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SAINIK Samachar

**Celebrating Swarnim Vijay Varsh
of 1971 Indo-Pak War**





Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh releasing the India Post special day cover and a commemorative stamp marking the golden jubilee of India's victory during the 1971 Indo-Pak War, in New Delhi on December 16, 2021. The Minister of State for Defence and Tourism, Shri Ajay Bhatt and the Minister of State for Communications, Shri Devusinh Chauhan are also seen.



French Minister for the Armed Forces Ms Florence Parly laying wreath at National War Memorial in New Delhi on December 17, 2021.

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On front cover: The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi lighting the 'Swarnim Vijay Mashaal' at the National War Memorial on the occasion of Vijay Diwas in New Delhi on December 16, 2021.

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NEW YEAR!

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President Visits IAC Vikrant



The President of India Shri Ram Nath Kovind witnessed Naval Operations Demonstration in the Ernakulam channel, which showcased naval prowess and operations, on December 22, 2021. The President was accompanied by the Governor of Kerala Shri Arif Mohammad Khan and Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi.

The spectacular event which lasted for 40 minutes displayed the combat capability of ships and aircraft which included simulated beaching reconnaissance and assault, high speed runs by fast interceptor crafts, shore

bombardment, helobatics, sonar dunk operations, boarding operations and cargo sling operations by Naval helicopters. The highlights of the day were manning of the yard and arms of the Sail Training Ship 'Tarangini' along with steam past by Naval ships which manoeuvred in a column formation shouting Three *Jai* in the honour of The President. The event concluded with a band performance by the Naval band and fly past by aircraft.

The President further visited the Indigenous Aircraft Carrier 'Vikrant' under construction at Cochin Shipyard Ltd., Kochi. This

was the Supreme Commander's first visit to the ship. He was provided a first hand brief on the progress of trials towards commissioning of the ship.

Indigenous content in construction of IAC is close to 76% of overall project cost of Rs 19341 Crs. IAC has large number of indigenous material such as steel, besides other equipment manufactured by Indian industrial houses and about 100 MSMEs. The indigenous construction of the carrier has generated employment opportunities and bolstered plough back effect on the domestic economy. Close to 2000 shipyard and 13000 non-yard personnel have been employed per annum towards construction of IAC.

After a brief walk around of the mighty warship, the President expressed satisfaction on the progress and appreciated the efforts of Indian Navy and Cochin Shipyard towards development of indigenous capabilities in shipbuilding as a shining example of the nation's quest for 'Atma Nirbhar Bharat'.

-PRO Kochi

Indian Navy Joins Goa Liberation Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

The state of Goa celebrates December 19, 2021 every year as its Liberation Day. To mark 60 years of Goa's liberation, Diamond Jubilee celebrations were held at Panaji on December 19, 2021. To commemorate the occasion, Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister laid a wreath at the martyr's memorial, Azad Maidan. A 100 men tri-service Guard of Honour was presented during the ceremony and buglers played 'The Last Post'.

The Prime Minister also witnessed a Parade of Sails by boats of the Indian Navy, Coast Guard and civil agencies; and a flypast by aircraft of the Indian Navy, from the Miramar beach.



The Diamond Jubilee events were coordinated by the Indian Navy in the presence of Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command and Rear Admiral Philipose G Pynumootil, Flag Officer Commanding Goa Area.

On the Diamond Jubilee occasion of the liberation of Goa, Rear Admiral Philipose G Pynumootil, Flag Officer Commanding Goa Area, laid a



wreath at the war memorial at INS Gomantak on December 19, 2021. A ceremonial Guard of



Honour was presented and a two-minute silence observed as a mark of respect for the supreme sacrifice made by brave sailors of the Navy during the operation that led to the liberation of Goa.

The war memorial at INS Gomantak was constructed in memory of the seven young and gallant sailors that laid down their lives on December 18, 1961 during Op Vijay undertaken by the Indian Navy for liberation of Anjadip Island and the territories of Goa, Daman and Diu from Portuguese rule. The ceremony was attended by Commanding Officers and senior officers of naval units at Goa.

-PRO Mumbai





RM Interacts with Indian War Veterans & Mukti Jodhas of Bangladesh

Pays rich tributes to the brave soldiers, sailors & air warriors who ensured victory in 1971 war

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh interacted with Indian war veterans and Mukti Jodhas of Bangladesh in New Delhi on December 14, 2021, as part of Swarnim Vijay Varsh celebrations, marking 50 years of India's historic victory in the 1971 war. The gathering comprised of 30 Mukti Jodhas, families of all four Param Vir Chakra and other awardees as well as war veterans. The Mukti Jodhas have been invited to participate in Swarnim Vijay Varsh events to honour the bravehearts who took part in the 1971 war. In his address, Shri Rajnath Singh paid rich tributes to the brave soldiers, sailors and air warriors who ensured the victory in 1971 war by making supreme sacrifice while displaying devotion to duty.

Terming the victory as one of the most important events in world history and a triumph of justice over injustice, Shri Rajnath Singh said, the war fought against the atrocities on common people showed India's commitment towards humanity. He remembered the heroes of the Indian Army who ensured a historic victory, namely General (later Field Marshal) Sam Manekshaw, Lt Gen Jagjit Singh Aurora (then General Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Command), Lt Gen JFR Jacob and Air Marshal Idris Hassan Latif and others. "These heroes included Hindus, Muslims, Parsis, Sikhs and one Jew. This is a proof of India's firm belief towards giving equal respect to all religions," he said, adding that all these brave soldiers

The Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi recalled the great valour and sacrifice by the Mukti Jodhas, Biranganas and bravehearts of the Indian Armed Forces on the 50th Vijay Diwas. Shri Modi also said that the presence of President Shri Ram Nath Kovind in Dhaka on this occasion was of special significance to every Indian.



On the 50th Vijay Diwas, I recall the great valour and sacrifice by the Mukti Jodhas, Biranganas and bravehearts of the Indian Armed Forces. Together, we fought and defeated oppressive forces. Rashtrapati Ji's presence in Dhaka is of special significance to every Indian.

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belonged to different states, however, it was the feeling of Indianness which made them as one.

The Raksha Mantri also paid glowing tributes to first President of Bangladesh, Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur-Rahman, terming him as the guiding light for the people of his country. He appreciated the fact that Bangladesh has been making

giant strides in the path of development since its liberation.

Stating that no price can be paid for the sacrifices made by the veterans, the Raksha Mantri extended his gratitude and assured of Government's all possible support to ensure their welfare. "Our every warrior of today is a respected veteran of tomorrow. It is our duty to ensure their well-being. This government



understands this very well, which is why, as soon as we came into power in 2014, we fulfilled the long-pending demand of One Rank One Pension," he added.

Reiterating the Government's resolve to ensure the welfare and ease of living to the Ex-Servicemen, Shri Rajnath Singh said, many online services have been started under Digital India, including Smart Canteen Cards for shopping, implementation of SPARSH [System for Pension Administration (Raksha)] for automation of sanction and disbursement of defence pension and online access to avail the services of Kendriya Sainik Board and Directorate General of Resettlement. "Our aim is to ensure well-being of our Armed Forces personnel not only during their service, but also after their retirement," he added.

The Raksha Mantri called upon the people, especially the youth, to follow the gallant footsteps of the veterans and work towards nation building with full capacity, devotion and dedication. "I call upon the citizens to move forward with devotion and dedication and build a New India which is strong



- Victory in 1971 war showed India's commitment towards humanity.
- Our soldiers are the protectors of India's unity & integrity; they stay awake so that we can sleep peacefully.
- Government's aim is to ensure well-being of not just in-service soldiers but also the veterans.

and self-reliant. This will be a true tribute to our brave soldiers," he said. Shri Rajnath Singh also paid tribute to the country's first Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and other Armed Forces personnel who lost their lives in a helicopter



crash in Tamil Nadu recently.

On the occasion, the soil collected from different locations of major battles fought during the war was mixed by the Raksha Mantri to commemorate the golden jubilee of 1971 war victory. He described it as a symbol of 'Unity in Diversity'.

Shri Rajnath Singh also released a coffee table book titled 'The 1971 War: An Illustrated History'. The book has been compiled in six chapters and includes some first-hand experiences of the war veterans. The book comprises of tales of valour of four Param Vir Chakra, 76 Maha Vir Chakra and other Gallantry award winners along with anecdotes of war veterans.

Chief of the Army Staff General MM Naravane, Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar; Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, other senior civil & military officers of Ministry of Defence; families of the veterans and members of Bangladesh delegation were present on the occasion.

-PRO Defence

RM Spells Out Broad Contours of Government's Vision of 'India beyond 75'

Says, the aim is to make India a global defence manufacturing hub

Focusses on 'Make in India, Make for India and Make for the world'

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh addressed the 94th Annual General Meeting of Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), on the theme 'India Beyond 75', in New Delhi on December 18, 2021. He voiced the Government's vision to make India a global defence manufacturing hub in the coming times, stressing that the focus is to modernise the Armed Forces and create a strong & 'Aatmanirbhar' defence industry which can help in safeguarding the country from conventional and non-conventional, present and future security threats.

