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DAC Approves ₹52,000 Crore Defence Modernisation Plan to Strengthen India's Armed Forces

- In a major boost to India's defence preparedness, the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)**, chaired by **Defence Minister Rajnath Singh**, granted **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for several high-value defence procurement projects on **3 July 2026**. The approvals, valued at approximately **₹52,000 crore**, are aimed at enhancing the operational capabilities of the **Indian Army, Indian Navy, and Indian Air Force** through the induction of advanced indigenous and modern defence systems.
- The decision reflects the government's continued focus on military modernization, self-reliance under the **Aatmanirbhar Bharat** initiative, and strengthening India's preparedness against evolving security challenges across land, sea, and air.
- **What is Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)?**
- Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) is the first and most important stage in India's defence procurement process. It is an in-principle administrative approval granted by the Defence Acquisition Council for acquiring military equipment and weapon systems. Once AoN is approved, the concerned procurement agencies begin the detailed acquisition process, including tendering, evaluation, trials, and contract negotiations.
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- **Major Approvals for the Indian Army**
- The DAC approved several advanced weapon systems designed to improve battlefield effectiveness, air defence, and survivability of the Army.
- **AKASH TARANG Anti-UAV Electronic Warfare System**

- The Army will procure the **AKASH TARANG Anti-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Electronic Warfare System**, developed to detect, track, jam, and neutralize hostile drones.
- With the growing use of drones in modern warfare, this system will provide reliable protection to military formations and critical installations against aerial threats.
- **Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM)**
- The **MPATGM** is an indigenous third-generation anti-tank guided missile that significantly enhances the firepower of infantry units.
- The lightweight missile enables soldiers to engage and destroy enemy tanks and armored vehicles with high precision, strengthening India's anti-armour capabilities.
- **Medium Range Surface-to-Air Missile (MRSAM) System**
- The **MRSAM Weapon System** will improve the Army's air defence network by intercepting various aerial threats, including aircraft, helicopters, drones, and cruise missiles at medium ranges.
- The system provides layered air defence for vital military assets and operational formations.
- **Very Short Range Air Defence System (V-SHORADS)**
- The Army also received approval for procuring **Very Short Range Air Defence Systems (V-SHORADS)** equipped with advanced multi-spectral sensors.
- These portable missile systems are designed to engage low-flying aircraft, helicopters, and drones while remaining resistant to electronic countermeasures.
- **Active Protection System for Tanks**
- Modern battlefields increasingly feature anti-tank guided missiles and loitering munitions. To improve the survivability of armored vehicles, the DAC approved the acquisition of **Active Protection Systems (APS)** for tanks.
- The system automatically detects incoming projectiles and neutralizes them before impact, significantly increasing battlefield protection.

- **Jet-Based Kamikaze Drone System**
- The Army will also procure advanced **Jet-Based Kamikaze Drones**, also known as loitering munitions.
- These drones combine high speed, extended range, electronic warfare capabilities, and precision strike ability, making them effective and cost-efficient weapons for modern combat operations.
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- **Major Approvals for the Indian Navy**
- The Indian Navy received approvals for advanced underwater warfare systems, unmanned aviation, and propulsion technology.
- **Multi Influence Ground Mine (MIGM)**
- The Navy will induct **Multi Influence Ground Mines (MIGM)** designed to restrict enemy naval movement.
- These intelligent sea mines respond to multiple signatures such as magnetic, acoustic, and pressure changes, making them difficult to evade and highly effective in protecting strategic maritime areas.
- **Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial System (NSUAS)**
- The DAC also approved the procurement of **Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial Systems (NSUAS)**.
- Equipped with sophisticated surveillance sensors, these drones will enhance maritime domain awareness, reconnaissance, target identification, and operational monitoring over vast ocean areas.
- **Land-Based Testing Facility (LBTF) for Electric Propulsion**
- Approval was granted for establishing a **Land-Based Testing Facility (LBTF)** dedicated to electric propulsion systems.
- The facility will enable comprehensive testing and validation of motors and propulsion technologies before their integration into future naval platforms, supporting indigenous naval shipbuilding programs.
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- **Major Approvals for the Indian Air Force**
- **Fixed-Wing High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (FW-HAPS)**
- The Indian Air Force will acquire **Fixed-Wing High Altitude Pseudo Satellites (FW-HAPS)**, a cutting-edge technology that operates in the upper atmosphere for extended durations.
- These platforms function as near-space surveillance assets capable of performing:
- Persistent Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR)
- Secure telecommunications
- Remote sensing
- Long-duration monitoring of strategic regions
- Unlike conventional satellites, FW-HAPS can remain over a designated area for prolonged periods while being comparatively economical and flexible.
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- **Strategic Importance of the DAC Approvals**
- The latest approvals represent one of the most significant defence modernization initiatives of 2026. The acquisitions will:
- Strengthen India's multi-layered air defence capabilities.
- Improve protection against drone and missile threats.
- Enhance the Army's anti-armour and electronic warfare capabilities.
- Boost maritime surveillance and underwater warfare preparedness.
- Expand long-endurance intelligence and reconnaissance capabilities.
- Increase the survivability of tanks and frontline military assets.
- Promote indigenous defence manufacturing under the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative.

