training capacity of NCC many times and would unite all alumni of this esteemed organisation.” He further added “The Prime Minister is the first member of NCC alumni association and I am the second. I also see your bright future through hard work and dedication towards the nation.”

Highlighting the motto of NCC, ‘Unity and Discipline’, Shri Rajnath Singh said “The NCC develops the virtues of unity, discipline, patience and brotherhood in its

cadets and these virtues remain forever with them. That's why it is said 'once an NCC cadet is always an NCC cadet'."

Mentioning Government's supportive approach for NCC, Raksha Mantri said, "Seeing your potential, government has announced One Lakh new vacancies in the NCC. Initiatives like 'Digital India', 'Skill India', 'Start-up India' 'Fit India', etc may help you in progressing in your specialised areas. Government is taking may more such initiatives. I would like you to stay updated about such initiatives and utilise them for making your lives better and successful, also, to aware your surrounding about these."

The finale started with welcome speech by DG NCC followed by presentation of short video clip showcasing homage paid to the 1971 fallen heroes during the event and importance of Vijay Diwas.

The Raksha Mantri also congratulated DG NCC, his team and all the cadets from various part of the country who worked hard to make this iconic event a grand success. The finale was also attended by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Vice Chief of Army Staff, DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh, prominent NCC Alumni Association members and other senior civil and military dignitaries.

Nampi/DK/RP

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Aagrahayana 26, 1943

Friday, December 17, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh & his French counterpart Ms Florence Parly hold
3rd Annual Defence Dialogue in New Delhi**

The third Annual Defence Dialogue between India and France took place between Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and French Minister for Armed Forces Ms Florence Parly in New Delhi on December 17, 2021. A wide range of bilateral, regional, defence and defence industrial cooperation issues were discussed in the annual meeting.

The Ministers reviewed the existing military-to-military cooperation, which has increased in spite of pandemic challenges. They discussed ways to increase defence cooperation in all domains. India and France have recently concluded their annual bilateral Army Exercise, Shakti, with focus on counter-terrorist operations, in France in November 2021. Defence industrial cooperation was discussed with focus on future collaborations and co-production between the two countries.

The Ministers acknowledged their convergences on number of strategic and defence issues. They expressed commitment to work together to enhance cooperation in bilateral, regional and multilateral forums. France is the current chair of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and shall take over the Presidency of European Union from January 01, 2022. The two Ministers decided to work closely on a number of issues during the French Presidency.

Earlier, Ms Florence Parly called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. She is expected to meet with other Indian dignitaries during her visit.

Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 25, 1943
Thursday, December 16, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh gives away Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence to DGDE
personnel**

Lauds the department for its perseverance & commitment towards nation building

Shri Rajnath Singh exhorts DGDE to strive for improving facilities for Cantonment Board residents

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh gave away Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence 2021 on the occasion of 96th Raising Day of Directorate General Defence Estates in New Delhi on December 16, 2021. The recipients were awarded for innovation and digital achievements in the fields of health, education and sanitation along with public service and land management. Since classes were being run online due to COVID-19 pandemic, the awards in the field of education were not considered. This year, a new award has been instituted by the Raksha Mantri for achievement in implementation of 'e-Chhawani' project. These categories are:

- 1) Swachh Chhawani Swasth Chhawani
- 2) Digital Accomplishments
- 3) Innovation in Public Services
- 4) Land and Record management
- 5) Improvement in Cantonment General Hospital
- 6) Implementation of 'e-Chhawani' Project

Congratulating the award winners, Shri Rajnath Singh exuded confidence that the awards will encourage all the winning organisations to work for the betterment of Cantonment Boards. He hoped that other officers and employees will also be inspired to receive these awards in future through this noble deed of public service. These awards are the testimony to the perseverance and commitment of DGDE towards nation building.

Remembering late General Bipin Rawat, who passed away in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu recently, the Raksha Mantri stated that the country's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) had attended the inauguration ceremony of the e-Chhawani portal earlier this year and strived to make DGDE more active and empowered. He exhorted DGDE and other departments of MoD to make more efforts and achieve the goal of continuous strengthening of Armed Forces, for which the Government has created the post of CDS and set up Department of Military Affairs.

Shri Rajnath Singh lauded the efforts of the DGDE towards management of 17.98 lakh acres of land and the civil administration of 62 cantonments across the country. He appreciated the fact that the DGDE is constantly striving to provide modern facilities to Cantonment areas and meet the growing aspirations of the military officers, soldiers, their families as well as the civilian population of more than 20 lakh people.

Echoing the Government's resolve of welfare of Cantonment Boards, the Raksha Mantri said, the e-Chhawani portal was launched to ensure ease of living to the residents. He said, the integrated platform provides easy and contactless access to all municipal services such as payment of taxes, renewal of business license, new water and sewerage connections, various types of certificates and grievance redressal. He described it as a shining example of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' and 'Digital India' envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Government is working on resolving various problems faced by the residents of Cantonment areas in mutation/transfer of their properties, re-construction of buildings and renewal of lease etc.," he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh commended the Cantonment Boards for providing public services, comprehensive medical care and tele-medicine facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the second wave. "The Cantonment hospitals have upgraded their infrastructure on a war footing and are now ready to face any challenge," he added.

The Raksha Mantri lauded Cantonment Boards for the initiative to renovate 75 water bodies across the country as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' commemorating 75 years of Independence. At present, most of the Centrally-sponsored schemes have been implemented in the cantonment areas, so that the benefits of the schemes reach these residents as well.

Shri Rajnath Singh appreciated the steps taken by the DGDE towards management of defence land across the country. These include issuance of Standard Operating Procedure (SoP) to protect defence land from encroachment on the basis of real time updation of land records and threat metrics and approval to erect boundary pillars to protect the vacant defence lands.

On the occasion, the Raksha Mantri also inaugurated Centre of Excellence in the field of survey technology for capacity building, set up by National Institute of Defence Estates Management (NIDEM), the apex Central Training Institute to provide professional training to the officers and employees of the Defence Estates department. The Centre will focus on new techniques of survey *i.e.*, Drone Surveying and Simultaneous Localisation and Mapping (SLAM) technologies. These techniques will ensure accurate survey of defence land, through which land security can be made more effective by making the process of removal of encroachments a reality. This will be available not only to the officers of DGDE but to all Government departments involved in land management and surveying. Shri Rajnath Singh lauded DGDE for setting up the Centre of Excellence, saying that the department has achieved self-reliance by developing internal expertise through training of officers and staff rather than relying solely on external experts.

Shri Rajnath Singh also launched Geographic Information System (GIS)-based automated water supply pipeline system under e-Chhawani. The GIS-based information technology will completely eliminate the need of manual intervention for sanctioning water connection. This application for reducing the duration to provide water connection has been developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), a state agency of Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat. This technology has not been adopted till now by any civic body in the country. The Raksha Mantri said, the GIS-based water supply network will ensure optimum utilisation of water and its equal distribution to the residents. It is a big step towards realising the concept of '*Jal Hi Jeevan Hai*'.

The Raksha Mantri suggested MoD as well as DGDE to consider renaming of roads & buildings in Cantonment areas after the brave soldiers and the stalwarts who played a central role in building a modern India. He, however, maintained that the suggestion is not motivated by any narrow mentality, stressing that the British officers or soldiers who did a commendable job for the betterment of the people must be respectfully recognised and introduced to the future generations.

While appreciating the work done by DGDE, Shri Rajnath Singh urged the department to strive even more to improve the quality of urban facilities being provided to the Armed Forces personnel and other residents of Cantonment Boards. He emphasised on increased coordination between DGDE and the Armed Forces and urged DGDE to work whole-heartedly to protect the defence land and develop systems for optimum utilisation by all stakeholders. He exhorted them to move towards timely resolution of the problems faced by the residents of Cantonment areas. The Raksha Mantri called upon the DGDE personnel to not only cater to the security needs of the Armed Forces, but also keep in mind the legitimate interests of civilians residing in Cantonment areas. He also hoped that the department will adapt to the fast-evolving digital age and use IT tools not only to serve the citizens but also to provide updated information to the Ministry and the Armed Forces.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Shri Sanjiv Mittal, DGDE Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma and other senior civil & military officials of MoD were present on the occasion.

Nampi/DK/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Aagrahayana 25, 1943
Thursday, December 16, 2021

Border Roads Organisation conducts second Road Safety Seminar virtually

Centre of Excellence for Road Safety & Awareness (CoERSA) of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) organised the second Road Safety Seminar virtually from New Delhi on December 15, 2021. Director General Border Roads (DG BR) Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry addressed all BRO personnel, including ADGBR East & North West, all Chief Engineers of Projects, Commanders of Border Road Task Forces and Officers Commanding of Road Construction Companies. Lectures were conducted by participants from various projects and by Dr KR Rao of IIT Delhi.

