

## Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of February, 2017

- (1) A delegation led by Raksha Rajya Mantri visited Abu Dhabi, UAE from February 19-21, 2017 to attend International Defence Exhibition – 2017 (IDEX – 2017).
- (2) The Defence Secretary led a delegation to Vietnam to attend the 10<sup>th</sup> Meeting of India-Vietnam Security Dialogue from February 28 – March 1, 2017.
- (3) The Raksha Mantri inaugurated the 11<sup>th</sup> biennial edition of International Aerospace and Defence Exhibition (Aero India 2017) on 14.2.2017 at Air Force Station, Yelahanka in Bengaluru. This edition of Aero India, for the first time, combined the defence and civil aviation segments into a holistic event with the co-involvement of the Defence and the Civil Aviation ministries. This edition of Aero India has also to its credit the first ever public display of Light Utility Helicopter (LUH) and the handing over by DRDO of the first indigenous Airborne Early Warning and Control System (AEW&CS) aircraft in the initial Operational Clearance configuration to the Indian Air Force. The Aero India saw the participation of 549 companies with 53 Aircraft gracing the event.
- (4) India successfully conducted a test wherein an incoming ballistic missile target was intercepted by an exo-atmospheric interceptor missile off the Bay of Bengal on February 11, 2017. With this commendable scientific achievement, India has crossed an important milestone in building its overall capability towards enhanced security against incoming ballistic missile threats. It has entered an exclusive club of four nations with developing capabilities to secure its skies and cities against hostile threats.
- (5) Raksha Mantri held a telephonic conversation with the Defence Secretary of the United States, James Mattis on February 8, 2017. Raksha Mantri and Secretary Mattis expressed satisfaction at the progress in defence cooperation between India and the United States, especially in recent years, and noted its significance in the regional and global context.
- (6) On February 21, 2017 Raksha Mantri presented the Best Marching Contingent Trophies to the Madras Sappers and the Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) who participated at the Republic Day Parade 2017 at the historic Rajpath, New Delhi. Commandant Madras Engineer Group Brigadier received the Trophy on behalf of the Madras Sappers while Director General of CISF received the trophy on behalf of CISF.
- (7) A 15 member delegation from Western Theatre Command of People's Liberation Army, China was on a five day official visit to India from February 21 to 26, 2017. The delegation was led by Major General Zhao Jin Song, Vice Chief of Staff of Headquarter Western Theatre Command, Chengdu, China. The two sides exchanged views on wide ranging issues and agreed that peace and tranquility on the border is an important guarantor for development and continued growth of bilateral relations. The leaders of two delegations discussed the importance of having regular bilateral exchanges and additional Border Personnel Meeting points.
- (8) A contract for acquisition of 31 Surface Surveillance Radars (SSRs) for Indian Navy has been signed with M/s Nova Integrated System Ltd., Hyderabad on 17.02.2017 at a cost of Rs. 196.49 crore.
- (9) One Auxiliary Barge (Urja Prateek) was inducted in Indian Coast Guard on February 13, 2017 and has been based at Karaikal. Further, one Fast Patrol Vessel (ICGS Ayush) and one offshore patrol vessel (ICGS Shaunak) were commissioned by Indian Coast Guard and have been based at Krishnapatinam and Visakhapatnam, respectively.