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New Chief of Defence Staff
General Anil Chauhan



Raksha Mantri Shri Raj Nath Singh visited the forward areas of 3 Corps in Anini, a village in Dibang valley of Arunachal Pradesh on September 29, 2022. He took stock of the country's defence preparedness along LAC.



RRM Shri Ajay Bhatt laid wreath at the Purna Sthal, Jaipur Military Station on September 13, 2022 to pay respect to the bravehearts who have made supreme sacrifice for the nation.

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On Fornt Cover : General Anil Chauhan appointed as new Chief of Defence Staff on September 28, 2022. (Photo Courtesy: Photo Div)

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Government Appoints Lt General (Retd.) Anil Chauhan as Chief of Defence Staff

The Government has decided to appoint Lt General (Retired) Anil Chauhan as the next Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) who shall also function as Secretary to Government of India, Department of Military Affairs with effect from the date of his assumption of charge and until further orders. In a career spanning over nearly 40 years, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan had held several command, staff and instrumental appointments and had extensive experience in counter-insurgency operations in Jammu & Kashmir and North-East India.

Born on May 18th, 1961, Lt Gen Anil Chauhan was commissioned into the 11 Gorkha Rifles of the Indian Army in 1981. He is an alumnus of the National Defence Academy, Khadakwasla and Indian Military Academy, Dehradun. In the rank of Maj General, the officer had commanded an Infantry Division in the critical Baramula sector in the Northern Command. Later as Lt General, he commanded



a corps in the North East and subsequently went to become the General Officer Commanding-in-Chief of the Eastern Command from September 2019 and held the charge until his retirement from the service in May 2021.

In addition to these command appointments, the officer also tenanted important staff appointments including the charge of Director General of Military Operations. Earlier, the officer had also served as a United Nations mission to Angola. The

officer superannuated from the Indian Army on May 31, 2021. Even after his retirement from the Army, he continued to contribute to national security and strategic matters. For his distinguished and illustrious service in the Army, Lt General Anil Chauhan (Retired) was awarded the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Uttam Yudh Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Sena Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal.

-PRO Defence
Pic- Photo Division



RM Reviews DefExpo 2022 Preparations

- Gandhinagar set to host the biggest-ever DefExpo; Record 1,136 companies register for the event.
- Live demonstrations, ship visits & biggest-ever drone-show planned for general public.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh reviewed the preparations of the forthcoming DefExpo 2022 at a meeting in New Delhi on September 27, 2022. During the meeting, the Raksha Mantri was briefed by officials about the extensive arrangements being made by multiple stakeholders for the event. He expressed satisfaction at the preparations, while encouraging the officials to make the DefExpo 2022 the best-ever defence exhibition. Raksha Rajya Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt, Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar and other senior officials of Ministry of Defence were present in the meeting.

The 12th edition of DefExpo, scheduled to be held in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between October 18-22, 2022, will be the biggest ever as a record 1,136 companies have registered for the event as on September 27, 2022 and the numbers are expected to rise. The event is being planned in the largest ever total area of over one lakh sqm (previous edition being 76,000 sqm). The



theme of 12th DefExpo is 'Path to Pride' which is in line with Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's vision to transform India into a strong and self-reliant nation by supporting, showcasing and forging partnerships for the Indian Aerospace and Defence manufacturing sectors with Indian as well as global customers. The 12th DefExpo will be a five-day exhibition, with October 18-20 being business days and October 21 & 22 for public display. For the first time, the event will be held in a four-venue format. The inaugural ceremony and seminars will be held at Mahatma Mandir

Convention and Exhibition Centre; Exhibition at Helipad Exhibition Centre; Live Demonstrations at Sabarmati River Front and ship visits for public by Indian Navy & Indian Coast Guard at Porbandar. The biggest-ever drone-show by IIT Delhi start-up M/s Botlabs, which is an iDEX winner, has also been organised.

In addition, the exhibition will host the 2nd edition of the India-Africa Defence Dialogue, in which several Defence Ministers from African countries are expected to participate. A separate Indian Ocean Region plus conclave has also been planned.

The India Pavilion - a marquee pavilion of Department of Defence Production, Ministry of Defence - will showcase the maturity of indigenous defence products, start-ups, latest technology, including Artificial Intelligence in defence, and will present India's vision for 2047.

-PRO Defence



Raksha Mantri holds talks with his Egyptian Counterpart in Cairo

- Agree to Enhance Conduct of Joint Exercises and Exchange of Personnel for Training to Strengthen Defence Ties.
- Sign MoU to Bolster Defence Cooperation Across all Sectors of Mutual Interest.

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh held bilateral talks with Egyptian Defence Minister General Mohamed Zaki in Cairo on September 19, 2022. Shri Rajnath Singh, who is on an official visit to Egypt, was accorded a ceremonial Guard of Honour at the Ministry of Defence in Cairo, prior to the commencement of bilateral talks. During the meeting, both sides discussed steps to strengthen defence ties and reached a consensus to enhance conduct of joint exercises and exchange of personnel for training, especially in the field of counter-insurgency.



The two Ministers also agreed to identify proposals for expanding cooperation between the defence industries of India and Egypt in a time-bound manner. They also exchanged

views on regional security and acknowledged the contribution of India and Egypt to peace & stability in the world. Both sides expressed happiness at the intensified defence engagement

and exchanges over the last year, despite the COVID-19 pandemic.

Following the Raksha Mantri's call on with the President of Egypt Mr Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, both the



Ministers agreed to consolidate and focus on enhancing security and defence aspects of bilateral cooperation. Signing of MoU by the two Defence Ministers on cooperation in the field of defence was a milestone event during the visit, which will pave the way for enhancing defence cooperation across all sectors of mutual interest.

Shri Rajnath Singh also invited his Egyptian counterpart to the India-Africa Defence Dialogue and IOR Defence Ministers' Conclave, scheduled to be held as part of 12th DefExpo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat between October 18-22, 2022.

As part of his day's engagements, the Raksha Mantri paid homage at the Unknown Soldier Memorial and Tombstone of the late Egyptian President Anwar El-Sadat in Cairo.

RM Calls on President of Egypt

Both Sides Agree to Further Strengthen Military Cooperation and Focus on Joint Training, Defence Coproduction & Maintenance of Equipment

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh called on President of Egypt Mr Abdel Fattah El-Sisi in Cairo on September 19, 2022. The Raksha Mantri was received very warmly by President El-Sisi, who pointed out that bilateral relations between India and Egypt are well-established through history. He expressed appreciation that military-to-military cooperation between both the countries has reached a new level and that signing of MoU on defence cooperation is a major achievement.

Both leaders agreed to further develop military cooperation and focus on joint training, defence coproduction and maintenance of equipment. They emphasised the need for coproduction and to discuss

specific proposals in that regard. Shri Rajnath Singh expressed appreciation for the firm stand taken by Egypt against terrorism. President Sisi emphasised that there is need for India & Egypt to exchange expertise and best practices in countering the threat of terrorism.

The Raksha Mantri acknowledged that Egypt is among the most important trading partners of India in Africa and that bilateral trade has expanded significantly. He noted with satisfaction the close cooperation in multilateral forums between India and Egypt. Shri Rajnath Singh conveyed his best wishes for the successful hosting of COP27 in November 2022.

-PRO Defence



MoD Signs MoUs with Bank of Baroda & HDFC Bank for Pension Disbursement to Ex-Service Men

The Defence Accounts Department signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on September 21, 2022, with Bank of Baroda and HDFC Bank, to onboard them as Service Centres under the System for Pension Administration (Raksha) (SPARSH) initiative, across more than 14,000 branches throughout India. The MoU was signed in the presence of Defence Secretary Dr. Ajay Kumar, Financial Adviser (Defence Services) Smt. Rasika Chaube and Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA), Shri Avinash Dikshit, by Shri Sham Dev, Controller of Defence Accounts (CDA) Pensions, PCDA (Pensions) Prayagraj and senior executives of Bank of Baroda and HDFC bank.

Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar said that the objective is to bring 17 Lakh pensioners out of the total 32 lakh defence pensioners on SPARSH by the end of September, 2022 and

the remaining pensioners will be brought to SPARSH at the earliest. He said that the average time in pension settlement has come down significantly to about 16 days.

The MoU will onboard more than 7900 branches of Bank of Baroda and 6300 branches of HDFC Bank as Service Centres to provide last mile connectivity to pensioners, especially those who live in remote areas of the country and those who do not have the means or technical wherewithal to logon to SPARSH. For these pensioners, the Service Centers will become an interface for SPARSH and provide an effective medium for pensioners to perform profile update requests, register grievances and seek redressal, digital annual identification, pensioner data verification or also simply fetch detailed information regarding their monthly pension.

These centres would further augment the existing network

of more than 161 DAD offices and nearly 800 Service Centres provided by State Bank of India and Punjab National Bank branches, and 14 branches of the Kotak Mahindra Bank. More than 4.5 lakh Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs) will also assist Defence Pensioners, as part of the Common Service Centres (CSC) network. The access to these service centers would be provided free of cost to the pensioners, with nominal service charges being borne by the Department.

This system is administered by the Defence Accounts Department through the Principal Controller of Defence Accounts (Pensions), Prayagraj and caters to all the three Services and allied organization. The system on roll-out is initially catering to the new retirees and subsequently is being extended to cover the existing defence pensioners.

