

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 09, 1943
Tuesday, August 31, 2021

**Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt to visit flood-affected areas in
Uttarakhand tomorrow**

Reviews situation with DG, BRO

Key Highlights:

- **Frequent landslides have blocked several highways; rivers in spate after heavy rains in the state**
- **RRM took stock of damage to Pithoragarh-Tawaghat road between kilometre 98 to 102**
- **He will be reaching Dharchula on September 01, 2021 along with DG BR & MP Shri Ajay Tamta to take stock of the flood situation**

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt reviewed the flood situation in Uttarakhand in a meeting with Director General Border Roads (DG BR), in New Delhi on August 31, 2021. Heavy monsoon rains triggered landslides that have blocked several highways. The Raksha Rajya Mantri inquired about the damage to Pithoragarh-Tawaghat road between kilometre 98 to 102 in a meeting with DG BR Lt General Rajeev Choudhary.

It is worth noting that catchment area of the Kali river at Dharchula have suffered damage due to cloudburst and incessant rains for the last 5-6 days.

Lt General Chaudhary apprised Shri Ajay Bhatt that along with BRO, National Disaster Relief Force and the entire team of local administration are engaged in relief and rescue operation to provide succour to the affected. The Raksha Rajya Mantri directed DG BR that in such difficult times, the BRO should make every effort to restore connectivity with all its might. The DG BRO assured him that BRO will provide all possible help to the state government in the border areas.

Raksha Rajya Mantri is reaching Dharchula on September 01, 2021 along with DG BR Lt General Rajeev Chaudhary and MP Shri Ajay Tamta on a one-day visit to take stock of the flood situation first-hand in affected areas of the state.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 09, 1943
Tuesday, August 31, 2021

Boost to ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ in defence

Indian Navy signs contract with BEL for supply of Naval Anti drone system

Key Highlights:

- **First indigenously developed anti-drone system, NADS to be inducted by Indian Navy**
- **It can instantly detect, jam micro drones and use a laser-based kill mechanism to terminate targets**
- **BEL to sign similar contacts with Army and Air Force**

Indian Navy has signed contract with Navratna Defence PSU Bharat Limited (BEL) for supply of the first indigenous comprehensive Naval Anti Drone System (NADS) with both hard kill and soft kill capabilities in New Delhi on August 31, 2021. The contract was signed in the presence of senior Naval officers and DRDO representatives. Indian Navy has provided consistent support and has led in the joint development of the anti-drone system with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and BEL.

The NADS, developed by DRDO and manufactured by BEL, is the first indigenously developed anti-drone system to be inducted into the Indian Armed Forces. Multiple Units of BEL, namely Bangaluru, Hyderabad, Pune and Machilipatanam; and DRDO Labs, namely Electronics & Radar Development Establishment (LRDE), Bangaluru; Defence Electronics Research Laboratory (DLRL) and Centre for High Energy Systems and Sciences (CHESS), Hyderabad and Instruments Research & Development Establishment (IRDE) Dehradun; in close collaboration with the Indian Navy, were involved in the making of this fully indigenous system, as part of the Atmanirbar Bharat initiative to counter drone threats of adversaries. The NADS can instantly detect and jam micro drones and use a laser-based kill mechanism to terminate

targets. It will be an effective all-encompassing counter to the increased drone threat to strategic naval installations.

The anti-drone system was first deployed to provide security cover for the Republic Day Parade this year and later during the Prime Minister's Independence Day Address to the Nation from the ramparts of the Red Fort. The system, which offers 360-degree coverage, was also deployed in Ahmedabad for the Modi-Trump roadshow.

The NADS uses the help of Radar, Electro-optical/infrared (EO/IR) sensors and Radio Frequency (RF) detectors to detect and jam the micro drones. The DRDO's RF/Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) detects the frequency which is being used by the controller and the signals are then jammed. The anti-drone technology system of DRDO provides for both 'soft kill' and 'hard kill' options to the Indian Armed Forces to tackle fast-emerging aerial threats. Both the static and mobile versions of NADS will be supplied to the Indian Navy within a short time from the signing of contract.

Senior civil and military officials of Ministry of Defence and BEL were present on the occasion. The BEL is to sign similar contracts with Army and Air Force also.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 08, 1943
Monday, August 30, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh delivers address on ‘National Security’
as part of late Balramji Das Tandon lecture series**

Nation should remain vigilant and be prepared to deal with any threat: RM

**Raksha Mantri assures the Nation that Armed Forces are fully capable of
protecting the borders; There will be no compromise on safety & security
of the people**

**Our priority is to equip our Armed Forces with modern weaponry & make
it the most powerful military: RM**

**All efforts being made to upgrade national security system to deal with
challenges emerging due to modern technology**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh delivered a lecture on ‘National Security’ as part of late Balramji Das Tandon lecture series through video conferencing on August 30, 2021. The Raksha Mantri defined national security as a strong belief to remain vigilant and prepared to deal with every threat & challenge that endangers the existence, development and interests of the Nation, stressing that being sensitive towards national security is the topmost priority of every Government.

Shri Rajnath Singh recalled the challenges by India on its land and maritime boundaries in the last 75 years and lauded the Armed Forces for facing & overcoming every challenge that threatened national security. “Ever since Independence, there has been a constant attempt by some anti-India forces to create an atmosphere of instability within the country. When they realised that they cannot fight with us in front-wars, they resorted to a proxy war. They began to train and finance terrorists to target India,” he said.

Commending the Armed Forces for their ongoing efforts to counter terror activities in Jammu & Kashmir for the last seven years, the Raksha Mantri exuded confidence that the Union Territory will soon be free of terrorism. “The strength that separatist forces used to get due to Article 370 and 35A is now nowhere to be seen,” he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh termed “increased morale of the security forces and their changed modus operandi” as a major change in the response against terrorism in the last seven years. Stressing that the Government does not believe in politicising issues related to national security, he said there is now a belief in the Armed Forces that they can perform their duty in the service of the nation with no interference of any kind. “There hasn’t been a major terrorist incident in the hinterland of India in the last seven years. This shows the increased morale and confidence of our Armed Forces,” he said.

Referring to the cross-border strikes on terror camps, the Raksha Mantri said there will be no compromise on national security. He said the model of terrorism adopted by the evil forces is slowly collapsing. “The anti-India forces have understood that they are no longer in a position to do much in the Kashmir Valley, especially after the abrogation of Article 370. I want to assure you that no power in the world can separate Jammu & Kashmir from India,” he stated.

On ceasefire violations, Shri Rajnath Singh said the Armed Forces have always given a befitting reply that shows their alertness and bravery. He assured the Nation that the Armed Forces are vigilant at all times to safeguard the interests of the Nation and ensure the safety & security of its people.

The Raksha Mantri said, the Government is closely watching the recent developments in Afghanistan which have posed new security challenges. “Security of Indians is a cause of concern for the Government. We also do not want that anti-India forces take advantage of the evolving Afghan situation for cross-border terrorism,” he added.

Referring to the 2020 Galwan Valley incident, the Raksha Mantri said, the Armed Forces are very well aware that any unilateral action should not be ignored. He commended the Indian Army for dealing the situation at Northern border with bravery and restraint. Paying tributes to the Indian soldiers who laid down their lives, he said the Nation will never forget the supreme sacrifice made by the Armed Forces for their motherland. Shri Rajnath Singh maintained that any border dispute can only be resolved peacefully and through dialogue. He, however, assured the Nation that the Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, will never compromise when it comes to India’s borders, its honor and self-respect.

Identifying strengthening of border infrastructure as a crucial element for national security, Shri Rajnath Singh said Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is leaving no stone unturned to build roads, bridges and other infrastructure projects in border areas. He listed out some of the projects completed by BRO including Atal Tunnel and added that Ladakh is being given all weather connectivity and work has started on many alternative roads. “These projects are beneficial for the people residing in border areas. They are also our strategic assets. Keeping their interests in mind, it is necessary to strengthen

the border infrastructure,” he added. The Raksha Mantri also touched upon the infrastructure projects in North East, saying that he recently inaugurated 12 roads in North East and 63 bridges in Ladakh, terming it as an important part of National Security Grid.

Shri Rajnath Singh stated the Armed Forces are fully capable of protecting the borders & the sea and Government is providing all possible support to them. “It is our priority to equip our Armed Forces with modern technology and weaponry so that they become one of the strongest and most modern militaries in the world,” he emphasised. The Raksha Mantri said while the induction of fighter aircraft like Rafale has strengthened the firepower of the Indian Air Force and increased the capability to respond to any challenge, the Government’s aim is to reduce dependence on imports and make India self-reliant in every field. “The dream of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi is ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat. We want to 'Make in India and 'Make for the World'. This is our resolve for self-reliance,” he added.

The Raksha Mantri listed out a number of reforms undertaken by the Government to achieve self-reliance in defence and make India a global manufacturing hub. The reforms include appointment of Chief of Defence Staff, creation of Department of Military Affairs and notifying two Positive Indigenisation Lists to promote exports. “We are working towards creating Theater Commands in a new way. This is also going to be a revolutionary step in itself,” he added.

The Raksha Mantri reiterated the Government’s commitment towards unity, integrity & security of the country at every front, from external and internal security to the task of protecting and strengthening India's strategic interests on the diplomatic front. “Work is being carried out on a large scale for our national security. We will ensure that the nefarious intentions of anti-India forces do not even touch the people of the country,” he stressed. Shri Rajnath Singh added that new threats to national security have emerged due to the development of modern technology. The Government is making all efforts to continuously update and upgrade the national security system to deal with such challenges, he said.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 07, 1943
Sunday, August 29, 2021

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh delivers keynote address at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington

Says, India is ready to face the changing security dynamics of the world

We will continue to strengthen our military to deal with any challenge, says Raksha Mantri

India is a peace-loving nation, but will ensure security of its people, assures Shri Rajnath Singh.

Government making all efforts to develop capabilities to tackle emerging threats like cyber warfare

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited Defence Services Staff College (DSSC), Wellington on August 28-29, 2021. The Raksha Mantri was given a detailed update on the professional military education being imparted at DSSC. He appreciated the transformative changes made in the training of the young officers from India & abroad at the Institute and aligning the professional military education imparted to them to deal with the emerging challenges to national security. He also interacted with the officers of Armed Forces. Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Mukund Naravane Lieutenant General MJS Kahlon were present on the occasion.

Delivering a keynote address to the 77th Staff Course, Shri Rajnath Singh said India is ready to face the changing security dynamics of the world due to the reforms taken by the Government, emphasising that the Armed Forces need to be fully equipped and prepared at all times. “We will continue to strengthen our military and ensure that we are a step ahead to deal with any challenges arising out of the changing global security environment,” he added.

Listing out some of these reforms and describing them as those for the future, the Raksha Mantri said the appointment of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and setting up of Department of Military Affairs will go a long way in continuously bolstering the security infrastructure. “The decisions have directly linked our Armed Forces to governance as they now have direct involvement in all processes. The appointment of CDS has provided stability to

the Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee as now there is a permanent and single point advisor to the government on important issues of defence and security,” he said.

On the creation of Joint Commands, Shri Rajnath Singh termed the decision as another major structural reform, the progress of which is progressing rapidly, he said. “With the formation of Integrated Theater Commands, Armed Forces will have to develop Integrated Operational Concepts and Doctrines to fight jointly. I think DSSC can prove to be a good platform for brain storming on this issue,” he added.

The Raksha Mantri termed Army Headquarters Restructuring as an important part of defence structural reforms. “The aim to increase the teeth to tail ratio of our army, bring decentralisation in decision making and create a future oriented leaner force. Integration of 'DGMO' and 'DGMI' under Deputy Chief of Strategy is one such example. This integration at the Headquarter level will bring great precision in our operational planning,” he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh also spoke about renaming Master General of Ordnance into Master General of Sustenance and consideration of 'Integrated Battle Groups (IBGs)' that will pave way for quicker decision making. “Integrated battle groups will be new groups to fight unified against the enemies. The idea of 'Tour of Duty' will turn into a game changing reform in the future making the Armed Forces more agile. Permanent commission for women officers in defence is a step to increase the role of women in national security,” he said.

On the modernisation of Armed Forces, the Raksha Mantri said, the induction of Rafale ended the long wait for Next Generation Aircraft. He added that Arjun Main Battle Tank, Light Utility Helicopter, developing counter measure systems for Armored Fighting Vehicles and modernisation of Air Defence guns are other steps taken to modernise our military.

To achieve 'AatmaNirbhar Abhiyan' as envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, Shri Rajnath Singh said several steps have been taken to promote self-reliance in defence manufacturing. These include setting up of Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu; notifying two Positive Indigenisation Lists; launch of Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 and transfer of technology free of cost from Defence Research & Development Organisation and unveiling of Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) to encourage innovation and technology development in defence.

Highlighting the role of Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, the Raksha Mantri said HAL has been given a one-time order of about Rs 50,000 crore from the Armed Forces in addition to the export orders. The percentage of domestic procurement in the fund allocated for defence modernisation has been increased to 64.09 per cent. Shri Rajnath Singh called for proactive

involvement of the Armed Forces, saying that active participation from the defence services is needed for these reforms to bear fruit.

The Raksha Mantri also stated that, ever since Independence, some evil forces have resorted to various methods to try and create an atmosphere of instability in the country, but the Armed Forces have ensured that the unity and integrity of the country is maintained. “When our neighboring country realised that it cannot fight a front-war with us, it resorted to proxy war and made terrorism an integral part of its state policy. This was a major paradigm shift in the challenges faced by our country. Keeping these changes in mind, we made major changes to our security related policies. Under a new dynamic, we developed a pro-active attitude against the menace of terrorism,” he added.

Referring to the cross-border strikes on terror camps, Shri Rajnath Singh said these strikes changed the reactionary mindset into proactive mindset. “Despite the challenges on India's border, the people are now confident that there will be no compromise on national security. There is a strong belief that India would not only end terror on its own land, but if needed it would not hesitate to end terrorism anywhere else. This change defines a new era of national security in India,” he added.

On the 2020 Galwan Valley incident, the Raksha Mantri said the unilateral attempt to change the status-quo at the Northern border was also dealt with a new dynamic. “Our soldiers displayed bravery as well as restraint, when required, to thwart enemy plans,” he said, lauding the exemplary courage of the Indian Army personnel, under the leadership of Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane, for effectively dealing with the situation at the Northern border. He assured the Nation that the security forces are fully committed to face any enemy, at any time, in any situation and protect the country in every way. Shri Rajnath Singh also paid tributes to the soldiers who laid down their lives in the service of the Nation.

Sharing his insights on cyber warfare and biological attacks, Shri Rajnath Singh said the perception of linking national security to geographical boundaries has changed and the alignment & re-alignment of global powers add to the already changing security challenges. He stated that the Government is making all efforts to develop capabilities to deal with these new and emerging threats to national security.

Terming the situation in Afghanistan as challenging, the Raksha Mantri said the changing equations have forced every country to think on its strategy. “QUAD, a group of India, Australia, America and Japan, has been formed under this background,” he added. Shri Rajnath Singh stressed on the need to view every dimension of national security in one frame in this new era and expressed hope that DSSC will train and equip the future officers of the Armed Forces to deal with these challenges. He exuded confidence that the officers will be trained in a way that they will give a befitting reply to any kind of challenge facing the country.

Shri Rajnath Singh also asserted that India, despite its capabilities, has never attacked any country till date and has always considered the whole world as its family. This is the spirit of our neighborhood first policy, he said, adding that India has always been proactive in helping the neighboring countries in humanitarian relief work during disasters. He, however, made it clear that while India believes in peace, it has always been ready at all fronts to protect the self-respect and interest of its people and ensure their security. He reiterated the Government's resolve to protect the country from all kinds of external and internal threats.

