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

Defence Attaches Conference

(1) Raksha Mantri addressed the third Defence Attaches Conference in New Delhi on 3rd February, 2020. In his address he highlighted the serious challenge posed by terror. He emphasized that India can disrupt and deter terrorist groups and their patrons.

International Cooperation

(2) **India-Afro Defence Cooperation:** India's Defence cooperation with African countries is on the increase. One landmark event which gave significant boost to the India Africa Defence Cooperation was the first ever India Africa Defence Ministers' Conclave (IADMC 2020) held at Lucknow in February this year on the side-lines of DEFEXPO 2020. The event led to "Lucknow Declaration", a copy of which is enclosed. Over 154 delegates from Africa, including Defence Ministers from 14 African counties, Member of Parliament, 19 Defence and Service Chiefs and 8 Permanent Secretaries from 38 African countries participated in the event. Through this event, India signalled its readiness to take the defence cooperation beyond military training and UN peacekeeping operations to becoming a security partner of choice for African countries.

(3) A delegation led by Admiral, Chief of Staff, Japan Maritime Self Defence Force visited India on a 'Goodwill visit' from 10th – 13th February, 2020. The whole range of issues pertaining to bilateral defence cooperation between Indian Navy and Japanese Maritime Self Defence Forces was discussed during the visit.

(4) 1st India-Portugal Joint Working Group (JWG) meeting on Defence Cooperation, co-chaired by Joint Secretary (International Cooperation) was held in New Delhi on 13th February, 2020. During the meeting, it was decided to timely implement defence
industrial MoUs being signed during the visit of Portugese President and follow up a short list of military-to-military activities.

(5) A delegation led by Chief of Naval Staff visited Myanmar on a 'Goodwill visit' from 17th to 20th February, 2020. The whole range of issues pertaining to bilateral defence cooperation between Indian Navy and Myanmar Navy was discussed during the visit.

**Thal Sena Bhawan**

(6) Raksha Mantri laid the foundation stone of new Army Headquarters 'Thal Sena Bhawan' at Delhi Cantt. on 21st February, 2020. The building expected to be constructed in five years will house offices, residential complex for security personnel with amenities.

**Balakot airstrikes' first anniversary**

(7) A series of functions were organized across the country to mark the first anniversary of Balakot airstrikes. On the occasion, Raksha Mantri addressed a seminar titled "Air Power in 'No War No Peace' Scenario", organized by Centre for Air Power Studies in New Delhi on 28th February, 2020. In his address he pointed out that Balakot airstrikes were a message that cross-border terrorism would not be a low-cost option for the adversary.

**Acquisition**

(8) Letter of Offer & Acceptance (LoA) for procurement of 24 Multi Role Helicopters (MRH) under Buy (Global) category from US Government under FMS route was signed on 25th February, 2020, for 2130.31 MUSD. A contract for discharge of 30% Offset amounting to 510 MUSD was also signed with the OEM of the helicopters M/s Lockheed Martin.
(9) A contract for mid-life upgrade of 17 Dornier Aircraft of Indian Coast Guard was signed with M/s HAL, Kanpur on 7th February, 2020 at a cost of Rs. 1039.99 crore excluding taxes and duties.

(10) Cabinet Committee on Security considered CCS note on 19th February, 2020 on procurement of 06 Apache (AH64E) Helicopters along with associated equipment, spares, training, weapons & ammunition for Indian Army through Direct Commercial Sales (DCS) from M/s Boeing and Foreign Military Sales (FMS) with USG and approved proposals thereof. Based on CCS approval, contract has been signed with Boeing for DCS (USD 327,000,000) & offsets (USD 239, 092,873) and LOA/FMS with USG (USD 469,976,243) on 25th February, 2020.

(11) LOA/FMS for procurement of Self Protection Suite (SPS) for two Boeing 777-300 ER for Special Extra Section Flight (SESF) from US Government at an estimated Cost of Rs. 1364.72 crore was signed on 27th February, 2020.

Miscellaneous

(12) Ayurveda in AFMC: The Ministry of Defence and Ministry of AYUSH had signed an MoU on 21st October, 2019 titled "Integrating Ayurveda under the Health Establishments in Ministry of Defence/DGAFMS. Following the MoU, MoD establishes two Ayurveda OPD centres, one each at Army Hospital (R&R), New Delhi and Air Force Hospital, Hindan as well as Ayurveda treatment for patients admitted in the Palliative Care Centre of Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt. for two years.

Currently, 01 Ayurveda Doctor, 02 Panchkarma Therapists and 01 Ayurveda Pharmacist are available at the Palliative Care Centre at Base Hospital, Delhi Cantt. 01 Ayurveda doctor is visiting on a daily basis to attend OPD patients at Air Force Hospital, Hindon.
(13) **NOC for online Aerial Survey:** In pursuance of existing policy for automation in Government sector, MoD/NoC portal modnoc.neog.gov.in has been launched in January, 2020 submission of applications through online mode only for seeking NOC for aerial survey will be through. Accordingly, requisite notification has been issued by DGCA to all concerned on 27th February, 2020.

The above initiative will help in obviating time delays thereby expediting various developmental projects of Central Government/ State Government and Autonomous bodies/ PSUs etc., besides ensuring more transparency in the issuance of NoC by MoD.

(14) **Sighting of Chinese War Ship in Pakistan Water:** On 5th February, 2020, CG DO 759 ex-CGAE (PBD) during air surveillance off IMBL, sighted a Chinese War Ship 'Jiangwe-II' (Frigate Class) in Porbandar (11 nm inside Pakistan Water). ICG units are maintaining patrol in area off Indo-Pak IMBL.

(15) **Renaming of IDSA:** Government renamed 'The Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses' (IDSA) as 'Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses' to honour the commitment and legacy of late Manohar Parrikar.

(16) **Republic Day marching contingents:** Raksha Mantri presented trophies of best marching contingents for Republic Day Parade 2020 in New Delhi on 24th February, 2020. The Indian Air Force contingent was adjudged the best among the three Services, while the Central Industrial Security Force was named the best marching contingent in the Central Armed Police Forces and other auxiliary forces category.