

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

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 09, 1942**  
**Saturday, July 31, 2021**

**Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame received by Andaman and  
Nicobar Command**

*Key Highlights:*

- **Victory Flame to travel 3,000 kms on mainland & 700 nm onboard INS Sumedha before reaching Port Blair**
- **To be taken to various towns across Andaman & Nicobar Islands**
- **Many events being organised including interaction with war veterans/ex-servicemen**

The Victory Flame of Swarnim Vijay Varsh, commemorating the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of India's victory in 1971 war, was received by Commanding Officer, 231 Transit Camp, Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) Col Gyan Pandey on behalf of ANC in Chennai on July 31, 2021.

The Victory Flame, after covering 3,000 kms on mainland, is scheduled to travel 700 nm (1300 kms) in the sea onboard Indian Naval Ship Sumedha and reach Port Blair on August 03, 2021. On reaching Port Blair, the Flame will be received by the Lieutenant Governor, A&N Islands, Admiral (Retd) DK Joshi who would then hand it over to Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Ajai Singh for conduct of commemorative activities under the aegis of ANC.

The Victory Flame would be taken to the towns of Port Blair, Mayabunder, Baratang, Diglipur, Hutbay, Car Nicobar and Campbell Bay, wherein it would be hosted by local defence establishments and would be on display for visitors and war veterans. Various events such as interaction with War veterans/Ex-serviceman/War widows, showcasing of the flame through the important streets, culture/entertainment programs, cycle expeditions are planned at various stations.

The flame will also be taken to Landfall Islands, the Northern most deployment of ANC; Barren Island, India's only active volcano and Indira Point - the southernmost point of the country. The aim of the journey is to spread the message of India's victory and sacrifices of our war heroes to the remotest areas and shores of the country.

In December 1971, the Indian Armed Forces had secured victory over the Pakistan Army, and a new nation 'Bangladesh' was created. The victory resulted into the largest military surrender post World War-II wherein approximately 93,000 soldiers of the Pakistan Army surrendered to the Indian Army.

The 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' celebrations began with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi lighting the Victory Flame on December 16, 2020. The Victory Flame was lit from the eternal flame of the National War Memorial, signifying the bravery of the soldiers of the war. Since then, the Victory Flame is travelling across the length and breadth of India and a large number of commemorative events are being conducted during its journey.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 09, 1942**  
**Saturday, July 31, 2021**

**BRO restores connectivity at Yarlung-Lamang road in rain-hit Arunachal Pradesh**

*Key Highlights:*

- **BRO carries out round-the-clock restoration work braving adverse weather**
- **Line of communication & light vehicle connectivity restored**
- **BRO assets continue to be deployed to ensure full connectivity**
- **The road breached at multiple locations due to cloud burst**

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has restored connectivity at Yarlung-Lamang road in Shi Yomi district of Arunachal Pradesh. On July 26-27, 2021, the road was breached at multiple locations due to incessant rain and cloud burst.

Project Brahmanak of BRO had mobilised its Engineer Task Force and Quick Response Team comprising skilled manpower and equipment like JCB, Dozers and Excavators. Braving tough weather conditions, fifty BRO personnel continued round-the-clock restoration work day with heavy equipment.

On July 27, 2021, the line of communication was restored for pedestrians and transshipment facility was provided to the Armed Forces personnel so that essential services like ration and medical facility reach the troops deployed at forward areas. The light vehicle connectivity was restored on July 28, 2021. The BRO continues to deploy its resources to ensure full connectivity by August 03, 2021.

The road under Project Brahmanak of BRO was inaugurated on June 17, 2021. The strategically important road is crucial for the Armed Forces personnel posted in forward areas as well as the villages.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 09, 1942**  
**Saturday, July 31, 2021**

**Rescue & relief operations by BRO in flood-hit Himachal Pradesh**

*Key Highlights:*

- **BRO deploys its personnel and equipment to clear landslides in different places**
- **Restores traffic in Manali - Sarchu road**
- **BRO teams rescue stranded people and move them to safer locations**
- **Two BRO personnel lose their lives in the operations**

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is carrying out rescue & relief operations in Himachal Pradesh that is witnessing flash floods and landslides due to heavy rainfall. In the Lahaul & Spiti Valley, the strategic Manali - Sarchu road was closed for traffic at various places due to multiple landslides. BRO's Project Deepak located at Shimla immediately despatched its trained Engineering Task Force with personnel and equipment to undertake the rescue and road clearing operations.

On July 29, 2021, on one such stretch near Sarchu ahead of Baralachala pass on Manali Leh road, a number of civilians, including women and children, were stranded and facing problems due to lack of oxygen in inclement high-altitude conditions. The BRO team cleared the landslide, amidst a series of other landslides, near Kenlung Sarai located at an altitude of 14,480 ft and rescued the people. However, Naik Reetesh Kumar Pal of Project Deepak, who was part of the rescue efforts, lost his life. The road was, later, opened for traffic.

In another incident on July 27, 2021, a separate Engineer Task Force of BRO was deployed for clearance of Kiler-Tandi road which was blocked due to heavy landslides. Two passenger vehicles were stranded in the area. The team, which had already cleared two landslides enroute, carried out a late night clearance operation to save lives of civilians stranded in the slide zone. During the operation, some members of the

team, six civilians and a civil vehicle were washed away by a sudden flash flood. Junior Engineer Rahul Kumar lost his life in the incident, while others were rescued by the BRO personnel.

The BRO personnel, later, cleared the landslide, rescued the stranded passengers and moved them to safer locations.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 07, 1942**  
**Thursday, July 29, 2021**

**Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame to reach Andaman and Nicobar  
Islands on 03 August**

*Key Highlights:*

- **India commemorates 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of historic victory in 1971 war as ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’**
- **On July 31, 2021 the Victory Flame would be handed over to the Andaman and Nicobar Command at Chennai**
- **The Victory Flame will be in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands between August 03-28, 2021**
- **In December 1971, Armed Forces secured a decisive victory over Pakistan and a new nation Bangladesh was born**

India is commemorating 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the historic victory in 1971 war as ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’. The celebrations commenced with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi lighting the Victory Flame on December 16, 2020. The Victory Flame was lit from the eternal flame of the National War Memorial and signifies the bravery of our heroic soldiers during the war. Since then the Victory Flame is travelling across the length and breadth of India and a large number of commemorative events have been conducted during its journey.

On July 31, 2021 the Victory Flame would be handed over to the Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) at Chennai. The Victory Flame would be received by the Joint-Services team of ANC and on the same day it will travel on an Indian Navy Ship from Chennai to Port Blair. At Port Blair Naval jetty, the Victory flame would be accorded a grand reception and a Joint-Services Guard of Honour.

The Victory Flame will be in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands between August 03-28, 2021. During this period a large number of events have been jointly planned by the Civil Administration and ANC. The events would witness participation from service veterans as well as the local population, particularly youth. The Victory Flame will travel to all the major Islands of Andaman and Nicobar before being handed over to the Eastern Naval Command at Port Blair on August 28, 2021.