-PRO Defence



DG NCC Inaugurates Thal Sainik Camp



Girls Battalion NCC, Kohima selected to represent NCC Group Kohima at the All India Thal Sainik Camp-2022

The All India Thal Sainik Camp is one of the most prestigious National level camps conducted by the National Cadet Corps (NCC) annually by DG NCC, New Delhi wherein cadets of various directorates compete with one another in a number of competitions. Three senior wing cadets of 1 Nagaland Girls Battalion NCC, Kohima were selected to represent NCC Group Kohima at the All India



Thal Sainik Camp-2022. The camp is being organized from September 14 to 25, 2022. JUO Vizhasieno Vikhrie, currently pursuing English in the 5th Semester at Kohima College,

Kohima, JUO Anjali Kumari Dhama currently pursuing English at Dimapur Govt College and JUO Sharon Zeliang pursuing Political Science in 5th Semester at St Xavier's College, Jalukie, Dimapur underwent several selection procedures in the Pre Thal Sainik Camps conducted at NCC Academy Jorhat to be finally selected to be part of the Obstacle Course Team.

-PRO Kohima

Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh, DG, NCC inaugurated the Thal Sainik Camp on September 15, 2022 at the Cariappa Parade Ground in Delhi Cantt. Both boys and girls NCC cadets drawn from 17 NCC Directorate representing all the States and Union Territories of the country are participating in the camp, taking part in the various competitions like Obstacle Training, Map Reading and other Institutional Training Competitions for ten

days. The camp culminated on September 25, 2022.

Speaking on this occasion, the General Officer welcomed the cadets and congratulated them on getting selected for the Thal Sainik Camp. He further said that NCC gives the youth of the country an exposure to a life full of adventure, discipline and honour, inculcating in them the sense of leadership and camaraderie.

The aim of Thal Sainik Camp

is to give an exposure to the salient feature of Army Training, generating healthy competitive spirit and fostering a sense of discipline, leadership and national integration amongst the cadets. Thal Sainik Camp is unique in its own way by being a National level camp for Army Wing cadets. Similar camps for Air and Naval wing will be conducted subsequently.

-PRO Defence

Tunnel Construction: Capacity Building Initiative by BRO



Border Roads Organisation (BRO) has been constructing strategic road infrastructure in the border areas of the country. Years of sustained efforts towards road infra development has led to integration of the remote places with the mainland. In doing so, BRO has not only bolstered our defence preparedness but has also facilitated socio-economic growth and encouraged large number of tourists, travellers and adventure seekers to explore these pristine places.

With road infra being upgraded to National Highway Double Lane (NHDL) specifications, emphasis has now been shifted to construction of all-weather roads and towards ensuring that the roads remain traffic-worthy throughout the year, thereby, facilitating uninterrupted supply of essential commodities to the resident locals especially during the winters and monsoons. This has obviated the need for their periodic migration as was the

practice till very recently.

In hilly and snow bound regions, tunnels are seen as the most suitable alternative. Besides, tunnels also help in improving the road geometrics leading to reduction in accident potential of the roads and offer sustainable solutions across road stretches subjected to perennial landslides, heavy rains and avalanches. Tunnels can help in avoiding blind curves and offer effective alternative connectivity options in built up areas without a need for major realignment.

BRO's Tunnel so far.

Tunnelling has its own set of peculiar challenges and poses complex engineering problems which demand typical solutions and specific engineering skills, not easily available. Tunnelling is therefore a niche focus area across the globe. In the last few years, BRO has also been actively involved in various tunnelling projects and has to its credit, construction of "World's Longest

Highway Tunnel (9.02 Km), at an altitude above 10000 ft", the Atal Tunnel, Rohtang, in Himachal Pradesh. BRO has also constructed the Chamba Tunnel, which is 440 mtr long and has been constructed under the town on Rishikesh- Dharasu road in Uttarakhand. The tunnel has ensured smooth move of all types of vehicles till far flung places in the Garhwal region of Uttarakhand. Beside this, the Theng Tunnel with a length of 578 mtr constructed on Chungthang- Mangan highway in North Sikkim has similarly improved connectivity to the border regions. Similarly, the 120 mtr Sonapur Tunnel in Meghalaya has ameliorated transport woes by enabling all weather connectivity on NH 44 between Meghalaya and the Barak Valley District in Assam. A total of 08 tunnel presently are under construction in various border states and another 11 are in planning phase.

Tunnel Projects Underway

BRO is presently constructing four tunnels including the Sela Tunnel Project on Road Balipara-Charduar- Tawang in Arunachal Pradesh. This project encompasses two tunnels, Tunnel-T1 which is 980 mtr long & Tunnel T2, which is 1555 mtr and is in a twin tube configuration. Nechiphu Tunnel on the same road, of length 550 mtr is also in an advanced stage of construction. Work of these strategic tunnels is in full swing and is expected to be completed

by the end of the working season in the year 2022.

Border Roads Organisation has also commenced construction of Sungal Tunnel in J & K, the 2.79 Km long tunnel is being constructed Akhnoor-Poonch road on NH-144A and excavation work has commenced on both Eastern and Western Portals. Naushera (0.7 Km), Bimber Gali (1.1 Km) & Kandi (0.26 Km) tunnels are being constructed in the J & K Union Territory, once completed these tunnels will facilitate reduced time and space of travel and all-weather connectivity up to the forward border areas.

BRO New Initiative

DGBR, Lt Gen Rajeev Chaudhry, appreciating the immense potential of tunnel construction and with the aim of building on the experience gained, has focused on capacity building within the organization in the field of tunnelling. Accordingly, BRO has embarked on a few in-house tunnel construction projects. A departmental tunnel



on the “Sela – Chabrella” feeder road using resources integral to the organization is under construction by Project Vartak. The 105 mtr long departmental tunnel will be of width 8.50 mtrs. The work, with an outlay of approx Rs 1579 lacs is expected to be completed by March 2023.

Terrain and weather conditions rendered this road stretch unfit for vehicular movement for a considerable period during winters, as the alignment passes through snow bound High Altitude Area. Therefore, this tunnel is being constructed to avoid avalanches and unstable slide prone areas and to ensure trafficability during all weather conditions.

The construction of departmental tunnel will accrue a number of advantages to the road users. Besides, bypassing the vulnerable and accident-prone stretches, it will result in reduction in time and distance of travel, obviate the requirement of formation cutting through hard rock and also avoid foggy stretches on addition & very importantly this will boost the in-house capacity of BRO for tunnel construction.

Conclusion

This tunnel being taken up as a pilot project will assist the BRO to gain first-hand experience and enrich in-house capabilities on tunnel construction. It will also enable the BRO to supervise other ongoing tunnel projects more effectively while being a harbinger for many more such tunnels to come up departmentally in the future. This tunnel is a major milestone and BRO’s endeavour of capacity building and a giant step towards *AtmaNirbharta*.

Jai Hind! Jai BRO!!

-PRO BRO



Northern Command Hospital: Care with Compassion

Command Hospital Northern Command (CH NC) is a leading tertiary health care center of Armed Forces situated in Udhampur, rendering excellent patient care to its clientele of Northern Command which includes soldiers, veterans and their families along with civil population. Established on July 23, 1948, as 148 Indian General Hospital at Lucknow which soon moved to Udhampur on December 16, 1948, the hospital has grown to a fully equipped super specialty hospital over the years with high quality medical care. It was converted to Command Hospital with a bed strength of 650 with the motto of “Care with Compassion”.

This prestigious institution has brought laurels by getting unit citations in the year 2007 and 2021 respectively. It was also awarded the Raksha Mantri Trophy for Best Command Hospital in 2007. This tertiary care hospital primarily provides holistic care to the patients across



the length & breadth of Northern Command. The hospital is always striving towards excellence in evidence based patient care with the team of Medical officers, Nursing officers and Paramedical staff who are well qualified in their field. Since its Inception, the hospital has progressed in to a great healing force for the Northern Command.

Command Hospital Udhampur also plays a pivotal role in imparting training to

the health care personnel to keep their knowledge updated with the dynamic healthcare systems, which are changing with newer technology. As part of Commitment towards Holistic Patient Care, a unique & first of its kind educational program was recently conducted at Udhampur for the paramedics on Perspectives of Paramedics on Patient care. The educational programme was inaugurated by Major General SC Dash, Major General (Medical), Headquarters



Northern Command by lighting the lamp of knowledge traditionally and by releasing an educational CD and souvenirs during the ceremony.

Paramedics are the pillar of strength for any Armed Forces for providing timely care during War and Peace. A total strength of 350 participated in the scientific programme. The topics were aptly chosen by Major General DK Sreevastava, Commandant, for updating the knowledge level of Paramedics to achieve goal of rendering patient care as per the prescribed accreditation standards. This pioneer effort

from Command Hospital was a golden step to make the paramedic strengthen their clinical practice towards health care delivery system.

This year the Command Hospital, Northern Command also celebrated its Diamond Jubilee and to commemorate the Diamond Jubilee, a number of events were held which included health checkup camps, cultural &



educational programmes with the message “Together we rise and shine”, as part of the Northern Command family. On the proud moment of its Diamond Jubilee, Maj Gen DK Sreevastava, Commandant Command Hospital exhorted everyone to rededicate themselves to provide diligent and dedicated patient care with utmost compassion to keep the standards of Command Hospital always high and to keep the Vision of Excellent Patient Care with ultimate Patient safety practices.

