

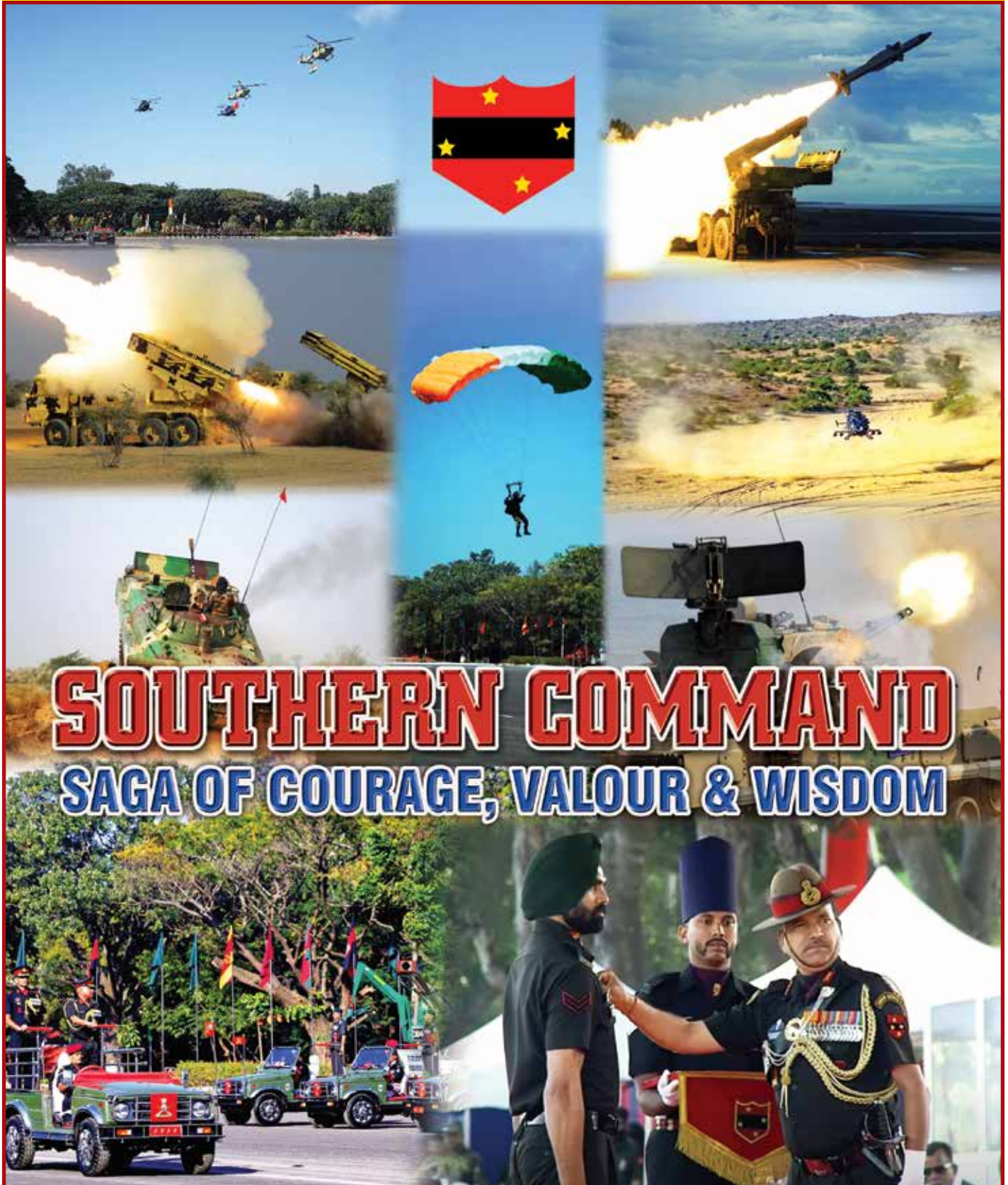


Baatcheet

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BATTLE OF CHAWINDA & LT COL A B TARAPORE

The Battle of Chawinda was a major engagement between Pakistan and India in the Second Indo-Pak War as part of the riposte that India had devised to counter Pakistan's advances into Jammu and Kashmir. It is considered to be one of the largest tank battles in history since the Battle of Kursk, which was fought between the Soviet Union and Nazi Germany in World War II.