In December 1971, the Indian Armed Forces had secured a decisive victory over Pakistan Army, and a new nation Bangladesh was born. The victory also resulted into the largest Military surrender post World War-II wherein approximately 93,000 soldiers of the Pakistan Army surrendered to the Indian Army.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 06, 1942**  
**Wednesday, July 28, 2021**

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addresses SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan;**

**Highlights terrorism as the most serious threat to international peace and security;**

**Says SCO has collective stake to create a safe and secure region**

*Key Highlights of RM's address:*

- **SCO completed 20 years; has collective stakes to create a safe and secure region**
- **India completed 500 projects in Afghanistan; gave aid of USD 3 Bn**
- **Peace and Prosperity cannot coexist with terrorism, which is a crime against humanity.**
- **Non-traditional threats like water security, climate change pose challenges as Covid-19 pandemic**
- **Indian Armed Forces and DRDO played a stellar role to counter Covid-19 challenges**
- **India determined to vaccinate 90 crore adult population and to help other friendly countries with vaccine**
- **6.6 crore doses of vaccines provided to 94 countries and United Nations peacekeepers**
- **‘Vande Bharat’ logistic service helped over 70 lakh stranded people including foreigners move out of distress**
- **India accords high priority to consolidation of trust in security domain within SCO as well as strengthening ties with SCO partners**

Addressing the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) Defence Ministers' meeting in Dushanbe, Tajikistan on July 28, 2021 Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh said, Terrorism is the most serious threat to international peace and security. “Any act of terror and support to such acts, including cross border terrorism, committed by whomsoever,

wherever and for whatever motives, is a crime against humanity,” he added. The Raksha Mantri reaffirmed India’s resolve to fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Shri Rajnath Singh emphasised, “India accords high priority to the consolidation of trust in the security domain within SCO as well as strengthening ties with SCO partners bilaterally on the basis of equality, mutual respect and understanding.” The challenge today is not just one of concepts and norms, but equally of their sincere practice, he added.

Raksha Mantri congratulated Member-States of the SCO on successful completion of 20 years of its existence. He said that though India joined the organisation in 2017, historical and civilisational relations and geographical connects make India inseparable from the SCO.

Stressing on the importance of the regional group, Shri Rajnath Singh said, “The SCO Nations, together, encompass nearly half the human population on our planet. In terms of geography, it covers approximately three fifths of the Eurasian continent. We, therefore, have collective stakes to create a safe, secure and stable region that contributes towards progress and improvement of human development indices of our people and the generations which will follow.” He pointed out that it is in the same spirit India helps people of Afghanistan, which is facing violence and devastation over decades. So far India completed 500 projects in Afghanistan and continuing with some more with total development aid of US dollar 3 billion.

Speaking about geo-strategic location of India that makes it both a Eurasian land power and also a stake-holder in the Indo-Pacific, the Raksha Mantri said, “Our intent and aspirations are therefore focused towards prosperity and development of the entire region. We affirm this intent through our national policy of Security and Growth for All in the Region, commonly known by the acronym SAGAR.” Security and Stability are most essential components to create conducive environment for growth and economic development of the region and of our respective Nations, he added.

Reiterating India’s resolve to work within the SCO framework for helping create and maintain a peaceful, secure and stable region, Shri Rajnath Singh said, “India also reiterate commitments to partner with fellow SCO Member-States to develop joint institutional capacities that respect individual national sensitivities and yet generate a spirit of cooperation to create contact and connectivity between people, societies and nations.”

Referring to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Raksha Mantri said “It has affected nations, civil societies and citizens in multiple ways. This is a warning sign of how non-traditional security challenges like pandemics, climate change, food security, water security and associated societal disruptions can impact national and international landscape.”

Shri Rajnath Singh said the Armed Forces and the Defence Research and Development Organisation played a stellar role in efforts against Covid-19. He said, “...During the global pandemic, India was able to provide support and assistance to countries around the world. This includes 6.6 crore doses of vaccines to 90 countries, support with medicine, medical consumables and equipment to 150 countries. We may mention the massive ‘Vande Bharat’ logistic service to move over 70 lakh stranded people, including foreigners, mostly by air route, but also by our ships in the Indian Ocean.”

Raksha Mantri assured, “India plans to produce well over 250 crore doses of vaccines between August and the end of 2021. We are determined to vaccinate at least 90 crore adult Indians and to help other friendly countries with vaccine.”

The Raksha Mantri called upon Member-Nations to evolve to meet the needs of its time. He said, “No institution, howsoever important, can remain frozen at the moment of its foundation. The inherent strength of SCO lies in the fact that Member-States participate in cooperation programme at their own pace and as per respective national policies. We are glad that SCO has evolved as truly an international organisation of significance.” Event of today is yet another step towards strengthening stability and security in the region. This will serve to further development of multilateral cooperation within the SCO format, he added.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 05, 1942**  
**Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

**Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command visits  
Headquarter Air Force Component in Port Blair**

*Key Highlights:*

- **CINCAN reviews operational preparedness**
- **Emphasises on Tri-Services joint training**
- **Stresses on strengthening Air Defence of Andaman & Nicobar Islands**
- **Awards commendations to some air warriors for extraordinary dedication**

Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lt Gen Ajai Singh visited the Headquarter Air Force Component in Port Blair to review the operational preparedness on July 27, 2021. He was received by Air Force Component Commander Air Commodore S Sridhar. The CINCAN was briefed about the layout of Headquarter Air Force Component and the infrastructure development plan.

The CINCAN interacted with the air warriors and shared his vision on joint use of assets of the three services. He underscored the importance of Tri-services joint training and emphasised on the need to keep abreast with the emerging technologies to have an edge over the adversaries. He stressed that professional knowledge and hard work are the key to success.

Lt Gen Ajai Singh also visited Air Force Station Porthrapur and 153 Squadron known as the ‘Island Sentinels’. During his interaction with the Indian Air Force personnel, he emphasised on strengthening the Air Defence of Andaman and Nicobar Islands which has gained strategic importance due to the changing geo-political situation in the Indian Ocean Region. He also awarded on-the-spot commendations to some air warriors for their extraordinary dedication and devotion to duty.

The CINCAN also visited the newly-built residential area for the Air Force personnel at Vayu Vihar, Brookshabad where he was briefed on the various welfare facilities developed at the residential area. He appreciated the efforts put in by the Air Force Component in effective air surveillance despite various challenges in the remote islands.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 05, 1942**  
**Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

**COVID vaccination dramatically reduces infection, finds AFMS study**

*Key Highlights:*

- **VIN-WIN cohort study published in Medical Journal Armed Forces India**
- **Study shows impact of protection against COVID-19 by COVISHIELD vaccine**
- **93 per cent reduction in fresh infections, deaths reduced by 98 per cent**
- **Study conducted largely on healthy males**

Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) published the Vaccine effectiveness among healthcare and frontline Workers of Indian Armed Forces (VIN-WIN) cohort study in *Medical Journal Armed Forces India*, a peer reviewed scientific journal on July 27, 2021. The study highlights the impact of protection against COVID-19 by COVISHIELD vaccine by analysing the effect on fresh infections and deaths. According to the study, there was a 93 per cent reduction in fresh infections and the deaths were reduced by 98 per cent. It is possibly the largest study worldwide on COVID-19 vaccine effectiveness, so far.

Director General, AFMS Surgeon Vice Admiral Rajat Datta, a renowned cardiologist and co-author of the study said, 1.59 million Health Care Workers and Frontline Workers of the Armed Forces were among the first recipients when India launched its vaccination drive against COVID-19 on January 16, 2021. The study was largely conducted on healthy males with few co-morbid illnesses. It did not include children and the elderly. In the Vin-WIN study, authors calculated incident rate and incident rate ration. Vaccine effectiveness was calculated as one-incident ration. Both crude and corrected rates were estimated and adjusted for the force of pandemic, second wave and the changing numbers in the three groups on the daily basis. The study was achieved at no additional cost by analysing available data.

The DG AFMS stated that the VIN-WIN cohort study was carried out on anonymised data from the existing Armed Forces health surveillance system which had been enhanced for monitoring COVID-19. The surveillance system had data for daily vaccinations with first and second dose, dates of testing positive for COVID-19 and COVID related deaths; which were analysed.

Despite constraints of terrain and location, the Armed Forces had managed to vaccinate over 82 per cent of the target population as early as May 30, 2021. The study was possible due to the cooperation by various components of the AFMS. Armed Forces Medical College, the medical directorates of Army, Navy and Air Force collaborated with DG AFMS to complete the study.