The Raksha Mantri appreciated the unique role of DSSC in nurturing the future leadership of the three Services of India and the officers from friendly foreign countries. He complimented the student officers for having been selected after a rigorous selection process to train at the DSSC and encouraged them to make most of this unique opportunity to widen their mental horizons and understanding of warfare.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 06, 1943
Saturday, August 28, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh dedicates to the Nation
Indigenously built Indian Coast Guard Ship 'Vigraha'**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation, the indigenously built Coast Guard Ship 'Vigraha' in Chennai today. Calling it one of the important steps towards "Atma Nirbhar Bharat", he said the newly commissioned vessel is indigenous from its design conception to development. Raksha Mantri also highlighted that for the first time in the history of Indian defence, contracts for not one or two, but seven vessels have been signed with a private sector company. And more importantly, within seven years of signing this agreement in 2015, not only launch but also the commissioning of all these seven vessels has been completed today

Raksha Mantri recalled the Coast Guard's role in extending help to neighbouring countries in line with the spirit of inclusiveness. He hailed the role of Coast Guard in providing pro-active help in saving Very large crude carrier MT 'New Diamond' last year, and the cargo ship MV 'X-Press Pearl'. Raksha Mantri also commended the efforts of Coast Guard for its assistance provided to Mauritius during the oil spill from the 'Wakashio' motor vessel.

On the occasion he also lauded the efforts of Coast Guard towards realising the vision of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) envisaged by the Hon'ble Prime Minister with focus on spirit of friendship, openness, dialogue and co-existence with the neighbours with keen sense of duty as its core.

The Ship will be based at Visakhapatnam and operate on India's Eastern Seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (East). ICGS Vigraha is commanded by Commandant PN Anoop has complement of 11 Officers and 110 men.

The 98 meters OPV has been designed and built indigenously by M/s Larsen & Toubro Ship Building Ltd., and is fitted with advanced technology Radars, Navigation and Communication Equipment, Sensor and Machinery capable of operating in tropical sea conditions. The vessel is armed with a 40/60 Bofors gun and fitted with two 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Gun

(SRCG) with Fire Control System. The ship is also equipped with Integrated Bridge System (IBS), Integrated Platform Management System (IPMS), Automated Power Management System (APMS) and High-Power External Firefighting (EFF) system. The ship is designed to carry one Twin Engine Helicopter and four high speed boats for Boarding Operation, Search and Rescue, Law Enforcement and Maritime Patrol. The ship is also capable of carrying limited pollution response equipment to contain oil spill at sea. The ship displaces approx. 2200 tons (GRT) and is propelled by two 9100 KW diesel engines to attain a maximum speed of 26 knots with endurance of 5000 nm at economical speed.

The ship, on joining the Coast Guard Eastern fleet, will be deployed extensively for EEZ surveillance and other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard Charter, to safeguard the maritime interests of India. The Indian Coast Guard with this ship joining the fleet, will have 157 Ships and 66 Aircraft in its inventory.

The event also included Shri T Thennarasu, Minister for Industries of Tamil Nadu, General M M Naravane, Chief of Army Staff, Director General Krishnaswamy Natarajan, Director General Indian Coast Guard, Additional Director General VS Pathania, Coast Guard Commander (Eastern seaboard), Inspector General AP Badola Commander Coast Guard Region (East), Commandant PN Anoop, Commanding Officer, ICG Vighraha.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 05, 1943
Friday, August 27, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addresses Defence Institute of
Advanced Technology Meeting in Pune;**

**RM: DIAT working to provide pool of technologists for indigenisation
of defence manufacturing**

Key Highlights:

- **DIAT working towards self-reliance in critical defence technologies**
- **Schools of quantum technology, robotics and automation opened**
- **Residence facility for married PhD scholars/international students/visiting faculty**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh visited Defence Institute of Advanced Technology (DIAT), a deemed to be University, for its 6th General Body Meeting on 27th August 2021. He is Chairman & Chancellor of the Institute. Speaking on the occasion, he said, it is a matter of great pride that DIAT has been contributing towards nation building by conducting advanced courses in science and technology related to defence and national security.

Shri Rajnath Singh said, “The vision of our honourable PM is to make our nation self-reliant – ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’. Towards this, we have initiated several steps for indigenisation of defence technologies and manufacturing in the country. These initiatives require large pool of technologists armed with skills of future warfare.”

Raksha Mantri expressed happiness that DIAT has taken proactive role in this direction by opening new schools in the areas of Quantum Technology, Robotics and Automation and Defence Technology. Such augmentation with eminent professors of Indian origin and collaboration with recognised foreign institutes will transform the institute into a

frontier technology centre. He also mentioned that DIAT has started interdisciplinary research and teaching programme in the area of Quantum Technologies and Robotics. He also witnessed some demonstrations in these technologies.

Raksha Mantri expressed satisfaction that DIAT has been conducting online certificate courses for the benefit of the young engineering professionals in Artificial Intelligence and Cyber Security which are the preliminaries for future information security and war-gaming. "It is heartening to note that 1,500 young professionals have already been trained by DIAT," he added. These steps lead to self-reliance in critical defence technologies. In recent years, intake of students in MTech, MSc and PhD are continuously increasing with better quality of students. Books, patents and paper publications are increasing, exhibiting the academic growth of the institute.

After the GBM, Raksha Mantri addressed DIAT faculty, students and staff. He said that DIAT is in process of collaborating with eminent professors of Indian origin from recognised foreign institutes which will take our institute closer towards making it into a frontier technology institute in these areas. Raksha Mantri congratulated DIAT for taking a lead for self-reliance in these critical technologies.

Speaking about uniqueness of the DIAT, which also conducts various short-term specialised courses like Missile technology, cyber security, cryptology for our defence services, Shri Rajnath Singh said, "DIAT has conducted several International workshops. Armed Forces and DRDO Scientists are continuously updated through such workshops and getting regular doctoral and post-graduate degrees from this University."

Speaking about academic excellence of the DIAT, Raksha Mantri said, "DIAT faculty members are pioneers in their domain and I am also informed that 03 professors of DIAT are ranked in the top two per cent bracket in the world. I congratulate them and wish many more to achieve this distinction.

Raksha Mantri inaugurated newly constructed married accommodation for PhD scholars/international students/visiting faculty on the campus. After the inauguration of the hostel he witnessed demonstration of free space optical communication project of DIAT.

Shri Rajnath Singh praised DIAT and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDOP for coming forward during the time of crisis of country during the pandemic. In this time DIAT acquired nine

patents in combating COVID-19 and productionized these technologies industry partners.

Secretary, Department of Defence Research & Development and Chairman, DRDO Shri G Satheesh Reddy, DIAT Vice Chancellor Dr C P Ramanarayanan, senior faculty members, senior civil & military officials and scholars were also present on the occasion.

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New Delhi, Bhadra 05, 1943
Friday, August 27, 2021

Boost to ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ in defence

**MoD signs Rs 1,350 crore contract for Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare
Defence Suites with an Indian company**

Key Highlights:

- **Contract for procurement of 14 Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare Defence Suites at the cost of Rs 1,349.95 crore**
- **Contract under ‘Buy and Make (Indian)’ category boost ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ mission**
- **System will enhance anti-submarine warfare capability of Navy**

Ministry of Defence (MoD) has concluded a contract with Mahindra Defence Systems Limited for procurement of 14 Integrated Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) Defence Suites (IADS) at a cost of Rs 1,349.95 crore in New Delhi on August 27, 2021. The contract with an Indian firm under the ‘Buy and Make (Indian)’ category of defence procurement is an important boost to India’s ‘Atmanirbhar Bharat’ mission and provides a major fillip to indigenous defence industry in technology development and production. The system will enhance anti-submarine warfare capability of Indian Navy.

The IADS comes with an integrated capability for detecting enemy submarines and torpedoes at extended ranges as well as diverting incoming torpedoes fired by enemy submarines.

The MoD has continued to demonstrate its resolve to augment the ‘Make in India’ initiative of the Government and the resolve of the country to become ‘Atmanirbhar’ in advance technologies with induction of multiple equipment through home-grown defence industry.

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New Delhi, Bhadra 05, 1943
Friday, August 27, 2021

**RAKSHA MANTRI SHRI RAJNATH SINGH UNVEILS ARMY
SPORTS INSTITUTE STADIUM NAMED AFTER NEERAJ
CHOPRA**

VISITS HEADQUARTERS SOUTHERN COMMAND AT PUNE

Raksha Mantri, Shri Rajnath Singh visited the Army Sports Institute, Pune, today. He was accompanied by Chief of Army Staff, General Manoj Mukund Naravane and Southern Army Commander, Lieutenant General JS Nain.

During his maiden visit, the Raksha Mantri felicitated Olympians from the three services. In the unveiling ceremony, he named the Army Sports Institute stadium as “Neeraj Chopra Stadium”. He then addressed the troops and interacted with the budding sportsmen of Army Sports Institute.

In a tweet Raksha Mantri said “Felicitated Subedar Neeraj Chopra at the Army Sports Institute in Pune today for his amazing performance at Tokyo Olympics. He made the country proud by winning the Olympics Gold Medal. Now, the ASI has renamed the Stadium after him. Wishing him success in his future endeavours.”

“Delighted to facilitate all the Armed Forces personnel who participated in the Tokyo Olympics. My good wishes to them for a successful career ahead,” he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh hoped that India would become a top sports nation in future and host Olympics.

The Indian Army’s “Mission Olympics” programme was launched in 2001 with an intent to deliver medal winning performances in Olympics and other international events. The focus of the Indian Army is to

identify and train promising sportspersons in 11 disciplines. Mission Olympics of Indian Army through Army Sports Institute has been spearheading this initiative of the Army.

Army Sports Institute envisions to train world class sports persons, with sustained and systematic talent hunt, state of the art training and supporting infrastructure. Army Sports Institute is a unique facility for budding sportspersons.

The Raksha Mantri complimented Army Sports Institute for the exceptional training facilities being provided to the sportsperson of the country. He offered full support in providing financial and administrative assistance to the institute. The visit of the Raksha Mantri boosted the morale of the sportsmen, who are striving towards achieving the aim of excellence for the country.

The Raksha Mantri also visited Headquarters Southern Command based at Pune. The Raksha Mantri was briefed by Lieutenant General JS Nain, Army Commander, Southern Command on various operational, training and administrative issues of the largest command of Indian Army. He complimented Southern Command for its professional approach and operational readiness towards ensuring sovereignty of the Nation. He also congratulated the Command for its outstanding contribution in various Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations in peninsular India, particularly towards assistance provided to civil administration in the recent flood relief operations and the pandemic. He appreciated the efforts of Southern Command for engaging with Research & Development institutes to further the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative of the Government..

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 04, 1943
Thursday, August 26, 2021

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt meets family of Subedar Ram Singh who got killed in action in Jammu & Kashmir

Key Highlights:

- **Shri Ajay Bhatt remembers the fallen hero for his bravery during the anti-terror operation**
- **Assures family of all possible support from the Government**
- **We stand with families of soldiers who laid down their lives for the Nation: Raksha Rajya Mantri**

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt visited Meerut on August 26, 2021 and met the family of Subedar Ram Singh who was killed in action during an anti-terror operation at Rajouri in Jammu & Kashmir on the intervening night of August 18-19, 2021. Extending his condolences to the family, Shri Ajay Bhatt paid homage to the fallen hero and recalled his bravery during the operation. He assured the family of all possible support from the government. “We stand shoulder-to-shoulder with the families of the brave soldiers who have made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the Nation,” he said.

Originally from Pauri in Uttarakhand, Subedar Ram Singh’s family resides in Meerut and the slain officer was about to retire in a few months. The Central and Uttar Pradesh governments have announced a total financial assistance of over Rs 1.2 crore to the next-to-kin of the officer.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 04, 1943
Thursday, August 26, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to commission indigenously built
Indian Coast Guard Ship Vighraha on Saturday**

Key Highlights:

- **ICGS Vighraha is seventh in the series of Offshore Patrol Vessels**
- **Indigenously built by L&T Ship Building Limited**
- **Fitted with advanced fire power**
- **Designed to carry one twin-engine Helicopter & four high speed boats**
- **To be based in Visakhapatnam & operate on eastern seaboard**

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Ship Vighraha, seventh in the series of Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs), will be commissioned by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in Chennai on August 28, 2021. The ship will be based in Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh and operate on the eastern seaboard under the Operational and Administrative Control of the Commander, Coast Guard Region (East).

The 98-meter OPV, with a complement of 11 officers and 110 sailors, has been designed and built indigenously by Larsen & Toubro Ship Building Limited. It is fitted with advanced technology radars, navigation & communication equipment, sensors and machinery capable of operating in tropical sea conditions. The vessel is armed with a 40/60 Bofors gun and fitted with two 12.7 mm Stabilised Remote Control Gun with fire control system. The ship is also equipped with integrated bridge system, integrated platform management system, automated power management system and high-power external fire-fighting system.

The ship is also designed to carry one twin-engine Helicopter and four high speed boats for boarding operation, search & rescue, law enforcement and maritime patrol. The ship is also capable of carrying pollution response equipment to contain oil spill at sea. The ship displaces approximately 2,200 tons and is propelled by two 9100 KW

diesel engines to attain a maximum speed of 26 nautical miles per hour with endurance of 5000 nm at economical speed.

The ship, on joining the Coast Guard Eastern fleet, will be deployed extensively for EEZ surveillance and other duties as enshrined in the Coast Guard Charter to safeguard the country's maritime interests. The ICG, with this ship joining the fleet, will have 157 ships and 66 aircraft in its inventory.

The commissioning ceremony will also be attended by Chief Minister of Tamil Nadu Shri M K Stalin, Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane, Director General Indian Coast Guard Shri K Natarajan and other senior dignitaries of the central & state governments.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 03, 1943
Wednesday, August 25, 2021

Commander, US Indo-Pacific Command calls on Chief of Defence Staff

Key Highlights:

- **Issues related to peace & security and bilateral defence cooperation discussed**
- **Admiral Aquilino also meets Tri-Service Chiefs & Defence Secretary**

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat held a meeting with Commander of the United States Indo-Pacific Command (US INDOPACOM) Admiral John C Aquilino in New Delhi on August 25, 2021. Issues related to peace & security in the region and bilateral defence cooperation were part of the agenda for the meeting. Admiral Aquilino also held meetings with the Tri-Service Chiefs and Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar.

The Commander US INDOPACOM began his visit by paying tribute to the fallen heroes by laying a wreath at the National War Memorial in New Delhi. He is on an official visit to India from October 24-26, 2021.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 02, 1942
Tuesday, August 24, 2021

**First batch of Multi-Mode Hand Grenades handed over to Indian Army
in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in Nagpur**

**Raksha Mantri terms it a shining example of public-private partnership
to achieve self-reliance in defence manufacturing**

Key highlights:

- **Grenade manufactured by Economic Explosives Limited Co following Transfer of Technology from a DRDO lab**
- **MMHG works in both offensive & defensive modes with high accuracy and reliability**
- **Raksha Mantri calls it an important milestone in defence manufacturing and a big step towards ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat’**
- **Defence exports in last two years cross Rs 17,000 crore**

The first batch of Multi-Mode Hand Grenades (MMHG), manufactured by Economic Explosives Limited (EEL) following Transfer of Technology from Terminal Ballistics Research Laboratory of Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO), was handed over to the Indian Army in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in Nagpur, Maharashtra on August 24, 2021.

