

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Kartika 07, 1943
Friday, October 29, 2021

**MoD revises limits of two family pensions payable to a child in
respect of both the parents**

The highest pay in the Government has been revised to Rs 2,50,000/- p.m. after the 7th CPC. Accordingly, Department of Pension & Pensioners' Welfare (DoP&PW) revised maximum ceiling limits of two family pension payable to a child/children in respect of both the parents to Rs. 1,25,000/- p.m. (50% of Rs. 2,50,000/- Ordinary Family Pension at enhanced rate) and Rs. 75,000/- p.m. (30% of Rs. 2,50,000/- Ordinary Family Pension) w.e.f. 01.01.2016. Ministry of Defence vide order dated 29.10.2021 has implemented the DoP&PW order mutatis mutandis in respect of Armed Forces Personnel w.e.f. 01.01.2016.

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New Delhi, Kartika 07, 1943
Friday, October 29, 2021

15th India-Israel Joint Working Group meeting in Tel Aviv

India-Israel Joint Working Group (JWG) on Bilateral Defence Cooperation has agreed to form a Task Force to formulate a comprehensive Ten-Year Roadmap to identify new areas of cooperation.

This was decided at the 15th JWG meeting held on October 27, 2021 in Tel Aviv, Israel.

The meeting was co-chaired by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and the Director General of the Israel’s Ministry of Defence, Maj Gen (Retd) Amir Eshel.

The JWG is the apex body between the Ministry of Defence of India and Israel’s Ministry of Defence to comprehensively review and guide all aspects of Bilateral Defence Cooperation.

The two sides reviewed the progress made in Military to Military engagements including exercises and industry cooperation. The Co-chairs were also appraised on the progress made by the Sub Working Groups (SWG) on Defence Procurement & Production and Research & Development.

It was also decided to form a SWG on Defence Industry Cooperation and in this regard a Terms of Reference was signed between the two sides. The formation of this SWG would enable efficient utilisation of bilateral resources, effective flow of technologies and sharing industrial capabilities. It was also decided to schedule the Service level Staff talks in a specific time frame.

It was agreed to hold the next JWG in India on mutually convenient dates.

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New Delhi, Kartika 07, 1943
Friday, October 29, 2021

DRDO & IAF jointly flight test Long-Range Bomb successfully

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Indian Air Force (IAF) team jointly flight tested indigenously developed Long-Range Bomb (LRB) successfully from an aerial platform on October 29, 2021. The LR Bomb, after release from the IAF fighter aircraft, guided to a land-based target at a long range with accuracy within specified limits. All the mission objectives were successfully met. The flight of the bomb and the performance was monitored by a number of range sensors including Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS), Telemetry and radar deployed by the Integrated Test Range, Chandipur in Odisha.

The LR Bomb has been designed and developed by Research Centre Imarat (RCI), a DRDO laboratory located at Hyderabad in coordination with other DRDO laboratories.

Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh has congratulated DRDO, IAF and other teams associated with successful flight trial and stated that this will prove to be a force multiplier for the Indian Armed Forces.

Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy in his message to the teams said that successful flight test of Long-Range Bomb has marked an important milestone in indigenous development of this class of systems.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Kartika 06, 1943
Thursday, October 28, 2021

**Air Force Station, Carnicobar conducts
multi-specialist medical camp**

A medical camp with specialist doctors in multiple disciplines was conducted by Air Force Station Carnicobar, under the aegis of HQ Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), on October 28, 2021 to commemorate ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’. The camp organized at Community Centre of Malacca village in Carnicobar included 11 medical personnel from Bishop John Richardson Hospital and was inaugurated by Group Captain Nitin Talwar, Station Commander, Air Force Station, Carnicobar.

Tribal population residing at various villages of Carnicobar island got benefitted from the Camp. An overwhelming response from them was witnessed at the medical camp. The villagers wholeheartedly appreciated the humane efforts made by the Indian Air Force in organising the medical camp at a remote island of Carnicobar.

Apart from other OPD services, the medical team conducted screening of non-communicable diseases and Tuberculosis under National Tuberculosis Elimination Programme (NTEP). Squadron Leader Ragit P Rajesh, medical officer of Air Force Station Carnicobar, along with four specialist doctors viz Dr. Ajith Palanichami, Pediatrician, Dr. Poornima, Dermatologist, Dr. Rubeena Yusuf, General Duty Medical Officer, Dr. Ruth Christopher, Dental Surgeon, from BJR Hospital, Carnicobar gave an added specialist edge to the medical services provided in the camp to the island population.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Kartika 06, 1943
Thursday, October 28, 2021

Indian Coast Guard Ship ‘Sarthak’ dedicated to the Nation

In a significant boost to the maritime safety and security of the nation, the indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship ‘Sarthak’ was commissioned and dedicated to the nation on October 28, 2021 at Goa by the Director General of Indian Coast Guard K Natarajan. ICGS Sarthak will be based at Porbandar in Gujarat and operate on India’s Western Seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (Northwest). ICGS Sarthak is commanded by Deputy Inspector General MM Syed and has complement of 11 Officers and 110 men.

ICGS Sarthak is 4th in the series of five OPVs being built by Goa Shipyard Limited for the ICG. These OPVs are multi-mission platforms capable of undertaking concurrent operations. The 105-meter-long ship displacing 2,450 tons is propelled by two 9,100 kilowatt diesel engines designed to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots.

The ship is fitted with state-of-the-art equipment, machinery, sensors and weapons which enables it to function as a command platform and undertake mandated Coast Guard charter of duties including search & rescue, combating maritime crimes and preserving & protecting the marine environment. Indian Coast Guard is a pioneer in inducting indigenous platforms and ICGS Sarthak is a glowing example of ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Kartika 06, 1943
Thursday, October 28, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visits Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory
of DRDO in Chandigarh**

**Lauds DRDO for developing crucial defence technologies at par with
international standards**

Key Highlights:

- **Products developed by TBRL, such as Multi-Mode Hand Grenade, reflect Government’s vision to modernise Armed Forces**
- **Active private sector participation advancing the country’s military & economic strength towards self-reliance**
- **Need to strengthen technology forecasting & invest in cutting edge manufacturing & testing capabilities**
- **India is a peace-loving nation, but is fully prepared to face any challenge**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory (TBRL) of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Chandigarh on October 28, 2021. During the visit, Director, TBRL Shri Prateek Kishore briefed Shri Rajnath Singh about the products developed by the laboratory and many critical technologies on which the work is in process. Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy and other senior civil & military officials of Ministry of Defence were also present.

Addressing over 500 scientists & officials of DRDO, the Raksha Mantri lauded TBRL, which started as a two-room facility, for becoming an important R&D establishment which is providing crucial defence technologies. He commended the role of the laboratory in design and development of Multi-Mode Hand Grenade (MMHG), the first munition manufactured by the private sector for the Armed Forces, which was handed over to the Indian Army in the presence of Shri Rajnath Singh in August this year. The grenade achieved a functional reliability of more than 99.5 per cent in production. The Raksha Mantri termed MMHG as world class which reflects the capabilities of TBRL and the scientists.

Lauding DRDO for developing systems at par with international standards, Shri Rajnath Singh also mentioned about the Bund Blasting Device Mark II, designed and developed by TBRL, which was handed over to the Indian Army in his presence earlier this month. The device is used to reduce the height of Ditch-cum-Bund obstacles to enhance the mobility of mechanised infantry during wartime. He appreciated the fact that the first phase of the production model has been successfully completed and the

production of the system will also be done by the private sector through Transfer of Technology in the coming times.

The Raksha Mantri described these developments as indicators to the country's growing capability in products and technologies required to meet the operational requirements of the Armed Forces. He added that these developments reflect the Government's vision to equip the Armed Forces with indigenously developed and state-of-the-art weapons/ equipment/system through active participation of the private sector. This, he stated, is advancing the country's military and economic strength towards self-reliance.

Shri Rajnath Singh also listed out other achievements of TBRL, including reaching an advanced level of development of 4th generation electronic fuses which will be contemporary as well as safer and more reliable and development of Baffle Range of just 20 acres from 500 acres that will provide full training of the troops using less land.

The Raksha Mantri added that many reforms have been undertaken by the Government to increase the participation of the private sector. These include introduction of new provisions under Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020; DRDO's initiative to involve the industry from the initial stages of development of systems; free of cost Transfer of Technology by DRDO and availability of its patents to the industry.

While stressing on the need to develop Indian Standards, Shri Rajnath Singh appreciated the fact that Indian Standard has been promulgated for the testing of Bullet Resistant Jacket, with TBRL playing a key role in its manufacturing. "Indian Standards for design, development and methodology are being developed for other protective systems and gears. Test methodologies have been standardised for evaluation of Boot Anti-Mine Infantry, Boot Anti-Mine Engineers, Mine Protected Vehicles and Gears etc. Such Indian standards will certainly help the Indian industry to not only benchmark the product against threats, but also help them compete with foreign manufacturers," he added.

Sharing his insights on the fast-changing geopolitical scenario around the world, Shri Rajnath Singh said, increase in scientific capabilities and new inventions have made a big impact on security. He stressed on the need to be equipped and ready at all times to deal with any challenge arising out of such a situation. He reiterated that India is a peace-loving nation and initiating any kind of conflict is against its values. He, however, assured the Nation that "our country is fully prepared to face any challenge, if the need arises." He remembered former President of India Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and his famous quote '*In this world, fear has no place. Only strength respects strength.*'

Emphasising on the increased use of technology in the dynamic warfare strategies of the present, Shri Rajnath Singh exhorted all stakeholders involved in defence manufacturing to keep an eye on the latest technological developments and prepare themselves to stay contemporary with indigenous capabilities. To achieve this, he said, there is a need to strengthen technology forecasting and invest in cutting edge manufacturing & testing capabilities. He called for making academic institutions as long-term partners to stay abreast with latest technologies, with focus on building a strong theoretical foundation.

"A research and development institution like TBRL should aim to develop partnerships with academic institutions on a long-term basis. On the one hand, the

academic institution will get to work on the core technological problems and scientists and technologists will be prepared for better employability. On the other hand, R&D institutions will get the emphasis on conversion into the actual product by moving from the theoretical analysis. It will be a win-win situation for both and will boost the defense ecosystem of the country,” the Raksha Mantri said. He called upon all the stakeholders to increase their preparedness and assured all possible support of the Government in their efforts.

Shri Rajnath Singh also inaugurated the Augmented Environmental Test facility. Transfer of Technology for TRBL-developed warhead for Man-Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) Mk-II was handed over to Economic Explosives Limited, Nagpur on the occasion.

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Thursday, October 28, 2021

Indo-UK Tri-Service Exercise ‘Konkan Shakti 2021’ Concludes

Key Highlights:

- **First bilateral tri-service exercise**
- **Exercise is the result of India-UK 2030 Roadmap announced in May 2021 by the Prime Ministers of both the countries**

The maiden bilateral tri-service exercise, Konkan Shakti 21, between the armed forces of India and the UK culminated in the Arabian Sea on 27 October 2021. Smooth execution of the first edition of the exercise is testimony to the professional abilities, mutual understanding and shared commitment of the two nations and their personnel in uniform.

Spanning over four days, the exercise saw the two defence forces work in cohesion through a series of complex multi-service combat drills in all domains of maritime operations - air, surface and sub-surface. Drills undertaken during the exercise involved ‘replenishment at sea’ practice, Strike Operations by fighter aircrafts, Cross Control of helicopters, simulated induction of army troops, gun shoots on expendable air targets, advanced air and sub-surface exercises, composite helicopter formation fly-past and large force engagement involving fighter aircraft of the UK (F35B), Indian Navy (MiG 29K) and Indian Air Force (SU-30 and Jaguar), all of which reflected high synergy, professionalism and readiness of both nations to conduct joint maritime operations, when required.

The exercise provided both forces the opportunity to share best practices and experiences with each other in a collaborative spirit that is particularly important in the complex and unpredictable global security environment.

The culmination of the exercise was marked by the traditional steam past between ships of the two navies.

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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Kartika 05, 1943
Wednesday, October 27, 2021

**Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt flags off NIMAS
multidimensional adventure sports expedition to Europe**

Key Highlights:

- **To climb Mt Blanc, the highest peak of Alps Mountains**
- **Multiple paragliding launches at valley floor of the Alps**
- **Terrain biking from Alps Mountains to English Channel covering around 1,000 kilometres**
- **Parajumping from 10,000 to 15,000 feet at Normandy Landing Zones of the World War II fame**
- **Scuba diving upto 40 metres in English Channel by scuba instructors**

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt flagged off upcoming National Institute of Mountaineering & Allied Sports (NIMAS) multidimensional adventure sports expedition to Europe, in New Delhi on October 27, 2021. The NIMAS will be conducting this expedition in the general area Chamonix, France in November 2021, which is considered the adventure capital of Europe. Expedition will be led by NIMAS Director Col Sarfraz Singh.

The expedition, in line with the 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav theme of the Government, aims to commemorate 75 years of Independence with an overall aim to promote adventure sports in the country by conducting India's first multidimensional adventure sports expedition in the fields of land, aero and aqua. It has also been stated that such an expedition will be a milestone in the history of NIMAS as it will showcase the dynamic skills and adventure expertise of the Institute in all the three fields.