Corresponding author of the study, Consultant Medicine & Clinical Immunologist Air Commodore Shankar Subramanian said the biggest challenge was in dealing with the huge numbers while remaining statistically accurate. As the population moved from unvaccinated to partially vaccinated and then fully vaccinated, the numbers in each group changed on a daily basis. Though the Armed Forces have an exceptional record keeping system, collating and analysing the data was a huge task which involved constant and intense coordination, he added.

This study occurred when the nation was witnessing the second wave of the pandemic. Despite that, the fully vaccinated group which had gone up to 82 per cent of 1.59 million showed seven deaths only. It was gratifying that the combined hard work of so many people yielded a result which gives everyone so much hope, Air Commodore Subramanian stated.

Below is the link of the entire study for further reading:  
<https://authors.elsevier.com/a/1dTe~1LltrRJix>

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 05, 1942**  
**Tuesday, July 27, 2021**

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to attend SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in Tajikistan**

*Key Highlights:*

- **Raksha Mantri leaves on a 3-day visit to Dushanbe today**
- **To address SCO Defence Ministers' meet tomorrow**
- **Member states to discuss defence cooperation issues**
- **RM also expected to meet his Tajik counterpart**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh is visiting Dushanbe, Tajikistan from July 27-29, 2021 to attend the annual meeting of the Defence Ministers of Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) member states. In the annual meeting, defence cooperation issues among SCO member states are discussed and a communique is expected to be issued after the deliberations. Shri Rajnath Singh's address at the meeting is slated for July 28, 2021.

During his visit to Dushanbe, the Raksha Mantri is also expected to meet his Tajik counterpart Col Gen Sherali Mirzo to discuss bilateral issues and other issues of mutual interest.

It may be recalled that Tajikistan is chairing the SCO this year and hosting series of Ministerial and official-level meetings.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 04, 1942**  
**Monday, July 26, 2021**

**Kargil Vijay Diwas celebrated by Andaman & Nicobar Command**

- **CINCAN Lt Gen Ajai Singh lays wreath at Birchgunj Military Station**
- **Calls for jointness among Armed Forces**
- **Veterans of all three services attend the function**

Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) celebrated Kargil Vijay Diwas at Birchgunj Military Station on July 26, 2021 to commemorate India's victory during the 1999 Kargil war. The wreath laying ceremony by a Joint- service guard, comprising all components of ANC, was organised to pay homage to the fallen heroes of the Kargil War, who made the supreme sacrifice, upholding the highest traditions of the Armed Forces. Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Ajai Singh laid a wreath to honour the bravehearts. Veterans of all the three services residing in Andaman and Nicobar Islands were also invited for the function.

The CINCAN also interacted with the troops. He called for jointness among the Armed Forces and preparedness at all times, saying that it provides an exponential advantage in the battle field. All COVID-19 protocol measures were followed by the personnel present at the event.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 04, 1942**  
**Monday, July 26, 2021**

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh pays homage to fallen heroes at  
National War Memorial on Kargil Vijay Diwas**

- **Raksha Mantri lays wreath, pays tribute to the bravehearts at NWM**
- **Grateful nation will always be indebted to their valour**
- **Raksha Rajya Mantri, Chiefs of Army Staff & Air Staff, Defence Secretary & CISC also pay homage**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh paid homage to the fallen heroes on the 22<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas at the National War Memorial in New Delhi on July 26, 2021. The Raksha Mantri laid wreath in the honour of the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation during India’s victory in ‘Operation Vijay’ in 1999, also known as Kargil conflict.

In his message in the visitors’ book at the National War Memorial, Shri Rajnath Singh recalled the valour of the bravehearts of the Kargil conflict, saying that nation will never forget the sacrifice made by the gallant heroes of Indian Armed Forces. He added that the grateful nation will always be indebted to their courage and continue to follow their ideals.

In a tweet, the Raksha Mantri said the supreme sacrifice of the brave soldiers will inspire the generations to come. He also shared a video message on Twitter in which he saluted the valour and sacrifice of the brave Indian soldiers.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Vice Admiral Atul Kumar Jain also paid homage to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial on the occasion. Senior civil and military officials of Ministry of Defence were also present on the occasion.

During the Kargil conflict, the gallant soldiers of the Indian Army, with the help of Indian Air Force, overcame insurmountable odds, hostile terrain and inclement weather to win against the enemy that had occupied dominating heights. On this momentous occasion, the proud nation is celebrating the victory by remembering the fallen heroes through various events across the country.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 03, 1942**  
**Sunday, July 25, 2021**

**Relief & rescue efforts of Indian Coast Guard in floods-hit areas of  
Maharashtra, Goa & Karnataka**

*Key highlights:*

- **ICG deploys its assets in affected areas**
- **215 precious lives saved**
- **ICG teams provide relief material to stranded people**
- **More teams, ships & aircraft on standby**

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has deployed its resources to aid the civil authorities in relief & rescue operations in floods-hit areas of Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka. The ICG despatched Disaster Relief Teams (DRT) with inflatable Gemini boat and life-saving gear to the affected areas. The DRTs reached areas rendered unapproachable due to water inundation especially in Chiplun & Mahad districts of Maharashtra and Umlijoog, Khargejoog, Bodjug Island and Kinnar village in Uttar Kannada district of Karnataka. The teams evacuated the stranded people and provided relief material.

In Goa, ICG aircraft undertook aerial assessment of Ganjem Dam, Usgaon and Codli areas. An ICG helicopter air-dropped approximately 100 kgs of relief material, including food packets and drinking water, for the stranded people.

The services of Coast Guard air station at Ratnagiri are also being extended to Indian Navy and Indian Air Force aircraft for airlifting of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) teams, relief material and facilitating rescue operations across the affected regions.

As on July 25, 2021, the ICG has saved 215 precious lives across these three states. The ICG DRTs, ships and aircraft are on standby for immediate mobilisation, if need be and a close coordination with local administration is being maintained.

Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Air Force are also providing support to the civil administration and National as well as the State Disaster Management Authorities in relief and rescue operations in the flood-affected areas of the three states.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 03, 1942**  
**Sunday, July 25, 2021**

**Flood relief operations by the three Services in Maharashtra,  
Karnataka & Goa**

*Key highlights:*

- **Task Forces of Indian Army conduct rescue & relief operations in three worst-hit districts of Maharashtra**
- **Indian Navy teams evacuate over 200 people in Karnataka**
- **Around 400 NDRF personnel airlifted to affected areas by Indian Air Force**
- **More rescue teams & aircraft on standby**

The three Services have joined hands with the civil administration and National as well as the State Disaster Management Authorities in relief and rescue operations in flood-affected areas of Maharashtra, Karnataka and Goa. Working in close coordination with the administrations of worst-hit Ratnagiri, Kolhapur and Sangli districts of Maharashtra, the Indian Army has deployed Task Forces, comprising Infantry, Engineers, Communication, Recovery and Medical teams in the affected areas. The teams conducted rescue and relief operations and saved precious lives in Chiplun, Shirol, Hatkangle, Palus and Miraj areas.

In Karnataka, the Indian Navy mobilised seven well-equipped flood relief teams along with Naval divers, rubber ‘Gemini’ boats, life jackets and medical equipment for flood relief operations. The teams evacuated 165 people from Singudda and Bhaire villages near Kadra Dam, while 70 people were evacuated from low lying areas of Kaiga.

Naval Seaking, Advanced Light Helicopters & Indian Air Force MI-17 helicopters conducted multiple sorties and rescued people marooned due to sudden and sharp rise in the water levels. They also conducted aerial survey of the affected areas to enable senior officials to assess the situation and plan rescue and relief operations.