Chairman of EEL Shri S N Nuwal handed over a scale replica of MMHG to the Raksha Mantri to mark the first delivery of ammunition from the private sector. Chief of the Army Staff General M M Naravane, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy and DG Infantry Lt Gen A K Samantra were among those present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Rajnath Singh termed the handing over of MMHG as a shining example of the increasing collaboration between the public & private sectors and a big step towards self-reliance in defence manufacturing. “Today is a memorable day in the history of Indian defence sector. Our private industry is coming of age when it comes to defence production. It is an important milestone not only in the field of defence manufacturing, but also in achieving ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat’ as envisioned by our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi,” he said. The Raksha Mantri lauded DRDO & EEL for the speedy delivery of the order amidst COVID-19 restrictions and hoped of a faster delivery of the next lot.

The Raksha Mantri listed out the measures undertaken by the Government to transform the defence sector into a self-reliant industry which can cater to the present and the future needs of the Armed Forces. These include setting up of Defence Industrial Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu; formulation of draft Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy (DPEPP) 2020; earmarking around 64 per cent of its modernisation funds under capital acquisition budget for 2021-22 for procurement from domestic companies; notifying two Positive Indigenisation Lists of over 200 defence items to promote self-reliance & defence exports; Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB); increasing FDI limit from 49 to 74 per cent under automatic route and beyond 74 per cent through government route and according top priority to 'Buy {Indian-IDD (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)}' category for capital procurement.

Shri Rajnath Singh made special mention of another initiative taken by the Government, *i.e.*, Technology Transfer to Industries by DRDO. Describing the measure as the backbone of the defence industry, he lauded DRDO for being an incubator which is undertaking free of cost transfer of technologies as well as providing access to testing facilities and over 450 patents. This has not only enabled the Industry to use ready-to-use technologies, but has also saved time, energy and money, he said.

The Raksha Mantri also underlined the importance of Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX) saying that it aims to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation & technology development in defence and aerospace sectors by engaging Industries including MSMEs, start-ups, individual innovators, R&D institutes and academia. Under this initiative, the problems being faced by the Armed Forces, Defence Public Sector Undertakings and OFB are identified and brought before entrepreneurs, MSMEs, start-ups and innovators through Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) to find solutions.

Shri Rajnath Singh commended the Industry for indigenously developing products like 'Multi-Mode Grenade', 'Arjun-Mark-1' tank, 'Unmanned Surface Vehicle' and 'See Through Armor'. "Such products are not just being produced but exported on a large scale. The number of online export authorisations during 2016-17 to 2018-19 was 1,210. It has increased to 1,774 in last two years. This has resulted in defence exports of over Rs 17,000 crore in the last two years," he added. Shri Rajnath Singh exuded confidence that soon India will manufacture defence products not just for domestic use, but for the whole world.

The grenade is not just more lethal, but is safer to use. It has a distinctive design that gives flexibility of employment in both defensive (fragmentation) and offensive (stun) modes. It has a highly accurate delay time, very high reliability in usage and safe for carriage. These new grenades will replace Grenade No 36 of World War I vintage design, which had been continuing in service till date.

The EEL had signed a contract with Ministry of Defence on October 01, 2020 to supply 10 lakh modern hand grenades for Indian Army and Indian Air Force. The deliveries would be spread over two years from the bulk production clearance, which was accorded to EEL in March 2021. The first order has been delivered within five months.

The EEL had taken the technology from DRDO in 2016, absorbed it successfully while maintaining very high quality in detonics. Extensive trials were successfully undertaken by the Indian Army and Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DGQA) in 2017-18 in plains, deserts and high altitude over summer & winter.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Bhadra 01, 1942
Monday, August 23, 2021

Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations at Indira Point

Key highlights:

- **Andaman & Nicobar Command personnel hoist National Flag to mark 50th year of India’s victory in 1971 war**
- **Indira Point is the southernmost tip of the country**
- **Victory Flame was on a voyage to Nicobar Group of Islands**
- **Now begins its journey to the mainland**

The Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame was taken to Indira Point, the southernmost tip of the country on August 22, 2021, as part of its voyage to the Nicobar Group of Islands. The Armed Forces personnel from Andaman & Nicobar Command hoisted the National Flag and collected the soil from the location to mark the momentous occasion.

The Victory Flame has now begun its journey back to Port Blair for a befitting farewell before its onward journey to the mainland. The journey of the Victory Flame, north to south, spanning the entire Andaman and Nicobar chain of Islands commemorates the spirit of Swarnim Vijay Varsh. 2021 is being celebrated as Swarnim Vijay Varsh to mark the 50th year of India’s historic victory in the 1971 war.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 31, 1942
Sunday, August 22, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to felicitate Service Olympians at
Army Sports Institute, Pune**

Key Highlights:

- **Gold medalist Subedar Neeraj Chopra & other service personnel, who represented India at Tokyo Olympics, likely to be present**
- **Raksha Mantri to interact with budding sportsmen of ASI & troops**
- **Shri Rajnath Singh to visit Headquarters of Southern Command**
- **Chief of Army Staff & Southern Army Commander to accompany Raksha Mantri**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will felicitate the Olympians from the Services at the Army Sports Institute (ASI), Pune on August 23, 2021. All the Armed Forces personnel, who represented India in the recently-concluded Tokyo Olympics, including Gold medalist Javelin Thrower Subedar Neeraj Chopra, are likely to be present on the occasion. Shri Rajnath Singh will also interact with the budding sportsmen of ASI and troops during his visit. He will visit the Headquarters of Southern Command. The Raksha Mantri will be accompanied by Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane and General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Southern Command Lieutenant General JS Nain.

Indian Army has always been the backbone of Indian sports - from Major Dhyan Chand to Subedar Neeraj Chopra who etched their names in golden letters in the history of Indian sports. The Indian Army's 'Mission Olympics' programme was launched in 2001 as a Key Responsibility Area to raise the standard of sports with the intent to win medals in international events, including Olympics.

ASI, Pune is a unique and world class sports institute of Indian Army and has produced 34 Olympians, 22 Commonwealth Games medalists, 21 Asian Games medalists, six Youth Games medalists and 13 Arjuna Awardees. Besides the dedication of these sportspersons, their success is attributed to the hard work of the support staff at ASI.

ASI, Pune has evolved as a premier sports training institute to prepare the service sportspersons for international competitions through scientific talent identification, systematic training, world class coaching, sports science support, international exposure and good infrastructure support in synergy with the Armed Forces, National Sports Federation and other sports agencies at national & international levels.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 30, 1942
Saturday, August 21, 2021

Initiative by BRO to educate children of Casual Paid Labourers

Key Highlights:

- **BRO providing education to children of labourers employed for construction works in high-altitude areas of Uttarakhand**
- **60-70 children attending outdoor classes in three camps**
- **BRO working with an NGO to provide clothing & ration to these children**
- **Plan to provide basic accommodation & better teaching facilities**

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has undertaken a noble deed of educating the children of Casual Paid Labourers (CPLs) who are employed by them for various road construction works on the Dharasu-Gangotri road in Uttarakhand. Devoid of mobile connection & basic facilities, the officers and supervisors of BRO are imparting education to these children in the most inhospitable high-altitude terrain.

Junior Engineer Rahul Yadav and Subedar Sandesh Pawar responsible for the road construction on Gangotri Highway in Uttarkashi district came up with the idea of providing the children with basic education and keeping them engaged when their parents are out working.

Three camps in Jhangla, Hindoligarh and Naga are holding these outdoor classes since July 21, 2021. Presently, 60-70 children are attending these classes. These officers of BRO are also proactively working with an NGO ‘Goonj’ to provide clothing and ration to these children. Carrying forward the initiative of these officers, BRO plans to provide basic accommodation and better teaching facilities to the children in the coming months.

The CPLs are the backbone of BRO as they work in inhospitable and difficult terrains to ensure construction of strategic border roads. They stay away from their homes for long durations and are cut off from society. Most of them working in these areas hail from Jharkhand or are those who reside near the Nepal border. The aim of this initiative is to engage with these young and often neglected minds by educating them and ensuring that their parents are encouraged and satisfied with the organisation they work for.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 29, 1942
Friday, August 20, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh approves proposal to publish
relevant details of planned procurements on MoD/Services
website**

Key Highlights:

- Decision to promote ‘Ease of Doing Business’ & increase transparency in capital acquisition process**
- Industry can plan technology tie-ups with OEMs, initiate process to set up production lines & augment capacity**
- Details to be published on MoD/Services website within one week of receipt of approvals**
- Security aspect to be kept in mind**

The Defence Industry has regularly pitched for providing greater access to the details of procurements planned by Ministry of Defence (MoD) especially with regard to cost, quantity, offsets, trials, transfer of technology etc which are being envisaged at the Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) stage.

To promote ‘Ease of Doing Business’ and provide more transparency in capital acquisition process, aligning with the aspirations of industry, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal mandating the Service Headquarters to publish the relevant details on the Service Headquarters/MoD website within one week of receipt of approvals. The details shared will be subject to sensitivities keeping the security aspect in mind.

This is an important step towards greater transparency & information symmetry and will provide an opportunity to the additional vendors, who did not respond to the Request for Information (RFI) but wish to express interest for receipt of RFP and submission of bid. This timely visibility will enable the industry to plan technology tie-ups with Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs), initiate the process to set up

production lines and augment production capacity in anticipation of the orders likely to be placed.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 28, 1942
Thursday, August 19, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launches Defence India Startup
Challenge 5.0**

**Urges private sector to contribute towards building a self-reliant
defence industry; assures all possible support**

Key highlights of RM's address:

- **DISC 5.0 is a reflection of Government's resolve to create a self-reliant defence sector**
- **The challenge to take innovation, design & development to newer heights**
- **iDEX playing a crucial role in building a strong military & 'AatmaNirbhar' defence industry**
- **Government support to private sector in building 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat'**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched Defence India Startup Challenge (DISC) 5.0 under Innovations for Defence Excellence - Defence Innovation Organisation (iDEX-DIO) through video conferencing on August 19, 2021. Thirty five Problem Statements – 13 from the Services and 22 from Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) – were unveiled under DISC 5.0. These are in areas such as Situational awareness, Augmented Reality, Artificial Intelligence, Aircraft-trainer, Non-lethal devices, 5G network, Under-water domain awareness, Drone SWARMS and Data Capturing. The Problem Statements, designed to ensure military advantage in the foreseeable future, are the highest in any edition, so far.

Lauding the efforts of iDEX-DIO, Shri Rajnath Singh, in his address, termed DISC 5.0 as another step towards independence in the defence sector as the launch comes at a time when the country is celebrating 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. Stating that DISC 5.0 is a reflection of Government's resolve of creating an 'AatmaNirbhar' defence sector, he exuded confidence that this challenge will move forward from its earlier editions and take innovation, design & development to newer heights. He shed light on the previous four editions of DISC and said that more than 80 startups, MSMEs and individual innovators have joined as winners in over 40 technological areas. He added

that modern and futuristic problem statements launched in DISC 5.0 demonstrate the confidence of young entrepreneurs and innovators in DISC.

The Raksha Mantri underlined the importance of creating a strong, modern & well-equipped military and an equally capable & self-reliant defence industry, given the rapidly changing geo-political and security scenario in the world. To realise this vision, he said, iDEX is playing a crucial role by providing a platform wherein the Government, Services, think tanks, industry, startups and innovators can work together to help the defence & aerospace sectors reach full potential.

“Defence India Startup Challenge and Open Challenges provide many opportunities to our youth and entrepreneurs. They give a new direction to defence innovation and capabilities by highlighting the potential of India's science, technology and research”, said Shri Rajnath Singh. He added that iDEX4fauji is a similar initiative that gives an opportunity to the service personnel to showcase their talent in these fields.

Sharing his insights on the broad contours of iDEX, the Raksha Mantri stated that the initiative has succeeded in bridging the gap between talent and demand in the country. “iDEX provides a strong foundation of innovation, R&D to the industry. Initiatives like iDEX form a link between our youth, academia, R&D, start-ups and the Armed Forces,” he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh listed out measures taken by Ministry of Defence to promote innovation, such as including iDEX as a procurement avenue under Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP-2020); earmarking Rs 1,000 crore for domestic procurement through iDEX for financial year 2021-2022 and approving a budget of Rs 498.8 crore for the next five years to support over 300 startups and foster innovation in defence & aerospace sectors.

The Raksha Mantri expressed confidence that iDEX will support five times more start-ups over the next five years as the aim is to accelerate progress, reduce costs and complete procurement in a time bound manner. For this, he said, there is need to adopt the concept of 5 Is (Identify, Incubate, Innovate, Integrate and Indigenise).

Shri Rajnath Singh also referred to a number of initiatives taken by the Government, including steps to increase partnerships with the private sector, technology transfers and restrictions on import of more than 200 items, to promote self-reliance as well as generate employment opportunities. Commending various stakeholders for indigenously developing world-class technologies, he called for identifying and developing new technologies to take forward the vision of ‘Make in India – Make for the World’. He called upon the private sector to come forward and contribute towards building a self-reliant defence sector and assured all possible support of the government.

In his welcome address, Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Raj Kumar termed innovation and self-reliance as the two aspects of iDEX. He said India has the third largest startup ecosystem in the world and these startups are not just wealth creators but employment generators. He added that today the nature of warfare is technology-driven and these startups can play a crucial role in developing indigenous defence capabilities, reducing imports and improving exports.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence were present at the launch of DISC 5.0. Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane, Chief of Integrated Defence Staff to Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee Vice Admiral AK Jain; young innovators and representatives of the industry attended the event virtually.

The launch of DISC 5.0 by iDEX-DIO comes three years after the launch of DISC 1.0. The launch of DISC 5.0 is a massive leap towards leveraging the startup ecosystem to develop India's defence technologies, equipment design and manufacturing capabilities. It will encourage startups to become more attuned to innovative concepts and inculcate the approach of creative thinking in India's budding entrepreneurs.

The iDEX initiative was launched by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in April 2018 to achieve self-reliance and foster innovation & technology development in defence and aerospace sectors.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 28, 1942
Thursday, August 19, 2021

DRDO develops Advanced Chaff Technology for Indian Air Force

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh terms it another step of DRDO
towards ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat’**

Key highlights:

- **The technology to safeguard fighter aircraft from hostile radar threats**
- **Given to the industry for production in large quantities**
- **Indian Air Force begins process of induction following completion of successful user trials**
- **Raksha Mantri terms it another step of DRDO towards ‘AatmaNirbhar Bharat’**

Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) has developed an Advanced Chaff Technology to safeguard fighter aircraft of the Indian Air Force (IAF) against hostile radar threats. Defence Laboratory Jodhpur, a DRDO laboratory developed the advanced Chaff material and chaff cartridge-118/I in collaboration with High Energy Materials Research Laboratory (HEMRL), a Pune based laboratory of DRDO, meeting qualitative requirements of IAF. The Indian Air Force has started the process of induction of this technology after completion of successful user trials.

In today’s electronic warfare, survivability of fighter aircraft is of prime concern because of advancement in modern radar threats. To ensure survivability of aircraft, Counter Measure Dispensing System (CMDS) is used which provides passive jamming against Infra-Red and radar threats. Chaff is a critical defence technology used to protect fighter aircraft from hostile radar threats. The importance of this technology lies in the fact that very less quantity of chaff material deployed in the air acts as decoy to deflect enemy’s missiles for ensuring safety of the fighter aircraft. The technology has been given to the industry for production in large quantities to meet the annual rolling requirement of the Indian Air Force.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has lauded DRDO, IAF and the industry for indigenous development of this critical technology, terming it as

one more step of DRDO towards 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat' in strategic defence technologies. Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy congratulated the teams associated with the successful development of this advanced technology that will further strengthen the Indian Air Force.