The locations of expedition are (i) Alps Mountains; (ii) Chamonix; (iii) Normandy and (iv) English Channel. The multidimensional activities planned during the expedition are as under:

- (i) To climb Europe's the highest mountaineering peak of Alps Ranges, Mt Blanc
- (ii) Multiple paragliding launches near the valley floor of Alps;
- (iii) Mountain terrain biking from Alps Mountains to English Channel, to cover approximately 1,000 kilometres
- (iv) Scuba diving upto 40 metre depth in the English Channel by scuba instructors
- (v) Parajumping from 10,000 to 15,000 feet at the famous Normandy Landing Zones of World War II.

There will be hoisting/unfurling/displaying of Tricolour during in all these activities, whether air, land or under water.

In the year 2003, then Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee made an announcement that a national level mountaineering institute should be established in the North East. In pursuance of this announcement, National Institute of Mountaineering & Allied Sports (NIMAS) was established at Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh in 2013. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh is its President and Chief Minister of Arunachal Pradesh the Vice President. It is the only Institute in the country, which is mandated to conduct training in adventure courses in all three fields *i.e.*, land, aero and aqua.

During the last five years, the Institute conducted various expeditions including Mt Everest Expedition, Mt Trishul, Mt Kun, Mt Gorichen, Mt Kangto-6 and to various other mountain peaks. It has also conducted rafting expeditions to seven major rivers of Arunachal Pradesh. In 2019-20, the NIMAS cycling team undertook motor bike expedition to four South East Asian countries, *i.e.*, Myanmar, Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore.

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New Delhi, Kartika 05, 1943
Wednesday, October 27, 2021

**Surface to Surface Ballistic Missile, Agni-5, successfully launched
from APJ Abdul Kalam Island**

Key Highlights:

- **Agni-5 capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kilometres with very high degree of accuracy**
- **Uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine**
- **Successful launch in line with India’s policy to have ‘credible minimum deterrence’ that underpins the commitment to ‘No First Use’**

A successful launch of the Surface to Surface Ballistic Missile, Agni-5, was carried out on October 27, 2021 at approximately 1930 hrs from APJ Abdul Kalam Island, Odisha. The missile, which uses a three-stage solid fuelled engine, is capable of striking targets at ranges up to 5,000 kilometres with a very high degree of accuracy.

The successful test of Agni-5 is in line with India’s stated policy to have ‘credible minimum deterrence’ that underpins the commitment to ‘No First Use’.

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Wednesday, October 27, 2021

**BEL pays Rs 149.52 crore final dividend to the Government,
totalling Rs 498.38 crore for FY 2020-21**

Defence Public Sector Undertaking (DPSU) Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has paid a total dividend of 400 per cent on its paid up capital to the Government for Financial Year 2020-21. Chairman and Managing Director (Additional Charge), BEL Smt Anandi Ramalingam presented the 120 per cent final dividend cheque for Rs 149.52 crore, payable on the shares held by the President of India, to Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on October 27, 2021. The total dividend paid to the Government stands at Rs 498.38 crore. There has been a 43 per cent increase from FY 2019-20 despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Earlier, the Company had paid two interim dividends of Rs 174.43 crore each consisting of 140 per cent on face value of Rupee one per equity share in February and March 2021.

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New Delhi, Kartika 05, 1943
Wednesday, October 27, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh delivers keynote address at Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue 2021

Calls for cooperative response to deal with maritime challenges

Key Highlights of RM's speech:

- **India fully determined to protect its maritime interests, while it supports mandates of UN Convention on Law of Seas, 1982**
- **Seas vital for transport of goods, exchange of ideas, catalysing innovations & bringing the world closer**
- **Need for efficient & collaborative harnessing of maritime potential of Indo-Pacific for a steady path to prosperity**
- **Cooperative response needed for challenges such as terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking & climate change**

India is fully determined to protect its maritime interests, while it supports the maintenance of rule-based maritime systems, as mandated under UN Convention on the Law of Seas (UNCLOS), 1982. This was stated by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh while delivering the keynote address at Indo-Pacific Regional Dialogue (IPRD) 2021, being held virtually from October 27-29, 2021. “India is committed to respecting the rights of all nations as laid down in the UN Convention on the Law of Seas (UNCLOS), 1982. We are fully determined to protect the legitimate rights and interests of our country in relation to our territorial waters and Exclusive Economic Zone, while supporting the maintenance of rule-based maritime systems, as mandated under UNCLOS, 1982,” he said.

Referring to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's description of the Indo-Pacific as a natural region, where destinies of entities are interlinked, Shri Rajnath Singh said, the seas are a vital communication link to facilitate transport of goods, exchange of ideas, catalysing

innovations and contributing to bringing the world closer. “Although the Indo-Pacific is characterised by diversity, marked by a multiplicity of cultures, ethnicities, economic models, governance systems and varied aspirations, the oceans remain a common binding link,” he said. Shri Rajnath Singh emphasised on the need for an efficient, cooperative and collaborative harnessing of the region’s maritime potential for sustaining a steady path to prosperity.

The Raksha Mantri pointed out that while the seas offer abundant opportunities for sustenance and growth of the mankind, they pose challenges such as terrorism, piracy, drug trafficking and climate change. He called for a cooperative response to these challenges which, he said, has considerable trans-national implications. “There is a need to find convergence of interests and commonality of purpose on maritime issues,” he added.

Sharing his views on the broad theme of IPRD 2021, ‘*Evolution in Maritime Strategy during the 21st Century: Imperatives, Challenges and Way Ahead*’, Shri Rajnath Singh said, it dwells upon the region’s past, gauges the present and then arrives at tenets that will form the foundation of maritime strategies for the future. He hoped that the Dialogue will further the country’s shared and collective vision for the Indo-Pacific. The Raksha Mantri said, he is looking forward to the recommendations that will result from the deliberations.

First conducted in 2018, the IPRD is the apex international annual conference of the Indian Navy and is the principal manifestation of the Navy’s engagement at the strategic-level. The National Maritime Foundation is the Navy’s knowledge partner and chief organiser of each edition of this annual event. The aim of each successive edition is to review both opportunities and challenges that arise within the Indo-Pacific.

Under the broad theme, the IPRD 2021 will focus on eight specific sub-themes. These are:

- Evolving Maritime Strategies within the Indo-Pacific: Convergences, Divergences, Expectations and Apprehensions.
- Adaptive Strategies to Address the Impact of Climate Change upon Maritime Security.
- Port-led Regional Maritime Connectivity and Development Strategies.
- Cooperative Maritime Domain Awareness Strategies.
- Impact of the Increasing Recourse to Lawfare upon a Rules-based Indo-Pacific Maritime Order.

- Strategies to Promote Regional Public-Private Maritime Partnerships.
- Energy-Insecurity and Mitigating Strategies.
- Strategies to Address the Manned-Unmanned Conundrum at Sea.

Panel-discussions on these sub-themes would be spread over eight sessions on three successive days, thereby providing ample scope for varied perspectives to be considered. The aim is to encourage a free flow of ideas and views.

Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, former Chief of the Naval Staff and Chairman, National Maritime Foundation Admiral Sunil Lanba (Retd), domain experts and policy makers of different countries were present virtually during the inaugural session.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Kartika 04, 1943
Tuesday, October 26, 2021

Sea phase of India-UK maiden Tri-Service exercise ‘Konkan Shakti 2021’ in full swing

The sea phase of maiden Tri-Service exercise 'Konkan Shakti 2021' between the Armed Forces of India and United Kingdom (UK) is being held off the Konkan coast in the Arabian Sea. On completion of harbour planning phase, the sea phase of the exercise commenced on October 24, 2021. It will continue till October 27, 2021.

All participating units were split into two opposing forces with the aim of achieving sea control to land Army ground-troops at a pre-designated site. One force was led by the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet and comprised the flag ship INS Chennai, other warships of the Indian Navy and HMS Richmond, the Royal Navy's Type 23 frigate. The other force operated under the UK Carrier Strike Group comprising aircraft carrier, HMS Queen Elizabeth, other UK and Netherland naval ships and Indian warships.

The two forces integrated within their groups with exercises such as replenishment at sea approaches, air direction and strike operations by fighter aircraft (MiG 29Ks and F35Bs), cross control of helicopters (Sea King, Chetak and Wildcat), transiting through war-at-sea scenarios and gun shoots on expendable air targets. The simulated induction of Army troops was also undertaken, followed by setting up of a joint command operations centre. Thereafter, the two forces effected a rendezvous at sea with advanced air and sub-surface exercises.

The air operations included strikes on the combined formation by Indian maritime patrol aircraft (MPA) Dornier, fighters of the Indian Navy (MiG 29Ks), Royal Navy (F35Bs) and Indian Air Force (SU-30 and Jaguars) as well as a composite fly past over the formation. Sub-surface exercises with an Indian Scorpene class submarine and underwater remote controlled vehicle EMATT, operated by the Royal Navy, were undertaken through the night. Indian MPA, P8I also participated in the exercise.

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New Delhi, Kartika 03, 1943
Monday, October 25, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh chairs Ambassadors’ Round Table for
DefExpo 2022**

**Invites foreign defence companies to participate in Asia’s largest defence
exhibition in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**

Key Highlights of RM’s speech:

- **DefExpo 2022 to sow seeds of successful new ventures & international partnerships for shared prosperity**
- **The exhibition to boost investment, bolster Indian aerospace & defence ecosystem and cater to defence requirements of the world**
- **India open to do business on a mutually beneficially collaborative basis for all-round welfare of everyone**
- **India has potential for R&D in space, cyberspace, futuristic capabilities & disruptive technologies**
- **Defence exports grew by 334% in last five years; India now exporting to over 75 countries due to collaborative efforts**

In a major outreach to the friendly foreign countries as also to the defence manufacturing industries of the world, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh chaired the Ambassadors’ Round Table for DefExpo 2022, in New Delhi on October 25, 2021. The Round Table was aimed to brief the Ambassadors of foreign missions about the planning, arrangements and other details of DefExpo 2022, which will be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between March 10-13, 2022.

More than 200 delegates, including Ambassadors, Heads of Missions and Defence Attaches attended the Round Table, reflecting the growing global interest in the Indian Defence space. Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Raj Kumar and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence & Government of Gujarat were also present.

Inviting the foreign delegates to attend DefExpo 2022, Asia’s largest defence exhibition, Shri Rajnath Singh said, India is open to conduct business on a mutually beneficially collaborative basis, in the spirit of give and take, for all-round welfare of everyone. He exuded confidence that DefExpo 2022 will

bring all the latest technologies under one roof and provide a myriad of opportunities to the stakeholders in the aerospace & defence industry.

“Resurgent India, where defence manufacturing is an identified pillar of growth, will display its ability to take lead at DefExpo 2022. I am confident that pursuing the vision of our Hon’ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, DefExpo-2022 will sow the seeds of successful new ventures and international partnerships to promote shared prosperity, boost investment, expand manufacturing and bolster aerospace and defence ecosystem in India, which shall be ready to serve the defence requirements of our friendly countries also,” said Shri Rajnath Singh.

The Raksha Mantri thanked the foreign delegates for participating in DefExpo 2020 & Aero India 2021 and said DefExpo 2022 aims to further the benchmark of its previous editions with greater presence of foreign and Indian exhibitors, OEMs and foreign countries. “We are committed to supporting the partnerships that have been forged thus far as also form newer bonds for mutual growth,” he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh added that DefExpo 2022 will provide an overview of what India has been able to achieve in terms of defence R&D and production, application of modern technologies, liberalised collaborative policies introduced by the Government in last seven years. Saying that the Government is committed to furthering the defence business interests through synergistic growth, he expressed confidence that increased international participation will lead to development of mutually advantageous relationships between India & other countries.

The Raksha Mantri stated that the Indian aerospace and defence manufacturing sector is ready to soar to newer heights and it has the potential for R&D in space, cyberspace, futuristic capabilities and disruptive technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Block-chain, Virtual Reality, 3D Printing, Digital Frontier and Internet of Military Things.

Reaffirming the Government’s resolve to modernise the Armed Forces and make a strong & self-reliant defence industry, Shri Rajnath Singh said, various measures have been taken by the Government, including increasing defence capital outlay in the annual budget of 2021-22 by 18.75 % from the preceding year, which is the highest ever increment in the last 15 years. Other policy reforms include simplifying industrial licensing process; allowing 74% Foreign Direct Investment through automatic route and 100% with Government approvals for Critical technologies; introduction of Open General Export License policy; positive indigenisation lists of 209 items; launch of seven new Defence companies and opening up of testing & trial facilities for the private sector etc. The reforms in defence manufacturing are attracting greater interest from Indian and foreign defence manufacturers, innovators, MSMEs.

The Raksha Mantri appreciated the efforts of the Indian defence industry and thanked the foreign aerospace and defence companies for investing in the

Indian defence growth story. “It is because of the collaborative efforts of entities from all over the world that our defence exports have grown by 334% in last five years and now India is exporting to more than 75 countries. Our export performance is a strong indicator of the quality and competitiveness of our defence products,” he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh also reiterated the Government’s commitment to the collective security system laid down in Chapter VII of the UN Charter which deals with action with respect to threats to the peace, breaches of the peace and acts of aggression. “As a responsible nation, we wish to ensure a stable international security system through these collaborations and efforts,” he said.

