

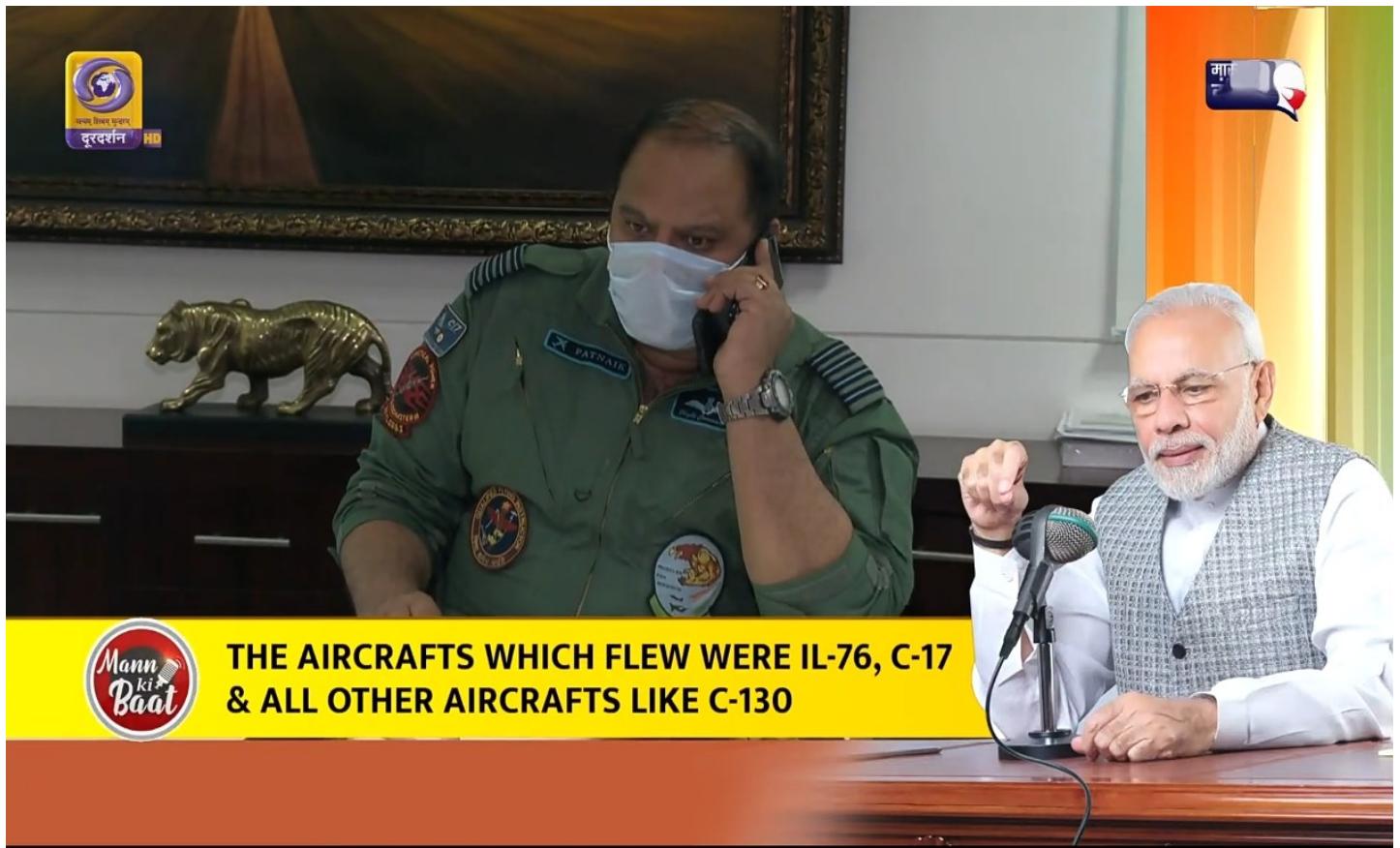
2021
16-30 June
Vol 68 No 12

SAINIK Samachar



20 MoD Reforms in 2020

30 MoD Reforms in 2020



Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi speaking to Group Captain AK Patnaik regarding the IAF operations of bringing oxygen from foreign countries during the second wave of Covid-19, in his "Mann ki Baat" program broadcast on AIR on May 30, 2021.



Mr Hutan Verma "The Patriot Painter" presented a portrait of Soldier of Indian Army to General MM Naravane, COAS. Mr Hutan Verma is an artist who has been making & presenting portrait paintings of fallen heroes to the family members of the Bravehearts.

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On front cover : Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh releasing an E-booklet titled '20 Reforms in 2020', highlighting the major reforms undertaken by Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2020, in New Delhi on June 7, 2021.

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Raksha Mantri Releases E-Booklet "20 MoD Reforms in 2020"

Terms it as a reflection of Government's resolve to make Defence sector stronger and more efficient

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh released an E-booklet titled '20 Reforms in 2020', highlighting the major reforms undertaken by Ministry of Defence (MoD) in 2020, in New Delhi on June 07, 2021. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Shripad Y Naik, Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat, Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Karambir Singh, Chief of Air Staff Air Chief Marshal RKS Bhadauria, Chief of Army Staff General MM Naravane, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Secretary (Ex-Servicemen Welfare) Shri Ravikant, Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman, Defence Research & Development Organisation (DRDO) Dr G Satheesh Reddy and Financial Advisor (Defence Services) Shri Sanjiv Mittal were present on the occasion.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Rajnath Singh termed the E-booklet as an important document on the bright future of the defence sector in the country. "The booklet is a reflection of the resolve of the Government, under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, to make the defence sector stronger and more efficient," he said. The Raksha Mantri expressed confidence that the reforms undertaken by MoD will make India a global powerhouse in

the defence sector in the times to come.

The compilation provides a brief overview of defence reforms undertaken in the year 2020 by MoD to bring about greater cohesion and modernisation of the Armed Forces through policy changes, innovation and digital transformation. Reforms also focused on the 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' initiative of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi; increased collaboration with the industry to boost defence exports; measures to accelerate defence acquisitions with greater transparency; digital transformation; strengthening of border infrastructure; increased participation of women in Armed Forces; transformation in R&D to boost innovation; expansion of NCC to remote locations and aid extended to the civil administration in fight against COVID-19.

Chief of Defence Staff & Department of Military Affairs

The appointment of India's first Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) and creation of Department of Military Affairs (DMA) were among the major decisions taken by the Government. The post of CDS was created to increase efficiency & coordination among the Armed Forces and reduce duplication, while

DMA was established to ensure improved civil-military integration. General Bipin Rawat was appointed as the first CDS who also fulfils the responsibilities of Secretary, DMA.

Atmanirbharta in Defence

To promote 'Make in India' in defence sector, a list of 101 defence items was notified in August 2020, while Defence Acquisition Procedure 2020 was unveiled in September 2020. Rs 52,000 crore budget was earmarked for indigenously made defence equipment in 2020-21. Corporatisation of Ordnance Factory Board (OFB) was approved in May 2020 for greater efficiency and productivity. There was an unprecedented push towards new technology developments within India. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) developed a ventilator in record time to meet COVID-19 requirements in May 2020. In November 2020, Quick Reaction Surface to Air Missile, indigenously designed & developed DRDO, hit bullseye at medium range and medium height, while indigenously built Pinaka rocket system cleared test of 45-60 km range.

Increased Defence Exports

The increased partnership with the private sector has led to a substantial rise in defence exports.



The value of total defence exports rose from Rs 1,941 crore in 2014-15 to Rs 9,116 crore in 2019-20. Also, for the first time, India figured in the list of defence equipment exporting nations, as the exports expanded to more than 84 countries.

Modernisation & increased transparency in Defence Acquisition

In highest-ever thrust towards modernisation in last 10 years, there was 10 per cent budget increase in 2020-21 over the previous year. Policy reforms for increased transparency included launch of new Defence Acquisition Procedure in September 2020 and revision of DRDO Procurement Manual in October 2020. To encourage start-ups, a provision was introduced for procurement as Buy Indian-IDDM, while leasing for non-mission critical requirements was introduced for the first time.

Defence Acquisitions

First five Rafale fighter aircraft arrived in India in July 2020 and several more since then, adding firepower to the arsenal of the Indian Air Force. Despite the COVID-19 challenge, the aircraft were delivered timely and inducted into IAF.

Reforming Defence R&D

To promote innovation by young minds, five Young Scientists Laboratories of DRDO were launched in 2020 in Bengaluru, Mumbai, Chennai, Kolkata and Hyderabad. DRDO has joined hands with the private sector in design & development and identified 108 Systems & Subsystems for the industry to design, develop and manufacture.

Digital Transformation

For the first time, several organisations of Ministry of Defence went digital. Directorate General Quality Assurance (DGQA) started

online Pre-Delivery inspection in May 2020 to address security threats, while Armed Forces Tribunal began digital hearing for the first time in August 2020. Defence Estates, Canteen Stores Department, services in Cantonment, MoD Pension and National Cadet Corps (NCC) also went online providing faster and transparent services.

Strengthening border infrastructure

Reforms of processes and workflows within Border Roads Organisation (BRO) enabled it to achieve targets ahead of schedule, in some instances. World's longest Atal tunnel above 10,000 feet, at Rohtang on the Leh-Manali Highway was inaugurated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi in October 2020. It provides all weather connectivity to the northern borders. Zojila pass, situated on the Srinagar-Kargil-Leh National Highway, was opened almost a month ahead of schedule in April 2020.

Street Shakti in Armed Forces

In 2020, Ministry of Defence took some historic decisions to increase participation of women in the Armed Forces. Ten streams of Indian Army were opened for giving Permanent Commission to Short Service Commission (SSC) Women officers, while women pilots of Indian Navy were operationalised for the first time. All Sainik Schools were thrown open for girl students from academic session 2020-21.

Reforms in NCC

Expanding the reach of NCC to remote locations was a major announcement made by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi from the ramparts of Red Fort on Independence Day on August 15, 2020. More than 1,075 schools/colleges in border and coastal areas were identified and the enrolment began in November 2020. In another decision, it was decided to give preference to NCC cadets in

employment in Central Armed Police Forces from May 2020. Youth Exchange Programme Allowance for NCC cadets was increased from Rs 100 per day to Rs 750 and the number of countries was increased from 10 to 15.

Aid to civil administration during COVID-19

Ministry of Defence and the Armed Forces have mobilised resources to aid the civil administration in fight against COVID-19. Armed Forces Medical Services (AFMS) provided all emergency support to tide over the situation. They have mobilised doctors, health professionals and set up Quarantine facilities at several locations across the country. DRDO has set up several hospitals to treat COVID patients across the states, passed on technology expertise to manufacture ventilators, oxygen plants, medicines, test kits and PPE kits to private sector for mass production.

Help beyond boundaries

The Armed Forces extended a helping hand to the countries in distress. Indian Navy mounted eight relief missions during 2020-21. Besides evacuating stranded Indians from Iran, Sri Lanka and Maldives under Vande Bharat Mission, Indian Naval ships provided COVID-19 medical relief, including medicines and doctors, to five countries. INS Airavat provided 270 MT food aid to Sudan, Djibouti and Eritrea struck by natural calamities. The Indian Coast Guard led the rescue operation to save Sri Lanka coast of its biggest oil spill. Indian Air Force carried out over 800 relief missions during 2020-21.

The e-booklet is available on the website of Ministry of Defence:

<https://www.mod.gov.in/news>
<https://www.mod.gov.in/sites/default/files/MoD2RE7621.pdf>

-PRO Defence

Raksha Mantri Invites Swedish Firms to Invest in Defence Corridors in Uttar Pradesh & Tamil Nadu

A webinar on India-Sweden Defence Industry Cooperation, with the theme 'Capitalizing Opportunities for Growth and Security', was organised on June 8, 2021. It was organised under the aegis of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence through Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) and Swedish Security and Defence Industry (SOFF). Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh was the Chief Guest, while the Defence Minister of Sweden, Mr Peter Hultqvist was the Guest of Honour. Ambassador of India to Sweden, Shri Tanmaya Lal; Ambassador of Sweden to India, Mr Klas Molin; Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Secretary (Defence Production) Shri Raj Kumar; other senior officers of Defence Ministries of the two countries; representatives of Indian & Swedish Defence Industries and officials of SIDM & SOFF also attended the webinar.