There were discussions on various topics, including safety & capacity issues of hill roads, road safety in mountainous roads, importance of road maintenance, zero fatality corridor, safety practices at work sites, road design & pavement marking for enhanced road safety. The aspect of the Road Safety Audit was discussed and the participants shared their ideas towards addressing practical challenges. The next phase of the Road Safety Audit will now be conducted by certified auditors who underwent their training in IIT Delhi. They will examine BRO construction practices for improvement in design and incorporation of improved safety aspects in road geometry among other issues, specifically for mountainous and snowbound areas. This will enable early planning for the improvements to be incorporated in the next working season.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh had dedicated the CoERSA to the Nation in June 2021 to create awareness about road safety through analysis sharing of road accidents and suggesting methods to save precious lives. The CoERSA organised its first Road Safety Seminar in September 2021 and the initial framework for audit of roads by individuals from within the organisation was formulated. The exercise of road safety audit was undertaken in a graduated manner commencing with a phase-wise internal audit of existing roads performed by individuals within the Projects.

The roads constructed by BRO are used not only by the Armed Forces and Central Armed Police Forces but traversed extensively by the tourists and adventure seekers from all over the country. With the advancement of construction technology

and practices, road infrastructure is being prepared to sustain traffic in all-weather conditions.

Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Aagrahayana 25, 1943

Thursday, December 16, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh remembers the courage & sacrifice of Armed Forces during 1971 war on ‘Swarnim Vijay Diwas’

Terms 1971 war as the golden chapter in India’s military history

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh joined the Nation in remembering the courage, valour and sacrifice of the Armed Forces during the 1971 war on the occasion of ‘Swarnim Vijay Diwas’ on December 16, 2021. In a series of tweets, the Raksha Mantri termed the 1971 war as the golden chapter in India’s military history.

<https://twitter.com/rajnathsingh/status/1471304574283575297>

Shri Rajnath Singh also shared some archival pictures from the 1971 war, which include the historic photograph of Instrument of Surrender.

<https://twitter.com/rajnathsingh/status/1471306501939625988>

<https://twitter.com/rajnathsingh/status/1471313132039540737>

Swarnim Vijay Varsh is being celebrated to mark 50 years of India’s victory in 1971 war. The aim is to spread the message of unity, nationalism and pride among people in general and Armed Forces in particular, in addition to showing respect to the veterans who participated in the war.

Nampi/DK/RP/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Aagrahayana 25, 1943

Thursday, December 16, 2021

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraahayana 24, 1943
Wednesday, December 15, 2021

'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' Iconic Week Celebration by DRDO's Micro Electronics Devices and Computational Systems Cluster

Key Highlights:

- **Three products handed over to the user laboratories of DRDO**
- **Four Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreements executed with public and private sector companies**
- **Release of 'Yatra', a Compendium on 60 Glorious years of SSPL and SSPL Safety Manual**
- **Release of Process Design Kit (PDK) for X band Gallium Nitride (GaN) MMIC**
- **Release of hardware and software products for secure communication**

Secretary DD R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy, handed over three products developed by MED & CoS Cluster to the user laboratories at an event held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi today as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations and iconic week of the Ministry of Defence. He also handed over four Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreements to public and private sector companies.

Founded in 1961, SSPL has completed 60 years and is celebrating its Diamond Jubilee Year. 'Yatra', the Compendium, traces historical journey of the laboratory and includes memoirs from several retired scientists. The compendium has been compiled in association with IDST.

The GaN process development kit has been released for MMIC designers to enable them to design indigenous GaN MMICs for various frequencies upto X-band. The devices can be manufactured at GAETEC.

Secretary DD R&D handed over High-g MEMS Switch, UHF 1kW High Power Amplifier and X band Power Amplifier to user laboratories. He also handed over SSPL developed technology of

0.5W Stirling Cryocooler for Integrated Detector Dewar Cooler Assembly (IDDCA) to Bharat Electronics Limited.

Technology document of 10W laser diode chip fabrication technology and X-band GaN HEMT MMIC was handed over to GAETEC. Technology document for HgCdTe based DDCA was handed over to STAR-C.

The technology of Acoustic Emission (AE) Sensors, AE Data Acquisition & Analysis System was handed over to industry. The sensors and the system will be used for site specific snow avalanche monitoring/prediction.

Secretary, DD R&D handed over CAIR developed INDIGIS, a Geographical Information System to industry. Secure mobile handset to facilitate secure transmission of voice and instant messaging over 4G cellular networks for usage in sensitive environment was launched.

Reliable and secure key transfer Quantum Key Distribution (QKD) at a distance over 100 km using commercial telecom optical fiber link was announced.

On this occasion, SAG, Delhi issued certificates of assurance for IT products, namely Data Diode to BEL and software product of CAIR. Data Diode is a device for enforcing one-way traffic to the internet from internal network. The improved bandwidth internal network and various IT portals were launched during the event.

The event was attended by various cluster & corporate DGs, Directors, senior scientists from various DRDO laboratories, former DRDO Directors and industry representatives.

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PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 23, 1943

Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh hands over DRDO developed products to Armed Forces

Shri Rajnath Singh expressed confidence that DRDO would be successful in developing futuristic warfare technologies

Key Highlights

- **Five DRDO developed products handed over to the Armed forces and other security agencies**
- **Six Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreements executed with seven public and private sector companies**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh handed over five Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed products to the Armed forces and other security agencies at an event held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi on December 14, 2021, as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations and iconic week of Ministry of Defence. He also handed over six Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreements to seven public and private sector companies. Earlier DRDO organised a Seminar on “Preparing For The Future” where Vice Chiefs of the Armed Forces and DRDO Scientists shared their views.

Speaking on the occasion, the Raksha Mantri said, such seminars help in meeting of the minds and evolving a common strategy to face enemy threats.

Shri Rajnath Singh said, “When we talk about integration and jointness, it is not limited to initiatives taken by government alone. Its success has to be achieved by meeting of minds of our defence forces. It is an effort to jointly enhance our capabilities to face the challenges posed by our adversaries.” “The integration we talk about, is not limited to our the forces but also it means synergy among every concerned organisation in the country,” he added.

He added that there has been a big change over the last few years in the approach of DRDO whereby it was not only working on technologies to mitigate current threats but also on first-of-its-kind technologies to face the future challenges.

On the objective of making India a strong platform of defence manufacturing base and net defence exporter, Raksha Mantri said DRDO has played a significant role in this endeavour. “Its path passes through collaboration among DRDO, the Armed Forces, Private industry, start-ups and academia. The ToT with private players which took place today indicate that we are ready to make a strong defence industrial base in the country that will cater not only the domestic defence requirements but also will fulfill needs of friendly countries by defence item exports.”

Paying tribute to late Chief of Defence Staff (CDS), General Bipin Rawat and others who lost their lives in an air crash recently, the Raksha Mantri said that the process of integration and modernisation of Tri-Services that was initiated with creation of post of CDS and Department of Military Affairs will move on seamlessly and will be priority of the government to achieve the target as soon as possible.

Emphasizing the role of technology in warfare, Shri Rajnath Singh said our aim should be to make India a leader in the defence technology and identified development of Hypersonic cruise missile as one such advanced technology for which all should work together.

Citing the scientific prowess of DRDO in developing Mission Shakthi, Raksha Mantri said DRDO is working on smart materials, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning based systems, Swarm drones, Asymmetric warfare etc.

Shri Rajnath Singh said the Government is working in a concerted manner to realize the objective of Make in India and Make for the World by bringing in several policy reforms such as increasing FDI in Defence sector through automatic route to 74%, Corporatisation of OFB, creation of defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, formulation of Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020, bringing out positive lists of defence items for domestic manufacturing etc. He added that these policies aim to make our Armed Forces strong by strengthening domestic defence industry.

Products handed over to the Armed Forces & Ministry of Home Affairs are Anti-Drone system, Modular Bridge, Smart Anti Airfield Weapon, Chaff Variants and the Light Weight Fire Fighting Suit. The counter drone systems, developed by DRDO for detection, deterrence and destruction of incoming drones was handed over to the CISC by the Raksha Mantri. He also handed over the Modular Bridge to the Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane. Modular bridge developed by R&DE (Engineers) is a single span, mechanically launched assault bridge of military load class MLC-70, and can be launched in different spans.

The Raksha Mantri handed over Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW), an air launched, long-range, stand-off, air-to-surface Smart Bomb, to the Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari. The variants of Advanced Chaff were handed over to the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar. Structural fire-fighting suit developed by DRDO's Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES), Delhi was handed over to Shri V S K Kaumudi, Special Secretary, MHA.

The LAToT documents of seven DRDO developed systems were handed over during the event for the systems/technologies namely Coastal Surveillance Radar, Automatic Chemical Agent Detection and Alarm (ACADA) & Chemical Agent Monitor (CAM), Unit Maintenance Vehicle, Unit Repair Vehicle, Fused Silica based Ceramic Core technology and the Fire Suppressing Gel.