ABB/Nampi/DK/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 27, 1942
Wednesday, August 18, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to launch Defence India
Startup Challenge 5.0**

Key Highlights:

- Problem Statements from Services & DPSUs under DISC 5.0 to be launched**
- Designed to ensure military advantage for the future**
- Massive leap towards leveraging the startup ecosystem to develop defence technologies**
- To encourage startups to become more attuned to innovative concepts**

Three years after the launch of Defence India Startup Challenge 1.0 (DISC), Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO), will launch DISC 5.0 in New Delhi on August 19, 2021. iDEX provides a platform for different stakeholders in the defence & aerospace sectors, essentially acting as an umbrella organisation to oversee technology development and potential collaborations in the specific field. With initiatives such as DISC and Open Challenges, iDEX is able to utilise the strong science, technology and research talent base of the country to develop new capabilities in defence innovation. DISC 5.0 will have more challenges than the first four DISC editions taken together.

Problem Statements received from the Services and Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs) under DISC Round 5 will be launched by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh. iDEX had been designed to infuse latest technology into military warfare closely intertwined with the needs of the Services and reduce dependence on imports, according to Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Raj Kumar.

The Problem Statements by the Services and DPSUs are designed to ensure military advantage in the foreseeable future. The winners

receive grants up to Rs 1.5 crore from iDEX, along with support from Partner Incubators and guidance from the Nodal Officers who are the ultimate users.

The launch of DISC 5.0 will be a massive leap towards leveraging the startup ecosystem to develop India's defence technologies, equipment design and manufacturing capabilities. These challenges will also encourage startups to become more attuned to innovative concepts and inculcate the approach of creative thinking in India's budding entrepreneurs. Additional Secretary, DDP and CEO, DIO Shri Sanjay Jaju stated that the iDEX process has opened up a whole new ecosystem for Indian startups besides lending visibility to their work. He emphasised that in the long run, this would help these entities build credibility, and even corner foreign contracts.

iDEX features as a procurement avenue under the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP-2020). Ministry of Defence has earmarked a total of Rs 1,000 crore for domestic procurement through iDEX initiative for the financial year 2021-2022. Recently, the Raksha Mantri had approved a budget of Rs 498.8 crore for the next five years to support over 300 startups and foster innovation in defence & aerospace sectors. These announcements have provided assurance of domestic procurement for the myriad of innovations and products being developed by young entrepreneurs, while enabling India's defence sector to contribute significantly towards \$5-trillion economy goal by 2025.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 27, 1942
Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame at Air Force Station, Car Nicobar

Key Highlights:

- **A ceremonial function organised to mark the occasion**
- **Ex-servicemen felicitated at the event to commemorate India’s victory in 1971 war**
- **Victory run by 200 Armed Forces personnel held along with the Victory Flame**
- **Tree plantation drive conducted as part of Green India campaign**

A ceremonial function was organised at Air Force Station, Car Nicobar to mark the visit of Victory Flame of ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’. 2021 is being celebrated as ‘Swarnim Vijay Varsh’ to commemorate India’s victory in the 1971 war. The ceremony began with the arrival of the Victory Flame which was honoured by a ceremonial salute.

Deputy Commissioner, Car Nicobar Shri Yash Chaudhary, other senior civil & military officials and ex-servicemen attended the event. The gathering was briefed about the 1971 war and in particular about the role of the Armed Forces in the historic victory. All the veterans present on the occasion were felicitated by the Station Commander, Air Force Station Car Nicobar.

The event culminated by paying homage to the martyrs and singing of the National Anthem. Thereafter, a victory run by 200 personnel of the Armed Forces was carried out along with the Victory Flame. As part of the Green India campaign, a tree plantation drive was conducted in the premises of the Air Force Station.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 27, 1942
Wednesday, August 18, 2021

Webinar between India & Malaysia on ‘Indian Defence Industry Global Outreach for Collaborative Partnership’

Key Highlights:

- **Part of series of webinars organised with friendly countries**
- **Aims to boost defence exports & achieve US \$5 billion defence export target by 2025**
- **More than 150 delegates attend the webinar**
- **Over 100 virtual exhibition stalls set up**
- **Webinar organised by MoD through SIDM**

A webinar and expo between India & Malaysia on the theme ‘Indian Defence Industry Global Outreach for Collaborative Partnership’ was held on August 17, 2021. It was organised under the aegis of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence through Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM). The webinar was part of the series of webinars being organised with friendly foreign countries to boost defence exports and achieve the defence export target of US \$5 billion by 2025.

Joint Secretary, Defence Industries Production (DIP), Ministry of Defence Shri Anurag Bajpai and other senior officials from both countries participated in the webinar. In his address, the Joint Secretary (DIP) highlighted that Indian defence products are of global standards and extremely cost effective. He said India has a robust shipbuilding industry with an ecosystem of world class public and private shipbuilding companies. He emphasised that India is positioning itself as a hub for aircraft maintenance, repair & overhaul activities and both the countries may collaborate in this sector. A knowledge paper prepared by SIDM-KPMG was also released during webinar.

Nine Indian companies, including Bharat Electronics Limited, Hindustan Aeronautics Limited, Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, L&T Defence and Bharat Forge Limited, gave presentations on major defence platforms and products. From the Malaysian side, Aerospace Technology Systems Corporation, AMP Corporation, DEFTECH Unmanned Systems and Innopack SDN BHD made company presentations. The webinar was attended by more than 150 delegates. More than 100 virtual exhibition stalls were set up.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 26, 1942
Tuesday, August 17, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flags-in climb-a-thon organised
as part of ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’**

Key Highlights:

- **Climb-a-thon held at four smaller peaks of Sikkim Himalayas by a team of Himalayan Mountaineering Institute, Darjeeling**
- **7,500 sq ft National Flag hoisted at Mt Rhenock**
- **Recorded as biggest Indian National Flag atop a mountain in Asia Book of Records & India Book of Records**
- **Flag planned to be displayed at different locations across the country**
- **Team also performs world record 75-hour nonstop Surya Namaskar 2.51 lakh times at the institute**
- **RM lauds the institute for promoting patriotism through adventure among the youth**

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh flagged-in a climb-a-thon organised by Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI), Darjeeling to celebrate ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, in New Delhi on August 17, 2021. The climb-a-thon was organised at four smaller peaks of Sikkim Himalayas from April 20-25, 2021. The climb-a-thon, under the leadership of Group Captain Jai Kishan, was conducted at Mt Rhenock, Mt Frey, Mt BC Roy and Mt Palung, by a team of 125 mountaineers.

The National Flag, measuring 7,500 sq ft and weighing 75 kilograms, was hoisted atop Mt Rhenock at an altitude of 16,500 ft above sea level. The point where the National Flag was hoisted has been named after first freedom fighter from Sikkim, Trilochan Pokhrel, fondly remembered as Gandhi Pokhrel. The feat was recorded as the biggest Indian National Flag hoisted atop a mountain in the Asia Book of Records and India Book of Records. The team also performed a world

record 75-hour nonstop Surya Namaskar 2.51 lakh times at HMI, Darjeeling.

Appreciating HMI for this unique initiative, Shri Rajnath Singh stated that such events will promote patriotism through adventure among the youth. He conveyed his best wishes to the team and released the certificates of participation for the team.

Group Captain Jai Kishan presented the replica of the Indian Flag to the Raksha Mantri. Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence were also present on the occasion.

The National Flag is planned to be displayed at different locations across the country, including Statue of Unity in Gujarat on October 31, 2021; National War Memorial/South Block in New Delhi on December 16, 2021 on the occasion of Swarnim Vijay Diwas; Lal Chowk in Srinagar on August 15, 2022; Andaman & Nicobar Islands on March 23, 2022 and Kanyakumari. In addition, the team plans to display the Indian Flag over highest peak of South Pole in January 2022.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 25, 1942
Monday, August 16, 2021

Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme

Key Highlights:

- **Scheme to boost domestic defence & aerospace manufacturing**
- **Rs 400 crore outlay to create state-of-the-art testing infrastructure in partnership with industry**
- **Scheme was launched by RM in May 2020**
- **Project consultant/officer can be contacted for clarification**

In order to boost domestic defence and aerospace manufacturing, Ministry of Defence (MoD) has launched Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) with an outlay of Rs 400 crore for creating state-of-the-art testing infrastructure in partnership with the private industry. The scheme was launched by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on May 08, 2020. The scheme would run for the duration of five years and envisages setting up of 6-8 Greenfield Defence Testing Infrastructure facilities that are required for defence and aerospace related production.

The projects under the scheme will be provided with up to 75 per cent Government funding in the form of ‘Grant-in-Aid’. The remaining 25 per cent of the project cost will have to be borne by the Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) constituents of which will be the Indian private entities and state governments. In this regard, Department of Defence Production/Directorate General of Quality Assurance (DDP/DGQA) has published eight Expression of Interest (EOIs) catering to setting up of defence test facilities in selected domains. The same has been uploaded on <https://eprocure.gov.in> and <https://ddpmod.gov.in>. The Request for Proposal (RFP) for the defence test facility for selected aid domains will be issued shortly and published on the above websites.

A project consultant for the scheme has been hired, who can be contacted on email id vishal.kanwar@pwc.com, shruti.arora@pwc.com and project officer from DDP/DGQA can be contacted on email: dtis-dqawp@navy.gov.in and ks.nehra@navy.gov.in for any clarification on the scheme, EOI or RFP terms and conditions.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shrawana 23, 1942
Saturday, August 14, 2021

Medical camps by BRO as part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’

Key Highlights:

- **75 medical camps being organised in border states & friendly countries**
- **Free medical check-ups & free medicines to the needy**
- **Raising awareness among locals about COVID-19**
- **Free distribution of face masks & hand sanitizers**

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) is conducting 75 medical camps in border states and friendly countries as part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, marking the 75th anniversary of India’s Independence. A large number of camps are being conducted in Jammu & Kashmir, Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, Mizoram & Tripura as well as Bhutan.

As part of the campaign, BRO is providing free medical check-ups and free medicines to the needy people living in remote and border areas. These camps are also raising awareness among the local population in border areas about the COVID-19 pandemic. People are also being informed about the importance of good hygiene, social distancing and wearing of masks. Free face masks and hand sanitizers are distributed to locals as part of the initiative.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 24, 1942
Sunday, August 15, 2021

Celebrations of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ at DRDO

Key Highlights:

- **DRDO scientists celebrate 75th Independence Day in villages of border areas**
- **Various events including hoisting of National Flag, expeditions, interactions with local people & awareness camps organised**
- **Teams were virtually flagged-off by RM on Friday**

The teams of scientists of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) celebrated ‘Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav’, commemorating 75 years of India’s Independence, in villages of border areas. The teams from various DRDO laboratories, which were flagged-off by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on August 13, 2021, organised a series of events to mark the momentous occasion.

The scientists from Defence Institute of High-Altitude Research (DIHAR) hoisted the national flag at world’s highest terrestrial R&D laboratory at Changla (17664 ft) in Ladakh, a strategically important research centre of DRDO. DIHAR- DRDO organised a field day cum interactive meet with the local people of Thang village for betterment of agro-animal development. Thang is the last Indian village situated in Siachen sector of Ladakh. The team of DIHAR interacted with nomads of Changthang valley bordering China and celebrated the 75th Independence Day.

DIHAR also organised an expedition to Tangla-la Pass in Leh-Ladakh (17,480 ft), which is a key mountain pass connecting Leh with Himachal

Pradesh. The event was attended by representatives from civil administration and ex-officials of DRDO. An expedition was organised by DIHAR upto the Kyon-Tso lake (16,437 ft) in Changthang valley of Ladakh bordering China. The members of expedition team had a fruitful interaction with the Armed Forces deployed in the area. Director, DIHAR Dr OP Chaurasia hoisted the national flag at DIHAR campus in Leh and addressed the gathering.

Defence Institute of Bio-Energy Research (DIBER) at Haldwani celebrated 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' by organising activities at its field stations at Pithoragarh and Auli to demonstrate the technologies of the laboratory to farmers as well as Army jawans and to train them in these technologies. The laboratory sent its teams to various project sites and locations at borders of Uttarakhand.

Defence Geoinformatics Research Establishment (DGRE), Chandigarh celebrated the 75th Independence Day at its outposts in Mountain Met Centres Srinagar & Auli and R&D Centres at Lachung & Manali. DGRE scientists and officials held an interaction with the local people and school children. The DGRE officials briefed them about the activities of DRDO and achievements of the laboratory. The dignitaries appreciated the efforts of DGRE in making people aware about the latest know how and the technologies being used by DRDO in the making the nation 'AatmaNirbhar'. On the occasion, children conducted a cultural programme at MMC Sasoma (Siachen) and MMC Srinagar.

On the occasion, DGRE RDC Manali hoisted the National Flag at Rohtang Pass. A special event was organised at Government Senior Secondary School Bahang, Tehsil Naggar, Kullu District, which was attended by teachers, students and officials from panchayat as well as local public. The team of DRDO scientists informed the gathering about the technologies developed by DGRE for the Armed forces and civilians. Another team of DRDO scientists visited Vashisht village, where local population of the village was called for flag hoisting. The team made people aware about the achievements of DRDO and visual aids for basic avalanche awareness were distributed among them.

Defence Research Laboratory (DRL) Tezpur organised flag hoisting ceremony and interacted with the soldiers and local people in border and rural areas of Arunachal and Assam. Flag hoisting event was held at DRL, R&D Centre, Tawang. DRDO vegetable seed kits and women sanitation kits were distributed in border village (Changbu), Tawang District of Arunachal Pradesh. Flag hoisting event was also held at Boha village (Kalaktang) of West Kameng district of Arunachal Pradesh along with local people. An awareness camp relating to health & hygiene was organised on the occasion. Similar events were also organised in Udmari village, Sonitpur district of Assam. Workshops and interactions regarding awareness of water purification and demonstration of DRL, water purification system (Iron Removal Unit) was conducted with Army Unit, 11PARA (SF), Missamari. Workshop and interaction on protected

cultivation and agricultural technologies was also conducted with Army Unit, 1812 Pioneer Unit in Sonitpur District of Assam.

Flag hoisting event was also held at DRL, R&D Centre, Salari. Fruit tree sapling distribution to the local people of Salari village was also conducted. An event of tree plantation and children drawing competition was organized in DRL, Tezpur as part of the celebrations.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 24, 1942
Sunday, August 15, 2021

BRO celebrates ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’

Key Highlights:

- **BRO hoists National Flag at 75 highest passes & prominent places**
- **'Umling La Pass', world's highest motorable road among them**
- **RM had virtually flagged-off the teams from 14 States/UTs on Friday**
- **BRO also conducts tree plantation drives, school samvaads & medical camps**

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) hoisted the National Flag at 75 highest passes and prominent places in the country to commemorate the 75th Independence Day, being celebrated as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The BRO personnel hoisted flags in extreme climatic and difficult terrain conditions to mark this momentous occasion. Most of these high passes are above the altitude of 10,000 ft and almost 15 are at altitudes above 15,000 ft above mean sea level. The most prominent among them was 'Umling La Pass', the world's highest motorable road built by BRO at an altitude of 19,300 ft in Eastern Ladakh. A team of BRO, comprising all ranks, hoisted the National Flag at Umling La Pass.

On August 13, 2021, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh had virtually flagged-off from New Delhi the teams of BRO from 14 States and Union Territories to 75 mountain passes and important landmarks across the country to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The teams

moved out in vehicles, motorcycles and cycles towards the passes to hoist the National Flag on August 15, 2021.