On the occasion, the Raksha Mantri also launched DefExpo 2022 website (www.defexpo.gov.in). The website provides online services to exhibitors, besides hosting informative content about the various indigenous defence products and tourism, arts and crafts of Gujarat. The website is an enabler for exhibitors to register and book space online on a first-come-first-serve basis, make online payments, book conference halls and venues for Business-to-Business (B2B) meetings. The website is the first interface and will make the process of booking and information access effortless.

Trade visitors will be able to buy their tickets from the website for visiting the show during business days *i.e.* 10th & 11th March 2022. Free Entry is planned for the general public on 12th & 13th March. Defence publications and Media will have to register online through the website.

At DefExpo-2022, which coincides with ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebrations, the countries will not only get an opportunity to showcase their equipment and platforms, but also be able to explore the strengths and capabilities of the expanse of Indian Defence industry for forging Business partnerships. The event will help boost investment, expand manufacturing capacities and capabilities, discover avenues for technology absorption and thus, contribute to furthering the target of USD 5 Billion defence export by 2024. India aims to utilise this opportunity to further its business with the mantra of shared prosperity. The Indian Government’s commitment to make India self-reliant with indigenous defence capabilities will be reaffirmed.

ABB/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Kartika 03, 1943
Monday, October 25, 2021

**India@75 BRO motorcycle expedition team reaches Jammu on
second leg**

Key Highlights

- **Pan-India motorcycle expedition commemorating ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’**
- **Expedition was flagged-off by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh from New Delhi on October 14, 2021**
- **Reached Srinagar covering 3,050 kilometre in 10 days**
- **Progressed through Chandigarh, Shimla, Rohtang, Hanle, Umling La, Pang, Leh, Khardung La, Fotu La, Namik La, Kargil & Zoji La**
- **Expedition educating people; stimulating road safety awareness & spreading message of national integration**

India@75 Border Roads Organisation (BRO) motorcycle expedition, which was flagged off by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh from National War Memorial in New Delhi on October 14, 2021; completed its first leg by covering 3,050 kilometres in less than nine days. In the second leg, which started on October 24, 2021, the expedition has reached Jammu.

The expedition is traversing through five states/Union Territories, crossing plains of Delhi & Punjab and hill & snowbound areas of Himachal, Ladakh and Jammu & Kashmir in the first leg. It touched important places such as Chandigarh, Shimla, Atal Tunnel, Rohtang, Hanle (14,000 ft), Umling La, Pang, Leh (11,000 ft), Khardung La (17,400 ft), Namika La (12,140 ft), Fotu La (13,478 ft), Kargil & Zoji La (11,575 ft) before coming to halt at Srinagar. It may be noted that BRO had recently constructed highest motorable road in the world at Umling La (19, 300 ft).

While adventure was one of the aims of the expedition, the team was also able to achieve the other objectives of promoting message of national integration, nation building and road safety awareness among the masses. A number of outreach programmes were organised at Sunder Nagar and Manali in Himachal, Nyoma, Pang, Hanle, Leh and Kargil in Ladakh and then at Srinagar. The team interacted with the local citizens and tourists, building bonds and spreading the message of road safety. The enthusiastic local populace joined hands with expedition team and collectively carried out cleanliness drive promoting message of 'Swachh Bharat' at Manali, Leh, and Kargil. The team got the opportunity of interacting with BRO/Ex-Servicemen and Gallantry Award winners.

The team also interacted with the youth and young school children at Sunder Nagar in Himachal Pradesh and Leh in Ladakh and distributed school bags & stationery items, sharing with them ideas and experiences. The team also established a cultural connect by joining locals of Kullu district in celebrations of the world famous Kullu Dusshera and then visiting the Bhima Kali Mandir and Thiksey Monastery. They paid obeisance to our fallen heroes at Kargil War Memorial.

The first leg of the 20,000 km long expedition was action-packed and undoubtedly one of the most challenging legs. As the expedition gained momentum and altitude, the men and the machines were tested to the hilt, the team members endured sub-zero temperature (up to -25°C), Heavy snow blizzard, slippery roads and low oxygen levels at super high altitudes and every man in the team showed exemplary grit, courage and intent in taking the expedition forward through the difficult and challenging phases.

The BRO expedition team received overwhelming support, hospitality, encouragement, affection and warmth from the locals at every phases of the expedition, team members also radiated bonhomie, reciprocated love and made good friends enroute and finally handed over the baton at Srinagar to the next team. The second leg will further pass through Chandigarh, Rishikesh, Tanakpur, Praygraj, Varanasi, Bodhgaya, Patna, Bhagalpur and will finally culminate at 'The Gateway to North East' Siliguri, West Bengal, on November 04, 2021.

ABB/DK

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 30, 1943
Friday, October 22, 2021

**Ministry of Defence signs contract worth ₹ 423 Cr with US for
procurement of Arms for Indian Navy**

The Ministry of Defence has signed a contract on 21 October 2021 with the US Government under Foreign Military Sale (FMS) for procurement of MK 54 Torpedo and Expendable (Chaff and Flares) for the Indian Navy at a cost of ₹ 423 Crores. These weapons are the outfit of P-8I Aircraft which is used for Long range Maritime Surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare and Anti-Surface Warfare (ASV).

ABB/Nampi/PS

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Kartik 01, 1943
Friday, October 22, 2021

**High-Speed Expendable Aerial Target ABHYAS successfully flight-tested
by DRDO**

Key Highlights:

- **Abhyas is designed & developed by DRDO’s Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru.**
- **The current flight test is carried out as a part of developmental flight trials.**

ABHYAS - the High-speed Expendable Aerial Target (HEAT) was successfully flight-tested today by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) from the Integrated Test Range (ITR), Chandipur off the coast of Bay of Bengal in Odisha. The vehicle can be used as an aerial target for evaluation of various missile systems. The performance of the target aircraft was monitored through telemetry and various tracking sensors including Radars and Electro Optical Tracking System (EOTS).

Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO for the successful flight trial of Abhyas. The current flight test is carried out as a part of developmental flight trials. Expression of interest for production of the vehicle has already been floated to Indian industries. This indigenous target aircraft, once developed, will meet the requirements of High-speed Expendable Aerial Targets (HEAT) for Indian Armed Forces.

ABHYAS is designed & developed by DRDO’s Aeronautical Development Establishment (ADE), Bengaluru. The air vehicle is launched using twin under-slung boosters which provide the initial acceleration to the vehicle. It is powered by a gas turbine engine to sustain a long endurance flight at subsonic speed. The target aircraft is equipped with MEMS based Inertial Navigation System (INS) for navigation along with the Flight Control Computer (FCC) for guidance and control. The vehicle is programmed for fully autonomous flight. The check-out of air vehicle is done using laptop-based Ground Control Station (GCS).

Dr G Satheesh Reddy, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, DRDO also congratulated the teams associated with successful

flight test of 'ABHYAS' and termed it as a force-multiplier considering its accuracy and effectiveness.

ABB/NM/PS/RP

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 30, 1943
Friday, October 22, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh inaugurates IAF Conclave on
Swarnim Vijay Varsh in Bengaluru**

**Main objective behind 1971 war was to protect dignity of humanity
and democracy: Raksha Mantri**

It became classical example of 'Just war': Raksha Mantri

Key highlights:

- **Congruence of country's politico-military thoughts gave birth to a new nation defeating exploitation & injustice**
- **The war proved that where there is righteousness, there is victory**
- **Country will always be indebted to valour & sacrifice of its war heroes**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has said that 1971 war was one of the few wars in history that were fought neither for land nor for any resource, nor for that matter any kind of power. “The main objective behind this was to protect the dignity of humanity and democracy,” Raksha Mantri said while inaugurating the three-day conclave organised by the Indian Air Force to commemorate ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’ at Yelahanka Air Force Station in Bengaluru on October 22, 2021.

Referring to the theme of the conclave, 'Birth of a Nation: Congruence of Politico-Military Thoughts and Goals', Shri Rajnath Singh termed it the most appropriate because “It was the synergy and co-operation between the Tri-Services and the Government that ensured the success of our country in such a huge campaign.” He added “The congruence of our country's politico-military thoughts gave birth to a new nation in Asia, defeating exploitation and injustice and proved once again that where there is righteousness, there is victory (यतः धर्मस्ततो जयः) .”

On the challenges faced at that time, Shri Rajnath Singh said, “It is easy to say that in this war, east and west were the two main fronts, but in reality there were many such fronts which we had to take care of, and which would not have been possible without politico-military synergy.” He said the country had to take care of lakhs of refugees from the East, monitor any kind of aggressive attitude on International Boundary or 'Ceasefire Line' (Now Line of Control) by Pakistan, stop any kind of external interference in the Northern sector and retain India's credibility in favour of peace, justice and humanity.”

The Raksha Mantri also pointed to the largest military surrender after World War II in which more than 93,000 Pakistani soldiers surrendered at once. “In just 14 days, Pakistan had lost one-third of its Army, half its Navy and one-fourth of its Air-force. This war proved to be historic in many ways. Scholars and historians later termed it as a classic example of 'Just war'.”

Quoting 1971 war as shining example when there is talk of promoting jointness and integration among the Armed Forces in the changing times, Shri Rajnath Singh said, “This war told us the importance of thinking, planning, training and fighting together. The war also witnessed the well-knit team functioning of our Armed Forces, the diplomatic acumen of India, and the role of a responsive manufacturing base in meeting the needs of the forces. It also shows the need and importance of an 'all of government approach' in security challenges.” Today, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the country has got a Chief of Defence Staff and Ministry of Defence (MoD) has got Department of Military Affairs.

Raksha Mantri saluted the valour all those soldiers, sailors, air warriors and their families, who ensured the victory in the 1971 war. “This country will always be indebted to the valour and sacrifice of those heroes and will continue to move forward in the path of fulfilling their dreams.”

Shri Rajnath Singh also inaugurated photo exhibition on 1971 war on the occasion. Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhari, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and other senior civil and military officials of MoD were present on the occasion.

ABB/DK

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Ashvina 29, 1943
Wednesday, October 20, 2021**

**Raksha Mantri launches web-based project monitoring portal for
Military Engineer Services**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched Web Based Project Monitoring Portal (WPMP) for Military Engineer Services (MES) at New Delhi on 20th October 2021. The portal conceptualized in accordance with the Digital India Mission of the Union Government, has been developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geo-informatics (BISAG-G).

The newly launched unified portal is the first project management e-Governance to be implemented by the MES. It will enable real time monitoring of projects from its inception to completion. All stakeholders not only from MES but also Armed Forces users can gain access to the project information. This is one among many initiatives of MES for the scientific management of this organisation. Raksha Mantri appreciated the initiative that has several advantages in monitoring the MES projects and congratulated it for going digital.

Taking forward the Digital India Mission, MES is also in process of implementing nine other e-Governance applications in an endeavor to increase productivity, build transparency and improve efficiency towards infrastructural development for the Army. These include Product Approval Portal, AWMP Scrutiny & Status Application, E-Measurement Book, Budget Management Portal, Work Estimation Application, Billing and Construction Account Management, Cashbook Management and Accounting System, Contractor and Consultant Enlistment Portal & E-Deviation. These applications are expected to be developed by the end of this year and also to be amalgamated into singular Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) by mid of next year.

MES has also embraced State of the Art technologies in its projects such as the construction of high-rise residential accommodations, construction of state-of-the-art multi-speciality hospitals, provisioning of several run-way infrastructures, construction of specialised marine

structures, central engineering services such as the water & sewage treatment plants etc.

Chief of Defence Staff & Secretary-Department of Military Affairs General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff General Manoj M Naravane, Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Vivek Ram Chaudhuri, Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee Air Marshal BR Krishna, Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Satish Namdeo Ghormade, E-in-C of MES Lt. Gen. Harpal Singh and Director General of Indian Coast Guard Krishnaswamy Natarajan were also present at the launching ceremony for the WBPMP.

ABB/PS/RP

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Ashvina 27, 1943
Monday, October 18, 2021

**Defence Secretary inaugurates Capacity Building Program for IDES
Officers and Technical Staff of DGDE**

Key Highlights:

- **Director General of Defence Estates (DGDE) has successfully digitized the defence lands across India**
- **With over 18 lakh acres of Estates, DGDE is one of the largest land-managers of the government land**
- **Training is conducted by National Remote Sensing Centre (NRSC), Hyderabad**

Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar inaugurated a training program on the latest survey technologies and mapping of defence land boundaries using Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (GIS) for officers of Indian Defence Estates Services (IDES) and Technical Staff of Directorate General Defence Estates (DGDE) on 18th October 2021. The first batch of the training started at National Remote Sensing Center (NRSC), Hyderabad, while the program was inaugurated via video conference from New Delhi.

The program is aimed to train the technical resources of Defence Estates Organisation in the latest technologies through premier institutions in the country and generate in-house capacities for survey and protection of land. Through this program, the trainees will have exposure to new a skill-set in modern technologies like satellite imagery processing, drone imagery processing etc. It is proposed to impart training to the entire technical cadre of DGDE Organisation including the computer programmers of Cantonment Boards in batches. The first batch of Sub Divisional Officers is being trained from 18th October 2021 for two weeks at NRSC, Hyderabad.