Around 400 personnel of National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) were airlifted by Indian Air Force aircraft from Bhubaneswar, Kolkata

and Vadodara to Pune, Kolhapur & Ratnagiri in Maharashtra and Goa along with 40 tons of rescue equipment.

The teams of the three Services are working round the clock to rescue the locals affected by floods, besides providing them with food, water, medical. More rescue teams and aircraft are on standby for deployment.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Asadha 31, 1942**  
**Thursday, July 22, 2021**

**Last blast of Sela Tunnel’s escape tube conducted by DG Border  
Roads through video conferencing**

- **The breakthrough to facilitate faster completion of Sela Tunnel**
- **Sela Tunnel to be world’s longest bi-lane road tunnel at an altitude above 13,000 feet**
- **To provide all weather connectivity to Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh**
- **To play a crucial role in the development of North-east**

The last blast of the escape tube of under-construction Sela Tunnel was conducted by Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry through video conferencing from New Delhi on July 22, 2021. The event was witnessed onsite by various construction players of Team BRO headed by ADGBR (East) Shri PKH Singh, Chief Engineer Project, Vartak Brig Harish Kumar and representatives of 42 Task Force and Patel Engineering Limited. This breakthrough will facilitate faster completion of Sela Tunnel by undertaking simultaneous activities in two tubes *i.e.*, a two-way tube of 1,555 meters and an escape tube of 980 meters, besides 8.8 kms of approach roads.

The DGBR had initiated the first blast of the escape tube during his visit on Army Day in January 2021. This tube has already crossed the 425-meter excavation mark.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had laid the foundation stone of Sela Tunnel on February 09, 2019 to provide all weather connectivity to Tawang, Arunachal Pradesh through the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang Road. The construction of the tunnel started on April 01, 2019 with the first blast taking place on October 31, 2019. The excavation pace of Sela Tunnel has been swift as it has resulted in the breaking down of the escape tube of the 1,555 meters tunnel on July 22, 2021, much ahead of schedule. Despite COVID-19 restrictions and adverse weather conditions, the pace of works has increased in the last 6-10 months.

On completion, Sela Tunnel will be the longest bi-lane road tunnel in the world at an altitude above 13,000 feet. This unique tunnel constructed using the latest New Austrian Tunneling Method (NATM), is much below the snow line allowing all weather travel without the challenges of snow clearance. The Sela Tunnel will prove to be a boon for the people of Tawang as it will reduce travel time and ensure speedier movement across the Sela Pass. It will play a crucial role in the development of not just Arunachal Pradesh, but the entire North-East. In case of natural calamities and adverse weather, it can prove to be a vital link for evacuation of personnel.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Asadha 30, 1942**  
**Wednesday, July 21, 2021**

**DRDO successfully flight-tests indigenously developed MPATGM for  
minimum range**

- **Low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Anti-tank Guided Missile**
- **Miniaturised Infrared Imaging seeker**
- **Major boost to Army and AatmaNirbhar Bharat**
- **Raksha Mantri congratulates DRDO**

In a major boost towards AatmaNirbhar Bharat and strengthening of Indian Army, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested indigenously developed low weight, fire and forget Man Portable Antitank Guided Missile (MPATGM) on July 21, 2021. The missile was launched from a man portable launcher integrated with thermal site and the target was mimicking a tank. The missile hit the target in direct attack mode and destroyed it with precision. The test has validated the minimum range successfully. All the mission objectives were met. The missile has already been successfully flight tested for the maximum range.

The missile is incorporated with state-of-the-art Miniaturized Infrared Imaging Seeker along with advanced avionics. The test brings the development of indigenous third generation man portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile close to completion.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO and the Industry for the successful test. Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy congratulated the team for the successful test.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 01, 1942**

**Friday, July 23, 2021**

**DRDO conducts successful flight test of Akash-NG**

- **Second successful flight test in three days**
- **Capable of intercepting high speed & agile aerial threats**
- **Force multiplier to defence capabilities of Indian Air Force**
- **Raksha Mantri congratulates DRDO**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) conducted a successful flight-test of New Generation Akash (Akash-NG) missile from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur off the coast of Odisha at 1145 hrs on July 23, 2021. The test was carried out against a high-speed unmanned aerial target which was successfully intercepted by the missile. The flight test has validated the functioning of complete weapon system consisting of the missile with indigenously developed RF Seeker, Launcher, Multi-Function Radar and Command, Control & Communication system. The test was carried out amidst inclement weather conditions proving the all-weather capability of the weapon system.

The system performance was validated through the data captured by a number of Radar, Telemetry and Electro Optical Tracking systems deployed by ITR, Chandipur. A team of Indian Air Force Officers witnessed the test.

On July 21, 2021, the missile was successfully flight-tested without seeker meeting all the mission requirements.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1737532>

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, Indian Air Force and the Industry on the second successful flight test of Akash-NG in a span of three days. He said the development of this state-of-the-art missile system will prove to be a force multiplier for air defence capabilities of Indian Air Force.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy congratulated the teams for successful trial of Akash NG which is capable of intercepting high speed and agile aerial threats.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Asadha 31, 1942**  
**Thursday, July 22, 2021**

**Indian Coast Guard rescues 12 crew of MV Kanchan in distress off  
Umargam, Gujarat**

- **MV Kanchan stranded because of no power amid inclement weather.**
- **ICG's MV Hermeez rescues all the 12 crew in a swift operation.**
- **More ICG vessels deployed for assistance.**

Indian Coast Guard rescued all the 12 crew of Motor Vessel (MV) Kanchan stranded off Umargam, Gujarat on July 21, 2021. Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Mumbai had received information from DG Communication center, Mumbai in the afternoon of July 21, 2021 that MV Kanchan is stranded due to contamination in fuel thereby rendering the engine non-operational and no electrical power onboard, amid inclement weather. Later in evening, the master of the vessel intimated that MV Kanchan, carrying steel coils as cargo, had dropped anchor and was tilting towards Starboard (right) side.

The MRCC Mumbai instantly activated the International Safety Net (ISN) and MV Hermeez was immediately diverted towards the distressed vessel. Braving rough seas, MV Hermeez safely evacuated all the 12 crew of MV Kanchan in a swift night operation.

Emergency Towing Vessel (ETV) Water Lily has also been deployed by DG Shipping, Mumbai for assisting the stranded vessel. In addition, two tugs have been deployed by the vessel owners to render assistance to the vessel.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Asadha 30, 1942**  
**Wednesday, July 21, 2021**

**DRDO successfully flight-tests surface-to-air missile Akash-NG**

- **New Generation surface-to-air Missile**
- **High manoeuvrability to neutralise aerial threats**
- **Boost to Air Defence capabilities of Indian Air Force**
- **Raksha Mantri congratulates DRDO**

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully flight-tested the New Generation Akash Missile (Akash-NG), a surface-to-air Missile from Integrated Test Range (ITR) off the coast of Odisha on July 21, 2021. The flight trial was conducted at around 12:45 PM from a land-based platform with all weapon system elements such as Multifunction Radar, Command, Control & Communication System and launcher participating in deployment configuration.

The missile system has been developed by Defence Research & Development Laboratory (DRDL), Hyderabad in collaboration with other DRDO laboratories. The launch was witnessed by the representatives of Indian Air Force. In order to capture flight data, ITR deployed a number of Range stations like, Electro Optical Tracking System, Radar and Telemetry. The flawless performance of the entire weapon system has been confirmed by complete flight data captured by these systems. During the test, the missile demonstrated high manoeuvrability required for neutralising fast and agile aerial threats.