In his inaugural address, Shri Rajnath Singh listed out

several progressive policy and procedural reforms undertaken by the Government, under the leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, that have transformed the defence industry to meet domestic as well as global demand. The motto of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan' is 'Make in India' and 'Make for the World', he said, adding that the campaign envisages the defence sector to play a major role in India's economic growth and focuses on manufacturing cost-effective quality products for India and

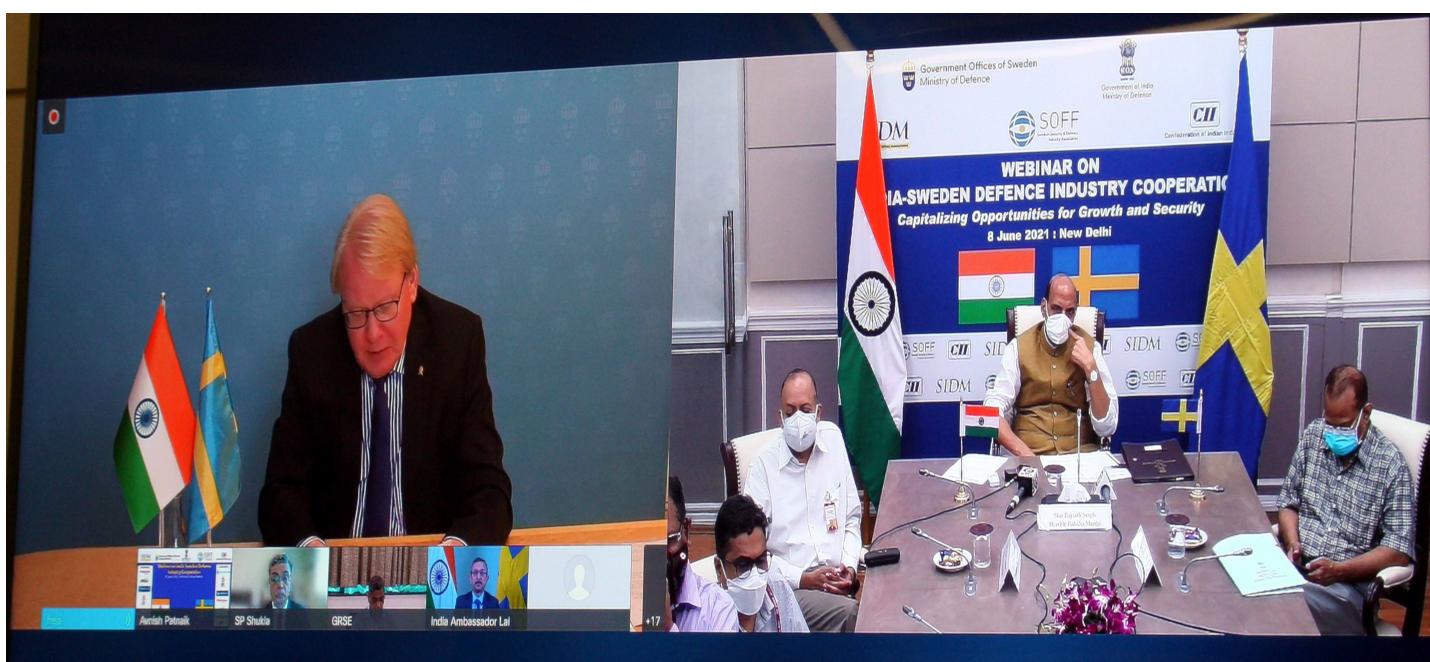
'Atmanirbhar Bharat' focuses on manufacturing cost-effective quality products for India and the world: RM

decisions such as FDI liberalisation and improved ease of doing businesses are attracting top defence companies of the world and have Joint Ventures establishments in India. Ease of FDI regulations and introduction of Buy (Global – Manufacture in India) in Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020 invite foreign OEMs to participate in the opportunities offered by the Indian Defence industry. "Foreign OEMs can set up manufacturing facilities individually or partner with Indian companies through a joint venture or technology agreement to capitalise on the 'Make in India' opportunity," he said.

the world.

On the Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020, the Raksha Mantri said, it encourages domestic manufacturing and has provided a strong foundation for India to emerge as the defence manufacturing hub. He highlighted that policy

Shri Rajnath Singh invited Swedish firms to invest in Defence Corridors in Uttar Pradesh and Tamil Nadu, saying that they can benefit from the unique incentives being offered by the state governments and the availability of a highly-skilled workforce in India. Stressing



that there is a huge potential for more India-Sweden partnerships, he highlighted the strong capabilities of Indian defence industry in various fields and their willingness to collaborate with Swedish companies for co-development and co-production in areas of mutual interest.

"Swedish firms already have a major presence in India. There is a lot of scope for Swedish and Indian defence Industries for co-production and co-development. Indian industry can also supply components to Swedish Industries. Technology-centric FDI policy will enable Indian industries to collaborate with Swedish companies in the field of niche and proven military technologies," stated Shri Rajnath Singh.

The Raksha Mantri said

India has a vast Defence Industrial Base with 41 Ordnance factories, nine Defence Public Sector Undertakings and expanding private sector Industries supported by an ecosystem of over 12,000 Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, adding that Indian Defence Industries possess expertise on a wide range of high-tech defence systems for air, land, sea and space applications. "India has a robust shipbuilding industry. The ships constructed by Indian shipyards are of global standards and extremely cost effective. India and Sweden can collaborate in the shipbuilding industry for mutual benefit," he said. Shri Rajnath Singh lauded the continuous efforts of SIDM, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII) and SOFF to strengthen the industrial cooperation between the two

countries.

On the occasion, an MoU was signed between SIDM and SOFF to promote bilateral defence industrial relations wherein a dedicated Joint Working Group will be formed to take forward mutual objectives.

Shri Rajnath Singh also released the first edition of the 'SIDM Members Directory 2020-21 – A 360° Overview of the Indian Defence and Aerospace Sector'. The Directory captures the capabilities of 437 companies in the Defence and Aerospace sector, facilitates ease of access to information on the Indian Industry and serves as a one-stop reference for the global defence community. The Directory also contains the latest 108 item 2nd Positive Indigenisation List.



DAC Approves Air Defence Guns & Ammunition for Army and Construction of Six Submarines

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), in its meeting held under the Chairmanship of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on June 4, 2021, has approved proposals concerning Capital Acquisitions of various equipment for modernisation and operational needs of the Armed Forces amounting to approx. Rs 6,000 crore.

In addition, the DAC also approved issue of RFP for construction of six Conventional Submarines under Project P 75 (I) under the Strategic Partnership (SP) Model. This project envisages indigenous construction of six conventional submarines equipped with the state-of-the-art Air Independent Propulsion system at an estimated cost of Rs 43,000 crore.

This is a landmark approval, being the first case processed under the Strategic Partnership model. This would be one of the largest 'Make in India' projects and will serve to facilitate faster and more significant absorption of technology and create a tiered industrial ecosystem for submarine construction in India. From a strategic perspective, this will help reduce current dependence on imports and gradually ensure greater self-reliance and dependability of

supplies from indigenous sources.

With accord of this approval, the country will be enabled to achieve its 30-year Submarine construction programme envisioned by the Government to acquire national competence in submarine construction and for the Indian industry to independently design and construct submarines in India. The availability of new technologies and advanced manufacturing capabilities to the Industry will be an important step towards enhancing the nation's quest for self-reliance in modern conventional submarine construction and sustainment activities whilst creating direct and indirect job opportunities in India.

First Such Acquisition Under Strategic Partnership Model to Give a Big Boost to Make in India

This project under SP Model provides a unique long-term opportunity and planning certainty for the industry to invest and support submarine construction. It will also infuse the latest technology and weaponry for submarines in India through strategic tie up between

Indian Industry and leading foreign OEMs.

There was a long pending need of the Indian Army for modernisation of its Air Defence guns. These had been earlier procured only from foreign sources. With the continued thrust of Ministry of Defence towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and 'Make in India', an enthusiastic response from about a dozen Indian companies was received. All of them have expressed their willingness and commitment to manufacture this complex gun system and associated equipment by ensuring technology assimilation in India. Accordingly, the DAC accorded approval of procurement of Air Defence Guns and Ammunition at an approx. cost of Rs 6,000 crore under the Buy & Make (Indian) category.

Further to better equip the Armed Forces to meet the operational challenges and facilitate faster induction of required arms and ammunition, the DAC extended the timelines for progressing urgent Capital Acquisitions under the delegated powers to the Armed Forces up to August 31, 2021. This will enable the Armed Forces to complete their emergent and critical acquisitions.

-PRO Defence

MoD Notifies 'Second Positive Indigenisation List' of 108 Items to Promote Self-reliance & Defence Exports

In pursuance of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's endeavour of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat' and to boost indigenisation in the Defence sector, Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh approved a proposal of the Department of Military Affairs, Ministry of Defence (MoD) to notify the 'Second Positive Indigenisation List' of 108 items. This will give further boost to indigenisation with active participation of public and private sector for fulfilling the twin objectives of achieving self-reliance and promoting defence exports. All the 108 items will now be procured from indigenous sources as per provisions given in Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020.

The second list lays special focus on weapons or systems which are currently under development or trials and are likely to translate into firm orders in the future. Like the first list, import substitution of ammunition which is a recurring requirement has been given special focus. Not only does the list recognise the potential of local defence industry, it will also invigorate impetus to domestic Research & Development by attracting fresh investment into technology and manufacturing capabilities.

The 'Second Positive Indigenisation List' comprises complex systems, sensors, simulator, weapons and ammunitions like Helicopters, Next Generation Corvettes, Air Borne Early Warning and Control (AEW&C) systems, Tank Engines, Medium Power Radar for Mountains, MRSAM Weapon Systems and many more such items to fulfil the requirements of Indian Armed Forces. This second list is planned to be implemented progressively with effect from December 2021 to December 2025.

This second list has been prepared by MoD after several rounds of consultations with government and private manufacturing industry confederations to assess future capabilities of Indian Industry which will be able to meet requirements of the Armed Forces. This list provides continuous impetus towards self-reliance in Defence.

The Defence industry can gainfully utilise this golden opportunity to build robust Research and Development facilities, capacities and capabilities to meet the futuristic requirements of the Armed Forces. This list also provides an excellent opportunity for 'start-ups' as also MSMEs which will get tremendous

boost from this initiative.

Towards this, Ministry of Defence, Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) and Service Head Quarters (SHQs) will take all necessary steps, including hand holding of the Industry, to ensure that the timelines mentioned in the 'Second Positive Indigenisation List' are met, thereby facilitating an environment for Indian Defence Manufacturers to create world class infrastructure, assist in Government's 'Make in India' vision to make India self-reliant in defence and develop the capabilities for defence export in the near future. The Second Positive Indigenisation List is hosted in the MoD website.

In August 2020, the 'First Positive Indigenisation' List comprising 101 items was notified, in pursuance of Government's endeavor of 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' and to boost indigenisation in the defence sector. At that time, it was also highlighted that more such equipment would be identified progressively to facilitate and encourage defence manufacturing in the country.

-PRO Defence

RM Inaugurates BRO's Two Centres for Excellence to Promote Road Construction & Safety

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh dedicated to the nation two Centres of Excellence established by Border Roads Organisation (BRO) at Seema Sadak Bhawan in New Delhi, on June 11, 2021. These Centres have been established to achieve excellence in road safety as well as foster growth in construction of roads, bridges, air fields and tunnels. The Centre of Excellence for Road Safety & Awareness (CoERSA) aims to create awareness about road safety through analysis sharing of road accidents and suggesting methods to save precious lives. The Centre of Excellence for Roads, Bridges, Air Fields and Tunnels (CoERBAT) focuses on institutionalising the knowledge gained over the years in development of almost 60,000 kilometres of roads, 56,000 metres of bridges, 19 airfields and four tunnels in the eastern and north-western part of the country.