-Lt. Col. Abhinav Navneet



"MoD is Unique as There are a Wide Range of Financial Powers Delegated Across Units and Formations in India"

CGDA Shri Avinash Dikshit, IDAS tells Pratima Virendra Singh, E-in-C, Sainik Samachar in an Interview

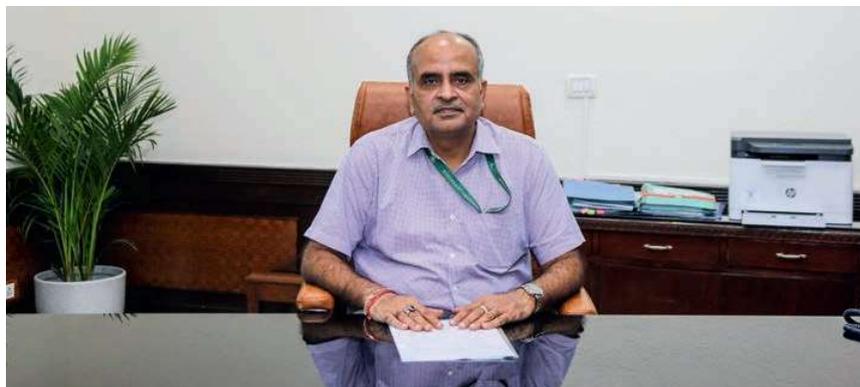
The Defence Accounts Department (DAD) is celebrating 275 years of continuous service. Could you tell us something more about the history of the Department?

The office of the Military Pay Master was institutionalised after the adoption of the Articles of War in the British Parliament in 1747, and it thus became the official date of origin of the DAD. After two centuries of evolution and metamorphosis as Military Paymaster, Military Paymaster General, Purser General, Commissionery General, Controller of Military Finance and Controller of Military Accounts, the Department has taken the present avatar of Defence Accounts Department with the Controller General of Defence Accounts (CGDA) as its head, from the 1st of October, 1951.

What are the functions and structure of the DAD?

The duties of Defence accounts Department are

- i. providing financial advice to all the services at HQrs Commands and lower units/formations,
- ii. internal audit,
- iii. payment and accounting of all charges pertaining to armed forces, including bills for supplies and services rendered and for construction and repair works, pay and



allowances, miscellaneous charges, pensions etc.in respect of all organisations under Ministry of Defence.

- iv. Management of Pensions in respect of all service personnel and defence civilians.

The department is managed through a dedicated cadre of officers of the Indian Defence Accounts Service (IDAS) through the UPSC and is staffed by personnel recruited from the Staff Service Commission. More than 19,000 officers and staff of the department are posted across more than 1100 offices of DAD pan-India, geographically corresponding to the structure of the armed forces.

Key administrative and guiding principles of the Department

Defence Accounts Department lies at a crucial conjunction of the world defence and finance, and is as such governed by policies, rules and regulations implemented in across both sectors. We have a presence in carrying out the implementation of all major

policies of the Ministry of Defence – from Defence Procurement Procedures to *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*.

You mentioned *Aatmanirbhar Bharat*, how is the Department promoting the same?

Being financial advisers and as vanguard of defence finance in India, we are entrusted with the responsibility for ensuring that all defence procurement across various units and formations in India have domestic purchase preferences, with a focus on facilitating participation of start-ups and MSMEs in the supply chains and contracts.

What are some of these initiatives being undertaken by the Department?

- i. SPARSH

Establishment of a comprehensive web based interactive Pension Disbursement System for Defence Pensioners was announced by the Union Finance Minister in his Budget Speech in the year 2017.

SPARSH (System for Pension

Administration RakSHA) Project is the implementation of the above vision of the Government for a comprehensive web based interactive Pension Disbursement System for Defence Pensioners.

ii. PRABAL

PRABAL system envisages providing an all inclusive unified platform for the budgeting, accounting and payment of all departments and organizations under the Ministry of Defence. Through this system efforts are being made towards bringing strategic shift towards complete visibility and control over budgetary allocations and expenditure while also incorporating a robust MIS system for analytics and decision making at all levels.

iii. DARPAN

The Defence Accounts Receipts and Payments System is the first step towards the integration of all payment, accounting and compilation systems across the Department. The portal has innovative features such as Budget Control, Expenditure Control, Faster Payment and Accounting, Real-time Expenditure Monitoring, e-Bill Processing, Randomization of Bill Assignment and Instant M.I.S.

iv. NCS

New Compilation System is our national defence accounts compilation system where all accounting data from our office



automation systems as well as payments made manually flows through NCS, giving an all india compilation for defence receipts and charges on an immediate basis. Appropriation accounts as well as the finance accounts are prepared on the basis of data received on NCS.

v. CFA-IFA Integration on GeM

It is a milestone in way of digital India. IFA CFA integration on GeM portal was launched wef June, 2022. This provides user friendly, paperless, faster and transparent mode of procurement of goods and services on Govt e-market place portal.

Speaking of the stakeholders, what are some of the schemes and projects of the Department towards enhancing service delivery and welfare?

i. SPARSH

SPARSH has completely transformed the management of defence pensions in the country. All new pensioners are sanctioned their PPO before their retirement

and their pension is disbursed immediately following their retirement. It has been a massive effort on part of the department to work in concert with all the stakeholders in the defence ecosystem to ensure minimal inconvenience to the veterans in the process of getting their pension on time.

ii. Agniveer pay and Accounts Office (Army)

Agniveer Pay and Accounts Office (Army) has been established to cater to the incoming Agniveers. We have also developed an Agniveer Pay System Relying on a secure data interchange mechanism with the various Record Offices of the Indian Army across the country, the Agniveer Pay System, which will function in a purely digital environment and give enhanced services to all the stakeholders on secured, reliable and transparent environment.

iii. eHRMS

Accessible, user-friendly and easy-to-adopt, the eHRMS

platform has various modules like e-Service book, leave management, pay roll generation and promotion details etc. for providing end-to-end HR services to DAD Employees.

In e-Service Book Module, complete service book of an employee is maintained in digital form, facilitating ease of updation and enhancing transparency.

iv. Defence Civilians

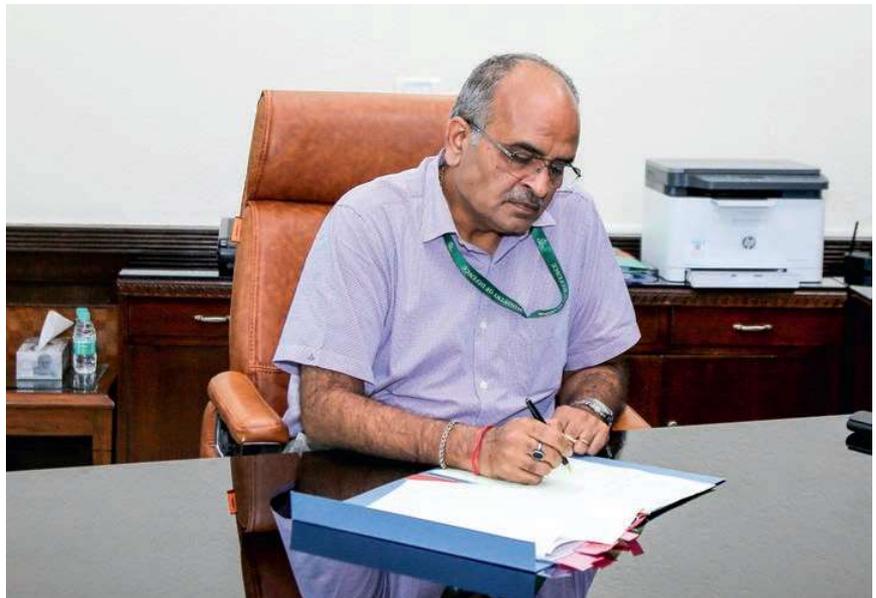
We have developed a similar system for the Defence Civilians who work under the aegis of the Ministry of Defence. Through this system, units will be able to generate and send the pay bill through the system to the concerned controller office.

Being a centralized system having a common database, the issue of waiting for LPC on transfer will be eliminated as transfer in and out will be done on the system. Various schedules like GPF and NPS will be generated through the system. The system will ensure prompt and timely booking of the accounts.

v. PAO Bharati

PAO-Bharati is an enhanced Interactive Voice Response System, designed and developed in-house by the team of PCDA Bangalore. It provides real time financial data related to the Pay & Allowances, claims, AFPP and DO Part II of the JCOs and Other Ranks of the Indian Army.

One of the unique features of PAO Bharati is that beneficiaries



can register their queries or complaints as a voice message. Replies are sent through SMS using the BSNL SMS gateway to the individual within 48 working hours after registering the queries in PAO-Bharati server.

vi. Defence Travel System

DTS has been envisaged as an end-to-end solution for all travel needs of Service Personnel and Defence Civilians. This includes booking of tickets for all travel types - both Rail and Air mode.

Till date, approximately 386 lakh train tickets amounting to Rs. 5428 Crores and 10 lakh of air tickets amounting to Rs. 993 Crores have been booked through Defence Travel System.

vii. Dedicated IFAs

MoD is unique as there are a wide range of financial power delegated across units and formations in India. In

the interest of ensuring greater efficiency and economy in public procurement, we are working to give financial coverage to various units and formations by improving the network of the integrated financial advisers.

Recently, the department has also been tasked with the conducted of Performance and Efficiency Audit in respect of the Ministry of Defence. Could you throw some light on the same?