Once deployed, the Akash-NG weapon system will prove to be a force multiplier for the air defence capability of the Indian Air Force. Production agencies Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) and Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) also participated in the trials.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, BDL, BEL, Indian Air Force and the Industry for the successful test. Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO applauded the efforts of the team and said the missile will strengthen the Indian Air Force.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Asadha 29, 1942**  
**Tuesday, July 20, 2021**

**MoD issues RFP for construction of six P-75(I) submarines for Indian Navy**

As a major initiative towards ‘Make in India’, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has issued Request of Proposal (RFP) for the first acquisition programme under the Strategic Partnership Model for construction of six AIP fitted Conventional Submarines named Project 75(India) [P-75(I)] for the Indian Navy, on July 20, 2021. The RFP was issued to shortlisted Strategic Partners (SPs) or Indian Applicant Companies for the project viz, M/s Mazagaon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) and M/s Larsen & Tubro (L&T). The project cost is over Rs 40,000 crore.

Project-75(I) envisages indigenous construction of six modern conventional submarines (including associated shore support, Engineering Support Package, training and spares package) with contemporary equipment, weapons & sensors including Fuel-Cell based AIP (Air Independent Propulsion Plant), advanced torpedoes, modern missiles and state of the art countermeasure systems. This would provide a major boost to the indigenous design and construction capability of submarines in India, in addition to bringing in the latest submarine design and technologies as part of the project.

Post receipt of responses to the Expression of Interest (EoI), shortlisting of potential Strategic Partners (SPs) and Foreign OEMs was undertaken. The shortlisted SPs to whom the RFP has been issued would be collaborating with any of the shortlisted Foreign OEMs viz, M/s Naval Group-France, M/s TKMS-Germany, M/s JSC ROE-Russia, M/s Daewoo Shipbuilding and Marine Engineering Co Ltd-South Korea and M/s Navantia-Spain. These five foreign firms are the world leaders in the field of conventional submarine design, construction and all other related technologies. The foreign OEMs will be the technology partner in the SP Model. Foreign OEMs will enable SP for construction of submarines, achieving high levels of indigenization, and ToT for various technologies. These OEMs would enable setting up of dedicated manufacturing lines for these submarines in India by providing ToT for submarine design and

other technologies and make India the global hub for submarine design and production.

The project would not only aid in boosting the core submarine/ship building industry but would also greatly enhance manufacturing/industrial sector, especially the MSME by development of an industrial eco-system for manufacture of associated spares/systems/equipment related to submarines. In order to achieve these objectives, the RFP has key features like mandatory level of indigenous manufacture of platforms, ToT for design/ manufacture/ maintenance of submarines and a few critical equipment and systems, setting up of an eco-system in India for such indigenisation and incentivisation for other key technologies, etc.

The overall aim would be to progressively build indigenous capabilities in the public/private sector to design, develop and manufacture complex weapon systems for the future needs of the Armed Forces. This will be an important step towards meeting broader national objectives, encouraging self reliance and aligning the defence sector with the 'Make in India' initiative of the Government.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Asadha 29, 1942**  
**Tuesday, July 20, 2021**

**DRDO indigenously develops High Strength Beta Titanium Alloy on industrial scale**

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) has indigenously developed a High Strength Metastable Beta Titanium Alloy containing Vanadium, Iron and Aluminium, Ti-10V-2Fe-3Al on industrial scale for applications in aerospace structural forgings. It has been developed by Defence Metallurgical Research Laboratory (DMRL), a premier Hyderabad based laboratory of DRDO. These alloys are already being used by many developed nations in recent times as beneficial substitute for the relatively heavier traditional Ni-Cr-Mo structural steels to achieve weight savings.

The excellent forgeability of high strength-to-weight ratio Ti-10V-2Fe-3Al alloy facilitates manufacture of intricately configured components for aerospace applications with potential for significant weight savings. Some of the components which may be forged from this alloy include slat/flap tracks, landing gear, and drop link in landing gear – among several others.

The high strength beta titanium alloys are unique due to their higher strength, ductility, fatigue, and fracture toughness – making them increasingly attractive for aircraft structural applications. Furthermore, their relatively lower lifetime cost, owing to superior corrosion resistance in comparison to steels, is an effective trade-off to justify the use of this expensive material in India too.

The DMRL has carried out raw material selection, alloy melting, thermo-mechanical processing, ultrasonics-based Non Destructive Evaluation (NDE), heat treatment, mechanical characterization, and type certification in active collaboration with several agencies.

Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA) has identified over 15 steel components which may be replaced by Ti-10V-2Fe-3Al alloy forgings in the near future with a potential of 40% weight savings. The landing gear

drop link is the first component forged successfully by ADA at HAL, Bengaluru with DMRL's involvement and duly certified for airworthiness.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO and the industry for indigenous development of High Strength Metastable Beta Titanium Alloy which will be useful for aerospace structural forgings.

Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy applauded the dedicated efforts by the teams involved in the indigenous development of this technology.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Asadha 28, 1942**  
**Monday, July 19, 2021**

**Oxygen generation facility inaugurated at INHS Dhanvantari, Port Blair**

An oxygen generation facility was inaugurated by Commander-in-Chief, Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Ajai Singh at Indian Naval Hospital, INHS Dhanvantari in Port Blair on July 19, 2021. The plant has been installed to augment the medical and support facilities in the Andaman and Nicobar Islands amidst the COVID-19 situation. The setting-up of the plant was taken up by the Andaman and Nicobar Command through M/s ITD Cementation India Limited, which is undertaking a major marine infrastructure project in the Command.

The firm took up this venture as part of their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative. Despite COVID-19 restrictions, a new oxygen generation plant was procured from Chennai and was installed at INHS Dhanvantri in a short span. The facility will be only captive/in-house facility within the hospital for generation of medical grade oxygen. It would ensure continued supply of medical oxygen to specified beds, thus providing huge support in the fight against COVID-19 pandemic the Andaman and Nicobar Islands and significantly enhancing self-sufficiency.

Commissioner-cum-Secretary (Health), Andaman & Nicobar administration Shri Dr V Chandavelou; Director (Health), Andaman and Nicobar Islands Dr Omkar Singh; Project Head, M/s ITD Cementation India Limited Shri Anjan Halder and senior officers of ANC were present on the occasion.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 25, 1943**  
**Friday, July 16, 2021**

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh interacts with Defence Civilian Employees’ Federations on issues related to OFB Corporatisation**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held an interaction with the three recognised Defence Civilian Employees’ Federations, namely All India Defence Employees’ Federation, Indian National Defence Workers’ Federation & Bhartiya Pratiraksha Mazdoor Sangh on the issues related to Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) in New Delhi on July 16, 2021. The meeting was conducted in a very congenial atmosphere, in which the Raksha Mantri gave patient hearing to the concerns expressed by the Federations on OFB Corporatisation.

The Federations stated various points, mainly seeking a last chance to improve OFB performance while continuing in the present set-up for some more years; the Essential Defence Services Ordinance 2021 not to be converted into an Act; protecting the service conditions of the OFB employees post-corporatisation and ensuring work load for the new corporate entities.

Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Raj Kumar clarified that the new Corporate entities would be 100% Government owned and suggested that further discussions with the employees’ representatives should continue with the Department to identify specific issues, which can be brought before the Empowered Group of Ministers from time to time.

Shri Rajnath Singh assured that the interests of the employees would be protected while implementing the decision of OFB corporatisation. He appealed to the Federations to continue discussions with the Department and issues, if any, would be considered sympathetically by the Empowered Group of Ministers under his Chairmanship.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 24, 1943**  
**Thursday, July 15, 2021**

**Raksha Mantri launches Artificial Intelligence powered grievance management application;**

**Shri Rajnath Singh lauds the citizen centric reform that empowers the people;**

**Raksha Mantri stresses on use of AI for overall development of the nation**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched an Artificial Intelligence (AI)-powered grievance management application in New Delhi on July 15, 2021, developed by Ministry of Defence with the help of IIT-Kanpur. Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions Dr Jitendra Singh graced the occasion.