Secretary, DDR&D and Chairman, DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy; Vice Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Staff, other senior civil and military officials of Ministry of Defence and Home Affairs were also present on the occasion.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Aagraharyana 23, 1943
Tuesday, December 14, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh interacts with Indian war veterans & Mukti Jodhas of Bangladesh as part of Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations

Pays rich tributes to the brave soldiers, sailors & air warriors who ensured victory in 1971 war

Raksha Mantri calls upon the youth to follow their footsteps and build a strong & self-reliant India

Key Highlights of RM's speech:

- **Victory in 1971 war showed India's commitment towards humanity**
- **Our soldiers are the protectors of India's unity & integrity; they stay awake so that we can sleep peacefully**
- **Government's aim is to ensure well-being of not just in-service soldiers but also the veterans**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh interacted with Indian war veterans and Mukti Jodhas of Bangladesh in New Delhi on December 14, 2021, as part of Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations, marking 50 years of India's historic victory in the 1971 war. The gathering comprised of 30 Mukti Jodhas, families of all four Param Vir Chakra and other awardees as well as war veterans. The Mukti Jodhas have been invited to participate in Swarnim Vijay Varsh events to honour the bravehearts who took part in the 1971 war. In his address, Shri Rajnath Singh paid rich tributes to the brave soldiers, sailors and air warriors who ensured the victory in 1971 war by making supreme sacrifice while displaying devotion to duty.

Terming the victory as one of the most important events in world history and a triumph of justice over injustice, Shri Rajnath Singh said, the war fought against the atrocities on common people showed India's commitment towards humanity. He remembered the heroes of the Indian Army who ensured a historic victory, namely General (later Field Marshal) Sam Manekshaw, Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora (then General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command), Lt Gen JFR Jacob and Air Marshal Idris Hassan Latif and others. "These heroes included Hindus, Muslims, Parsis,

Sikhs and one Jew. This is a proof of India's firm belief towards giving equal respect to all religions," he said, adding that all these brave soldiers belonged to different states, however, it was the feeling of Indianness which made them as one.

The Raksha Mantri also paid glowing tributes to first President of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur-Rahman, terming him as the guiding light for the people of his country. He appreciated the fact that Bangladesh has been making giant strides in the path of development since its liberation.

Commending the Armed Forces personnel, including the veterans, for their selfless service, Shri Rajnath Singh described them as the protectors of India's unity and integrity. "Today our country is moving forward on the path of progress uninterruptedly. This is because of our brave soldiers who are standing firm at the borders. This country sleeps peacefully because our soldiers are awake," he said.

Stating that no price can be paid for the sacrifices made by the veterans, the Raksha Mantri extended his gratitude and assured of Government's all possible support to ensure their welfare. "Our every warrior of today is a respected veteran of tomorrow. It is our duty to ensure their well-being. This government understands this very well, which is why, as soon as we came into power in 2014, we fulfilled the long-pending demand of One Rank One Pension," he added.

Reiterating the Government's resolve to ensure the welfare and ease of living to the Ex-Servicemen, Shri Rajnath Singh said, many online services have been started under Digital India, including Smart Canteen Cards for shopping, implementation of SPARSH [System for Pension Administration (Raksha)] for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension and online access to avail the services of Kendriya Sainik Board and Directorate General of Resettlement. "Our aim is to ensure well-being of our Armed Forces personnel not only during their service, but also after their retirement," he added.

The Raksha Mantri called upon the people, especially the youth, to follow the gallant footsteps of the veterans and work towards nation building with full capacity, devotion and dedication. "I call upon the citizens to move forward with devotion and dedication and build a New India which is strong and self-reliant. This will be a true tribute to our brave soldiers," he said. Shri Rajnath Singh also paid tribute to the country's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and other Armed Forces personnel who lost their lives in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu recently.

On the occasion, the soil collected from different locations of major battles fought during the war was mixed by the Raksha Mantri to commemorate the golden jubilee of 1971 war victory. He described it as a symbol of 'Unity in Diversity'.

Shri Rajnath Singh also released a coffee table book titled 'The 1971 War: An Illustrated History'. The book has been compiled in six chapters and includes some first-hand experiences of the war veterans. The book comprises of tales of valour of four Param Vir Chakra, 76 Maha Vir Chakra and other Gallantry award winners along with anecdotes of war veterans.

Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar; Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, other senior civil & military officers of Ministry of Defence; families of the veterans and members of Bangladesh delegation were present on the occasion.

ABB/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 22, 1943
Monday, December 13, 2021

**Supersonic missile assisted torpedo system gets successfully launched from
Wheeler Island in Odisha**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed supersonic missile assisted torpedo system was successfully launched from Wheeler Island in Odisha on December 13, 201. The system is a next generation missile-based standoff torpedo delivery system. During the mission, full range capability of the missile was successfully demonstrated. The system has been designed to enhance anti-submarine warfare capability far beyond the conventional range of the torpedo.

This was a textbook launch, where the entire trajectory was monitored by the electro optic telemetry system, various range radars, including the down range instrumentation and down range ships. The missile carried a torpedo, parachute delivery system and release mechanisms.

This canister-based missile system consists of advanced technologies viz. two stage solid propulsion, electro-mechanical actuators and precision inertial navigation. The missile is launched from ground mobile launcher and it can cover a range of distances.

A number of DRDO laboratories developed various technologies for this advanced missile system. Industry participated in the development and production of various sub-systems.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated the teams involved in the successful test of the supersonic missile assisted torpedo system and said, the development of the system is a perfect example of building futuristic defence systems in the country.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy has congratulated all those involved in the successful test. He said, the system

will further enhance the strength of our Navy and promote self-reliance in defence, harnessing of expertise and capabilities.

ABB/DK/RP

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Aagraharyana 22, 1943
Monday, December 13, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh virtually inaugurates nation-wide events of Department of Defence Production as part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’

‘Path to Pride’ virtual exhibition, public displays, curated museums & a booklet showcasing 75 resolutions of DDP launched

Key Highlights of RM’s speech:

- **Events to raise awareness about progress made in defence sector, instill national spirit among people & further strengthen their trust in our defence preparedness**
- **‘Aatmanirbharta’ must for a free & sovereign nation**
- **Government does not shy away from taking bold decisions in national interest**
- **Continued public-private partnership will help to soon achieve ‘Make in India, Make for the World’**
- **It is our responsibility to work tirelessly to achieve late General Bipin Rawat’s vision of Armed Forces modernisation & complete self-reliance in defence**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated several iconic events of Department of Defence Production (DDP), as part of Ministry of Defence dedicated week from December 13-19, 2021 to celebrate ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ commemorating 75 years of Independence. A virtual exhibition, ‘Path to Pride’, public exhibitions, curated museums and a booklet showcasing 75 resolutions of DDP were inaugurated/launched by the Raksha Mantri. Congratulating DDP for organising the week-long nation-wide events, he said, it will be helpful in spreading information about the efforts towards making India a net defence exporter from a net defence importer.

In his address, Shri Rajnath Singh also paid rich tributes to country’s Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and other Armed Forces personnel, who lost their lives in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu on December 08, 2021 and extended his condolences to the family members. “General Rawat still had a lot to do.

Modernisation of our Armed Forces and complete self-reliance in the defence sector were subjects close to his heart. Now, it is our responsibility to work tirelessly to achieve the objective even sooner,” he added.

Sharing his insights on what freedom means to a Nation, the Raksha Mantri said, freedom is not just a thing to be attained or earned, it is also a thing to maintain, for which one has to strive continuously. “Freedom is not a goal, but a path. To a sovereign nation, freedom means the ability and capacity to take any decision related to defence and socio-economic development. In any situation, we can take a decision only when we are completely self-reliant,” he stressed.

Shri Rajnath Singh was of the view that while India attained freedom in the fields such as agriculture, education and health post-Independence, not much attention was paid towards the defence sector. He said, before the Government came to power in 2014, the defence sector lagged behind due to lack of investment, innovation and research & development. This led to dependency on imports to meet the defence requirements of the country and affected the strategic autonomy, he added. The Raksha Mantri pointed out that the present government understood the importance of self-reliance in defence and has been making constant efforts to achieve ‘Aatmanirbharta’ in the sector. “The defence sector has entered into a new era due to the policies, vision and mindset of this Government,” he added.

Saying that this government does not shy away from taking bold decisions in the interest of the Nation, the Raksha Mantri listed out a number of policy reforms aimed at promoting self-reliance in defence manufacturing. He made special mention of the corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), saying that the move will make OFB more effective & efficient and unleash its true potential. Other reforms mentioned by the Raksha Mantri include setting up of Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu; increasing the FDI limit to 74 per cent through automatic route & 100 per cent through Government route under certain circumstances; unveiling of draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020; notifying two positive indigenisation lists of over 200 items; earmarking of about 64 per cent of its modernisation funds under the capital acquisition budget for 2021-22 for procurement from domestic industries and launch of Innovations For Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative.