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Rajnath Singh appreciated the efforts of BRO in establishing the Centres of Excellence, expressing confidence that they will play a pivotal role in saving precious lives. Terming road accidents as a silent pandemic that claims approx. 1.5 lakh lives every year, the Raksha Mantri stated that the Government has taken a number of initiatives such as National Road Safety Policy, Motor Vehicle Act 2020 and identification of black spots on national highways to tackle the problem and the setting up of these Centres is another step in that direction.

The Raksha Mantri lauded the crucial role played by BRO in the progress of the nation since its inception by building roads, tunnels and other infrastructure in remote areas. He praised the efforts of BRO for working tirelessly in tough weather conditions to increase connectivity in border areas, especially during the COVID-19 pandemic. Describing connectivity



as an essential component of a nation's progress, he said BRO is catering to the needs of the Armed Forces as well as working towards the socio-economic development of the border areas. He made special mention of the recent achievements of BRO, including state-of-the-art construction of 'Atal Tunnel, Rohtang', Kailash Mansarovar Road and Zojila pass. He also appreciated BRO for raising awareness about road safety through innovative slogans and signboards.

Shri Rajnath Singh also listed out various measures taken by the Government for the development of BRO. These include increase in the budget of BRO, approval of special high-altitude clothing for the personnel as well as cadre review to boost the morale of the organisation. He assured BRO of continued support of Ministry of Defence, saying that the Government remains committed to the progress of the far-flung areas of the country. He also remembered the BRO personnel who laid down their lives in the service of the nation.

During the event, the Raksha Mantri also launched four software developed to optimise the work efficiency of BRO personnel, their HR management, recruitment

management, enrolment and works management. The BRO has created the software to reduce paperwork, with focus on minimising the carbon footprint. Shri Rajnath Singh termed the development of the software as a great example of 'Self-reliant India' and 'Digital India' campaigns.

The first ever Solo Woman Motorcycle Expedition by Ms Kanchan Ugursandi to Umling La Pass, Ladakh and back was also flagged off on the occasion. The Raksha Mantri extended his best wishes to Ms Kanchan Ugursandi.

Earlier, DG Border Roads Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry briefed Shri Rajnath Singh on the initiatives and achievements of BRO in recent years. He informed the Raksha Mantri about the ongoing and future projects, with focus on Aatmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyaan envisioned by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. He also informed Raksha Mantri on the awareness campaigns being carried out by BRO related to COVID-19 and Azadi ka Amrut Mahotsav in far-flung areas.

Chief of Defence Staff General Bipin Rawat and Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar were among the dignitaries present on the occasion.

-PRO Defence

ICG Offshore Patrol Vessel Sajag Commissioned

In line with the Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, National Security Advisor Shri Ajit Doval commissioned Indian Coast Guard (ICG) Offshore Patrol Vessel (OPV) Sajag through digital means and dedicated it to the nation for safeguarding the maritime interests on May 29, 2021. OPV Sajag is constructed by M/s Goa Shipyard Limited. Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar, Indian Coast Guard Director General K Natarajan and CMD Goa shipyard Cmde BB Nagpal (Retd) were among those who attended the event.

In his address, Shri Ajit Doval said the concept of forming ICG came into being post 1971 war, when it was assessed that maritime borders are equally vital as land borders. The blueprint for a multi-dimension Coast Guard was conceived by the visionary Rustamji Committee even as the United Nations

Convention of the Laws of the Sea (UNCLOS) was being negotiated and India's assets off Mumbai high were growing. The ICG, which was created through an Act of Parliament in 1978, has traversed a long journey in the last four decades.

Shri Ajit Doval commended Goa shipyard for indigenously developing ships for the Maritime Armed forces on time with state-of-the-art machinery and latest technology sensors and equipment that will enable ICG to undertake varied charter of duties within and beyond Indian Ocean Region (IOR).

ICG ships are being built within the country in various shipyards, including private yard in line with Government's vision of 'Make in India'. NSA was impressed to witness the ICG OPV Sajag, which was looking magnificent during the commissioning ceremony.

ICG is a multifarious force, undertaking concurrent operations and being the first responder for any developing situation at sea. Their personnel work in very diverse conditions and circumstances to safeguard the vast coastline. Shri Doval lauded Coast Guard for the support to Coastal populace as also to undertake diverse roles like rescue operations during cyclones, marine pollution response and anti-narco operations. He said Indian Coast Guard has contributed significantly towards Saving precious lives at sea in the recent disaster in Mumbai High.

Shri Ajit Doval said ICG plays an important role for supporting the neighbouring countries in IoR. He added that this lean and visible service plays critical role in anti-smuggling and anti-narcotics, both nationally and internationally. The service has recently undertaken



various pollution response, firefighting and interdiction operations beyond IoR, when called upon by littoral countries.

DG K N briefed the NSA about the massive firefighting operation being undertaken by the Indian Coast Guard onboard a container vessel X-Press Pearl off Colombo. Looking at the onsite clips, Shri Doval praised the efforts of the service, showcasing its reach and professionalism.

Referring to ICG being the 4th largest in the world with almost 160 ships and 62 aircraft, he was pleased with the efforts of Ministry of Defence to make this maritime service as one of the premium Coast Guards of the world with 200 ships and 100 aircraft.

The National Security Advisor said the nation feels confident with Coast Guard



safeguarding nearly 7500 kms of coastline. He added that the future will see a more complex security scenario and ICG will have greater responsibilities in years to come as India's maritime zones expand to include entitlements in the Extended Continental Shelf.

In his concluding remarks, Shri Doval commended the present leadership of Indian Coast Guard and the highly motivated Tatrakshaks. He was confident that the service will gear-up for any challenge that comes its way in safeguarding India's maritime interests.

-PRO Defence



Passing Out Parade Spring Term 2021 at INA

In a spectacular Passing out Parade (POP) held at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala, on May 29, 2021, 152 trainees comprising Midshipmen of 100 INAC, cadets of 30A Naval Orientation Course (Extended) and 32 Naval Orientation Course (Regular) passed out with flying colours, marking the culmination of their ab-initio training.

The Parade was reviewed by Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh Flag Officer C-in-C, Eastern Naval Command who awarded medals to meritorious Midshipmen and Cadets on completion of the Ceremonial Review. Vice Admiral M A Hampiholi Commandant, INA was the Conducting Officer.

The Presidents Gold Medal for the Indian Naval Academy B. Tech course was awarded to Midshipman Mohit Bhurariya.

The other medal winners are - CNS Silver medal for INAC B.Tech Course, Midshipman- Rohit Dagar. FOC-in-C South Bronze Medal for INAC B.Tech Course, Midshipman - Gaurav Kumar.

CNS Gold Medal for NOC (Regular)- Cadet Akanksha Mehra. Commandant, INA Silver Medal for NOC (Regular)-Cadet Ritika Mishra.

Zamorin Trophy for most promising women trainee- Cadet Vaishali Mishra.



The successful trainees marched with their gleaming swords and rifles held in salute, past the Academy's Quarterdeck, in Slow March, to the traditional notes of Auld Lang Syne - the poignant farewell tune played by Armed Forces around the world

when bidding adieu to colleagues and comrades, for their Antim Pag or final step at the Indian Naval Academy.

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command congratulated the trainees on





parade for their impeccable turn out, smart drill and movements on parade. The Reviewing Officer emphasised on the core values of duty, honour and courage. He also highlighted that armed forces are the strongest pillar of defence of the country and have to deliver each and every time, whether it be a situation of conflict, escalation by inimical forces on the land or maritime borders or response to COVID pandemic, natural calamity, search and rescue which was witnessed during cyclone Yaas and Tauktae recently.

The Reviewing Officer and other dignitaries shipped the stripes of the passing out trainees and congratulated them for their successful completion of the rigorous training. These officers will proceed to various Naval ships and establishments to further consolidate their training in specialised fields. Stringent precautionary measures instituted by the Academy has helped in accomplishing the challenging goal of training cadets during COVID-19 and successful culmination of the Spring Term 2021 at INA.

-PRO Navy



Passing Out of Officer Trainees at Naval Base, Kochi

A Passing Out Divisions, marking the successful culmination of afloat training of the 99th Integrated Officer Trainees Course was held onboard ships of the First Training Squadron on June 4, 2021 in a short but inspiring ceremony, curtailed due to the COVID-19 imposed restrictions. The course consisted of 104 officer trainees of the Executive Branch of the Indian Navy. Rear Admiral Antony George, Chief of Staff of Southern Naval Command awarded trophies to the meritorious officer trainees during the Passing Out Divisions held onboard the ships.

The First Training Squadron based at Kochi comprises Indian Naval Ships Tir, Magar, Shardul, Sujata, Tarangini, Sudarshini and Coast Guard Ship Sarathi. The squadron is presently headed by Captain Aftab Ahmed Khan, who is also the Commanding Officer of INS Tir.

The 24-week sea training commenced on December 28,

2020. During this phase, the Sea Trainees were imparted instructions on seamanship, navigation, ship handling and technical aspects with emphasis on practical training. Designed to enable the trainees to obtain their sea legs, the intensive sea training provides an exposure to the rigours of life at sea in a conducive training environment that prepares young officers to undertake combat as well as 'less than war' functions effectively. The Sea Trainees spent 67 days at sea sailing almost 14000 nm and visited various ports on the West and East coasts of India as well as overseas ports of Mauritius (Port Louis), Seychelles (Port Victoria), Madagascar (Antsiranana) and Maldives (Male). The trainees were also exposed to sail training onboard the sail training ship, INSV Sudarshini. As part of 'Swarnim Vijay Varsh', the trainees also participated in the transfer of Victory Flame from Kochi to Lakshadweep and Minicoy group

of islands.

The coveted Chief of Naval Staff Trophy and Telescope for the Best All Round Sea Trainee was awarded to Sub Lieutenant Bharat Bhushan Sangar. The Chief of Naval Staff Trophy and Binoculars for standing First in Overall Order of Merit was awarded to Sub Lieutenant Nishant K Vishwakarma. FOC-in-C East Rolling Trophy for showing maximum progress in professional subjects during the term was awarded to Sub Lieutenant Ayan Ali. FOC-in-C South Rolling Trophy for sports and extra curricular activities while also excelling in professional subjects was awarded to Sub Lieutenant Ojas Tohra.

The officers will continue their next phase of training onboard various frontline Indian Naval warships on the Western and Eastern sea board.

-PRO Kochi

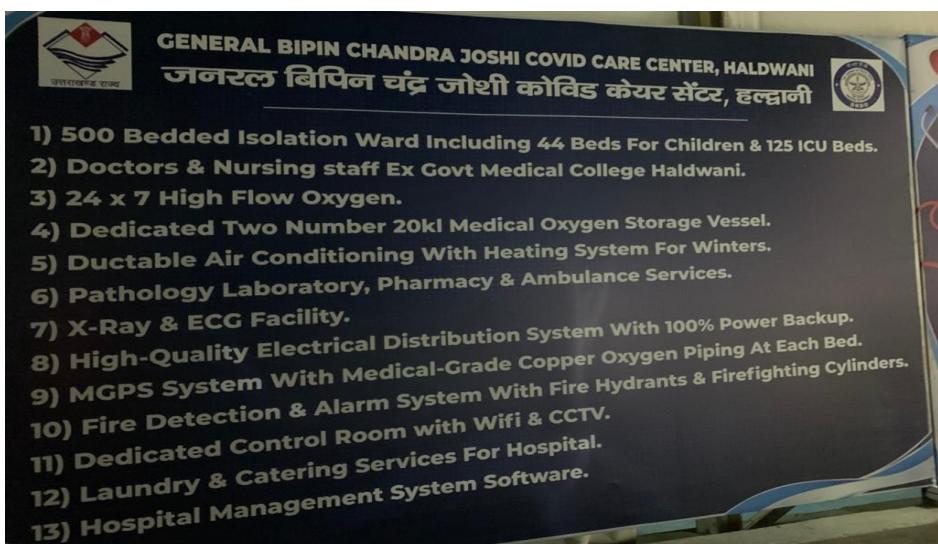


500-Bed COVID Care Hospital Set Up by DRDO in Haldwani, Uttarakhand

A 500-bed COVID Care Hospital set up by Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) in Haldwani was virtually inaugurated by Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, Shri Tirath Singh Rawat on June 2, 2021. This facility comprises 375 oxygen beds and 125 ICU beds with ventilators. With 100 per cent power backup, it is centrally air conditioned for all weather conditions. Pathology laboratory, Pharmacy, X-Ray and ECG etc. are inherent part of the facility. The Centre will become fully operational from June 3, 2021.