LT GEN HARBAKSH INSPECTING A CAPTURED SHERMAN TANK IN CHAWINDA SECTOR

The initial clashes in Chawinda coincided with the Battle of Phillora, and the fighting there intensified once the Pakistani forces at Phillora retreated. The battle came to an end shortly before the ceasefire was declared to end the hostilities.

After Pakistan launched "Operation Gibraltar", India declared war with Pakistan on 27 August 1965. As part of the retaliatory action plan, the Army chalked out a strategy to capture Chawinda and Phillora in Sialkot sector. The area of Chawinda was occupied by two regiments of Pakistani armour and infantry. On 11 September, 17 POONA HORSE under the command of Lt Col Tarapore planned a surprise attack on Phillora from the rear. As the regiment was moving forward between Phillora and Chawinda, it was counter attacked by enemy armour from Wazirali. Lt Col Tarapore held his ground and gallantly led the attack on Phillora with one of his squadrons, immediately followed by an Infantry battalion. An intense battle was fought between two sides which resulted in the destruction of 13 tanks. Pakistani left Chawinda and Phillora was captured. Lt Col Tarapore fought courageously but was seriously injured in the battle. However, undeterred he planned attacks to capture Wazirali, Jasoran and Butur-Dograndi.

On 13/14 September 1965, Lt Col Tarapore, though still wounded, launched another attack on Wazirali accompanied by 8 GARHWAL RIFLES. Wazirali was captured on 14 September but Lt Col Tarapore pressed on with his attack on enemy forces

hiding in the areas of Butur and Dograndi. Once again in a daring attack, Lt Col Tarapore destroyed six enemy tanks and captured Jassoran along with 9 DOGRA and Butur & Dograndi along with 8 GARHWAL RIFLES by 16 September. Though his own tank was hit several times, he maintained his pivots at both these places, supporting the infantry attacking Chawinda from the rear. Inspired by his leadership, the regiment attacked the enemy armour and destroyed approximately sixty Pakistani Army tanks, whilst suffering only nine tank casualties. However, when Lt Col Tarapore was posing a stiff challenge an enemy shell set his tank ablaze engulfing him in flames. Lt Col Tarapore made the supreme sacrifice in the battle field leading from the front like a true military leader. Lt Col A B Tarapore was awarded the nation's highest gallantry award, "Param Vir Chakra" for his outstanding courage, leadership, indomitable spirit and supreme sacrifice.

Maj N S Cheema (who later became Lt Gen), received a call from Lt Col A B Tarapore, his CO on the first day of the battle of Chawinda and he said "I must be cremated in the battlefield"; my prayer book must be given to my mother, my gold chain to my wife, my ring to my daughter, my bracelet and pen to my son'. He paused and then added, 'And Niranjana... please tell my son Xerxes to join the army'.



Baatchheet

April 2023

From the Editor's Desk

Southern Command, the oldest Field Army, was raised on 01 April 1895 at Pune. During the Second World War, it was designated as the Southern Army and was shifted to Bangalore. On 01 July 1946, it was re-designated as Southern Command and reverted to Pune. Lieutenant General KS Rajendra Sinhji, Distinguished Service Order was the first Indian General Officer Commanding-in-Chief after India attained Independence in 1947. Lieutenant General Ajai Kumar Singh, AVSM, YSM, SM, VSM, is the 38th and present General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, post-independence.

Southern Command has a unique area of responsibility which includes the deserts, Peninsular India and the Rann of Kutch. It comprises of approximately 40% of the Indian Land Mass, consisting of 11 states and four Union Territories including an Island territory.

The Crest of Southern Command consists of four stars forming the Crux Constellation or the Southern Cross, signifying the Southern location of the Command.