Shri Rajnath Singh appreciated the fact that the private sector has contributed to about 90 per cent of country’s defence exports. He exuded confidence this active and continued partnership between the Government and the private sector will help to soon achieve ‘Make in India, Make for the World’ as envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He hoped that the week-long events will generate awareness among people about the progress made in the defence sector, instill national spirit and further strengthen their trust in the country’s defence preparedness.

Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar said, the week-long events will make people aware of the achievements, resolve and vision of DDP. He reiterated the resolve to continue to move forward without any compromise to achieve 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

As a run up to the DefExpo-2022 and with an aim to reach out to a larger audience in India and abroad, a Virtual Exhibition named 'Path to Pride' was launched to showcase the journey of 75 years for 'Aatmanirbhar' defence manufacturing through 75 stories of growth & evolution across the domains of land, naval, air, missile and electronic systems. This virtual interactive platform offers a repository of India's defence capabilities, indigenisation efforts, future readiness and policy reforms, augmenting India's emergence as the global defence manufacturing hub.

This exhibition has virtual events lined-up for seven days with seven Ps - *Pratigya, Prarambh, Pratishthan, Parivartan, Parakram, Protsahan & Prayas* - designed to engage respective stakeholders from the Government, manufacturers, innovators and masses.

Public exhibitions organised by Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) and Directorate General of Aeronautical Quality Assurance (DGAQA) at 75 locations across the country were also simultaneously inaugurated through virtual mode showcasing the journey of growth and development of defence manufacturing in the country. These exhibitions will be displaying an array of indigenous marquee defence products during the week. The exhibitions will offer a unique opportunity to the general public to have a look and feel of modern defence weapons, arms, ammunition & other equipment and on the top of it, a proud feeling of nationalism.

Curated museums at Bangalore, Mumbai, Kolkata, Pune, Avadi - Chennai and Goa were also inaugurated through virtual mode with a purpose to inform, educate, and inspire the masses. A booklet listing 75 commitments to the nation to be fulfilled by August 15, 2022 was also unveiled. The commitments aim to boost defence manufacturing, bring efficiency, facilitate Ease of Doing Business and reduce the regulatory compliance burden across the comprehensive defence production infrastructure.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar, Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare) Shri B Anand, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Shri Sanjiv Mittal and other senior officers of Ministry of Defence were among those present on the occasion. Officials from over 130 locations, including from various DPSUs, joined the event virtually.

ABB/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraayana 21, 1943
Sunday, December 12, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates Swarnim Vijay Parv commemorating
50 years of India’s victory in 1971 war**

**Pays tributes to the brave Indian soldiers who ensured victory in the war; says, the
country will always be indebted to their sacrifice**

Key Highlights of RM’s speech:

- **In the untimely death of General Bipin Rawat, India has lost a brave soldier, an able advisor & a lively person**
- **India has never invaded any country, nor has it ever captured an inch of someone else’s land**
- **Pakistan wants to disrupt peace in India by promoting terrorism & other anti-India activities; We have won in direct war & victory will be ours in indirect war as well**
- **More someone tries to divide us, the more united we become & face our enemies**
- **Our aim is to keep our Armed Forces ready for any eventuality**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurated Swarnim Vijay Parv, an event commemorating the valour & professionalism of the Armed Forces and their contribution to the liberation of Bangladesh in the Indo-Pak 1971 war, at India Gate Lawns in New Delhi on December 12, 2021. The event marks the culmination of year-long celebrations of 50 years of India's victory in the war. Shri Rajnath Singh began his address by paying rich tributes to the country’s first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat who passed away in a helicopter crash in Tamil Nadu on December 08, 2021. “In the untimely death of General Rawat, India has lost a brave soldier, an able advisor and a lively person. He was looking forward to taking part in the Swarnim Vijay Parv,” he said.

The Raksha Mantri termed ‘Swarnim Vijay Parv’ as a festival which commemorates the glorious victory of the Indian Armed Forces in the 1971 war, which changed the history and geography of South Asia. He paid tributes to the brave Indian soldiers, sailors & air warriors and their families who ensured the victory in the 1971

war, saying that the country will always be indebted to their sacrifice. “This festival is a testament to the fact that the memories of 1971 are still fresh in the heart of every Indian. At the same time, it is a symbol of the zeal, passion and valour our forces displayed during the 1971 war. It inspires us to keep moving forward on the path of Nation’s progress with same zeal and passion,” he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh described the 1971 war victory as an epitome of the spirit of humanity & universal brotherhood of Indians who live in a country, which considers the whole earth as its family and has always stood for truth & justice. He stated that the victory in the 1971 war was the triumph of humanity over inhumanity, virtue over misconduct and justice over injustice. He cited the statement by Martin Luther King Jr. in a famous New York speech, *‘Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere’*. Shri Rajnath Singh said, the atrocities on the people of then East Pakistan was a threat to the entire humanity and it was India’s responsibility to liberate them of that injustice and exploitation.

Shri Rajnath Singh remembered the determination, coordination and valour of the Indian Armed Forces during the war. “Our Armed Forces supported ‘Muktivahini’, helped lakhs of refugees and prevented any kind of aggression from western & northern sector. They ensured that the credibility of India's commitment towards peace, justice and humanity in the world community is maintained,” he added.

The Raksha Mantri said, the 1971 war is a classic example of India’s morals and democratic traditions. “It will be rarely seen in history that after defeating another country in a war, a country does not impose its dominance, but hands over power to its political representative. India did this, because it is a part of our culture. India has never invaded any country, nor has it ever captured an inch of land of any other country,” he said. Shri Rajnath Singh recalled India’s contribution in the establishment of democracy in Bangladesh and appreciated the fact that it has progressed rapidly on the path of development in the last 50 years, which is an inspiration for the world.

Shri Rajnath Singh added that India has a history of fighting wars against barbarism, inhumanity and irresponsible powers - from the era of Ramayana, Mahabharata to wars of 1857, 1947, 1965, 1971 and 1999 Kargil war. He recalled that most of the military operations in India’s history have been named ‘Operation Vijay’ – from recapturing of Jhangar by Brigadier Usman in 1948 and liberation of Goa, Daman & Diu in 1961 to the glorious victory in 1999 Kargil war which is celebrated as ‘Kargil Vijay Divas’. He said, the Swarnim Vijay Parv is not just about any special operation, but a celebration of the spirit of victory of the Armed Forces and the country as a whole.

The Raksha Mantri termed the 1971 war as among the most decisive wars in the world after the two World Wars in the 20th century. “This war tells us that the

partition of India on the basis of religion was a historic mistake. Pakistan was born in the name of one religion but it could not remain one. After the defeat of 1971, it is continuously fighting a proxy war. Pakistan wants to disrupt peace in India by promoting terrorism and other anti-India activities. The Indian forces had foiled their plans in 1971 and work to eliminate terrorism from its root is in underway. We have won in a direct war and the victory will be ours in indirect war as well,” he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh added “the anti-India feeling in Pakistan can be seen from the fact that they name their missiles after invaders who attacked India - Ghori, Ghaznavi, Abdali, whereas India's missiles are named Akash, Prithvi, Agni. Now one of our missiles has also been named SANT”. He congratulated Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) for the successful flight test of indigenously designed and developed helicopter-launched Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile from Pokhran ranges on December 11, 2021.

The Raksha Mantri described the 1971 war as a shining example of jointness and integration among the three Services, underlining the importance of planning, training and fighting together. He said, the Government is leaving no stone unturned to strengthen the Armed Forces. “The creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff and Department of Military Affairs are some of the reforms that will cater to the future needs of the Armed Forces. From procurement to production, all efforts are being made to make the forces more capable, efficient and self-reliant. Private sector participation is being promoted in defence research, development and manufacturing. Through the Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan, efforts are being made to promote self-reliance in the defence sector. Our aim is to keep our Armed Forces ready for any eventuality,” he said. Recalling the liberation of Goa in 1961, the Raksha Mantri said, “the struggle was a witness to the fact that the more someone tries to divide us, the more united we become and face our enemies.”

Video messages by Bangladesh Minister for Liberation War Affairs Shri Mozammel Haque and Mukti Jodhas were showcased during the event. It was followed by the unveiling of Wall of Fame and a drive through to the major weapons and equipment used during the 1971 war.

Cultural events such as Kalaripayattu, Gatka and Khukri dance performances in addition to Light and Sound show, dog show, hot air ballooning have been planned over the span of the next two days. War movies and a grand battle exhibition depicting major operations on the Eastern and Western Front of 1971 war will also be displayed. Four of the most spectacular operations will be reconstructed as battle exhibitions displaying dioramas and models of PT -76 tanks mounted with cannons capturing Pakistani positions.

The event will also mark the culmination of the year-long journey of the Victory Flame, the Swarnim Vijay Mashal which, having traversed the length and breadth of the country and collected soil samples from the villages of the gallant soldiers of the war, will converge in New Delhi on December 16, 2021 in a grand ceremony.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane; Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar; Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare) Shri B Anand, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Shri Sanjiv Mittal; other senior civil and military officials of Ministry of Defence; National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets and general public were present during the inauguration of the event.

