

Defence purchase plan worth ₹84K cr cleared



The plan was cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council, headed by Rajnath Singh

STRENGTH BOOSTER

► 24 capital acquisition proposals get acceptance of necessity

■ 10 for Navy, including naval anti-ship missiles, multi-purpose vessels, and high endurance autonomous vehicles

■ 6 for Army, including futuristic infantry combat vehicles, light tanks, and mounted gun system

■ 6 for Air Force, including new range of missile system, long-range guided bombs, and advanced surveillance systems

■ 2 for Coast Guard, including next-gen offshore patrol vessels

► 21 proposals, worth ₹82,127 crore, are approved for procurement from indigenous sources

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The defence ministry on Thursday approved the procurement of a number of military platforms and weapons, including light tanks, anti-ship missiles, and long-range guided bombs at a cost of ₹84,328 crore to boost combat capabilities of the armed forces.

The procurement proposals were cleared by the Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) headed by Defence Minister Rajnath Singh. The Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for the procurement came amid a spike in tensions between India and China after troops from the two sides were engaged in a clash along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at Yangtse in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh.

The defence ministry said the DAC

accorded approval for 24 capital acquisition proposals — six for Indian Army, six for Indian Air Force, 10 for the Indian Navy and two for Indian Coast Guard — adding total value of the procurement would be ₹84,328 crore. It said the proposals include procurement of futuristic infantry combat

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vehicles, light tanks, naval anti-ship missiles, multi-purpose vessels, new range of missile systems, long range guided bombs and next generation offshore patrol vessels. The ministry said 21 proposals worth ₹82,127 crore, will be procured from indigenous sources.

“This unprecedented initiative of tge DAC will not only modernise the Armed Forces but also provide substantial boost to the defence industry to achieve the goal of 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat,’” the ministry said in a release.

No breakthrough in 17th round of India-China talks

Against the backdrop of fresh tensions over the clash between their troops in the Tawang sector, India and China on Tuesday held the 17th round of high-level military talks on the eastern Ladakh border standoff but there was no indication of any forward movement in resolution of the remaining issues. A joint statement released on Thursday said both sides exchanged views in an “open and constructive” manner to resolve the “relevant issues” and that it was agreed to maintain “security and stability” on the ground in the region.

The senior military officers of the two sides held the dialogue at the Chushul-Moldo border meeting point on the Chinese side of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in eastern Ladakh and it lasted for around 10 hours, people familiar with the matter said. The talks took place 11 days after the clash at Yangtse area along the LAC in the Tawang sector of Arunachal Pradesh.

The statement said the two sides agreed to stay in “close contact”, maintain dialogue through military and diplomatic channels and work out a mutually acceptable resolution of the remaining issues at the earliest.

PTI