V. DEFENCE

June

1. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) successfully test-fired anti-tank 'Nag' missile in Rajasthan.
   1. Anti-tank Nag missile is one of the 5 missile systems developed by DRDO under integrated guided missile development programme (IGMDP). 4 other missiles under this programme are - Agni, Akash, Trishul and Prithvi.
   2. Nag missile is a third generation anti-tank guided missile which works on “fire and forget” principle.

2. India successfully test-fired indigenous first all weather tracked-chassis Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QR-SAM). QR-SAM has been jointly developed by Defence Research Development Organisation (DRDO) and Bharat Electronics Limited. It has range of 30 KMs.

3. Indian Army received its first batch of bullet-proof helmets, manufactured by Kanpur-based MKU Industries at cost of INR 180 crores. These bullet proof helmets are capable of withstanding the impact of 9mm ammunition fired from a short range.

4. Indian Army will possibly do away with colonial-era Sahayak System and considers recruiting civilian staff in peace stations, in wake of rising cases of jawans coming out against Sahayak system as Some jawans have been treated as servants by their attached officers.

5. Sahayak system is when a soldier is attached to officers to help them carry out their responsibilities, including - protecting officers, maintaining their weapons and equipment etc. Approx 50,000 sahayaks serve in Army where Air Force and Navy do not have sahayak system.

6. Indian and Australian Navies will hold AUSINDEX 17 joint Naval Exercise in Mid June 2017.

7. India's Reliance Defence Ammunition partnered with Serbia's Yugoimport to manufacture ammunition in India.

8. Land version of the short range surface-to-surface ballistic missile Prithvi-II successfully test-fired. Missile is capable of carrying 1,000 kg of nuclear as well as conventional warheads, upto range of 350 km.

9. Larsen & Toubro launched first independently built Floating Dock (FDN-2) to repair Indian Navy ships at its Shipyard at Kattupalli (Chennai).

10. National Board of Wildlife has approved Rutland Island in South Andaman to be the site for the country's long-range missile test facility.

11. Noted USA Defence Firm Lockheed Martin and India's Tata Advanced Systems signed pact to produce F-16 fighter planes in India, during an Airshow at Paris.

12. Second Scorpene-class submarine INS Khanderi is ready for surface sea trials, built by Mazagon Dock Limited (Mumbai). It is 2nd of 6 submarines being built at MDL in collaboration with France’s DCNS as part of Project 75 of Indian Navy. First was INS Kalvari.

13. USA Approved sale of state-of-the-art Guardian 22 unmanned Guardian drones to India, in a deal valued between 2 - 3 Billion USD. Guardian UAV technology will strengthen India in protecting areas under Indian Ocean.

14. USA approved selling one Boeing C-17 Globemaster transport aircraft to India at approx USD 366.2 million cost.

July

1. 14 day long joint military exercise Maitree 2017 between Indian and Thailand Armies commenced in Himachal Pradesh.

2. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) launched Muntra (Mission UNmanned TRAcked) as India’s first unmanned, remotely operated tank at its Chennai lab. It has been launched in 3 variants - Muntra-S, Muntra-M and Muntra-N for surveillance, mine detection and reconnaissance in areas with nuclear and biological threats.

3. Government has empowered Army to directly procure critical weapons systems and military platforms to maintain combat readiness for short duration intense wars.
   1. It was needed as Army is facing severe shortage in ammunition, mainly for artillery guns, air defence, tanks and certain infantry weapons.
   2. Under new scheme, Vice Chief of Army has been given full financial powers to procure ammunitions.

4. India, Japan and USA navies completed 2017 MALABAR trilateral naval Exercise near Chennai in Bay of Bengal. This is 21st edition of Malabar naval exercise.

5. Indian Army signed MoU with Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) to raise 5 regiments of advanced Medium Range Surface to Air Missiles (MRSAM) with 60 Missiles. MRSAM air defence system can shoot down enemy missiles, aircraft at range of over 50 km. It is land-based variant of long-range surface-to-air missile (LRSAM) or Barak-8 naval air defence system.

6. Indian Navy's second LCU (landing craft utility) Mark IV L52 ship built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) Kolkata has been launched. These vessels are designed for multipurpose amphibious operations carried out Indian Navy and Army to ensure maritime security of Andamans and Lakshadweep islands.

7. New Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels Shachi and Shruti launched at Pipavav Shipyard in Gujarat. These are first set of warships that have been manufactured by a private defence sector entity - Reliance Defence and Engineering Limited.

August

1. Defence Ministry approved a proposal to procure six AH-64E Apache attack helicopters along with weapons systems from American aerospace giant Boeing for Indian Army.

2. Anil Ambani led Reliance Defence and Engineering changed its name to Reliance Naval and Engineering Ltd (RNEL), in line with company's focus on building capabilities for Indian Navy and Coast Guard.

3. Cabinet Committee on Security (CCS) approved implementation of first phase of reforms pertaining to Indian Army based on recommendations of Lt Gen Shekatkar Committee. It aims to enhance combat capability and optimize defence expenditure of Indian Army by December 2019. It is first ever reform exercise to be undertaken in Indian Army since independence. Major reforms are -
   1. Redeployment and restructuring of approximately 57,000 posts of Armymen.
   3. Restructuring of repair echelons in Army - To include Base Workshops, Advance Base Workshops and Station Workshops in field Army.
   4. Redeployment of Ordnance echelons - To include Vehicle Depots, Central Ordnance Depots and Ordnance Depots apart from streamlining inventory control mechanisms.
   5. Other Reforms - Better utilization of Supply and Transport echelons and Animal Transport units, Closure of army postal establishments and military farms in peace locations and Improving efficiency of National Cadet Corps (NCC) etc.

