

### DEFENCE ACQUISITION COUNCIL (DAC)

Defence Acquisition Council (DAC), in a meeting chaired by Raksha Mantri Shri Rajnath Singh on June 06, 2022, accorded Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for Capital Acquisition Proposals of the Armed Forces amounting to Rs 76,390 crore under 'Buy (Indian)', 'Buy & Make (Indian)' and 'Buy (Indian-IDDMM)' categories.



#### About:

This will provide substantial boost to the Indian Defence Industry and reduce foreign spending significantly.

- For the Indian Navy, the DAC accorded AoN for procurement of Next Generation Corvettes (NGC) at an estimated cost of approx. Rs 36,000 crore.
- The DAC accorded AoNs for manufacture of Dornier Aircrafts and Su-30 MKI aero-engines by the Navratna CPSE M/s Hindustan Aeronautics Limited with focus on enhancing indigenisation particularly in indigenising aero-engine material.
- In pursuance of the Government's vision for digital transformation in Defence, 'Digital Coast Guard' project under 'Buy (Indian) Category has been approved by the DAC. Under this project, a pan India secure network for digitising of various surface and aviation operations, logistics, finance and HR processes in Coast Guard will be established.

### SINGLE NODAL AGENCY (SNA) DASHBOARD

Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Smt. Nirmala Sitharaman launched the Single Nodal Agency (SNA) Dashboard during the Iconic Week Celebrations of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav celebrations of Ministry of Finance, in New Delhi.

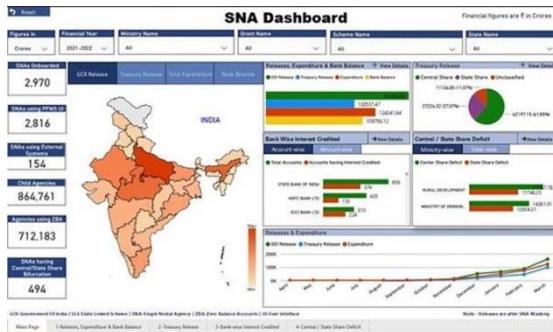


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## About:

The Ministry of Finance & Ministry of Corporate Affairs' Iconic Week celebrations from 6th June to 12th June 2022 was launched by the Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi.

- The SNA Dashboard forms part of a major public financial management reform that was initiated in 2021 with regards to the manner in which funds for Centrally Sponsored Schemes (CSS) are released, disbursed and monitored.
- This revised procedure, now referred to as the SNA model, requires each State to identify and designate a SNA for every scheme.
- All funds for that State in a particular scheme will be credited in this bank account, and all expenses will be made by all other Implementing Agencies involved from this account.
- The SNA model, therefore, ensures that allocation of funds to States for the CSS are made in a timely manner and after meeting various stipulations.
- In order to give the stakeholders of SNA model the necessary feedback and monitoring tools in the operation of the schemes, Public Financial Management System (PFMS) has developed the SNA Dashboard.

## NATIONAL AIR SPORTS POLICY

The Minister of Civil Aviation launched National Air Sport Policy 2022 (NASP 2022). NASP 2022 lays out the vision of making India as one of the top sports nations by 2030, by providing a safe, affordable, accessible, enjoyable and sustainable air sports ecosystem in



India.

The policy will cover the following air sports in India: -

- Aerobatics; Aero modeling and model rocketry; Amateur-built and experimental aircraft;
- Ballooning; Drones; Gliding and powered gliding; Hang gliding and powered hang gliding
- Parachuting (including skydiving, BASE jumping and wing suits etc.)
- Paragliding and para motoring (including powered parachute trikes etc.)
- Powered aircraft (including ultra light, micro light and light sports aircraft etc.)
- Rotorcraft (including autogyro)

**Under the new policy, there will be four-tier governance structure for air sports in India namely**

- Air Sports Federation of India (ASFI) as the apex governing body
- National associations for individual air sports or a set of air sports, as appropriate
- Regional (e.g. West/ South/ North East etc.) or State and Union Territory level units of the national air sports associations, as appropriate; and
- District-level air sports associations, as appropriate.

#### **Key Objectives of NASP 2022:**

- Promote an air sports culture in the country
- Enable adoption of international good practices in safety including but not limited to, air sports infrastructure, equipment, operations, maintenance and training
- Develop a simple, stakeholder-friendly and effective governance structure
- Enhance participation and success of Indian sportspersons in global air sports events; and
- Promote design, development and manufacturing of air sports equipment in India in line with the Atmanirbhar Bharat Abhiyan.

