

Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of March, 2017

- (1) The Hon'ble President and Supreme Commander of the Indian Armed Forces Shri Pranab Mukherjee conferred one Kirti Chakra and thirteen Shaurya Chakras to Armed Forces Personnel for displaying conspicuous gallantry, indomitable courage and extreme devotion to duty at a solemn ceremony at the Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on March 20, 2017. Six of the Shaurya Chakra were given posthumously. President also conferred fourteen PVSM, three UYSM, one Bar to AVSM and twenty two AVSM.
- (2) Raksha Mantri handed over DRDO products to Indian Navy in a function on March 24, 2017 in New Delhi. The Naval Systems handed over to the Indian Navy are USHUS-II Submarine Sonar, Directing Gear for Hull Mounted Sonar Array and RLG based Inertial Navigation System for Ship Applications. Raksha Mantri also released DRDO developed products the IP-based Secure Phone and the Gallium Nitride Technology.
- (3) Raksha Rajya Mantri inaugurated the DEFCOM INDIA 2017 in New Delhi on March 23, 2017. DEFCOM, an annual seminar organised jointly by the Corps of Signals of Indian Army and Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), is the most seminal forum for interaction between the officers of the Armed Forces, Indian Industry, Academia and R&D organisations on matters related to operational communication systems for the Army. This year's theme was "Digital Army Infrastructure and Skilled Human Resource".
- (4) DRDO handed over three of its products for induction into the Indian Army in a function in New Delhi on March 2, 2017. The products are (i) Weapon Locating Radar 'Swathi', (ii) Nuclear-Biological-Chemical (NBC) Recce vehicle and (iii) NBC Drugs.
- (5) The Indian Navy successfully conducted the maiden firing of an Anti-Ship missile from the first of the indigenously built Kalvari class submarines on March 2, 2017 during a test firing in the Arabian Sea. This missile launch is a significant milestone, not only for the Kalvari, which is the first in a series of Scorpene class submarines being built in India, but also in enhancing the Indian Navy's sub-surface warfare capability.
- (6) A glorious era of INS Viraat being the flag ship of the Indian Navy came to an end. INS Viraat, the second Centaur-Class aircraft carrier in service which has spent 30 years in the Indian Navy and 27 years in the Royal Navy, was decommissioned on March 6, 2017, in a solemn yet grand ceremony at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai.
- (7) **Manufacture of identified ammunition by Indian Industry:** In a major policy change, the Ministry of Defence has decided to undertake manufacture of select ammunition by Indian private sector. The aim of the policy is to facilitate development of indigenous capacity and reduce import dependence with the long-term objective of building capacity in the private sector as a robust alternative source of ammunition. The selection of manufacturers will be through open tender enquiry under two-bid system. Request for Proposals (RFPs) for the selected ammunitions have been uploaded on Government e-procurement portal of 25th & 27th March, 2017.