In order to strengthen the Overall Internal Oversight and Risk Management Framework, it has been decided to broaden the present mandate of Internal Audit conducted by CGDA from the transaction-based compliance audit to outcome based Performance/Efficiency Audit, aimed at recommending systemic improvements of a holistic nature.

Army Expedition to Mt Harmukh

A team of 2 Grenadiers, under command Chinar Corps, surmounted the icy heights of Mount HARMUKH, 5142 metres, on September 11, 2022 under the able leadership of Maj Avneet Kumar. Mount Harmukh is known to be one of the most challenging & technical peaks in the Kashmir valley. The expedition was undertaken with an aim to foster healthy and long-lasting relationship between the 'Indian Army' and the Kashmiri awaam by incorporating six NCC Cadets of 3 Jammu & Kashmir Battalion NCC and two young men from Keran village who were

trained in rock & ice craft by the Indian Army at Himalayan Mountaineering Institute (HMI) in February 2022.

The expedition was flagged off from Pharkian by Brig Tapas Kumar Misra, Commander, Pharkian Brigade on September 6, 2022. The challenging task of summiting the peak commenced with effect from 09 September from Kudor and inspite of the rugged terrain and inclement weather for the next two - three days, the tricolour was hoisted on Harmukh top on September 11, 2022 by the team against overwhelming odds. The day was

specifically chosen to remember the brave hearts of 2 Grenadiers, who, on the same day in the year 1967 had given a bloody nose to the Chinese at Nathu La, Sikkim.

The expedition team was flagged in at Kupwara by Maj Gen AS Pendharkar, GOC Vajra Division on September 16, 2022. The expedition will surely pave a way in strengthening the Army-Awaam bond and has also instilled confidence amongst serving personnel to brave all the inclement weather and terrain challenges in the true spirit of the Indian Army.

-PRO Srinagar



"Russia-Ukraine War has Clearly Demonstrated the Overwhelming Importance of Firepower" - DG Artillery

On the momentous occasion of the 196 Gunners Day, DG Artillery Lt. General TK Chawla talks to the E-in-C Sainik Samachar Pratima virendra Singh

Artillery on numerous occasions, over the ages has proven itself a battle winning arm, which was aptly proven during Op Vijay and in the present context in Russia Ukraine war, the battle winning edge has emerged significantly. How do you visualise the role of artillery in future conflicts especially along our Northern or Western Borders?

First and foremost, we need to understand the role of modern firepower and what is expected out of Regiment of Artillery. Thereafter we need to outline the future course to develop India's Tube and Rocket Artillery so that they can meet futuristic operational requirement.

We have our own set of challenges along Northern and Western borders. Technological advancements have made force differentials almost redundant. The future warfare is going to be tech intensive with less emphasis on contact warfare, hence would hinge upon abundance of artillery weapon and svl systems being used extensively in various domains. The current Ukrainian conflict would have also been minutely examined by our adversaries and hence we need to be a step ahead and gradually enhance our capabilities to be able to fulfil all roles in war. Regiment of Artillery will definitely have an inexorable role from Responses Short of War till conflict termination.



You have diligently and aptly brought out the role artillery is expected to play in future conflicts. What is the modernisation roadmap of Regiment of Artillery?

The modernisation of Regiment of Artillery is focused on enhancement of firepower and Surveillance and Target Acquisition capability. The aim is to achieve enhanced, integrated and networked firepower and Intelligence Surveillance and Reconnaissance capacities.

The future Artillery Firepower Profile will comprise of 155 mm Gun System, be it Towed, Self-Propelled – Tracked and Wheeled or Mounted Guns as also Long Range Multiple Launch Rocket Systems and Missile Systems. In the last decade, Indian Army has concluded contracts for procurement of - 155 mm/ 39 Calibre Ultra-Light Howitzers from the US, incidentally the only Global Contract, 155 mm/ 45 Calibre Dhanush Gun System, Up gunning of existing 130 mm Guns to 55 mm/ 45 Calibre and 155 mm/ 52 Calibre

Self Propelled (Tracked) Gun System K-9 Vajra-T. All these Gun Systems are under induction and certain number of Artillery Regiments have already been equipped with these 155 mm Gun Systems, while progressively de-inducting vintage, 122 mm & 105mm guns. In terms of long range Rocket Systems, additional Pinaka Multiple Launch Rocket Systems have been contracted and is under induction.

Modernisation is a sustained activity and this is true for artillery equipment as well. I am happy to note that Artillery is modernising in conformity with envisioned timelines.

Govt of India is giving a lot of impetus on 'Atma Nirbharta' and to this effect defence industry is a major subset in achieving self-reliance. How do you foresee the development of weapon systems for Indian Artillery upholding

The spirit of indigenisation and simultaneously having access to latest technological advancements?

It is heartening to note that all Gun systems, less the Ultra Light Howitzer, are indigenous Gun Systems being manufactured in India. Besides the contracted firepower, Indian Army is also progressing development of indigenous Advanced Towed Artillery Gun System, commonly known as ATAGS, and Mounted Gun Systems (MGS). ATAGS is a greenfield project, designed and developed through successful partnership between DRDO and the Indian Pvt sector. This gun system has many firsts to its credit - 25 litre chamber, long range, as also rapid and sustained rates of fire.

Dhanush Gun System, being the first indigenous development project for long range towed Artillery Guns to be produced in India is a major milestone in the history of indigenous development of Artillery Guns. The gun is an electronically and mechanically upgraded version of Bofors Gun that were originally produced by AB Bofors of Sweden. More number of 155 mm/ 45 Calibre Dhanush Guns are under procurement.

K-9 Vajra-T Gun System is a self-propelled gun system of the Indian Army. Its mobility, state-of-art Fire Control System and long range make the gun system very versatile. Capable of being deployed in all types of terrain, K-9 Vajra-T Gun system has enhanced the Indian Army capability manifolds in terms of firepower and shock action.



Regiment of Artillery is also pursuing procurement of indigenous Long Range Electro Optical Devices and Battle Field Surveillance Radars. Indian industry is also being encouraged to develop indigenous technology of not only ground based surveillance systems but also aerial observation system. Weapon Locating Radar - SWATHI, developed indigenously has been successfully inducted into the service. Meteorological Systems and Differential Global Positioning System are being inducted to improve accuracy of artillery fire.

In times to come Artillery will have the most modern and sophisticated Guns and Surveillance Systems, amongst the best in the world. In nutshell, the future can be summarised as “Modernisation Through Indigenisation”.

Technological advancements in warfare has negated the force differential in a big way in today’s warfare, smaller and

numerically inferior armies have emerged victorious. This has been possible due to advent of Niche technology in the field of defence systems. What is the thought process and are efforts of Indian Artillery in embracing Niche technology?

The future wars are likely to be fought with employment of highly manoeuvrable remotely piloted aircraft, electro-magnetic spectrum technology, swarm drones and loitering weapon systems.

The 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh war between Armenia and Azerbaijan, can be called the first loitering weapon system war. Loitering munitions can be effectively employed to achieve this objective. Keeping in league with the prospective battle field requirements, the Indian Army has already contracted indigenously manufactured Loitering Munition System thereby augmenting our surveillance, target acquisition and precision strike capability. The munition system with its

greater endurance, range and survivability is a force multiplier in both conventional and sub-conventional operations. We are also in the process of procuring Indigenously Designed and Developed, advance Loitering Weapon System with enhanced strike capability. It has received enthusiastic response from the Industry wherein many firm have expressed their capability to manufacture the weapon system. In times to come, we see our country transforming as *ATMANIRBHAR* in Loitering Munition technology and graduate as a global leader.

Procurements are a tedious process and are marred with procedural delays. What are your challenges in modernisation of Artillery?

The challenges in procurement are twofold. Firstly, despite all the steps taken to simplify the procurement process and make it industry responsive, the procedural aspects have to be adhered to. Secondly, is the capability of the Indian Research Organisations and Industry to deliver on critical operational requirement as per the claimed capabilities and timelines. While spiral development is being supported by the Services, the aspects of safety, security and reliability cannot be ignored.

Other issues of concern are the quality control and quality assurance, and the stability of the production processes for bulk production after the equipment has been trial evaluated.

Recent conflict between Russia Ukraine has drawn the attention of world armies and importance and significance of artillery in future conflicts have emerged manifold. What lessons has Indian artillery imbibed out of the ongoing conflict?

Russia-Ukraine War has clearly demonstrated the overwhelming importance of firepower. Long range rockets, aerial surveillance by drones, loitering ammunition and long range artillery have devastated the combat potential of both adversaries. Preponderance of firepower prior to ground forces launching their attacks to soften the resistance has been the hallmark of the operations. Artillery officers are keenly watching the operations and drawing some valuable lessons from the conflict. Importance of long range, quick launch, guided rocket system, precision munitions and their devastating effects have unmistakably emerged in the conflict thus accentuating the need for a formidable conventional missile force. Relevance of aerial surveillance and targeting has emerged with both sides using drones most effectively to locate enemy targets and guide artillery fire towards them. Need for a counter drone system for artillery has also emerged.

The War has also highlighted the need to follow the much emphasised basic tenets of dispersion, shoot and scoot and innovative deployment of artillery.

Agnipath scheme has been launched by the government. How is Regiment of Artillery prepared to absorb the Agniveers and amalgamate them in mainstream?

