

SHORTNEWS

1.INCREASED DEFENCE DEALS POST OPERATION SINDOOR

Context: In its first meeting after **Operation Sindoor**, the **Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)** accorded **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)** for **10 capital acquisition proposals valued at ₹1.05 lakh crore through indigenous sourcing.**

About India's Defence Acquisition

- AoNs were accorded for procurement of:
 - Armoured Recovery Vehicles
 - Electronic Warfare System
 - Integrated Common Inventory Management System for the Tri-Services
 - Surface-to-Air Missiles
- **Indigenous Emphasis:** The recent DAC clearance includes indigenous **Quick Reaction Surface-to-Air Missile (QRSAM)** systems worth ₹30,000 crore
- **Joint Capability Building:** Procurement decisions increasingly aim to **strengthen tri-service capabilities** through systems like the **Integrated Common Inventory Management System (ICIMS)**, enhancing logistics and operational coordination among the Army, Navy, and Air Force.
- **Naval Defence Focus:** India is also modernising its naval assets by procuring **Moored Mines, Mine Counter Measure Vessels, Submersible Autonomous Vessels, and Super Rapid Gun Mounts**, improving both coastal and blue-water security.
- **Significance:** These acquisitions aim to **enhance mobility, air defence, and supply chain efficiency**, ensuring the armed forces are prepared for rapid response along sensitive borders, especially with Pakistan and China.

About Defence Acquisition Council (DAC)

- DAC is the **highest decision-making body** for capital procurement of defence equipment.
- **Nodal Ministry:** **Ministry of Defence** and is chaired by the **Defence Minister of India**.
- **Function:** DAC grants **Acceptance of Necessity (AoN)**, sets **procurement priorities**, and ensures alignment with **indigenisation and self-reliance goals**.

2.GARCINIA KUSUMAE

Context: Recently, the international journal Feddes Repertorium published a new species, *Garcinia kusumae*, discovered in Assam's Bamunbari region, adding to the state's rich floral diversity.

About *Garcinia kusumae*

- *Garcinia kusumae* is a **dioecious evergreen tree** belonging to the **genus *Garcinia***, which is known for its **tropical distribution** and **medicinal potential**.
- **Climatic and Geographic Conditions:** The species thrives in Assam's tropical lowland rainforests and was found in Baksa district (Assam) a region known for its **rich biodiversity** and **humid climate**.

- **Morphological Features:** *Garcinia kusumae* grows up to 18 metres and flowers from February to April, with fruits maturing between May and June.
 - It bears up to 15 staminate flowers per fascicle.
- **Distinct Characteristics:** Though similar to **Garcinia assamica**, **Garcinia cowa**, and **Garcinia succifolia**, it **differs in flower structure**, number of stamens, and fruit characteristics **like blackish resinous exudation**.
- **Traditional and Medicinal Uses:** The fruit pulp is **sun-dried to make a refreshing sherbet** used to **prevent heat stroke**. It is also added to fish curries.
- **Ethnobotanical Importance:** Locally, the fruit is used in traditional medicine **to treat diabetes and dysentery**. The slightly sour seed aril is consumed raw with salt, chillies, and mustard oil.
- **Contribution to Assam's Flora:** With this discovery, Assam now records 12 species and three varieties of *Garcinia*, enriching the state's botanical heritage and supporting ongoing ecological research.

3.SABRANG: TRANSGENDER CLINIC

Context: India's **first transgender-led clinic**, shut in January 2025 **due to a USAID funding freeze**, has reopened in **Hyderabad as Sabrang Clinic** with Tata Trusts' support.

About Transgender Clinic

- Originally launched in 2021 as **Mitr Clinic**, it was India's first healthcare facility fully staffed and managed by transgender community members.
- **Purpose and Services:** The clinic offers general health services, hormone therapy consultations, gender affirmation support, HIV/STI treatment, psychological counselling, and mental health services in a stigma-free environment.
- **Community-Centric Model:** The clinic is operated entirely by transgender staff, fostering a trusted, inclusive space, and has served over 3,000 patients since its inception.
- **Expansion and Inclusivity:** Renamed Sabrang, meaning 'all colours', the clinic now extends services to other marginalised, queer, and gender-diverse individuals facing healthcare barriers.
- **Independent Operations:** The clinic chose to remain independent despite potential government support, valuing quick community-driven service delivery and the trust built over years.

4.SAVITRIBAI PHULE NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

Context: The **National Institute of Public Cooperation and Child Development (NIPCCD)** has officially been renamed as the **Savitribai Phule National Institute of Women and Child Development**

About the Institute

- It is an Indian **government organization** focused on promoting **voluntary action**, **research, training, and documentation in the areas of women and child development**.

- Established in **1966**, it operates under the **Ministry of Women and Child Development** and has expanded its reach through regional centers across the country.
- **Headquarters:** Located in New Delhi.
- **Regional Centers:** Guwahati, Bangalore, Lucknow, Indore, and Mohali

About Savitribai Phule

- She was a **social reformer, poet, and powerful voice** who played a crucial role in India's social reform movement during the **19th century**.
- **Birth:** On **January 3, 1831**, in Naigaon village of **Maharashtra**. At the age of 9 years, she was married to **Jyotirao Phule**, who was **13 years old** at the time.
- **Death:** On 10th March **1897** while **fighting the plague**.
- **Her Contribution:** India's **first woman teacher**; founded the **first girls' school in Pune in 1848**.
 - Initiated **India's first home, Balhatya Pratibandhak Griha**, preventing **infanticide** and aiding **pregnant widows and rape victims**.
- **Literary Contributions:** Authored works like **"Go, Get Education," "Kavya Phule"** (1854), and **"Bavan Kashi Subodh Ratnakar"** (1892).