Underscoring the importance of achieving 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence, Shri Rajnath Singh said, India cannot depend on other countries for defence technologies due to its stature, its geographical location as well as the security challenges it faces. "For the security of India and its people, it is necessary that we develop our defence capacity and capability that even the most powerful country in the world has to think a thousand times before planning anything that endangers our interests. Our government's aim is not to attack anyone, but prepare our Armed Forces to be ready at all times to give a befitting reply to the country's enemies," he said.

The Raksha Mantri



asserted that, on one side, there is one country born out of the partition and is worried seeing the progress of India, while on the other, there is a nation which keeps on creating new plans. He highlighted the recent visits of Defence Ministers of US, Russia & France, and said, "countries across the world have friendly relations with us and we have told them that we wish to manufacture defence equipment in India as national security is our top priority". He also mentioned about the recent agreement with Russia, worth more than Rs 5,000 crore, to manufacture over six lakh AK-203 Rifles in Amethi, inviting every country to 'Make in India, Make for India and Make for the world'.

Shri Rajnath Singh listed out measures taken by the Government to promote foreign investment, including increasing the FDI limit to 74

per cent through automatic route and 100 per cent through Government route under certain circumstances. He said, foreign investment will help to create an ecosystem of defence manufacturing in the country and achieve 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat', envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He also spoke about the initiatives taken by the Government to reduce dependency on imports, such as notifying two positive indigenisation lists of over 200 items. "The items in 'Positive List' will cross the 1,000-mark in this decade. This is our vision of 'India Beyond 75'," he said.

Saying that the defence sector has been able to overcome the challenges posed by COVID-19 due to policy reforms brought out by the government, the Raksha Mantri exhorted the private

sector to take advantage of the policies and contribute towards nation building. He said, the decision to corporatise Ordnance Factory Board was taken in order to provide fair competition between public and private entities in the defence sector and bring efficiency in government companies. He appreciated the industry for working with the Government to achieve self-reliance. He made special mention of the order of 10 lakh Multi-Mode Hand Grenades given to Economic Explosives Limited following Transfer of Technology from Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO); the first batch of which has already been handed over to the Indian Army.

Voicing the Government's aim to tap the potential of MSMEs and ensure their progress, Shri Rajnath Singh said, a series of steps have been taken to encourage indigenisation, development & design in the defence and aerospace sector. "At present, India's defence and aerospace manufacturing market is worth Rs 85,000 crore. I believe, in 2022, it will increase to Rs one lakh crore. When I talk about 'India Beyond 75', I see defence and aerospace manufacturing market in India to be Rs five lakh crore by 2047. The present contribution of private companies is Rs 18,000 crore in the market of Rs 85,000 crore. According to the current situation, more than Rs one lakh crore will be

the contribution of the private sector in the market Rs five lakh crore in the future," he said.

On the Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) initiative, the Raksha Mantri stated that while it is solving the technical problems of the Armed Forces, it has identified many technologies such as military security systems, secure hardware encryption devices, unmanned surface and underwater vehicles, 4G/LTE strategic local area networks, radar, artificial intelligence-based image analysis satellites. Stressing that the future wars will be fought in the digital war zone inter-connected through Artificial Intelligence, Augmented Reality & Virtual Reality, he urged the educational institutions to focus on specialised courses in defence technologies to meet the demand of professionals who can convert the future challenges into opportunities and bolster the security framework of the country. He called upon FICCI to play an important role in the collective efforts to take India to newer heights.

To realise its vision of making India a global manufacturing hub, Shri Rajnath Singh said, the Government has taken several measures, including increase the defence capital outlay by 18.75 per cent in the last budget. He added that 64 per cent of our total capital outlay, which is about Rs 70,221

crore, has been reserved for domestic procurement. He appreciated the fact that the country's defence exports have grown by 325 per cent in the last five years and exuded confidence that India will not only achieve its export target of Rs 35,000 crore by 2024-2025 but will also become a net exporter of defence equipment. The private sector accounts for 95 per cent of the country's defence exports, he said.

The Raksha Mantri lauded the industry for their contribution to the Government's efforts to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic. "Work was done on a war footing to meet the huge demand of PPE kits, ventilators, masks and sanitizers across the country. In addition, in a country where there was always a delay in vaccination, we took the pledge at the very beginning. As a result, on December 18, 2021 55 per cent of India's population has been vaccinated. The work, which earlier governments did in years, our government did it within days," he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh concluded his address by extending his best wishes to Shri Sanjiv Mehta who took over as the Chairman of FICCI in place of Shri Uday Shankar. He hoped that the industry & organisations like FICCI will help in making India the world's leading exporter of defence equipment.

-PRO Defence

RM Witnesses HADR Exercise Panex-21

Calls For Improved Coordination Among Bimstec Nations To Tackle Future Natural & Man-Made Disasters

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh witnessed a Multi-Agency Exercise (MAE) and inaugurated an equipment display on the second day of PANEX-21, a Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) Exercise for BIMSTEC member nations, organised at College of Military Engineering in Pune, Maharashtra on December 21, 2021. The Raksha Mantri witnessed demonstration of the capabilities of the Indian Armed Forces to launch swift, coordinated and incremental relief efforts in case of occurrence of any natural calamity in a particular region. The exercise saw a coordinated display of rescue and relief efforts by Indian Army, Navy and Air Force. In simulated disaster conditions, the synergised application of resources of the Armed Forces and other premiere disaster relief agencies of the country resulted in rescue of the stranded people as well as early restoration of essential services and opening of all lines of communications.

The equipment display,



organised in association with Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry (FICCI), is aimed to showcase the niche industrial capabilities and capacities of the Indian industry on disaster relief operations. Many innovative solutions, capabilities and range of products to assist government agencies in planning, preparation and conduct of HADR operations were demonstrated to the delegates of member nations of BIMSTEC (Bay

of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation). A compendium of the products was also released by Shri Rajnath Singh on the occasion.

In his address, Shri Rajnath Singh termed BIMSTEC as one of the most important and closely-knit group of countries which has the potential to build a symbiotic partnership amongst like-minded nations by strengthening existing civilisational bonds. Lauding the member nations for standing by each other during natural calamities, he said, the PANEX-21 provides a fresh impetus for creating a more cohesive mechanism to respond to the HADR challenges in the region.

The Raksha Mantri exuded confidence that the exercise will facilitate improved coordination for meeting future challenges related to cyclones & earthquakes and threats like COVID-19. "Efforts by a nation directly affected by natural disaster, may quite



understandably fall short due to the huge magnitude of such disasters. Thus, a multilateral effort, involving partners in Bay of Bengal region, will act as a force multiplier in pooling-in resources and orchestrating relief measures. It will accelerate the process of providing relief to people who are already distressed due to the natural disaster," he said.

Shri Rajnath Singh reiterated India's vision for the Indian Ocean region (IOR), which is based on the concept of SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region), articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He called for deepening economic and security cooperation in the littorals; enhancing capacities to safeguard land and maritime territories; working towards sustainable regional development; blue economy and promoting collective action to deal with non-traditional threats like natural disasters, piracy and terrorism. He said, while each of these elements requires equal attention, developing an effective response mechanism to address humanitarian crisis and natural disasters is one of the most important pillars of SAGAR.

The Raksha Mantri praised the Indian Armed Forces and Indian Coast Guard (ICG) for incorporating HADR operations as one of the foremost elements in their vision and for being the first responder in IOR. He made special mention of the pivotal role played by the defence forces and ICG in the fight against COVID-19. This commitment is reflected equally in the performance of the Armed Forces of each of the partner countries in the Bay of Bengal region, he added.

The Raksha Mantri hoped that the PANEX-21 will create the necessary groundwork for



BIMSTEC nations to strengthen protocols, involving all stakeholders, to respond to future disasters. He called for consolidating and publishing a Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) to aid member states, expedite the conduct of disaster relief operations and save precious lives.

Chief of the Army Staff General Manoj Mukund Naravane, General Officer-Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Command Lieutenant General J S Nain and senior civil & military officials of Ministry of Defence were present on the occasion. The PANEX-21 was held between December 20-22, 2021.

-PRO Defence

PANEX-21, a trans-national, multi-agency exercise was organised at Pune from 20-22 Dec 2021 with a focused aim to foster jointness and develop capabilities in Disaster Management aspects for the BIMSTEC (Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Co-operation). nations. The exercise attended by delegates and subject matter experts from India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Bhutan, Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand brainstormed various aspects related to conduct of effective humanitarian assistance and disaster relief operations during a natural disaster in the backdrop of a pandemic.

The inaugural address was given by Lt Gen JS Nain, Army Commander, Southern Command at Armed Forces Medical College, Pune. In his inaugural address the Army Commander welcomed the delegates of the member states to the event. He drew attention of all participants towards the wide range of national disasters that frequently ravage the region and urged the participants to leverage all resources to assist each other during humanitarian crisis.

