Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of December, 2019

Chief of Defence Staff

(1) Government, on 30th December, 2019, appointed General Bipin Rawat as the country’s first Chief of Defence (CDS) with effect from 31st December, 2019 and until further orders. His service was also extended till he holds the office of CDS.

Appointment of COAS

(2) Lt. Gen. M.M. Naravane, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Vice-Chief of Army Staff (VCOAS) has been appointed as the Chief of the Army Staff in the substantive rank of General with effect from the afternoon of 31st December, 2019.

Department of Military Affairs

(3) Cabinet Secretariat vide its notification dated 30th December, 2019 has amended the Government of India (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961 to create a new Department viz. Department of Military Affairs (DMA) in the Ministry of Defence. The second Schedule to the said Rules has also been amended allocating the subjects between the Department of Defence and Department of Military Affairs.

International Cooperation

(4) Hon’ble Raksha Mantri led a delegation to Washington D.C., USA from 16th – 18th December, 2019 for attending second Annual Indo-US 2+2 Ministerial dialogue.

(5) ISA has been signed on 18th December, 2019 on the side line of 2+2 meeting held in USA. ISA enables sharing of Classified Military Information between the defence industries of both the countries and to protect such Classified Military Information through the implementation of equivalent policies and procedures.
General Security of Military Information Agreement (GSOMIA) was signed between India and US in January 2002. GSOMIA deals with exchange and protection of Classified Military Information between two Governments. It does not cover exchange of Classified Information between the private industries of both the countries.

US is participating in 'Make in India' program of Government of India. Therefore, US may require to transfer classified information for Co-development and Co-production of defence equipment in India. US companies are prohibited by US law from sharing the classified data with Indian companies in absence of Industrial Security Annexe (ISA).

(6) The India – Australia Foreign and Defence Secretaries 2+2 Dialogue was conducted on 9th December, 2019.

(7) Chief of Army Staff visited Japan from 3rd – 6th December, 2019.

(8) A delegation led by Chief of the Naval Staff, Indian Navy visited Sri Lanka from 19th – 22nd December, 2019.

(9) A delegation led by Chief of Air Staff, Indian Air Force visited Egypt on a goodwill visit from 24th – 27th December, 2019.

(10) Joint Secretary (Navy) led delegation attended the 10th meeting of India and UAE, Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) in Abu Dhabi from 16th – 17th December, 2019. [During the meeting important discussions on maritime cooperation, joint exercise on counter terrorism and defence medical cooperation took place. Service specific issues of Army, Navy and Air Force of both sides were also discussed and activities to increase defence cooperation further were agreed upon].

(11) India-Russia Tri Services Exercise INDRA-2019 was conducted in India from 10th – 18th December, 2019.

(12) The Joint Army Exercise "Hand-in-Hand" between Indian Army and PLA, China was conducted from 7th – 20th December, 2019 in Umroi Cantt, Meghalaya.

A delegation led by Lieutenant General, Deputy Chief of the General Staff, Vietnam People's Army visited India from 6th – 9th December, 2019.

A delegation led by Admiral, Chief of Naval Staff, Bangladesh Navy visited India from 8th – 12th December, 2019.

**Apprehending**

02 Fishing boats (Pandharinath Shakti & Jivani Shakti) were found to be operating near the suspect datum. Joint investigation onboard both the suspected IFBs was carried out on 12th December, 2019 and foreign currency notes of US $ 18,500 recovered. Prima facie, investigation indicated involvement of crew in diesel smuggling. Linkage of narcotics smuggling & source of foreign currency is being ascertained by marine police.

On 25th December, 2019, CG Dornier on routine patrol sighted one fishing boat adrift in South of Indira Point light. ICGS Vijit on routine patrol was diverted for investigation and intercepted the boat of Indonesian origin engaged in illegal fishing. The boat was detained, crew were apprehended and handed over to marine police on 29th December, 2019.

**Miscellaneous**

Vide MoD order dated 23.12.2019 Cantonment Boards are advised to constitute three more committees viz; the Finance committees, the Education committees and the Health and Environment committees to suitably amend their business regulation constitution of said committees consistent with the composition and delegate roles responsibilities and functions suggested by the Government.
This is a step towards democratization of Cantonment Board administration through devolution of powers to vide presents and elected member of Cantonment Boards.

