

NEWS TODAY

UNION CABINET APPROVES A CONTRACT UNDER BUY (INDIAN-IDDM) CATEGORY

- Union Cabinet accorded approval to sign a contract with Larsen & Toubro Limited (L&T) for acquisition of three **Cadet Training Ships** under **Buy (Indian-IDDM) category** of **Defence Acquisition Policy 2020 (DAP)**.

Salient features of DAP 2020:

- Notification of **positive indigenisation lists** in respect of weapons/platforms.
- Increased Indigenous Content (IC)** in various categories of procurement.
- Highest priority** to procurement under Buy (Indian-IDDM) category.
- Reservation for MSMEs and small shipyards** for orders up to Rs 100 crore/year.

About **Buy {Indian-IDDM (Indigenously Designed, Developed and Manufactured)}** category.

- It refers to **acquisition of products from an Indian vendor** that have a **minimum of 50% Indigenous Content** on cost basis of the base contract price i.e. total contract price less taxes and duties.
- It is one **among five procurement categories** (refer infographic) under **Defence Acquisition Procedure (DAP) 2020**.
- DAP 2020 superseded **Defence Procurement Procedure (DPP) of 2016**.

Category	Indigenous Content
1. Buy (Indian-IDDM)	Indigenous design and $\geq 50\%$
2. Buy (Indian)	In case of indigenous design $\geq 50\%$, otherwise $\geq 60\%$
3. Buy and Make (Indian)	$\geq 50\%$ of the 'Make' portion
4. Buy (Global - Manufacture in India)	$\geq 50\%$
5. Buy (Global)	Foreign Vendor – Nil Indian Vendor $\geq 30\%$

INDIA HOSTS THE FIRST MEETING OF GOVERNING BOARD OF BIMSTEC ENERGY CENTRE (BEC)

- It **recommended the addition of cyber security, green hydrogen, and energy transition** areas under the specialized wings of BEC.

About BEC

- The **First BIMSTEC Energy Ministers Conference of 2005**, agreed to the **setting up of a BEC** to share experience in reforms, restructuring, regulation, and best practices in the energy sector.
- Objectives of the Centre:** create, manage, and evaluate energy-related databases to suggest a road map for meaningful intra-BIMSTEC cooperation.

Initiatives for BIMSTEC Energy Cooperation

- The **grid interconnection MoU, signed in 2018 by member-states**, for the trade in electricity with optimal power transmission in the BIMSTEC region.
- The **1125 MW Dorjilung hydropower project involving Bangladesh, Bhutan, and India** will allow Bhutan to export electricity to Bangladesh through India.

About BIMSTEC

- Genesis:** It is a regional organization that was **established on 06 June 1997 with the signing of the Bangkok Declaration**.
- Objective:** To **foster regional and economic cooperation**.
- Member countries:** **7 member nations in the littoral and adjacent areas of the Bay of Bengal — India, Thailand, Myanmar, Nepal, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Bhutan.**
- Current Chair:** **Thailand** and its secretariat is situated in **Dhaka, Bangladesh**.



A NEW REPORT HIGHLIGHTED LINK BETWEEN SPACE WEATHER AND FLIGHT DELAYS

- A new study published in journal Nature Scientific Reports highlighted:
 - **Average arrival delay time** during space weather events rose by 81.34 per cent compared to **quieter periods**.
 - It interferes with communication and navigation, which are crucial in managing modern air traffic and ensuring safety.
- About Space Weather:** It describes the variations in the space environment between the sun and Earth. Key terms related to space weather
 - **Solar wind:** They continuously flow outward from the Sun and consists mainly of **protons and electrons** in a state known as a plasma.
 - **Coronal Mass Ejections (CMEs):** Large **expulsions of plasma and magnetic field** from the Sun's corona (outermost layer of Sun).
 - **Geomagnetic storms:** They are fluctuations in the Earth's magnetic field, caused by changes in the **solar wind and interplanetary magnetic field**.
 - **Sunspots:** Areas where the magnetic field is **about 2,500 times stronger** than Earth's, much higher than **anywhere else on the Sun**.
 - A typical spot consists of a **dark region called the umbra**, surrounded by a lighter region known as the **penumbra**.
 - Sunspots increase and decrease through an **average cycle of 11 years (Solar cycle)**



CONSTITUTION OF GREATER PANNA LANDSCAPE COUNCIL (GPLC)

- As part of the **Ken-Betwa Link Project (KBLP)**, GPLC has been constituted to ensure systematic and time bound implementation of the **Greater Panna Landscape Management plan**.