In addition to the Flag hoisting, celebratory functions were held at BRO Headquarters in New Delhi as well as in all the projects of BRO located across the country. The events, incorporating the local population, included 75 Tree Plantations, 75 School Samvaads and 75 Medical Camps.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 24, 1942
Sunday, August 15, 2021

75th Independence Day celebrations by Indian Coast Guard

Key Highlights:

- **Indian Coast Guard hoists National flag at 100 islands to commemorate 75th Independence Day**
- **Conducts various programmes at Coast Guard stations pan India**
- **These include interaction programmes, tree plantation drives, cyclathons, quiz competitions & motor cycle rallies**

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) hoisted the National flag at selected 100 inhabited and uninhabited islands across the country to commemorate the 75th anniversary celebrations of India’s Independence and foster patriotism among people. Of these, 36 islands are on the west coast, while 25 are on the east coast of the mainland. The tricolour was also hoisted simultaneously at 24 islands of Andaman & Nicobar and 15 islands of Lakshadweep & Minicoy.

As part of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, ICG also conducted a series of programmes at various Coast Guard stations pan India to evoke the feeling of patriotism among people. These include interaction programmes with fishermen, tree plantation drives, cyclathons, walkathons, essay competitions, drawing competitions, quiz competitions and motor cycle rallies.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 23, 1942
Saturday, August 14, 2021

English rendition of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh’s address on All India Radio to Armed Forces on the eve of Independence Day 2021

My dear Sainik brothers and sisters,

The nation is ushering in an important phase of Independence from midnight today, the 75th year of it. There is an atmosphere of celebration all around the country on this momentous occasion. I extend my warm greetings on behalf of the grateful nation to the brave soldiers and military officers of the Army, Navy, Air Force and the Coast Guard who are engaged in protecting the Nation from the high peaks of the Himalayas to the depths of the Oceans and from the Thar desert to the arduous forests of the North-East.

Our Army Subedar Neeraj Chopra has made this year's Independence Day even sweeter by winning first Gold Medal in the Javelin Throw event of track and field events for the country at the Tokyo Olympics. Subedar Neeraj as well as other Olympic medalists of Indian athletes have been especially invited to the Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort tomorrow. I thank Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji for this.

I also extend my greetings to the brave Ex-Servicemen of the country at this auspicious occasion of Independence Day who were always ready to protect the Nation. And... no one can forget the families of our brave soldiers who have offered their dearest youths to the Service of the Nation.

It is also an occasion today to remember the brave soldiers who have made their supreme sacrifice in the service of the nation. I assure their family

members that not only all Indians are with you but the grateful nation will always remember them.

Indian Civilisation has always been peaceful since ancient times, but peace is not possible without power. There is also saying:

अहिंसा परमोधर्मः धर्म हिंसा तथैव च

If non-violence is our ultimate duty, protecting integrity of the Nation equally important. Therefore, we are ready to sacrifice anything for unity and integrity of the Nation.

Therefore, in order to maintain peace and prosperity in the country, it is necessary that you should be alert and aware in protecting the nation wherever you are in water, land, sky. The grateful Nation always appreciates your great deeds in serving the country while staying away from your family and relatives.

On this auspicious occasion, I would like to share some of the main events and decisions with you that are important for strengthening our freedom.

The situation along the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir remained under control in the last one year due to our vigilance and indomitable valour. Ceasefire violations have also come down since February 2021. The infiltration from across the border has stopped due to vigilance of the Armed Forces and para-military forces.

In Eastern Ladakh, efforts are being made to resolve the differences on the Line of Actual Control (LAC) through dialogue with China. The process of disengagement has been completed at some places.

The Government of India has always been aware to meet your operational requirements. In the Union Budget for the financial year 2021-22, in a historic effort for modernisation of defence sector Capital Outlay has been increased from Rs 1.13 lakh crore to Rs 1.35 lakh crore which is 18.75 per cent higher than the previous financial year. I want to assure you that the Government will take every step to protect the country.

You may recall that in order to maintain the Operational Edge of the Air Force, the Government of India had signed Government to Government agreement with France for procurement of 36 Rafale fighter aircraft. So far, 26 aircraft have arrived in India. On July 28, the Rafale was formally inducted into 101 squadron at Hashimara Air Force Station of Eastern Air Command. So far, only 101 squadrons have got the distinction of being equipped with Rafale after Air Force Station Ambala, 17 Squadron 'the Golden Arrow'. Soon the remaining Rafale aircraft will also arrive in India which will bring qualitative enhancement in the defence capability of our Air Force.

The Union Cabinet on January 13, 2021 decided to procure indigenous fighter aircraft 83 LCA Tejas MK-1A for the Air Force at the cost of about Rs. 46,000 crore (Rs. 45,696 crore). Light combat Aircraft MK-1A is a fourth-generation state-of-the-art fighter aircraft designed and developed in our own country. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited will manufacture these aircraft in India itself. This is a remarkable example of strengthening the aim of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' in the field of defence.

Indigenous Aircraft Carrier IAC Vikrant completed its four days maiden sea voyage on August 8, 2021. Indigenous Aircraft Carrier (IAC) 'Vikrant' designed by Indian Navy's Directorate of Naval Design (DND) is being built at Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). Built with more than seventy-six per cent indigenous material, the vessel is a major achievement of 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat' and provides thrust to Indian Navy's 'Make in India' initiatives.

In another important initiative of 'Make in India', Ministry of Defence has launched a project worth over Rs 40,000 crore for construction of six conventional submarines named Project 75 (India) for Indian Navy on July 20, 2021. Request for Proposal for Acquisition Programme (RFP) under Strategic Partnership Model has been issued to the partners selected for the project. These submarines will be very effective in protecting India's strategic interests.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) recently successfully demonstrated hypersonic scramjet technology with the testing of Hypersonic Technology Demonstration Vehicle (HSTDV). It also successfully test-fired Agni P and some other missiles.

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) also launched anti-tank guided missile through man portable launcher. In the meantime, the New Generation Akash (Akash-NG) missile was successfully test fired. The flight test has validated the functioning of complete weapon system consisting of the missile with indigenously developed RF Seeker, Launcher, Multi-Function Radar and Command, Control & Communication system.

Border Roads Organisation personnel have always been working to ensure road connectivity in the inaccessible areas of remote northern and eastern India, but they have contributed yeoman for some time now. The most important example of this is the incredible achievement of building an Atal Tunnel at one of the most difficult terrain of the Pir Panjal ranges of Himachal Pradesh. It was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi on October 03, 2020. The 9.2 kilometre-long tunnel is the longest tunnel in the world constructed at the height of more than 10,000 feet.

The Border Roads Organisation has constructed a 52 kilometres long charcoal road in eastern Ladakh near Umlingla Pass at an altitude of 19,300 feet this month by creating a world record. The temperature in this area usually remains minus 50 degrees and the oxygen level in the body reaches 50 per cent. I congratulate all the colleagues of BRO for this achievement.

Ministry of Defence has decided to set up 100 new Sainik Schools to prepare future generations of versatile brave warriors. All these schools will be co-ed which also benefit the daughters of our country and increase their scholarly participation in the defence of the nation.

Continuous efforts are being made to increase the participation of women in all branches of the Indian Army. In the same route, the first batch of Women Military Police has been inducted into the Indian Army. I extend my best wishes to 83 women soldiers who passed out in May 2021 after 61 weeks of rigorous training.

In the light of the judgement of the Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Government had constituted the Special Number 05 Selection Board in September 2020 for Permanent Commission of women officers. On the recommendation of the Board, Permanent Commission was awarded to some officers in November 2020. The Hon'ble Supreme Court in March 2021 had passed another order for permanent commission to women officers who could due to revised norms. Thereafter, on the recommendation of the Board, 147 more women officers were awarded permanent commission last month. So far, 424 women officers out of 615 have availed this benefit.

Indian Coast Guard has been consistently progressing towards women empowerment and offers equal opportunity to women officers in all spheres. They have been marching shoulder to shoulder with male officers, which include their combat role as Pilots, Observers and Air Cushion Vehicle (Hovercraft) operators.

The officers of the Army's Short-Term Service Commission had been demanding for decades that they too should have the right to exercise their rank when they retired. The Ministry of Defence took a positive decision on the subject. It is expected that this will not only address the grievances of those officers but also inspire the new candidates to join the Short Service Commission.

E-Chhawani Portal has also been launched in February, 2021. This is providing online civic services to 20 lakh residents of 62 Cantonment Boards.

Indian Forces have always been ready to serve in times of natural calamities. Our forces and coast guard with the National Disaster Management Force played an important role in averting loss of life and property during cyclones Niwar, Burevi, Toukate and Yas and monsoon floods in day and night last year.

The main function of our forces is to protect the country from the enemies. But how can our fighters lie in peace when an invisible biological enemy appears under threat to the nation! It is also said that in times of crisis, capable comes forward and protects the society. That is what our forces did.

Whether it was Army or Navy, Air Force or Coast Guard, all of them, along with our scientists, doctors, medical personnel and other social workers, efficiently carried out relief and rescue operations, corona vaccination, patient service, and oxygen supply against Corona.

The Armed Forces Medical Service was the first to set up quarantine centres for Indians brought back from Corona affected countries irrespective of the safety of its officers and personnel. Despite the spread of the epidemic, the armed forces have firmly adhered to epidemic control measures and maintained high fighting capacity against the epidemic in the military forces. During the time when the Galwan Valley was in the national media news, the forces peacefully extended a helping hand to the civilians and showed solidarity in the central government's fight against covid-19. The soldiers posted at the forward posts on the remote borders of the country were vaccinated so that they could be prepared to deal with the enemy at any time.

During the second wave of Corona, all the wings of Ministry Defence established covid care hospitals. To address the shortage of oxygen in the medical system, 935 medical oxygen plants based on technology of DRDO are being set up in every district hospital funded by PM Care across the country.

DRDO got a major breakthrough in finding medicine for Covid treatment. Institute of Nuclear Medicine & Allied Sciences (INMAS) in collaboration with Dr Reddy's Laboratories (DRL), Hyderabad developed a medical application of a drug called 2-Deoxy-D-Glucose (2-DG) for the treatment of Covid-19 patients which has been very effective. Today we are at a turning point in fight with corona. I am confident that the victory will be ours.

We want that the next generation should be familiar with the valour of our soldiers. The National Cadet Corps (NCC) has contributed immensely to value-based character-building including discipline among the youths. We strived to take NCC to all corners of the country. In the last one and a half years, three lakh NCC vacancies have been released out of which one lakh vacancies each are for border & coastal areas, senior and junior divisions. Information Technology has been made part of the training system for making the NCC curriculum even more modern for the benefit of our youth.

Dear soldiers, the dimensions of security are constantly changing in the evolving environment. Therefore, I call upon you to be prepared for any challenge that may come at your way. I assure you that the Government is ready and will continue to always meet the needs of you and your loved members.

And finally, with these words, I would request you all to join hands in salutation for the Motherland!

BHARAT MATA KI JAI!
VANDE MATARAM!

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 23, 1942
Saturday, August 14, 2021

**President Shri Ram Nath Kovind approves Gallantry & other
decorations for ICG personnel on the eve of Independence Day
2021**

Key Highlights:

- **President approves four awards for conspicuous gallantry & meritorious service to ICG personnel**
- **One Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)**
- **Three Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)**

On the occasion of 75th Independence Day 2021, President Shri Ram Nath Kovind has awarded one Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry) and three Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service) to the following Indian Coast Guard personnel for their act of conspicuous gallantry and meritorious service. The detailed list of the awardees is as follows:

(A) Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)

- (i) Commandant (JG) Sankar Raju (1595-X)

(B) Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)

- (i) DIG Anil Kumar Telmogaru (0224-J)
- (ii) DIG Sundaram Babu Venkatesh (0330-X)
- (iii) Harvinder Singh, P/Adh (WTR), 01133-Z

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
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‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 23, 1942
Saturday, August 14, 2021**

**List of honours & awards approved by President Shri Ram Nath
Kovind on the eve of Independence Day 2021**

Key Highlights:

- **President approves 144 Gallantry Awards to Armed Forces, police & paramilitary personnel**
- **One Ashok Chakra**
- **One Kirti Chakra**
- **Fifteen Shaurya Chakras**
- **Four Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry)**
- **One hundred sixteen Sena Medals (Gallantry)**
- **Five Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry)**
- **Two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry)**
- **Also approves 28 Mention-in-Despatches to Army personnel**

President Shri Ram Nath Kovind, who is also the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces, has approved 144 Gallantry awards to Armed Forces, police and paramilitary personnel on the eve of Independence Day 2021. These include one Ashok Chakra, one Kirti Chakra, 15 Shaurya Chakras, four Bar to Sena Medals (Gallantry), 116

Sena Medals (Gallantry), five Nao Sena Medals (Gallantry) and two Vayu Sena Medals (Gallantry).

The President has also approved 28 Mention-in-Despatches to the Army personnel for their significant contributions in different military operations which include three posthumous for 'Operation Rakshak' and 'Operation Rakshak'.

Following is the list of Gallantry awards approved by the President:

S. No.	RANK AND NAME	Service
<u>ASHOKA CHAKRA</u>		
1.	SHRI BABU RAM, ASI, J&K POLICE (POSTHUMOUS)	MHA
<u>KIRTI CHAKRA</u>		
1.	SHRI ALTAF HUSSAIN BHAT, CONSTABLE, J&K POLICE (POSTHUMOUS)	MHA
<u>SHAURYA CHAKRA</u>		
1.	IC-72371Y MAJOR ARUN KUMAR PANDEY 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
2.	SS-45282W MAJOR RAVI KUMAR CHAUDHARY 55 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
3.	IC-83765X CAPTAIN ASHUTOSH KUMAR 18 TH BATTALION THE MADRAS REGIMENT (MYSORE) (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
4.	IC-80468Y CAPTAIN VIKAS KHATRI 16 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
5.	16026460F RIFLEMAN MUKESH KUMAR 9 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
6.	3208099H SEPOY NEERAJ AHLAWAT 34 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
7.	CAPTAIN SACHIN REUBEN SEQUEIRA (04272-H)	NAVY
8.	GROUP CAPTAIN PERMINDER ANTIL (26686) FLYING (PILOT)	AIR FORCE
9.	WING COMMANDER VARUN SINGH (27987) FLYING (PILOT)	AIR FORCE

10.	SHRI CHITESH KUMAR, DEPUTY COMMANDANT, CRPF	MHA
11.	SHRI MANJINDER SINGH, SUB INSPECTOR, CRPF	MHA
12.	SHRI SUNIL CHOUDHARY, CONSTABLE, CRPF	MHA
13.	SHRI DEBASIS SETHY, COMMANDO, ODISHA POLICE (POSTHUMOUS)	MHA
14.	SHRI SUDHIR KUMAR TUDU, COMMANDO, ODISHA POLICE (POSTHUMOUS)	MHA
15.	SHRI SHAHBAZ AHMAD, SPECIAL POLICE OFFICER, J&K POLICE (POSTHUMOUS)	MHA
<u>BAR TO SENA MEDAL(GALLANTRY)</u>		
1.	IC-66544P LIEUTENANT COLONEL KRISHNA KANT BAJPAI, SENA MEDAL** 6 TH BATTALION THE RAJPUT REGIMENT	ARMY
2.	IC-71917F MAJOR SURENDRA SINGH LAMBA, SENA MEDAL THE GRENADIERS, 29 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
3.	IC-75491H MAJOR RAHUL BALAMOCHAN, SENA MEDAL THE MAHAR REGIMENT, FIRST BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
4.	IC-77053Y MAJOR ANKIT DAHIYA, SENA MEDAL THE PUNJAB REGIMENT, 22 ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
<u>SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)</u>		
5.	IC-63839A LIEUTENANT COLONEL DHIRENDRA PRATAP SINGH RAWAT 3 RD BATTALION THE 11 TH GORKHA REGIMENT	ARMY
6.	IC-66188A LIEUTENANT COLONEL BHAGAT AKSHAY SURESH THE KUMAON REGIMENT, 50 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
7.	IC-67028M LIEUTENANT COLONEL MANPREET SINGH THE SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY, 19 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA	ARMY