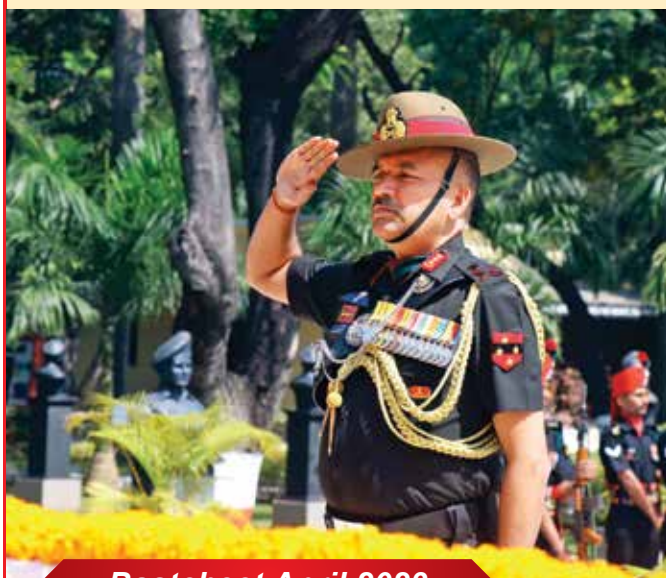


CREST OF SOUTHERN COMMAND

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We request our readers to send good quality, high resolution photographs for cover page of Baatchheet.

CHIEF'S PAGE

General Manoj Pande, COAS presented the prestigious 'President's Standards' to 49 Armoured Regiment, 51 Armoured Regiment, 53 Armoured Regiment and 54 Armoured Regiment during an impressive Standards Presentation Parade at Suratgarh, Rajasthan on 25 March. The proud recipients displayed an immaculate mounted parade on receiving the 'President's Standards'.



The COAS addressed the Officers attending the Higher Defence Management Course at College of Defence Management, Secunderabad on 'Transformation Pillars of the Indian Army'.



The COAS visited MCEME, Secunderabad on 18 March and was briefed about technological training being imparted at the institution. The COAS also witnessed various projects & innovations conceptualised at the institution.



The COAS interacted with General James Mattis (Retd), former Secretary of Defence, USA & held discussions on defence and security-related issues. General James Mattis (Retd) also presented the book 'Call Sign Chaos' to the COAS.



The COAS interacted with General Angus J. Campbell, Chief of the Defence Force, Australia on 03 March and discussed aspects of bilateral interest and avenues to further strengthen the Defence Cooperation between both the Forces.



THE FIRST EDITION OF INDIA-AFRICA ARMY CHIEFS' CONCLAVE

The first edition of 'India-Africa Army Chiefs' Conclave' was organised on the sidelines of 2nd Africa-India Joint Exercise 'AFINDEX' in Pune, Maharashtra on March 28, 2023. The Conclave was attended by Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Pande and Chiefs & representatives of 31 African nations, along with other civil and defence dignitaries. The Conclave was structured on the central theme of 'Africa-India Militaries for Regional Unity – AMRUT'. It was aimed to strengthen and improve synergy between militaries of India and African nations as part of regional cooperation mechanism. The Conclave focussed on joint training and defence cooperation amongst the nations to evolve an institutionalised framework in order to enhance collaboration in the fields of joint military training and execution of peacekeeping operations, besides promoting Indian defence industries. It is a major landmark in deep-rooted defence ties between India and African nations, thereby enhancing regional cooperation. General Manoj Pande delivered the Keynote Address at the Conclave and emphasised on further strengthening mutual cooperation between India & Africa. Demonstration of 'Made in India' weapons & equipment was also organised on the sidelines of the chiefs' Conclave.



AFINDEX 2023

The 2nd edition of Joint Military Exercise 'The Africa-India Field Training Exercise' (AFINDEX-2023) was held at Foreign Training Node, Aundh, Pune from 16 to 29 March 2023. A total of 25 nations of the African continent with 124 participants and Indian troops from the SIKH, MARATHA and MAHAR Regiments participated in the multinational exercise. The validation phase of the exercise was witnessed by General Manoj Pande, Chief of the Army Staff along with all the African Army Chiefs and representatives who attended the Chiefs' Conclave. The aim of the exercise was to build positive military relations, imbibe each other's best practices and promote the ability to operate together while undertaking execution of Humanitarian Mine Action and Peace Keeping Operations under the UN mandate. This joint exercise enabled the Armies to learn from and adopt each other's methodologies and tactics while conducting such operations. Further, the exercise assisted the forces in correct interpretation of Rules of Engagements while undertaking Peace Keeping Operations. The exercise is a harbinger for greater cooperation between Indian & African Armies in the future.



SNIPPETS

The COAS inaugurated the Strategic Dialogue Conference and delivered the keynote address on 'China's Rise & its Global Implications' at the Savitribai Phule University, Pune. The conference was attended by leading luminaries from different fields including academia.