(19) Vide MoD order dated 10.12.2019 it has been decided that in the context of Cantonment areas, in furtherance of provisions contained in section 235(2) of the Cantonment Act, 2006 and structural stability of the building, repair works to authorized buildings shall include the following, for which notice for sanction of erection of re-erection u/s 235 of the Cantonment Act, 2006 may not be required:- an internal partition wall, a parapet wall or a cornice or chajja, repairing of a staircase, white washing or painting, reflooring of the surface of an existing floor, minor repairs and recasting of an existing damaged roof plastering and patch work, repairing or renewing existing plumbing, sanitary and other utility services & repairing of boundary wall etc.

(20) Vide notification dated 5.12.2019, the Central Government authorize every member of the Coast Guard, constituted under section 4 of the Coast Guard Act, 1978 (30 of 1978) to visit, board, search and seize vessel, or arrest any person, or seize any artificial island or any floating or moored object or any under water object including any maritime property involved or suspected to be used or likely to be used in the commission of any offence punishable under any of the Central Acts including the Acts specified in clause (i) of sub-section (1) of section 121 of the said Act, within the area of maritime zone of India extending upto exclusive economic zone, as defined in clause (m) of section 2 of the said Act.

(21) A dashboard application displaying progress of public Grievances, NoC for Public Projects, NoC for Power Projects, NoC for Defence Exports, NoC for Aerial Surveys and Budget Expenditure over a fixed periodicity of time, has been launched by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on 27th December, 2019. The application has been hosted on intranet network of Ministry of Defence data centre at URL: dashboard.mod.in and can be accessed through the systems connected to the network by entering the credentials.

(22) Hon'ble Raksha Mantri flagged off special plogging awareness drive rally in Delhi Cantt. on 7th December, 2019 as part of Swachhta Pakhwada to create awareness against
single use plastic in the country. The Ministry of Defence organized a massive plogging programme at more than 400 locations throughout the country.

During 'Swachhta Pakhwada 2019' campaign (from 01.12.2019 to 15.12.2019), a total number of 365 activities regarding cleanliness/ plastic waste management have been performed countrywide by various offices/ units of Ministry of Defence. A workshop on the theme of "Plastic Waste Management" was also organized in the Sena Bhawan on 13.12.2019. Further, under the "Plastic Se Raksha – Swachhta Hi Suraksha" program (01.12.2019 to 15.12.2019), a total of 7,870 number of events were held countrywide, wherein 20,32,507 number of people participated contributing 65,90,237 hours and collected 2,84,467 kgs of plastic waste.

(23) The Strategic Tunnel under Rohtang Pass was renamed Atal Tunnel on his birthday. The event was graced by Hon'ble Prime Minister apart from other dignitaries. The Border Roads Organisation worked relentlessly to construct the tunnel, overcoming major geological, terrain and weather challenges.

(24) In order to regulate the Youth Exchange Programme (YEP) of National Cadet Corps (NCC) with cadets of Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) and to facilitate the overall growth of NCC cadets, Ministry of Defence has approved guidelines for foreign visits under YEP on 10th December, 2019. Exchange of cadets with friendly countries has now increased to 17 friendly countries from presently 10 countries.

(25) Ministry of Defence has approved granting additional one lakh cadets as out of turn allotment to NCC cadets' strength to Senior Division/ Wing, NCC of private, quasi-Government, colleges on fully self financing basis. This will enable reduction of the waiting list for allotment of NCC to schools and colleges.

(26) The Government has decided to continue girl admissions in Chhingchhip, Mizoram and also to implement the decision of admission of girl children in five other Sainik Schools, namely, Kodagu, Ghorakhal, Chandrapur, Bijapur & Kalikiri w.e.f. academic session 2020-
21. Admission of girl children in remaining Sainik Schools will commence from academic session 2021-22.

(27) Three new Sainik Schools have commenced at Chandrapur (Maharashtra), Jhansi (Uttar Pradesh) & Mainpuri (Uttar Pradesh). Two new Sainik Schools are expected to commence at Amethi (Uttar Pradesh) and Sambalpur (Odisha) from 2020-21.

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