

NEWS TODAY

SECOND DRAFT OF DEFENCE ACQUISITION PROCEDURE (DAP) 2020 PLACED IN THE PUBLIC DOMAIN

• DAP (earlier, Defence Procurement Procedure- DPP 2020) will cover **all Capital Acquisitions undertaken by Ministry of Defence and Service Headquarters (SHQ)** both from indigenous sources and ex-import, except for medical equipment.

➤ First draft of DPP 2020 was released in March, 2020. It seeks to **replace DPP 2016**.

• **Key Highlights of the draft**

➤ For the first time, **ban on import of specific kinds of weapons and platforms has been proposed**.

➤ It is to **promote domestic and indigenous industry** and to align DAP with Atmanirbhar Abhiyan.

➤ Emphasis on **promoting higher indigenous content** in equipment manufactured in India, including under licence from foreign vendors. (see infographic).

➤ A **new procurement category, Buy (Global -Manufacture in India)** is introduced.

➤ **Leasing is introduced as a new category** for acquisition to substitute huge initial capital outlays with periodical rental payments.

➤ New chapter for procuring **equipment and platforms based on software and information and communications technology (ICT)**.

➤ Deals with **"post contract management"**, which lays down clear guidelines for issues that arise during the contract period.

INDIGENISATION TARGET FOR VARIOUS ACQUISITION CATEGORIES



Acquisition category

Buy (Indian - Indian-Designed, Developed and Manufactured)

Buy (Indian)

Buy and Make (Indian)

Buy and Make

Buy (Global - Manufacture in India)

Buy (Global)

Indigenous content (IC)

Indigenous design essential; ≥ 50% IC

➤ If indigenously designed, ≥ 50% IC; if foreign designed ≥ 60% IC

➤ ≥ 50% IC, calculated on the 'Make' portion

➤ ≥ 50% IC

➤ ≥ 50% IC,

➤ Foreign vendor- Nil IC requirement
Indian vendor ≥ 30% IC

4TH TIGER ASSESSMENT REPORT RELEASED ON WORLD TIGER DAY (29TH JULY)

• It was released by **Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change** and report **assesses the status of tigers in terms of spatial occupancy and density of individual populations across India**.

• **Key Findings**

➤ At 2,967, **India hosts 70% of the world's tigers**. Tigers were observed to be **increasing at a rate of 6% per annum** (2006 to 2018).

➤ Nearly a third of India's tigers are **living outside tiger reserves**.

➤ **Madhya Pradesh has the maximum number of tigers** followed by Karnataka.

➤ **Northeast has suffered losses** in population. Tiger status in Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand and Odisha has steadily declined.

➤ **Largest contiguous tiger population in the world** of about 724 tigers was found in the Western Ghats (Nagarhole-Bandipur-Wayanad -Mudumalai- Satyamangalam-BRT block).

➤ **Corbett Tiger Reserve had the largest population** of tigers, about 231, in 2018.

➤ Nearly **17 of the 50 reserves are approaching the peak of their capacity** at sustaining their populations.

• During the release of the report, **a water and fodder scheme was proposed within the reserves** so that less animals stray out of these reserves and minimizes animal-human conflict.

MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (MHRD) LAUNCHES INDIA REPORT ON DIGITAL EDUCATION

• Report **elaborates on the innovative methods adopted by MHRD, Education Departments of States and UTs** for ensuring accessible and inclusive education to children at home and reducing learning gaps.

➤ **COVID-19 has led to closure of schools and has impacted learning** of over 240 million children in India.

➤ Also, MHRD recently released **PRAGYATA guidelines for digital education**.

• Report identifies **3 broad pathways being followed to ensure continuous learning**, depending upon level of available technology as follows:

➤ **Where videoconferencing tools are available**, live classes are being held. It is tried in 25 States and UTs.

➤ **Where digital technology is completely absent**, classes are broadcasted via television in at least 25 States and UTs and radio is being used in 18 State and UTs.

➤ Most common type of distance learning seems to be **asynchronous digital education that uses already prepared digital content** hosted on platforms such as DIKSHA.

• It mentions following plans for **imagining & shaping digital education as long-term learning strategy**:

➤ Developing **digital classrooms as an instructional modality**.

➤ **Virtual vocational training**, skill development courses etc.

➤ Developing **quality e-content in local languages**.

GOVERNMENT PLANS TO REVIVE DEVELOPMENT FINANCE INSTITUTIONS (DFI) TO FUND AMBITIOUS INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS

• Recently, government has indicated its intent to modify India Infrastructure Finance Co Ltd (Government owned company to provide long term finance) into a DFI by increasing its equity capital by ₹15,000 crore.

• DFI is an **institution promoted or assisted by Government mainly to provide development finance** to one or more sectors or sub-sectors of the economy.

➤ In India, DFIs were established mainly to cater **to the demand for long-term finance by industrial sector**.

• Between 2000 and 2010, DFIs such as ICICI, IDBI and IDFC extended long-term finance to industry and funded greenfield infrastructure projects.

➤ However, **DFIs started facing stress** due to: paucity of low-cost funds, high concentration risk, high exposure to stressed sectors (like power generation).