Gen Manoj Mukund Naravane, COAS in his Key Note address over video conference highlighted the importance of global and regional co-operation while tackling any pandemic like situation. He said that a well laid down procedure and coordination amongst BIMSTEC nations can be of huge assistance in saving human lives.

The structure of PANEX-21 as a multi agency exercise included representation of experts from the Armed Forces, National Disaster Relief Force and other stake holders. They aimed at battling the challenges of disaster management in the backdrop of a pandemic.

The seminar was organised in three plenary sessions. Each session was moderated & addressed by renowned experts and domain specialists in the field of disaster relief and pandemic management. Subject matter experts like Dr Soumya Swaminathan Chief Scientist WHO, Dr VK Paul, NITI Aarjog, Dr Randeep Guleria, Director AIIMS amongst others attended the meet.

-PRO Pune

RM Lays Foundation Stone for BRAHMOS Manufacturing Centre

Exudes confidence that they will play a pivotal role in bolstering national security, defence production & economy



Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh laid the foundation stone for Defence Technology & Test Centre and BRAHMOS Manufacturing Centre, established by Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh on December 26, 2021. The foundation for the two units was laid in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath. A first of its kind Defence Technologies & Test Centre (DTTC), over approximately 22 acres is being set up to accelerate the growth of the defence and aerospace manufacturing clusters in Uttar Pradesh Defence Industrial Corridor (UP DIC). It will consist of the following six subcentres:

1. Deep-Tech Innovation & Startup Incubation Centre
2. Design & Simulation Centre
3. Testing & Evaluation Centre
- Centre for Industry
- 4.0/Digital Manufacturing
5. Skill Development Centre
6. Business Development Centre

The BRAHMOS Manufacturing Centre, announced by BrahMos Aerospace, is a modern, state-of-art facility in the Lucknow node of UP DIC. It will cover over 200 acres and produce the new BRAHMOS-NG (Next Generation) variant, which carries forward the lineage of the BRAHMOS weapons system. This new centre would be ready over the next two to three years and will commence production at a rate of 80-100 BRAHMOS-NG missiles per year.

Congratulating the scientists and engineers of DRDO & BrahMos Aerospace, Shri Rajnath Singh exuded confidence that the two units will play a pivotal role in bolstering national security, defence production as well as the economy of Uttar Pradesh. He said, the state-of-the-art facilities will prove to be an important milestone in the defence sector. He added that the establishment of these units will generate revenue; provide employment opportunities to the youth and help in achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra

Modi. He said that the message of Make in India, Make for India and Make for World has been sent out globally.

On the 'Defence Technology and Test Centre', the Raksha Mantri said, the Centre will provide the technological base to develop defence products keeping in mind the young innovators and startups in Amausi region of Uttar Pradesh. He added that the Centre will make all endeavours to fulfil the creative energy, capabilities and aspirations of the youth of Uttar Pradesh. It will help in bringing the MSMEs of Uttar Pradesh together and bring the state at the forefront in the field of defence and aerospace manufacturing, he said. He added that the Centre, through skill development, will create direct and indirect employment in the field of defence and aerospace manufacturing.

Recalling India's history, Shri Rajnath Singh said "we have never been an aggressor, but are ready to defend our people against any nation with hostile intentions". He

added that the purpose of the BRAHMOS supersonic cruise missile system is to act as a deterrent. He said, the system not only reflects the technical cooperation between India and Russia, but also the long standing cultural, political and diplomatic ties. He termed BRAHMOS as the world's best and fastest precision-guided weapon which has strengthened India's credible deterrence in the 21st century.

The Raksha Mantri added that BRAHMOS has empowered the Armed Forces and raised India's military stature at the international level. On BRAHMOS-NG, he said, the more advanced missile system, which has proven its firepower in land, water and air will greatly strengthen the modern combat capability of the Indian Army in the coming years. He appreciated that the establishment of UP DIC has opened up new avenues for all-round technological progress of the state, besides providing employment opportunities for the youth of the region. "At the time of its inauguration, we had estimated an investment of Rs 3,732 crore. Investment of more than Rs 1,400

crore has already been received and the process is progressing rapidly," he informed.

Shri Rajnath Singh stated that India has attained a respectable position in areas of defence technologies, including the development of state-of-the-art missile systems in the last few years and has made commendable progress in building its defence industrial base. He applauded scientists of DRDO for their crucial role in increasing India's military stature by strengthening the Armed Forces and achieving 'Aatmanirbharta' in the development and production of modern missile systems. Shri Rajnath Singh ended his address by calling on all in attendance to resolve to raise the State of Uttar Pradesh to new heights.

The Rajnath Singh expressed confidence that the foundation stone laying of the two units heralds a new chapter in the defence of the nation as well as defence manufacturing and the economy of the state of Uttar Pradesh and the city of Lucknow. He applauded the state

government under the leadership of Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath for taking various initiatives for improving infrastructure and the welfare & progress of people from all sections of society.

In his opening address, Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy thanked the Raksha Mantri for making land available for the DTTC in Lucknow. He expressed gratitude to UP Chief Minister for providing 200 acres of land for the BRAHMOS manufacturing centre. He assured all support from DRDO to the industries coming up in the region.

Union Minister of State for Housing & Urban Affairs Shri Kaushal Kishore, UP Industrial Development Minister Shri Satish Mahana; other Ministers of the state government; MPs, MLAs and public representatives from the state; officials of Ministry of Defence, DRDO and the state government were present on the occasion.

-PRO Defence



Do Our Duty and Do it Well : Navy Chief

Navy Chief Admiral R Hari Kumar tells Pratima Virendra Singh, E-in-C, Sainik Samachar in an interview.

What will be the key pillars of your message to your Sailors, your Officials at this marvellous occasion of Navy Week celebrations?

As we celebrate the 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' and 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh' this year, we can look back and appreciate the transformation of the Indian Navy into a potent Blue Water Navy. This has been made possible due to the vision, hard work and perseverance of our predecessors.

But we cannot rest on our laurels, as we are witnessing a significant geo-political transformation in our maritime environment and a shift to a multipolar world centered around the Indo Pacific. To promote, preserve and protect our maritime interests in such an environment, we need to be not just a strong and modern Navy, but also a future proof Navy.

Our raison-de-être remains 'Readiness for Conflict', which aims to win across the spectrum of competition and cooperation by focusing on the pillars of Sustained Operations, Enhanced Domain Awareness, Meticulous Maintenance, Efficient Logistics, Evolving Training and Professional personnel.

My message to the officers and sailors of the Indian Navy would be to prepare for the future battlefield, focus on winning every day, reaffirm their dedication to the nation, work hard and train harder to become professionals of the highest order. In short, all of us need to *Do our Duty and Do it Well.*

How does Indian Navy counter the military preparedness of China, which is increasing its presence in the blue waters?



Indian Navy's areas of interest encompasses the IOR and its adjunct waters. China has enhanced its deployments in the IOR over the recent past. The Indian Navy maintains a constant and close watch on developments, fine tunes concept of operations and formulates capability perspective plans in step with the strategic scenario and in keeping with India's national interests in the maritime domain.

The Indian Navy's military preparedness and capability accretion plans are founded in our national interests, and not against any one nation. As a professional force, we evaluate the maritime security environment in the IOR, on a continuous basis. The outcome of these evaluations are factored into our planning to ensure that the Indian Navy remains poised to deter and counter threats. Our unique geographic location bestows upon us unmatched advantage in the maritime domain as we sit astride some of the world's most critical Sea Lines of Communication (SLOCs). Our force-modernisation is underway through the Integrated Capability Development System (ICADS), based on our needs and assessments, without any desire to match other navies' force levels, platform for platform.

What impact did the Covid

pandemic have on Navy's operations? What are Navy's contributions in fighting the pandemic?

There has been no change in our tempo of operations towards ensuring maritime security of the Nation. The Navy remains combat-ready and is fully capable of undertaking missions across the spectrum of naval operations. This includes augmenting the national mission to fight the pandemic and supporting our friendly neighbours in the IOR. Our assets continue to be Mission-Deployed, covering a vast oceanic swath from the Straits of Malacca in the East to Bab-el-Mandeb in the West. Our Intelligence & Surveillance (ISR) assets continue to maintain full-spectrum domain awareness for real-time compilation of operational picture in the entire IOR. The Indian Navy's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) and Information Management and Analysis Centre (IMAC) also contribute towards maintaining situational awareness in our area of operations.

Due to its inherent agility and reach, the Indian Navy plays an important role in mitigation of many HADR situations. The Covid-19 pandemic brought to fore unprecedented challenges for the entire nation including the Services. Since its outbreak in early 2020, the Indian Navy has been at the forefront of fighting the pandemic and has assisted the national cause wholeheartedly. During the first wave of the COVID-19 pandemic there was a requirement to evacuate stranded Indian nationals from various countries. The Indian Navy launched *Op Samudra Setu* in May 2020 and Indian Naval Ships evacuated 3,992 Indian Nationals

including 3,551 men, 387 women and 54 children from Iran, Maldives and Sri Lanka.

