

**Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of November,  
2016**

- (1) A delegation led by Raksha Mantri visited Bangladesh from November 30 - December 1, 2016 as part of regular bilateral Ministerial exchanges. This was the first bilateral visit to Bangladesh by an Indian Defence Minister since 1971.
- (2) The Guidelines of the Ministry of Defence for penalties in Business Dealings with Entities have been issued on November 21, 2016 and uploaded on Ministry's website also.
- (3) The Ministry has taken a policy decision to involve the private sector for manufacture of Ammunition.
- (4) A Contract for Procurement of M777 Ultra Light Howitzers (155mm/39 calibre towed gun) from US Government through FMS route was signed. This procurement of gun is the first of its kind since the Bofors gun were purchased in the eighties.
- (5) A contract for procurement of 3<sup>rd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Regiments of PINAKA Multi Barrel Rocket Launcher System was signed.
- (6) INS Chennai, the third in the Kolkata series of indigenous Guided Missile Destroyer, built by M/s Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. was commissioned by the Raksha Mantri at the Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on November 21, 2016.
- (7) Heralding a new era in the indigenous development of Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV), DRDO on November 16, 2016 successfully carried out the maiden flight of TAPAS 201 (RUSTOM - II), a Medium Altitude Long Endurance (MALE) UAV.
- (8) Raksha Mantri formally handed over four numbers of naval systems to Indian Navy, developed by the DRDO. The new naval systems namely ABHAY - Compact Hull Mounted Sonar for Shallow Water Craft, HUMSA UG - Upgrade for the HUMSA Sonar System, NACS - Near-field Acoustic Characterisation

System, and AIDSS - Advance Indigenous Distress Sonar System for submarines were handed over by the Raksha Mantri to the Naval Chief.

(9) Indian Coast Guard assisted in the repatriation of four Indian fishermen from Sri Lanka to India on November 4, 2016. The repatriated fishermen were handed over to Fisheries authorities at Karaikal.

(10) The prestigious President's Standard to 501 Signal Unit and 30 Squadron on the IAF was presented by the Hon'ble President of India at Air Force Station Ambala on November 10, 2016.

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