



## Current Affairs of the Day

### India exceeds the target of local defence purchases in '21-22

1. India exceeded its target of indigenous defence purchases in 2021-22 indicating a major boost to the country's push towards 'aatmanirbharta (self-reliance)', according to data from the defence ministry.
2. The defence ministry earmarked 64% of the capital acquisition budget for the domestic industry in 2021-22 but it was able to "overachieve this target" and local military purchases accounted for 65.5% of the capital budget, the ministry said in a statement.



#### Positive indigenisation list

In a renewed push to 'atmanirbharta' in defence, the defence ministry earlier this month published a new list of 101 weapons and systems that will come under a phased import ban over the next five years.

#### TOWARDS INDIGENISATION

Year of import embargo and name of weapon platform/equipment

##### DECEMBER 2021

- ▶ Single-engine light helicopter (land variant)
- ▶ Next-generation corvette
- ▶ Mission system for airborne early warning and control system
- ▶ Armoured or mine-protected infantry vehicles
- ▶ Helicopter launched anti-tank guided missile (ATGM)
- ▶ Multi-functional displays for indigenously produced aircraft
- ▶ Warship-grade steel DMR 249A
- ▶ Armoured Engineer Recce Vehicle (AERV)
- ▶ Armoured Repair and Recovery Vehicle (ARRV)
- ▶ Land Based MRSAM Weapon System

##### DECEMBER 2022

- ▶ Thermal Imaging (TI) sight for small arms
- ▶ Armoured bulldozer
- ▶ Data network for ships
- ▶ Trawl assembly for tanks
- ▶ Software Defined Radio (manpack version)

##### DECEMBER 2023

- ▶ Software Defined Radio (hand held)
- ▶ Mountain Weapon Locating Radar (AESA based)



- ▶ Smart Anti Airfield Weapon (SAAW)
- ▶ Upgraded 76 mm naval super-rapid gun mount (SRGM)
- ▶ Video processing card for Sukhoi-30 fighter

##### DECEMBER 2024

- ▶ Long range glide bomb (250 kg and 450 kg)
- ▶ Onboard Oxygen Generation System (OBOGS) for fighters
- ▶ Medium Power Radar (MPR) for mountains
- ▶ Fuel drop tanks for Jaguar and Mirage fighter aircraft
- ▶ General purpose bomb (1.25 kg and 500 kg) for fighters

##### DECEMBER 2025

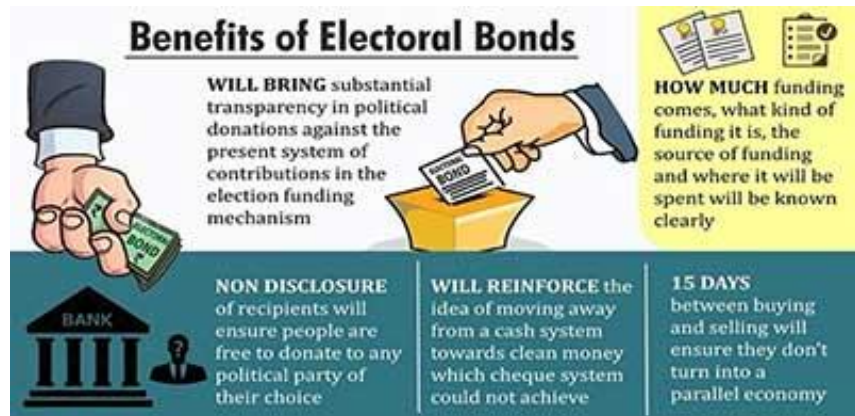
- ▶ Anti-material rifle (AMR) 14.5 millimetre
- ▶ 14.5 mm Armour Piercing Incendiary (API) ammo for (AMR)
- ▶ 1000 Horse Power engine for Tank (T-72)
- ▶ Auxiliary Power Unit (APU) for T-72 and T-90 tanks
- ▶ Air data computer for trainer aircraft



## Only 23 parties can get, encash electoral bonds: RTI response

1. Of the 105 political parties that submitted data regarding receiving electoral bonds to the Election Commission of India, only 23 are eligible to receive and encash these, data shared under the right to information (RTI) act reveals. It isn't known how many of the 105 actually received any bonds at all.