India, Japan Sign Defence Co-development Pact

- Defence co-development is a form of defence industrial cooperation in which two countries jointly develop a military system or platform. India and Japan have used this framework for technology collaboration in areas linked to maritime security, supply-chain resilience, and strategic autonomy.
- The UNICORN mast stands for Unified Complex Radio Antenna. It is designed to improve the stealth characteristics of naval platforms by integrating multiple antennas into a single structure. The system is used on warships for communication, radar, and electronic systems.
- The agreement was announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi. The summit also covered artificial intelligence, economic security, critical minerals, healthcare, and energy as part of wider bilateral cooperation.
- The co-development of the UNICORN mast is linked to Japan's defence export policy, which has historically imposed self-restrictions on military exports. India and Japan have maintained regular high-level defence exchanges through ministerial visits and institutional dialogue.

South Korea Targets 2nd Wave of Investment In India

- South Korea is preparing a “Second Wave” of investment in India, with shipbuilding, defence manufacturing, and industrial collaboration at the forefront.
- This marks a strategic shift from earlier Korean investments in automobiles and electronics, positioning India as a central partner in Seoul’s diversification strategy amid global instability.
- South Korea’s Ambassador to India, Lee Seong-ho, emphasised that the next phase of cooperation would be led by shipbuilding and industrial collaboration. He explained that such initiatives would naturally expand bilateral trade, moving beyond the first wave of Korean investments in the 1990s that focused on consumer industries like automobiles and electronics.
- Discussions are underway to expand into air defence guns, missile systems, and other advanced defence platforms. Reports indicate that the Indian Army is considering procurement of up to 300 additional K9 Vajra-T self-propelled howitzers, which would be one of its largest artillery acquisitions.
- HD Hyundai is investing USD 4 billion in a Tamil Nadu shipyard capable of producing up to 4 million gross tons annually. These projects are supported by workforce development initiatives, including a Shipbuilding Workforce Development and Technology Cooperation Centre backed by the Korea International Cooperation Agency.

Corps of Signals Dare Devils Attempt New World Record

- The Indian Army has once again showcased its exceptional courage, discipline, and professionalism through the remarkable achievement of the Corps of Signals Dare Devils motorcycle display team.
- As part of the nationwide "Wheels of Valour: Sanchar Shakti" expedition, the team successfully completed a historic world record attempt inside the iconic Atal Tunnel in Himachal Pradesh.
- The event was dedicated to the brave soldiers of the Kargil War and highlighted the spirit of patriotism, teamwork, and military excellence.
- A total of 10 riders performed on two motorcycles, covering the 9.8-kilometre tunnel in 9 minutes and 47.97 seconds.
- The record attempt took place at an altitude of approximately 10,075 feet, making it an extraordinary demonstration of endurance and precision under challenging conditions.
- The Corps of Signals is the communication arm of the Indian Army. It is responsible for establishing and maintaining secure communication networks during military operations. Besides its operational role, the Corps is renowned for its famous motorcycle display team, the Dare Devils.
- The Atal Tunnel, located beneath the Rohtang Pass in Himachal Pradesh, is one of India's greatest engineering achievements. Stretching 9.02 kilometres, it provides year-round road connectivity between Manali and the Lahaul-Spiti region.