This is the first AI based system developed to improve grievance redressal in the Government. The AI tool developed as part of the initiative has capability to understand the content of the complaint based on the contents therein. As a result, it can identify repeat complaints or spam automatically. Based on the meaning of the complaint, it can categorise complaints of different categories even when key words normally used for such search are not present in the complaint. It enables geographical analysis of complaints in a category including analysis of whether the complaint was adequately addressed or not by the concerned office. Easy user-friendly search enables user to formulate his own queries/categories depending on management requirements and seek performance results based on the query. Given that lakhs of complaints are received on CPGRAMS portal of DARPG, this application will have great use in understanding the nature of complaints, geographies from where they emanate and policy changes which can be introduced to create systemic improvements to address these grievances.

Speaking on the occasion, the Raksha Mantri described the application as a product of good governance, which reflects the growing synergy between the Government and academia. He said this initiative is another citizen centric reform of the Government that aims to empower the people at large.

Shri Rajnath Singh lauded Department of Administrative Reforms & Public Grievances (DARPG) for playing an important role in the reform of the Public Grievances Redressal System, saying that resolving the grievances of people is a great service in itself. He added that the active involvement of

reputed institutions like IIT Kanpur will further bolster the system and resolve the grievances of people in a transparent and effective manner.

The Raksha Mantri was briefed that this AI-powered application will automatically handle and analyse the complaints of the people and would reduce human intervention, save time and bring more transparency in their disposal. A tripartite MoU for the project was signed among Department of Defence, MoD, DARPG and IIT, Kanpur on August 04, 2020.

The release of this application marks the introduction of AI-based innovations into governance and administration. This project is first of its kind initiative of the Government for using AI, data science and Machine Learning techniques in grievance redressal. The success of this project in MoD will pave the way for extension of this application across other Ministries. The MoD and IIT, Kanpur intend to drive their collaboration forward in the coming years, seeking to better leverage the use of AI for the disposal of citizens' complaints. The web-based application has been jointly developed by Department of Defence, MoD; DARPG and a team of IIT Kanpur comprising of Professors Shalabh, Nisheeth Srivastava and Piyush Rai.

Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar; Additional Secretary, DARPG Shri V Srinivas, Additional Secretary MoD Smt Nivedita Shukla Verma, Director, IIT Kanpur Prof Abhay Karandikar and other senior officials of MoD were present on the launch of the application.

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

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 23, 1943**

**Wednesday, July 14, 2021**

**Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt visits Indian Coast Guard  
Headquarters in New Delhi;**

**Lauds ICG’s role in protecting the country’s maritime interests despite  
challenges**

Shri Ajay Bhatt visited Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Headquarters in New Delhi on July 14, 2021 for the first time after taking over as Raksha Rajya Mantri. During his visit, he was briefed by DG Coast Guard Shri K Natarajan and other senior officials on the capacities & capabilities of various operations of Coast Guard including firefighting, tackling oil spill, search & rescue, environment protection, anti-drug trafficking and combating transnational maritime crimes.

Interacting with the officials, the Raksha Rajya Mantri commended ICG’s role in protecting the country’s maritime interests with determination despite various challenges, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. “The Indian Coast Guard has the responsibility to ensure that India's maritime zones are safe and secure. It plays a crucial role in ensuring economic development, besides meeting the changing security challenges at sea. It is not possible to create a flawless internal and national security framework without ensuring maritime security,” he said. Shri Ajay Bhatt stressed on Security and Growth of All in the Region (SAGAR) envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, saying that safe, protected and clean seas provide unique economic opportunities for nation building.

Shri Ajay Bhatt also lauded ICG for saving precious lives during the recent cyclones ‘Tauktae’ and ‘YAAS’. He made special mention of the firefighting operations carried out by ICG onboard Crude Carrier Motor Tanker New Diamond in September 2020 and Motor Vessel X-Press Pearl in 2021, both off Colombo, commending them for extending support to the international community in times of distress. Appreciating ICG for its anti-drug trafficking operations at sea, he said, “It has compelled international narco syndicates to move beyond the limits of our Exclusive Economic Zone”.

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

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 23, 1943**  
**Wednesday, July 14, 2021**

**75 years of Independence - Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav**

**Unique initiative of Gallantry Awards portal & NCC to maintain and honour the statues of War Heroes of India**

To mark the 75<sup>th</sup> year of Independence, Gallantry Awards Portal and National Cadet Corps (NCC) have jointly initiated a unique scheme to celebrate and pay tribute to the gallants of the Armed Forces and others who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation. Under the initiative, statues of the brave hearts are adopted for cleaning & upkeep and cadets spread awareness among the people about the contribution and leadership traits of the War Heroes & other national personalities through interactive lectures, poetry recital, nukkad natak/dance etc.

As on date, NCC has adopted 46 statues of Gallantry award winners – 10 Param Vir Chakra, 6 Ashoka Chakra, 11 Mahavir Chakra, four Kirti Chakra, 12 Vir Chakra and three Shaurya Chakra.

To enable greater reach of this noble activity of NCC, Gallantry Awards Portal has decided to live webcast these events, organised by NCC, every week. The portal (<https://www.gallantryawards.gov.in/>) also enables those, who are not physically present at the event, to pay their tributes virtually. The first such event was webcast live on July 7, 2021 on trial basis. The next event is scheduled to take place at 11 AM on July 16, 2021 at Statue Junction, Tirupunithara at Kochi, Kerala, where the statue of Lt Col Ramakrishnan Vishwanathan, Vir Chakra, will be paid tribute by NCC. Lt Col Ramakrishnan Vishwanathan was the Second-in-Command of 18 GRENADIERS who had conducted operations on and around Tololing mountain in Drass sector, Kargil during Operation Vijay. He was posthumously awarded the Vir Chakra for his actions during the Kargil war.

As part of the initiative, the local unit of NCC organises cleaning and information dissemination events on a weekly basis in the precincts of an adopted statue. NCC cadets of one or more educational institutions

are tasked with the responsibility to carry out the activities. The event helps create awareness among the people about the deeds of the brave hearts of the country. It also aims to motivate people to participate in the Swachh Bharat campaign propagated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to realise the ideals of Father of the Nation Mahatma Gandhi.

The initiative spreads the message of importance of 'Swachhta' in day-to-day lives and inspiring the local population to take care of local monuments and heritage. It further contributes towards harnessing the energy of the youth towards social causes and instilling a sense of patriotism in them. This initiative of NCC has got encouragement from all quarters.

Log on to the Gallantry Awards portal for information on future events. People can also suggest statues requiring adoption by a local NCC unit. The suggestions can be sent to the portal.

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

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 18, 1943**  
**Friday, July 09, 2021**

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh holds telephonic conversation  
with Deputy Prime Minister & Defence Minister of Israel;**

**Stresses on deepening defence cooperation & advancing strategic  
partnership with Israel**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held a telephonic conversation with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Israel Lt Gen (Res) Benjamin Gantz on July 09, 2021. Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated Lt Gen (Res) Benjamin Gantz on assuming the charge of Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Defence of Israel.

In a tweet after the telephonic conversation, the Raksha Mantri said he looks forward to working closely with Israel to deepen defence cooperation and advance the strategic partnership. He also thanked Lt Gen (Res) Benjamin Gantz for the assistance provided to India by Israel for handling the COVID-19 pandemic.

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

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 17, 1943**  
**Thursday, July 08, 2021**

**DRDO & AICTE launch regular M. Tech. Program in defence technology**

A regular M. Tech. Program in Defence Technology has been launched by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) to impart necessary theoretical & experimental knowledge, skill and aptitude in various defence technology areas. Secretary Department of Defence R&D & Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy and Chairman AICTE Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe launched the program during a virtual event organised by AICTE, New Delhi on July 08, 2021. The program will motivate the aspiring engineers to start their career in defence technology.

