



Defence Acquisition Council

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Why in News

The **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** has approved the **procurement of weapons and equipment** worth ₹22,800 crore.

The focus was on **'Make in India'** initiative i.e. on indigenous design, development and manufacturing of weapons and equipment.

Weapons and Equipment Approved

- **Thermal Imaging Night Sights for Assault Rifles:** These would enable troops to undertake long range accurate engagements in dark and all weather conditions thereby enhancing the night fighting capabilities.
- **Airborne Warning and Control System (AWACS) aircraft for the Indian Air Force (IAF).**
 - These platforms would provide on-board command & control and 'early warning' which would assist the Indian Air Force (IAF) in achieving effective air space dominance in the least possible time.
 - Induction of these aircraft will greatly enhance both the Air defence and offensive capabilities of the IAF.
 - The **shortage** of such force multipliers was felt during the aerial engagement with the Pakistan Air Force, **a day after the Balakot air strike** in February, 2019.
- **P8I long range patrol aircraft for the Indian Navy:** These aircraft would greatly strengthen the Navy's capabilities for maritime surveillance, Anti-Submarine Warfare (ASW) and Anti-Surface Vessel (ASV) strike. These **would be procured from the United States**.
- **Twin Engine Heavy Helicopters (TEHH) for the Indian Coast Guard:** These aircraft would enable the Coast Guard to undertake missions to prevent maritime terrorism, infiltration of terrorists by sea routes as well as search & rescue operations.

Defence Acquisition Council

- The Defence Acquisition Council is the **highest decision-making body** in the Defence Ministry for deciding on new policies and capital acquisitions for the three services (Army, Navy and Air Force) and the Indian Coast Guard.
- The **Minister of Defence** is the **Chairman** of the Council.
- It was formed, after the Group of Ministers recommendations on 'Reforming the National Security System', in **2001, post Kargil War (1999)**.

Source: TH