In end April 2021, when the extraordinary surge of the second wave of Covid-19 put pressure on country's health infrastructure and capacity, the Indian Navy launched Operation *Samudra Setu* -// to augment the national effort for meeting medical oxygen requirements. Indian Navy warships were deployed for shipment of Liquid Medical Oxygen (LMO) filled containers, concentrators, PPE, COVID test kits, Ventilators and other medical equipment from Friendly Foreign Countries from Persian Gulf to South East Asia. Indian Naval Ships ferried critical stores from Bahrain, Brunei, Kuwait, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Oman, UAE and Vietnam. Deployed for nearly two months, the ships transported 1,150 Metric Tons of LMO and 319.40 KL Oxygen in cylinders along with other medical aid like Oxygen concentrators (173), RAD Test Kits (10,000), PPEs (450) and Ventilators (140), contributing significantly to the national effort in the battle against the pandemic.

Closer home, the Indian Navy set up an *Oxygen Express* for Lakshadweep and Minicoy Islands. Medical aid, including oxygen, was regularly transported to the islands, to assist the local population. No effort was spared to support the local administration, even when cyclone Tauktae was unleashing its fury in the region. Additionally, Area Commanders maintained close liaison with Chief Secretaries and District Collectors to provide support in terms of movement of essential medicines and supplies. IN aircraft have ferried doctors, face-masks, sanitisers, COVID-19 samples, test

-kits etc across the country. Our various units have also been proactive in providing food and assistance to the needy, in vicinity.

The Navy also facilitated COVID vaccination of civilians at some locations to augment civil efforts. Spare capacity in terms of COVID beds were also extended to civil administration at various naval hospitals and oxygen manifolds were used to service additional beds. Personnel from the Navy were deputed for duties at COVID hospitals established at New Delhi, Patna, Ahmedabad and Kavaratti Island for providing aid to civil population. This included 58 doctors, 30 nursing officers, 64 medical assistants and 62 Battle Field Nursing Assistants (BFNAs).

In response to requests from Friendly Foreign Countries and maritime neighbours, Indian Navy ships undertook trans-shipment of LMO and other medical equipment to ten nations in IOR and SCS under Mission SAGAR.

On the occasion of Navy Day 2021, please give us an overview in context of the Navy's modernisation efforts and progress.?

The Indian Navy's modernization and expansion follows a long-term perspective plan, focused on being a future-ready force, with the capability and capacity to meet evolving challenges. We currently have 39 ships and submarines under construction, with Indian shipyards building 37 of these, contributing significantly to the Government's AatmaNirbhar Bharat initiative.

One of our key projects is the first Indigenous Aircraft Carrier being built at CSL, Kochi. The ship has undergone extensive sea-trials,

and is scheduled to be commissioned in August 2022, giving a major fillip to the Navy's ability to protect, preserve and promote our national interests.

Among other major projects, M/s MDL are building four Project 15B destroyers, of which, the first ship viz. INS Visakhapatnam was commissioned on 21 Nov 21. Seven frigates of Project 17A Class, scheduled for induction from 2022 onwards, are also under construction at MDL and GRSE. Further, sixteen Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft have also been contracted. Among submarine projects, the fourth submarine of six under Project 75 viz. INS Vela was commissioned on 25 Nov 21.

Apart from vessels under construction, 'Acceptance of Necessity' has also been accorded for another 43 ships and six Project 75 (I) Submarines to be built in India. In the aerospace domain, HAL has been awarded a contract to deliver 12 Dorniers, 16 ALH and eight Chetak. Further, AoN also exist for procurement of 111 Naval Utility Helicopters under the Strategic Partnership Model.

The Indian Navy is working closely with DRDO and the Indian industry to enhance the technological base in the country. Concurrently, there is also a need to enhance the capacity and expertise of our public sector shipyards to reduce build-times, and also involve the private sector to make good current short-falls in our force levels. Naval force modernisation and force accretion is a slow and deliberate process, and the Indian Navy has continued to focus on self-reliance and indigenous solutions in its endeavours.

Any new development towards strategic and doctrinal grounds, especially in the field of organisation of force?

The institution of the DMA and appointment of the CDS are the most transformational changes in Higher Defence Organisation. These changes have significantly enhanced synergy between the Services at the Apex level. This synergy and jointness is further being infused into the operational level through the future implementation of Theatre Commands. The Theatre Commands will aid in the Joint application of Force, thereby enhancing results and optimising employment of effort and resources. The study on implementation of the Theatre Commands is being steered by HQIDS and a Tri-Service board headed by a CinC level officer is in the process of finalising the organisational and functional issues involved.

How does the Navy support the indigenisation and AtmaNirbhar Bharat? How does the decision to promote indigenisation and discourage imports affect the Navy's procurement and acquisition plans?

The Indian Navy has been ahead in the field of self-reliance, indigenisation in shipbuilding and submarines, and manufacturing of weapons and systems etc. It is worth mentioning that in the last five financial years, more than two-thirds of the Navy's Modernisation budget has been spent on indigenous procurement. It is a matter of great pride that of the 39 ships and submarines on order, 37 are being built at Indian shipyards.

We have introduced multiple

schemes for encouraging/boosting domestic manufacturing. Under the Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020, capital procedures such as the Make Schemes, Technology Development Fund (TDF) and Innovation for Defence Excellence (iDEX) have built-in provisions to give an impetus to indigenisation. Multiple contracts have been concluded/ progressed under these schemes for promoting enhanced domestic production.

In order to boost production of defence equipment as part of 'AatmaNirbhar Bharat', we have promulgated two positive lists, which include 209 items. In addition, the Navy is progressing indigenisation under the revenue budget at all levels to cater to operational requirements.

India's maritime diplomacy has considerably enhanced under the SAGAR initiative as the preferred security partner in the IOR. How does the Indian Navy support the initiative and help in ensuring stability and promoting maritime interests in the region?

Gol's 'SAGAR' and 'Neighbourhood First' clearly indicates the importance of peace and stability in the neighbourhood and its contribution to India's growth and development in the 21st century. We have also stated clearly that India would like to grow in a way that allows others in the region to also grow with us. Establishing a regional environment conducive to nation-building and economic consolidation necessitates active engagement with regional nations, not only to enhance trust but also to protect and promote India's core national interests in the region.

As you are all aware, the first word in SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) is Security, thus, underscoring the centrality of Security for growth and prosperity. The Indian Navy has undertaken numerous initiatives collectively with likeminded littorals towards ensuring maritime security. Primary amongst these is the large number of bilateral and multilateral exercises that the IN undertakes. These exercises aid in enhancing interoperability, exchanging best practices, and building trust. These are essential during emergent challenges, like a natural disaster or a Search and Rescue situation, where navies work together towards achieving common goals. Despite the limitations of the pandemic, the IN undertook 22 such exercises over the past year. Further, in co-ordination with neighbouring navies, the IN undertook four Co-ordinated patrols and EEZ surveillance missions, which have given a fillip to regional maritime security.

The Indian Navy acknowledges the importance of dialogue in driving collaborative solutions. Towards this end, the IN conducted the Goa Maritime Conclave where apex leadership of littoral navies congregated to discuss common challenges and forge solutions through dialogue. The IN also remains invested in the Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS), towards enhancing the regional security architecture of the Indian Ocean Region.

These initiatives contribute positively towards maintaining security and stability across the seascape of the Indian Ocean and bolster the Hon'ble PM's vision of SAGAR.

RM and His French Counterpart Hold 3rd Annual Defence Dialogue

The third Annual Defence Dialogue between India and France took place between Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and French Minister for Armed Forces Ms Florence Parly in New Delhi on December 17, 2021. A wide range of bilateral, regional, defence and defence industrial cooperation issues were discussed in the annual meeting.

The Ministers reviewed the existing military-to-military cooperation, which has increased in spite of pandemic challenges. They discussed ways to increase defence cooperation in all domains. India and France have recently concluded their annual bilateral Army Exercise, Shakti, with focus on counter-terrorist operations, in France in November 2021. Defence industrial cooperation was discussed with focus on future collaborations and co-production between the two



countries.

The Ministers acknowledged their convergences on number of strategic and defence issues. They expressed commitment to work together to enhance cooperation in bilateral, regional and multilateral forums. France is the current chair of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium and shall take over the Presidency of European

Union from January 1, 2022. The two Ministers decided to work closely on a number of issues during the French Presidency.

Earlier, Ms Florence Parly called on Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. She is expected to meet with other Indian dignitaries during her visit.

-PRO Defence



Celebrating Swarnim Vijay Varsh





-PRO Defence,
Army, Jaipur,
Jammu

RM Hands over DRDO Developed Products to Armed Forces

Expresses confidence that DRDO would be successful in developing futuristic warfare technologies

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh handed over five Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) developed products to the Armed forces and other security agencies at an event held at DRDO Bhawan, New Delhi on December 14, 2021 as part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations and iconic week of Ministry of Defence. He also handed over six Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreements to seven public and private sector companies. Earlier DRDO organised a Seminar on "Preparing For The Future" where Vice Chiefs of the Armed Forces and DRDO Scientists shared their views.