A control centre with Wi-Fi, CCTVs and helpline number has also been established for proper monitoring and hospital management through modern system software. Doctors and nursing staff to run the facility would be provided by co-located Government Medical College, Haldwani.

This hospital, which has been built in 21 days, is the result of the efforts of the workforce of 350 persons who worked relentlessly round the clock under adverse weather conditions. This time-bound challenging task involved coordination among various government agencies and



arranging mammoth quantity of stores amidst countrywide lockdown. Ample measures have been taken in design and functioning of the hospital to meet any unforeseen challenges in future. Mandatory fire safety norms have been ensured with fire detection alarm system, fire hydrants, and fire-fighting equipment.

In the present COVID situation, this COVID Care Centre will be an invaluable asset for the people of Uttarakhand, providing timely essential medical care during the pandemic. It has been dedicated and named after late General Bipin Chandra Joshi who belonged to Uttarakhand and was

the 17th Chief of Indian Army.

Member of Parliament Dr Ajay Bhatt, Minister in Uttarakhand Government Shri Bansidhar Bhagat, Leader of Opposition, Uttarakhand Dr Indira Hridayesh and senior officials of DRDO& state government were present on the occasion.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh has lauded DRDO for its continuous timely assistance during this pandemic. Secretary Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO Dr G Satheesh Reddy appreciated the relentless efforts of the team involved in the task and thanked the Uttarakhand Government for the support.

-PRO Defence



Sapta Shakti Command Steps Up Efforts to Fight the Pandemic

As the Nation battles the pandemic, Sapta Shakti Command of Indian Army has been at the forefront of COVID response for assistance to civil authority, outreach to veterans and dissemination of COVID related information to environment.

Covid pandemic has brought testing times and unforeseen hardships especially to our veterans staying in far flung rural areas, as also those staying independently without the family support of children and relatives nearby. Sapta Shakti Command has continued the unabated support and initiatives to ameliorate the hardships of pandemic faced by veterans. To this effect Nodal Officers at Regional ECHS Centres have been entrusted with the responsibility to reach out and facilitate the medication, hospital admissions and any other kind of assistance required.

The formation's response to assist local civil Administration has also been timely and well coordinated. In one such event while the oxygen crisis was on its peak on May 18, 2021, Civil Administration in Bikaner approached the formation for technical support, as the 12,000 litre Oxygen tanker of IOCL developed defect and failed to fill



the oxygen tank of PBM hospital, Bikaner, the nodal district hospital for Covid-19 treatment. Responding instantly to the request, a team of Ranbankura Eagles moved to the location, identified major leakage at outlet of the tanker and with the help of special sealants which could withstand high pressure, arrested the leakage and prevented criticality of oxygen supply to the COVID-19 patients admitted in the hospital.

In another instance, Sapta Shakti Command's Sudarshan Chakra Division created a 50-bed hospital in Sri Ganganagar on May 21, 2021, dedicated to the citizens to combat the rapid surge in COVID-19 cases in the district. The Army Doctors and paramedical staff set up the facility

with the assistance of District Officials and Jan Sewa Hospital in record time. The facility was inaugurated in presence of DM, Sri Ganganagar and General Officer Commanding, Sudarshan Chakra Division.

Another emergent assistance was extended on request of District Collector, Jaipur to General Officer Commanding, 61 Sub Area for time critical refilling & supply of 300 empty oxygen cylinders from Bhiwadi to SMS Hospital, Jaipur. Army Service Corps of the Command immediately arranged six ALS for transportation alongwith an action team which completed the task of transportation of empty cylinders from Jaipur to Bhiwadi, refilling of oxygen cylinders and supply to SMS Hospital within a span of 24 hours.

Sapta Shakti Command remains committed to the nation's cause to fight the Covid-19 pandemic and continues its relentless efforts to combat the pandemic in line with its motto "Forever Victorious – Sarvada Vijayee Bhav".

-PRO Jaipur



MoD's Contribution Towards Environment Protection

There is greater awareness today about the need to protect the environment and natural resources so that our future generations have a brighter future. Environment conservation at the individual, organisation as well as national level has become the need of the hour as sustainable development is the key to saving earth from looming threats like climate change and global warming. Everyone must contribute in whatever way possible to maintain the ecology and conserve it. The Government under the able leadership of our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, has taken several initiatives to achieve this goal. Ministry of Defence (MoD) and Armed Forces, tasked with the safeguarding the country, are not only focussed on securing the borders, but are also protecting the environment.

All organisations of MoD such as the Indian Army, Indian Navy, Indian Air Force, Indian Coast Guard, Defence Public Sector Undertakings (DPSUs), Ordnance Factory Board (OFB), Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), Border Roads Organisation, National Cadet Corps (NCC) and Cantonment Boards have undertaken several measures to mitigate the adverse impact on environment and adopt an environmentally sustainable path of development. They are carrying out activities such as tree plantation, green energy generation, reducing carbon footprint, waste land development, waste management, water conservation, river rejuvenation, cleaning of water bodies and sewerage treatment with zeal and dedication.

Indian Army

Indian Army has undertaken significant initiatives towards environment protection and ecology conservation across all its Military Stations and Cantonments. Setting up of Eco Task Force (ETF) units is one such important step. The Territorial Army has 10 Ecological Battalions with 26 companies carrying out forestation and ecological restoration tasks in difficult and degraded areas of Uttarakhand; Jaisalmer, Rajasthan; Samba, J&K, Kufri, Himachal



Pradesh; Bhati Mines, New Delhi; Tezpur & Kokrajhar, Assam; Aurangabad, Maharashtra and Allahabad, Kanpur & Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh. On April 30, 2019, a Composite ETF Battalion, also known as the 'Ganga Task Force' was raised with an entirely new concept of river rejuvenation starting with River Ganga under National Mission for Clean Ganga, Ministry of Jal Shakti in Uttar Pradesh. These ETF Battalions till date have planted more than eight crore saplings in an area of approx. 80,000 hectares. The rate of survival at 75 to 80 per cent has been phenomenal.

In addition, Indian Army is solemnly shifting from conventional to renewable sources for meeting its energy requirements by creating Hydel, Wind and Solar Power projects in all its military stations. For the first time, Indian Army has launched an initiative to make its Military Stations clean and green with participation of all its residents by institutionalising Best Green Station competition.

Indian Navy

The Indian Navy has adopted a comprehensive 'Indian Navy Environment Conservation Roadmap (INECR)' for synergising the aim of 'Blue Water Operations with a Green Footprint'. The Navy commissioned one of its largest solar plants with a capacity of 3 MW at Indian Naval Academy (INA), Ezhimala in July 2020. Another 2 MW solar power

plant was installed at Naval Station Karanja, Mumbai in July 2020. With this, the overall installed solar plant capacity at Naval Stations has gone up to 11 MW. More than 30,000 saplings have been planted towards continuous forestation, over the course of the preceding year that would mitigate an estimated 630 tonnes of CO₂/year. Further, viability of setting up urban forest concepts such as Miyawaki forests, coastal afforestation including restoration of mangroves is being emphasised to match the theme of World Environment Day 2021- 'Ecosystem Restoration'. A mangrove plantation drive was conducted by Southern Naval Command, Kochi in association with Kerala Forest Department on the occasion of 'World River day'.

Indian Air Force

Utilisation of renewable source of energy for generation of electricity and thereby reducing carbon emission is one of the key responsibility areas of the Indian Air Force (IAF). The solar energy generated by IAF stations is connected to the main grid and cost of solar power generated is adjusted against the total bill of State Electricity Boards resulting in savings. In consonance with the directions of Government, Air Headquarters has made a road map to redevelop airbases as smart stations. The development of smart stations is

envisioned as the bases equipped with the most modern infrastructure, having sound yet resilient zonal/master plans and efficacious network of modern drainage system, scientific alignment and orientation of roads and a living environment akin to the most developed modern cities of the world. The project will be undertaken as a model enterprise, with an aim to enhance the image of the Service, besides contributing to the larger national objective of progress and development with energy conservation.

Indian Coast Guard

The Indian Coast Guard, apart from conducting round-the-year real-life operations at sea, focusses on the need for environment conservation. It has carried out tree plantation drives at various places and organised community interaction programmes & Ayurveda medical camps, as part of its efforts to protect the environment.

DPSUs & OFB

The DPSUs & OFB have carried out plantation drives across the country to increase the green cover by planting more than 24.4 lakh trees/saplings at a cost of Rs 2.15 crore. Besides the plantation activities, BEML developed an Eco-park in Kolar Gold Fields by planting 7,700 saplings including evergreen trees and medicinal plants. MIDHANI has created a Peacock Sanctuary in its premises to protect the National bird. To harness the rain water, DPSUs and OFB constructed 1,962 water harvesting structures having capacity of recharging 563 crore litres of water. Moving towards the goal of generating clean energy, DPSUs and OFB installed 141.54 MW of Solar Power Plants and 51.6 MW of Wind Power Plants. This has resulted in the carbon footprint reduction by about 5.45 lakh tonnes per year. Further, a total of eight lakh LED lights have replaced conventional lights that has resulted in energy savings of eight crore units per year. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL) has taken up rejuvenation of Doddabommasandra lake in Bengaluru for Urban Water Management by setting up of 10 MLD Sewage Treatment Plant with a project

cost 13.5 crores under Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) scheme. Development of Ganga Ghats was taken up under Ganga Rejuvenation Program at Kanpur at a cost of Rs 2.5 crore under CSR.

Under CSR, HAL has installed roof top solar power plants in more than 100 Government schools in urban & rural areas of Karnataka. It is also encouraging the young minds to adopt sustainable ways of living. HAL has also implemented several energy conservation measures such as refurbishing of furnace insulations, installation of Variable Frequency Drives (VFD) in Air Compressors, Ventilation Systems etc, installation of Solar Water Heaters and improving the operation of Air Compressors and Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) Plants. HAL is having Sewage Treatment Plants at all its locations for treatment of Sewage/Waste Water generated from the townships and factories. It has installed Rain Water Harvesting (RWH) systems at all its locations to collect and store the rain water wherever feasible. Other initiatives include development of Ganga Ghats under Ganga Rejuvenation Program in Kanpur; installation of Waste Management and Sewage Treatment Plants in Nasik; setting up of Sanitary Pads Vending Machine and Incinerators at Lucknow and Koraput; donation of 22 Garbage Picking Vehicles to Greater Hyderabad

Municipal Corporation and 10 Garbage Picking Vehicles to Nagar Nigam, Lucknow.

Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) bagged 15th Annual Greentech Environment Award-2014 in 'Silver Category' Silver award in Engineering Sector for outstanding achievement in Environment Management and Golden Peacock Environment Management Award-2015 in Defence equipment sector. BDL is having Effluent Treatment Plants (ETP) in Kanchanbagh & Bhanur Units and Sewage Treatment Plants (STP) in Kanchanbagh, Bhanur & Visakhapatnam. The Raksha Mantri had inaugurated its rain water harvesting facility and solar power plant at Ibrahimpatnam Unit, Telangana of capacity of more than one lakh litres having catchment area of 4,000 sqm.

Defence Research and Development Organisation

The Centre for Fire Explosives and Environment Safety (CFEES), DRDO, Delhi is the nodal agency for implementation of environment safety regulations in MoD. The CFEES has taken up and successfully completed various projects related to environmental management and climate change mitigation. Unserviceable/rejected/life expired ammunition and explosives have been disposed of through open burning and open detonation in the country. These processes are not only



hazardous but also cause severe environment pollution. The CFEES has also taken up a project to establish a 300 MT pilot plant for eco-friendly and safe disposal of ammunition and explosives. The plant will be equipped with gas and water treatment systems to meet environmental discharge limits.