	RIFLES	
8.	IC-69674H LIEUTENANT COLONEL CHETAN KAUSHIK 37 (INDEPENDENT) RECONNAISSANCE AND OBSERVATION FLIGHT	ARMY
9.	IC-71481F MAJOR BHARAT SINGH JHALA THE JAT REGIMENT, 34 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
10.	IC-72317L MAJOR YASHOVARDHAN BHATI THE GRENADIERS, 29 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
11.	IC-72325K MAJOR ANKIT THAKUR THE REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY /6 ASSAM RIFLES	ARMY
12.	IC-72402N MAJOR RAKESH RANJAN 3 GORKHA RIFLES, 32 ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
13.	IC-72427A MAJOR ROHIT SHARMA THE GRENADIERS, 29 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
14.	IC-72567M MAJOR ANIL KANDPAL THE CORPS ENGINEERS, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
15.	IC-73322H MAJOR AJIT PAL SINGH 8 TH BATTALION THE SIKH REGIMENT	ARMY
16.	IC-73831F MAJOR GOVIND JOSHI 5 GORKHA RIFLES, HEADQUARTERS SPECIAL FRONTIER FORCE	ARMY
17.	IC-74904P MAJOR ANIL KUMAR RANGI THE GRENADIERS, 29 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
18.	IC-75580F MAJOR GAURAV ANAND BOURAI THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FIRST BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
19.	IC-75625W MAJOR VIPRANSHU PANDEY THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 42 ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
20.	IC-75883W MAJOR GAURAV CHOUDHARY 10 TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)	ARMY
21.	IC-75908X MAJOR TAPAN KUMAR TAMANG	ARMY

	52 ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	
22.	IC-76197P MAJOR NARENDER KUMAR 24 RECONNAISSANCE AND OBSERVATION FLIGHT	ARMY
23.	IC-76604M MAJOR ABHISHEK KUMAR THE REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY, 32 ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
24.	IC-77202F MAJOR ASHUTOSH KUMAR THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SECOND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
25.	IC-77234K MAJOR RANDEEP SINGH THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES, THIRD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
26.	IC-77313Y MAJOR MAHENDRA SINGH THE ARMY SERVICE CORPS, 42 ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
27.	IC-77496A MAJOR RAHUL DUTTA THE REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY, 32 ASSAM RIFLES	ARMY
28.	IC-77783K MAJOR SATISH KUMAR GUPTA THE CORPS OF SIGNALS, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
29.	IC-77961F MAJOR SAHIL SHARMA THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
30.	IC-78088F MAJOR MAYANK VISHNOI THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
31.	IC-78153W MAJOR ATHUL JAMES THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FIRST BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
32.	IC-78368P MAJOR ROHIT KUMAR UPRETI THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 34 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
33.	IC-78823M MAJOR PATHAK SAKET THE ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
34.	IC-78949M MAJOR ANKESH JARIAL	ARMY

	THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, THIRD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	
35.	IC-79250A MAJOR NAOREM CHINGTHANGKHOMBA SINGH THE KUMAON REGIMENT, 50 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
36.	SC-00699K MAJOR KUNDAN KUMAR THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 42 ND RASHTRIYA RIFLES BATTALION (ASSAM)	ARMY
37.	SC-01005L MAJOR HARJEET SINGH 5 TH BATTALION THE RAJPUT REGIMENT	ARMY
38.	SS-44993K MAJOR MANISH KUMAR VERMA THE CORPS OF SIGNALS, 19 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
39.	SS-45292A MAJOR VIBHORE JOSHI THE KUMAON REGIMENT, 50 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
40.	SS-46780P MAJOR ABHISHEK GHOSH THE ELECTRONICS AND MECHANICAL ENGINEERS, 55 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
41.	IC-79580Y CAPTAIN AADITYA ANAND TYAGI THE ASSAM REGIMENT, 42 ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
42.	IC-79612W CAPTAIN SURYA PRAKASH THE ARMOURED CORPS, 53 RD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
43.	IC-79711Y CAPTAIN NEIL SILAS LOBO THE ARMOURED CORPS, 55 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
44.	IC-80398L CAPTAIN SANJAY KUMAR KHANKA THE JAT REGIMENT, 34 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
45.	IC-81070W CAPTAIN ROHIT KUMAR SWAMI 19 TH BATTALION THE GARHWAL RIFLES	ARMY
46.	IC-81317M CAPTAIN SNEHASHISH PAUL THE CORPS OF SIGNALS, THIRD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY

47.	IC-83768L CAPTAIN MANOJ KUMAR KATARIA 18 TH BATTALION THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES	ARMY
48.	JC-452643A SUBEDAR SUKHDEV SINGH 16 TH BATTALION THE GRENADIERS (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
49.	JC-491687N SUBEDAR AMAR PAL SINGH THE JAT REGIMENT, 34 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
50.	JC-510962A SUBEDAR SATWARG SINGH 15 TH BATTALION THE SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY	ARMY
51.	JC-511035Y SUBEDAR BALKAR SINGH 19 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
52.	JC-285397W NAIB SUBEDAR ANIL KUMAR 38 FIELD REGIMENT	ARMY
53.	JC-453239X NAIB SUBEDAR RAVINDER 16 TH BATTALION THE GRENADIERS (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
54.	JC-501887A NAIB SUBEDAR SUKHWINDER SINGH EIGHTH BATTALION THE SIKH REGIMENT	ARMY
55.	JC-511610P NAIB SUBEDAR RAJWINDER SINGH FIRST BATTALION THE SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY (POSTHOMOUS)	ARMY
56.	JC-583284N NAIB SUBEDAR PUSHAKAR RAJ 18 TH BATTALION THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES	ARMY
57.	15479109Y DAFADAR RANJIT KUMAR THE ARMOURED CORPS, 22 ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
58.	13625764F HAVILDAR GURJEET SINGH NINTH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)	ARMY
59.	13766697L HAVILDAR SURESH DEWAN	ARMY

	THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES, THIRD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	
60.	14930612Y HAVILDAR RAKESH KUMAR TIWARY THE MECHANISED INFANTRY, 50 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
61.	15152232P HAVILDAR HARDHAN CHANDRA ROY 59 MEDIUM REGIMENT (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
62.	2612806W HAVILDAR CHEEKALA PRAVEEN KUMAR 18 TH BATTALION THE MADRAS REGIMENT (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
63.	3000918H HAVILDAR MAHAVEER SINGH THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
64.	3005523L HAVILDAR KAYAM SINGH THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTATION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
65.	4190419X HAVILDAR GOKARAN SINGH 21 ST BATTALION THE KUMAON REGIMENT (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
66.	4475600W HAVILDAR AJIT SINGH 15 TH BATTALION THE SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY	ARMY
67.	4575166K HAVILDAR GULJAR SINGH THE MAHAR REGIMENT, FIRST BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
68.	9108789H HAVILDAR SHOWKAT AHMAD SHEIKH 9 TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)	ARMY
69.	13769111P NAIK RAKESH KUMAR THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES, THIRD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES BATTALION	ARMY
70.	14936580X NAIK RADHE SHYAM THE MECHANISED INFANTRY, 42 ND BATTATION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY

71.	2499980M NAIK GOVIND SINGH THE PUNJAB REGIMENT, 22 ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
72.	2503271X NAIK RAJWINDER SINGH THE PUNJAB REGIMENT, 53 RD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
73.	2701667M NAIK SAYAR KHAN THE GRENADIERS, 29 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
74.	2708103M NAIK SHAITAN SINGH MEENA THE GRENADIERS, 29 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
75.	4201601A NAIK JEEVAN SINGH THE KUMAON REGIMENT, 50 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
76.	4202514Y NAIK SHIVAJI THE KUMAON REGIMENT, 50 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
77.	4485405M NAIK GURPREET SINGH THE SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY, 19 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
78.	4582354N NAIK BALJIT KUMAR THE MAHAR REGIMENT, FIRST BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
79.	13629979X LANCE NAIK NONGMAITHEM DHANABIR SINGH 21 ST BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)	ARMY
80.	13631872F LANCE NAIK HIMMAT SINGH THE KUMAON REGIMENT, 50 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
81.	14941510H LANCE NAIK BRIJ MOHAN THE MECHANISED INFANTRY, 16 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
82.	3015017N LANCE NAIK KULDEEP KUMAR THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
83.	4202647P LANCE NAIK DILEEP KUMAR YADAV THE KUMAON REGIMENT, 50 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY

	RIFLES	
84.	4206527N LANCE NAIK RAJENDRA SINGH DOSAD THE KUMAON REGIMENT, 50 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
85.	5252614W LANCE NAIK SURYA BAHADUR SOTI 3 RD BATTALION THE 3 GORKHA RIFLES	ARMY
86.	12984718M SEPOY JAHANEER AHMAD WAR THE SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY, 163 INFANTRY BATTALION (TERRITORIAL ARMY)	ARMY
87.	13631225F SEPOY MOHIT BHADANA THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
88.	14945050K SEPOY SAM SAD ALI THE MECHANISED INFANTRY, 42 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
89.	14947048L SEPOY GAUTAM TAMANG THE MECHANISED INFANTRY, 9 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
90.	14948119N SEPOY PRASHANT SHARMA THE MECHANISED INFANTRY, 50 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
91.	15500342H SEPOY MANISH KUMAR THE ARMoured CORPS, 55 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
92.	15506706A SEPOY KULDEEP SINGH THE ARMoured CORPS, 55 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
93.	2512664P SEPOY ROHIN KUMAR 14 TH BATTALION THE PUNJAB REGIMENT (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
94.	2622827A SEPOY RYADA MAHESHWAR EIGHTH BATTALION THE MADRAS REGIMENT (POSTHOMOUS)	ARMY

95.	2711270N SEPOY ASHISH KUMAR THE GRENADIERS, 55 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
96.	2713321P SEPOY HAWA SINGH THE GRENADIERS, 55 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
97.	3013548M SEPOY LACHCHHU SINGH THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
98.	3014893M SEPOY GAURAV KUMAR TOMAR THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
99.	3015141P SEPOY JITENDRA SINGH JODHA THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
100.	3015362F SEPOY ANUJ MAVI THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
101.	3016960L SEPOY ANUJ RANA THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
102.	3017919F SEPOY RAJESH SINGH KASANA THE RAJPUT REGIMENRT, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
103.	3211229L SEPOY DEEPAK KUMAR THE JAT REGIMENT, 34 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
104.	4379650K SEPOY ELONTHUNG N PATTON THE ASSAM REGIMENT, 42 ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
105.	4493034K SEPOY RAMANDEEP SINGH THE SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY, 19 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
106.	9114846P SEPOY TANVEER AHMED THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY, 55 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
107.	13777546M RIFLEMAN ROHIT	ARMY

	JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES, THIRD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	
108.	13778307K RIFLEMAN NARANJAN THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES, THIRD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
109.	9119122F RIFLEMAN SAJAD HUSSAIN KHAN THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY, NINTH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
110.	16122753K SAPPER BIBIN C THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
111.	16123692K SAPPER SIVAKUMAR G THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, 44 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
112.	16124910K SAPPER BURLA ANJANEYULU THE CORPS OF ENGINEERS, FIRST BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
113.	2708179M GRENADIER VIKASH KUMAR RAM THE GRENADIERS, 29 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES	ARMY
114.	2709595H GRENADIER RAVI KUMAR SINGH THE GRENADIERS, 29 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
115.	2710803Y GRENADIER PRASHANT SINGH THE GRENADIERS, 29 TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
116.	15245939Y GUNNER BHUPENDER 327 MEDIUM REGIMENT (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
117.	15251323F GUNNER SUBODH GHOSH 59 MEDIUM REGIMENT (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
118.	13628400A PARATROOPER MANMOHAN SINGH 4 TH BATTALION THE PARACHUTE REGIMENT (SPECIAL FORCES)	ARMY

119.	15512815H SOWAR JILAJEET YADAV THE ARMOURED CORPS, 53 RD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES (POSTHUMOUS)	ARMY
120.	9430387K SCOUT TASHI NAMGYAL LEPCHA 11 GORKHA RIFLES, FIRST BATTALION THE SIKKIM SCOUTS	ARMY
<u>NAO SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)</u>		
1.	CAPTAIN PRASHANT HANDU (04454-Y)	NAVY
2.	COMMANDER SUNIL S KORTI (05005-Z)	NAVY
3.	COMMANDER BIPIN PANIKAR (42711-W)	NAVY
4.	LIEUTENANT COMMANDER RAJ KRISHNA MANU (07267-R)	NAVY
5.	PRAHLAD, MCA (FD) II (120312-N)	NAVY
<u>VAYU SENA MEDAL (GALLANTRY)</u>		
1.	WING COMMANDER UTTAR KUMAR (27689) FLYING (PILOT)	AIR FORCE
2.	SQUADRON LEADER DEEPAK MOHANAN (30223) FLYING (PILOT)	AIR FORCE

Following is the list of 'Mention-In-Despatches' of Army Personnel:

OPERATION RAKSHAK

1. IC-62767P COLONEL JASBIR SINGH MAAN, 666 ARMY AVIATION SQUADRON (RECONNAISSANCE AND OBSERVATION)
2. IC-69539P LIEUTENANT COLONEL SHIV BAHADUR SINGH, 112 ENGINEER REGIMENT
3. IC-70410N MAJOR SWAPNIL ZENDE, THE REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY, 34 RECONNAISSANCE AND OBSERVATION FLIGHT
4. IC-71908A MAJOR DEEPAK KUMAR SINGH, THE ARMY SERVICE CORPS, 3RD BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES
5. IC-75737W MAJOR PARTHA SARATHI BATABYAL, THE REGIMENT OF ARTILLERY, 29TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES
6. SS-46311M MAJOR HIMANSHU PRADHAN, 8TH BATTALION THE SIKH REGIMENT
7. IC-80097F CAPTAIN SHIVAM DAGUR, THE CORPS OF SIGNALS, 1ST BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES

8. IC-80233M CAPTAIN SACHIN MALHOTRA, 33 RECONNAISSANCE AND OBSERVATION FLIGHT
9. SS-50090H LIEUTENANT HARINDER JIT SINGH, 4TH BATTALION THE GRENADIERS
10. 4480174X HAVILDAR KULJINDER SINGH, THE SIKH LIGHT INFANTRY, 2ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES
11. 15184292X NAIK ROSHAN SINGH, 628 SURVEILLANCE AND TARGET ACQUISITION BATTERY
12. 15216741X NAIK KARUPPA SAMY K, 872 LIGHT REGIMENT
13. 2613899H NAIK ANEESH THOMAS, 17TH BATTALION THE MADRAS REGIMENT **(POSTHUMOUS)**
14. 4582500H NAIK MANDLE PRADIP SAHEBRAO, 10TH BATTALION THE MAHAR REGIMENT **(POSTHUMOUS)**
15. 9109266W NAIK KULDEEP KUMAR, JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY, 19TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES
16. 9113397Y NAIK SARTAJ AHMAD WAGAY, THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY, 50TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES
17. 9113576Y NAIK RAYEES AHMAD MAGRAY, THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR RIFLES, 42ND BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES
18. 4090765Y NAIK VIKRAM SINGH, 11TH BATTALION THE GARHWAL RIFLES
19. 4094228L LANCE NAIK GAURAV SINGH, 8TH BATTALION THE GARHWAL RIFLES
20. 3016320F SEPOY LADHU SINGH, THE RAJPUT REGIMENT, 44TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES
21. 15506422W SEPOY KHUVENDRA SINGH, THE ARMOURED CORPS, 55TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES

OPERATION SNOW LEOPARD

22. 15487120M LANCE DAFADAR VIKRAM SINGH, 90 ARMOURED REGIMENT **(POSTHUMOUS)**

OPERATION RHINO

23. SS-45386X MAJOR SOUBAM KINOBABU SINGH, THE JAMMU AND KASHMIR LIGHT INFANTRY, 15 ASSAM RIFLES
24. JC-635706L NAIB SUBEDAR PREM KUMAR TAMANG, 3RD BATTALION THE 11 GORKHA RIFLES
25. 13014072P LANCE NAIK ANAL JYOTI NATH, THE ASSAM REGIMENT, 166 INFANTRY BATTALION (TERRITORIAL ARMY)

LIST OF 'MENTION-IN-DESPATCHES' APPROVED IN CH&AC MEETING

26. IC-75865N MAJOR PRADIP SHUKLA, 11TH BATTALION THE GARHWAL RIFLES
27. IC-77164W MAJOR ADITYA BHADAURIA THE KUMAON REGIMENT, 50TH BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES

28. 4201982M LANCE NAIK KAMLESH PANT, THE KUMAON REGIMENT, 50TH
BATTALION THE RASHTRIYA RIFLES

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 25, 1942
Monday, August 16, 2021

**‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ celebrations at Andaman & Nicobar
Command**

Key Highlights:

- **Flag hoisting & singing of National Anthem organised at 50 remote islands across Andaman & Nicobar Islands**
- **INS Baaz participates in Independence Day celebrations**
- **75 service personnel of ANC take part in various events**

Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC), the only Joint Forces Command of the country, organised flag hoisting and singing of the National Anthem at 50 remote islands across the Andaman & Nicobar Islands to celebrate the 75th Independence Day. The flag hoisting ceremony was held between August 13-15, 2021 by all the components of the Command *i.e.*, Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force and Indian Coast Guard. The National Flag was also hoisted at Anderson Island, Clyde Island, Grub Island, Interview Island, North Cinque Island, North Reef Island, South Cinque Island and South Reef Island.

