

■ **DAC Approves Procurement of 26 Rafale Marine Aircraft from France**

The Defence Acquisition Council (DAC) has approved a proposal for the procurement of 26 Rafale Marine aircraft from France to boost Indian Navy's operational capabilities. This has set the ball rolling for negotiations on an Inter-Governmental Agreement that would facilitate the Indian Navy to procure the aircraft along with associated ancillary equipment, weapons, spares, crew training and logistic support. The Defence Acquisition Council also granted approval for the procurement of three additional Scorpene submarines under the Buy (Indian) category which will be constructed by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited. The purchases will not only help in maintaining the operational readiness of the Indian Navy but also create significant employment opportunities.