

# ₹22K cr worth of defence proposals get govt nod

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The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), under the chairmanship of Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, on Tuesday accorded acceptance of necessity (AoN) for five capital acquisition proposals worth over ₹21,772 crore.

Approvals include ships for the Indian Navy, helicopters for the Indian coast guard, and an electronic warfare system for Indian Air Force (IAF) jets, along with upgrades to tanks, vehicles, and aircraft engines.

The DAC granted AoN for the procurement of 31 new water jet fast attack crafts for the Indian Navy. According to the Ministry of Defence (MoD) release, these are designed to perform tasks, such as low-intensity maritime operations, surveillance, patrol, and search and rescue operations close to the coast. In addition, these vessels will play an effective role in anti-piracy missions, particularly in and around India's island territories.

The DAC also accorded AoN for the procurement of 120 fast interceptor crafts. These vessels are capable of performing multiple roles, including escorting high-value units such as aircraft carriers, destroyers, frigates, and submarines for coastal defence, added the MoD.

The Council also approved the procurement of an electronic warfare suite, comprising external airborne self-protection jammer pods, next-generation radar warning receivers, and associated equipment, for the IAF's Su-30 MKI aircraft. This system will enhance the operational capabilities of the Su-30 MKI and protect it from enemy radars and related weapon systems while carrying out missions against enemy targets protected by air defence systems, said the MoD.

## Biden admin okays sale of \$1.17 bn helicopter equipment to India

The Biden Administration on Monday notified the Congress of its decision to approve the sale of MH-60R multi-mission helicopter equipment and related ones at an estimated cost of \$1.17 billion.

The proposed sale will improve India's capability to deter current and future threats by upgrading its anti-submarine warfare capabilities, the Defence Security Cooperation Agency said in a notification to the Congress.

The Biden administration's approval of sale of major defence equipment to India comes weeks ahead of the completion of its four-year term. President-elect Donald Trump would be sworn in as 47th president of the

United States of America on January 20, 2025.

According to the notification, India has requested to buy 30 multifunctional information distribution system-joint tactical radio systems (MIDS-JTRS).

It also included advanced data transfer systems; external fuel tanks; AN/AAS 44C(V) forward looking infrared (FLIR) systems; an operator machine interface assistant; spare containers; facilities study, design, construction and support; support and test equipment; munitions; and integration and test support.

The principal contractor will be

Lockheed Martin Rotary and mission systems.