➤ KBLP is an **interlinking of rivers project (through the Panna Tiger Reserve)**, envisages transferring water from the Ken River to the Betwa river.

- The broad objectives of the GPLC are;

- **Enable betterment of habitat**, and management for flagship species viz. tiger, vulture, and gharial in the landscape;
- Consolidate the landscape for biodiversity conservation **through spatial prioritization**;
- Provide **species-specific and site-specific monitoring** strategies.

- About Integrated Landscape Management**

➤ It refers to **long term collaboration** to achieve the objectives required from the landscape, such as **agricultural production**, the **delivery of ecosystem services, cultural heritage and values**, and **rural livelihoods**.

- About Panna Tiger Reserve**

- **Location:** It is situated in the **Vindhyan Hills nearer to the confluence of the Deccan Peninsula**, Upper Gangetic Plain, and Semi-Arid Gujarat Rajputana reflecting the influence of three bio-geographic regions.
- **Major River:** Ken Passes through it.
- **Formation:** It was **formed in 1981 and in 2011** it was designated a biosphere reserve by the government.
 - It is the **3rd Biosphere Reserve** included in the **World Network of Biosphere reserves (WNBR)** from Madhya Pradesh after Pachmarhi and Amarkantak.



SUPREME COURT'S OBSERVATIONS WITH RESPECT TO ANTI-DEFECTION LAW

- SC has observed that for application of **anti-defection law**, it does not matter whether rival group is the **minority or majority within the political party** if their acts amount to **defection**.

- About Anti-Defection law:**

➤ It was added by the **52nd Amendment in 1985** that also inserted Tenth Schedule to the Constitution (grounds of defection).

➤ A member of a House becomes disqualified if:

- He **voluntarily gives up his membership** of such political party; or
- He **votes/abstains from voting contrary to any direction issued** by his political party and such act has **not been condoned by the party** within 15 days.
- **An independent member** becomes disqualified he **joins any political party** after such election.
- **A nominated member** becomes disqualified if he **joins any political party after expiry of six months** from date on which he takes seat.

> Exceptions in anti-defection law:

- **Allows a party to merge with or into another party** provided at least two-thirds of its legislators are in favour.
- If a person is **elected as speaker of Lok Sabha or Chairman of Rajya Sabha** then he could resign from his party, and rejoin the party once he demits that post.

ALSO IN NEWS



Raisina Dialogue 2023

- It is a **multilateral conference committed** to addressing the most challenging issues facing the global community, held annually in **New Delhi since 2016**.
 - > It takes its name from **Raisina Hill**- the **seat of the Indian government**.
 - > It is **hosted by the Observer Research Foundation in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs**.
- It brings together global leaders in policy, business, media, civil society, defence and foreign policy.



Fugitive economic offenders Act 2018

- India called upon G-20 Nations to adopt multilateral action for faster extradition of **fugitive economic offenders (FEO)** and recovery of assets both on the domestic front and abroad.
- Government has enacted the **FEO Act 2018**, to deal with **FEOs**.
- It defines offender as who;
 - > has **left India to avoid criminal prosecution**; or
 - > being **abroad refuses to return to India** to face criminal prosecution;
 - > an **arrest warrant has been issued against him** for any specified offenses where the value involved is over Rs 100 crore.



Advance Authorisation Scheme

- Recently, the Director General of Foreign Trade (**DGFT**) **further simplified the process of Composition Fee for Export Obligation Extension to include more cases under the Advance Authorization Scheme**.
- **About Advance Authorization Scheme**
 - > The scheme is **implemented by the Director General of Foreign Trade**.
 - > It **allows duty free import of inputs**, which are physically incorporated in an export product.
 - > **DGFT provides a sector-wise list of Standard Input-Output Norms (SION)** under which the exporters may choose to apply.



Spice Board India

- Recently, Spice Board India at Kochi celebrated its 36th anniversary.
- **Genesis** - It is a **statutory body constituted under Spice Board Act 1986** after merging erstwhile Cardamom Board and the Spices Export Promotion Council.
- **Objective**
 - > The board is **responsible for development of the cardamom industry and promotion export** of 52 scheduled spices listed under the act.
- **Organisational Structure**
 - > The board is **headed by a senior secretary level officer**.
 - > Also, two Members of Parliament are also elected to serve on the board.
 - > The board **functions under administrative control of the Ministry of Commerce and Industries**.