The Agnipath scheme is a transformative reform initiated by the Government of India and is a unique opportunity for the youth to serve the country and contribute to nation building. As far as the training of Agniveers recruited into the Regiment of Artillery is concerned, no dilution in training standards has been made and the Agniveers joining their units after initial training at Artillery Centres would be fully qualified to do their mandated tasks.

Post joining their units, the Agniveers would be fully integrated with the rank and file and would be exposed to the Regiment History and the role of the unit. They would undertake day to day activities as scheduled and also undergo regular trade and physical tests as part of the overall assessment policy. Post completion of their mandated period, the best individuals based on their performance, will be retained, thereby improving the quality of soldiers in the Army.

PUNEET SAGAR ABHIYAN

International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) 2022

Indian Coast Guard carried out beach cleaning across the country at 75 locations on September 17, 2022, as part of the International Coastal Cleanup Day and 'Swachh Sagar Abhiyan' towards celebrating 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav', 75 years of India's independence. Indian Coast Guard, amongst its many important roles, is mandated for taking such measures as are necessary to preserve and protect the maritime environment and to prevent and control marine pollution in the maritime zones of India.

Director General VS Pathannia, delivered the inaugural address in one of the events held at Juhu, Mumbai. Shri Bhagat Singh Koshyari, the Governor of Maharashtra and Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister MoES graced the occasion apart from other dignitaries towards

this noble cause. Globally, ICC is conducted on the third Saturday of September and ICG has been leading this campaign in India since 2006. The International Coastal Cleanup Day 2022 became a landmark event which broke all previous records in terms of number of participants and geographical areas covered and shapes a major departure from the normal towards protecting and preserving the fragile marine environment in our country. The simultaneous conduct of cleaning drive on 75 beaches along about 7500km coastline of our country was aimed at changing the behavioural attitude of masses towards pollution by plastic.

This year, the efforts of ICG during ICC -22 were further aligned towards the Ministry of Earth Sciences' flagship programme 'Swachh Sagar-Surakshit Sagar'. The Cadets

from National Cadet Corp also participated in significant numbers across the country as they are instrumental in steering the 'Puneet Sagar Abhiyan' aimed at bringing changes in the societal behaviour towards use of plastic products. The alignment of various forums towards plastic neutrality is a welcome indication towards realisation of common goal of plastic free society.

DG Pathania also stated that there is no single, one-size fits all solution to the current plastic crisis. Governments, businesses and individuals all have a major role to play, in steering us clear of a future where plastic pollution destroys our environment. It is heartening to note positive collaborative efforts towards a common cause by the mankind.

-PRO ICG

International Coastal Clean-Up Day by ICG

Indian Coast Guard is conducting various events under the aegis of "Puneet Sagar Abhiyan" & "International Coastal Clean Up". To commemorate the events Indian Coast Guard Ship Abhinav in coordination with Kerala Police, MOES, NCC cadets, NSS, Scouts guide, Seva Bharti NGO and non-profit agency Seema Jagran Manch carried out coastal cleanup at Puthu vypin beach, Vypin. A total of 200 civilians, civil volunteers and 120 children of Sree Dharaniyam School



participated in Campaign. The importance of Campaign was to enlighten the citizens regarding coastal environment and general awareness amongst public on the

hazards of debris and its effect on water bodies. A total of 200 kgs of waste was collected and handed over to local disposal agency.

-PRO Kochi

PUNEET SAGAR ABHIYAN

Western Naval Command Undertakes Puneet Sagar Abhiyan

Puneet Sagar Abhiyan (PSA) is to increase awareness about the importance of keeping seashores/ beaches clean, serene, and pristine. Western Naval Command (WNC) is contributing to PSA by dovetailing cleanliness drives along coastal areas, rivers, and lakes throughout the period of the campaign. Over 1500 personnel from WNC participated in the Coastal Cleanup Day on September 17, 2022, in an effort to clean up 25 km of beachfront. The action plan also aimed to create awareness among the general public about the upkeep of the beaches, sensitise people about the harmful effects of non-biodegradable substances, and the upkeep of water bodies. Naval personnel along with families carried out the coastal cleanup drive at all naval stations under WNC at Mumbai, Karanja, Goa, Porbandar, Dwarka, and Karwar.



The campaign at Carter Road Beach, Colaba Point, and Karanja creek was aimed at environment conservation with a thrust on the restoration of mangroves. The non-biodegradable waste adversely affecting the oceans in the areas of Girgaum Chowpatty, South Mumbai Sailing Club coastline, and seafront of INHS Asvini were cleaned up. Ladies and children of the 'Prakriti' group of NWWA actively participated in the campaign. The environmental protection initiative also

witnessed participation from a large no of citizens, students from various schools, and NGOs. WNC campaign in Mumbai included a focus on eco-friendly disposal of waste collected from water bodies.

The mega Coastal Cleanup Drive by WNC has been conducted with the underlying goal to 'Consume Responsibly, Segregate Waste and Dispose Responsibly'.

-PRO Mumbai

Southern Naval Command Puneet Sagar Abhiyan

The Southern Naval Command observed International Coastal Clean-up Day on September 17, 2022, with focus on clearance of plastic/ non-biodegradable waste along waterfront and coastal areas in and around Kochi. Pursuant to the nationwide campaign of Puneet Sagar Abhiyan, more than 500 Naval personnel and families of Southern Naval Command undertook clean-up drives at different coastal areas spread across the city.

In Kochi, more than 25 km of coastline comprising beaches and waterfront areas at Fort Kochi beach, Thevara waterfront, Willingdon Island, Puthuvype beach, Bolgatty, Puthenthode beach, Mahatma Gandhi beach and Venduruthy channel were cleared. Approximately 500 kg of plastic/ non-biodegradable waste was collected and restored to their pristine condition.

At Navy Children School, Kochi, a webinar on marine

environment, painting competition and environmental quiz were conducted towards inculcating the importance of conserving coastal and marine environment. Similar coastal clean-up drives and lectures/webinars/competitions emphasising Puneet Sagar Abhiyan were also undertaken at other outstation Naval units under SNC located at Lonavala, Jamnagar, Chilka, Coimbatore, Goa, Ezhimala and Malad (Mumbai).

-PRO Kochi

PUNEET SAGAR ABHIYAN

ICG Conducted Puneet Sagar Abhiyan at Kovalam Beach

The International Coastal Cleanup Day was organised at Kovalam Beach, Thiruvananthapuram on September 17, 2022 with motto “Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar” and “Clean Coast, Safe Sea”. This year ICC event is auspicious as it coincides with the celebration of “Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav” on the occasion of 75th anniversary of Independence. The event was jointly organised by Indian Coast Guard and National Centre for Earth Science Studies (NCESS) along with NCC, NSS, Volunteers from NGO’s etc. International Coastal Cleanup Day is traditionally held on the third Saturday in September every year. In India, Indian Coast Guard has been celebrating this day for the past 25 years with coastal cleanup drives.

The campaign at Kovalam Beach was inaugurated by Shri



V Muraleedharan MP, Minister of State for external affairs and Parliamentary Affairs. In his inaugural address, the minister appreciated the Indian Coast Guard for their relentless efforts for the past 25 years for organizing coastal clean up activities on this day. He has stressed on the importance for clean and safe marine environment, litter-free surroundings and their impact on overall healthy life. The minister requested the people to follow the three principles for better waste

management i.e, Responsible Consumption, Proper Segregation of the Waste and Responsible Disposal of the Waste. Prof Jyotirajan S Ray, the Director of NCESS and Coast Guard Comdt G Sreekumar addressed the event. In his key note address, Comdt G Sreekumar thanked the Union Govt for converting the event into a large scale exercise to make it the lengthiest and largest coastal clean up drives of the world.

-PRO Thiruvananthapuram

ENC Joins Mega Coastal Cleanup Drive ‘Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar’ Campaign

Over 500 naval personnel from Eastern Naval Command have joined the Mega Coastal Cleanup Drive as part of Puneet Sagar Abhiyan and to mark the 37th International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) Day with the theme “Swachh Sagar, Surakshit Sagar”, “Clean Coast, Safe Seas” on September 17, 2022. The naval personnel along with NCC Cadets carried out the beach cleanup drives at Yerada, Kalinga beaches and all waterfronts within the premises of naval units. The Coastal Cleanup Drive has gained

prominence in Visakhapatnam over the last few years primarily due to rapid industrialisation and development activity impacting the environment and surroundings. ENC has been playing active role by undertaking various environmental initiatives toward the preservation of environment especially the Oceans.

The event is aimed to create awareness among the general public towards the upkeep of the beaches as per the Govt. of India

mega Coastal Cleanup Drive of covering 7500 kms stretch covering 75 beaches for 75 days which has commenced on July 3, 2022 and culminating on September 17, 2022 coincides the celebrations 75 years of the country’s independence in the form of with Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The underlying goals of the campaign are to ‘Consume Responsibly, Segregate waste at home, and to Dispose Responsibly’.