While inaugurating the training program, the defence secretary urged the officers to keep themselves abreast with the latest technologies in Survey of Defence Land. He also emphasized the need to use technology in the Survey of Defence Land.

The defence secretary said on the occasion “with over 18 lakh acres estates, DGDE is one among the largest land managing organizations of the government land in the country. Also, this land pool is having varied types. While some chunk includes urban land, other are in remote and some in difficult terrains. So, it is extremely heartening to see that DGDE is adopting modern technologies and it would certainly improve the quality of land management system.”

The defence secretary also recalled the successful completion of digitization of defence land records by DGDE, through which, he said that the requirement from other organizations for public infrastructure projects like road, rail lines and power projects etc., in defence lands could be easily negotiated. He added that it could also ease the process of renewing the Leases. Dr Ajay Kumar pointed out the efforts of DGDE viz., developing surveillance system through satellites, to monitor the changes in the ground so that to take any corrective actions in case of any violations or encroachments.

The defence secretary hoped that just after completion of training, the officers will adopt these new technologies not only for quick completion of ongoing land survey by DGDE but also for establishing this endeavor of DGDE as one of the best practices that other ministries and departments may follow.

First batch training is aimed to train the trainees mainly in domains of Introduction to Remote Sensing, Image interpretation, Digital image fundamentals and radiometric enhancement, Geo-referencing of image, Projections & coordinate systems, Introduction to Geographic Information System (GIS), Data Conversion techniques, Error detection, editing and validation of spatial database, Maps composition, Hands-on practical session relevant to above topics.

In the next phase, one-week training for IDES officers to familiarize them with the latest technologies, is planned in November 2021. It will be a continuing exercise for IDES officers and staff till DGDE’s own training Institute (NIDEM) at Delhi develop its own capabilities to impart such training.

Defence Estates Organisation carried out a comprehensive survey of defence lands during 2011-2015 (Phase I). Now a Phase-II survey to verify, authenticate and reconcile the outcomes of the earlier survey has been undertaken and the same is in final stages of completion. Until recently, surveys were being conducted through ETS and DGPS. This methodology has been time consuming and outcomes of such surveys may also become outdated by the time the surveys are concluded.

It has been now decided that the latest technologies of land surveys as well as processing of data like satellite imagery, Drone based surveys and data processing tools should be adopted for more accurate, authentic, reliable, robust and time bound outcomes of the survey. These techniques will also enable monitoring of changes on ground like encroachment or cultivation of land and better planning. Towards this objective, steps have been taken to carry out the drone-based survey of Mahajan Field Firing Range (Bikaner, Rajasthan) which is under progress. Likewise, a satellite imagery-based survey of Pokhran field Firing Range is in progress. A third project for real time change detection system based on the Tome series Satellite imagery for detection of encroachments is also in progress.

Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Director General, Defence Estates, Smt Nivedita Shukla Verma, Additional Secretary, MoD, Shri Rakesh Mittal, Joint Secretary, MoD, Dr. Raj Kumar, Director, NRSC and Smt Sharmistha Maitra, Director, MoD were present during the said inauguration.

Nampi/PS/RP

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Asvina 24, 1943
Friday, October 15, 2021**

Seven new defence companies, carved out of OFB, dedicated to the Nation on the occasion of Vijayadashami

Creation of seven companies will give strength to Dr Kalam’s dream of strong India, says Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in his video address

These seven new companies would form a strong base for the military strength of the country in the times to come: PM

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh says, the new companies to be engines of growth for the economy and play important role in defence manufacturing ecosystem

New structure to transform Ordnance Factories into productive & profitable assets and ensure self-reliance in defence preparedness: RM

Seven new defence companies, carved out of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), were dedicated to the Nation at a function organised by Ministry of Defence on the occasion of ‘Vijayadashami’ in New Delhi on October 15, 2021. Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi delivered a video address during the event. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh presided over the ceremony at Kothari Auditorium, DRDO Bhawan.

To enhance functional autonomy, efficiency and unleash new growth potential & innovation, Government had decided to convert OFB from a Government Department into seven 100 per cent Government-owned corporate entities as a measure to improve self-reliance in the defence preparedness of the country. The seven new Defence companies are: Munitions India Limited (MIL); Armoured Vehicles Nigam Limited (AVANI); Advanced Weapons and Equipment India Limited (AWE India); Troop Comforts Limited (TCL) (Troop Comfort Items); Yantra India Limited (YIL); India Optel Limited (IOL) and Gliders India Limited (GIL). These companies have commenced business from October 01, 2021.

In his video address, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi noted the auspicious occasion of Vijayadashami today and the tradition of worshipping arms and ammunition on the day. He said, In India, we see power as a medium of creation. He remarked that with the same spirit, the nation is moving towards strength.

Shri Narendra Modi also paid tributes to Dr APJ Abdul Kalam and said that Dr Kalam dedicated his life to the cause of a strong nation and said that Restructuring of Ordnance Factories and creation of seven companies will give strength to his dream of strong India. New Defence companies are a part of the various resolutions which the nation is pursuing to build a new future for the country during this Amrit Kaal of India's independence, he added.

The Prime Minister said that the decision of creating these companies was stuck for a long time and expressed the belief these 7 new companies would form a strong base for the military strength of the country in the times to come. Noting the glorious past of Indian ordnance factories, the Prime Minister commented that upgradation of these companies was ignored in the post-independence period, leading to the country's dependence on foreign suppliers for its needs. "These 7 defence companies will play a major role in changing this situation", he said.

Shri Narendra Modi also mentioned that these new companies would play an important role in import substitution, in line with the vision of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. An order book of more than Rs 65,000 crore reflect the increasing confidence of the country in these companies, he added.

The Prime Minister recalled the various initiatives and reforms undertaken in the recent past that have created Trust, Transparency and Technology driven approach in the defence sector like never before. Today, private and public sector are working hand in hand in the mission of national security, he added. He cited Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu Defence Corridors as examples of the new approach. He noted as new opportunities are emerging for the youth and MSME the country is seeing the result of policy changes in the recent years. "Our defence export has increased by 325 per cent in last five years", he added.

Shri Narendra Modi mentioned that it is our target that our companies not only establish expertise in their products but also become a global brand. He urged that while competitive cost is our strength, quality and reliability should be our identity. He further mentioned that

in the 21st century, growth and brand value of any nation or any company is determined by its R&D and innovation. He appealed to the new companies that Research and innovation should be a part of their work culture, so that they just don't catch up but take lead in future technologies. This restructuring would provide more autonomy to the new companies to nurture innovation and expertise and the new companies should encourage such talent, he added. He urged the start-ups to become a part of this new journey through these companies to leverage the research and expertise of each other.

The Prime Minister mentioned that the Government has given these new companies not only a better production environment but also complete functional autonomy. He reiterated that the Government has also ensured that the interests of the employees are fully protected.

Describing the decision to convert OFB into seven defence companies as historic, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, in his address, said the move reflects the Government's resolve of achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'. He said, this decision will provide autonomy to these companies and improve accountability & efficiency in the functioning of 41 factories under them. He exuded confidence that the new structure will help in overcoming various shortcomings in the existing system of OFB and provide these companies incentive to become competitive and exploring new opportunities in the market including exports, while safeguarding the interests of the employees.

“The objective of this restructuring is to transform Ordnance Factories into productive, and profitable assets; improve expertise in product range; increase competitiveness; improve quality; enhance cost-efficiency and ensure self-reliance in defence preparedness,” he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh hoped that in the times of come, these new companies would not only play an important role in the defence manufacturing ecosystem but would also be engines of growth for the Indian economy. He added that restructuring is a continuing process, not an end in itself.

Saying that the new companies have full potential for growth, Shri Rajnath Singh said, if required, the government will provide support initially through financial and non-financial interventions.

Reiterating the Government's commitment towards protecting the interests of OFB employees, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that all employees of OFB (Group A, B & C) belonging to production units will be transferred to corporate entities on deemed deputation for a period of two years

without any change in their service conditions as Central Government employees.

Terming production of defence items as key for achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', the Raksha Mantri voiced the Government's resolve of making India a defence manufacturing hub and net exporter through active participation of the private sector, joint ventures and setting up of defence manufacturing units. He said, since 2014, all efforts have been made to bridge the gap between age-old business methods and modern-day practices that are needed to make way into the global market, expressing satisfaction that the country is making giant strides towards achieving 'Make in India, Make for the World' vision of the Prime Minister.

"The country's defence sector has scaled greater heights due to the reforms taken by the Government in the past few years. We have created a conducive ecosystem for exports and FDI with focus on manufacturing products indigenously," said Shri Rajnath Singh. He added that Ministry of Defence has set a target of achieving a turnover of Rs 1.75 lakh crore in aerospace and defence goods and services by 2024, including exports of Rs 35,000 crore.

The Raksha Mantri defined the present defence manufacturing scenario in the country as a synergy of the private and public sectors. "Public and private sectors are working hand-in-hand to enhance the preparedness of our Armed Forces," he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh urged the new management to not just depend on orders for the Services, but explore new opportunities in India and abroad. He also wished the Nation on 'Vijayadashami' and remembered former President APJ Abdul Kalam on his birth anniversary

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt mentioned that the transformation of OFB could become a reality only because of the vision and leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He expressed gratitude to the EGoM, led by the Raksha Mantri, which made it feasible to carry out such a huge reform, involving more than 75,000 employees, 41 production units and a number of non-production units spread over 10 States/UT in the country, having assets worth more than Rs. 79,000 crore and above all, legacy of more than 220 years.

National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Raj Kumar, Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare) Shri B Anand, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Shri Sanjiv Mittal and

other senior officers of Ministry of Defence and representatives from the Defence Industry Associations were also present.

In addition to the central programme, the ceremony was held in a federated manner with programmes and events held in all the seven new companies and their units located in various states. Several independent events were also organised at local level by these companies to commemorate the historic day. These programmes were connected to the central programme through video conferencing.

ABB/DS/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 24, 1943
Friday, October 15, 2021

**‘Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal’ inaugurated at Naval Science &
Technological Laboratory of DRDO**

‘Dr APJ Abdul Kalam Prerana Sthal’ was inaugurated at Naval Science & Technological Laboratory (NSTL), Visakhapatnam on October 15, 2021 on the occasion of 90th birth anniversary of Bharat Ratna Dr APJ Abdul Kalam, former President of India and to commemorate ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’. The NSTL is the premier naval research laboratory of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO). A statue of Dr Kalam was also unveiled by Dr Samir V Kamat, Director General (Naval Systems & Materials), DRDO.

On the occasion, NSTL products Varunastra, Torpedo Advanced Light (TAL) and Maareech decoy are being displayed at the venue.

As part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, the DRDO is taking various initiatives towards highlighting the importance of R&D and increasing awareness among general public and igniting young minds in particular. Dr Kalam’s Prerana Sthal will motivate the people particularly young minds from Dr Kalam’s life and his impeccable achievements.

ABB/PS/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 23, 1943
Thursday, October 14, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh at SCO webinar: Government has taken evolutionary path to ensure equal participation of women in Armed Forces

Raksha Mantri: Terrorism is a manifestation of changing concept of war; Women too have a role in fighting this menace

Key highlights:

- **Govt has taken several steps to strengthen role of women in the Armed Forces**
- **SCO unequivocally rejected terrorism**
- **Women officers from SCO nations welcome in OTA, Chennai**

Delivering the inaugural address at Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) webinar on ‘Role of Women in Armed Forces’, on October 14, 2021 from New Delhi, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh said, Government has taken a number of steps to strengthen the role of women within the security setup in general and the armed forces in particular. Women have been serving with pride in Indian Military Nursing Service for over 100 years now. Indian Army had commenced commissioning women officers in 1992. “It has now moved to inducting women officers in most of the branches of the Army. Women are now being accepted for permanent commission and shall be commanding army units and battalions in near future”, he added. The webinar was hosted Hq, Integrated Defence Staff of the Ministry of Defence.

Pointing out that induction of women in Military Police has commenced last year, Raksha Mantri said from next year, women shall be able to join the premier tri-service training institute, the National Defence Academy. He wished to see women officers from SCO nations in the Officer Training Academy, Chennai.

Shri Rajnath Singh said that women were inducted in both support and combat roles - in the Indian Navy they pilot Maritime Reconnaissance aircrafts and since last year they were appointed onboard warships. Similarly, Indian Coast Guard has been employing women officers in combat roles which includes pilots, observers and aviation support services. In the Indian Air Force, women fly helicopters, fighter jets and constitute a significant percent of the officer cadre. In UN peacekeeping missions too, women from the Indian Armed Forces participate regularly.

He said that Government's approach to the induction of women in the armed forces has been progressive. "We have taken the evolutionary path of moving from support to combat support and thereafter to combat arms within the armed forces," he added.

Underlining that the concept of security is undergoing a paradigm shift, Shri Rajnath Singh said the changing character of war is bringing threats from our borders to within our society. "Terrorism is just the most obvious and diabolical manifestation of this reality. It has been employed as a weapon of choice by non-state actors and irresponsible states alike for the furtherance of their political objectives. SCO as an organization has unequivocally rejected terrorism in all its manifestations and forms," he added and stressed that "this fight cannot be won by half the population... Women too will remain equal contributors in this fight, both within the armed forces and beyond them."

Shri Rajnath Singh said women have proven themselves in every walk of life, "Many barriers have been broken and many more imagined barriers should break in the years to come."