Sunflower oil

- Centre has discontinued **TRQ (Tariff Rate Quota)** for the import of crude sunflower seed oil for 2023-24.
 - > TRQ is a quota for a volume of imports that enter India at **specified or nil duty**. But after quota is reached, **normal tariff applies to additional imports**.
- India imports **almost 85 per cent of Sunflower oil from Ukraine and Russia**.



SWAYATT (Start-ups, Women and Youth Advantage Through eTransactions)

- A function was held to commemorate the success of "SWAYATT", an initiative on **Government e-Marketplace (GeM)**.
- **About SWAYATT:**
 - > The initiative was first **launched in 2019**.
 - > It aims to **promote inclusiveness of various categories** of sellers and service providers on GeM portal.
 - GeM has been setup (under administrative control of **Ministry of Commerce and Industry**) for **procurement of goods and services by Central Ministries, State Departments, PSEs and Autonomous Bodies**.



Air cooled condenser (ACC)

- NTPC has commissioned **India's first Air cooled condenser (ACC) installed** Super Critical plant at North Karanpura in Jharkhand.
- **About Air cooled condenser (ACC):**
 - An ACC is a **direct dry cooling system** where steam is condensed inside air-cooled finned tubes.
 - ACC has almost **1/3rd water footprint** as compared to a conventional Water Cooled Condenser (WCC).
 - This would result in **water saving of around 30.5 mcm annually**.



Defence Exercises

- **Shinyuu Maitri:** It is the exercise conducted between the Indian Air Force (IAF) Japan Air Self Defence Force (JASDF).
- **DUSTLIK-2023:** It is the exercise conducted between the Indian Army and Uzbekistan Army under a UN mandate.



National Institutes of Pharmaceutical Education and Research (NIPERs)

- Union Minister of Chemicals & Fertilizers, chairs the First Governing Council meeting of the of NIPERs.
- **About NIPER**
 - It is an **autonomous body** established under the aegis of the Department of Pharmaceuticals, Ministry of Chemicals & Fertilizers.
 - It is a **Centre of Excellence for higher education**, research, and development in pharmaceutical sciences.
 - It has been **declared an "Institute of National Importance"** by an Act of Parliament.



Young professional scheme

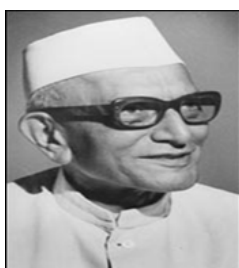
- Recently, India decided to open applications for residents of the U.K to apply for the young professional scheme.
- **About the scheme**
 - Under the scheme **Indian and British nationals aged between 18 and 30 can apply to live and work in either country for a period of up to two years.**
 - It highlights the strength **UK-India Mobility and Migration Partnership, signed in 2021.**
- **Criteria for application**
 - It requires an applicant to **show funds equivalent to INR 2,50,000 held for a minimum period of 30 days** at the time of submission of the application.
 - Every **professional coming to India is required to register with the Foreigners Regional Registration Office/ Foreign Registration Office (FRRO/FRO).**



Hubble Space Telescope (HST)

- **HST has captured a Jelly fish Galaxy J0201** in Cetus Constellation.
 - Jelly Fish Galaxies are **galaxies that exhibit long, thin, tentacle-like structures** extending from their center. Gases are stripped from the galaxy by strong gravitational forces.
- HST was **launched into low Earth orbit in 1990** by **NASA and ESA (European Space Agency).**
 - It is a space-based observatory that allows to **observe universe in visible, ultraviolet, and near-infrared light spectrums.**

Personality in news



Shri Morarji Desai (29 February, 1896 - 28 July, 1979)

- Born in Gujarat, Morarji Desai **joined the provincial civil service of Bombay** in 1918.
- He **served as a Deputy Collector** for twelve years and in 1930 he joined Indian Freedom struggle under **Mahatma Gandhi**.
 - In **1931**, he became a Member of **All India Congress Committee**.
- Post-independence, he served India in various capacities including as **Prime Minister of India in 1977-79**.
 - He received **highest civilian award of India (Bharat Ratna) and of Pakistan (Nishan-e-Pakistan).**
- **Virtues:** An outstanding administrator, he is known for virtues of **truthfulness** and **strong conviction**.