ABB/Nampi/Savvy/ADA

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 20, 1943
Saturday, December 11, 2021

Two-day ‘Swarnim Vijay Parv’ to be inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at India Gate on December 12, 2021

Weapons & equipment used during 1971 war to be displayed along with snippets of major battles

‘Swarnim Vijay Parv’ will be celebrated at India Gate, New Delhi on December 12-13, 2021 to commemorate 50 years of India’s historic victory in the 1971 war and the Indo-Bangladesh friendship. The event will be inaugurated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. Major weapons and equipment used during the 1971 war will be displayed along with the snippets of major battles. After the inauguration, the event would be open to the public.

The closing ceremony will be held on December 13, 2021, which will be attended by Shri Rajnath Singh. Many dignitaries, including from Bangladesh, will be present.

ABB/SC/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraayana 20, 1943
Saturday, December 11, 2021

DRDO & Indian Air Force successfully flight-test indigenous Stand-Off Anti-Tank Missile

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF) flight-tested the indigenously designed and developed Helicopter launched Stand-off Anti-tank (SANT) Missile from Pokhran ranges on December 11, 2021. The flight-test was successful in meeting all its mission objectives. The release mechanism, advanced guidance and tracking algorithms, all avionics with integrated software, performed satisfactorily and tracking systems monitored all mission events. The missile is equipped with a state-of-the-art MMW seeker which provides high precision strike capability from a safe distance. The weapon can neutralise targets in a range up to 10 kms.

The SANT missile has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), Hyderabad in coordination with other DRDO labs and participation from industries. This is the third in the series of indigenous stand-off weapons to be tested in recent times after long range bomb and smart anti airfield weapon for strengthening the arsenal of IAF. The indigenous development of various configurations for different applications with advanced technologies is a firm march towards ‘Aatmanirbharta’ in defence.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated the team associated with the mission. Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy said the successful flight test of SANT missile would further bolster the indigenous defence capabilities.

ABB/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraahayana 20, 1943
Saturday, December 11, 2021

Successful tests carried out for Pinaka Extended Range System, Area Denial Munitions & New Indigenous Fuzes

Successful tests of Pinaka Extended Range (Pinaka-ER), Area Denial Munitions (ADM) and indigenously developed fuzes have been carried out at various test ranges. The Pinaka-ER Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System was successfully tested at Pokharan range. The system is jointly designed by laboratories of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) - Armament Research & Development Establishment (ARDE), Pune and High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), Pune.

The DRDO, after establishing the performance efficacy of the enhanced range Pinaka, transferred the technology of the system to the industry. The Industry Partner has manufactured enhanced Pinaka Mk-1 rockets with DRDO’s handholding during the production and Quality Assurance. In continuation of the Transfer of Technology absorption, rockets developed by the industry have undergone the performance evaluation and quality certification process. The hand holding during the production, quality assurance and launch coordination for bulk production is being provided by the DRDO design team and QA agencies nominated for the system.

The DRDO, along with the Army, conducted series of performance evaluation trials of these industry produced rockets at Field Firing Ranges during the last three days. In these trials, enhanced range Pinaka rockets were test fired at different ranges with various warhead capabilities. All the trial objectives were met satisfactorily. A number of 24 rockets were fired for different ranges and warhead capabilities to meet the objectives of accuracy and consistency. With this, the initial phase of technology absorption of Pinaka-ER by the Industry Partner has successfully been completed making the Industry Partner ready for series production of the rocket system.

The Pinaka-ER is the upgraded version of earlier Pinaka version which has been in service with the Indian Army for the last decade. The system has been designed in the light of emerging requirements with advanced technologies enhancing the range.

The Area Denial Munition (ADM) variants of munition designed by the ARDE, Pune for Pinaka and manufactured by the industry partners under technology transfer were successfully carried out at Pokhran Field Firing Ranges. These trials are part of performance evaluation under technology absorption.

The indigenously-developed proximity fuzes for Pinaka rockets have also been tested. The ARDE, Pune has developed different fuzes for Pinaka rocket for different types of applications. After design validation trials, dynamic performance evaluation of these fuzes have been evaluated with flight testing. Consistency in performance of fuzes has been established in consecutive flight trials.

These has been developed through dedicated indigenous R&D efforts for the first time in the country. These indigenously developed fuzes will replace the imported fuzes and save foreign exchange. The ARDE has also designed miniaturised fuzes for ADMs. Performance of dual-purpose Direct-Action Self Destruction (DASD) & Anti-Tank Munition (ATM) fuzes were evaluated during the current flight trials and the results were satisfactory. All the mission objectives were successfully in all the above trials.

ABB/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 19, 1943
Friday, December 10, 2021

Ministry of Defence signs MoU with IITE, Gandhinagar for training of 800 Sainik School teachers

Ministry of Defence (MoD) has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Indian Institute of Teacher Education (IITE) Gandhinagar to facilitate training to teachers of Sainik Schools. The MoU was signed in New Delhi on December 10, 2021 by Joint Secretary (Land & Works) and Honorary Secretary, Sainik Schools Society (SSS), Shri Rakesh Mittal on behalf of MoD and Registrar of IITE Dr Himanshu Patel in the presence Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and IITE Vice Chancellor Dr Harshad A Patel.

Terming the MoU as a significant step towards capacity building of teachers of Sainik Schools in terms of imparting quality education to students with Indian ethos, the Defence Secretary said it would help to enhance the brand of not only existing Sainik Schools but also 100 upcoming Schools.

The MoU is for the period of five years commencing with effect from January 2022 under which 800 plus teachers of all Sainik Schools will be trained through courses named ‘Gurudiksha’ & ‘Pratibaddhta’.

The main objective of this MoU is to nurture the teachers of tomorrow with the transformative knowledge of Indian traditions and usher in a new era of teacher education focusing upon the integral development of teachers. Some other salient features of the MoU are as follows:

- (a) Implementation of New Education Policy in schools.
- (b) Development of Leadership qualities among students.
- (c) Time management of UPSC-NDA preparation and CBSE curriculum.
- (d) Selection of appropriate pedagogies for academic subjects.
- (e) Inspiring and motivating teachers and students.
- (f) Lesson plan assessment strategies.

- (g) Dealing with individual differences, emotional & behavioural problems of students as a Mentor.
- (h) Dealing with parents as a mentor.
- (i) Enhancing Teacher-Pupil relationship in boarding school environment.

Additional Secretary Smt Nivedita Shukla Verma and other senior civil and military officials of MoD were present on the occasion.

ABB/DK/RP

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 18, 1943
Thursday, December 09, 2021

**IMO Award for exceptional bravery at sea to Indian Navy, ICG and Master along
with crew of tugboat Ocean Bliss**

In order to internationally recognise extraordinary seamanship skills and outstanding courage displayed by individuals at sea, International Maritime Organization (IMO) award for exceptional bravery at sea is conferred annually to individuals or groups who, at the risk to their own lives, perform acts of exceptional bravery in attempting to save life at sea or in attempting to prevent or mitigate damage to the marine environment.

This year, IMO council awarded Certificate of Commendation to Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and Master along with crew members of tugboat Ocean Bliss for exceptional and courageous efforts towards rescue operation of M/T New Diamond, which caught fire and was drifting towards the coast, laden with inflammable cargo. The rescue team members of the Indian Navy, Indian Coast Guard and the master and crew of tugboat Ocean Bliss, carried out sustained and effective fire- fighting operations and skilfully towed the vessel away from the coast, thereby preventing loss of life at sea and averted a serious marine pollution incident.

ABB/DK/RP

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 17, 1943
Wednesday, December 08, 2021

**India@75 BRO motorcycle expedition completes 5th leg, leaves for Gandhinagar via
Statue of Unity**

Key Highlights:

- **India@75 BRO motorcycle expedition is commemorating ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’ by travelling to all four corners of the country**
- **Expedition is spreading the message of national integration, Nation building and road safety**
- **It has covered almost 14,300 kilometres in 55 days till 5th leg, starting from New Delhi on October 14, 2021**
- **Sixth leg will go through West Coast and will touch Statue of Unity before reaching Gandhinagar on December 16, 2021**

India@75 BRO motorcycle expedition has successful completed the 5th leg covering 3,500 kilometres in less than 10 days and reached Thiruvananthapuram on December 07, 2021. The expedition team traversed through Kolkata, Utkal plains of Odisha and Coromandel Coastal areas of Andhra Pradesh and Tamil Nadu in the 5th leg. Major destinations touched were Bhubaneshwar, Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada, Chennai, Madurai, Rameswaram, Tuticorin, Kanyakumari and finally the leg culminated at Thiruvananthapuram.