From the Andaman and Nicobar Islands, INS Baaz participated in the celebrations of Independence Day. The National Flag was hoisted and the National Anthem sung at INS Baaz wherein 75 service personnel from all four components of ANC participated. A joint services drill was also conducted as per the military traditions.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 24, 1942
Sunday, August 15, 2021

BRO celebrates ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’

Key Highlights:

- **BRO hoists National Flag at 75 highest passes & prominent places**
- **'Umling La Pass', world's highest motorable road among them**
- **RM had virtually flagged-off the teams from 14 States/UTs on Friday**
- **BRO also conducts tree plantation drives, school samvaads & medical camps**

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) hoisted the National Flag at 75 highest passes and prominent places in the country to commemorate the 75th Independence Day, being celebrated as 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The BRO personnel hoisted flags in extreme climatic and difficult terrain conditions to mark this momentous occasion. Most of these high passes are above the altitude of 10,000 ft and almost 15 are at altitudes above 15,000 ft above mean sea level. The most prominent among them was 'Umling La Pass', the world's highest motorable road built by BRO at an altitude of 19,300 ft in Eastern Ladakh. A team of BRO, comprising all ranks, hoisted the National Flag at Umling La Pass.

On August 13, 2021, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh had virtually flagged-off from New Delhi the teams of BRO from 14 States and Union Territories to 75 mountain passes and important landmarks across the country to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The teams

moved out in vehicles, motorcycles and cycles towards the passes to hoist the National Flag on August 15, 2021.

In addition to the Flag hoisting, celebratory functions were held at BRO Headquarters in New Delhi as well as in all the projects of BRO located across the country. The events, incorporating the local population, included 75 Tree Plantations, 75 School Samvaads and 75 Medical Camps.

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BEFORE AUGUST 15, 2021, 0001 HRS**



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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 23, 1942
Saturday, August 14, 2021**

**President Shri Ram Nath Kovind approves Gallantry & other
decorations for ICG personnel on the eve of Independence Day
2021**

Key Highlights:

- **President approves four awards for conspicuous gallantry & meritorious service to ICG personnel**
- **One Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)**
- **Three Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)**

On the occasion of 75th Independence Day 2021, President Shri Ram Nath Kovind has awarded one Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry) and three Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service) to the following Indian Coast Guard personnel for their act of conspicuous gallantry and meritorious service. The detailed list of the awardees is as follows:

(C) Tatrakshak Medal (Gallantry)

(iv) Commandant (JG) Sankar Raju (1595-X)

(D) Tatrakshak Medal (Meritorious Service)

- (i) DIG Anil Kumar Telmogaru (0224-J)
- (v) DIG Sundaram Babu Venkatesh (0330-X)
- (vi) Harvinder Singh, P/Adh (WTR), 01133-Z

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shrawana 23, 1942
Saturday, August 14, 2021

Curtain Raiser

All set for 75th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort in National Capital;

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to hoist the National Flag & address the Nation

Key Highlights:

- **Nation celebrating ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’**
- **PM to lead the Independence Day celebrations from Red Fort tomorrow**
- **Olympians, including Gold medalist Neeraj Chopra, invited**
- **Designated block for seating the Corona warriors**
- **IAF helicopters to shower flower petals in Amrut Formation**

The Nation is celebrating ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, marking the 75th year of Independence from the foreign rule. The whole country has been gripped by patriotic fervour. A series of events are being organised across the country by different ministries of Government of India, various state governments & Union Territories, the Armed Forces and general public alike to mark this momentous occasion.

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will lead the Nation in celebrating this historic 75th Independence Day from the ramparts of the Red Fort in New Delhi on August 15, 2021. He will hoist the National Flag and deliver the customary Address to the Nation. It may be recalled that the Prime Minister had launched ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’ from Sabarmati Ashram at

Ahmedabad in Gujarat in March 2021 to celebrate 75 years of India's Independence. The celebrations will continue till August 15, 2023.

Upon the arrival of the Prime Minister at the Red Fort, he will be received by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt and Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar. The Defence Secretary will introduce the General Officer Commanding (GoC), Delhi Area, Lieutenant General Vijay Kumar Mishra, AVSM, to the Prime Minister. The GoC Delhi Area will then conduct Shri Narendra Modi to the Saluting Base where a combined Inter-Services and Delhi Police Guard will present general salute to the Prime Minister. Thereafter, the Prime Minister will inspect the Guard of Honour.

The Guard of Honour contingent for the Prime Minister will consist of one officer and 20 men each from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Delhi Police. Indian Navy is the coordinating service this year. The Guard of Honour will be commanded by Commander Piyush Gaur. The Naval Contingent in the Prime Minister's Guard will be commanded by Lt Commander Sune Phogat, the Army Contingent by Major Vikas Sangwan and the Air Force contingent by Sqn Ldr A Berwal. The Delhi Police contingent will be commanded by Additional DCP (West District) Shri Subodh Kumar Goswami.

After inspecting the Guard of Honour, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will proceed to the ramparts of the Red Fort where he will be greeted by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh, Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh and Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal R K S Bhadauria. The GoC Delhi area will conduct the Prime Minister to the dais on the rampart to hoist the National Flag.

After being hoisted, the Tricolour will receive a 'Rashtriya Salute'. The Navy Band, consisting of 16 men will play the National Anthem during hoisting of the National Flag and the 'Rashriya Salute'. The Band will be conducted by MCPO Vincent Johnson.

Lt Commander P Priyambada Sahoo will assist the Prime Minister in hoisting the National Flag. It will be synchronised with the 21 Gun Salute fired by the valiant gunners of the elite 2233 Field Battery (Ceremonial). The ceremonial battery is commanded by Lt Col Jitendra Singh Mehta, SM and the Gun Position Officer will be Naib Subedar (AIG) Anil Chand.

The National Flag Guard comprising five officers and 130 men from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Delhi Police will present Rashtriya Salute at the time of hoisting of the National Flag by the Prime Minister. Commander Kuldeep M Neralkar from the Indian Navy will be in command of this Inter-Services Guard and Police Guard.

The Navy Contingent in the National Flag Guard will be commanded by Lt Commander Praveen Saraswat, the Army Contingent by Major Anshul

Kumar and the Air Force contingent by Sqn Leader Rohit Malik. The Delhi Police contingent will be commanded by Additional DCP (South West District) Shri Amit Goel.

Thirty-two Olympic winners, including javelin thrower Subedar Neeraj Chopra, India's first ever Gold Medallist in track and field, along with two Sports Authority of India (SAI) officials have been invited to participate in the celebrations at the Red Fort. Around 240 Olympians, support staff and SAI & sports federation officials have also been invited to grace the Gyan Path in front of the Ramparts. In Tokyo, India recorded its best-ever medal haul in the Olympics by bagging a total of seven medals - one Gold, two silver and four bronze.

To honour the Corona warriors who played a vital role in fighting the invisible enemy, COVID-19, a separate block on the South side of the Rampart has been created.

For the first time ever, this year as soon as the National Flag is hoisted by the Prime Minister, flower petals will be showered at the venue by two Mi 17 1V helicopters of the Indian Air Force in Amrut Formation. Captain of the first helicopter will be Wing Commander Baldev Singh Bisht. The second chopper is commanded by Wing Commander Nikhil Mehrotra.

After the showering of flower petals, the Prime Minister will address the Nation. At the conclusion of the speech of the Prime Minister, the cadets of National Cadet Corps (NCC) will sing the National Anthem. Five hundred (500) NCC cadets (Army, Navy and Air Force) from different schools will be taking part in this festival of National Fervour.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 21, 1942
Thursday, August 12, 2021

**Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh to virtually launch major events
to mark 75th Independence Day**

Key Highlights:

- **Armed Forces & MoD carrying out nationwide events to celebrate ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’**
- **RM to virtually launch major events related to Independence Day tomorrow**
- **Events include National Flag unfurling at various places, product/facility launch, cleaning of statues, Jan Sampark Abhiyaan for veterans & book on deeds of gallantry**

The Armed Forces and different organisations of Ministry of Defence have been conducting various events across the country to commemorate the 75th anniversary of India’s Independence, being celebrated as ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’. Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh will formally launch various major events virtually from New Delhi on August 13, 2021. Following are the events to be launched in the run-up to Independence Day 2021:

- **Unfurling of National Flag at 75 Passes/Places:** To commemorate 75 years of Independence, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) will unfurl the National Flag at 75 Important Passes and Places in the country, displaying their resolve in developing border infrastructure. 75 teams of BRO will depart on August 13, 2021 to these remote passes. The most prominent among them is ‘Umlingla Pass’, which is the Highest Motorable Road in the World at 19,300 feet, in Eastern Ladakh. The national tri-colour will also be unfurled at prominent infrastructure landmarks like Atal Tunnel, Rohtang and Dhola Sadiya Bridge in the Northeast, besides in friendly foreign countries.
- **Unfurling of National Flag in Islands:** Indian Coast Guard will be unfurling the National Flag at 100 islands Pan-India on August 15,

2021 as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav'. The proceedings will start on August 13, 2021.

- **Freedom Run:** Indian Navy personnel and their families will participate in the freedom run at Naval Officers Mess Varuna, New Delhi. The Raksha Mantri will virtually flag off by the freedom run, which is part of the Fit India Freedom Run 2.0 being launched across the country on August 13, 2021 to celebrate 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav'.
- **Army Expedition:** To instill a sense of pride and confidence among citizens that the Indian Army is committed to protecting the country in all types of terrain & climate, the teams of the Army will scale 75 mountain passes to mark this momentous occasion. The passes include Saserla Pass in Ladakh region, Stakpochan Pass in Kargil region, Satopanth, Harshil, Uttarakhand, Phim Karnla, Sikkim and Point 4493, Tawang region of Arunachal Pradesh. The Raksha Mantri will flag off the event on August 13, 2021.
- **Cleaning of statues:** To pay homage to the freedom fighters and the bravehearts of the country for their invaluable role in India's Independence, National Cadet Corps (NCC) will conduct a Pan-India event, 'Swatantra Senaniyon ko Naman'. The NCC cadets will carry out cleaning and maintenance of 825 statues adopted by 825 NCC Battalions.
- **Crowdsourcing module for Gallantry awards portal:** To honour the Gallantry award winners and motivate people, especially the youth, to interact with the Gallantry awards portal (<https://www.gallantryawards.gov.in/>), a 'Gallantrypedia of Awardees' will be launched. People will be able to share their own content about the awardees which would help in making the portal more engaging, dynamic and informative. The portal is a one-stop platform to holistically showcase and celebrate the bravery of the Gallantry award winners.
- **Book on 'Deeds of Gallantry':** To commemorate India's victory in the 1971 war, a book 'Deeds of Gallantry' will be launched by the Raksha Mantri. The book details 20 selected battles and highlights the gallantry of Indian soldiers.
- **Defence Products:** To showcase and expand the defence export capabilities, various products/facility will be launched by the Raksha Mantri. 'Off the Shelf' Export Ready Defence Products

Portfolio will be launched beginning with Fast Interceptor Boat by Goa Shipyard Limited (GSL). Other launches include a Transducer Manufacturing & Production facility developed by Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) to cater to the production of wide range of Transducers & underwater equipment and oxygen concentrator developed by BEL which works by filtering and concentrating oxygen molecules from the ambient air to provide patients with 90-95 per cent pure oxygen.

- **Jan Sampark Abhiyan:** In another initiative aimed at addressing the issues of the veterans, Jan Sampark Abhiyan will be launched wherein a representative each of the respective Zila Sainik Board along with a representative of Indian Ex-Servicemen League, a recognised ESM association, will interact simultaneously with the ESM fraternity in 75 districts across the country. The objective is to address the issues of the veterans in a time-bound manner.
- **Rejuvenation of water bodies:** Water is life! Underlining the importance of conservation of this precious resource, Shri Rajnath Singh will flag off activities for rejuvenation of 75 water bodies across 62 Cantonments by inaugurating the work on the Patel Park Lake in Ambala Cantt. Rejuvenation of traditional and other water bodies/tanks is one of the intervention areas of Jal Shakti Abhiyan, a time-bound, mission-mode water conservation campaign.
- **DRDO Scientists:** A team of scientists of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) will be moving to border area villages to celebrate Independence Day.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 20, 1942
Wednesday, August 11, 2021

**Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame travels through Andaman &
Nicobar Islands chain**

Key Highlights:

- **Victory flame taken to Narcondam & Barren Islands as part of the sea voyage**
- **To reach Hut Bay for public viewing**
- **The flame to be part of Independence Day celebrations at Port Blair**
- **Next phase of transit to Southern Group of islands from 15th August**

The Victory flame of Swarnim Vijay Varsh, commemorating the 50th anniversary celebrations of India’s victory in the 1971 war, travelled through the Andaman & Nicobar Islands chain. Onboard Indian Navy Landing Craft Utility (IN LCU) 58, accompanied by INS Saryu and IN LCU 54, the flame was routed via Narcondam, the Easternmost Island of Andaman & Nicobar Islands. The flame also sailed past the Barren Island, India’s only active volcano. The volcano spewed gas/lava as the flame sailed past the Flat Rock, an islet during low waters.