Border Roads Organisation

Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has designed crust configuration as cementitious sub-base and base layers by using chemical cement base soil stabilizers during the road construction. This has necessitated use of the local, recycled and engineered marginal aggregates in construction. In this methodology, commercial Chemical Stabilizers, Polymers & Bio-Enzymes are used for road construction. There is no requirement of aggregates and is most ideal for remote areas. This process also leads to enhanced speed of construction, environment friendly and cost-effective method. The process reduces the carbon footprints and impact on the environment. Construction of length of 240 kms of road is being undertaken in Ladakh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim & Arunachal Pradesh.

National Cadet Corps

NCC cadets too play their part to protect the environment. A tree Plantation Drive was carried out by NCC in June-July 2020. The theme was tree plantation 'In house & In Neighbourhood'. Over 3.5 lakh



saplings took roots in this drive. A drive was also conducted from December 07-13, 2020 for cleaning of rivers & water bodies by NCC cadets at mass level Pan India. Approximately 3 lakh cadets participated in the event. Five lakh NCC cadets also participated in the MoD Swachhta Pakhwada in conjunction with all the youth organisations. The focus of this Pakhwada was on Plastic Waste Management and Say No to single use Plastic. As part of National Road Safety Month observed from January 18, 2021 to February 17, 2021, NCC cadets actively carried out extensive awareness drive to switch off the ignition of vehicles when they halt at red traffic light. Swachhta Abhiyan

was conducted by NCC to keep the general area of Rajpath, India Gate and C Hexagon clean during Republic Day functions by spreading mass awareness, organising cleanliness campaigns and supplementing efforts of other agencies tasked for maintenance of that area. NCC actively supported the Atulya Ganga Mission where in 5,200 kms parikrama was conducted by Veterans of Ganga over a period of 8 months spreading awareness of Namami Gange, keeping Ganga Clean and collection of water samples.

Sainik Schools

All 33 Sainik Schools maintain green cover with active participation from students and staff community. Every school has an Eco Club where students are involved in cultivating different types of trees and saplings. Further, all the schools have been declared no Plastic Zone and frequent plastic removal drives, awareness campaigns and cleanliness drives are organised. The schools have included Shramdaan in the weekly curriculum to develop a sense of responsibility towards conserving the environment.

On this World Environment Day, let us reaffirm the pledge to protect our environment and make the world a cleaner and safer place to live!

-Savvy Hasan Khan



BRAR Squadron Bags the Commandant's Banner at Air Force Academy

Inter Squadron Drill competition marked the culmination of competitions in the schedule of training of Under-Trainee Officers and Flight Cadets of Air Force Academy. The Flight Cadets in their smart uniforms presented a spectacular March Past in synchrony with martial tunes played by IAF Band. The Commandant, Air Marshal IP Vipin presented trophies to winners of various competitions. Brar Squadron bagged the Winner's trophy for the Inter Squadron Drill Competition.

Commandant's Banner is conferred to the Squadron, which has displayed exceptional performance in various Inter-Squadron Competitions such as Sports, Debate, Quiz, Cross Country, Drill and Academics conducted as part of the training of Flight Cadets in the preceding five months. The winning Squadron is called 'Champion Squadron' for the next six months and Cadets of this Squadron will have the privilege of wearing a lanyard on the shoulder over their uniform.

It was a moment of immense pride and a sense of achievement for the Cadets of Brar Squadron when Air Marshal IP Vipin,



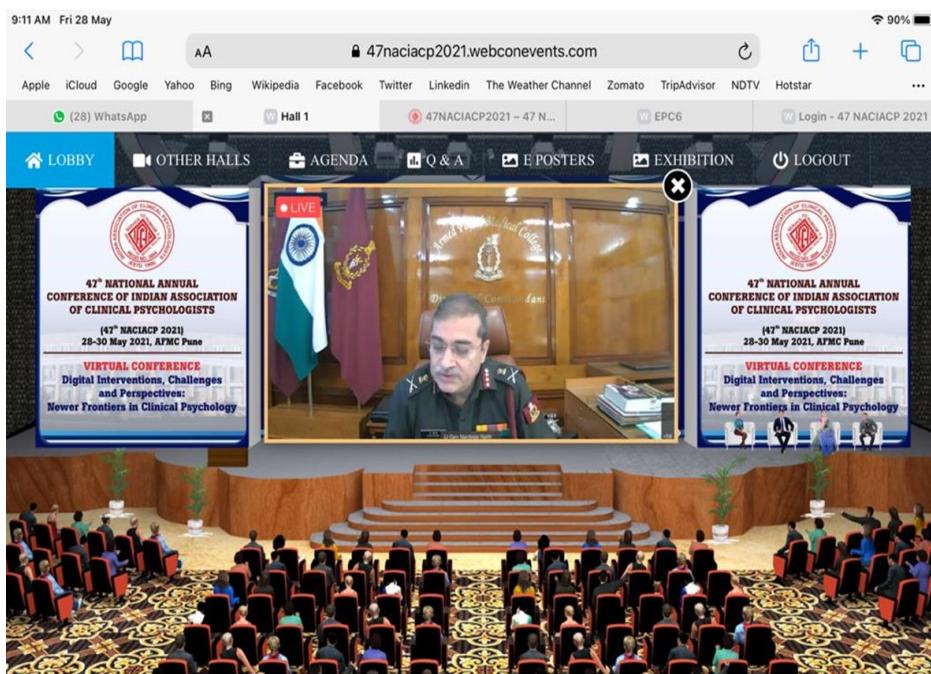
presented the coveted Commandant's Banner for Spring Term 2021 to Squadron Cadet Captain Flight Cadet K Joshi of Brar Squadron in a splendid ceremony held at Air Force Academy, Dundigal June 7, 2021. Spring Term 2021 commenced in January this year at Air Force Academy for Flying, Engineering and Non-Technical branches. Soon after joining the Academy, the Flight Cadets are divided into four Squadrons and focus on development of the qualities of Competitive Spirit, Esprit-De-Corps, Leadership and Sportsmanship in them.

Complimenting the winning Squadrons, the Commandant in his address emphasized physical fitness and mental toughness as an integral part of Military life. He stressed that building endurance and toughness is a slow and lifelong process. He also appreciated the hard work put in by the team of instructors in shaping up the Flight Cadets and achieving superlative standards, especially under the prevailing circumstances due to the ongoing pandemic.

-PRO Secunderabad



National Annual Conference of the Indian Association of Clinical Psychologists at AFMC, Pune



Over 1500 mental health practitioners from across the globe attended a first of its kind virtual conference of Clinical Psychologists on Digital Interventions, Challenges and Perspectives : Newer Frontiers in Clinical Psychology

Indian Association of Clinical Psychologists (IACP), an umbrella body of Clinical Psychologists in India organised its 47th National Annual Conference on virtual platform from May 28-30, 2021.

Dr K Vijay Raghavan, Principal Scientific Advisor to the Government of India, inaugurated the conference as the Chief Guest. Lt Gen Nardeep Naithani, Director and Commandant was the Guest of Honour during the inauguration of the conference. The conference featured noted speakers from all over the world including eminent scholars in the psychological sciences, Dr David D Burns from Stanford University's School of Medicine, Dr Andrea Chronis-Toscano President of the International Society for research in child and adolescent psychology, Dr Susan Howard a

well-known psycho-analyst and founder of the interpersonal psychotherapy centre at the University of Surrey and Dr Debbie Joffe Ellis, Columbia University. Indian Scholars of repute delivered invited lectures. Dr SL Vaya, Director of the School of Criminology and Behavioural Sciences (SCBS) at Rashtriya Raksha University, Lt Gen Madhuri Kanitkar, were among the distinguished speakers. Panel discussions addressed the challenges that clinical psychologists face during delivery

of mental health in India, telemedicine and how psychologists themselves are in need of healing during the pandemic second wave. Other topics that were covered ranged from positive psychology, forensic psychology, neuro-psychology to psychotherapy training and supervision in India.

The three-day program was concluded by Padmashree Dr Mohan Agashe, a renowned psychiatrist and famed stage/film actor presenting his views and addressing the Professionals. Dr Kavita Narayan, the technical advisor, HRH, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare gave her insight on mental health related initiatives.

Dr Kalpana Srivastava, President, IACP a senior scientist from DRDO posted at Department of Psychiatry, Armed Forces Medical College, Pune took the challenge of organizing online conference at a time when the demand for tele-counselling and therapy is at its peak due to the COVID-19 global pandemic. The delivery of mental health care has become front and centre of health discussions worldwide.

-PRO Pune



Certificate of Commitment by World Book of Records, London to Gujarat NCC Directorate

"Ek Mai Sau Ke Liye" Campaign Initiative presently being run by the NCC Directorate Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli has now been recognized by the World Book of Records, London. In an email received on June 7, 2021, by the Gujarat NCC Directorate, the 'Certificate of Commitment' from the World Book of Records validates the dedicated and relentless commitment of the Gujarat NCC Directorate, as part of the "Ek Mai Sau Ke Liye" Campaign for promoting safety against the Covid-19 pandemic and the honesty and sincerity towards reducing human sufferings for the best prevention of Corona virus disease, as specified by the World Health Organisation.

As the name so clearly signifies, the entire idea is based on the very words 'Ek Mai Sau Ke Liye'. A brainchild of Major General Arvind Kapoor, Additional Director General, NCC, Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Dadra Nagar Haveli, the Campaign is a unique initiative, wherein the large pool of NCC cadets in the state, have galvanized themselves as responsible and disciplined citizens of the nation and come forward to meet their social obligations towards the society they live in, presently reeling under the severe effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.

With Phase three presently underway, the Campaign commenced in the first week of May 2021 and has since then gained immense attraction and popularity. In the first Phase, which started on May 3, 2021 each NCC cadet of the Gujarat, Daman and Diu, Dadra and Nagar Haveli Directorate connected, over their mobile phones, with a hundred relatives and friends and acquaintances and spread awareness about Covid Appropriate Behaviour and the importance of vaccination, simultaneously giving moral and emotional support with a human-to-human touch. As part of the Campaign, these NCC cadets

went through a process of deep emotional connect, on which they made short videos of their mobile phone conversations and also posted some relevant experiences. This part of the Campaign received tremendous response and further motivated the cadets to carry on with the Campaign.

In the second Phase of the "Ek Mai Sau Ke Liye" Campaign, NCC cadets of the Directorate started connecting on their mobile phones with residents of Old Age Homes. The aim of this connect was to instill a feeling of deep love and regard for the elders at the Old Age Homes, as also to keep their spirits high and show them that "We Care". The overall aim was a feel-good factor at both ends, i.e., the residents of the Old Age Homes as well as the NCC cadets.

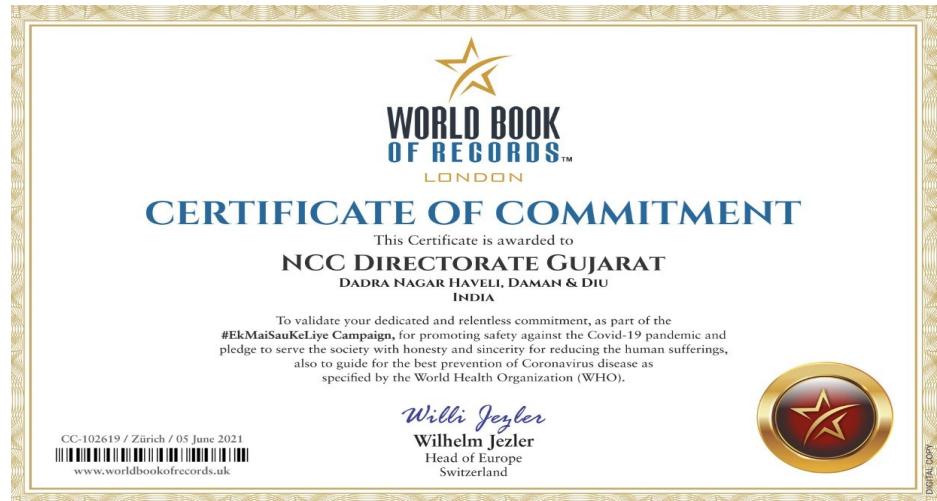
Phase Three of this Campaign started on May 22, 2021. In this phase, the cadets have been connecting with the Veterans of the Indian Armed Forces and the War Widows, respectfully, called Veer Naaris, of the Indian Armed Forces. The overall thought behind this phase is to tell that even in these times, we have not forgotten the services rendered by them and their husbands respectively.