The expedition was flagged-off from New Delhi by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on October 14, 2021. It aimed to cover the perimeter of the country covering 20,000 kilometres in 75 Days by riding motorcycles by 75 of its *karmyogis* in its seven legs. Since its flag-off, it has traversed more than 14,300 kilometres in 55 days. The team in its first leg traversed touching high-altitude areas at 15,000 feet and snow-bound areas in Himachal Pradesh, Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir, culminating at Srinagar. In the second leg, the team travelled through the plains of Punjab, hills of Uttarakhand and the Gangetic plains of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar & West Bengal and completed the leg at Siliguri. In the leg three, it touched important Northeast Cities

and Landmarks of Nathu La, Gangtok, Kalimpong, Hashimara, Guwahati, Tezpur, Itanagar, Pasighat and finally reached Doom Dooma. The leg four of saw the team passing through almost all North-Eastern States touching Jorhat, Dimapur, Imphal, Silchar, Aizawl, Shillong, Alipurduar, Malda and culminated in Kolkata.

The Leg 5 by far was the longest stretch in terms of distance that the team covered in a single leg, as they traversed 3,500 kilometres along the Eastern coastal states, covering approximately 500 kilometres each day without a break. The team exploited every single opportunity they got during the hectic leg to establish a connect with the masses by conducting various public outreach programmes and Road Safety Quizzes at Bhubaneshwar, Gopalpur, Vishakhapatnam, Vijayawada and at the longest and busiest beach of the country, Marina beach, Chennai, and Vivekananda Rock Memorial at Kanyakumari by stimulating and spreading message of road safety awareness among masses.

The team at Vishakhapatnam, Tiruchirappalli, and Kanyakumari connected with young and inquisitive school children & college students sharing their experiences with them and motivated them to contribute to National building. The team also visited the Prestigious Officers Training Academy, Chennai and were thrilled to witness the Academy War Memorial and Museum. The team visited ancient temples at Tiruchirappalli, Thiruparankundram temple & Meenakshi Sundar Eshwar in Madurai and Rameswaram temple and Late Dr APJ Abdul Kalam ancestral house and memorial by paying obeisance and they also interacted with locals.

The journey has created unforgettable memories, lifelong bonds among the team members, generated keen interest among the masses and most importantly stimulated road safety awareness among the citizens. The expedition will now move to Gandhinagar, its next destination on Dec 16, 2021. The team will be flagged-in in New Delhi on December 27, 2021 by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt coinciding with Annual Chief Engineers' and Equipment Management Conference of BRO.

ABB/DK/RP/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 17, 1943
Wednesday, December 08, 2021

Air version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile successfully test-fired from Sukhoi 30 MK-I off Odisha coast

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh lauds DRDO, BrahMos, Indian Air Force & Industry on successful test firing

Air version of BrahMos supersonic cruise missile was successfully test fired from the supersonic fighter aircraft Sukhoi 30 MK-I at 1030 hrs from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha on December 08, 2021. In this copy book flight, the missile launched from the aircraft followed the pre-planned trajectory meeting all mission objectives.

The launch is a major milestone in the BrahMos development. It clears the system for the serial production of air-version BrahMos missiles within the country. Major airframe assemblies which form the integral part of the Ramjet Engine are indigenously developed by Indian Industry. “These include metallic and non-metallic air frame sections comprising Ramjet fuel tank and pneumatic fuel supply system” During the test, the structural integrity and functional performance have been proven. The air version of BrahMos was last flight tested in July 2021.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has praised Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), BrahMos, Indian Air Force and the industry on the successful test firing. Congratulating the teams involved in the flight test, Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy said various laboratories of DRDO, academic institutions, quality assurance & certification agencies, Public Sector undertakings and Indian Air Force participated in the development, testing, production and induction of this complex missile system.

BrahMos is a Joint Venture between India (DRDO) and Russia (NPOM) for the development, production and marketing of the supersonic cruise missile. BrahMos is the potent offensive missile weapon system already inducted into the Armed Forces.

ABB/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 16, 1943
Tuesday, December 07, 2021

Successful Flight Test of Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile

Vertical Launch Short Range Surface to Air Missile was successfully flight tested today by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha. The launch was conducted from a vertical launcher against an electronic target at a very low altitude. The flight path of the vehicle along with health parameters were monitored using a number of tracking instruments deployed by ITR, Chandipur. All sub-systems performed as per expectation.

Today's launch of the system was conducted to validate integrated operation of all weapon system components including the vertical launcher unit with controller, canisterised flight vehicle, weapon control system etc. required for future launches of the missile from Indian Naval Ships. The test launch was monitored by senior officials from DRDO & Indian Navy. The first trial was conducted on 22 February 2021 and this is confirmatory trial to prove the consistent performance of the configuration and integrated operation.

Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, Indian Navy and industry for the successful flight test and stated that this system will further enhance defence capability of Indian Naval Ships against aerial threats.

Secretary Department of Defence Research & Development & Chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy has complemented the teams involved in the successful flight test and said that this has paved the way for integration of weapon system onboard Indian Naval Ships.

ABB/ADA

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 15, 1943
Monday, December 06, 2021

Media registration for Defence Expo 2022 commences from December 07, 2021

The next edition of Defence Expo will be held at Gandhinagar from 10 to 13 March 2022. The premier event of Ministry of Defence is expected to be attended by senior government officials and will also see large number of national and international industrial participation.

Media registration for the event will commence from 07 December 2021. The registration process will be online and can be accessed through <https://defexpo.gov.in/> > Register > Media Registration. The last date for registration will be 09 January 2022.

The nodal officer for Media registration is Wing Commander Nandi, PRO Palam. For any assistance the official can be contacted on +911125683675 and e-mail mediaregn.dpr-mod@gov.in

ABB/Nampi/ADA

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraahayana 15, 1943
Monday, December 06, 2021

**Cleaning of seashore and awareness drive in full swing under ‘Puneet Sagar’
Abhiyan by NCC cadets**

National Cadet Corps (NCC) is carrying out a nationwide campaign to free seashores/beaches from plastic & other waste materials and increase awareness about importance of keeping these clean. The aim of the month-long ‘Puneet Sagar’ Campaign is to propagate the message of ‘Importance of Clean Seashores/Beaches’ amongst the local population and future generation beginning December 01, 2021.

During the first week of the Abhiyan from December 01, the NCC cadets participated with enthusiasm and vigour to clean the plastic waste along the seashores in coastal areas. The cadets made efforts with the help of *nukkad nataks*, poetry recitation, etc to generate awareness and educate the target population about measures for conservation and impact of plastic pollution along the sea beaches. Cadets also made a deliberate effort to sensitise and mobilise support of local populace in preventing of pollution of sea beaches through one-on-one contact.

During this week almost 30,000 cadets from eight coastal NCC directorates participated in the Abhiyan. The cadets of Eastern Coastal regions braved the rough weather conditions arising due to ‘Cyclone Jawad’ to fulfil their moral duty towards the Nation and the environment. The cadets cleaned the beaches and gathered almost 900 kilogrammes of plastic waste in the process and reached out to almost two lakh citizens planting seeds of cleanliness and awareness about evils of plastic waste in their hearts and minds. Details of participation are given as Appx A.

The cadets will continue to put in maximum effort in the cleanliness of beaches and raising of awareness amongst the citizens till the end of the year and ensure a cleaner and greener tomorrow.

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In addition to sweating out on the ground at the beaches the cadets also made an effort to ignite the spark of cleanliness in the local populace through public

interaction, pamphlet distribution, pledge/oath taking/signature campaigns and cultural programmes/*nukkad nataks*/rallies.

The campaign was extensively covered in the social media through Whatsapp and twitter messages with the hashtag #puneetsagar. Being the first week of the movement, the activities have started picking up momentum and more number of institutes and populace has started joining NCC cadets to be part of this Abhiyan.

Appx A

S No.	NCC State Dte	Cadets Participated	Plastic waste collected (Kg)	Alumni/ Public figure involved	No of Locations	Population Impacted
1	Andhra Pradesh and Telangana	1123	140		3	12,0
2	Gujarat	5455	126		2	52,0
3	Karnataka and Goa	2580	194		2	3,6
4	Kerala and Lakshadweep	4320	150	Asst Director, Trivandrum District Tourism	2	4,5
5	Maharashtra	8255	113		2	81,0
6	Odisha	1025	110		2	10,4
7	Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Andaman & Nicobar	3225	100		2	5,0
8	West Bengal and Sikkim	2125	130		4	25,0
	Total	28108	1063		19	1,93,5

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 13, 1943
Saturday, December 04, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh attends MSME Conclave organised by Ministry of Defence & SIDM

Exhorts MSMEs to invest more in R&D and develop new technologies for the country’s security & progress

Key Highlights of RM’s speech:

- **We can create a world-renowned industrial base in India which caters to the domestic as well as global defence needs**
- **MSMEs support large entities by manufacturing quality products at component level & at the same time generate employment**
- **They can play a big role in empowering the youth & fulfilling their dreams**
- **India will soon become state-of-the-art technology provider not only for the Indian Armed Forces but for the world as well**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has called upon Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) to invest more in research & development and manufacture new products & technologies and thereby contribute to the security and progress of the country. He was delivering the inaugural address at the MSME Conclave, organised by Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence in partnership with Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) in hybrid mode, in New Delhi on December 04, 2021. Shri Rajnath Singh urged MSMEs and SIDM to create an industrial base in India, on the lines of 'Mittelstand' (Mittel-Stunt) of Germany, which has been recognised by the whole world for manufacturing metal equipment.

