

8 june 2018

1)The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved procurement of high powered radars for the Indian Air Force and air cushion vehicles for the Army and the Coast Guard together worth over ₹5,500 crore. The 12 high power radars will be procured indigenously under the '**Buy (Indian) IDDM**' category.

To counter corruption and speed up decision- making in military procurement, the government of India in 2001 decided to set up an integrated DAC. It is headed by the Defence Minister.

Objective: The objective of the DAC is to ensure expeditious procurement of the approved requirements of the Armed Forces, in terms of capabilities sought, and time frame prescribed, by optimally utilizing the allocated budgetary resources.

2)Indian Railways and the National Commission for Protection of Child Rights (**NCPCR**) have jointly launched an awareness campaign on Protection of children in contact with Railways.

3)The 15th edition of the QS World University Rankings has been released by global higher education analysts QS Quacquarelli Symonds. QS ranks the world's top 1,000 universities, across 85 countries.

- **Massachusetts Institute of Technology** remains the top university for the seventh consecutive year.
- Stanford University, Harvard University and California Institute of Technology (Caltech) all retain their positions at second, third and fourth in the world respectively.
- From Asia, National University of Singapore (11) Nanyang Technological University, Singapore (12) and Tsinghua University,

China (17) have been ranked the best.

4)The Expenditure Finance Committee (EFC) has approved revised cost estimate of Dam Rehabilitation & Improvement Project (DRIP) for Rs. 3466 crore and has extended time period for conclusion till June, 2020.

The Ministry of Water Resources (MoWR), Government of India, with assistance from the World Bank, is implementing the **DAM REHABILITATION AND IMPROVEMENT PROJECT (DRIP)**, which would be a six-year project. The Central Dam Safety Organisation of Central Water Commission, assisted by a Consulting firm, is coordinating and supervising the Project implementation.

a software programme – Dam Health and Rehabilitation Monitoring Application (**DHARMA**). DHARMA is a web tool to digitize all dam related data effectively. It will help to document authentic asset and health information pertaining to the large dams in the country, enabling appropriate actions to ensure need based rehabilitation. It is a new stride in asset management aspect by India.

5)Ministry of Water Resources has accepted two major irrigation projects from states.

- **The Kaleshwaram Project of Telangana:** It involves diversion of Godavari water for irrigation and drinking water purposes.
- **The Upper Pravara (Nilwande-II) Project of Maharashtra:** It involves diversion water for irrigation and drinking water purposes.

6)President Ram Nath Kovind has declared Tripura's queen variety **pineapple** as "state fruit".