Raksha Mantri saluted the brave women from all SCO nations who have been selflessly serving their respective nations, working on conflict mitigation, developmental projects and promoting the cause of peace and prosperity. Exhorting the SCO nations to ensure regional stability, promote peace, ensure gender-equality and work towards betterment of the entire region, Raksha Mantri said, "We look forward to much greater participation and bigger role of women in various tasks of Armed Forces."

Stressing that Indian customs and traditions revered women as both caregivers and protectors, Raksha Mantri said, "If Saraswati is our Goddess of knowledge, wisdom & learning, Mother Durga remains associated with protection, strength, destruction and war. In fact, we are celebrating Vijay Dashami, the day Goddess Durga defeated & killed demon Mahishasura, across the subcontinent." He also recalled that

women took up arms to protect the country throughout history, “Rani Laxmi Bai is amongst the most revered and respected amongst them. She fought against the imposition of unjust foreign rule till her very last breath, leading her men from the front.”

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat delivered the welcome address. The SCO Deputy Secretary-General Muratbek Azymbakiev also addressed Webinar via video link. Delegates of SCO countries shared their experiences with the aim to enrich and inform policy makers and practitioners alike. The webinar was conducted in two sessions. The first session on ‘Historical Perspective of Women’s Roles in Combat Operations’ was chaired by Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Medical) Lt General Madhuri Kanitkar. Apart from India, speakers from China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan shared their perspectives in the session. The Second session on ‘Emerging Trends in Wars and Likely Roles of Women Warriors’ was chaired by Former Foreign Secretary Smt Nirupama Rao Menon. Members from Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan shared their views on the subject.

Closing address was delivered by Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (COSC) Air Marshal B R Krishna. Senior civil and military officials of MoD attended the webinar.

ABB/ DK/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 23, 1943
Thursday, October 14, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh presides over breakthrough blast of main tube of Sela Main Tunnel via video conferencing

To provide all-weather connectivity to Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh

RM Flags-off ‘India @75 BRO Motorcycle Expedition’

Key highlights:

- **Sela Tunnel to bolster national security & ensure socio-economic development of Arunachal Pradesh**
- **BRO playing crucial in enhancing operational readiness of Armed Forces, besides generating employment & tourism in border areas**
- **Motorcycle expedition to instill message of national integration & nation building**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh presided over breakthrough blast of main tube of Sela Tunnel via video conferencing and flagged-off ‘India @75 Motorcycle Expedition’ at an event organised by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in New Delhi on October 14, 2021. In his address, Shri Rajnath Singh said that the Sela Tunnel, located in West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh, will play a crucial role in bolstering national security and ensuring socio-economic development of the region.

Perched at an altitude of 13,800 ft, Sela pass on the 317 km long Balipara-Charduar-Tawang (BCT) road connects West Kameng, East Kameng and Tawang districts of Arunachal Pradesh to the rest of the country. It reduces travel time and provides all weather connectivity to Tawang.

In his address, Shri Rajnath Singh commended BRO for making significant contribution to the progress of the Nation by constructing of roads, bridges, tunnels & airfields at record altitudes under extreme weather conditions and making remote areas visible on connectivity maps. He said the efforts of BRO to strengthen border infrastructure have enhanced the operational readiness of the Armed Forces, encouraged tourism in far-flung areas and generated employment for local population. This state-of-the-art tunnel will prove to be a lifeline for not just Tawang but the entire state, he added.

The Raksha Mantri made special mention of the construction of Atal Tunnel, Rohtang, which is world's longest highway tunnel at 10,000 feet and Umlingla Pass, the highest motorable pass in the world at 19,300 feet in Eastern Ladakh. He said, these recent achievements of BRO have become a subject of study for the whole world.

Referring to the second event of the day organized by the BRO, Shri Rajnath Singh described the 'India @75 BRO Motorcycle Expedition' as a fitting tribute to the soldiers who sacrificed their lives in the service of the nation. The expedition is part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' which is being celebrated across the country to commemorate 75 years of Independence. Seventy five riders from BRO, including Indian Army and General Reserve Engineer Force personnel, will cover approximately 20,000 kilometres over the next 75 days. The personnel will interact with local people, school children, Gallantry award winners, Ex-Servicemen and Veer Naris; conduct medical camps and raise awareness on Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and road safety.

The Raksha Mantri hoped that the expedition will instill the message of national integration and nation building among people especially the youth. He stressed that besides adventure, such activities have an important aspect of defence and security. "We can gather additional information about border security and its challenges through such campaigns. Our Army has given a lot of encouragement to such activities and it has helped them to gather information related to security," he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh called for reaching out to general public for promotion of such activities, emphasising that these can play a big role in encouraging tourism, generating employment and strengthening local economy. He assured all possible cooperation of the Government to achieve this objective. He urged BRO to document their experiences which, he stressed, would be preserved as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav' celebrations archive for future generations.

It may be recalled that Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had in 2019 laid the foundation stone of the Sela Tunnel project to provide all weather connectivity to Tawang through the Balipara-Charduar-Tawang Road. The breakthrough blast of the main tube of the tunnel marks the end of its excavation. Work on the 980-metre long second tunnel of the project has already crossed the 700-metre mark.

Upon completion, the over 1.5 kilometre tunnel will be one of the longest bi-lane road tunnels in the world at an altitude above 13,800 feet. This unique tunnel constructed using the latest New Austrian Tunneling Method is much below the snow line allowing all weather travel without the challenges of snow clearance. It 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.

On the other hand, the seven-legged 'India @75 Motorcycle Expedition' will traverse through the length and breadth of the country for the next 75 days. From India Gate, it will advance to the Northern High Altitude areas crossing strategic passes Rohtang, Khardung La and Umling La. The second leg will see the team travel from Srinagar to Siliguri. In the third and fourth legs, from Siliguri to Doom Dooma via Gangtok, the expedition will progress through the North-Eastern states before reaching Kolkata. In the fifth and sixth legs, the expedition will travel through the Eastern, Southern and Western coastal areas of the country. In the last leg, the expedition, passing through the deserts, the team will reach New Delhi on December 27, 2021. The expedition is co-sponsored by Hero MotoCorp and Bharat Petroleum Limited. They are providing adventure motorcycles, protective gears, jackets, fast-moving spares and technical & logistical assistance.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Director General Border Roads Lt General Rajeev Chaudhry and other senior civil and military officials of Ministry of Defence were present on the occasion.

ABB/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 23, 1943
Thursday, October 14, 2021

**29 nursing cadets commissioned as Lieutenants into Military
Nursing Service**

Key highlights:

- **Commissioning ceremony of 4th batch of B.Sc. (H) Nursing, College of Nursing held at Army Hospital (Research & Referral)**
- **Commandant, AH (R&R) lauds the role of frontline COVID-19 workers**
- **Urges new Lieutenants to keep abreast with latest developments in medicine & nursing**

Commissioning ceremony of the fourth batch of B.Sc. (H) Nursing, College of Nursing was held at Army Hospital (Research & Referral), AH (R&R), Delhi Cantt. on October 14, 2021. Commandant, AH (R&R) Lt Gen Joy Chatterjee was the Chief Guest. Additional Director General of Military Nursing Service (MNS) Maj Gen Smita Devrani administered oath to the newly commissioned Nursing Officers. During the ceremony, 29 nursing cadets were commissioned as Lieutenants into MNS and would be posted in various Armed Forces hospitals.

In his address, Lt Gen Joy Chatterjee congratulated the newly commissioned Nursing Officers and urged them to nurture the ethics of MNS and uplift the tradition of service. The General Officer lauded the role of frontline COVID-19 warriors in dealing with the pandemic in the country. He advised the young Lieutenants to keep abreast with the latest developments in the field of medicine and nursing to provide medical care to patients with compassion and dedication.

ABB/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 23, 1943
Thursday, October 14, 2021

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav run by HQ IDS from Jhansi to National War Memorial

Key highlights:

- **The run to commemorate Rani of Jhansi, who laid down her life in 1858 in First War of Independence**
- **Also, in remembrance of Declaration of Formation of Provisional Govt of Free India by Netaji Subash Chandra Bose on October 21, 1943**
- **CDS General Bipin Rawat will flag in the run at National War Memorial**

As part of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations, Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (Hq IDS) is organising a run from Maharani Laxmi Bai Smark, Gwalior to National War Memorial in New Delhi between October 15-21, 2021. In the spirit of Jointness and living up to the motto of ‘Victory through Jointness’, the team comprising of six officers and one NCO from the Tri-Services, will cover the distance of 350 kilometres in seven days.

The run will also commemorate Rani of Jhansi, who laid down her life in 1858 at Gwalior in the First War of Independence and Declaration of Formation of the Provisional Government of Free India by Netaji Subash Chandra Bose on October 21, 1943.

The team is led by Commodore Joginder Chandna, who at 56 is the eldest member of the team and an experienced ultra marathoner. His exploits include running 310 kilometres in 36 hours in 2016. The second naval officer in the team is Commander Mandip Kaur, a certified scuba diver and an experienced inter-city ultra marathoner. The Indian Army is represented by two para troopers: Lieutenant Colonel Swaroop Singh Kuntal, an ultra marathoner, national level cyclist, triathlete, ironman & ultraman and Naik Hari Om, who was member of the Battle of Kangla Tongbi Platinum Jubilee Run 2019 from Jabalpur to Secunderabad, a distance of 777 kilometres.

The Indian Air Force is represented by Air Commodore V S Choudary, who led the Air Force Ultra Marathon Team from Pathankot to New Delhi in 2015 to commemorate 50 years of the 1965 Indo-Pakistan War and Wing Commander Pankaj Vatsyayan, whose ultra-marathon experience includes

second position in the tough 160 kilometre-run in Rann of Kutch. The youngest member of the team is Flight Lieutenant Rishabh Jeet Kaur Bhatia, who ran from Kargil to Kohima in 2019 – a distance of 4,500 kilometres in 45 days - to commemorate the 20th Anniversary of Kargil Victory.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat will flag in the team at the National War Memorial on October 21, 2021.

ABB/DK

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 23, 1943
Thursday, October 14, 2021

**Online booking of community halls of Cantonment Boards made live
on eChhawani portal**

Key highlights:

- **Portal to enhance ease of living for Cantonment residents**
- **Community halls can now be booked through digital payment**
- **e-Chhawani portal provides centralised access to civic services to Cantonment residents**

In order to extend the facility for booking community halls of Cantonment Boards online without any physical application, a ‘Community Hall Booking module’ has now been made live on the eChhawani portal for greater ease of living for Cantonment residents. The facility is being provided in paperless, faceless and cashless environment *i.e.* the applicant will be able to book the community hall online, make payment in digital mode and track the status of his application.

The status of application will be communicated to the applicant at each stage through SMS & email and the confirmation of allotment will also be conveyed digitally. The release of the module on the portal will provide a transparent & hassle free environment to the Cantonment residents.

e-Chhawani is a citizen centric project of Ministry of Defence as part of comprehensive e-enablement of Cantonment Boards to provide online citizen services to more than 20 lakh people across 62 Cantonments in the country through a multi-tenancy central platform. The common platform (<https://echhawani.gov.in>) provides centralised access to civic services to residents of all Cantonment Boards along with

all relevant information in a simple, easy to understand and effective manner.

Various citizen centric services have been released on the portal and have received encouraging response from the residents. These services include grant of Trade licences, renewal of leases, water and sewerage connections, Births and Deaths certificates, OPD appointments in cantonment hospitals, online deposit of taxes and fees and lodging grievances for quick and timely redressal.

ABB/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 22, 1943
Wednesday, October 13, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to address SCO webinar on Role
of Women in Armed Forces**

Key highlights:

- **CDS General Bipin Rawat will deliver welcome address**
- **Session on ‘Historical Perspective of Women’s Roles in Combat Operations’ will be chaired by Dy Chief of IDS (Medical) Lt General Madhuri Kanitkar**
- **Former Foreign Secretary Mrs Nirupama Rao Menon will chair session on ‘Emerging Trends in Wars and Likely Roles of Women Warriors’**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will deliver the inaugural address at a webinar on ‘Role of Women in Armed Forces’, being organised by Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) on October 14, 2021. The international webinar in video conference mode is hosted by the Ministry of Defence.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat will deliver the welcome address. The representatives of the SCO member countries will share their experiences which will enrich and inform policy makers and practitioners alike.

The webinar will be conducted in two sessions. The first session on ‘Historical Perspective of Women’s Roles in Combat Operations’ will be chaired by Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence Staff (Medical) Lt General Madhuri Kanitkar. Apart from India, speakers from China, Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan will share their perspectives in the session.

The Second session will be chaired by Former Foreign Secretary Smt Nirupama Rao Menon. Theme of the session is: ‘Emerging Trends in Wars and Likely Roles of Women Warriors’. Representatives from Pakistan, Russian Federation, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan will share their views on the subject.

The conference was originally planned with the physical presence of the representatives of the member states in the year 2020, however, owing to COVID-19 pandemic, is now being conducted via video conferencing, as despite the pandemic the interaction between the SCO member states remain important.

Closing address will be delivered by the Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) Air Marshal BR Krishna. Senior civil and military officials of MoD will also be present in the webinar.