As part of these three phases, a detailed analysis and important conclusions, at the State level, made from the telephone calls and

meetings that the NCC cadets have had with a large number of people in Gujarat, have been shared with the concerned authorities. Meanwhile, Shri Amitabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog and Chairman, Empowered Group 3 (who himself is a Ex-NCC Cadet) had recently chaired a VC, wherein he complimented the work being done by the NCC in Exercise Yogdan, and said that there were certain focus areas which needed to be looked into, namely intensifying the measures on online methods of extending support to the civil population, in terms of following Covid protocols, and also reaching out to old people in Old Age Homes for physical and mental support.

Phase 4 of the Campaign is planned to be conducted after the International Day of Yoga is over, with effect from June 23, 2021 and will involve the NCC cadets connecting with Corona Warriors - Doctors, Nurses, Ward boys, Ambulance drivers and hospital staff, towards motivating them for the tremendous job that they're doing in such times. Major General Arvind Kapoor, Additional Director General, NCC, Gujarat, when contacted over the phone, said that the endeavour of the Gujarat Directorate is to continue with the "Ek Mai Sau Ke Liye" Campaign, as long as possible, with meaningful activities for social service and community development towards nation building in the entire State of Gujarat.

-PRO Gandhinagar





RM Reviews Bilateral Defence Cooperation in Telephonic Conversation with his Australian Counterpart

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh had a telephonic conversation with Australian Minister for Defence Mr Peter Dutton on June 1, 2021. During their interaction, both Ministers reviewed the defence cooperation between the two countries in the backdrop of the current regional situation. Both Ministers acknowledged the momentum that defence cooperation between India and Australia has achieved

following the upgradation of the partnership to a Comprehensive Strategic Partnership in June 2020. The participation of Australia in Exercise MALABAR has been an important milestone in this enhanced partnership.

Both Ministers expressed satisfaction at the growing defence ties between the two countries. Both sides reviewed the progress on various bilateral defence cooperation

initiatives and expressed commitment to further elevate engagements between the Armed Forces. During the dialogue, both Ministers expressed their intent to convene the 2+2 Ministerial Dialogue at the earliest.

Shri Rajnath Singh thanked Australia for their assistance to India in fight against COVID-19.

-PRO Defence

MoD Signs Contract to Procure Airport Surveillance Radars

Ministry of Defence signed a contract with M/s Mahindra Telephonics Integrated Systems Ltd., Mumbai for procurement of 11 Airport Surveillance Radars with Monopulse Secondary Surveillance Radar for Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard on June 3, 2021. The procurement, at a cost of Rs 323.47 crore, will be made under the 'Buy & Make' category. The installation of these radars will increase the air domain awareness around airfields and enhance safety & efficiency in flying operations of Indian Navy and Indian Coast Guard.

The signing of this contract is an achievement of the Government towards 'Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan' and the



objectives envisaged in the programme. This would enable absorption of technology, skill development and indigenous

manufacture which will be boosting employment opportunities.

-PRO Defence

100th Anniversary of Army Educational Corps Celebrated

Indian Army celebrated the 100th anniversary of the raising of Army Educational Corps (AEC) on June 1, 2021. On this occasion, Maj Gen Devesh Gaur, Additional Director General, Army Education and Colonel Commandant, AEC laid wreath at the National War Memorial on behalf of all ranks of the Army.

History of the AEC dates back to 1921 when the mass scale of illiteracy amongst the Indian soldiers were prevalent. Since then, many remarkable developments have seen AEC grow over the years adapting seamlessly to the rapid growth of education and technology as also the organisational needs.

The Corps is rendering yeoman service in conduct of Map Reading training, Academic training at Pre-Commission Training Academies, capability development in foreign languages, Military Music, handling of Right to Information cases and shaping young minds in various Rashtriya

Military Schools and Sainik Schools. Implementation of informal educational programmes like IGNOU Army Education Project (IAEP) and NIOS Education Project for Indian Army (NEPIA) to ensure continuing education for personnel, wards and dependents are other notable initiatives

undertaken by the Corps. As the field of knowledge and education expands aligning itself to the technology advancement, the Army Educational Corps is prepared to meet the emerging challenges and the organisational needs in time to come

-PIB



INS Tarkash Brings Medical Oxygen Consignment

Indian Naval Ship Tarkash on her third trip as part of Operation Samudra Setu II (Oxygen Express) brought in critical medical supplies from Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

In continuation of "Oxygen Solidarity Bridge" to support India's fight against COVID, Indian Naval ships have been playing crucial role in transhipment of Oxygen and other medical supplies from various countries.

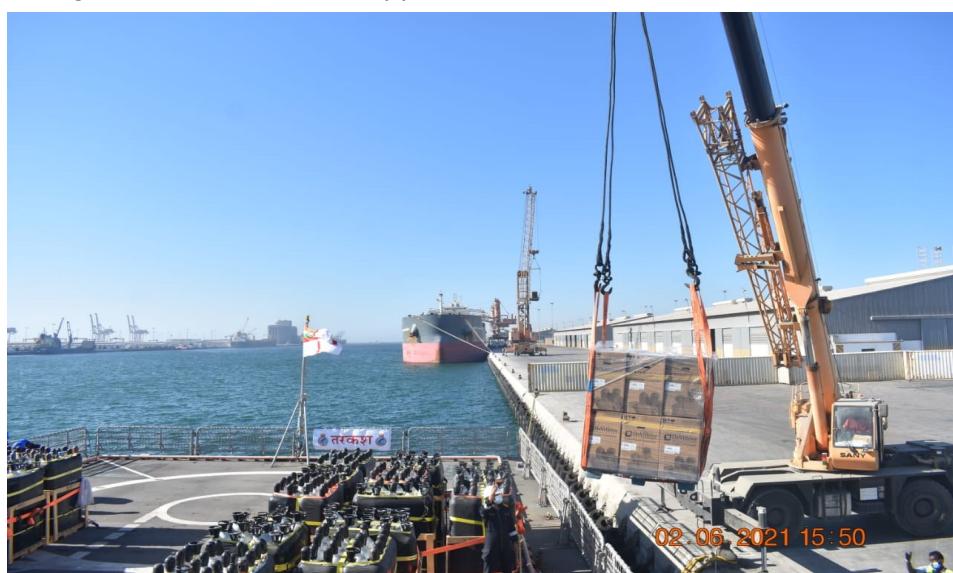
INS Tarkash entered Al Shuwaikh Harbour, Kuwait on May 31, 2021 and embarked 785 oxygen cylinders. Later on, the ship embarked 300 oxygen cylinders from Ad Dammam Port, Saudi Arabia on June 1, 2021.

She entered Mumbai Harbour with medical consignment on the morning of 8 June, 2021.

Previously, INS Tarkash had brought in critical medical supplies

comprising of four Cryogenic Oxygen Containers (20MT each), 982 oxygen cylinders in her two trips from Doha and Bahrain.

-PRO Mumbai



INDO-THAI Coordinated Patrol (CORPAT)

The 31st edition of India-Thailand Coordinated Patrol (Indo-Thai CORPAT) between the Indian Navy and the Royal Thai Navy is being conducted from June 9 – 11, 2021. Indian Naval Ship (INS) Saryu, an indigenously built Naval Offshore Patrol Vessel and His Majesty's Thailand Ship (HTMS) Krabi, an Offshore Patrol Vessel, along with Dornier Maritime Patrol Aircraft from both navies are participating in the CORPAT.

Towards reinforcing maritime links between the two countries and with an aim of keeping this vital part of the Indian Ocean safe and secure for international trade, the two navies have been undertaking CORPAT bi-annually along their International Maritime Boundary Line (IMBL) since 2005. CORPAT builds up understanding and interoperability between navies and facilitates institution of measures to prevent and suppress unlawful activities like Illegal Unreported Unregulated (IUU)

fishing, drug trafficking, maritime terrorism, armed robbery and piracy. It further helps enhance the operational synergy by exchange of information for prevention of smuggling, illegal immigration and conduct of SAR operations at sea.

As part of Government of India's vision of SAGAR (Security And Growth for All in the Region), the Indian Navy has been proactively engaging with the countries in the Indian Ocean Region towards enhancing regional maritime security. This has been through bilateral and multilateral

exercises, Coordinated Patrols, Joint EEZ Surveillance, and Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief (HADR) operations. The Indian Navy and Royal Thai Navy have especially enjoyed a close and friendly relationship covering a wide spectrum of activities and interactions, which have strengthened over the years.

The 31st Indo-Thai CORPAT will contribute towards Indian Navy's efforts to consolidate inter-operability and forge strong bonds of friendship with Royal Thai Navy.

-PRO Navy



Indian Navy's oldest Hydrographic Survey Ship INS Sandhayak Decommissioned

INS Sandhayak, the Indian Navy's oldest Hydrographic Survey Vessel was decommissioned at Naval Dockyard in Visakhapatnam after serving the nation for 40 glorious years on Friday, June 4, 2021. The ship was decommissioned in a solemn and low key event due to the ongoing COVID Pandemic when the National Flag, Naval Ensign, and the Decommissioning Pennant were lowered at sunset time in the presence of Vice Adm Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief Eastern Naval Command, the Chief Guest for the ceremony. The Decommissioning Ceremony was also attended by Vice Adm Vinay Badhwar, Chief Hydrographer to Govt. of India and by serving Hydrographers,

outstation ex-crew members and veterans virtually through live streaming.

During her 40 years of illustrious service in the Indian Navy, INS Sandhayak undertook over 200 major hydrographic surveys in Western and Eastern coasts of the Indian peninsula, the Andaman Sea, and surveys in neighbouring countries

including Sri Lanka, Myanmar and Bangladesh. The ship also took part in important operations like Op Pawan in Sri Lanka, 1987, Op Rainbow for Humanitarian Assistance in the aftermath of the Tsunami in 2004 and the maiden Indo-US HADR Exercise Tiger-Triumph in 2019.

-PRO Navy



Camp Joshila – 21 : INS Shivaji, Lonavala

In the Merged Artificer Apprentice Course (MAAC) XXXII at INS Shivaji Lonavala, a Camp Joshila was held as part of outdoor training from May 28-30, 2021. In view of the Covid-19 protocols, the camp was held within INS Shivaji and the aim of the Camp was to develop teamwork between friendly foreign countries and build bridges of friendship, camaraderie, leadership qualities and self reliance amongst the trainees.

163 personnel took part in the camp, which included 135 Indian trainees and 7 foreign trainees, 18 Assistant Divisional Officers from Marine Engineering Specialisation Course and three sailors from the Training Team. Camp Joshila was held in outdoor settings and the cohort group had taken all precautionary measures against the pandemic viz. wearing of face masks, social distancing, and frequent hand sanitisation.

Trainees with full josh and enthusiasm participated in major



events of the camp like Approach Route March to the Campsite (10 km), Mini Josh Run (8.4 km), Tent Pitching, Air Rifle Shooting, Stripping & Assembling of 5.56 mm INSAS and Troop Games such as Tug of War, Obstacle course and Volleyball. Further a ingenious event namely "Hands on Skill Marathon" was conducted wherein real time live scenarios as expected onboard ships were simulated and trainees were tasked to carry out repair and maintenance on Engine Room

Machinery in limited time akin to how they would be challenged 'At Sea'.

The Camp culminated with a final Josh Run back from the camp site to trainee block covering a total distance of 14kms. Korigad Division emerged as the 'Champions' of Camp Joshila-21. Amit Gurjar, was adjudged as the Best Trainee of the Camp and Shoaib Akhtar & George Appiah of Ghana Navy were adjudged as the Most Spirited Trainees of Camp Joshila -21.