Speaking on the occasion, the Raksha Mantri said, such seminars help in meeting of the minds and evolving a common strategy to face enemy threats.

Shri Rajnath Singh said, "When we talk about integration



- Five DRDO developed products handed over to the Armed forces and other security agencies.
- Six Transfer of Technology (ToT) agreements executed with seven public and private sector companies.

and jointness, it is not limited to initiatives taken by government

alone. Its success has to be achieved by meeting of minds of our defence forces. It is an effort to jointly enhance our capabilities to face the challenges posed by our adversaries." "The integration we talk about, is not limited to our the forces but also it means synergy among every concerned organisation in the country," he added.

He added that there has been a big change over the last few years in the approach of DRDO whereby it was not only working on technologies to mitigate current threats but also on first-of-its-kind technologies to face the future challenges.

On the objective of making India a strong platform of defence manufacturing base and net defence exporter, Raksha Mantri said DRDO has played a significant role in this endeavour. "Its path passes through collaboration among DRDO, the Armed Forces, Private industry, start-ups and academia. The ToT with private players which took place today indicate that we are ready to make a strong defence industrial base in the country that



will cater not only the domestic defence requirements but also will fulfill needs of friendly countries by defence item exports."

Emphasizing the role of technology in warfare, Shri Rajnath Singh said our aim should be to make India a leader in the defence technology and identified development of Hypersonic cruise missile as one such advanced technology for which all should work together.

Citing the scientific prowess of DRDO in developing Mission Shakthi, Raksha Mantri said DRDO is working on smart materials, Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning based systems, Swarm drones, Asymmetric warfare etc.

Shri Rajnath Singh said the Government is working in a concerted manner to realize the objective of Make in India and Make for the World by bringing in several policy reforms such as increasing FDI in Defence sector

through automatic route to 74%, Corporatisation of OFB, creation of defence corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, formulation of Defence Production and Export Promotion Policy 2020, bringing out positive lists of defence items for domestic manufacturing etc. He added that these policies aim to make our Armed Forces strong by strengthening domestic defence industry.

Products handed over to the Armed Forces & Ministry of Home Affairs are Anti-Drone system, Modular Bridge, Smart Anti Airfield Weapon, Chaff Variants and the Light Weight Fire Fighting Suit. The counter drone systems, developed by DRDO for detection, deterrence and destruction of incoming drones was handed over to the CISC by the Raksha Mantri. He also handed over the Modular Bridge to the Chief of Army Staff General M M Naravane. Modular bridge developed by R&DE (Engineers) is a single span,

mechanically launched assault bridge of military load class MLC-70, and can be launched in different spans.

The Raksha Mantri handed over Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW), an air launched, long-range, stand-off, air-to-surface Smart Bomb, to the Chief of the Air Staff Air Chief Marshal V R Chaudhari. The variants of Advanced Chaff were handed over to the Chief of the Naval Staff Admiral R Hari Kumar. Structural fire-fighting suit developed by DRDO's Centre for Fire, Explosive and Environment Safety (CFEES), Delhi was handed over to Shri V S K Kaumudi, Special Secretary, MHA.

Secretary, DDR&D and Chairman, DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy; Vice Chiefs of Army, Navy and Air Staff, other senior civil and military officials of Ministry of Defence and Home Affairs were also present on the occasion.

-PRO Defence



RM Launches Rashtriya Ekta Geet in 22 Languages

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh launched 'Rashtriya Ekta Geet' composed by the National Cadet Core (NCC) cadets in 22 languages on the theme of National Integration during the grand finale of 'Vijay Shrunkhla aur Sanskritiyon ka Mahasangam' campaign in New Delhi on December 17, 2021.

The mega event was conducted by NCC as part of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', which is presently being celebrated to commemorate 75 years of India's Independence. It comprised of honouring and felicitation of bravehearts of 1971 Indo-Pak War at 75 locations across the country under the NCC *Vijay Shrunkhla* including live streaming on the Gallantry Award Portal. The campaign culminated on December 17, 2021 with 'Sanskritiyon ka Maha Sangam' wherein selected NCC cadets from across the country congregated in Delhi and showcased their shared cultural heritage.

Highlighting the glorious history of NCC, Shri Rajnath Singh said, "NCC has produced a number of stalwarts who have brought glory and laurels to the Nation. Leaders like Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose, PM Narendra Modi, former External Affairs Minister Smt Sushma Swaraj, former Raksha Mantri Manohar Parrikar, sports



personalities like Hima Das, Anjali Bhagwat, world famous cardiologist Dr Naresh Trehan and many others are NCC alumni who have contributed towards Nation building."

Talking about Prime Minister Narendra Modi's keen interest in the NCC, the Raksha Mantri said, "The Prime Minister recently launched NCC alumni association. I believe that such steps would enhance the training capacity of NCC many times and would unite all alumni of this esteemed organisation." He further added "The Prime Minister is the first member of NCC alumni association and I am the second. I also see your bright future through hard work and dedication towards the nation."

Highlighting the moto of NCC, 'Unity and Discipline', Shri Rajnath Singh said "The NCC develops the virtues of unity, discipline, patience and brotherhood in its cadets and

these virtues remain forever with them. That's why it is said 'once an NCC cadet is always an NCC cadet'."

Mentioning Government's supportive approach for NCC, Raksha Mantri said, "Seeing your potential, government has announced One Lakh new vacancies in the NCC. Initiatives like 'Digital India', 'Skill India', 'Start-up India' 'Fit India', etc may help you in progressing in your specialised areas. Government is taking may more such initiatives. I would like you to stay updated about such initiatives and utilise them for making your lives better and successful, also, to aware your surrounding about these."

The finale started with welcome speech by DG NCC followed by presentation of short video clip showcasing homage paid to the 1971 fallen heroes during the event and importance of Vijay Diwas.

The Raksha Mantri also congratulated DG NCC, his team and all the cadets from various part of the country who worked hard to make this iconic event a grand success. The finale was also attended by Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Vice Chief of Army Staff, DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh, prominent NCC Alumni Association members and other senior civil and military dignitaries.

-PRO Defence



RM gives Away Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence to DGDE Personnel

Exhorts DGDE to strive for improving facilities for Cantonment Board residents.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh gave away Raksha Mantri Awards for Excellence 2021 on the occasion of 96th Raising Day of Directorate General Defence Estates in New Delhi on December 16, 2021. The recipients were awarded for innovation and digital achievements in the fields of health, education and sanitation along with public service and land management. Since classes were being run online due to COVID-19 pandemic, the awards in the field of education were not considered. This year, a new award has been instituted by the Raksha Mantri for achievement in implementation of 'e-Chhawani' project. These categories are:

- (a) Swachh Chhawani Swasth Chhawani
- (b) Digital Accomplishments
- (c) Innovation in Public Services
- (d) Land and Record management
- (e) Improvement in Cantonment General Hospital
- (f) Implementation of 'e-Chhawani' Project

Congratulating the award winners, Shri Rajnath Singh exuded confidence that the awards will encourage all the winning organisations to work for the betterment of Cantonment Boards.

Echoing the Government's resolve of welfare of Cantonment Boards, the Raksha Mantri said, the e-Chhawani portal was launched to ensure ease of living to the residents. He said, the integrated platform provides easy and contactless access to all municipal services such as payment of taxes, renewal of business license, new water and sewerage connections, various types of certificates and grievance



redressal. He described it as a shining example of 'Minimum Government, Maximum Governance' and 'Digital India' envisioned by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Government is working on resolving various problems faced by the residents of Cantonment areas in mutation/transfer of their properties, reconstruction of buildings and renewal of lease etc.," he added.

Shri Rajnath Singh commended the Cantonment Boards for providing public services, comprehensive medical care and tele-medicine facilities during the COVID-19 pandemic, especially during the second wave. "The Cantonment hospitals have upgraded their infrastructure on a war footing and are now ready to face any challenge," he added.

On the occasion, the Raksha Mantri also inaugurated Centre of Excellence in the field of survey technology for capacity building, set up by National Institute of Defence Estates Management (NIDEM), the apex Central Training Institute to provide professional training to the officers and employees of the Defence Estates department.

Shri Rajnath Singh lauded DGDE for setting up the Centre of Excellence, saying that the department has achieved self-reliance by developing internal

expertise through training of officers and staff rather than relying solely on external experts.

Shri Rajnath Singh also launched Geographic Information System (GIS)-based automated water supply pipeline system under e-Chhawani. The GIS-based information technology will completely eliminate the need of manual intervention for sanctioning water connection. This application for reducing the duration to provide water connection has been developed by Bhaskaracharya National Institute for Space Applications and Geoinformatics (BISAG-N), a state agency of Department of Science and Technology, Government of Gujarat. This technology has not been adopted till now by any civic body in the country. The Raksha Mantri said, the GIS-based water supply network will ensure optimum utilisation of water and its equal distribution to the residents. It is a big step towards realising the concept of 'Jal Hi Jeevan Hai'.

Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Shri Sanjiv Mittal, DGDE Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma and other senior civil & military officials of MoD were present on the occasion.

-PRO Defence

Defence Secretary Inaugurates BRO Annual Chief Engineers Meet

Flags-in India@75 BRO Motorcycle expedition

Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar inaugurated the Annual Chief Engineers and Equipment Management Conference of Border Roads Organisation (BRO) in New Delhi on December 27, 2021. Director General Border Roads (DGBR) Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry, Additional Directors General Border Roads and 18 Chief Engineers (Projects) were present on the occasion and will be participating in the three-day conference. The Conference, which is taking place after nearly two years, provides an opportunity for the core group of BRO to discuss key issues focusing on improvement of road infrastructure along the border areas, use of new technology in road construction, incorporation of environment friendly means of construction; road safety aspects and efforts to upgrade facilities for labourers. During the conference, the BRO will also carry out holistic review of the current projects and prepare strategies for the upcoming working season in 2022.

In his address, the Defence Secretary commended the BRO for contributing immensely in national building by constructing strategic infrastructure including roads, bridges, tunnels and airfields along the border areas, which has bolstered the operational preparedness and facilitated speedy movement of equipment & personnel to far-flung areas. He lauded the BRO for constructing 102 new roads and bridges connecting remote border areas to the mainland in a single working season, despite challenges posed by inhospitable terrain, inclement weather and the COVID-19 pandemic.

Dr Ajay Kumar also praised the



grit and determination of the BRO personnel for the construction of Umling La Pass, Atal Tunnel & Zojila Pass recently. He lauded the DGBR and all officers & personnel for conducting the breakthrough blast of the Sela Tunnel and speeding up the construction of Nechiphu Tunnel, both part of Balipara-Charduar-Tawang road in Arunachal Pradesh. He said, the BRO is contributing towards realising Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'.

The Defence Secretary commended the BRO for their efforts to increase the participation of women and appointing them as Officers Commanding of road construction companies along the border areas. He appreciated the creation of an all-women road construction company and women being employed as Casual Paid Labourers.

On the occasion, the Defence Secretary also distributed Best Project, Best Task Force, Best Road & Bridge Construction Company and Best workshop trophies to various units of BRO. He also unveiled a fitness manual 'Fit BRO Fit India' for its personnel. The book contains fitness guidelines and protocols prepared for holistic development of body and mind of all ranks and families

of BRO. He also launched four software, namely Inventory Management System; BRO Posting Management System; Border Roads Automated HR Management Application (BRAHMA) and BRO Documentation System.

Later, Dr Ajay Kumar flagged-in India@75 BRO Motorcycle Expedition which was flagged-off by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh from India Gate, New Delhi on October 14, 2021. 75 BRO personnel participated in the 75-day event. They traversed important passes & places across 24 States and four Union Territories, covering more than 20,000 kms. The aim of the expedition was to deliver a message of national integration, nation building & road safety. To achieve these objectives, the expedition team members conducted numerous public outreach programmes, organised visit to schools and colleges, interacted with BRO/Army Veterans, organised medical camps, visited orphanages and old-age homes and paid homage at War Memorials. The Defence Secretary interacted and praised the members of the team on successfully completing the expedition.

-PRO Defence

Combined Graduation Parade Held at Air Force Academy

To mark the successful culmination of Training for 175 Flight Cadets of Flying and Ground Duty branches in the Indian Air Force, a Combined Graduation Parade was held at the Air Force Academy, Dundigal on 18 December 21. Air Chief Marshal VR Chaudhari PVSM AVSM VM ADC, Chief of the Air Staff was the Reviewing Officer (RO) of the Passing out Parade, where he conferred the 'President's Commission' on the graduating Flight Cadets who successfully completed their professional training. The graduating officers also included 28 women who joined the growing number of women officers in the IAF. On this occasion two officers from the Indian Navy, nine officers from the Indian Coast Guard and three Cadets from Vietnam were also awarded Wings on successful completion of Flying training.

The Reviewing Officer was received by Air Marshal Manavendra Singh AVSM VrC VSM ADC, Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Training Command and Air Marshal S Prabhakaran VM, Commandant, Air Force Academy. The Reviewing Officer was presented with a Ceremonial Salute by the parade, followed by an impressive march past. The highlight of the parade was the 'Pipping Ceremony' in which the graduating Flight Cadets were awarded their 'Stripes' (Air Force rank) by the RO.

The newly commissioned officers were then administered the 'oath' by the Commandant of the Academy in the presence of

the Reviewing Officer and other dignitaries. During the Ceremonial Salute and 'Antim Pag' (Last Step), a well coordinated and synchronised fly past by Pilatus PC-7, Hawk and Kiran trainer aircraft and Chetak helicopters added colour to the occasion. Many other events, which would otherwise have been part of this Combined Graduation Parade, were cut down as a mark of respect for the CDS, Mrs Rawat and 12 personnel of the Armed Forces who passed away in the recent air accident.

After the 'Pipping Ceremony' the Reviewing Officer gave away various awards to the Flying Officers who excelled in diverse training disciplines. Flying Officer Shashwat Bhardwaj from the Flying Branch was awarded the President's Plaque and the Chief of the Air Staff Sword of Honour for standing first in overall order of merit in the Pilots' Course. Flying Officer Shrikant Mishra from the Navigation Branch was awarded the President's Plaque for being first in the overall order of merit in the Navigation Course and Flying Officer Astha Kaur was awarded the President's Plaque for being first in the overall order of merit in the Ground Duty Officers' Course.

In his address, the Reviewing Officer complimented the newly commissioned 'Flying Officers' for their immaculate turn out, precise drill movements and high standards of parade. Addressing the passing out Cadets, the Chief of the Air Staff said, "the IAF is on the cusp of transformation into a highly potent Air Force

with new induction like Rafale, Apache, Chinook and a wide variety of SAGW systems. Today, as you graduate and move into an environment that is challenging and technology intensive, the IAF looks upon young and dynamic officers like you to carry forward the rich legacy of professional attitude, aptitude and temperament shown by your predecessors." The Chief of the Air Staff further said, "as military officers, you are bound to face certain hardships in your career. Never allow these hardships and constraints to affect you mentally and physically."

The grand ceremony culminated with the newly commissioned officers marching-out in two columns in slow march to the notes of 'Anandaloke' by Rabindranath Tagore, acknowledging the first salute given to them by their immediate juniors. They marched in step past the Reviewing Officer with synchronous strides. The newly commissioned officers passed through the Academy portals to commence their journey in the service of the nation and take-on all future assignments and challenges.

The Combined Graduation Parade holds a special place in the heart of every Air Force officer, as on this particular day, they pledge to safeguard the security, safety, sovereignty and honour of the country. The Commission ceremony remains forever etched in the minds of Air Force officers, as they earn their 'Stripes' in the presence of their proud parents.

-PRO Air Force



Armed Forces Panorama



Indian Army Celebrates 38th Corps Day of The Judge Advocate General's Department

Indian Army celebrated the 38th Corps Day of Judge Advocate General's Department on December 21, 2021. On the occasion, Lieutenant General Harsha Gupta, Adjutant General and Colonel Commandant of the Judge Advocate General's Department and Major General Praveen Kumar, the Judge Advocate General laid wreath at the National War Memorial to pay tribute to the bravehearts of the Nation.

The Judge Advocate General's Department traces its history to the British Articles of War-1385. Army Act Bill was laid in Parliament on December 21, 1949 and therefore, December 21 is celebrated as the Corps Day of Judge Advocate General's



Department. Being the legal branch of the Indian Army, it deals with military related disciplinary cases and litigation. The Judge Advocate General is the legal advisor to the Chief of Army Staff in matters of military, martial (in its

fighting service aspect) and international law and also assists the Adjutant General in matters relating to discipline involving application of military law.

-PRO Army

New Generation Ballistic Missile 'Agni P' Successfully Test-Fired by DRDO

Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully tested the new generation nuclear capable ballistic missile 'Agni P' from Dr APJ Abdul Kalam island off the coast of Odisha at 1106 hrs on December 18, 2021. Various telemetry, radar, electro-optical stations and down range ships positioned along the eastern coast tracked and monitored the missile trajectory and parameters. The missile followed text book trajectory meeting all mission objectives with high level of accuracy.

The Agni P is a two-stage canisterised solid propellant ballistic missile with dual



redundant navigation and guidance system. This second flight -test has proven the reliable performance of all the advanced technologies integrated into the system.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh congratulated DRDO for the successful flight test and expressed his happiness for the excellent performance of the system. Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy appreciated the efforts of the team to have done the second development flight trial with many additional features and congratulated for the consecutive success within the same calendar year.

-PRO Defence

Mormugao Sails on Goa Liberation Day

Mormugao, Indian Navy's second indigenous stealth destroyer of the P15B class, planned to be commissioned in mid 2022, proceeded on her maiden sea sortie today. 19th December is perhaps the most befitting date for the ship to put to sea as today the nation celebrates 60 years of Goa's liberation from Portuguese rule. The Indian Navy played a pivotal role in the liberation and dedicating the ship's name to the maritime state of Goa will not just enhance the bonding between the Indian Navy and the people of Goa, but also link the ship's identity permanently to the crucial role the Navy played in nation-building.