The Government of India has recognized women as proud and essential members of the Indian Defence forces and the potential they bring to the Armed Forces. Accordingly, in the last seven years, the Government has taken several steps to bring in more opportunities for women in the Indian Defence forces as well as create equality in service conditions for women and men. Today, women are greatly empowered within the Indian Defence Forces, whether it is the Indian Army, Indian Navy or the Indian Air Force.

ABB/DK

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Asvina 18, 1943
Saturday, October 09, 2021**

**Astronautical Society of India Confers Aryabhata Award to Secretary
DDR&D and Chairman DRDO, Dr G Satheesh Reddy**

Key Highlights:

- **Dr G Satheesh Reddy is a pioneer in the area of R&D of advanced avionics, navigation and missile technologies**
- **Dr Reddy is an institution builder and has set up mechanisms to establish robust defence development and production ecosystem**

Secretary DDR&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy has been conferred the prestigious Aryabhata Award by Astronautical Society of India (ASI) for his outstanding life-time contribution to the promotion of astronautics in India. The award function was held on October 09, 2021 at UR Rao Satellite Centre Bangalore with participants joining virtually from across the ISRO, DRDO and other academic institutions.

Dr G Satheesh Reddy is a pioneer in the area of R&D of advanced avionics, navigation and missile technologies. He has contributed immensely to strategic and tactical missile systems and helped the country become self-reliant in critical defence technologies. He is an institution builder and has set up mechanisms to establish robust defence development and production ecosystem. Due to his persistent effort, defence research in academic institutes is accelerating towards higher technology readiness level.

The ASI is engaged in the dissemination of technical and other information related to astronautics by conducting technical meetings, bringing out technical publications and organising exhibitions.

ABB/DK/ADA

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 18, 1943
Saturday, October 09, 2021

India-US Defence Policy Group Meeting in Washington DC

Defence Secretary of India Dr Ajay Kumar and the US Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Dr Colin Kahl co-chaired the 16th meeting of the India-US Defence Policy Group (DPG) on 08 October 2021 in Washington DC. The DPG is the apex official-level mechanism between the Ministry of Defence of India and the US Department of Defense to comprehensively review and guide all aspects of bilateral defence cooperation.

The two sides reviewed the progress in operationalising India-US Major Defence Partnership, mil-to-mil engagements, implementation of foundational defence agreements, defence exercises, strengthening technology cooperation and defence trade. Both sides shared regional security perspectives and cooperation, and to work together to promote shared interests in the Indo Pacific region.

The co-chairs were apprised of the progress made by various bilateral defense initiatives and mechanisms. They took stock of the joint project to co-develop air-launched unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) under the Defence Technology and Trade Initiative. The two sides also welcomed the holding of inaugural Industrial Security Agreement meeting in India to facilitate high-end defence industrial collaboration. They agreed to encourage both the private and government stakeholders to utilise the existing innovation ecosystems in defence industries for co-development and co-production. Both sides welcomed the cooperation in new domains such as space, Artificial Intelligence, cyber and counter Unmanned Aerial Vehicle technologies.

The two sides reviewed preparation for the forthcoming 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue. It was agreed to hold the next DPG meeting in India on mutually convenient dates.

ABB/DK

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 18, 1943
Saturday, October 09, 2021

**Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt visits Defence Electronics
Applications Laboratory**

Key Highlights:

- **Appreciated efforts of the lab in developing state-of-the-art communication and surveillance systems and technologies**
- **Lauded efforts of DEAL towards the social responsibilities including setup of COVID-19 related support**

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt visited Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) premier lab, Defence Electronics Applications Laboratory (DEAL) in Dehradun on October 08, 2021. Director of DEAL Shri P K Sharma briefed the Raksha Rajya Mantri about various ongoing and planned projects and the production status of the products developed by the laboratory and users' satisfaction.

During the visit, Shri Ajay Bhatt discussed the activities of DEAL at length and made several suggestions towards encouraging private production units in Uttarakhand to boost local defence manufacturing and also on induction policy of products developed by the DRDO. The Raksha Rajya Mantri was demonstrated the products and technologies developed by the DEAL for the Armed Forces. This included SDR, GSAT-6 terminals, Troposcatter Modem, HD-VLF communication system and Data Links for RUSTOM-II MALE UAV and AEW&CS.

Shri Ajay Bhatt appreciated the efforts of laboratory in developing state-of-the-art communication and surveillance systems and technologies. He also lauded the efforts of the DEAL towards the social responsibilities including setup of COVID-19 related support, communication support during natural calamities, providing internship to engineering graduates and post graduates, organising webinars with universities, and showcasing of products developed by the laboratory for general public at various occasions. He also planted a sapling on the campus of the laboratory.

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 18, 1943
Saturday, October 09, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh confers gallantry and meritorious service medals on personnel of Indian Coast Guard

Lauds ICG for its role in maintaining maritime peace, security and search and rescue operations in the Indian Ocean Region

Key Highlights:

- **21 awards - three President’s Tatrakshak Medals (Distinguished Service), eight Tatrakshak Medals (Gallantry) & 10 Tatrakshak Medals (Meritorious Service) presented**
- **ICG emerged as one of the largest such forces in the world**
- **Government committed to bolstering maritime security**
- **Raksha Mantri also addressed 38th Coast Guard Commanders’ Conference**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh conferred gallantry and meritorious service medals on the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) personnel at an investiture ceremony held in New Delhi on October 09, 2021. A total of 21 awards, including three President’s Tatrakshak Medals (Distinguished Service), eight Tatrakshak Medals (Gallantry) and 10 Tatrakshak Medals (Meritorious Service) were presented during the ceremony. The awarding of medals was in recognition of the selfless devotion, exemplary courage and acts of valour of the ICG personnel under extreme conditions.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rajnath Singh extended his best wishes to the winners and exuded confidence that these awards & medals would not only boost the morale of the awardees, but inspire other ICG personnel to give their best to safeguard the interests of the nation. He lauded the efforts of ICG in maintaining the safety of the maritime frontiers and securing vast coastline of the country.

Commending their energy & dedication, the Raksha Mantri said, the ICG, which began their service to the nation with just 4-6 boats, is

now one of the best maritime forces in the world with over 150 ships and 66 aircraft. This ever-growing stature, he said, instills confidence among the people that the national maritime interests are under safe supervision.

Stressing that India's culture, literature, trade & economy are closely linked with the sea, Shri Rajnath Singh pointed out that along with prospects of prosperity, the sea also posed various security challenges. He voiced the Government's resolve of bolstering the country's maritime security, terming it a crucial aspect of comprehensive internal & external security framework. "India's maritime zones must be safe, secure and pollution free. This will fulfil our security needs and ensure environmental health & economic development," he said.

The Raksha Mantri termed 'unhindered maritime activity' as a necessity to move ahead on the path of rapid development. He stated that India is a rising maritime power and its prosperity is largely dependent on the sea. Referring to Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'SAGAR', i.e. 'Security and Growth for All in the Region', he lauded the ICG for being at the forefront in achieving that goal by promoting regional cooperation, maintaining maritime peace in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR) and working closely with international maritime agencies.

Shri Rajnath Singh also praised the ICG for its gallant acts of providing aid to the neighbouring countries whenever needed. He made special mention of the fire-fighting and pollution response operations of the ICG - Sagar Raksha-I' and Sagar Raksha-II' - which played a significant role in dousing the blaze onboard large crude oil carrier 'New Diamond' and container vessel 'Express Pearl' off the coast of Sri Lanka recently. These timely and courageous acts averted major devastation in the IOR and have positioned India as a responsible and capable maritime power, he said.

The Raksha Mantri recalled the commendable role played by ICG in saving precious lives during the recent cyclones 'Tauktae' and 'Yaas'. He also praised ICG for their operations against illegal weapons and narcotics trafficking, saying that the 'Sentinels of the Sea' are not only tackling the challenges of the present, but also working to secure and strengthen the country's future.

In the last one year, ICG carried out 70 medical evacuations, conducted 555 search and rescue operations and saved the lives of more than 1,090 people.

Director General ICG Shri K Natarajan and senior officers of Ministry of Defence and Indian Coast Guard were present on the occasion.

Following the Investiture ceremony, Raksha Mantri also addressed the 38th Coast Guard Commanders' Conference. The Conference is an annual meet which is attended by all the senior officers of the ICG and Ministry of Defence. A brief on recent operational and administrative developments in Indian Coast Guard was presented to the Raksha Mantri. A wide range of issues pertaining to strengthening of the ICG as well as legitimate legal use of oceans will be discussed during the three-day Conference.

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 17, 1943
Friday, October 08, 2021

NCC RDC-2022 selection process in full swing in friendly countries

Key highlights:

- Quiz test for selection completed**
- Participation in RDC-2022 made aspirational**
- As of now, Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius, Seychelles, Nigeria, Mozambique and Maldives confirm participation**

Process to select participants for National Cadet Corps (NCC) Republic Day Camp 2022 (RDC-2022) is in full swing. Competitive tests were conducted in 25 friendly countries in September 2021 to select approximately 300 cadets of NCC/equivalent/youth organisations.

As part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, the participation of cadets has been expanded to 15 more countries, *i.e.*, France, United States, United Kingdom, Canada, Brazil, Argentina, Japan, United Arab Emirates, Oman, Australia, New Zealand, Nigeria, Mauritius, Seychelles and Mozambique. Earlier, the usual participation was from 10 friendly countries *i.e.*, Russia, Singapore, Vietnam, Nepal, Bhutan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Maldives, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan are invited for the NCC Camp.

The selection process will be completed by the end of October 2021. From each country, 10 cadets alongwith their instructors numbering total of around 300 participants will take part in the RDC-2022. The competitive test comprised of a quiz on India to promote knowledge about the country’s culture & heritage, geography, politics, achievements and famous personalities among the participants. The tests were conducted by Embassy/High Commission in their respective countries in coordination with host country organisation.

Till now, seven countries, namely Brazil, Argentina, Mauritius, Seychelles, Nigeria, Mozambique and Maldives have confirmed their participation. The rest are in the final stage of confirmation.

The NCC RDC-2022 selection process has also commenced in States and Union Territories by NCC Directorates. Around 1,600 cadets from across the country would participate in the NCC Camp. Due to COVID-19 protocol, the duration of the Camp would be 43 days from December 17/18, 2021 that include quarantine period as well. The actual commencement of the Camp is scheduled from January 16 to January 29, 2022, which includes Prime Minister's Rally on January 28, 2022.

To ensure safety of the youth participating in the Camp, all protocols and safety aspects of COVID-19 will be followed. The cadets visiting India would be requested to have full vaccination and health insurance.

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 17, 1943
Friday, October 08, 2021

DRDO conducts All India Official Language, Scientific and Technical Seminar

Key Highlights:

- **Objective to promote use of Hindi in official activities including scientific and technical works.**
- **‘Test and Evaluation of Defence Products: The Necessity and Achievements’ was the theme of the seminar**
- **Role of Missile Technology in Indian Defence Scenario, Role of Science & Technology in Nation Building and Effect of COVID-19 on mankind among subjects discussed**

Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a premier laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) organised All India Official Language, Scientific and Technical Seminar on October 06-07, 2021. The seminar was formally inaugurated by Member of Parliament and Chairman, Standing Committee on Defence Shri Jual Oram.

Every year, a DRDO laboratory is entrusted with the responsibility of hosting this seminar on Rajbhasha with an objective of promoting use of Hindi in official activities including scientific and technical works. This year, the seminar was hosted by ITR with the theme ‘Test and Evaluation of Defence Products: The Necessity and Achievements’. A number of relevant subjects like Role of Missile Technology in Indian Defence Scenario, Role of Science and Technology in Nation Building, Hindi and us, Natural resources, Healing with Yoga and Effect of COVID-19 on mankind were covered during the seminar. Articles in Hindi on the above subjects have been contributed by DRDO employees from different laboratories.

In his address, Shri Jual Oram lauded the effort of DRDO in promoting Hindi in official activities. He stressed on preserving the cultural heritage through promoting use of regional languages. Officers and staff of DRDO laboratories across the country participated in the seminar.

ABB/DK/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 16, 1943
Thursday, October 07, 2021

**MoD proposes to allow girl students to be admitted to Rashtriya Indian
Military College & Rashtriya Military Schools**

Key Highlights:

- **Proposed plan to be implemented in two phases**
- **In the first phase, for RIMC, capacity of students to be increased from 250 to 300; Girls to be allowed to take RIMC entrance exam in June 2022**
- **For entry into RMS, 10% of total vacancies in each school reserved for girl candidates for Class-VI**

Following the directive of the Supreme Court, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has proposed to allow girl students to be admitted to Rashtriya Indian Military College (RIMC) and Rashtriya Military Schools (RMS). According to an affidavit filed in the Supreme Court, there is requirement of authorising additional vacancies along with other associated infrastructure and administrative support. This is proposed to be carried out in two phases.

For entry into RIMC in the first phase, the maximum capacity of students will be increased from 250 to 300 incrementally by inducting five girls for six months. This increase can be affected with some infrastructure modification and additional staff to support the girl cadets. For this, it is submitted that girls will be allowed to take the RIMC entrance examination scheduled in June 2022 for entry into RIMC for the term starting in January 2023.