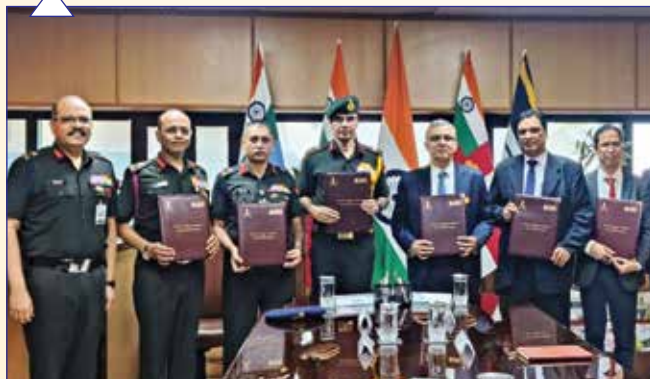
The VCOAS delivered a Special Address for the session on 'New Edge Technologies to Enhance Land Warfare Systems' at the Defence Tech Seminar, organised at Manekshaw Centre, New Delhi from 21 to 22 March 2023.



Western Command Investiture Ceremony 2023 was held at Amritsar on 11 March. Gallantry and distinguished service awards were presented during the event which included one Yudh Seva Medal, 23 Sena Medals for gallantry and six for distinguished service, nine Vishisht Seva Medals and 32 Unit Appreciations.



The Indian Army & NTPC Renewable Energy Ltd signed a MoU to install Green Hydrogen based power plants in Army establishments. The power plants will provide Green Energy to the Indian Army troops & will assist in de-carbonisation in High Himalayas.



Border Roads Organisation teams ensured early opening of the three strategic roads to include NH-3 (Manali - Leh), NH-1 (Srinagar-Kargil-Leh) and Road Nimmu-Padum-Darcha. The early opening of these roads will ensure better logistics preparedness of the Armed Forces besides benefitting the local populace.



SNIPPETS

The Indian Army took the lead in awarding first iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) accorded contract as per revised procedure for procurement of Integrated Mobile Camouflage System. The system will enhance the stealth capability of mechanised & mobile platforms.



On 20 March, the Indian Army handed over 159 vehicles & equipment, indigenously developed under the “Make In India & Atmanirbhar Bharat initiative”, for UN Peacekeeping mission at UNISFA, Abyei.



A Tri-Services “Fauji Mela” showcasing the weapons & equipment of Indian Armed Forces was organised at Bhopal from 29 March for five days, to motivate youth & increase awareness about the might of the Indian Armed Forces. Local populace showed huge enthusiasm in the mela, which witnessed a large footfall of over 20,000.



GOC-in-C Surya Command visited Tripeaks Brigade and reviewed the security and operational preparedness. He commended All Ranks for their high morale and exhorted them to continue striving for excellence.



To promote awareness & popularity of Para-sports in the country & society, the Indian Army conducted the 7th Boccia National Championship at RAJ RIF Regimental Centre, New Delhi. 70 Para athletes from 21 states including a team from Paraplegic Rehabilitation Centre, Pune participated in the event.



SOUTHERN COMMAND 'SAGA OF



SOUTHERN COMMAND INVESTITURE CEREMONY 2023

Southern Command Investiture Ceremony was conducted at Madras Engineers Group & Centre, Bengaluru under the aegis of HQ Dakshin Bharat Area on 13 January 2023. Lt Gen Ajai Kumar Singh, GOC-in-C Southern Command, awarded 40 Individual Awards & 23 Unit Appreciations in a solemn ceremony to honour the bravehearts who displayed exceptional courage and dedication in execution of their duties while serving the country.

AMPHEX-2023 A biennial tri-services joint Amphibious Exercise between Indian Army, Indian Navy and Indian Airforce was conducted at Kakinada coast (approx 150 Km South of Visakhapatnam) wef **03 to 24 January 2023 as part of TROPEX-23**. The exercise focussed on Joint Training of elements of all three services in various facets of Amphibious Operations to enhance Inter-operability & Synergy. It was for the first time that the exercise was undertaken at Kakinada, and was the largest exercise conducted till date.



SOUTHERN COMMAND RTN HOLDS ARMY-ACADEMIA-INDUSTRY INTERFACE

GOC-in-C Southern Command addressed Southern Star Army-Academia-Industry Interface 2023 at Pune. About 100 participants from industries, academia & army formation attended the event. He stressed upon all to carry forward the exchange of ideas, understand potential of industries & academia and enhance capability through technology infusion. He also underlined the urgent need to shift towards indigenous defence production, especially in the light of recent global events.