-PRO Visakhapatnam

"Our Approach has Shifted from Conventional Inspection Based System to Prevention Based QA"... DGQA

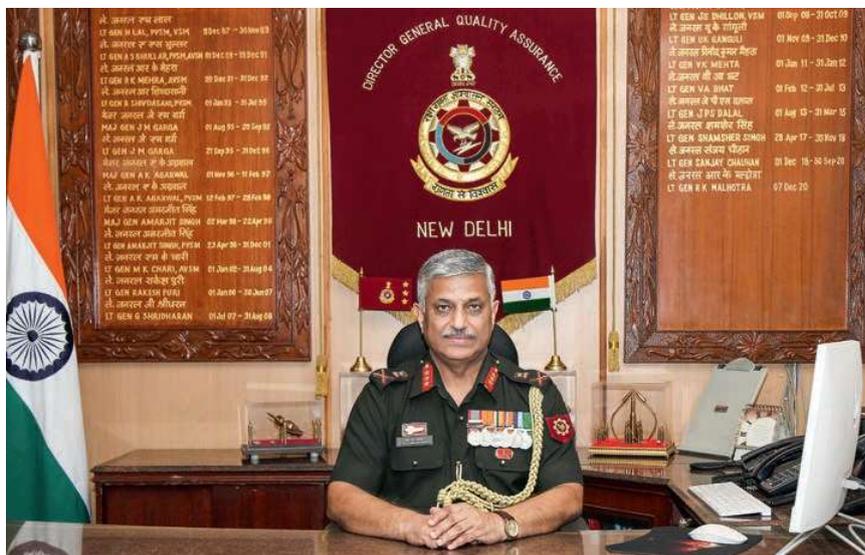
Interview of DGQA Lt Gen Rakesh Kumar Malhotra, on 66th Raising Day with E-in-C Pratima Virendra Singh

Many congratulations on 66th DGQA Raising Day. For the benefit of our readers can you tell us about broad responsibilities and organization of DGQA.

DGQA ensures that the entire range of Armaments, Stores and Equipment used by the Army and those stores for Navy and Air Force, for which DGQA is responsible, are of specified Quality and Reliability to enhance combat efficiency of the Armed Forces. We are involved in all stages of life cycle of equipment. DGQA is organised into 11 Technical Directorates, 24 Controllerates, 84 Field Establishments, 34 NABL Accredited Labs and 02 Proof Ranges engaged in technical activities with User, Designer and Manufacturer.

What changes have happened in the functioning of DGQA after 'Corporatization of OFB'?

Post corporatization of 41 Ordnance Factories and their conversion into seven new DPSUs to enhance functional autonomy, efficiency, growth and innovation. DGQA has implemented major reforms in the QA methodology for acceptance of stores. Our approach has shifted from conventional Inspection based system to Prevention based QA, wherein emphasis is on Critical to Quality (CTQ) parameters of the product. Revised QA methodology is based on the nature, end-use and risks associated with



the products and maturity of the manufacturing processes of the Production Agencies. New DPSUs have been given greater autonomy and are assuming responsibility of building quality into product. Adoption of well-defined Acceptance Testing Procedure (ATPs) of end product is also fostering uniformity in QA across all manufacturers.

With the present impetus of Government of India for "Make in India" & "AtmaNirbhar Bharat", MoD has a major role in implementation of these reforms. What is the role of DGQA in these reforms?

Self-reliance in defence manufacturing through indigenous industry and technology is an absolute necessity of the day. With a view to encourage and facilitate new players, MSMEs & start-ups for increased participation in the Defence manufacturing,

many initiatives have been taken by DGQA through process reengineering to promote 'Ease of Doing Business'. Our Establishments are committed to do handholding of Firms during design & development, Trials, Evaluation and product qualification. We have opened our labs and proof Ranges to DPSUs as well as private industry without discrimination and proof/ QA is being carried out with complete transparency

What are the new schemes launched to facilitate industry and making India a Defence manufacturing hubs?

Many schemes have been launched to handhold the Indian Defence manufacturers undertaking indigenization of defence equipment not only for own forces but also for Defence exports. Defence Testing Infrastructure Scheme (DTIS) has been launched to create state

of art testing infrastructures as SPV's, easily accessible to the domestic manufacturers to test and certify their products Under Green Channel scheme well established manufacturers based in India and assessed by a technical team will be able to supply their product directly to the Defence Forces. 22 such firms have been granted Green Channel Status. Self Certification Scheme allows Manufacture's registered with DGQA, who have supplied defect free stores for last 3 years and are having robust processes to supply items duly inspected by them. In this scheme 9 firms have been granted Self Certification Status. There are stores which have been successfully trial evaluated for use by Indian Army which are given "fit for military" use Certificate. Alternatively, manufacturers can get their equipment tested against their specification and if found compliant are certified accordingly by DGQA. This will enable the manufacturers to export the item to other countries

under Defence Export Promotion Scheme.

How are you gearing up the organization to overcome these new challenges of emerging Defence procurement and Industrial Ecosystem?

A project of Digitalization of DGQA functions in the form of Digital DGQA is in pipeline to enable seamless, real-time transfer of information. This will enhance accountability, transparency, traceability and ease of doing business. For efficient management of Quality Assurance, online SO Monitoring Portal, has been launched to monitor the progress of Defence Supply Orders over a Dashboard with an aim to enhance transparency and accountability towards timely implementation of Defence SOs and delivery of stores to the Armed Forces. DGQA is geared up for major reforms to transform into a lean and efficient organization oriented forwards aspirations of user as well and

Defence Industry. Steps are also being taken to provide single point contact to outside agencies for speedy decision making.

What is your message on the occasion of DGQA Day?

Professional knowledge and effective Human Resources Management are key mantras for success for any organisation. Officers are expected to lead by example and all employees need to keep abreast with the latest development so that aspirations of 'Atamnirbhar Bharat' are fulfilled. We must adapt to the changing environment and officers & staff need to upgrade their professional skills to cope up with the emerging technologies. Timely supply of high quality defence stores to our troops remains our prime focus. Let us all re-dedicate ourselves to the nation with single minded focus on our objectives and strive for excellence in all spheres of personal and professional conduct.



Armed Forces Medical College, Pune, Graduate Wing Celebrates Diamond Jubilee

The Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) celebrated Diamond Jubilee of its Graduate Wing wef August 4- 6, 2022. Event commenced with wreath laying ceremony by Surg Vice Admiral Rajat Datta, Director General Armed Forces Medical Services, an alumnus of the college, at Prerna Sthal AFMC.

More than 650 alumni came from all across the globe. Two Diamond Jubilee orations were highlights of the celebrations. First was delivered by Noble Laureate, Sh Kailash Satyarthi on 04 th Aug and the second by Dr Uday Kulkarni, an eminent historian and AFMC Alumnus, on August 6, 2022.

All former Commandants and Deans of the College were honoured for their services in shaping this premier institution. The first batch of the college, A batch, who joined in 1962 were also honoured. Department of Posts and Telegraphs released a special cover and cancellation to mark the event. A book 'AFMC@60' with contributions from AFMC students across the years and special edition of



college magazine 'Dhanvantri' was released. Traditional 'College Day' events such as Alumni vs Students debates, quiz, music and sports events were held over three days. A heritage walk and a sound and light show at the imposing main building of the college highlighted the history of AFMC. A continuing medical education programme, 'AFMC Diamond Jubilee Medical Update' was held. Key panel discussions on current medical topics were held.

As a part of community outreach, Armed Forces Medical College (AFMC) Alumni association, undertook exemplary initiative for holistic enhancement of health care at Kasurdi Village in Daund Taluka. Along with

the ALVL Foundation run by Dr Arvind Lal, the Chairman of Dr Lal Pathlabs (an AFMC alumnus himself); association carried out renovation of the AFMC Rural Health Training Centre as well as improvement in Primary School of the village. The re-dedication of the completely renovated RHTC was done by Surg Vice Admiral Rajat Datta, PHS, Director General Armed Forces Medical Services, on 6 Aug in the presence of Shri Rahul Shubhash Kul (MLA Daund), Lt Gen R Ramasethu (Commandant AFMC), Dr Arvind Lal, and elected village leaders as well as government officials from the State Health Services. In his address, the DGAFMS announced a bouquet of contemporary and advanced medical services, which included multispecialty clinics, personalized investigations, prompt referral services and innovative community interventions. Kasurdi village has been functioning as the Rural Health Training Centre of AFMC, Pune since 2004 and has seen considerable health reforms under tutelage of this medical institute of excellence.

-Mahesh Iyengar





Raksha Mantri's Telephonic Conversation with US Secretary of Defence

Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh and his US counterpart, Secretary of Defence, Mr Loyd Austin had a warm and fruitful telephonic conversation on September 14, 2022. They reviewed the multi-faceted India-US defence cooperation and reiterated mutual commitment to further strengthen military-to-military ties.

Secretary Austin expressed support for India's defence

modernisation programme and looked forward to further strengthening India-US defence industrial and technology collaboration.

The Raksha Mantri and Secretary Austin also discussed regional issues and affirmed their shared desire for maintaining peace and stability in the region and beyond. Shri Rajnath Singh conveyed India's concerns over the US decision to provide

sustenance package for Pakistan's F-16 fleet.

The two Ministers reiterated that both sides would continue their productive engagements with the objective of deepening India-US Strategic Partnership. The Raksha Mantri conveyed that he looked forward to welcoming Secretary Austin in India for the next Ministerial 2+2 Dialogue in 2023.

-PRO Defence

INS Ajay Decommissioned After 32 Glorious Years of Service

INS Ajay was decommissioned on September 19, 2022, after rendering 32 years of glorious service to the nation. The ceremony was conducted at Naval Dockyard, Mumbai in the traditional manner, wherein the national flag, naval ensign and the decommissioning pennant of the ship were lowered for the last time at sunset, signifying the end of the ship's commissioned service.