Similarly, in Phase-2, the capacity will be increased incrementally from 300 to 350 to induct 10 girls every six months. At the end of this expansion, RIMC will have 250 boys and 100 girls. For this, it is submitted that girls will be allowed to take the RIMC entrance examination scheduled in June 2027 for entry into RIMC for the term starting in January 2028. The RIMC is situated in Dehradun (Uttarakhand).

The affidavit points out the requirement to create girl friendly infrastructure in the school campus to facilitate the living of girls with respect to privacy, safety and security. A Board of officers is examining the issues so that necessary girl friendly infrastructure and support staff is established.

With respect to induction of girls in RMS, the following is proposed:

- (a) **Phase-I:** Reserve 10% of the total vacancies in each school for girl candidates for entry into Class-VI in accordance with various reservations applicable in the RMSs w.e.f. academic session 2022-23.
- (b) **Phase-II:** Reserve 10% of the total vacancies in each school for girl candidates for entry into Class-VI & Class-IX in accordance with various reservations applicable in the RMSs w.e.f. academic session 2023-24.

The Rashtriya Military schools are located at Chail (Himachal Pradesh), Ajmer (Rajasthan), Belgaum (Karnataka), Bengaluru (Karnataka) & Dholpur (Rajasthan). 30% of the available seats are also earmarked for wards of civilians. The admission test is held in December for approx. 350 seats.

ABB/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 14, 1943
Tuesday, October 05, 2021

Electronic Pension Payment Order gets integrated with Digi Locker

Key Highlights:

- Over 23 lakhs defence pensioners will get benefited**
- To enhance the ease of living of the defence pensioners**
- Pensioners can obtain Pension Payment Order instantly**

Department of Ex-servicemen welfare, Ministry of Defence has integrated the Electronic Pension Payment Order (EPPO) generated by Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (PCDA) Pension, Allahabad with Digi Locker, in order to enhance ‘Ease of Living’ of Defence Pensioners. This will enable all Defence Pensioners to obtain instantly a copy of the latest copy of the PPO from Digi Locker. This initiative will create a permanent record of PPO in Digi Locker and at the same time eliminate delays in reaching the PPO to new pensioners as well as the necessity of handing over a physical copy.

Accordingly, the PCDA (Pension), Allahabad has been registered as a Service Provider for providing EPPOs of over 23 lakhs Defence Pensioners through Digi Locker platform, enabling the Defence Pensioners to access their EPPO from anywhere in the world.

ABB/ADA

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 13, 1943
Monday, October 04, 2021

**Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar launches website for Republic Day
Celebrations - 2022**

Key Highlights:

- **Website to showcase the various festivities across the country in the run up to Republic Day celebrations.**
- **It will be single official source of content related to Republic Day Celebrations**

To showcase the Republic Day Celebrations of the year 2022, which will mark the 75th year of Independence - *Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav*, Ministry of Defence has created a new website: www.indianrdc.mod.gov.in. It was formally launched by Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar in New Delhi on October 04, 2021 as a platform that connects Indians all over the world and celebrate India's Republic Day.

Speaking on the occasion, Dr Ajay Kumar said that the various activities related to Republic Day celebrations are happening throughout the country and this website will be very useful in hosting these build up activities. For example, for the NCC Republic Day Camp the selection process has already begun in all the continents in which, lakhs of youth are participating, he said. This website will showcase all these activities. "Preparation for Republic Day Camp in itself is a festivity. We want to bring out the festivities through this website", said Dr Ajay Kumar.

The website will be a single-point official source for all the content related to Republic Day Celebrations. The website includes features like a special RDC Radio, Gallery, Interactive Filters, E-book, Blogs on the Indian Freedom Movement, Wars and War Memorials. Moreover, the website shall contain all the information related to the event *viz.* Minute to minute programme, route map, parking details, RSVP, details of additional activities undertaken by various constituents of the Ministry of Defence, live streaming of the event etc.

ABB/NM/PS/DK

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 12, 1943
Monday, October 04, 2021

Raksha Mantri gives away DRDO Dare to Dream 2.0 & Young Scientists awards

Shri Rajnath Singh calls for R&D in futuristic technologies

Our aim is to equip our forces with latest machinery to deal with any challenge: RM

Key Highlights:

- **Three indigenously-developed technologies handed over to the Armed Forces**
- **DRDO Directed Research Policy & Records Management Policy launched**
- **Greater linkages between DRDO and academia emphasised**
- **Developing new indigenous technologies important to strengthen national security & overall development, says Shri Rajnath Singh**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh felicitated the winners of ‘Dare to Dream 2.0’ Contest of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) in New Delhi on October 04, 2021. The Raksha Mantri gave away awards to 40 winners - 22 in Individual category and 18 in Startup category. He also launched ‘Dare to Dream 3.0’ to promote innovators & startups and provide a platform for the young ignited minds in the country.

Dare to Dream is DRDO's pan-India contest to promote Indian academicians, individuals and startups to develop emerging defence and aerospace technologies/systems. DRDO provides technical and financial support to the winners for realisation of their ideas under the Technology Development Fund (TDF) scheme.

Shri Rajnath Singh also gave away DRDO Young Scientists awards for the year 2019. Sixteen DRDO scientists, under the age of 35 years, were awarded for their outstanding contribution in areas of their expertise.

Congratulating the winners of ‘Dare to Dream’ and ‘DRDO Young Scientists’ awards, Shri Rajnath Singh said, they reflect the energy, enthusiasm and commitment of the youth of the country to create something new. He exuded confidence that the winners in the fields of innovation, design & development will inspire young minds and create path-breaking innovation

in future. The 'Dare to Dream' challenge, he said, represents the vision and mission of the Government as also the mandate of DRDO.

The Raksha Mantri reiterated the Government's resolve to build a strong and self-reliant 'New India' which, he said, can only be achieved through a collaborative effort. He termed 'effort' and not just 'desire' as the key for an individual, society and the nation to achieve success. Saying that India is one of the oldest countries in experience & culture and the youngest with about 60 per cent of the young population, he encouraged the youth to observe, learn & create new innovations and play their part in taking the country to greater heights.

Pointing out that global security concerns, border disputes & maritime affairs have forced the world to focus on military modernisation, Shri Rajnath Singh reaffirmed the Government's commitment to modernise the Armed Forces and equip them with latest machinery to deal with any challenge. He described the power of the youth as the hope for the country and called upon the young ignited minds to help the Government in achieving the objective of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

"Developing new technologies indigenously is the need of the hour. Our vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' is to ensure that advanced technologies are developed domestically. It is extremely important not just for strengthening national security but also ensuring overall development of the country," said the Raksha Mantri.

Describing private sector participation as crucial to achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', Shri Rajnath Singh stated that the Government, led by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has taken a series of reform steps to increase the participation of private industry in the defence sector which has created a suitable growth environment and provided a big boost to indigenous defence capabilities. He listed out some of these steps, including bringing in new categories of acquisition in Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020; provision of a specific budget for defence modernisation; notifying two Positive Indigenisation lists; increasing FDI in defence; according top priority to capital procurement and Buy {Indian - Indigenously Designed Developed and Manufactured (IDDM)} to promote indigenous design & development of defence equipment; creating opportunities to build a Mega Defence Programme including fighter aircraft, helicopters, tanks and submarines through Strategic Partnership Model; opening avenues for free Transfer of Technology (ToT) through DRDO and initiatives like Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) and Technology Development Fund.

The Raksha Mantri asserted that due to these measures, the number of contracts being awarded to defence industry have increased; new MSMEs & startups have emerged and more employment opportunities created. "We are not only meeting our domestic needs, but are also exporting technology & equipment to foreign countries," he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh lauded DRDO for playing a central role in the Government's efforts of achieving self-reliance in defence manufacturing and contributing immensely in enhancing the capacity & capability of the Armed Forces even in the rapidly changing geo-political situation. He said, the recent contracts and induction of Light Combat Aircraft (LCA) Mk-1A, Main Battle Tank Arjun Mk-1A and Medium Range Surface to Air Missile system are some noteworthy contributions.

“DRDO is not only trying to match the capabilities of technologically advanced countries, but is also equally engaged in innovation of new technologies. The new generation programmes of DRDO will upgrade our Armed Forces in future as well,” the Raksha Mantri hoped.

The Raksha Mantri commended DRDO Young scientists' lab and Advance technology Centres for working in futuristic technologies such as nano technology, quantum computing, artificial intelligence, unmanned and robotic technologies. Terming it as the new dimension of 'New India', he called for increased R&D efforts in such futuristic technologies. He stressed on the need to develop dual use technologies which can be beneficial for both Armed Forces personnel and civilians. He urged all the stakeholders to focus on research & development in order to provide state-of-the-art equipment to the Armed Forces. This will help in establishing the country's identity in the international market and achieving the vision of 'Make in India, make for the world', he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh exhorted the Industry representatives to take full advantage of the policies of the Government and create an organic synergy with DRDO and other government agencies. Saying that Transfer of Technology from DRDO is bearing fruit, he hoped that in the times to come the industry would develop in-house R&D systems on its own.

Cautioning against working in silos and laying special emphasis on identifying cost and time over-run projects and delivering them efficiently in a time-bound manner, the Raksha Mantri called for strengthening the linkages between academia, Industries and DRDO. This collaboration, he said, would ensure overall development.

On this occasion, three products/systems indigenously developed by DRDO were also handed over to the Armed Forces. These are:

- **ARINC818 Video Processing and Switching Module:** The module, developed for the Indian Air Force, was handed over to the Vice Chief of Air Staff Air Marshal Sandeep Singh. It is a state-of-the-art module with high bandwidth, low latency, channel bonding, easy networking and will cater to 5th generation aircraft development programmes.
- **Sonar Performance Modelling System:** Developed for the Indian Navy, the system was handed over to Vice Chief of Naval Staff Vice Admiral Satish Namdeo Ghormade. It is useful for Indian Naval ships, submarines and under water surveillance stations etc.

□ **Bund Blasting Device Mk-II:** The device, developed for Indian Army, was handed over to the Vice Chief of Army Staff Lt Gen CP Mohanty. It is used to reduce the height of Ditch-cum-Bund obstacles to enhance the mobility of mechanised infantry during wartime.

A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was also exchanged between Prof HA Pandya, Vice Chancellor, Gujarat University and Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy for establishing an Advanced Technology Centre 'Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel Centre for Cyber-Security Research' at Gujarat University for conducting directed research in cyber security.

Shri Rajnath Singh also released two policy documents of DRDO - Directed Research Policy and Records Management Policy 2021. Directed Research Policy provides framework for establishment of Advanced Technology Centres and Research Cells in academic institutes for focussed research on identified subjects such as futuristic surveillance and defensive and offensive capabilities. 'Long Term Directed Research Policy' was recently approved by the Government to support & provide impetus to outcome and application oriented directed research in collaboration with academia. The Records Management Policy aims to further strengthen the records management activities of DRDO.

The two-day annual DRDO Directors' Conclave 2021, which began on October 03, 2021, will conclude today. The theme of the conclave is 'Redesigning the processes to meet the national aspirations'.

In his address, DRDO Chairman Dr G Satheesh Reddy listed out the recent achievements of DRDO and stressed on developing mechanisms for faster development of advanced technologies and ease of working with industry & academia. He congratulated all the awardees and wished them a bright future.

Senior civil and military officials of Ministry of Defence and Industry representatives were among those present on the occasion.

ABB/Nampi/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Aswina 09, 1943
Friday, October 01, 2021

Major Road Projects launched in Ladakh to be constructed by BRO

Key Highlights:

- **Historic day for UT of Ladakh, 05 Major Road Infra Projects launched to be constructed by BRO to Boost connectivity in the region.**
- **Hon’ble LG Shri Radha Krishna Mathur inaugurated the projects in the presence of Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar.**
- **On 03 Sep 2021, Ladakh Administration and Border Roads Organisation had signed a historic MoU for upgradation and improvement of Road Network of Ladakh.**

On a landmark day for the Union Territory of Ladakh and its people, construction on 05 major road infrastructure development projects was launched by His Excellency the Governor of Ladakh Shri Radha Krishna Mathur, from Turtuk, the northernmost village of India. The ground breaking ceremony was also attended by the Chief Executive Councillor, Leh Mr TashiGyalson, MP Ladakh Mr Jamyang Tsering Namgyal, Defence Secretary Mr Ajay Kumar and Director General Border Roads Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry besides overwhelming villagers from nearby areas.

Following the MoU, signed on 03 Sep 2021, between the Ladakh Administration and the Border Roads Organisation (BRO), projects involving construction/improvement of roads and tunnels were assigned to BRO for development of connectivity in the hilly region. The 05 projects kicked off today included preparation of greenfield alignment and upgradation of major single lane roads to double-lane (NHDL specification) and tunnelling works.

Construction of road Hanuthang-Handanbroke-Zungpal-Turtuk, the 26.6 Km long greenfield road is planned to provide inter valley connectivity between Hanuthang-Handanbroke (Indus Valley) and Zungpal-Turtuk (Shyok Valley) across the Stakpuchan Range. This will also reduce the travel time to Three and Half Hours from existing Nine Hours to Turtuk via Leh without crossing the treacherous Khardungla pass.