HEART TRANSPLANT AT AICTS, PUNE Army Institute of Cardio Thoracic Science (AICTS), Pune performed three successful heart transplants in a span of six months, an act first of its kind. The first transplant which was most critical was of a Paediatric heart carried out in a 14 year old boy suffering from Dilated Cardiomyopathy and the other two were of adults. The institute also performed rare hybrid procedure known as PDA stenting in a new born baby with congenital heart disease on 08 October 2022.



COURAGE, VALOUR & WISDOM'



ARMY DAY PARADE 2023 Army Day Parade 2023 was conducted on 15 January 2023 at Bengaluru under the aegis of Headquarters Southern Command. The ceremony was presided over by COAS, General Manoj Pande. It was an iconic occasion for Southern Command as the prestigious Army Day Parade was conducted outside the National Capital, New Delhi for the first time ever. The parade had six marching contingents from various Regimental Centres located in Southern Command. Series of other events to include motor cycle display, combat fire free fall and equipment display also conducted.

EWT: DESERT CORPS Field training exercise involving all entities of war fighting to validate “Whole of the Nation” approach for decisive victory was carried out in November 2022. The synergised application of numerous indigenous technologies and equipment enhanced the operational capabilities. The synergetic actions also validated new concepts of war fighting in an integrated theatre.



MORBI BRIDGE COLLAPSE Rescue operations by Army columns in close coordination with Civil authorities were organised at Morbi, Gujarat on 31 October 2022. Army columns including Engineer Task Forces and Medical Teams rendered relief & medical aid relentlessly throughout day & night. Teams of the Indian Army, Navy, Air Force, National Disaster Response Force (NDRF), fire brigade and State Disaster Response Force (SDRF) carried out the rescue operations on war footing.

SOUTHERN STAR AWWA INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY International Women's Day 2023 was conducted by AWWA Southern Star, Pune. Ex - officio Regional President AWWA Mrs Subeena Arora along with women from all walks of life attended the event. Lecture by Padma Shri Ms Shital Mahajan, a renowned skydiver, Classical dance by Dr Smt Sucheta Bhide Chapekar & felicitation of Veer Naris were major highlights of the event.



J & K AND LADAKH DIARY

GOC-in-C Northern Command visited Sub Sector Haneef and interacted with officers and troops posted at one of the most inhospitable terrains. He complimented the soldiers for the operational preparedness.



Lt Gen Rashim Bali took over the command of Fire & Fury Corps from Lt Gen Anindya Sengupta. On assuming command, the General Officer paid homage at War Memorial, Leh & exhorted All Ranks to continue working with soldierly commitment & zeal.



A Joint Expedition Team of the Indian Army & Kyrgyzstan Army was flagged in by GOC-in-C Northern Command on 16 March. Displaying sheer grit & determination, the team successfully summited Mt Stok Kangri (6153m) under difficult terrain & weather conditions.



Chinar Warriors in conjunction with Social Forestry Dept celebrated Internationall Forest Week in Kupwara. The event witnessed civil dignitaries, soldiers & students, planting saplings for a greener Kashmir. Awareness lectures were also formed part of the event.



Chinar Open Winter Games concluded on 03 March at HAWS, Gulmarg with GOC Dagger Division felicitating the participants. The event witnessed large scale participation by young enthusiasts from across Kashmir in various Ski events.



The Indian Army cultivates the spirit of victory through 'bravery on the battlefield and heroics on the sports field'. Northern Command soldiers clinched three of the top 10 positions in Lahaul Snow marathon held on 12 March.



NORTH EAST DIARY

Lt Gen HS Sahi took over command of the prestigious Spear Corps on 05 March. On assuming command, the General Officer complimented All Ranks for their professional acumen and exhorted them to continue working towards enhancing operational effectiveness.



The 4th Eastern Command Tibetology Cadre for Officers has been conducted from 20 March 2023 at Bob Khating Institute of Himalayan Studies and Central Institute of Himalayan Cultural Studies, Dahung, Arunachal Pradesh.



Trishakti Corps soldiers rescued 400 tourists including women & children stranded due to sudden snowfall in East Sikkim on 12 March. They were provided with shelter, warm clothing, medical aid & hot meals.



Lt Gen Manish Erry took over the command of Gajraj Corps from Lt Gen DS Rana. On assuming command, the General Officer laid a wreath at the War Memorial & paid his tribute to the warriors who laid down their lives in the service of Nation.