This M. Tech. defence technology program can be conducted at any AICTE affiliated Institutes/Universities, IITs, NITs or private engineering institutes. Institute of Defence Scientists & Technologists (IDST) will provide support to the institutes for conducting this program, which can be conducted in online as well as offline formats. The program has six specialized streams - Combat Technology, Aero Technology, Naval Technology, Communication Systems & Sensors, Directed Energy Technology and High Energy Materials Technology. The students will also be provided opportunities to conduct their main thesis work in DRDO laboratories, Defence PSUs & Industries. The program will be helpful to students seeking opportunities in ever expanding defence research and manufacturing sector.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, AICTE & Industries for starting a Post Graduate Program in Defence Technology. He said the program will help in achieving ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat’ envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi.

In his address, Dr G Satheesh Reddy congratulated DRDO, AICTE and industries for evolving the PG program. He expressed hope that such a specialised program will enable the creation of a large pool of talented workforce for defence sector. He called upon the industry leaders to extend their support for this program and offer opportunities to the students.

Prof Anil D Sahasrabudhe expressed happiness over the launch of the program and said it will not only generate skilled manpower pool in defence technology, but will also create spin-off benefits in terms of new defence startups and entrepreneurs. He emphasized that research should be connected with day-to-day life as it is fundamental for human psyche.

Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Forge Limited Shri Babasaheb Neelkanth Kalyani congratulated DRDO and AICTE for initiating this program and highlighted its importance for creation of talent pool for defence technology with know-how and know-why capability to fulfil the vision of 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat'.

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

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 17, 1943**  
**Thursday, July 08, 2021**

**MoD implements web-based integrated system for sanction &  
disbursement of defence pension**

Ministry of Defence has implemented SPARSH [System for Pension Administration (Raksha)], an integrated system for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension. This web-based system processes pension claims and credits pension directly into the bank accounts of defence pensioners without relying on any external intermediary. A Pensioner Portal is available for pensioners to view their pension related information, access services and register complaints for redressal of grievances, if any, relating to their pension matters.

SPARSH envisages establishment of Service Centres to provide last mile connectivity to pensioners who may be unable to directly access the SPARSH portal for any reason. In addition to several offices of the Defence Accounts Department, which are already functioning as Service Centres for pensioners, the two largest banks dealing with defence pensioners – State Bank of India (SBI) and Punjab National Bank (PNB) – have been co-opted as Service Centres.

An agreement to this effect was signed between Officiating Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) Shri Rajnish Kumar and officials of SBI & PNB, in the presence of Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Shri Sanjiv Mittal in New Delhi on July 08, 2021. Under the agreement, the pensioners can approach various branches of these two banks for obtaining any service relating to their pension issues.

Appreciating the efforts of all those involved in this process, the Defence Secretary said implementation of SPARSH fulfilled a long pending requirement. He added that the decision will prove to be a boon for defence pensioners and thanked the officials of SBI & PNB. He urged them to facilitate the migration of manual data and complete the process at the earliest.

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

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 17, 1943**  
**Thursday, July 08, 2021**

**NCC cadets pay tributes to war hero**

National Cadet Corps (NCC) cadets of 3 Haryana Girls Battalion organised a community event at Mirzapur village in Hisar district of Haryana on July 07, 2021. The activity involved cleaning the statue of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Hawa Singh, Vir Chakra, who was a war hero of the 1971 war. His statue, erected at his village Mirzapur, was adopted by 3 Haryana Girls Battalion 2020.

The event was held by NCC cadets in the presence of local villagers of the area. The event was held as a prelude to the forthcoming Kargil Diwas and it infused a great sense of patriotism amongst the villagers who hailed the cadets for organising it.

2<sup>nd</sup> Lt Hawa Singh was commissioned in 4/5 GR (FF) in 1971. During the operations of 1971, the officer was awarded Vir Chakra (posthumously) for displaying rare courage and making supreme sacrifice for the nation. The NCC cadets routinely organise such statue cleaning events as a mark of respect for the War Heroes.

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

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 17, 1943**  
**Thursday, July 08, 2021**

**Shri Ajay Bhatt takes over as Raksha Rajya Mantri**

Shri Ajay Bhatt took over as Raksha Rajya Mantri on July 08, 2021. After assuming charge, he called on Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at his office in South Block. Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence received Shri Ajay Bhatt and welcomed him into his office. In a tweet, Shri Ajay Bhatt thanked Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi for giving him the responsibility, saying that he will strive to build the ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat’ of the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

Shri Ajay Bhatt is a Member of Parliament from Nainital-Udhamsingh Nagar constituency, Uttarakhand. He is the member of Standing Committee on Defence; Consultative Committee, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare; Committee on Subordinate Legislation; Joint Committee on the Personal Data Protection Bill 2019 and Committee on Estimates. He had, earlier, served as Cabinet Minister in Uttarakhand government, holding portfolios such as Parliamentary Affairs, Health and Disaster Management. He was also the Leader of Opposition in Uttarakhand Legislative Assembly.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 16, 1943**  
**Wednesday, July 07, 2021**

**World's first solo motorcycle expedition in Northern Himalayan  
passes culminates**

The world's first solo motorcycle expedition undertaken by Miss Kanchan Ugusandi, covering 18 treacherous passes in Northern Himalayan ranges culminated on Wednesday (July 07, 2021) at Seema Sadak Bhawan in New Delhi. The expedition was flagged off by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on June 11, 2021 from New Delhi.

The month-long expedition witnessed many firsts by a solo woman rider. Miss Ugusandi has become the first solo woman biker to scale the Umlingla Pass, the first woman to cover the 18 passes and also the first woman to traverse a distance of 3,187 kilometre from New Delhi-Manali-Leh -Umlingla-Delhi in one go.

The expedition was jointly flagged in by Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry and Chairman of Indian Oil Corporation (IOC) Shri S M Vaidya. Miss Ugusandi traversed the distance in 25 days and crossed 18 passes to include the world's highest motorable Umlingla pass at 19,300 feet made by Border Roads Organisation (BRO). On successful completion of the expedition, DGBR complemented Miss Ugusandi for her determination and perseverance in undertaking the expedition through extremely harsh terrain and also to honour the dauntless courage and supreme sacrifice of BRO *Karmyogis* for the development of road infrastructure in border areas.

The solo motorcycle expedition also played a pivotal role in promoting road and COVID safety awareness in border areas. The DGBR added that this unique motor cycle expedition demonstrates the strong resolve of Indian women, who are breaking stereotypes and taking the challenges which were hitherto not undertaken. It will also signify women empowerment, he said.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 16, 1943**  
**Wednesday, July 07, 2021**

**CINCAN visits Amphibian Brigade**

Commander-in-Chief Andaman and Nicobar Command (CINCAN) Lieutenant General Ajai Singh visited the Amphibian Brigade at Birchgunj Military Station on July 06, 2021. He reviewed operations at the Jungle Survival School and inspected various training activities, including driving an ALS through the landing ship ramp simulator at the Wave Generation Training Facility. Addressing the troops, the CINCAN stressed on the need to remain ops ready and prepared at all times. He also advised all personnel to strictly maintain COVID-19 protection measures.

Lieutenant General Ajai Singh also awarded commendation cards to deserving personnel on the occasion.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 11, 1943**

**Friday, July 02, 2021**

**Participation in NCC Republic Day Camp for youth from friendly countries  
to become competitive**

**Youth from 25 countries to participate in Republic Day 2022 celebrations  
as part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’**

The National Cadets Corps (NCC) will be inviting youth delegations of 25 countries from across all six inhabited continents to participate in the Republic Day 2022 celebrations. Out of these, youth delegations would be invited for the first time from 15 countries - USA, Canada, UK, France, Japan, Oman, UAE, Brazil, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Mauritius, Mozambique, Nigeria and Seychelles. They will be in India from January 15-29, 2022, as part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, commemorating 75 years of India’s Independence.