ICG Conducts Swift Medical Evacuation, off Goa

Indian Coast Guard (ICG) successfully conducted a swift sea-air coordinated medical evacuation, off Goa on June 6, 2021. Information was received at 0430 hours at Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (Mumbai) that the captain of a ship, MT ELIM, a 50-year old South Korean national needed emergency medical assistance. The Marshall Island flag vessel, that was about 109 nm south west of Goa at that time, was directed to proceed towards Goa, while a swift operational plan was drawn by Coast Guard District HQ Goa for safe evacuation of the patient.

At 0530 hrs, ICG ship C-158 sailed out from Goa, maintaining continuous communication with



MT ELIM. For speedy evacuation of the patient, ICG Chetak helicopter was deployed from Coast Guard Air Enclave (Goa). Braving gusting monsoon winds, the helicopter reached the vessel and airlifted the patient with the

help of aircrew diver. The patient was safely brought ashore and shifted to SMRC hospital in Vasco, Goa where his condition is reported to be stable.

-PRO Defence

Valedictory Function Held at Navigation Training School

Valedictory Function of the 100th Advance Navigation Course (ANC) and 132nd Ab-Initio Navigation Course was held at Navigation Training School (NTS), Air Force Station Begumpet on June 4, 2021. Air Commodore TSS Krishnan, Deputy Director General NCC, AP & Telangana Region was the Reviewing Officer for the Function. Group Captain Sunil Tomar, Station Commander, Air Force Station Begumpet and other guests from the Station also witnessed the event.

Navigation Training School is a premier aerial navigation training institution of the Indian Air Force (IAF). It has been transforming Flight Cadets to become astute Navigators and imparting advanced navigation skills and instructional techniques to select Navigators of the Air Force, Navy and Coast Guard since seven decades.

Group Captain DK Sahani, Commanding Officer, Navigation

Training School welcomed the august gathering while Wing Commander RK Reddy, Chief Navigation Instructor presented the course reports for both the courses. The graduating course of 100th Advance Navigation Course comprised seven officers including two from Indian Navy and one from Indian Coast Guard. These officers would be stepping out as instructors and would be taking up instructional assignments in their respective services. 132nd Ab-Initio Navigation Course comprised of

seven Flight Cadets of IAF and two officers one each from Sri Lankan Air Force and Nigerian Air Force. Meritorious trainees of both the courses were awarded with trophies, medals and certificates during the function. The Flight Cadets, who have completed their training at NTS, would be commissioned as Officers of IAF during the Combined Graduation Parade to be held at Air Force Academy, Dundigal on June 19, 2021.

-PRO Secunderabad



Konark Corps Medicos Help Covid Positive Mother to Give Birth Successfully

The Covid warrior of Jodhpur Military Hospital Konark Corps successfully conducted a caesarean section operation on a 26 year old covid positive mother to enable premature birth of a child.

The expectant mother, wife of a serving Air Force Corporal, A K Upadhyay, was pregnant for 32 weeks, suffering from a severe Covid infection. Due to her serious clinical condition she was admitted in critical care unit, Military Hospital, Jodhpur. As her condition deteriorated, considering the threat to life of both mother and the child medicos decided to immediately conduct a caesarean section operation. As a result she gave birth to a premature baby, who recuperated in 3 days with the

efforts of Neonatal Care Unit of MH Jodhpur.

The mother remained critical for many days and was kept connected with the new born via video call, which motivated the

mother to fight her ailments & recover faster. After 20 days of sustained efforts of doctors and paramedics, mother and child both recovered well and finally united.

-PRO Jaipur



Advanced Light Helicopters Inducted at INS Dega

The induction ceremony of '322 Dega Flight' was held in the presence of Vice Adm Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command (ENC) with three indigenously built Advanced Light Helicopters (ALH) MK III helicopters flying into Naval Air Station, INS Dega on June 7, 2021. With the induction of these Maritime Reconnaissance and Coastal Security (MRCS) helicopters, the ENC got a major boost towards enhancing the capabilities of the force, in pursuit of the maritime interests of the nation. These helicopters, built by Hindustan Aeronautics Ltd, are state-of-the-art flying machines and constitute a major step in our quest for "Atmanirbhar Bharat".

ALH MK III helicopters feature an array of systems previously seen only on heavier, multi-role helicopters of the Indian Navy. These helicopters are fitted with modern surveillance radar and electro-optical equipment, which enable them to undertake the role of



maritime reconnaissance in addition to providing long-range Search and Rescue, both by day and night. In addition to special operations capabilities, ALH MK III is also fitted with a heavy machine gun to undertake constabulary missions. A removable Medical Intensive Care Unit (MICU) is also fitted on ALH MK III helicopters to

airlift critically ill patients. The helicopter also has a host of advanced avionics, making it truly an all-weather aircraft.

The flight is being led by Cdr SS Dash as the first flight commander who is an experienced ALH Qualified Flying Instructor (QFI) with extensive operational experience.

-PRO Navy

Sudarshan Chakra Corps Celebrates 32nd Raising Day

Sudarshan Chakra Corps celebrated its 32nd Raising Day in a solemn ceremony at Bhopal Military Station on May 18, 2021 with due safety aspects and COVID protocols. It was on this day in 1990 that the Sudarshan Chakra Corps was raised at Bhopal.

Sudarshan Chakra Corps dedicated this Raising Day towards fighting the COVID-19 pandemic with all its resources and wherewithal. The formation is already at the forefront of providing medical aid in many states and fully geared up to rise upto the occasion, if the situation so warrants, in future. The formation has established and operating Adhoc Isolation Facilities with oxygen support at Bhopal, Saugor and Gwalior for mild and asymptomatic COVID-19 civilian patients. The formation had recently dispatched a team of doctors, nurses and other para medics to Dhanvantri Armed Forces Covid Care Centre at Ahmedabad, Gujarat. In addition, on the occasion of 32nd Raising Day, an Oxygen Concentrator and N-95 masks



sponsored by Judaav Foundation were presented to Medical and Military Police authorities by Zonal President, AWWA, Sudarshan Chakra Corps.

On May 17, 2021, in a Wreath Laying Ceremony at the Corps War Memorial, Lieutenant General Atulya Solankey, General Officer Commanding (GOC), Sudarshan Chakra Corps paid homage to the gallant soldiers of the Corps who made

the supreme sacrifice for the Nation. After the Wreath Laying Ceremony, the GOC exhorted all ranks of this elite formation of the Indian Army to renew their pledge of 'Service Before Self'. Later on, the General Officer launched mission 'Reach Out' to proactively monitor health and COVID status of Veer Naris and Veterans of the Indian Defence Forces in its geographical area.

-PRO Pune

SNC Celebrates World Environment Day, 2021

The Southern Naval Command observed World Environment Day on June 5, 2021 with Ecosystem Restoration as the theme and waste segregation, plastic waste removal/recycling, afforestation and mangrove restoration as focus areas.

With the personal involvement of the Flag Officer C-in-C Southern Naval Command, Vice Admiral AK Chawla and active participation of more than 700 naval personnel, families and children, around 2 km stretch of the Venduruthy channel at Katari Bagh, Naval Base and other Naval residential areas in Kochi were cleared of plastic waste while restoring around 1 lakh sq m of mangroves to the pristine condition. In addition, coastal cleanliness was undertaken at Fort

Kochi. The FOC-in-C also inspected the plastic waste handling facility in Katari Bagh. More than 450 saplings were planted by the participants from different Naval units at Kochi. Other outstation naval units located at Jamnagar, Lonavla, Chilka, Coimbatore, Goa, Ezhimala and Malad also enthusiastically conducted similar events towards environment protection and ecosystem

restoration.

Children of the Navy Children School and KVs in SNC shore units actively participated in the event through online lectures, slogan writing, poster making and painting competitions.

A plantation drive under the guidance of President Navy Wives Welfare Association (Southern Region) was also organised.

-PRO Kochi



World Environment Day Celebrations at INS Shivaji

INS Shivaji undertook various activities towards celebration of World Environment Day in Station Lonavla from June 3-5, 2021 with the theme "Ecosystem Restoration". As part of it, plantation drive with strict adherence to COVID protocols was conducted on June 5, 2021. The objective of the plantation drive was to increase green cover in the Establishment, reduce the carbon footprint, Bamboo restoration and herbal forestry. The event included Positioning and distribution of saplings for plantation in liaison with Forest Department, Maharashtra, Distribution of manure produced to the residents, Procurement of herbal plants and setting up of herbal plantation section in ship's nursery. In Co-ordination with Forest Department, MH, tree Plantation in large areas of land was also carried out with approx. 11000 plants of various herbal and fruit varieties.

Team Prakriti of NWWA Station Lonavla actively

participated in the activities with conduct of Cutest Photo for children of little angels under the Age of 5, Poster making competition for children of age group 6 to 15, Article writing completion and fun with papers (re - use of papers) for the ladies. Lectures, discussions, painting and slogan writing, Competition on best ideas for restorations of forests, electricity/water conservation measures and other environment related topics pertaining to ecosystem restoration

for service personnel and families was conducted on June 4, 2021. Motivational and educative videos on environmental awareness and best practices were uploaded on unit LAN/Website.

Bio degradable banners were positioned with Environmental awareness taglines at various locations in establishment to create awareness amongst service personnel and families about environment.

-PRO Pune



APPOINTMENTS

Lt Gen Ajai Singh assumed charge as the 16th C-in-C of the Andaman & Nicobar Command (CINCAN) on June 1, 2021. The Andaman and Nicobar Command (ANC) is the only tri-service theatre command of the Armed Forces, based at Port Blair. A fifth generation Army as well as Cavalry/Armoured Corps officer, with family service of over 162 years since September 13, 1858, Lt Gen Ajai Singh is an alumnus of The Lawrence School, Sanawar and NDA & IMA. He was commissioned in December 1983 into 81 Armoured Regiment, a Regiment raised by his late father.

The General officer has had the privilege of tenanting various appointments across all six of the Army's geographical Commands as well as at the Army Training Command. The General officer also held sensitive posts at the Army HQ as the Additional DG at the Military Operations Directorate and was DG, Financial Planning and DG, Military Training. Lt Gen Ajai Singh was an active part of flood relief efforts in Uttarakhand in 2013, Uttar Pradesh & Bihar in 2017 and Kerala in 2018 as well as the Government's COVID amelioration efforts.

-PRO Defence



Lieutenant General Pradeep Chandran Nair, AVSM, YSM took over as the 21st Director General of the Assam Rifles on June 1, 2021. He has rich experience of Assam Rifles and the North East, having earlier been an Inspector General and a Company Commander in Assam Rifles, besides having commanded Assam Rifles

battalions as a Brigade Commander.

The General Officer was commissioned into the Sikh Regiment in 1985.

In his last assignment at the Army Headquarters, he was the Director General Recruiting.

-PRO Shillong



Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh, AVSM, NM assumed charge as Deputy Chief of Naval Staff on June 1, 2021. Vice Admiral Ravneet Singh was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 01 Jul 1983 and specialized in Aviation. The Flag Officer is a Qualified Flying Instructor with Master Green instrument rating. He has flown HT-2, Kiran HJT 16, TS 11 Iskra, Hunter, Harrier Gr 3, Jet Provost, Chetak, Gazelle, Hawk and Mig 29 KUB aircraft during his illustrious career.

He has commanded various frontline ships and Naval Air Squadrons including INS Himgiri, INS Ranvijay, INS Ranvir, INAS 551B, INAS 300 as well as the premier Air Base INS Hansa.

Additionally he was also appointed Indian Defence Advisor (Kenya, Tanzania and Seychelles) from 2005 to 2008. On promotion to Flag rank, he has held key assignments of Assistant Controller Carrier Project & Assistant Controller Warship Production and Acquisition at IHQ MoD(N), Flag Officer Goa Area/ Flag Officer Naval Aviation at Goa and Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet at Mumbai. In the rank of Vice Admiral, the Flag Officer has tenanted the appointments of Chief of Staff at Headquarters Western Naval Command, Mumbai, Director General Project Seabird and Chief of Personnel at IHQ MoD (N).

-PRO Defence



APPOINTMENTS

Vice Admiral Sandeep Naithani, AVSM, VSM, has assumed charge as the Chief of Materiel, of the Indian Navy on 01 June 2021.

