

Major activities of Department of Defence for the month of December, 2017

International Cooperation

- (1) Hon'ble Raksha Mantri met Russian Deputy Prime Minister on December 23, 2017 to discuss bilateral defence cooperation.
- (2) The 8th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting between India and South Africa, co-chaired by Defence Secretary was held on 6th – 7th December, 2017 in New Delhi to discuss bilateral defence cooperation issues.
- (3) The 9th Joint Defence Committee (JDC) meeting between India and UAE, co-chaired by Additional Secretary was held on 7th – 8th December, 2017 to discuss issues pertaining to bilateral defence cooperation.
- (4) State Secretary of Ministry of Defence, Sweden visited India from 10th – 13th December, 2017 and met Defence Secretary, Chief of Naval Staff and Deputy Chief of Air Staff to discuss India-Sweden bilateral defence cooperation.
- (5) An official delegation from the Armed Forces Headquarters of Jordan visited India from 18th - 19th December, 2017 to discuss defence cooperation.
- (6) An Armenian delegation led by Deputy Defence Minister of Armenia visited India from 20th – 22nd December, 2017 and had a meeting with Secretary (Defence Production), Joint Secretary (PIC) and representatives of DRDO and defence industries.

Swacchhta Pakhwada

- (7) The Ministry of Defence and its attached and subordinate organisations undertook numerous activities across the country as part of Swacchhta Pakhwada which was organized from 1st to 15th December, 2017. These activities broadly included community cleaning, sensitisation about open defecation, awareness programme, tree plantation, special coastal clean up drive & disposing obsolete materials, etc.

Liberalised Family Pension

(8) Liberalised family pension has been in existence and has been provided to Army personnel working on Line of Control (LoC)/International Border (IB) along Pakistan border. This liberalized family pension covers: "Accidental death/ injury sustained due to natural calamities such as flood, avalanches, landslides, cyclone, fire and lightning or drowning in river while performing operational duties/movement in action against enemy forces and armed hostilities in operational area to include deployment on international border or Line of Control". Raksha Mantri has approved that the same benefit of Liberalised Family Pension be extended to Army Personnel working along Line of Actual Control (LAC) along India-China borders on the same manner as for the army personnel working in LoC and International Border.

Navy / Coast Guard

(9) Prime Minister commissioned INS Kalvari (S-21), the first of the six Scorpene class submarines build under Project 75 (Kalvari Class) into the Indian Navy at an impressive ceremony held at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai on 14th December, 2017. The event marked the formal induction into the Navy of the first of the six submarines being constructed at Mazagon Docks Limited

(10) President of India and the Supreme Commander of Indian Armed Forces awarded the President's Colour to the Submarine Arm of the Indian Navy on December 8, 2017.

(11) Indian Coast Guard inducted ICGS C-435 and ICGS C-436 on 1st December, 2017. The Indian Coast Guard on 21st December, 2017 commissioned the Offshore Patrol Vessel ICGS Sujay.

(12) Large scale Search and Rescue operation along Kerala, Tamil Nadu and Lakshadweep coast had commenced from 30th November for search of stranded fishermen due to Cyclone 'Ockhi'. Till 25th December, 2017, Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) units assisted by the Air Force have rescued/assisted 850 fishermen. 24 dead bodies have also been recovered by the Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard units off the Kerala coast.

(13) Search and Rescue Communication exercise with Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Port Blair of the Indian Coast Guard and Regional Coordination Centre (RCC) Nagoya, Japan Coast Guard was held on 7th December, 2017.

(14) IFB Star (Bahubali) along with 7 crew was adrift off the coast of Ratnagiri. Indian Coast Guard deployed ICGS C-402 to render assistance, which undertook towing of the fishing boat on 15th December, 2017 and handed it over to the owner.

Miscellaneous

(15) Raksha Rajya Mantri dedicated to the nation two crucial bridges in Eastern Arunachal Pradesh on 12th December, 2017. The Minister inaugurated the Injupani Bridge, a 140 metre long bridge on Roing-Koronu-Paya road, which is a part of Trans Arunachal Highway. Raksha Rajya Mantri then inaugurated the Deopani/Eze Bridge, which is 300 metre long pre-stressed concrete balanced cantilever bridge over the Eze river at Roing in Arunachal Pradesh.