Shri Rajnath Singh stated that the Government is according top priority to self-reliance in defence, in view of the ever-changing security scenario, adding that there is a need to move forward to unleash the full potential of MSMEs in the sector. He exuded confidence that Indian manufacturers and their associated MSMEs will play a major role in catering to the defence needs of the country and also meet the global requirement.

On the important role being played by MSMEs to realise Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi’s vision of ‘Aatmanirbhar Bharat’, the Raksha Mantri said, major industries play a big role in national security and economic development by manufacturing tanks, submarines, aircraft & helicopters, however, hidden behind these big platforms are small industries. In this era of outsourcing, huge platforms are assembled by thousands of components provided by these hidden MSMEs, he stated. Shri Rajnath Singh added that the MSMEs are not only supporting large entities by manufacturing quality products at sub-systems & component level, but are also generating direct and indirect employment for the people. Saying that large industries & MSMEs complement each other and

together can bolster the security & economy of the country, he extended the full support of the Government in achieving this objective.

Shri Rajnath Singh described MSMEs as the backbone of the industry which is equally responsible for not only economic activities but also social development. “Today, there is a sizeable number of MSMEs in our country, which contribute 29 per cent to our GDP through their national and international trade. After the agriculture sector, it is the biggest source of providing employment to about 100 million people. MSMEs also work to involve innovators and mediators in large enterprises. They help to fulfill the objectives of large industrial entities by becoming an important part of the value chain and supply chain,” he added.

The Raksha Mantri pointed out that, as compared to large entities, the concentration of wealth by MSMEs is less and its distribution is dispersed, which helps in reducing economic inequality. MSMEs can definitely play a big role in empowering the youth of the country financially and fulfilling their dreams, he said.

“We brought policies related to banking and capital market so that our MSMEs can get maximum capital easily and at cheap rates. We came out with the policy of value chain integration and establishment of common facilities, industrial parks and two defence industrial corridors to reduce the fixed cost of MSMEs,” Shri Rajnath Singh said while voicing the Government’s commitment to tap the full potential of MSMEs. He listed out some of the initiatives which aim to promote indigenous design, development and manufacturing of defence and aerospace equipment in the country under 'Make in India' by harnessing the capabilities of public and private sector especially MSMEs. “We have an estimated Rs 85,000 crore industry of aerospace and defence. The contribution of the private sector in this has increased to Rs 18,000 crore. Our vision to make India a global defence manufacturing hub,” he said.

The steps taken to encourage MSMEs include issuance of Request for Proposal (RFP) to MSMEs without any financial condition in cases of procurement where the estimated cost does not exceed Rs 100 crore/year or the total value is less than Rs 150 crore, whichever is higher; earmarking of projects under Make categories, procurement of which does not exceed Rs 100 crore/year based on the delivery schedule at the time of Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) demand and revised Offset Policy 2020 where the Indian offset partner is an MSME.

Shri Rajnath Singh added that projects under Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and Technology development Fund (TDF) scheme are mainly reserved for startups and MSMEs. “These schemes extend financial assistance for development of defence technology and hand-holding by user services, thus providing necessary impetus to MSMEs, startups and individual innovators. They are being funded with financial grants to provide innovative solutions to the problem statements prepared by the Services and new technologies like Artificial Intelligence, Data Analytics and Robotics can be used,” he said.

The Raksha Mantri also mentioned about Ministry of Defence’s approval of a central sector scheme for iDEX with a budgetary support of about Rs 500 crore for the next five years from 2021-22 to 2025-26. The scheme will provide financial assistance to around 300 start-ups/MSMEs/individual innovators and about 20 partner incubators through Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO). He further said that the Ministry has earmarked Rs 1,000 crore for procurement from iDEX start-ups during 2021-22 to promote the development of new defence technologies and support the growing start-ups base in the country. He appreciated the fact at present more than 30 projects are in progress under TDF and over Rs 150 crore outlay has been utilised.

Shri Rajnath Singh spoke about the 'Dare to Dream' innovation contest of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) which is a tribute to former President of India and eminent scientist Dr APJ Abdul Kalam. The contest enlists startups under the TDF scheme and provides them with financial and hand-holding support to develop cutting edge technologies & military products. He expressed confidence that the Indian industry will soon become a state-of-the-art technology provider not only for the Indian Armed Forces, but for the global market as well.

Reiterating the Government's focus on encouraging exports, Shri Rajnath Singh hoped that India will soon become a net exporter from a net importer. "The government aims to achieve the export target of Rs 35,000 crore by 2024-25. Presently, India is exporting defence equipment to around 70 countries. According to Stockholm International Peace Research Institute 2020 report, India is in the list of top 25 countries in defence exports," he said.

Shedding light on other steps like Srijan Portal, notification of positive indigenisation lists of 209 items and 'Strategic Partnership Model', the Raksha Mantri reiterated the Government's resolve of 'Make in India and Make for the World'. He stated that all these measures have resulted in an increase in the number of contracts being awarded to the indigenous defence industry. "From prioritising procurement of Indian/IDMM (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured) categories to supporting R&D, we are striving to harness technology through active collaboration with the industry, academia and technology providers, equipment manufacturers, quality controllers and users," he said, commending the Armed Forces for their continued support to the Government's efforts to achieve the objective of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

Shri Rajnath Singh added that due to the reforms undertaken by the Government, the country's defence exports crossed Rs 38,000 crore mark in the last seven years; 12,000 MSMEs joined the defence sector and there has been an increase in R&D, startups, innovation & employment opportunities. SIDM has now more than 500 members due to these policies, he said.

The Raksha Mantri lauded the SIDM for actively working with the Government to promote private sector participation in defence manufacturing, saying that it is playing an important role by informing the industries about the initiatives of the Government, apprising the Ministry of their views and providing valuable suggestions in new policies being made. He said, the growth and ever-expanding reach of SIDM reflect the growth of the Indian defence industry. He hoped that this Conclave would provide them with newer growth opportunities.

In his opening remarks, SIDM President Shri Jayant Patil affirmed SIDM's commitment towards supporting the MSMEs and facilitating their growth. He looked forward to continue working proactively with Ministry of Defence to identify new opportunities for the MSMEs and integrating more with the sector.

The key objectives of the MSME Conclave are to unlock the potential of the non-defence sector MSMEs located in Tier II and Tier III cities across India by providing them with relevant information about the 'Make in India' programme in defence; to give a new impetus to the development of defence production in the country both for its domestic needs and also for exporting to friendly countries; to provide know-how to Indian MSMEs active in non-defence sectors for their entry into the defence sector; to familiarise them on various funding mechanisms established specifically for facilitating capable entrepreneurs low on capital or for capital intensive projects and to inform about the prospective market and business opportunities in Indian defence sector.

Currently in India, several thousand MSMEs are working in different sectors and are generally connected as Tiered Partners with various government establishments and large private sector OEMs. One of the key objectives of the 'Make in India' initiative is to bring MSMEs into the defence supply chain, thereby boosting self-reliance in defence and contributing in the defence exports market.

Senior officials of Ministry of Defence & SIDM and Industry representatives were present during the Conclave.

ABB/Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraphayana 13, 1943
Saturday, December 04, 2021

NCC launches ‘Azadi ki Vijay Shrankhla’ and ‘Sanskritiyon ka Maha Sangam’ to honour bravehearts of 1971 War

National Cadet Corps (NCC) is conducting ‘Azadi ki Vijay Shrankhla aur Sanskritiyon ka Mahasangam’ event as part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav. Part I of the event *i.e.*, ‘Azadi ki Vijay Shrankhla’ is being conducted from November 28 to December 10, 2021 wherein bravehearts of 1971 War are being honoured at 75 locations throughout the country. Out of these 75 locations, five have been earmarked for live webcast on Gallantry Awards portal (<https://www.gallantryawards.gov.in/>).

Part II of the event *i.e.*, ‘Sanskritiyon ka Maha Sangam’, a special national integration camp will be conducted in Delhi wherein candidates from all over the country will participate in cultural exchange. The finale of the event will be conducted at the NCC Camp Auditorium in the national capital where the cadets of border and coastal areas will showcase the beautiful local dances of their respective states and integration song which will be sung in 22 languages.

