

## **Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of January, 2017**

(1) Defence Minister of Portugal visited India and met Raksha Mantri on January 7, 2017. An MoU on Defence Cooperation with Portugal was signed on the same day.

(2) A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between India and United Arab Emirates (UAE) on Cooperation in the field of Defence Industry was signed during the visit of Prince of Abu Dhabi and Deputy Supreme Commander of UAE to India on January 25, 2017.

(3) Raksha Rajya Mantri inaugurated the Armed Forces Veterans' Day function at Delhi Cantonment on January 14, 2017.

(4) The nation celebrated its 68<sup>th</sup> Republic Day on January 26, 2017 with an impressive Republic Day Parade along the historic Rajpath in the National Capital represented by contingents from the three Services, Para Military Forces, NCC Cadets and the colourful Tableaux of various States, Ministries and departments. The celebrations culminated with Beating the Retreat ceremony on Vijay Chowk on 29<sup>th</sup> January, 2017.

(5) The 69<sup>th</sup> Army Day was observed by Indian Army on January 15, 2017. Chief of the Army Staff reviewed the Army Day Parade and awarded 15 Sena Medals (including five posthumously) for individual acts of Gallantry and fourteen COAS Unit Citations for commendable performance of their respective units.

(6) A contract for upgradation of Medium lift helicopters (MLH) alongwith procurement of associated equipment has been signed on January 30, 2017 with M/s Elbit System Ltd. of Israel.

(7) A contract for acquisition of Fast Patrol Vessels (FPVs) for Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has been signed with M/s Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited (RDEL), Mumbai on January 30, 2017.

(8) Indian Coast Guard assisted in the repatriation of 51 Indian fishermen from Sri Lanka and three Sri Lankan fishermen from India on January 10, 2017. The repatriated fishermen were handed over to Fisheries authorities at Karaikal.