Mormugao will add significantly to the Indian Navy's



combat capabilities. With the recent commissioning in November 2021 of INS Visakhapatnam and the fourth P75 submarine INS Vela, commencement of sea trials of

Mormugao is testimony to the cutting-edge capabilities of MDSL and the strong indigenous shipbuilding tradition of a modern and vibrant India.

-PRO Mumbai

Indian Navy Conducts Goa Liberation Diamond Jubilee Seminar

A seminar was organised by Goa Naval Area at Raj Hans auditorium, Dabolim on December 14, 2021 to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee of the liberation of Goa. The seminar was attended by eminent speakers and senior delegates from the military as well as the academia.

Shri PS Sreedharan Pillai, Hon'ble Governor of Goa, was the Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address at the inaugural session. Rear Admiral Philipose G Pynumootil, Flag Officer Commanding Goa Area, delivered the welcome address, setting the tone for the proceedings.

Delivering the keynote address, the Hon'ble Governor appreciated the Navy's initiative of delving into the history of the liberation of Goa, and pointed out that such deliberations are needed to enhance awareness in the public, especially the youth, on the sacrifices made by previous generations, including the armed forces, in nation building.



Addressing the seminar, Vice Admiral AB Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command brought out that the growth of Goa and the Indian Navy in the region has been synonymous, the liberation happening simultaneously with commissioning of INS Vikrant, the first aircraft carrier of Indian Navy, and the Navy's effort in developing Dabolim airfield into a full-fledged air station.

Papers of both sessions sparked discussions on history, liberation and development of Goa. All discussions were moderated by Commodore Srikant Kesnur, Director, Maritime Warfare Centre, Mumbai.

The Governor also felicitated veterans of the Goa liberation effort on the occasion.

-PRO Mumbai

Indian Coast Guard Launches Website for Online Recruitment of Officers

Recruitment for officers in Indian Coast Guard (ICG) became digital on December 20, 2021 with the introduction of computer-based screening examination and automation of selection process by launching of a recruitment website <https://joinindiancoastguard.cdac.in>.

Director General ICG Shri Krishnaswamy Natarajan launched the website in New Delhi in the presence of Director General of Centre for development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) Colonel A K Nath (Retd). The website has been designed by C-DAC,

Pune. The paradigm shift from the existing process to computer-based examination for selection of officers will enhance transparency, minimise human intervention, facilitate automation and offer equal opportunity, level-playing field to aspiring candidates, resulting in the selection of aspiring candidate from a larger pool. The digital recruitment process will cover around 100 cities spread throughout the country and would be conducted twice a year ensuring far wider reach, talent and also provide an unprecedented opportunity to the individuals aspiring to serve

the Nation.

The website will include features such as online filling of application, generation of personal login facility, details of CG training procedures and job profiles, pay & allowances with facilities in ICG along with notification about various processes of the recruitment procedures from time to time. The migration of Coast Guard recruitment processes from traditional method is a quantum digital leap in compliance with GOI vision of Digital India initiative.

-PRO Defence

Army Recruitment Rally at Secunderabad

Army recruitment rally under Unit Headquarters Quota will be held at 1 EME Centre, Secunderabad on January 17, 2022 onwards for enrolment of Soldier Technician, Soldier Technician (Aviation), Soldier Tradesman (Chef & Stewards) categories and outstanding Sportsmen (Open Category) in the fields of Aquatics (Swimming/Diving) & Volleyball.

Education qualification for Soldier Technician (Aviation) & Soldier Technician is 10+2/ Intermediate Exam pass in Science with Physics, Chemistry, Maths & English with minimum 50% marks in aggregate and 40% marks in each subject and age limit is 17 Years 6 months

to 23 Years. For Soldier (General Duty) category, Class 10th /Matric pass with 45% marks in aggregate and 33% in each subject (for Boards following grading system, minimum of D Grade (33-40) in individual subjects or grade which contains 33% and overall aggregate of C2 grade). For Soldier Tradesman (Chef & Stewards) category, Class 10th Simple Pass (should have scored min 33% in each subject) and age limit is 17 Years 6 months to 23 Years. All outstanding sportsmen candidates should have represented a state or country in National or International competitions either at senior or junior level. Certificate should not be more than two years old

on the date of screening.

All eligible candidates are required to report at Koteswar Dwar, 4 Training Battalion (4 Trg Bn), 1 EME Centre, Secunderabad at 0600h on 17 Jan 2022 for participating in the rally. For other details candidates can contact Headquarters 1 EME Centre, Bolarum, Secunderabad (Telangana State) Pin-500010 and 1 EME Centre e-mail address

awwaleagle@gmail.com and www.joinindianarmy@nic.in website for more information about recruitment rally. The conduct of the rally is subject to prevailing COVID-19 pandemic.

-PRO Secunderabad

Ordnance Factory Medak Organises Exhibition of Infantry Combat Vehicles

Ordnance Factory Medak, Yedumailaram organized Public Exhibition of Infantry Combat Vehicles as part of 75 years of Indian Independence "Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav". The products of OFMK i.e. Infantry combat vehicles like Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle (AERV), Sarath Vehicle (BMP) and Mine Protected Vehicle & its variants were displayed. A photographic exhibition also organized on the occasion.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh virtually launched Exhibition and 'Path to Pride',



public exhibitions, curated museums and a booklet showcasing 75 resolutions of DDP from New Delhi.

Shri BS Murty, Director, IIT Hyderabad was the Chief Guest for the event at OFMK and expressed support to the OFMK in the area of Research &

Development. Shri Alok Prasad, General Manager, OFMK has said that the exhibition showcases Atma Nirbhar Bharat and will be open for general public till 19th Dec 2021. Students from various schools and colleges were invited for the memorable occasion.

-PRO Secunderabad

Diamond Jubilee Celebration of Ordnance Clothing Factory

Ordnance Clothing Factory Avadi, a unit of Troop Comforts Limited, a Government of India enterprise, Ministry of Defence celebrated its Diamond Jubilee year on December 21, 2021. The CMD (Chairman & Managing Director) of Troop Comforts Limited Shri Santosh Kr Sinha, IOFS was the Chief Guest of the function. The General manager of the factory Shri Surjit Das, IOFS along with other senior officers, recognized unions and associations, workmen, staff and employees were present on the occasion. The event also included the inauguration of Diamond Jubilee Pillar. Further, a crèche at WWA (Women Welfare Association), R&D exhibition-cum-conference hall and VKK Menon Kalyana Mandapam and Convention Centre were also inaugurated on the occasion.

The factory, located in



AVADI, Chennai, was commissioned on Nov 1, 1961 by the then Defence Minister, Shri VKK Menon. Since then, the factory has devoted 60 years of service to the nation in Troop comfort items ranging from Combat uniforms, overalls, drill uniforms, tents, parachutes, coveralls, winter clothing and

other personnel protective gears.

Recently, the factory has successfully ventured into the field of Body armours and has successfully designed, developed and mass produced Bullet Resistant Jackets/Vests conforming to international NIJ standard (threat level III+/IIIA).

-PRO Chennai

'Robothon' at Military College of EME

An Inter College Robotics competition 'Robothon' was conducted at the Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME), Secunderabad on December 17 and 18, 2021. The competition, which was conducted under the aegis of MCEME in association with M/s Bharat Forge Ltd, witnessed wide spread participation from a large number of colleges at Hyderabad wherein more than 25 teams displayed their technical prowess in the form of a variety of Robots with potential applications in myriad spheres.

On the sidelines of the Robothon competition, a Robo expo and a guest lecture on 'AI enabled Robotics' were also organised which evinced keen interest of all the participants. The event, which was the brainchild of Lt Gen TSA Narayanan, Commandant MCEME and Colonel Commandant of the Corps of EME, served as an



effective platform for interaction and exchange of ideas and knowledge. Snake robots, spherical bots, tree climbing robots and humanoid robots developed by the participants were on display at the competition and many of the projects had great potential for deployment in a variety of applications.

The event culminated with a grand prize distribution ceremony

on December 18, 2021 which was presided over by Dr (Smt) Tamilisai Soundararajan Governor of Telangana and Lieutenant Governor of Puducherry. Gen Narayanan exhorted the student community to further build upon their experience and knowledge gained from the event, so as to develop tangible and deployable robotic solutions.

-PRO Secunderabad

Operational Training in Desert Sector

Troops of Sudarshan Chakra Corps, an elite formation of the Indian Army recently completed extensive operational training in the Desert sector. The training was aimed at refining the existing battle procedures by fusion of technology in the new war fighting concepts and effective integration of all resources, combat elements and sensors into highly mobile and agile battle groups.

The harsh and unforgiving terrain of the desert sector is an ideal area to test human will power and endurance of military equipment. The exercise facilitated conduct of large-scale manoeuvres to validate new operational doctrines formulated to meet emerging challenges. Niche



technologies like Swarm Drone, AI enabled sensors & platforms, next generation surveillance equipment and Joint Command Posts with

Indian Air Force were also fielded and optimally utilised in operational conditions.

