



# Defence Acquisition Council's Plans

## Why in News

Multi billion deals for **armed [drones](#) from the USA** and advanced **submarines under Project-75I** are to be taken by the **[Defence Acquisition Council \(DAC\)](#)**.

## Key Points

### ▪ India - USA Drone Deals:

- India has been looking to procure 30 armed drones, 10 for each service, from the USA but the process has been repeatedly delayed over the last couple of years.
  - The USA has given in principle approval for the sale of these armed drones to India during the **[India-US 2+2 ministerial dialogue](#)**.
- While the Navy has a pressing requirement for the **High Altitude Long Endurance (HALE) drones**, there have been questions on their utility for the Army and Air Force, given the high cost of the platform.
  - Since the **[stand-off with China](#)** in Eastern Ladakh in May 2020, the need for long endurance drones to maintain continuous surveillance of the border has been acutely felt.
- The Navy has already inducted two **MQ-9B Sea Guardian unarmed drones** procured from the USA.

### ▪ Project-75I:

- The Project 75I-class submarine is a follow-on of the **[Project 75 Kalvari-class submarine](#)** for the Indian Navy.
- The project is being processed through the **[Strategic Partnership \(SP\) model](#)** of the **[Defence Procurement Procedure \(DPP\)](#)**.
  - The strategic partnership model seeks to identify a few Indian private companies as Strategic Partners who would initially tie up with a few shortlisted foreign Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) to manufacture big-ticket military platforms.
  - It aims to **promote the role of Indian industry in defence manufacturing** and build a domestic defence industrial ecosystem.
- This project is part of the **30 year Plan for indigenous submarine construction** and it got its approval by the **[Cabinet Committee on Security](#)** in 1999.
  - The idea behind this was to help in streamlining the submarine acquisition process and creating two submarine production lines where the plan was to construct six submarines on each.

## Defence Acquisition Council

- The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) 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**

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