These 15 countries will be in addition to the existing 10 foreign countries - Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Russia, Kazakhstan, Singapore, Kyrgyz Republic, Sri Lanka, Maldives and Vietnam - with whom NCC already has an ongoing Youth Exchange Program. All together, approximately 300 cadets of National Cadet Corps/equivalent/youth organisations from these 25 countries would be invited to participate in the celebrations. As part of the visit, ten cadets/youth, along with their supervisors, of each of the 25 countries, will attend important events of Republic Day celebrations.

NCC Republic Day Camp is the most prestigious annual event of NCC and provides several life-time experiences for participating youth including the Republic Day Parade and the Prime Minister’s NCC Rally. They will also call on top dignitaries, including the President and the Prime Minister. Visits to various places of historical and cultural importance have also been planned, as part of the program. The cadets would be exposed to activities like Yoga and Ayurveda.

For the first time, the cadets/youth participating in the NCC Republic Day camp from foreign countries will compete to get selected based on a selection process to be organised by NCC in those countries. The selection process will be organised in these countries in association with Ministry of External Affairs, Defence Attaches in Indian Embassies in these countries as well as the youth organisation of that country. Partner youth organizations have also been identified. The selection competition will adjudge candidates on their knowledge about India, its achievements in last 75 years, culture and people.

The initial work for selecting the youth from participating countries has begun. All the concerned countries have been requested to provide wide publicity to the Quiz competition and ensure that maximum youth are given the chance to participate in the program. The broad timeline proposed for the selection process is as follows:

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>
July	Dissemination of sample quiz paper for the competition by Defence Attaché/Embassy of the concerned country
September	Quiz competition to be conducted by Defence Attaché/ Embassy of the concerned country with the help of National Cadet Corps/Equivalent Youth organisation
October	Announcement of results and shortlisting of list of 10 cadets/ youth from participating countries

To ensure safety of the youth participating in the program, all protocols and safety aspects of COVID-19 will be followed. It is being requested to the concerned countries that all the cadets visiting India are fully vaccinated and have health insurance.

The NCC India has always proved to be a medium of national integration as it brings the youth from across the country on a common platform and channelises their potential to build a great nation. This mega youth exchange programme is expected to promote cross-cultural exchange of ideas among the participating youth, promote understanding of international cultures, tolerance and develop appreciation for universal ideals of brotherhood and social cohesion. They will also learn about education, ethnicity and lifestyles of different countries. The aim is also to promote greater awareness among youth of other countries about India, its rich cultural heritage, its people and the country's achievements in the last 75 years.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 11, 1943**  
**Friday, July 02, 2021**

**DRDO’s Short Span Bridging System-10 m inducted into Indian Army**

The first production lot of 12 Short Span Bridging System (SSBS)-10 m, designed and developed by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), has been inducted into Indian Army by Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane during a ceremony held at Cariappa Parade Ground, Delhi Cantt. on July 02, 2021. Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy was present on the occasion.

The SSBS-10 m plays a crucial role of bridging the gaps up to 9.5 m as a single span providing a 4 m wide, fully decked roadway, ensuring faster movement of the troops. Research & Development Establishment (Engrs) Pune, a premier engineering laboratory of DRDO, has designed and developed the system in association with M/s L&T Ltd. The 12 bridges are part of 102 SSBS-10 m from M/s L&T Ltd, which is the production agency.

The Project Short Span Bridging System involved the development of two prototypes of 5 m SSBS on Tatra 6x6 chassis and another two prototypes of 10 m SSBS on Tatra 8x8 re-engineered chassis. Both the systems have undergone rigorous Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA), MET and User trials and after successful completion of all the trials, the systems were recommended for induction into the services. This bridging system is compatible with Sarvatra Bridging System (75 m), where the last span requires covering gaps less than 9.5 m. The deployed bridge is of the load classification of MLC 70. The system will help in quick movement of troops and enhance the mobilization of resources.

The DRDO has vast experience in developing critical Combat Engineering Systems like Military Bridging Systems. Number of mechanised mobility solutions for the Indian Army like Single Span 5 m and 10 m, Short Span Bridging System, 46 m Modular Bridge, 20 m BLT-T72 and multi span 75 m Sarvatra Bridging System etc. have been

developed. Manually launched 34.5 m Mountain Foot Bridge was also developed by DRDO earlier. These bridges have been widely accepted by the Indian Army.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, Indian Army and the Industry on the successful development and induction of the system. He stated that this induction will give a boost to the fast-growing Indian defence industrial ecosystem and help the industry to contribute towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy congratulated the teams involved in the successful development and induction of this bridging system into the Indian Army.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 10, 1943**

**Thursday, July 01, 2021**

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh holds virtual interaction with his  
Vietnamese counterpart;**

**Both sides agree to enhance engagements between Defence Forces of two  
countries**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held an online interaction with Minister of National Defence of Vietnam Sr Lt Gen Phan Van Giang on July 01, 2021. During the interaction, both Ministers reviewed the progress on the current initiatives and expressed commitment to further enhance engagements between the Defence Forces of the two countries under the framework of India-Vietnam Comprehensive Strategic Partnership (2016) and under the guidance of the Joint Vision for Peace, Prosperity and People signed during the Virtual Summit between the Prime Ministers of the two countries in December 2020.

Both Ministers acknowledged the significance of the Joint Vision Statement of 2015-20 in strengthening defence cooperation engagements between both the countries thus far and looked forward to concluding the Joint Vision Statement of 2021-25 at the earliest opportunity. The Ministers agreed to initiate measures to enhance cooperation in Defence Industry and Technology domain and look forward to greater synergy in effectively deepening bilateral cooperative engagements across the spectrum. Both Ministers expressed satisfaction at the ongoing activities between the two countries despite the limitations imposed by COVID 19.

In a series of tweets, Shri Rajnath Singh termed the relationship between India and Vietnam as strong & effective. He said “India attaches great importance to its bilateral defence cooperation with Vietnam. Both India and Vietnam share a long-standing tradition of helping each other in difficult times. We have achieved substantial progress in defence industry cooperation in recent years.” The Raksha Mantri added that India and Vietnam continue to make forward movement in overcoming the challenges posed by COVID-19. He thanked Sr Lt Gen Phan Van Giang for inviting him on an official visit to Vietnam, and he looked forward to it.

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GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi: Asadha 10, 1943**  
**Thursday, July 01, 2021**

**Indian Coast Guard rescues seven fishermen off Tillanchong Island**

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) located and rescued a distressed fishing boat ‘RSN-TWO’ with seven crew onboard off the Tillanchong Island, approximately 350 kms south of Port Blair, on July 01, 2021. The Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC), Port Blair received a distress alert at around 1130 hrs on June 30, 2021. Since the alert was activated from an unregistered Distress Alert Transmitter (DAT), ICG shared the information with the Fisheries authorities which said that the boat, with seven crew onboard, had left Port Blair on June 28, 2021 for fishing.

A co-ordinated search and rescue operation was launched immediately and ICG ship C-422 from Kamorta was tasked for search in the area. To further augment the search efforts, ICG ship Vishwast and Dornier aircraft were deployed. The coordinated search operation resulted in timely locating of the fishing boat. On establishing communication, the boat reported machinery breakdown due to a defect in the gearbox.

The crew was provided with basic necessities and first aid by ICG boarding team and the boat was taken under tow by ICG ship Vishwast for passage to Kamorta due to the prevailing inclement weather. All the crew are reported to be safe and healthy. The ICG is maintaining continuous communication with the boat owner and Fisheries authorities.

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