GOC-in-C Eastern Command released the book written by Lt Gen DS Rana - 'Two Decades That Shaped PLA, As We Know Today' on March 24.



Endeavouring to take Skill India Initiative forward, IGAR North of Spear Corps commenced month long Skill Development Workshop on 09 March for Wancho youth for trades of Electrician, Carpenter & Plumber at Longding Arunachal Pradesh.



COMMUNIQUE

AWHO DEMAND SURVEY SCHEMES

Applications are invited on prescribed application format from interested serving/ retired Army personnel, widows & parents of deceased Army personnel who are in receipt of family pension for following schemes:-

DEMAND SURVEY FOR JAMMU CITY

Registration is open from 14 January 2023 to 30 April 2023 to ascertain the demand for Group Housing Project. The project will be planned based on the response received from the environment.

DEMAND SURVEY UNDER ASSISTANCE SCHEME

- (i) Registration is open from 12 December 2022 – 30 April 2023 to ascertain firm demand of flats under Assistance Scheme at **Bengaluru, Gurgaon, Jaipur, Noida/Greater Noida, Panchkula. Pune.**
- (ii) Registration is also open for **Bahadurgarh** from 01 March 2023 – 31 May 2023.
- (iii) Negotiations with the reputed builders will be carried out by AWHO for bulk booking of Dwelling Units at discounted rates, in the cities where sufficient demand is received from the applicants.

Advertisements for above Demand Survey Schemes with Application Form, Eligibility criteria, Application Fee, Bank a/c details etc may be **downloaded from AWHO website www.awhosena.in**. For further details please **contact:-**

Director (Marketing), Tele: 011-23017768
(011-23013163, Extn 325/342, 353) Fax: 011-23010599
AWHO, Kashmir House, Rajaji Marg, New Delhi-110011
Email: mkt05@awhosena.org

ENHANCEMENT OF EX GRATIA BY MP GOVT FOR GALLANTRY AWARDEES

Madhya Pradesh government has enhanced the Ex Gratia given to various gallantry awardees. The details are as under:-

AWARD	EARLIER EX GRATIA	CURRENT EX GRATIA
PVC	Rs 20 Lakh	Rs 1 Crore
AC	Rs 20 Lakh	Rs 1 Crore
MVC	Rs 12 Lakh	Rs 75 Lakh
KC	Rs 12 Lakh	Rs 75 Lakh
VrC	Rs 8 Lakh	Rs 50 Lakh
SC	Rs 8 Lakh	Rs 50 Lakh
SM (G)	Rs 0.5 Lakh	Rs 25 Lakh
M-in-D	Rs 0.12 Lakh	Rs 25 Lakh

WELFARE AND EMPOWERMENT

The COAS interacted with Mr Apoorv Om, a hearing-impaired, talented & innovative artist. He was felicitated for his contribution in the field of Arts & also for efforts towards inclusion of hearing impaired people into the mainstream.



Colonel of JAK RIF & LADAKH SCOUTS Regiments interacted with Veer Naris & Ex-Servicemen of the J & K region. He conveyed his gratitude for their solemn & selfless service to the Nation.



A 'ladies Walkathon' was organised to celebrate womanhood on 'International Women's Day 2023' by AWWA. Enthusiastic ladies and young girls turned up in large numbers at Delhi Cantonment to make it a great success.



AWWA artists and entrepreneurs put up a dazzling display of creative artefacts at the Pacific Mall, Delhi. Mrs Archana Pande, President AWWA visited the exhibition and appreciated their ingenuity.



Job fair/ employment seminar was organised by Directorate Resettlement Zone Establishment in collaboration with CII on 31 March at Jaipur. 24 corporate houses shortlisted ESMs for absorption based on their skill sets.



An elderly person who jumped in to Sirhind Canal was rescued by Vajra Sappers who were training 150 m downstream on wet bridge construction site. The locals applauded the swift action and hailed the Indian Army.



TRAINING

Soldiers of Golden Arrow Division and Indian Air Force conducted day and night special heliborne training on 29 March to validate deep insertion and operations behind enemy lines.



'Maiden Joint Military Exercise "FRINJEX" 2023 between the Indian Army and the French Army was held at Thiruvanthapuram. The exercise has been successful in sharing the best practices between both Armies in Humanitarian Assistance & Disaster Relief Operations.