INS Ajay was commissioned on January 24, 1990 at Poti, Georgia in the erstwhile USSR and was part of the 23rd Patrol Vessel Squadron under the operational control of Flag Officer Commanding, Maharashtra Naval Area. The ship was in active naval service for more than 32 years and during her illustrious journey, she participated in



several naval operations including Op Talwar during Kargil War and Op Parakram in 2001.

Vice Admiral Ajendra Bahadur Singh, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western Naval Command was the Chief Guest for the function. Vice Admiral (Retd) AG Thapliyal the first Commanding Officer of the ship was the Guest of Honour.

The ceremony was attended

by over 400 personnel including Flag Officers, senior officers from Army, IAF and CG, officers and men of the commissioning crew, crew of previous commissions as well as the ships present crew and families. The Chief Guest addressed the gathering present at the ceremony, highlighting the invaluable service rendered by the ship.

-PRO Mumbai

INS Tarkash Mission Deployed in Gulf of Guinea

Reinforcing Indian Navy's commitment to maritime security, INS Tarkash is currently mission deployed in the Gulf of Guinea (GoG) for anti-piracy operations.

As part of the deployment, the ship undertook Joint Maritime Exercise with Nigerian Navy Patrol Ships NNS Kano, Osun, Sokoto and Nguru from September 12-13, 2022.

The exercise provided an opportunity for reinforcing interoperability between the Indian and Nigerian navies in various facets of maritime operations like Anti-Piracy operations, Assistance to vessel in distress, SAR drills as also anti-air and anti-surface



operations. It also helped enhance skills for maritime interdiction and counter piracy operations.

The exercise marks the first

joint operational deployment by India and Nigeria, in support of Anti-piracy operations, in the GoG.

-PRO Navy

Japan-India Maritime Exercise 2022 Concludes

The sixth edition of the Japan India Maritime Exercise 2022, JIMEX 22 hosted by the Indian Navy concluded in the Bay of Bengal with the two sides bidding farewell to each other with a customary steam past on September 17, 2022.

Indian Naval ships led by Rear Adm Sanjay Bhalla, Flag Officer Commanding Eastern Fleet and Japan Maritime Self Defence Force (JMSDF) Ships Izumo and Takanami led by Rear Adm Hirata Toshiyuki, Commander Escort Flotilla Four, participated in the week-long exercise.

JIMEX 22 witnessed some of the most complex exercises undertaken jointly by the two navies. Both sides engaged in



advanced level anti-submarine warfare, weapon firings and Air Defence exercises. Shipborne helicopters, fighter aircraft and submarines also participated in the exercise. IN and JMSDF ships replenished each other at sea under the agreement on Reciprocal Provision for Supply

and Services (RPSS).

The exercise, which marked the tenth anniversary of JIMEX since its inception in 2012, consolidated the mutual understanding and interoperability between the two navies.

-PRO Navy

India-US Coast Guard Joint Exercise “Abhyas-01/22”

Indo-US Coast Guard Joint Exercise “Abhyas-01/22” was conducted off Chennai on September 19, 2022. The exercise focussed towards acquainting the Coast Guards with each other’s capabilities and strengthen their working level relationship towards enhancing inter-operability in the field of maritime search and rescue, boarding operations and other maritime law enforcement duties.

The highlights of the exercise encompassed various fleet maneuvers, the scenario of the hijacking of a vessel and subsequent rescue of its crew in a coordinated anti-piracy joint operation of both countries.



Interdiction of pirated vessel, coordinated joint Boarding operation, SAR demonstration and external fire-fighting to salvage burning ships were the other highlights of the exercise.

The four days’ visit of United States Coast Guard Cutter Midgett to Chennai on a goodwill

visit. During the visit USCG ship had professional exchanges on Visit-Board-Search-Seizure, Cross Deck visits, Friendly Volleyball match with Indian Coast Guard counterparts from September 16-19, 2022.

-PRO Chennai & ICG

MoD Signs Contract for Dual Role Surface-to-Surface BrahMos Missile with BAPL

Providing further impetus to *Aatmanirbharta* in defence production, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) signed a contract on September 22, 2022 with M/s BrahMos Aerospace Pvt. Ltd. (BAPL) for acquisition of additional dual-role capable Surface to Surface BrahMos missiles at an overall approximate cost of 1700 Crore under “Buy-Indian” Category. Induction of these dual-role capable Missiles is going to significantly enhance the operational capability of Indian Navy fleet assets.

It is notable that BAPL is a Joint Venture (JV) between India and Russia making crucial



contribution to augment the new generation Surface-to-Surface Missiles (SSMs) with enhanced range and dual role capability for land as well as anti-ship attacks. This contract is going to

give further boost to indigenous production of critical weapon system and ammunition with active participation of indigenous industry.

-PRO Defence

Graduation Ceremony of 142nd ATSS Course

To mark the successful completion of 142nd Air Traffic Surveillance Services (ATSS), a Graduation Ceremony was held at Air Traffic Control Officers Training Establishment (ATCOTE), Air Force Academy Hyderabad on September 15, 2022. Air Marshal B Chandra Sekhar, Commandant, Air Force Academy graced the occasion as Reviewing Officer.

The three-month-long ATSS Course is a mid-level course that trains qualified Air Traffic Controllers in the usage of radar for the provision of Air Traffic Services. The course equips these controllers to maintain an expeditious and orderly flow of air traffic.

A total of 14 officers of the 142nd ATSS Course graduated as Radar Controllers. Squadron Leader K Manikandan was



adjudged First in Order of Merit.

Air Marshal Sekhar in his address to the course, acknowledged the critical role of Air Traffic Controllers in military aviation. He emphasised the fact that the airspace of a nation is a finite asset and the demand to use the same is on a rise. The UDAN scheme is driving the growth of civil aviation connectivity in India resulting in more and

more IAF airfields becoming joint users. With increased demand in the civil aviation sector, there is a need to facilitate the usage of restricted airspace for expediting traffic. The Air Marshal reiterated the importance of Air Traffic Surveillance Services in bringing the economy of scale, without hampering the operations of the armed forces.

-PRO Secunderabad

Training Camps of Cadets Conclude at Indian Naval Academy

Shaping Future Naval Leaders Ship - Training camps for 6th and 4th term cadets of Indian Naval Academy, named 'Varuna' and 'Samudramanthan', were conducted from 14 to 17 Sep 22. A total of 155 cadets participated in the camps which are aimed at developing esprit-de-corps, camaraderie and leadership qualities, whilst testing physical endurance and mental strength of the cadets. The camp activities comprised of endurance runs, small arms firing, construction of rafts and punting, obstacle courses, rowing and Open Ocean sailing along with other seamanship evolutions. On the last day, the



cadets also participated in a highly challenging quadrathlon comprising a 25/18 km run in full battle gear, swimming, obstacle course and weapon firing. The four-day camp culminated with a camp fire. Daredevil Squadron won the Camp Banner for both

Camp 'Varuna' and Camp 'Samudramanthan' for Autumn Term 2022. Vice Admiral Puneet K Bahl, Commandant, INA awarded the camp banners to the winning squadrons.

-PRO Kochi

Anti-Submarine Warfare Seminar-2022

Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) School, the premier training establishment of the Indian Navy conducted a Navy-wide Seminar titled 'Transition to a Makers Navy - Challenges and Opportunities in ASW Domain' at Kochi on 20 Sep 22. The seminar saw enthusiastic participation by the academia, industry, DRDO, think tanks and various naval units in ASW domain. It also signified 75 years of Anti-Submarine Warfare training in the Indian Navy.

The inaugural session commenced with the opening address by Vice Admiral MA Hampiholi, Flag officer Commanding-in-Chief, Southern Naval Command. Keynote address was delivered by the Chief Guest, Vice Admiral R B Pandit, C-in-C Strategic Forces



Command. The response for the seminar from various stake holders was overwhelming. Out of the many papers received, six papers were presented by the participants exploring specific themes in ASW aspects and capabilities focussing on the nation's vision of 'Atmanirbharta' and 'Atmanirbhar Bharat'. Each paper witnessed meaningful professional discussions and threw up thought provoking ideas towards developing credible

Undersea Warfare capability in future. The highlight of the seminar was the release of the professional magazine, 'Convergence Zone' and compendium of all the Service Papers received for the seminar. The seminar was a grand success and provided valuable waypoints towards charting the course for Anti-Submarine Warfare in a future ready Indian Navy

-PRO Kochi

AOC-in-C Personnel Visits Air Force Station Avadi

Air Marshal Suraj Kumar Jha, Air Officer-in-Charge Personnel Indian Air Force visited Air Force Station Avadi on September 13, 2022. Air Marshal Suraj Kumar Jha was received at the Station by Air Commodore S Sivakumar, Air Officer Commanding, Air Force Station Avadi.

The Air Marshal inspected various sites, sections and training infrastructure and interacted with air warriors. During the course of his visit Air Marshal Suraj Kumar Jha appreciated the professionalism and zeal of the air warriors of the station. The Air Marshal expressed his



satisfaction towards the steps taken by Station authorities for improvement of the quality of life, skill developments, sports, health and well being of air warriors, Air Force Civilians and their families. Air Marshal Suraj Kumar Jha also

complimented all the Station personnel for upholding high standards in Training, Logistics Management, Maintenance and Administration.