-PRO Army

Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle Inducted into Indian Army

The first set of indigenously developed next generation Armoured Engineer Reconnaissance Vehicle was inducted into the Corps of Engineers of Indian Army in a solemn function attended by Gen MM Naravane, the Chief of Army Staff at Pune on December 21, 2021.

The system has been designed by Defence Research and Development Organisation and manufactured by Ordnance Factory Medak & Bharat Electronics Limited, Pune. Despite the various restrictions imposed by the COVID pandemic since the last one year, supply of the vehicle to Indian Army has been on schedule. The vehicle is capable of carrying out reconnaissance of



water obstacles and boggy patches for execution of engineer tasks with capabilities to carry out reconnaissance and provide real time update to force commanders. The system will enhance existing engineer reconnaissance

capabilities of Indian Army and would be a major game changer in support of mechanised operations in future conflicts.

-PRO Army

INS Shardul Brings MV Kavaratti Safely to Kochi

A fire had broken onboard MV Kavaratti (Lakshadweep Development Corporation Limited Run Ship) in the starboard engine room on November 30, 2021, which was subsequently extinguished by the crew. However, because of the damage caused by the fire, the ship could not start her engines and had anchored off Androth island on November 30, 2021 awaiting towing assistance for repairs.

Based on a request from the Lakshadweep administration for towing the ship from Androth to Kochi for repairs, the Indian Navy in a quick move dispatched INS Shardul to Androth for rendering assistance to the disabled ship on December 16, 2021. INS Shardul reached the area on December 17, 2021. An expert team of officers and sailors of INS Shardul alongwith Officer-in-Charge Naval Detachment Androth Lieutenant Commander Bishnu C Panda embarked MV Kavaratti on December 17, 2021 and undertook a detailed assessment



of the damage. During the interaction, the Naval crew assisted the crew of MV Kavaratti in starting the ship's port engine. Towing gears were passed to MV Kavaratti by INS Shardul and towing trials were conducted with MV Kavaratti. The trials provided the much-needed confidence and reassurance to the crew of MV Kavaratti towards towing operations in case of failure of the

port main engine enroute.

After rehearsing various emergencies, INS Shardul escorted MV Kavaratti safely to Kochi on December 18, 2021. During the transit, personnel from INS Shardul and Naval Detachment Androth were embarked onboard to provide assistance to the MV in case of any machinery breakdown.

-PRO Kochi

100TH Convocation Ceremony at Military College of EME



Centenary Convocation Ceremony of the Military College of Electronics and Mechanical Engineering (MCEME) was conducted in an impressive ceremony at the MCEME Auditorium on December 24, 2021. Shri Babasaheb Neelkanth Kalyani, Chairman & Managing Director of Bharat Forge Limited was the Chief Guest who conferred Bachelor of Technology degrees to 53 graduating Officers of the Degree Engineering Course-102 and Technical Entry Scheme

Course-36.

In his welcome address, Lieutenant General TSA Narayanan, Commandant, MCEME and Colonel Commandant of the Corps of EME congratulated the passing out Officers for having gone through a tough academic rigour and coming out with flying colours.

Captain Amogh Sharma of Degree Engineering Course and Lt Suraj K of Technical Entry Scheme Course won the awards for the best All Round Student

Officers in their respective courses for their exemplary all round performance in academics and other extracurricular activities. Captain Dheeraj Sharma, Lt Kottana Anvesh Kumar and Lt Rachakonda Rishab Shankar won medals for their academic performances. The Convocation ceremony was followed by a project display where the graduating officers displayed their projects to the dignitaries.

-PRO Secunderabad

Graduation Ceremony at Air Defence College

An impressive Graduation Ceremony was held at Air Force Station Memaura on Dec 16, 2021 to mark the culmination of No 164 Fighter Controllers' Course. The Course comprising of 21 Indian Air Force officers commenced on July 5, 2021 at Air Defence College, the Alma Mater of Fighter Controllers. The function marks culmination of Fighter Controllers' Course and donning of the coveted Fighter Controllers' Badge for the graduating officers. Air Marshal VPS Rana, Air Officer in Charge Administration, graced the occasion as the Reviewing Officer. Group Captain Deepak Gaur, Commanding Officer, Air Defence College presented the course report. Meritorious trainee officers were awarded with



trophies and medallions by the Reviewing Officer; Fg offr Jashandeep Singh was adjudged 'Best in Overall Performance' and was awarded the AOC-in-C, CAC, IAF Rolling Trophy.

In his address, the Reviewing Officer highlighted the critical role of Fighter Controllers' in air operations. He exhorted the young

officers to keep abreast with technological development in a challenging operational environment and constantly upgrade their professional knowledge. He wished the graduating officers a successful career in the IAF.

-PRO Lucknow

54 Officers Graduate as Qualified Flying Instructors at Tambaram

After undergoing an arduous training of almost five months, the training of No. 151 Qualified Flying Instructors Course (QFIC) concluded at Flying Instructors School, Tambaram. 54 officers, including 41 from the Indian Air Force, 2 from Indian Army, 5 from Indian Navy, 2 from Indian Coast Guard and 4 from armed forces of friendly foreign countries (2 from Bangladesh Air Force, 1 from Nepal Army and 1 from Zimbabwe Air Force) graduated as Qualified Flying Instructors. The Valedictory Function of the Course was held at Air Force Station Tambaram.

Air Marshal B Chandra Sekhar, Senior Air Staff Officer, Training Command presided over the valedictory function. Group Captain Ratish Kumar,



Commanding Officer Flying Instructors' School welcomed the Chief Guest and briefed on the achievements of the course.

The Chief Guest awarded the coveted symbol of 'Qualified Flying Instructor' to the graduates which they can now proudly wear

on their uniform, signifying their elevated status and recognition as Flying Instructors. The pilots who achieved distinction in flying and ground subjects were also presented various trophies and awards.

-PRO Chennai

Graduation Parade at Air Force Technical College

An elegant ceremonial Graduation Parade of Permanent Commission & Short Service Commission of Aeronautical Engineering Course was held at the Air Force Technical College in Bengaluru on December 18, 2021. The college is the alma mater of all Aeronautical Engineers of the Indian Air Force and is presently commanded by Air Commodore Sameer Kalode. The Graduation Parade marked the culmination of 74 weeks of training (22 weeks training at Air Force Academy, Hyderabad and 52 weeks at Air Force Technical College in Aeronautical Engineering, Military Leadership, Managerial Skills and Ethos of an Air Warrior). The Graduating Course comprises of 108 Officers including 31 Women Officers. This was also the first time wherein one complete Flight of Women Officers was commanded by Flying Officer Rakshanda Singh.



Air Marshal Shashikar Choudhary Air Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Maintenance Command was the Chief Guest for the event and reviewed the parade.

He awarded trophies and medallions to the Officers who excelled in the course. The prestigious 'President's Plaque' for First in order of Combined Merit and the 'Vice President's Sword'

for the Best in professional subjects was awarded to Flying Officer Rakshanda Singh.

The Chief of Air Staff Medals for being first in the order of merit in Electronics and Mechanical Streams were awarded to Flying Officer Rakshanda Singh and Flying Officer Skanda Hebbar HS respectively.

-PRO Bengaluru

PHOTOCALL



The Union Minister for Women & Child Development, Smt. Smriti Irani addressing at the inauguration of the festival titled 'ABHIVYAKTI' organised by AWWA in New Delhi on December 17, 2021.

NS Khukri, the first of the indigenously built Missile Corvettes, was decommissioned after 32 years of glorious service on December 23, 2021. The ship solemn ceremony was held at Visakhapatnam wherein the national flag, naval ensign, and the decommissioning pennant were lowered at sunset in the presence of Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command.



Hav Shambhu Kumar (Ex 16 RAJPUT), formerly with Dte of Public Relations (Defence) has been conferred with the prestigious Guinness World Record certificate for 'Longest sustained note on a wind or brass instrument' earlier held by Mr Philip Palmer of UK. The NCO successfully broke the record by setting a new record of 1/23.04 minutes.



The Defence Secretary, Dr. Ajay Kumar distributing Best Project, Best Task Force, Best Road &Bridge Construction Company and Best workshop trophies to various units of Border Roads Organisation (BRO), in New Delhi on December 27, 2021. The DG, BRO, Lt. Gen. Rajeev Chaudhry is also seen.



Smt Pushpa Bhatt wife of the Minister of State for Defence and Tourism, Shri Ajay Bhatt felicitating a Veer Nari at Kumaon Regimental Centre, in Ranikhet, Uttarakhand on December 27, 2021.



DRDO successfully conducted maiden flight test of indigenously developed surface-to-surface missile 'Pralay', from Dr A P J Abdul Kalam Island off the coast of Odisha on December 22, 2021. The Missile is powered with solid propellant rocket motor and many new technologies and has a range of 150-500 kilometre and can be launched from a mobile launcher.