Dynamatic Technologies Becomes Sole Global Supplier

- Bangalore-based Dynamatic Technologies has emerged as a pivotal player in the global aerospace supply chain, serving as the sole Tier-1 supplier of flight-critical flap-track-beam assemblies for the Airbus A330 aircraft.
- These assemblies, hinged to the trailing edges of the wings, are essential for controlling speed and balance, thereby shortening take-off and landing distances. The contract represents a significant milestone for the Make in India initiative, showcasing the country's ability to deliver highly specialised aerospace components to one of the world's leading aircraft manufacturers.
- The company's role as the sole-source manufacturer extends beyond the A330 wide-body aircraft to include the Airbus A320 single-aisle family. This exclusive position underscores the trust Airbus places in Dynamatic Technologies' capabilities and highlights India's growing importance in the global aviation ecosystem.
- In addition, Dynamatic Technologies has secured a landmark aerospace export contract to manufacture and assemble doors for the Airbus A220 aircraft family, further diversifying its portfolio and strengthening its footprint in international aerospace programs.
- The manufacturing process for these projects is distinctive, combining advanced technology with artisanal skill. Detailed components undergo high-speed robotic machining at facilities in Bristol and Swindon in the United Kingdom.

Indian Army Begins Operating Indigenous Solar-Powered MAPSS Drone

- The Indian Army in Jan 2026, had taken a decisive step in advancing its surveillance capabilities by placing a ₹168 crore order with Bangalore-based start-up New Space Research & Technologies for its Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System (MAPSS), a fully electric, solar-powered unmanned aerial vehicle.
- This marks the first deployment of solar-powered surveillance UAVs by the armed forces, moving beyond battery-powered and tethered drones currently in use.
- The contract originates from the Defence Ministry's Innovations for Defence Excellence programme, highlighting the growing role of Indian start-ups in meeting next-generation operational needs through indigenous research and development.
- The MAPSS represents an evolution from the company's ongoing solar-powered **High Altitude Pseudo Satellite program**, which has already achieved national endurance records, including flights exceeding twenty-seven hours at altitudes over twenty-six thousand feet and another lasting more than twenty-four hours in challenging conditions.
- The UAV features lightweight construction, solar recharging for extended endurance, and modular payloads with advanced mission autonomy, enabling operations in GNSS-denied zones.

- The MAPSS represents the first sovereign hardware delivery via iDEX's UAV development vector, while New Space Research & Technologies' journey from swarm contracts to advanced pseudo-satellite platforms exemplifies the ecosystem's maturity.

REVIEW QUESTIONS

1. The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) approved defence acquisition proposals worth approximately how much on 3 July 2026?

A. ₹25,000 crore
B. ₹40,000 crore
C. ₹52,000 crore
D. ₹75,000 crore

Answer: C. ₹52,000 crore

Explanation: The DAC, chaired by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, granted Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for defence procurement proposals worth about **₹52,000 crore**.

2. Which indigenous system approved by the DAC is designed to counter enemy drones?

A. MRSAM
B. MPATGM
C. AKASH TARANG
D. V-SHORADS

Answer: C. AKASH TARANG

Explanation: AKASH TARANG is an Anti-Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Electronic Warfare System developed to detect, jam, and neutralize hostile drones.

3. The Man Portable Anti-Tank Guided Missile (MPATGM) is primarily intended to destroy:

A. Fighter aircraft
B. Enemy tanks and armoured vehicles
C. Naval warships
D. Ballistic missiles

Answer: B. Enemy tanks and armoured vehicles

Explanation: MPATGM is a portable indigenous missile system that enhances the infantry's capability to eliminate mechanised threats.

4. Which of the following systems approved for the Indian Navy is intended to enhance maritime surveillance?

A. Multi Influence Ground Mine (MIGM)
B. Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial System (NSUAS)
C. Active Protection System
D. FW-HAPS

Answer: B. Naval Shipborne Unmanned Aerial System (NSUAS)

Explanation: NSUAS is equipped with advanced sensors that improve the Navy's situational awareness and maritime reconnaissance capabilities.

5. The Fixed-Wing High Altitude Pseudo Satellite (FW-HAPS) approved for the Indian Air Force will primarily support:

A. Underwater warfare
B. Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions
C. Tank protection
D. Anti-submarine warfare

Answer: B. Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (ISR) missions

Explanation: FW-HAPS provides long-endurance ISR, telecommunications, and remote sensing capabilities.