The victory flame will reach Hut Bay where it will be kept for public viewing and other events under the aegis of Indian Coast Guard. On completion of a day’s public viewing at Hut Bay, the flame will return to Port Blair for the Independence Day parade at Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Stadium. After the Independence Day celebrations, the flame will begin its next phase of transit to the Southern Group of islands on the evening of August 15, 2021.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 19, 1942
Tuesday, August 10, 2021

Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame at Diglipur & Landfall Island

Key Highlights:

- **Joint Services Cycle Expedition of Andaman & Nicobar Command culminates at Diglipur**
- **The team hands over Victory Flame to Indian Naval Ship Kohassa Capt Satish Mishra**
- **The flame taken through streets of Diglipur & nearby villages**
- **Reaches shores of Landfall Island after traversing 60 kms onboard IN LCU 58**

The Joint Services Cycle Expedition of the Andaman and Nicobar Command, accompanying the Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame, culminated at Diglipur on August 09, 2021. The cyclists successfully peddled 350 kms for over five days and reached Sports Stadium, Diglipur culminating the expedition.

At the stadium, the Victory Flame was received by Commanding Officer of Indian Naval Ship Kohassa Capt Satish Mishra with full military honors. The event was attended by Asst Commissioner of North Andaman Shri Shailendra Kumar and DSP Diglipur Shri RK Sharma.

The flame was later taken through the prominent streets of Diglipur and nearby villages - Aerial Bay, Durgapur, Shibpur and Kalipur. Posters and banners highlighting the significance of the flame and the 1971 war were distributed amongst the residents.

Onboard Indian Navy Landing Craft Utility (IN LCU) 58, accompanied by INS Saryu and IN LCU 54, the flame departed from Diglipur and reached the shores of Landfall Island after traversing a distance of 60 kms over rough seas.

The Landfall Island is the Northernmost Island of the Andaman & Nicobar Island chain. The flame, while on sea voyage through Andaman & Nicobar Seas of Islands, will transit across the geographical extremities of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 18, 1942
Monday, August 09, 2021

BRO kick-starts celebrations to mark 75 years of Independence

Key Highlights:

- **Gallantry Award winners & War Heroes felicitated in Uttarakhand & Sikkim**
- **Medical camps, plantation drives & School Samvad being organised across the country as part of the celebrations**
- **National Flag to be unfurled on Independence Day at 75 Highest Passes of India**

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) kick-started its celebrations of ‘Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav’, commemorating 75 years of India’s Independence. To mark this momentous occasion, BRO is organising nationwide welfare and patriotic activities/events including 75 medical camps, plantation drives at 75 locations and 75 School Samvad to motivate children through interactions & lectures. The main event would be the unfurling of National Flag on Independence Day at 75 Highest Passes of India.

On August 07, 2021, BRO felicitated the Gallantry Award winners and War Heroes at Pipalkoti & Pithoragarh in Uttarakhand and Chandmari in Sikkim. In a ceremony organised by Project Hirak of BRO at Pithoragarh, tokens of appreciation were awarded to the next of kin of Shaurya Chakra awardees – EEM Prem Singh, Naik Chandra Singh, Driver Ram Singh and DME Damar Bahadur. In a separate ceremony at Pipalkoti, Project Shivalik of BRO felicitated the next of kin of Major Preetam Singh Kunwar, Kirti Chakra; Lance Naik Raghubeer Singh, Shaurya Chakra (Posthumous) and Naib Subedar Surendra Singh, Shaurya Chakra.

At Chandmari in Sikkim, the felicitation ceremony, organised by Project Swastik of BRO, was graced by Minister of Forest and Environment, Government of Sikkim Shri Karma Loday Bhutia. He felicitated three Shaurya Chakra award winners of Sikkim - Subedar

Honorary Captain Kishore Rai, Naik Dhan Bahadur Chhetri and Paratrooper Sonam Tshering Tamang. The locals of the state, who registered themselves on the online Gallantry award portal, were also felicitated.

All the events were attended by key personalities from the state and included motivational talks and tales of valour of the War Heroes.

Nampi/DK/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

**New Delhi, Shravana 18, 1942
Monday, August 09, 2021**

**Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame reaches Mayabunder, Andaman
& Nicobar Islands**

Key Highlights:

- **Joint Services Cycle Expedition of ANC accompanies the Victory Flame**
- **Flame taken to a Government Senior Secondary School in Kishori Nagar**
- **The team spreads awareness among children to commemorate India’s victory in 1971 war**
- **Cyclists paddle for over 300 kms in four days**

Joint Services Cycle Expedition of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC), accompanying the Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame, reached Mayabunder on August 08, 2021. The cyclists successfully paddled for over 300 kms in four days. The Victory Flame was carried to Government Senior Secondary School at Kishori Nagar where it was received by district officials, Armed Forces veterans and Head Master of the school. A cultural programme by the school children was organised to honour the Victory Flame.

The Cycle Expedition Team conducted audio visual presentations to spread awareness amongst children to commemorate India’s victory in the 1971 war. The cyclists encouraged the children to join the Armed Forces and make adventure & sports an important part of their lives. The team also distributed memorabilia to the veterans, school officials and children.

The cycle expedition will finally reach Sports Stadium at Diglipur on August 09, 2021.

Nampi/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 14, 1942
Thursday, August 05, 2021

**Motivational talks & felicitation ceremonies being organised in 75
cities to mark 75th year of Independence**

Key Highlights:

- Events being organised by Gallantry Awards Portal, Armed Forces, BRO & NCC**
- To be held from August 06-14, 2021**
- 75 cities to honour the courage of the bravehearts**
- Gallantry Awards Portal to webcast the events live**
- Aim is to instill devotion & patriotism among citizens, especially youth**

To mark the 75th year of Independence, Gallantry Awards Portal is organising an event in collaboration with the Armed Forces, Border Roads Organisation (BRO) and National Cadet Corps (NCC) in 75 cities across the country to pay tributes to the bravehearts who made the supreme sacrifice in the service of the Nation. Under the initiative, motivational talks and felicitation ceremonies are being organised in honour of the gallant heroes.

Seventy five cities across the nation have been selected to honour the courage, character and commitment of the bravehearts and their families with a view to instill a sense of devotion and patriotism among citizens, especially the youth. It will also be a celebration of bravery of the Armed Forces post-Independence.

The events are being organised at different locations across the country in the run up to Independence Day 2021 from August 06-14, 2021. To enable greater reach of the celebrations, the Gallantry Awards Portal (<https://www.gallantryawards.gov.in>) will webcast the events live. The recording of the events will also be available on the YouTube channel of the portal.

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**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 14, 1942
Thursday, August 05, 2021

2nd IEEE International Conference on Range Technology

- **DRDO virtually organises the conference**
- **Speakers to present their achievements related to Test & Evaluation of defence systems**
- **DRDO Chairman calls for embracing developments in Range Technology to meet future challenges in Test & Evaluation**

The 2nd Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers (IEEE) International Conference on Range Technology (ICORT-2021) is being held virtually on August 05, 2021. The conference has been organised by Integrated Test Range (ITR) Chandipur, a laboratory of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). It was inaugurated by Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy. The event will host speakers from across the globe, who will present their technological achievements in multiple subjects related to Test and Evaluation of defence systems.

In his address, Dr G Satheesh Reddy highlighted the importance of embracing recent developments in Range Technology to meet the future challenges in Test and Evaluation. He emphasised on the importance of the conference in exploring current trends in Range Technology and Range Instrumentation, which are essential elements of a world class Test Range. The DRDO Chairman lauded the effort of ITR for organising an event of such scale amidst restrictions due to COVID-19 pandemic.

The conference will be a very effective platform for all the Range Technology enthusiasts to interact with each other and stay updated with recent developments in relevant fields. More than 250 technical articles were submitted by experts on the relevant subjects, out of which 122 articles have been selected by a specialised technical committee. The technical presentation will be done in four parallel sessions during August 05-06, 2021. A virtual industrial exhibition is also being held in which more than 25 industries and organisations from India and abroad will display their products and technologies.

The inaugural function of the conference was organised online with dignitaries joining over video conference from different locations. Former Scientific Advisor to Raksha Mantri Dr Avinash Chander was the Chief Guest on the occasion. The inaugural function was also attended by Director General (Missiles & Strategic Systems) Dr BHVS Narayanmurthy; ex-DG, DRDO Shri MSR Prasad; Director ITR Chandipur Shri HK Ratha along with other delegates and participants. The ICORT held biennially was first organised by ITR in 2019.

Nampi/KA/DK/RP/Savvy

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 14, 1942
Thursday, August 05, 2021

Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame at Cellular Jail

Key Highlights:

- **Andaman & Nicobar Command organises events at Cellular Jail to mark 50th anniversary of India’s victory in 1971 war**
- **Army Component Commander was the Chief Guest**
- **Service veterans, military officers & civil dignitaries attend the function**

The Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame was taken to Cellular Jail at Port Blair in Andaman & Nicobar Islands to mark the 50th anniversary celebrations of India’s victory in the 1971 war. The Andaman & Nicobar Command (ANC) organised various events at the Cellular Jail. The events included a band display from the troops of joint services; a light and sound show and a short movie on the 1971 war.

Army Component Commander Brigadier Rajeev Nagyal was the Chief Guest. Service veterans, senior Military Officers & civil dignitaries were also present on the occasion. The Army Component Commander collected soil from the Cellular Jail as part of the national initiative of soil collection from various parts of the motherland.

The Cellular Jail proudly stands as a symbol of India’s freedom struggle. Also known as Kālā Pānī, the jail was used to exile political prisoners to the remote archipelago. Many notable freedom fighters including Vinayak Damodar Savarkar, Batukeshwar Dutt, Yogendra Shukla and V.O. Chidambaram Pillai, were imprisoned there during the freedom struggle. Today, the Cellular Jail serves as a national monument.

Nampi/DK/RP/Savvy/ADA

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shrawana 14, 1942
Thursday, August 05, 2021

**Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame taken to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose
Island**

Key Highlights:

- **Victory Flame accorded full ceremonial honours by Indian Navy Guard as tribute to 1971 war heroes**
- **Homage paid to officers & sailors of INS Khukri for their supreme sacrifice**
- **PM had renamed Ross Island as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island to mark 75th year of hoisting of Tricolour by Netaji**

The Swarnim Vijay Varsh Victory Flame was taken to Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island, formerly Ross Islands, under the aegis of the Naval Component of Andaman and Nicobar Command, on August 04, 2021. The Victory Flame was accorded full ceremonial honours along with wreath laying and salutations by the Indian Navy Guard as a tribute to the fallen heroes of the 1971 war at the ‘Lone Sailor Statue’.

The ‘Lone Sailor Statue’ overlooking the approach to Port Blair harbour was constructed to honour those who put up a gallant act at sea and made the supreme sacrifice. In the context of the 1971 war, the event was organised to pay tribute to the supreme sacrifice by the officers and sailors of INS Khukri, including the Commanding Officer Captain Mahendra Nath Mulla (Maha Vir Chakra posthumous) who chose to go down with his ship.

The Island is situated three kilometres East of Central Port Blair. Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose had hoisted the national Tricolour there in December 1943 during the freedom struggle. To commemorate the 75th year of the historic event, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi had renamed Ross Island as Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose Island on December 30, 2018.

After visiting the Island, the Victory Flame came back to Port Blair Jetty. All COVID-19 protocol measures were followed by the personnel present at the event.

Nampi/DK/RP/Savvy/ADA

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 13, 1942
Wednesday, August 04, 2021

BRO constructs highest motorable road in the world in Eastern Ladakh

Key Highlights:

- **The road at Umlingla Pass constructed at an altitude of 19,300 ft**
- **Betters previous record of a road in Bolivia at 18,953 ft**
- **Umlingla Pass now connected with a Black Top Road**
- **To enhance socio-economic condition & promote tourism in Ladakh**

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has constructed and black-topped the highest motorable road in the world at 19,300 ft at Umlingla Pass in Eastern Ladakh, creating a record in high-altitude road construction. It has constructed a 52-km long tarmac road through Umlingla Pass, bettering the previous record of a road in Bolivia connecting to its volcano Uturuncu at 18,953 ft.

The road now connects the important towns in Chumar sector of Eastern Ladakh. It will prove to be a boon to the local population as it offers an alternate direct route connecting Chisumle and Demchok from Leh. It will enhance the socio-economic condition and promote tourism in Ladakh.

Infrastructure development in such harsh and tough terrain is extremely challenging. During the winter, the temperature dips to -40 degrees and the oxygen level at this altitude is almost 50 percent less than at normal places. The BRO has achieved the feat due to the grit and resilience of its personnel who work in treacherous terrain and extreme weather conditions.

The road has been constructed at an altitude higher than the Mt Everest Base Camps as the South Base Camp in Nepal is at an altitude of 17,598 ft, while North Base Camp in Tibet is at 16,900 ft. The road has been constructed much above the altitude of Siachen Glacier which is at 17,700 ft. The Khardung La Pass in Leh is at an altitude of 17,582 ft.

Nampi/DK/RP/Savvy/ADA

**PRESS INFORMATION BUREAU (DEFENCE WING)
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA**

‘हर काम देश के नाम’

New Delhi, Shravana 12, 1942
Tuesday, August 03, 2021

Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav

**Defence Secretary launches website on 75th Independence Day
celebrations**

- **Platform to connect Indians from world over to celebrate Independence Day**
- **To provide all information regarding activities of the celebrations**
- **Live streaming of main event from Red Fort; Live feed in VR 360 degrees format**
- **Other key features include Special IDC Radio, Gallery, Interactive filters, E-books & Blogs**

India is celebrating ‘Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav’, marking the 75th year of Independence from the foreign rule. The whole country is gripped into patriotic fervour. To mark this momentous occasion, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar launched a website on the 75th Independence Day Celebrations 2021 (IDC 2021), <https://indianidc2021.mod.gov.in>, in New Delhi on August 03, 2021. It is a platform to connect Indians from world over to celebrate the National Festival. The mobile app of the IDC 2021 platform will be launched in the coming days.

The platform is freely accessible to all and provides update & information regarding activities centred around the IDC 2021. It encompasses the entire Indian diaspora as if they were a part of the celebrations in person. It is an attempt to engage people of all ages, especially the youth.

For the first time ever, the platform will live stream the Independence Day Celebrations from the majestic Red Fort on August 15, 2021 in Virtual Reality (VR) 360 degree format. People can use this feature with or without VR Gadget.

The platform also provides features like a special IDC Radio, Gallery, Interactive filters, E-books on deeds of Gallantry, 50 years of 1971 victory and Blogs on the Freedom Movement, Wars and War Memorials. Netizens can also logon to know the information related to the Independence Day event including

minute-to-minute programme, route map, parking details, RSVP and details of other activities. The programme calendar for all initiatives taken by various ministries to mark the occasion is also available on the platform.

Around 40 events are being organised across the country by the Armed Forces and various other segments of Ministry of Defence, including Border Roads Organisation (BRO), National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

Under the unique web-based RSVP system, a QR code will be affixed on each invitation card which is to be scanned by the invitee using his/her smart phone. On scanning the QR code, a web link will be generated through which the invitee will be directed to the web portal. On the portal, invitees can submit their willingness to attend the function.

Speaking on the occasion, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar said, the platform aims to imbibe the culture of togetherness among the masses so that they can celebrate this landmark occasion and unite under common identity of being Indians. He shed light on the number of activities planned in the run up to IDC 2021, including all women mountaineering expedition at Mount Manirang, 75 Medical Camps being organised by BRO and statue cleaning activities to be carried by NCC cadets at 75 places across the country.

Dr Ajay Kumar added that people will soon be able to pay online tribute to the fallen heroes at the National War Memorial (NWM) in New Delhi. Interactive kiosks are being set up at NWM where people can pay homage to the bravehearts through digital means, he stated. The Defence Secretary also said that motivational talks with gallantry awardees or their next-to-kin and Veer Naris are also being organised as part of the IDC 2021. The details of the events are available on the website.

Nampi/KA/DK/RP/Savvy/ADA