A graduate of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune. He was commissioned into the Electrical Branch of the Indian Navy on 01 Jan 1985. The Admiral is a Post Graduate in Radar and Communication Engineering from IIT Delhi and a distinguished alumnus of the Defence Services Staff College (DSSC) and the National Defence College (NDC).

As a Flag Officer, the Admiral has served as the Assistant Chief of Materiel (Modernisation) in Naval Headquarters, Chief Staff Officer (Technical), HQ WNC, Admiral Superintendent of Naval Dockyard Mumbai, Director General Naval Project at Mumbai, Programme Director, HQ ATVP, and as Controller of Warship Production and Acquisition in Naval Headquarters.

The Admiral relieves Vice Admiral SR Sarma, PVSM, AVSM, VSM who superannuated on 31 May 21.

-PRO Defence



Vice Adm Dinesh K Tripathi, AVSM, NM, has assumed charge as Chief of Personnel on 01 Jun 2021. He is an alumnus of National Defence Academy Khadakwasla and was commissioned in the Navy on Jul 1, 1985. The Flag Officer is a specialist in Communication and Electronic Warfare and has served on frontline warships of the Navy as Signal Communication Officer and Electronic Warfare Officer and later as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare Officer of Guided Destroyer INS Mumbai.

The Flag Officer has commanded the Eastern Fleet from

15 Jan 2018 to 30 Mar 2019. On promotion to the rank of Vice Admiral in Jun 2019, the Flag Officer was appointed as the Commandant of the prestigious Indian Naval Academy at Ezhimala, Kerala. The Academy was awarded the President's Colour in Nov 2019 by the Supreme Commander of the Armed Forces. He was the Director General of Naval Operations, from 29 Jul 2020 till 31 May 2021, a period that witnessed a very high tempo of naval/maritime operations.

-PRO Defence



Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, AVSM, VSM, has assumed charge as the Controller Warship Production and Acquisition on May 31, 2021. Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, who is alumnus of VJTI, University of Mumbai, was commissioned as an Engineer Officer into the Indian Navy on 31 March 86. He holds a Master degree in Engineering and is a post graduate from Defence Services Staff College, Wellington.

The Flag Officer has served onboard frontline ships like Rajput Class, Delhi Class and Tabar Class in various capacities. Prior to his appointment as Controller Warship Production & Acquisition, as Flag Officer he has served as Director General Naval Project at Visakhapatnam, Admiral Superintendent of Naval Dockyard Visakhapatnam, Chief Staff Officer (Tech)/ HQENC and Assistant Chief of Material (Dockyards & Refits).

-PRO Defence



APPOINTMENTS

Vice Admiral Rajesh Pendharkar, AVSM, VSM has assumed charge as Director General Naval Operations on June 7, 2021. An alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla, Pune, he was commissioned into the Indian Navy in Jan 1987.

The Flag Officer is a specialist in Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and has served on frontline warships of the Navy as ASW Officer and later as the Executive Officer and Principal Warfare

Officer of Guided Destroyer INS Mysore. He has commanded the missile corvette INS Kora, the missile frigate INS Shivalik and the aircraft carrier INS Viraat. He has held important staff appointments in IHQ MoD (Navy) in the Directorate of Staff Requirements, Directorate of Personnel, and the Directorate of Net-Centric Operations.

-PRO Defence



Vice Admiral Sreekumar Nair, AVSM, NM, took over as the Director General Naval Projects (DGNP), Visakhapatnam from Vice Admiral Kiran Deshmukh, AVSM, VSM. Vice Admiral Nair has earlier served as Admiral Superintendent, Naval Dockyard, Visakhapatnam and Assistant Chief of Materiel (Information Technology and Systems), at Integrated Headquarters, Ministry of Defence (Navy).

The Flag officer was commissioned as an Electrical Officer into the Indian Navy on 17 Aug 1987 and is an alumnus of erstwhile Regional Engineering College (now NIT), Tiruchapalli and IIT Delhi.

He has served onboard Indian Naval Ships Ranvir, Rana, Delhi and Mumbai. He has commanded the premier training establishment INS Valsura at Jamnagar.

-PRO Defence



Lt Gen Sunil Kant has been appointed the Colonel Commandant of the AMC wef March 30, 2021. An alumnus of AFMC, he was commissioned in the AMC in 1983. He has done tenures with the Infantry at Sri Lanka, Siachen and High-Altitude areas and the United Nations. He was Senior Instructor at OTC, AMC Centre and College, Prof & HoD at AFMC, DDG (OPP), Brig (Med) 33

Corps, MG (Med) HQ EC and Commandant CH (EC).

He is Editor-in-Chief of an International Journal, has authored 10 books, is the Chairman of BIS Surgical Committee and Member Selection Committee, AIIMS. He has been awarded the UN Certificate for distinguished services, GOC-in-C Commendation Card, VSM and SM. He is presently DGHS (Armed Forces).

-DGMS



Lt Gen Sandip Mukherji, Commandant & OIC Records of AMC Centre & College, has been appointed as Colonel Commandant of Army Medical Corps on March 30, 2021. The General Officer is an alumnus of prestigious Armed Forces Medical College. He was commissioned on December 17, 1983. As a part of AFMS, the General Officer dedicated his service to the Air Force till Jan 3, 2021. On Jan 4, 2021 the General Officer permanently seconded to army by assuming the appointment as Commandant & OIC Records of Army Medical corps Centre

& College. During his 37 years of service, he shouldered various important appointments including Principal Medical Officer to three operational Air Commands and had contributed significantly in formulating casualty evacuation plan in Northern Theatre during COVID-19 pandemic. His guidance reduced COVID-19 cases significantly in the AOR of Western Air Command. He was awarded Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee commendation in Year 2015 and COAS commendation in year 2017.

-DGMS



PHOTOCALL

CNS & all ranks of Indian Navy expressed profound grief & heartfelt condolences on sad demise of the boxing legend Ngangom Dingko Singh, Master Chief Petty Officer (Retd), Gold medalist at the 1998 Bangkok Asian Games, Arjuna awardee in 1998 and Padma Shri recipient in 2013.



Junior Under Officer (JUO) Kinley Norbu, a Foreign Gentlemen Cadet from the Kingdom of Bhutan was awarded prestigious motivational trophy at Dehradun on June 9, 2021, for his excellent all-round performance during his training at the Academy.

A Medical Oxygen generation plant imported from South Korea has been installed at Armed Forces Clinic, New Delhi on June 3, 2021. Efforts of Army Design Bureau (ADB), Ceremonial and Welfare Directorate and DGMS Army were instrumental in completing this project.





Animesh Singh 7thB (2nd)



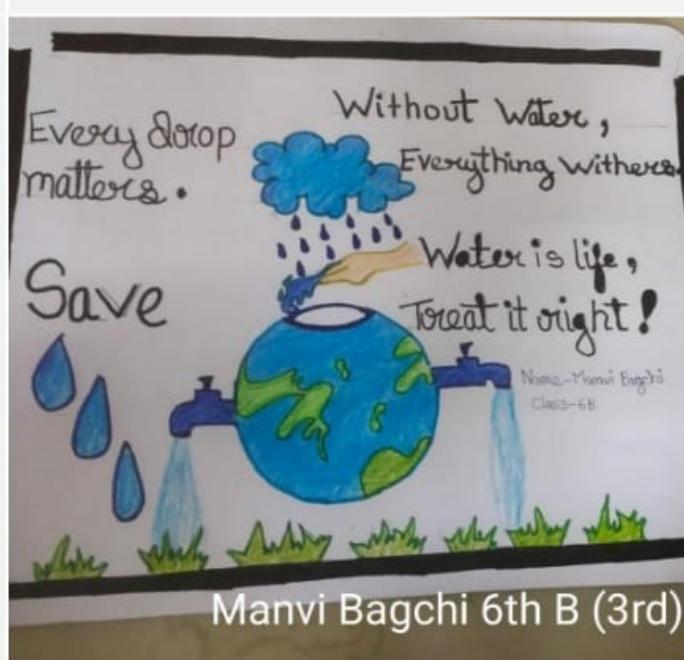
Arhaan UKG - A 1st Prize



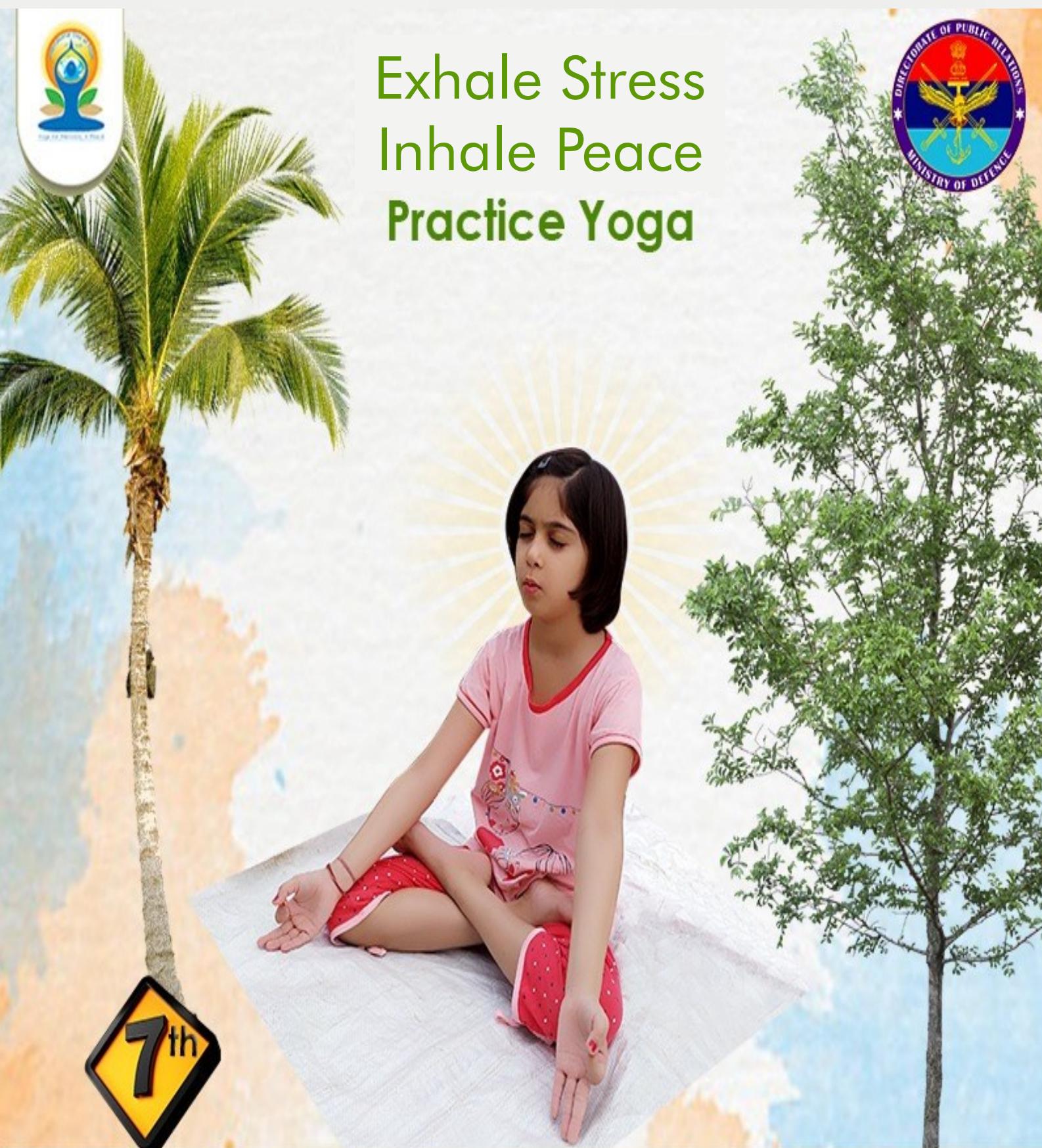
Abhisht sahay 7th A 1st



wastik 5th A (2nd)



Posters made by school children during the poster making competition on the World Environment Day on June 5, 2021.
(PRO Pune)



International Day of Yoga

21 June 2021

Exhale Stress Inhale Peace Practice Yoga



@SpokespersonMoD



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