6. The indigenous Medium Altitude Persistent Surveillance System (MAPSS) has been developed by which company?

A. Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL)
B. Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL)
C. New Space Research & Technologies
D. Larsen & Toubro Defence

Answer: C. New Space Research & Technologies

Explanation: Bengaluru-based New Space Research & Technologies developed the solar-powered MAPSS drone.

7. Under which Ministry of Defence initiative was the MAPSS drone project supported?

A. Make in India
B. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)
C. Digital India
D. PM Gati Shakti

Answer: B. Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)

Explanation: The MAPSS project received support under the Ministry of Defence's **Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX)** programme.

8. What is the major advantage of the MAPSS surveillance drone over conventional battery-powered UAVs?

A. It can operate underwater.
B. It uses nuclear propulsion.
C. It is solar-powered, allowing longer endurance.
D. It carries heavy combat weapons.

Answer: C. It is solar-powered, allowing longer endurance.

Explanation: Solar-powered recharging enables MAPSS to remain airborne for extended periods, making it ideal for persistent surveillance.

9. Which system approved by the DAC is designed to improve the survivability of tanks by intercepting incoming threats?

A. MRSAM
B. AKASH TARANG
C. Active Protection System (APS)
D. NSUAS

Answer: C. Active Protection System (APS)

Explanation: APS detects and neutralizes incoming anti-tank missiles and projectiles before they hit the tank.

10. The MAPSS drone is capable of operating effectively even in:

A. Deep underwater environments
B. Space missions
C. GNSS-denied environments
D. Underground tunnels

Answer: C. GNSS-denied environments

Explanation: MAPSS features advanced autonomous navigation, allowing it to operate even when Global Navigation Satellite System (GNSS) signals are unavailable or jammed.

11. India and Japan recently signed a defence co-development agreement for the joint development of which advanced naval system?
A) BrahMos Missile
B) UNICORN Mast
C) Barak-8 Radar
D) Akash Air Defence System

Answer: B) UNICORN Mast

12. The UNICORN mast is primarily designed to improve which capability of naval warships?
A) Cargo carrying capacity
B) Stealth characteristics
C) Missile range
D) Fuel efficiency

Answer: B) Stealth characteristics

13. What does UNICORN stand for?
A) Unified Communication Radar Network
B) Universal Combat Radio Navigation
C) Unified Complex Radio Antenna
D) Universal Complex Radar Array

Answer: C) Unified Complex Radio Antenna

14. During the India-Japan summit, cooperation was expanded into all of the following sectors EXCEPT:
A) Artificial Intelligence

B) Critical Minerals
C) Healthcare
D) Cryptocurrency Regulation

Answer: D) Cryptocurrency Regulation

15. South Korea's proposed "Second Wave" of investment in India primarily focuses on:
A) Textiles and Agriculture
B) Tourism and Hospitality
C) Shipbuilding and Defence Manufacturing
D) Banking and Insurance

Answer: C) Shipbuilding and Defence Manufacturing

16. Which South Korean company is investing about USD 4 billion in a shipyard project in Tamil Nadu?
A) Samsung Heavy Industries
B) Hyundai Motor Company
C) HD Hyundai
D) Hanwha Aerospace

Answer: C) HD Hyundai

17. The Indian Army is reportedly considering the procurement of additional _____ self-propelled howitzers from South Korea.
A) Dhanush
B) M777
C) K9 Vajra-T
D) ATAGS

Answer: C) K9 Vajra-T

18. Bengaluru-based Dynamatic Technologies has become the sole Tier-1 global supplier of flight-critical flap-track-beam assemblies for which aircraft?
A) Boeing 787 Dreamliner
B) Airbus A330
C) Embraer E195
D) Dassault Falcon 8X

Answer: B) Airbus A330

19. Dynamatic Technologies has also secured a contract to manufacture aircraft doors for which Airbus aircraft family?
A) Airbus A380

B) Airbus A350
C) Airbus A220
D) Airbus Beluga XL

Answer: C) Airbus A220

20. Which Government of India initiative is significantly supported by these developments in defence manufacturing and aerospace production?
A) Digital India
B) Skill India
C) Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat
D) Smart Cities Mission

Answer: C) Make in India and Aatmanirbhar Bharat