Designs of the six new medals for the Armed Forces -- Vishisht Seva Medal, Sainya Seva Medal, Vaidyak Seva Medal, Sona Medal, Nao Sona Medal and Vayu Sona Medal -- instituted by the Government of India on Republic Day this year, as also those of their ribbons and clasps, have now been approved by the President and the categories of Service personnel eligible for their award have been announced.

In the Armed Forces, medals and ribbons, associated with gallant action and distinguished service, have always had a special value, as they have helped build up morale and confidence among officers and men and served to provide them the necessary urge and incentive for greater service. A large number of Indian Service personnel have been in continuous service under difficult conditions in Jammu and Kashmir and the North-East Frontier Agency. They have also successfully carried out delicate assignments abroad discharging international obligations in response to calls from the U.N. Government have instituted these awards in recognition of these services rendered by Service personnel.

DEFENCE SERVICES MEDALS

The Vishisht Seva (Distinguished Service) Medal is to be awarded to personnel of all the three Services in Classes I, II and III in recognition of distinguished service of the "most exceptional", an "exceptional" and a "high" order respectively.

Class I of the medal is made of gold gilt, Class II of standard silver and Class III of bronze. Each medal has on its obverse a five-pointed star and on its reverse the Lion Capital. Its ribbon is 32 m.m. wide in gold, with one dark-blue...
dark-blue stripe down the centre for Class I, two dark-blue stripes dividing it into three equal parts for Class II and three dark-blue stripes dividing it into four equal parts for Class III.

The Sainya Seva (Services) Medal, to be awarded to personnel of all the three Services in recognition of non-operational duties under conditions of hardship and severe climate, is made of cupro-nickel, circular in shape and 35 m.m. in diameter. On its obverse is embossed an outline of the Nanda Devi peak in the background with a clump of bamboo in the foreground, while on its reverse is an Indian fort. It has a 32-m.m. wide saffron ribbon with two vertical stripes of white and dark green dividing it into three equal parts.

The three clasps to be worn with this medal are bars 32 m.m. long with the words 'Jammu and Kashmir', 'NEPA' or 'Himalaya' inscribed on them, areas to which the awards pertain.

The recipients of the Services Medal will be all ranks of the Army who have completed an aggregate of one year on the effective strength of a unit/formation located within the geographical limits of Jammu and Kashmir State or the North-East Frontier Agency or are detailed on northern border defence duties in areas to be specified by Government from time to time. In the case of the Air Force, the recipients of the medal will be aircrew and personnel of ejection crew of air despatch units who have carried out a minimum of 10 sorties or 40 hours of flying in these areas.

The Videsh Seva (Overseas) Medal is to be awarded to all ranks of the Armed Forces for duties outside India — (a) on the U.N. Emergency Force or on loan to the Government of Egypt/U.A.R., (b) on the staff of the Haile Sellassie II Military Academy in Ethiopia, (c) on loan to the Government of Ghana, (d) on the staff of the International Commission for Supervision and Control in Indochina (Viet-Nam, Laos and Cambodia), (e) on loan to the Indonesian Government, (f) on loan to the Iraqi Government, (g) on the staff of the Neutral Nation’s Repatriation Commission or the Indian Custodian Force in Korea, (h) on the staff of the U.N. Observer Group in the Lebanon, and (i) on the effective strength of a unit or formation employed on the construction of the Tribhuvan Rajpath and
The Overseas Medal is made of copper-nickel, circular in shape and 35 m.m. in diameter. It has embossed on its obverse a worship of ancient times and on its reverse ocean waves. Its cobalt-blue ribbon has five white vertical stripes dividing it into six equal parts.

The clasps to the medal are bars 32 m.m. long with the name of the country of service inscribed on it.

All ranks of the three Services — Army, Navy and Air Force —, including the Territorial Army, the Auxiliary and Reserve Forces (when embodied), the Nursing Services and other lawfully-constituted armed forces are eligible for the grant of the above-mentioned three Armed Forces awards.

**ARMY, NAVY & AIR FORCE MEDALS**

The Army, Navy and Air Force medals are to be awarded in recognition of such individual acts of exceptional devotion to duty or courage as have special significance for the Service concerned. All ranks in the three Services, Auxiliary and Reserve Forces and Nursing Services are eligible for the award of the respective medals.

These Army, Navy and Air Force Medals, all made of standard silver and 35 m.m. in diameter, have each a fixed ring attached to a metal strip, 3 m.m. wide, ornamented with asoka leaves.

**The Sena (Army) Medal** is circular in shape, and has embossed on its obverse a bayonet and on its reverse an armed sentry.

**The Nao Sena (Navy) Medal** is pentagonal in shape with curved sides, and has embossed on its obverse the Naval Ensign, which has the shape of an ancient Indian ship and on its reverse a trident within a circlet of rope.

**The WAVs Sena (Air Force) Medal** has the shape of a four-pointed star, and has embossed on its obverse the Lion Capital of which is encircled by a garland of leaves and on its reverse a representation of a Himalayan Eagle.

The ribbons of the Army Medal are in red and of the Navy Medal in Navy blue, with a thin silver-grey stripe running down the centre of each. The ribbon of the Air Force Medal is in alternate stripes of saffron and silver-grey running diagonally from right to left.