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

1. Defence Policy

(i) Department of Defence has made it mandatory for all NOCs to be granted totally online. It may be mentioned that this activity was part of Vision and Action Plan 2020-24 presented with timeline of December, 2020 and has been made online six months ahead of timeline. Hon'ble Raksha Mantri on 29th June, 2020 launched a new web portal for issue of No Objection Certificate (NOC) for power projects and Research Survey Exploration Exploitation (RSEE) activities in the Indian Territorial Waters (TW) and Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). The Department has made it mandatory that all applications for seeking NOC for power projects and RSEE activities shall be made online.

(ii) In a major policy decision which will improve overall health care in the country, Department of Defence has allowed AFMS doctors to teach in Medical Colleges. A list of 287 superannuated AFMS doctors who are eligible for teaching in Medical Colleges has been uploaded on Medical Council of India (MCI) website. In addition, a list of 34 AFMS superannuated doctors, willing to serve under Kuwait Government Health Care System has been forwarded to HQs IDS/Department of Military Affairs.

(iii) In another policy level initiative, in principle approval has been given for upgradation of AFMS zonal hospitals to PG teaching hospitals. In this regard, AFMS hospitals co-located with Government Medical Colleges have been identified to be a teaching unit of co-located Medical Colleges by utilizing the AFMS officers as faculty for MD/MS programme. The Draft MoU shared by NITI Aayog for AFMS hospitals co-located with Medical Colleges is under examination in consultation with DGAFMS. Likewise for PG programme under aegis of
National Board of Examination (NBE), 05 AFMS hospitals (MH Jammu, MH Jalandhar, MH Meerut, Indian Naval Hospital Ship (INHS) Sanjivani and INHS Kalyani) have been identified for establishing of 36 PG seats in Phase-I and subsequently to increased it to 220 PG seats in 24 AFMS hospitals.

2. **Chinese Aggression on LAC**

(i) Chinese aggression has been increasing along the LAC and more particularly in Galwan valley since 5th May, 2020. The Chinese side transgressed in the areas of Kugrang Nala, Gogra and north bank of Pangong Tso lake on 17-18 May, 2020.

(ii) Consequent to this, ground level interactions were held between armed forces of both sides to defuse the situation. Corps Commander Level Flag Meeting was held on 6th June, 2020. However, a violent faceoff incident took place between the two sides on 15th June, 2020, resulting in casualties of both sides.

(iii) Subsequently second Corps Commander Level Meeting took place on 22nd June, 2020 to discuss modalities of de-escalation process. While engagement and dialogue at military and diplomatic level is continuing to arrive at mutually acceptable consensus, the present standoff is likely to be prolonged.

(iv) The situation in Eastern Ladakh arising from unilateral aggression by China continues to be sensitive and requiring close monitoring and prompt action based on evolving situation.

3. **Atma Nirbhar Bharat in Defence**

(i) One contract for procurement of 30 Advanced Torpedo Decoy System (ATDS) Maareech, at a cost of Rs. 761.12 crore under 'Buy' (Indian-IDDM) from
Indian industry M/s Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL), Bengaluru was signed on 29th June, 2020.

(ii) In a major boost to 'Make in India' initiative of the Government, the Ministry has placed an Indent on Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) for supply of 156 BMP 2/2k Infantry Combat Vehicles (ICV) with upgraded features for use of the Mechanized Forces of the Indian Army.

4. **Indian Coast Guard**

(i) **Induction of ICGS Kanaklata Barua (Yard 2117):** ICGS Kanaklata Barua was inducted on 15th June, 2020 and based at Kakinada.

(ii) During the super cyclonic storm ‘NISARGA’ on 27th May, 2020 in the Arabian sea, a total of 48 Indian Coast Guard Disaster Response Teams (DRTs) were mobilized. A total of 391 merchant vessels were cleared from the path of cyclone and 2354 fishing boats operating at sea were rescued to the nearest fishing harbour for safety. Due to timely clearance of fishing boats, no casualty of fishing boat at sea occurred during the super cyclone.

5. **International Cooperation**

(i) A Mutual Logistic Support Agreement (MLSA) between Ministry of Defence of India and Department of Defence of Australia was concluded during the virtual Summit Meeting of Prime Minister of India and Prime Minister of Australia held on 4th June, 2020.

(ii) Despite the constraints imposed by COVID-19, to show solidarity with Russia, a delegation led by Hon’ble Raksha Mantri attended 75th Anniversary of the Victory Day celebration of the Second World War in Moscow. India also sent a 75 member tri-service contingent to participate in the Military Parade. Military
Parade was held at Red Square to mark the celebrations. Marching contingent from China and Defence Minister of China were also participated. Bilateral meeting of Hon'ble Raksha Mantri with the Russian Deputy Prime Minister and separately with Commander-in-Chief of Myanmar took place during the visit. Defence Secretary also met the Deputy Defence Minister of Russia in the sidelines of the visit. Russia assured support in terms of providing arms and ammunition on emergent basis during current crises.

(iii) Due to constraints imposed by COVID-19, the 13th India-Singapore Defence Working Group (DWG) was held on 30th June, 2020 via video conference.

(iv) Hon'ble Raksha Mantri made a telephonic conversation with his counterpart in France on 2nd June, 2020. France reaffirmed its commitment to ensure timely delivery of Rafale Aircraft despite the challenges posed by the COVID-19 Pandemic.

(v) Support to Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs): Medical assistance in the form of medicines for a value of Rs. 54.71 lakhs has been dispatched to Tajikistan under 'Vande Bharat' mission on 12th June, 2020 for use in the Indo-Tajikistan Friendship Hospital (ITFH).

6. **Development of Border Infrastructure**

(i) **Inauguration of Bridge:** Hon'ble Minister of State (Independent Charge), for Personnel, Public Grievances and Pension inaugurated 50 mtrs long Puneja Bridge in Doda District and 10 mtrs long Devika Bridge constructed by BRO over river Devika in Udhampur District via video conferencing on 24th June, 2020.

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