• **Need to revive DFIs:**

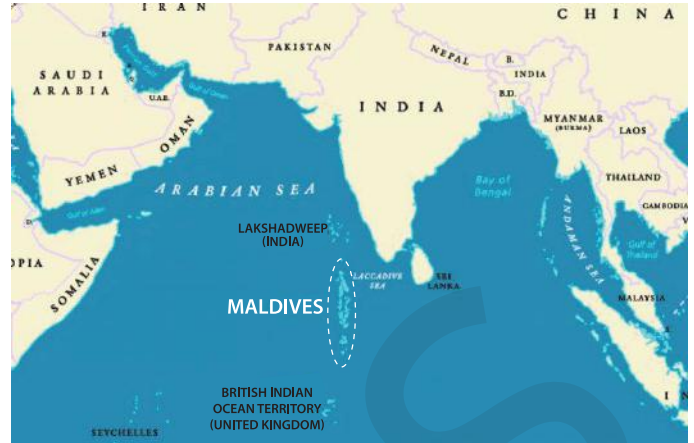
➤ Infrastructure financing is **currently dominated by bank lending**. However, banking sector is witnessing **rising non-performing assets**.

➤ To fund long-term infrastructure projects **without the associated asset-liability mismatches**.

• According to estimates of NITI Aayog, **India would need around US \$4.5 trillion for investment in infrastructure** by 2030.

MALDIVES LAUNCHES 9 DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS UNDER HICDP

- Projects include **development of fish-processing plants, Addu Tourism Zone etc.**
- In 2019, **India and Maldives signed a bilateral pact under High Impact Community Development Projects (HICDP).**
 - Under his, a **total grant of \$ 5.6 million was announced** for executing high-impact grant projects in Maldives.
 - Also, a cash grant of about **\$ 7 million for the execution of small projects** was extended.
- **HICDPs are those with a high-level of community impact** and participation in areas of livelihood and income generation, health, education, gender and child empowerment, sports and sustainable development.
 - India has also signed HICDPs with other nations like Afghanistan, Bhutan etc.
- **India's recent initiatives in Maldives:**
 - **Operation Sanjeevani:** India provided 6.2 tons of medicines and 600 tons of food items under this, amid COVID-19.
 - **SBI's COVID-relief for Maldives** for liquidity support for local businesses in Maldives.
- **Importance of Maldives for India:**
 - Proximity to the west coast of India
 - Located at the **hub of commercial sea-lanes running through Indian Ocean.**



ALSO IN NEWS

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| <p>Goods and Services Tax (GST) compensation cess falls 42% short in FY20</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • During 2019-20, cess collected was only ₹95,444 crore, just under 58% of the ₹1.65 lakh crore that was paid out to States. • GST Compensation Cess is a corpus gathered from levies put on certain luxurious and demerit goods and services. • It is used to pay compensation to states, guaranteed to be paid for any loss of revenue in the first five years of GST implementation, if growth of GST revenue collection is less than 14%. |
| <p>Govt. notifies 100% foreign direct investment (FDI) in Air India for NRIs</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government amended Foreign Exchange Management rules and allowed NRIs 100% FDI in Air India, through automatic route. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Previously, NRIs could own up to 49% in the carrier. • This move aims to make Air India's disinvestment process more attractive. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Government has put its entire stake in Air India up for sale. |
| <p>Baghjan Oil Well, Assam</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Committee formed by the National Green Tribunal (NGT) has faulted Oil India Limited for fire breakout in May 2020. • It also found that fire breakout has led to extensive damage to both Maguri-Motapung wetland and Dibru-Saikhowa National Park. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Maguri-Motapung wetland, a spot known for avian and aquatic species is located towards the south of the Oil well. • DibruSaikhowa National Park, a biodiversity hotspot, is also located around two kilometres in the north. |
| <p>Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) launches two initiatives</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Knowledge Resource Centre Network (KRCNet) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It aims to develop an integrated information system for providing one-point 24x7 access to the Knowledge products like books, reports, journals etc. ➢ It is done under Digital India initiative. ➢ The traditional libraries of the MoES system will be upgraded into KRC. • Mobile App "Mausam" for India Meteorological Department • It will communicate weather information and forecasts in a lucid manner without technical jargons. • It has 5 services: Current Weather, Nowcast (localized hourly warnings), City Forecast, Warnings and Radar products. |
| <p>Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB)</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finance Minister attended 5th Annual Meeting of the Board of Governors of AIIB. • AIIB is a multilateral development bank with a mission to improve social and economic outcomes in Asia. • India is a founding member and second largest shareholder in AIIB with 7.5% voting shares while China holds 26.06% voting shares being the largest. • It was established in December 2015 is headquartered in Beijing. |
| <p>Okavango Delta, Botswana</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recently, a high number of elephant carcasses were found in the Okavango Delta area. Now government has declared that cause of death is not known. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ Botswana has the world's largest elephant population, estimated at 130,000. • Delta is in north-west Botswana comprises permanent marshlands and seasonally flooded plains. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➢ It is an interior delta system that do not flow into a sea or ocean. ➢ It is declared as UNESCO World Heritage as well as a Ramsar site. |
| <p>Yangtze river, China</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NASA images have shown flood water spilling from Three Gorges Dam built over Yangtze river. • Yangtze is Asia's longest river. Three Gorges dam is World's largest hydroelectric dam. |

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