4. Central Government has approved INR 32,000 crore five-year action programme for Indian Coast Guard to enhance its capability in maintaining vigil on coastal waters.
5. DRDO signed Rs.17,000 crore deal with Israel Aerospace Industries (IAI) for producing advanced medium—range surface to air missile (MRSAM) system for Indian Army by 2020. The deal envisages developing 40 firing units and around 200 missiles. MR-SAM is land-based version of long range surface to air missile (LR-SAM) of Indian Navy, with strike range of up to 70 km.

6. Defence Minister Arun Jaitley handed over Long-Range Surface-to-Air Missile (LR-SAM) jointly developed by India and Israel, to Indian Navy.

7. Defence Minister Arun Jaitley inaugurated production of indigenous design Light Combat Helicopter (LCH) by Hindustan Aeronautics (HAL). In November 2016, defence ministry cleared INR 2900 crore procurement of 15 LCHs from HAL.

8. In LCUs LS2 ship has been Inducted into Indian Navy, as 2nd Landing Craft Utility (LCU) Mk-IV class vehicle to be inducted into Indian Navy.

9. India and Russia for first time will conduct Indra tri-services exercise (Indra 2017), involving their armies, navies and the air forces in October 2017 to further ramp up military ties.

10. India is deploying smart Israel-developed fencing systems along its volatile borders with Pakistan, which have quick response teammechanism that strikes when CCTV-powered control room detects an infiltration attempt. BSF is implementing it under project comprehensive integrated border management system (CIBMS).

11. Indian Coast Guard Ship (ICGS) Shourya has been commissioned, fifth in series of six 105-metre Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPVs).

12. Indian Coast Guard Ship Varuna has been decommissioned.

13. Indian Ocean Naval Symposium's (IONS) maiden International Maritime Search and Rescue Exercise (IMMSAREX) will be held in November 2017 in Bay of Bengal under chairmanship of Bangladesh. IONS is a regional forum of Indian Ocean littoral states launched by India in February 2008, which now has 35 members.

14. India's first private sector missile sub-systems manufacturing facility (a 51:49 joint venture between Kalyani Group and Israel's Rafael Advanced Defence Systems) inaugurated near Hyderabad (Telangana).

15. Six-member all-woman team of Indian Navy will set sail to circumnavigate globe on sailing vessel INSV Tarini, making it first-ever Indian circumnavigation of globe by an all-woman crew.

16. Indian Navy's Band participated in International Military Music Festival "Spasskaya Tower" held in Moscow (Russia). A 66-member Indian Navy band also joined historic Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo in the UK.

September


2. 12th India-Nepal joint military exercise - Surya Kiran XII held in Saljhandi (Nepal).

3. 7th India-Sri Lanka joint maritime naval exercise SLINEX 2017 held near Vishakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh) in Bay of Bengal.

4. Pralay Sahayam Multi Agency disaster preparedness exercise conducted on the banks of Hussain Sagar Lake in Hyderabad (Telangana).

5. Advanced towed artillery gun system (ATAGS, Developed jointly by DRDO and Bharat Forge Limited of Kalyani Group) with special ammunition high explosive – base bleed (HE – BB) has set world record in terms of range of setting targets at distance of 48 km during trial firings at Pokhran (Rajasthan).

6. Bharat Dynamics Limited (BDL) signed contract with Research Centre Imarat (RCI) for the supply of Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missiles (MRSAM) to Indian Army.

7. Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) test-fired 3rd generation Anti Tank Guided Missile (ATGM) NAG. It has operational range of 500m to 4km (Land version) and 7-10km (when air-launched).

8. INS Tarasa (T94), fourth and last ship in series of Water Jet Fast Attack Craft (WJFAC) commissioned into Indian Navy.

9. Indian Air Force (IAF) conducted developmental trials of indigenous developed Astra beyond visual range air-to-air missile (BVRAAM).

10. Indian Army organized Operation Sadbhavana for National Integration in Jammu & Kashmir and North East states respectively.

11. Indian Army will induct women in military police, bringing in 800 women at yearly intake of 52.

12. Indian Coast Guard (ICG) commissioned two high-speed interceptor boats C-433 and C-434 boats. Interpreter boat V-409 has also been launched.

13. India's first all-women crew circumnavigation expedition Navika Sagarr Parikrama flagged off in Goa, onboard Sailing Vessel INSV Tarini. It will circumnavigate globe in approximately 165 days and is expected to return to Goa in April 2018.

14. India's first indigenous sniper rifle launched at rifle factory in Ishapore (West Bengal). Its total cost is INR 2.5 lakh and weighs 6.7 Kg. It has shooting range of 800 meters.

15. India's first ingeniously built INS Kalvari submarine handed over to Indian Navy, built by Mazagon Dock Limited in Mumbai. INS Kalvari is first of six Scorpion class submarines built in India under Project-75 by Mazagon Docks Limited with technology transfer from France's DCNS (Direction des Constructions Navales Services).

16. Ministry of Home Affairs launched full-fledged intelligence wing of Sashastra Seema Bal (SSB), paramilitary force that guards India's borders with Bhutan and Nepal. It will have 650 field and staff agents to gather actionable information. Intelligence wing of and Welfare and Rehabilitation Board App (WARB) was also launched.

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