Upgradation of 4 major single lane roads has also commenced. These roads are, 78 Km road Khalse to Batallik, 50 Km road Kargil to Dumgil which will also include construction of a tunnel at Hambotingla to ensure seamless

connectivity from Kargil to Batallik, 70 km road Khalsar to Shyok via Agham and 31 Km Tangtse to Lukung. All these roads are used extensively by travellers to reach sought after tourist destinations such as Hundar (Nubra Valley), Turtuk village, Shyok, Pangon-Tso lake and Aryan villages of Dah, Garkone Darchik etc.

The Hon'ble LG dedicated the projects to the people of Ladakh and appreciated the work carried out by BRO, specifically in the border areas of Ladakh. He conveyed his gratitude to BRO for creating road infrastructure which is not only supported the Army in its security needs but had given impetus to tourism for socio economic development. He reposed trust in BRO by highlighting that BRO is already maintaining 5000 Km road and would be constructing 1500 Km more roads in near future. Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar stressed the contribution of BRO in nation building impacting the life of populace in remote areas. He highlighted various new technologies and road safety audits being undertaken pan-India by BRO to identify accident prone sites and save precious lives. Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry DG-BRO stressed the resolve of organisation in road matrix development in border areas for meeting aspirations of the nation. He highlighted new technologies to include geo-cells, M50 blocks etc., which had been incorporated in frost susceptible areas in Ladakh region to include the world's highest motorable pass "Umlingla". He informed that BRO is working on providing roadside amenities along BRO roads for comfort of tourists, installation of crash barriers for which already 50 Km installed in Ladakh region alone, LED based kerb stone and others for safety of motorists. Construction work on the project will commence soon and once completed, these projects will play a significant role in promoting tourism in the region, enhance operational preparedness of our forces, provide employment to the locals and contribute immensely towards the socio-economic aspirations of the nation and Ladakh region.

ABB/PS

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 10, 1943
Friday, October 01, 2021

Defence Accounts Department celebrates its Annual Day

Key Highlights:

- **CGDA gives away Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence to officers & staff of the department**
- **Motivational awards also distributed**
- **Four IT projects, including e-Office, launched**
- **CGDA stresses on the need to simplify procedures to improve efficiency**

Defence Accounts Department (DAD) celebrated its annual day on October 01, 2021. To mark the occasion, Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) Shri Rajnish Kumar distributed Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence to the officers and staff of the Department for their exemplary performance and dedication. The first award was shared by the team of the Administration Section in CGDA office and the office of the PCDA (Pensions) Prayagraj.

Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (PCDA) Pensions, Prayagraj (Allahabad) got the award for implementation of project for online pension claim submission, processing and Electronic Pension Payment Order (ePPO) download for Personnel Below Officer Rank (PBORs), which helped pensioners get their due on time during the Covid-19 pandemic. The award was given to the Administration Section of the Controller General of Defence Accounts Office for exemplary performance in handling the COVID-19 crisis by efficient response management. The third award was given to PCDA (South-Western Command), Jaipur for the innovative design and development of the Command Training Module.

The CGDA also gave away the CGDA Motivational Awards 2021 to the teams of PCDA (Air Force), Dehradun for review of Air Force orders, updating of Air Force Manuals and thematic Audit on provisioning of stores; and the team of Integrated Financial Adviser (IFA) Section, CGDA Headquarters for making the e-compendium of important orders relating to the working of IFA Offices.

Shri Kumar also launched four new projects. These were e-Office, integration of New Compilation System (NCS) with Tulip, System for Integrated

Financial Advisers – Plus (SIFA Plus) and No Due Certificate (NDC) audit software for Air Force officers and personnel.

In his message on the occasion, the CGDA detailed the achievements of the department, appreciating the proactive induction of technology in service delivery mechanisms with a view to expediting, simplifying and automating systems and procedures. He stressed on the importance of ongoing Business Process Re-engineering activities in the Department. The CGDA emphasised on the need to update and simplify manuals and procedures to improve efficiency and effectiveness in a highly competitive and dynamic environment.

Shri Kumar explained how DAD has been constantly leveraging technology for the dual benefits of providing transparent services and expediting the delivery procedures in the fields of pay, pension, accounting, audit and financial advice. He reiterated the commitment of DAD to substantially contribute to national security objectives through prudent, proactive and progressive defence financial management. He stressed that the age-old system of generating manual Pension Payment Orders is giving way to a completely automated system called System for Pension Administration (Raksha) - SPARSH.

The DAD functions under the administrative control of Ministry of Defence and is headed by the Controller General of Defence Accounts. The department functions as a specialised organisation in the fields of accounts, audit, payment and financial advice.

ABB/DK/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 10, 1943
Friday, October 01, 2021

MNS celebrates 96th Raising Day

Key highlights:

- **On October 01, 1926, a permanent nursing service was raised as a part of Indian Army**
- **Promulgation of Military Ordinance on September 15, 1943 permanently established MNS as part of Armed Forces**
- **DG MNS Maj Gen Smita Devrani paid homage to fallen heroes at NWM**

With commemorating the illustrious stories of courage, compassion and care, Military Nursing Service celebrated its 96th Raising Day on 01 Oct 2021. Marking the beginning of yet another year of commitment and dedication, a solemn Florence Nightingale oath taking ceremony by MNS Officers of Delhi Garrison was held at MNS Officers’ Mess, Army Hospital (R&R) in Delhi Cantt.

Though the gathering was limited due to the COVID-19 protocol, the enthusiasm could not be contained as each and everyone’s heart was brimming with the momentousness of the day. The day was immortalised by paying homage to the fallen heroes who laid their lives for the sovereignty and integrity of the Nation, by a humble wreath laying ceremony by Additional Director General Military Nursing Service (DG MNS) Maj Gen Smita Devrani at the National War Memorial. Many hospitals across the country celebrated the occasion by conducting seminars and symposia on the day and also by conducting health related outreach programs.

The MNS in India has a long and rich legacy, as an all women officer corps dating back to the year 1888 with the arrival of first batch of 10 qualified British nurses in Bombay, to organise nursing in military hospitals in India. On October 01, 1926, a permanent nursing service was raised as a part of the Indian Army. The service was designated as the Indian Military Nursing Service (IMNS). The IMNS made a humble

beginning and increased in strength from 53 to 690 (42 regulars and 648 temporary) and their work was universally acclaimed. Promulgation of the Military Ordinance on September 15, 1943 permanently established the MNS as a part of the Armed Forces and today it ranks high among the Army Nursing Services of the world with nearly a lakh aspirants for a mere 200 odd seats.

The MNS is an integral part of AFMS and apart from providing nursing care to one of the largest armies of the world, officers of MNS in India have proved to be the frontline warriors in today's scenario. From commissioning into the Military Nursing Service as young Lieutenants to the time of superannuation, the officers of the MNS perform their duties diligently and tirelessly, be it during peace or war.

As the COVID-19 pandemic engulfs human life today, the lessons learnt over the past centuries have helped the nurses to develop better strategies to improve their resilience towards the pandemic. The belief of holistic care laid down by Miss Florence Nightingale, the founder of Modern Nursing, has come a long way in guiding and managing the plethora of clientele with a myriad of modern-day ailments with scientifically equipped and professionally sound nurses of today. Working day and night in PPE overalls, taking care of the critically ill patients and holding responsibility and accountability for providing reassurance to the patients and also networking between the patients' needs and interdisciplinary team in the hospital during the peak of COVID-19 crisis has made them emerge more stronger than ever.

ABB/Nampi/DK/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 10, 1943
Friday, October 01, 2021

Headquarters IDS celebrates 21st Raising Day

Headquarters Integrated Defence Staff (HQ IDS) celebrated its 21st Raising Day on October 01, 2021. Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (Air Marshal BR Krishna) extended felicitations to all members of the Tri-Service fraternity and their families.

The HQ IDS was raised on October 01, 2001 as a Tri-Service entity with the overarching motto of ‘Victory through Jointness’. Tasked to promote jointness among the Defence Services and ensure better coordination with Ministry of Defence (MoD) and other Departments & Ministries, the HQ IDS has over the past two decades, led the efforts of the Defence Services in promoting key national endeavours like consolidating Defence Intelligence, Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR), Military Diplomacy, construction of National War Memorial, operationalisation of Defence Space Agency, Defence Cyber Agency and Armed Forces Special Operations Division as Joint Organisations, to name a few.

The creation of the Department of Military Affairs (DMA) and institution of the Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) are transformative reforms that have given the much-needed heft and impetus to modernisation and transformation of Defence Services and their integration in the higher defence organisation of the Nation. The HQ IDS reaffirms its commitment to Integration, Modernisation and Transformation of Defence Services.

ABB/Nampi/DK/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 10, 1943
Friday, October 01, 2021

**Maj Gen Smita Devrani assumes charge as ADG, Military Nursing
Service**

Key Highlights:

- Alumna of School of Nursing, Military Hospital Secunderabad**
- Commissioned into Military Nursing Service in 1983**
- Held various administrative & staff appointments, apart from her clinical experience**
- She was Principal Matron of Army Hospital (Research & Referral), prior to her appointment as ADG, MNS**

Major General Smita Devrani assumed charge as Additional Director General of Military Nursing Service (MNS) on October 01, 2021. The day coincided with the occasion of 96th MNS Corps Day. An alumna of School of Nursing, Military Hospital Secunderabad, the General Officer was commissioned into the Military Nursing Service on December 28, 1983. Later, she completed her Diploma in Midwifery from the Naval Hospital INHS Asvini, Mumbai.

A graduate from Delhi University, her quest for academic excellence gained her not only Post Graduate Diploma in Hospital and Healthcare Management and MBA in Hospital Administration, but also Six Sigma Certificate and Quality Control Management & Infection Control and Prevention Management from the National Health Care Academy, Singapore.

The General Officer is a Critical Care Nurse par excellence and had done her Intensive Care Nursing specialty from Army Hospital Delhi Cantt. in 1992 and her diligent critical care nursing management has won accolades during her clinical tenures. Gen Devrani was also instrumental in managing casualties during her deputation to UN Mission in Congo in 2006-2007 where she served as a Chief Matron. She had volunteered to be part of the team which climbed the Mount

Nyragongo in Congo which is an active stratavolcano at an elevation of 3470 metres.

Apart from clinical experience, Major General Smita Devrani has held various administrative and staff appointments namely, Joint Director Military Nursing Service, Research Pool Officer, Director Admin at Integrated HQ of MoD (Army), Principal Matron of Command Hospital, Pune and Brig MNS of HQ Central Command. Prior to assuming the appointment of Addl DGMNS, the General Officer was Principal Matron of Army Hospital (Research & Referral), the apex quaternary health care institution of Armed Forces Medical Services.

ABB/DK/Savvy

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 10, 1943
Friday, October 01, 2021

India and US to set-up joint working group in defence industrial security

Key highlights:

- Held to develop protocol for exchange of classified information between defence industries of both countries**
- In-principle agreement to establish Indo-US Industrial Security Joint Working Group**
- Group to meet regularly to align policies for defence industries to collaborate on critical defence technologies**

The Industrial Security Agreement (ISA) summit between India and the United States was held between September 27 to October 01, 2021 at New Delhi. The summit was organised to develop protocol for the exchange of classified information between the defence industries of both the nations. The Summit was led by Designated Security Authorities (DSAs) namely Shri Anurag Bajpai and Mr David Paul Bagnati from Indian and US sides respectively.

The ISA was signed in December 2019 to facilitate the exchange of classified information between the defence industries of both the countries. It was held to create a roadmap for the implementation of the ISA. The DSAs also visited Indian defence industry in preparation for the roadmap. During the summit, both the sides agreed in-principle to establish the Indo-US Industrial Security Joint Working Group. This group will meet periodically to align the policies and procedures expeditiously that will allow the defence industries to collaborate on cutting edge defence technologies.

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

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Asvina 10, 1943
Friday, October 01, 2021

Air Marshal B R Krishna assumes charge of CISC

Key highlights:

- **Commissioned fighter pilot; has distinguished career spanning over 38 years**
- **Alumnus of NDA & has over 5,000 hours of flying experience**
- **Awarded Shaurya Chakra in 1986 and AVSM in 1987**

Air Marshal BR Krishna assumed charge of Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee (CISC) on October 01, 2021. The CISC paid homage to the bravehearts at the National War Memorial, in New Delhi followed by Tri-Service Guard of Honour.

Commissioned as a fighter pilot in 1983, Air Marshal Krishna has had a distinguished career spanning over 38 years. Qualified Flying Instructor and experimental test pilot, he has flown a wide variety of fighters, transport aircraft, and helicopters in the inventory of Indian Air Force (IAF). He has over 5,000 hours of flying experience including operational, instructional and test flying. He is an alumnus of National Defence Academy, Defence Services Staff College and National Defence College.

During his illustrious career, the CISC has held numerous important command and staff appointments. He commanded a frontline Fighter Squadron and Air Force Test Pilots School. He was Chief Operations Officer of a Forward Air Base, Commandant of Aircraft and System Testing Establishment and commanded a Frontline Air Base.

Air Marshal B R Krishna was Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Projects) and Assistant Chief of Air Staff (Plans) at the Air Headquarters. As an Air Marshal, he served as Senior Air Staff Officer, South Western Air Command & Director General Air Operations. Prior to taking over as CISC, he was commanding Western Air Command. Air Marshal was awarded Shaurya Chakra for gallantry in 1986 and Ati Vishisht Seva Medal for distinguished service in 1987.

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