

**Ministry of Defence  
Directorate General of Defence Estates**



सत्यमेव जयते

## *Defence Estates Day*

*16 December 2012*



### *The Genesis*

*The Defence Estates Organization in its present form traces its genesis to the year 1924, when the Cantonments Act was passed, followed by the enactment of the Cantonment Account Code, 1924 and the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, 1925. The legislative consolidation led to the acceptance of the hitherto ad hoc Cantonments Department as a permanent organization. Therefore, the Secretary Military Department, India Office, London vide their letter No. 7007/26 dated 16.12.1926 conveyed sanction to the constitution of the Cantonment Department on a*

establishing a separate department (as a distinct civilian authority) for the administration of Cantonments. Thereafter, in 1936, considering the duties laid down under the Cantonment Land Administration Rules, the Cantonments Department was re-organized into a Lands Branch and a Cantonment Executive Officers Service. Military Lands & Cantonments Service (ML&CS) was a post-Independence creation, resulting from amalgamation of the Cantonment Executive Officers Service and the Lands Branch of the Cantonments Department, the nomenclature of which was subsequently changed to Defence Lands & Cantonments Service (DL&CS) in 1977 and then to the Indian Defence Estates Service (IDES) in 1986.

In order to determine a date to celebrate the Defence Estates Day, various old records spanning the 88-year period of growth of department were studied and scrutinized. It emerges therefrom that the date of creation of a permanent Cantonments Department i.e. 16 December 1926 is the most crucial and oldest date on which the foundation of the Defence Estates Organization / Department, as it exists today comprising 62 Cantonment Boards, 37 Defence Estates Circles, 06 Directorates and the apex Directorate General, was laid.

It is felt that celebrating the Raising Day of the department would provide to its officers and staff a sense of identity and pride of being members of an eighty-eight year old organization. With this will spring an urge and a commitment to bring laurels and glory to the



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No 2343

Cantts/1/11

at

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Any further communication on this subject should be addressed to—  
 The Secretary,  
 Military Department,  
 India Office,  
 London, S.W. 1,  
 and the following reference quoted—  
 M. 7007/26.



MILITARY DEPARTMENT,  
 INDIA OFFICE,  
 LONDON, S.W. 1,

16 DEC 1926 192

Letter from the Secy, Mil. Dept. India Office,  
 No. M. 7007/26 of 16.12.26

SUBJECT— Constitution of the Cantonments Department on a permanent basis.

Sr. *[Signature]*

x/p/c.

In reply to letter dated 21st October,  
 No. 31372/1 (A.D.), from the Secretary, Army Department,  
 I am directed by the Secretary of State in Council to  
 inform you that he sanctions the proposals of the  
 Government of India for the permanent constitution of  
 the Cantonments Department.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

*[Signature: J. K. Brown]*

*[Handwritten initials: 28/3]*

The Secretary  
 to the Government of India,  
 Army Department.

*[Handwritten mark]*

## Defence Estates Day (16.12.2012)

### Programme

<i>Sr. No</i>	<i>Items</i>	<i>Time</i>
1.	<i>Arrival of invitees</i>	<i>1145hrs</i>
2.	<i>Arrival of COAS Arrival of Hon'ble RRM Arrival of Chairman UPSC</i>	<i>1155hrs</i>
3.	<i>Arrival of Hon'ble RM</i>	<i>1200hrs</i>
4.	<i>Seating on the dais</i>	<i>1201hrs</i>
5.	<i>Floral Welcome and Lighting of Lamp</i>	<i>1202hrs</i>
6.	<i>Welcome address</i>	<i>1207hrs</i>
7.	<i>Release of Reports</i>	<i>1212hrs</i>
8.	<i>Address by COAS</i>	<i>1216hrs</i>
9.	<i>Address by Hon'ble RRM</i>	<i>1219hrs</i>
10.	<i>Address by Chairman UPSC</i>	<i>1224hrs</i>
11.	<i>Address by Hon'ble RM</i>	<i>1227hrs</i>
12.	<i>Presentation of Mementos</i>	<i>1234hrs</i>
13.	<i>Cultural Programme</i>	<i>1237hrs</i>
14.	<i>Vote of Thanks</i>	<i>1257hrs</i>
15.	<i>Visit of Hon'ble RM to AU&amp;I RC</i>	<i>1300hrs</i>
16.	<i>Lunch</i>	<i>1315hrs</i>
17.	<i>Chief Guest departs at his convenience</i>	