

Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of January, 2020

CDS, DMA

(1) General Bipin Rawat assumes charge as CDS with effect from 1st January, 2020. In consonance with the subjects allocated to DMA in the revised GoI (Allocation of Business) Rules, 1961, DMA formed and relevant work has been transferred from Department of Defence (DoD) to Department of Military Affairs (DMA) vide Order No. 38(1)/2020-D(O&M) dated 09.01.2020.

Transfer of posts/subjects/files

(2) Posts of 2 Joint Secretary, 13 Deputy Secretary/Director, 25 Under Secretary and 22 Section Officer and 99 supporting staff comprising of stenographic officers, ASOs and MTS have also been transferred to DMA. All files numbering approximately 16971, which are in the custody of the 22 Sections transferred to DMA, stands transferred to the new Department of DMA.

Madagascar Ship Deployment

(3) Indian Naval Ship Airavat, whilst mission deployed in the Southern Indian Ocean was diverted on 26th January, 2020 to arrive at Port Antsiranana, Madagascar as part of 'Operation Vanilla'. The ship arrived at Antsiranana on 30th January, 2020 and is undertaking Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Operations in the aftermath of Cyclone Diane, which resulted in unprecedented rainfall leading to heavy flooding and landslides. Medical and Disaster Relief teams from the ship have been kept standby for deployment at short notice.

Further, relief material comprising disaster relief stores, clothing, food and medicines was handed over to Government officials of Madagascar on 1st February, 2020 and the ceremony was attended by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of Madagascar. This prompt action on parts of GoI was received very well by Madagascar.

Change in DPP – start ups

(4) Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved modification in DPP-2016 on 21st January, 2020. iDEX initiative is primarily aimed at creation of an ecosystem to foster innovation & technology development in Defence & aerospace by engaging industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes & academia. With this change in the DPP, it will be possible for Defence Forces to procure solution developed under iDEX following due process.

NOC web portal

(5) Hon'ble Raksha Mantri launched Ministry of Defence No Objection Certificate web portal www.modnoc.ncog.gov.in for undertaking aerial survey with the final permission of Directorate General of Civil Aviation, in New Delhi on 6th January, 2020.

International Cooperation

(6) A delegation led by Brig (Ops/Lgs), HQrs IDS visited Vietnam for attending the ASEAN Defence Senior Officials' Meeting-Plus Working Group (ADSOM-Plus) from 10th – 11th January, 2020 for review and planning activities under ADSOM-Plus.

(7) Minister of Foreign Affairs of Czech Republic visited India and held a meeting with Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on 15th January, 2020 to discuss India-Czech defence cooperation.

(8) European Union High Representative/ VP visited India and held a meeting with Raksha Mantri on 17th January, 2020. They discussed possible areas of defence cooperation between India and European Union.

(9) Secretary of Defence Products (SEPROD) of Brazil visited India and held a meeting with the Defence Secretary on 24th January, 2020 and discussed areas of cooperation in defence industrial cooperation.

(10) A delegation led by Joint Secretary (Planning) visited Philippines for attending the 3rd India-Philippines Joint Defence Cooperation Committee (JDCC) meeting from 30th January – 1st February, 2020.

(11) Defence Secretary and Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Defence of Finland signed an MoU on co-operation in the field of Production, Procurement, Research and Development of Defence related Equipment and Industrial cooperation in New Delhi on 15th January, 2020.

Defence Acquisition Council

(12) The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), headed by Hon'ble Raksha Mantri, met on 21st January, 2020 to consider a number of new and ongoing proposals for procuring critically needed platforms and equipment for the Armed Forces. It accorded approval for procurement of equipment worth over Rs. 5100 crore from indigenous sources.

Republic Day Celebrations

(13) 71st Republic Day (RD) was celebrated across the country on 26th January, 2020. India's military might, cultural diversity, social and economic progress was on display during the RD parade at Rajpath in New Delhi. On the eve, Hon'ble President approved awards of 409 Gallantry and other Defence decorations to Armed Forces personnel and others. The Hon'ble President also approved Tatrakshak medals to Indian Coast Guard personnel. The RD celebrations concluded with the customary 'Beating the Retreat' ceremony on 29th January, 2020.

Coast Guard

(14) **Acquisition:** Contract for implementation of Chain of Static Sensors-Phase II was signed with M/s BEL, Bengaluru on 15th January, 2020 at a total cost of Rs. 1814.32 crore.

(15) **Commissioning:** Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Annie Besant and Amritkaur were commissioned by Defence Secretary on 12th January, 2020 at Kolkata.

(16) **Apprehending:** ICGS Jakhau on 5th January, 2020, ICGS C-408 and C-437 with ATS, Gujarat team embarked onboard were sailed from Jakhau on 5th January, 2020 to intercept suspected Pakistani fishing boat, involved in smuggling of Narcotics off IMBL. While on search, a suspected Pak fishing boat was identified well inside the Indian waters. Both the IBs stealthily started following the Pak fishing boat and stopped the boat on 6th January, 2020. The suspected boat was boarded and during rummaging of the boat, two gunny bags containing 35 packets of contraband were found. Initial test by drug detection kit revealed the same as Narcotics and immediately Pak fishing boat 'Al-Zam Zam' was seized along with 35 packets (35 kgs) of Heroin worth of 175 crore (approx.). Both IBs along with Pakistani fishing boat entered Jakhau harbour on 6th January, 2020. The boat along with 5 crew and 35 packets of contraband was handed over to Dy SP, ATS, Ahmadabad.

Miscellaneous

(17) **K9 VAJRA-T:** Hon'ble Raksha Mantri flagged off 51st K9 VAJRA-T Gun from Larsen & Tubro (L&T) Armoured System Complex at Hazira in Gujarat on 16th January, 2020.

(18) **Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (IDSA):** Hon'ble Raksha Mantri inaugurated 12th South Asia Conference on India's "Neighbourhood First" Policy: Regional Perception' at IDSA in New Delhi on 28th January, 2020.