-PRO Chennai

Impact 2022 - Workshop on Scientific Writing & Reviewing

The Armed Forces Medical College at Pune hosted an online conference cum workshop IMPACT 2022 from September 15-17, 2022. The conference was organized by the Medical Journal Armed Forces India, one of the oldest surviving multi-specialty research journals of the country. Published from the portals of AFMC Pune, MJAFI is celebrating its 78th publishing volume this year. Over the years, the journal has become a well indexed medical publication with researchers from all across the globe submitting articles with the cite score of 2.6.

The conference was inaugurated online by Surgeon Vice Admiral Rajat Datta Director General Armed Forces Medical Services. The DGAFMS stressed upon the importance of learning the art of medical writing and reviewing specially when the



recent guidelines for teachership has mandated basic minimum publications. The Admiral also highlighted the virtues of adapting to an online platform in this digital era.

Air Vice Mshl Rajesh Vaidya, Dean & Deputy Commandant, Armed Forces Medical College, welcomed and congratulated the delegates for showing such keen enthusiasm in participating in a whole new format.

Around 120 delegates from around the country attended

the conference. The attendees included mainly budding authors, reviewers and editors who will contribute to successful publishing in the future. The tagline of the conference was 'Academic excellence through effective research and publication' and focussed on providing impetus to the scientists in the field to effectively communicate their research across the world and provide the scientific basis to upgrade medical practice and policies.

-PRO Pune

New Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare Assumes Charge

Shri Vijoy Kumar Singh assumed charge as Secretary, Ex-Servicemen Welfare, Ministry of Defence on September 19, 2022. Shri Singh is a 1990-batch IAS officer of Punjab cadre, who has an experience of more than 32 years in administration.

Shri Vijoy Kumar Singh recently served as Special Secretary in Ministry of Textiles. Prior to this appointment there, he had served as Joint Secretary in Department of Personnel & Training. He had extensive interactions with serving as well as retired Armed Forces personnel during his career in Punjab.

-PRO Defence



Army and Border Security Force Conference at Headquarters Western Command

The Army and Border Security Force (BSF) Annual Synergy Conference was held at Headquarters Western Command on September 24, 2022. It was attended by senior Officers of Indian Army Western Command & senior officers of Border Security Force from BSF Western Command.

The conference was jointly presided over by Lieutenant General Nav K Khanduri General Officer Commanding - in - Chief, Western Command and Shri PV Ramasastry, IPS, Special DG Western Command, BSF. Common issues of operational preparedness, joint training and contemporary challenges of border management were actively



deliberated upon. Both the forces shared best practices and evolved a common understanding and plan to mitigate threats to national security.

The spirit of integration and cooperation amongst all stakeholders is the most important facet of the prevailing

national security dynamics and this conference was a proactive step by both forces towards attaining the objective. Army and BSF pledged to work shoulder to shoulder for a common purpose of defending our borders.

-PRO Chandigarh

Sainya Swaranjali: Military Band Display at Jodhpur

Commemorating 75th glorious years of independence and celebrating Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav, Desert Corps of Indian Army organized a Military Band Display at the memorials of Bhagat Singh, Vir Sawarkar and Maj Dalpat Singh of Haifa fame on the evening of 13 August 2022 for the citizens of Jodhpur in coordination with civil Administration. The event was graced by various civil dignitaries and Armed Forces fraternity, both serving and veterans.

Three Bands of Army participated in the events whose details are given below:-

- (a) Symphony Band by AOC Centre.
- (b) Brass Band of 1st Mechanised Infantry.



(c) Pipe Band of 13 Jammu & Kashmir Light Infantry Regiment.

The marching of band contingent to various tunes showcased the valour, sacrifice and contribution of Indian Army in pre and post independence era. The band played euphonious tunes of patriotic and martial songs which enthralled the audience and rekindled a sense of

patriotism. The event culminated with the National Anthem by the Symphony Band with entire crowd saluting the National Flag hoisted at the venue. The locals and the veteran community who witnessed the show in large numbers, applauded the initiative one of its kind and expressed their sincere heartfelt thanks to the Konark Corps organising this event.

-PRO Konark



MoU to tackle the issue of plastic pollution and achieve the universal goal of clean water bodies was signed between DG NCC Lt Gen Gurbirpal Singh and Resident Representative, UN World Food Programme Mr Bishow Parajuli in the presence of Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh in New Delhi on September 22, 2022. Also seen are Raksha Rajya. Mantri Shri Ajay Bhatt and Defence Secretary Dr Ajay Kumar.

-PRO Defence
Pic: Photo Div.

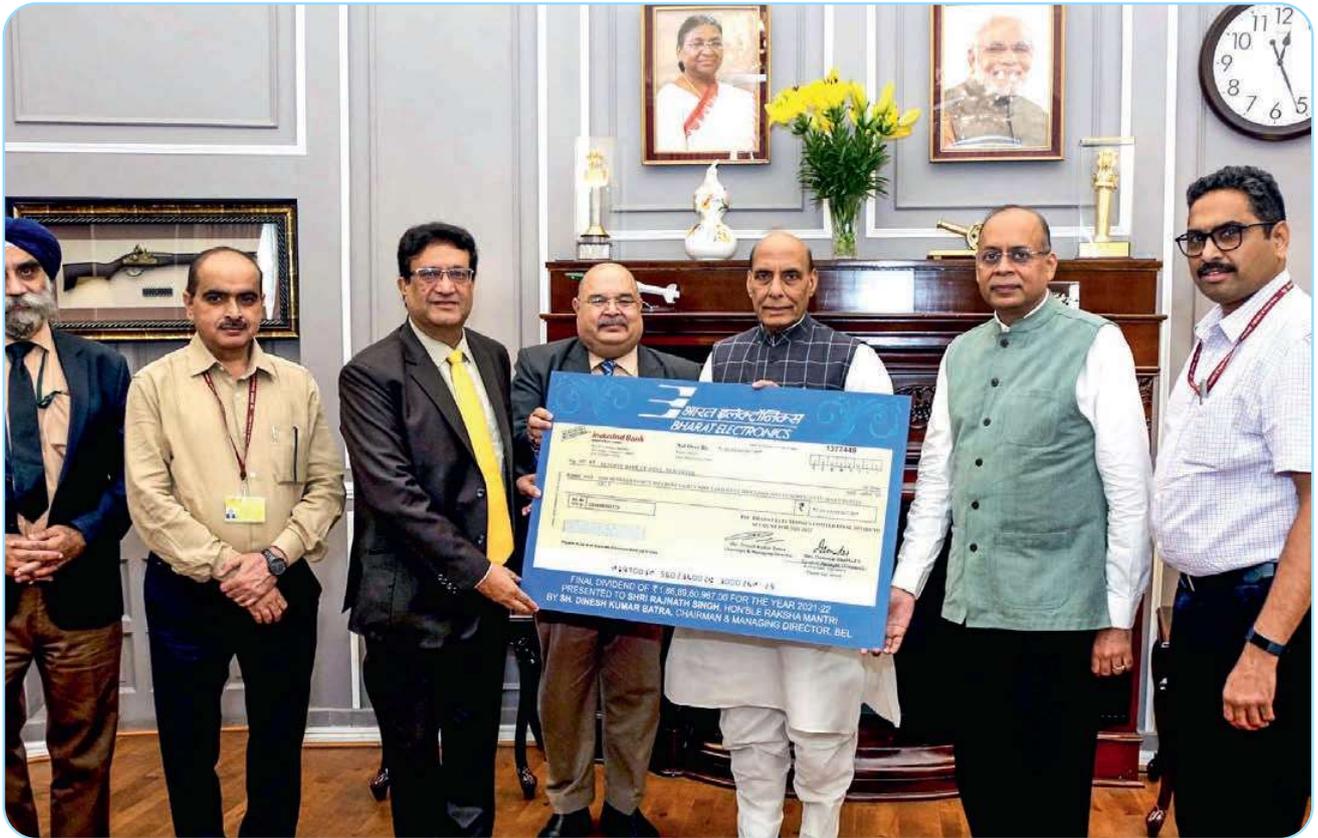
The Indian Army in conjunction with Civil administration, Railways and various other Government departments provided a unique opportunity to young generation to visit famous battle grounds in the deserts of Rajasthan and witness the valour and indomitable spirit of Indian soldiers fighting against all odds to emerge victorious against enemy through 'RANBHOO MI SHRADHANJALI YATRA' from September 5-8, 2022.

-Konark Corps



Approx 2000 school children from local Sainik School witnessed "Know Your Army Mela" organised by White Knight Corps at Nagrota Garrison on September 28, 2022. The event was part of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav & Golden Jubilee Celebration of Corps.

-PRO Jammu



Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh receiving the final dividend cheque of Rs 186.89 crore for the Financial Year 2021-22 from the CMD, Bharat Electronics Limited, Shri Dinesh Kumar Batra, in New Delhi on September 28, 2022. The Defence Secretary, Dr. Ajay Kumar is also seen.



Maj Gen Staff Pilot Ibrahim Nasser Al Alawi Commander UAE AF & AD Along with Delegation Calling on Defence Secretary Shri Ajay Kumar in New Delhi on September 26, 2022.

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DRDO conducted successful test flight of Very Short Range Air Defence System (VSHORADS) missile at ground based portable launcher from Integrated Test Range, Chandipur, off the coast of Odisha on September 27, 2022. -PRO Defence