Trishakti Corps conducted integrated fire power exercise at Teesta Field Firing Ranges at Siliguri district of West Bengal. The exercise validated synergized application of various firepower assets of the Armed Forces.



13th Edition of India - Singapore military exercise Ex Bold Kurukshetra concluded at Jodhpur on 14 March. Computer Simulated Wargame focusing on joint tactical planning & procedures to improve inter-operability was conducted during the Exercise.



The 10th Edition of India - Kyrgyzstan Joint Special Forces Military Training Exercise "Khanjar" was held at Tokmok, Kyrgyzstan. The exercise further enhanced the synergy and interoperability between Special Forces of two Armies.



Kharga Sappers conducted successful validation of airlifting assault bridges to enhance battlefield mobility & augment operational capability of Strike Corps in an obstacle ridden terrain.



SPORTS & ADVENTURE

Indian Army shooter Rect/Havildar Varun Tomar won Silver Medal in Mixed Team & Bronze Medal in Men's 10m Air Pistol Event at the 'ISSF World Cup 2023' held at Bhopal & brought laurels to the Nation & the Indian Army.



Indian Army pugilists Havildar Bishwamitra Chongtha (51Kg) & Havildar Sachin (54Kg) won Bronze Medals in the 74th International Boxing Tournament "Strandja" 2023 conducted at Sofia, Bulgaria & brought laurels to the Nation.



Indian Army wrestler Havildar Ankit Gulia proved his mettle by winning Bronze Medal (72 Kg Greco-Roman) in the 2nd Senior Ranking Series "Ibrahim Moustafa" International Tournament 2023 at Alexandria, Egypt.



Havildar Sarvesh Kushare Anil won Gold Medal in High Jump & Sepoy Anas Babu won Silver Medal in Pole Vault at the '2nd Indian Open Jumps Competition' held at Bellary, Karnataka.



'Winning is not about medals alone, it's also bringing out the best in you'. Nb Sub Sunil Kumar won Silver Medal at Senior National Fencing Championship at Pune & qualified for the 19th Asian Games at Hangzhou.



The Indian Army participated in 'National Winter Biathlon Championship 2023' held at Gulmarg and won the National Championship bagging 03 Gold Medals, 03 Silver Medals and 03 Bronze Medals.



CEREMONIAL EVENTS

Padma Award winners for the year 2023 visited the National War Memorial, New Delhi on 23 March. The awardees went around the memorial, paying floral tributes to the Armed Forces personnel who, since Independence, have made supreme sacrifice to protect the Nation's borders. The awardees appreciated the Government's initiative of organising the visit to NWM and its efforts to popularise the monument as a place for people, especially the youth, to visit. The awardees were of the view that the visit to the memorial helps in inculcating the values of patriotism, devotion to duty, courage & sacrifice.



Lt Gen Ravin Khosla, UYSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, DCOAS (IS & C), on behalf of officers attending 118th Retiring Officers Seminar, paid homage to bravehearts at National War Memorial. All the retiring officers paid floral tributes to fallen brothers-in-arms at the Tyag Chakra.



Vajra Corps was the first Army Corps raised post independence, on 01 March 1950. 73rd Raising Day of the Corps was celebrated at Jalandhar Cantt on 01 March 2023, wherein, GOC Vajra Corps laid a wreath and paid homage to the fallen soldiers at Vajra Shaurya Sthal. The Corps has proved its mettle on the Western Front and has witnessed some of the fiercest battles in history during the 1965 & 1971 Wars. From the graveyard of Patton tanks at Khem Karan to the capture of Barki and Dograi, numerous acts of individual and collective bravery, gallant sacrifices and inspiring leadership have ensured that Vajra Corps played a pivotal role in shaping history of the Nation.



On 118th Raising Day of Assam Rifles, DG Assam Rifles laid a wreath at Assam Rifles War Memorial in Shillong and paid homage to the bravehearts for rendering valiant services for the Nation. Minister of Tourism, Culture and DoNER and previous DGs of Assam rifles graced the event. The Assam Rifles is a central Para Military Force responsible for border security, counter-insurgency, and maintaining law and order in North East India. It guards the Indo-Myanmar border. The Assam Rifles comes under the administration of the Ministry of Home Affairs, while its operational control is maintained by the Indian Army.

Next Edition of Baatcheet will cover the theme 'Sapta Shakti Command Special'.