

Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of December, 2016

- (1) Defence Minister of Vietnam visited India and met Raksha Mantri on December 5, 2016 as part of regular bilateral Ministerial exchanges.
- (2) A meeting was held between Raksha Mantri and US Secretary of Defence on December 8, 2016. During the meeting, various issues pertaining to defence cooperation were discussed. An India-US joint statement was issued after the talks of two leaders.
- (3) Raksha Mantri paid a two day official visit to Mauritius from December 13, 2016. This is the first ever visit by a Defence Minister of India to Mauritius who was accompanied by senior officers of the Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and the Ministry of Defence. Raksha Mantri called on the Prime Minister of Mauritius, and was the Special Guest of Honour at the Commissioning Ceremony of CGS Victory and two Chetak Helicopters. Raksha Mantri met the President of Mauritius,
- (4) Indian Army and Air Force saw the change of guards when Gen Bipin Rawat took over the reins from the outgoing COAS Gen Dalbir Singh and Air Chief Marshal B.S. Dhanoa from the outgoing CAS Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha. Both the new Chiefs took over the command on December 31, 2016.
- (5) Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sunil Lamba received the Chairman, Chiefs of Staff Committee baton from the outgoing CAS Air Chief Marshal Arup Raha on December 29, 2016 at a ceremony in New Delhi.
- (6) A contract for procurement of Ballistic helmets from M/s MKU Ltd., Kanpur was signed on December 16, 2016.
- (7) A proposal for upgradation of Medium Lift Helicopters (MLH) along with procurement of associated equipment was approved on 28.12.2016.
- (8) A contract for procurement of Dornier - 228 Aircraft in MRIW Variant along with spare engines and associated spares was signed with M/s HAL (Transport Aircraft Division), Kanpur on 29.12.2016.
- (9) The Defence Estates Day Lecture - 2016 on "Electoral Reforms for a Stronger Democracy" was held on December 8, 2016. The lecture was delivered by the Hon'ble President of India.
- (10) Indian Coast Guard ship whilst on patrol apprehended 05 Pakistanis fishing boats along with 26 Pakistani fishermen on December 19, 2016 for illegally fishing in Indian waters.