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**CHIEF OF DEFENCE STAFF (CDS)**

**Government has widened the CDS eligibility; Includes serving or retired three-star Army Lt General, Air Marshal and Vice Admiral for the post.**



**About:**

The Ministry of Defence has issued three separate notifications amending the rules of the Army, the Navy and the Air Force for the appointment of the next Chief of Defence Staff CDS.

- Serving Three-star officers Lieutenant General in Army, Air Marshal in Air Force and Vice-Admiral in Navy or retired Service Chiefs or three-star officers can be appointed Chief of Defence Staff if considered necessary in the public interest.
- The Officers should not have attained the age of 62 years.
- The CDS post has been lying vacant since the passing away of General Bipin Rawat who lost his life in a chopper crash in Tamil Nadu on 8th December last year.

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## MARINE PRODUCT EXPORTS

**India aims to double the marine product exports to Rs. One lakh crore from the present above Rs. 50,000 crore within the next five years, Union Minister of Commerce and Industry, Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution and Textiles, Shri Piyush Goyal said in Kochi.**



**About:**

This target will be achieved through sustainable fishing, ensuring quality and variety, promotion of coastal shipping and aquaculture, and by supporting the entire fisheries ecosystem.

## INDIA AIMS TO JOIN NSG: MINISTER

### In News:

- External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar said that India looks forward to join the Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG) by overcoming political impediments.

### In Focus: The Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG)

- NSG is a voluntary, non-legally binding association of major countries that trade in nuclear material.
- It aims to prevent nuclear exports for commercial and peaceful purposes from being used to make nuclear weapons.
- It currently has 48 members, who work on accepted guidelines to prevent proliferation while indulging in nuclear commerce.
- It is not a formal organization, and its guidelines are not binding. Decisions, including on membership, are **made by consensus**.

### Origin

- Signatories to the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) feel a need to apply further safeguards on exports of nuclear material and specialised nuclear equipment to non-nuclear weapon states.
  - NPT is an international treaty, which came into force in 1970.
  - The main objective of NPT is to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons and weapons technology.
  - India, Pakistan and Israel have not signed NPT.
- Multilateral consultations on nuclear export controls continued under separate mechanisms.
- India's 1974 Pokhran nuclear test was a trigger, as it arguably demonstrated that certain non-weapons specific technology could be turned to weapons development.
- As a result, the NSG was created in 1974.

### Who can participate?

- Any state that conducts exports appearing on the Guidelines may apply for NSG membership.



- There are two sets of guidelines for nuclear exports and nuclear-related exports.
- The guidelines include a principle that states that transfer of nuclear technology will be authorised only on the condition that such a deal will not lead to the proliferation of nuclear weapons.
- Hence, all the member states of the NSG are signatories of the NPT.
- A potential member is evaluated on its proliferation record for national export controls and adherence to international non-proliferation treaties and agreements.
- All existing members must approve an applicant for admittance to the regime.

## **India is not a member of NSG**

- **Non-signatory of NPT**

- India has not signed the NPT. All the participants of NSG are the signatory of NPT.
- India refused to sign NPT because the NPT defines nuclear weapons states as those that tested devices before 1967.
- As per the definition, India cannot ever be designated as a nuclear weapon states.
- Also, India believes NPT is unfair treaty as nuclear weapon states have no obligation to give them up while putting a ban on non-nuclear states.

- **Opposition from China**

- While a majority of the 48-member group backed India's membership, China along with few other countries have opposed India's admission.
- Other countries that are opposing India's inclusion in the NSG are Turkey, South Africa, Ireland and New Zealand.
- Experts believe that China's resistance is to facilitate the entry of Pakistan, a close ally of China, in NSG.
- China has even argued that if India can be let in without signing NPT, then Pakistan should be granted the membership as well.

- However, track record of Pakistan is not good. US, in 2018, sanctioned 7 Pakistani nuclear firms for nuclear proliferation.
- Since, NSG works on the basis of consensus, China's opposition is making it difficult for India to gain entry.

### **Why India is keen on joining the group?**

- Analysts say joining the NSG is chiefly a matter of pride and desire to be taken seriously by some of the world's most powerful nations.
  - Since prompting international technology sanctions and limits on exports by conducting nuclear tests in 1998, India has been eager to gain legitimacy as a nuclear power.
  - Joining the NSG will give India better access to low-cost, clean nuclear energy -- important for its economic growth.
  - It will allow India to cut its emissions and reduce air pollution from coal-fired power plants.
  - NSG membership would put India on a firmer footing to propose the idea of plutonium trade for its thorium programme that has been waiting in the wings.
  - An early adoption of thorium technology would give India enormous energy independence and security.
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