The objectives of this mega event are to felicitate the family members of the bravehearts of 1971 War at 75 locations and showcase the same to entire Nation. The event will also showcase cultural diversity of India, especially from border and coastal areas where NCC has been introduced recently to strengthening ‘Unity in Diversity’.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agraphayana 12, 1943
Friday, December 03, 2021

NCC conducting nationwide campaign to free seashores/beaches from plastic & other waste under ‘Puneet Sagar Abhiyan’

National Cadet Corps (NCC) is carrying out a nationwide campaign to free seashores/beaches from plastic & other waste materials and increase awareness about importance of keeping these clean. The aim of the month-long Campaign is to propagate the message of ‘Importance of Clean Seashores/Beaches’ amongst the local population and future generation beginning December 01, 2021.

The Key objectives of the campaign are to clean the plastic waste along the seashores in coastal areas, to generate awareness and educate target population about the measures for conservation and impact of plastic pollution along the sea beaches and to sensitise and mobilise support of local population towards prevention of pollution.

A total of 3.40 lakh cadets from 127 coastal Area NCC Units will participate in the month-long activity. The NCC units at Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Mumbai, IIT Chennai, National Institute of Technology (NIT) Kozhikode and NIT Puducherry will also be incorporated for suggesting clean technologies for recycle/disposal of the plastic waste to the civil administration through the respective State directorates.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 11, 1943
Thursday, December 02, 2021

Rescue Operation by Indian Coast Guard At Sea

A major fire in the engine room of MV Kavaratti with 624 passengers and 85 crew onboard was reported to Coast Guard Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, Mumbai by Lakshadweep Development Corporation Ltd. Ship was on passage to Androth from Kavaratti.

The fire was brought under control by the alert crew of the ship and Indian Coast Guard Ship Samarth deployed in area was promptly diverted to render assistance. MV Kavaratti was boarded by a specialist team of Coast Guard Ship Samarth 30 nautical Miles off Kavaratti Island. The vessel was found to be non-operational since the engines couldn't be used for further propulsion. Moreover, due to generator failure onboard, owing to the fire, the Shell door couldn't be operated for safe and expeditious evacuation of all passengers and hence Coast Guard Ship decided to tow the vessel to Androth for positioning all the crew and passengers at safe location. MV Kavaratti was taken under tow by ICGS Samarth in dark hours. The ship was brought to Androth in the morning on 02 December 2021 by Indian Coast Guard Ship Samarth. All passengers were disembarked at Androth. All passengers and crew are reported to be safe.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 11, 1943
Thursday, December 02, 2021

**Andaman & Nicobar Islands Fisherman and Forest Department awarded for saving precious lives
at sea**

Key highlight:

- **More than 10,000 lives have been saved from sea**

Indian Coast Guard is the nodal agency for Maritime Search and Rescue operations. It has dedicated Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres (MRCCs) and Maritime Rescue Sub Centres (MRSCs), which are operating 24x7 to respond to distress messages received to coordinate Search and Rescue (SAR) missions. Till date, 10,262 precious lives in distress at sea have been saved by the Indian Coast Guard.

Indian Coast Guard conducts the National Maritime Search and Rescue (NMSAR) Board meeting, every year, to discuss policy issues, formulate guidelines & procedures, assess the efficacy of National Search and Rescue Plan and also recognise contributions towards SAR by merchant mariners, government owned vessels, maritime fraternity and fishermen.

This year the 19th NMSAR Board meeting was held on 25 November 2021 wherein, representatives from the Union Territory of Andaman & Nicobar, were conferred with Annual SAR (Search and Rescue) awards, at New Delhi, for exemplary contributions towards saving precious lives at sea. The awardees included Shri V Raja Rao, a fisherman from Campbell Bay, who was awarded the ‘SAR Award for Fisherman’, for the year 2021, for saving three precious lives from a sinking fishing boat Manikanna, on 24 June 2021 and the Forest Department of A&N, was felicitated with the ‘SAR Award for Ashore Unit’, for rescuing three precious lives of fishing boat Kokila and drifting off Swaraj Dweep, due to engine failure. These awards recognise the voluntary efforts for saving precious lives at sea and the two awards for personnel from the Union Territory of A&N, validate the collaborative structure of SAR in the islands.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Agrahayana 11, 1943
Thursday, December 02, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh felicitates prominent contributors to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund for FY 2020-21 during CSR Conclave

Appeals for generous donations for welfare of Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris & their dependants

Key Highlights of RM's speech:

- **Our Armed Forces have always defended India's integrity & sovereignty during wars and by countering cross-border terror activities**
- **It is our moral obligation to support the veterans, Veer Naris & their families**
- **Just as the responsibility of our security rests on our soldiers, their and their families' responsibility rests on us**
- **Private sector should take advantage of Government's policies and play a part in the country's progress**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh felicitated the prominent contributors to the Armed Forces Flag Day Fund (AFFDF) for Financial Year (FY) 2020-21 during the third edition of Armed Forces Flag Day Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Conclave in New Delhi on December 02, 2021. Chairman, State Bank of India Shri Dinesh Khara and Executive Director Sun TV Group Smt Kavary Kalanithi were among the prominent contributors who were felicitated on the occasion.

In his address, Shri Rajnath Singh expressed gratitude to all those who made valuable contributions in the AFFDF and appealed for more generous donations for the rehabilitation and welfare of Ex-Servicemen, Veer Naris & their dependants. He commended the valour & sacrifice of the Armed Forces for defending the integrity and sovereignty of the country during wars as well as countering terrorist activities from across the border. He paid rich tributes to the brave soldiers who laid down their lives in the service of the Nation.

The Raksha Mantri also appreciated the Ex-Servicemen for voluntarily helping the civil administration in contact tracing, community surveillance, management of quarantine facilities at different places during the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. Saying that the Government is providing all possible support to the Armed Forces personnel, including the ex-servicemen, he termed their welfare as a collective responsibility and moral obligation of the people to come forward and support the soldiers & their families.

“Just as the responsibility of our security rests on our soldiers, the same way their and their families' responsibility rests on all of us. 'Gaurav Maah', which is celebrated across the country through our Sainik Boards, is a way of discharging this social responsibility. To fulfill our responsibility towards the security of the Nation, we should come forward with a big and open mind. We have to work for

the welfare of our country and our soldiers by rising above personal or institutional fame,” said Shri Rajnath Singh.

The Raksha Mantri recalled the contributions made by the general public for the Armed Forces before and after Independence and said that this feeling has always been part of Indian tradition. He mentioned about ‘Bharat ke Veer’ which was initiated when he was Minister of Home Affairs, for the welfare of the officers and jawans of the Central Armed Police Forces.

Shri Rajnath Singh also exhorted the representatives of the Industry and the Public Sector Undertakings to take advantage of the policies rolled out by the Government to promote private sector participation in the defence sector and play a part in the progress of the Nation. “We recognised the power of the private sector and their role in the progress of the country. Since 2014, we have made every effort to bolster the private sector. The defence sector is now fully ready to welcome you. Your progress will ensure the progress of this Nation and in the long run it will become the medium of empowerment of our Armed Forces. It will be a win-win situation for all,” he stated.

Speaking on the occasion, Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt appreciated the voluntary contributions to the AFFDF. He urged the contributors to continue to remain a partner in the Government’s vision of the welfare of the serving as well as retired Armed Forces personnel. He lauded the discipline, dedication & capabilities of the Armed Forces for protecting the borders and playing an equally important role during natural and man-made disasters.

Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare) Shri B Anand elaborated on the 17 schemes sponsored by AFFDF, including Penury Grant, Education Grant and Marriage Grant, which support the Ex-Servicemen, war widows and their dependants. He said, a total of Rs 210 crore is required to fund these 17 schemes annually, however, AFFDF is able to garner only around Rs 95 crore each year, including internal accruals and collections. He called for generous contributions to the fund in order to cater to the needs of the beneficiaries.

In FY 2020-21, contributions of Rs 32.86 crore were received, as compared to Rs 47.73 crore in FY 2019-20. In FY 2020-21, approx. Rs 133 crore were disbursed to over 38,000 individual beneficiaries. Institutional grants were also provided to Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centres at Kirkee and Mohali, Cheshire Homes at Dehradun, Lucknow & Delhi and 36 War Memorial hostels across the country.

The Armed Forces Flag Day CSR Conclave aims at highlighting the measures by Department of Ex-servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence towards Rehabilitation, Resettlement and Welfare of the Ex-servicemen, Widows and their dependents and to mobilize the CSR support towards these efforts.

Corporate contributions to Armed Forces Flag Day Fund are eligible for fulfilling the CSR obligation under section 135 of Companies Act, 2013 as it adheres to ‘Measures for the benefit of Armed Forces Veterans, War Widows and their dependents’ (Clause VI of Schedule VII of the Companies Act, 2013) and is registered with the Office of the Registrar of the Companies, Ministry of Corporate Affairs for undertaking CSR Activities (Registration No CSR00011199). The contributions to the fund are exempt from Income Tax.

Secretary, Kendriya Sainik Board Air Commodore B Ahluwalia, other senior civil & military officials of Ministry of Defence and representatives of corporate & private sector were present during the Conclave.

ABB/DK/Savvy