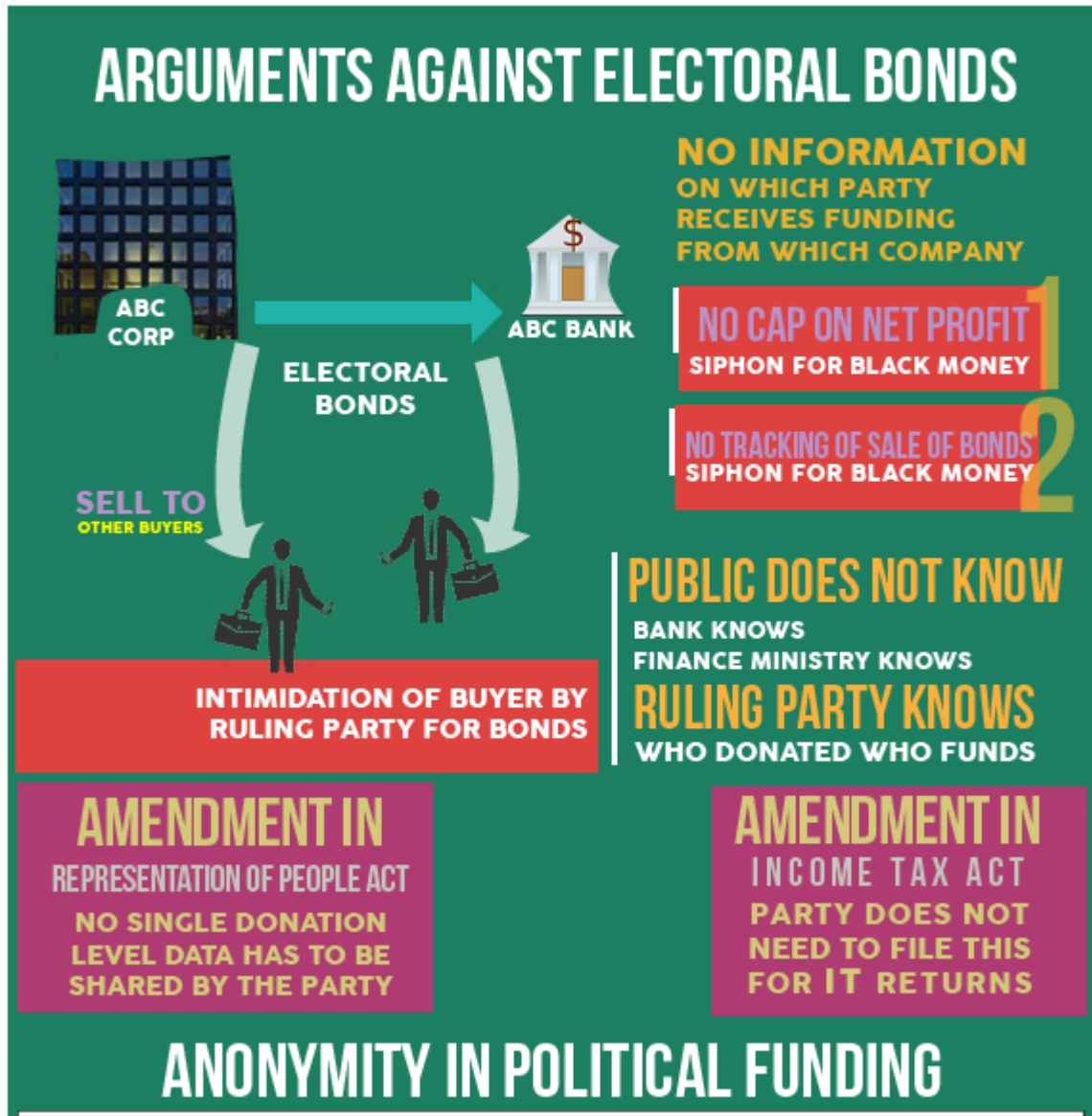
2. Publicly available data shows that almost 90% of electoral bonds went to four parties, the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), the Congress, the Nationalist Congress Party, and the Trinamool Congress, with the first getting the bulk of the contributions.



3. In response to an RTI application State Bank of India said that only 23 political parties have opened a special current account made for redeeming and encashing electoral bonds as of March this year.

### Electoral Bonds:

1. Electoral bonds are sold four times a year, in January, April, July and October, and allow political parties to accept money from donors whose identities are kept anonymous.
2. SBI is the sole authorised bank by the government to sell and redeem these bonds. Customers of other banks can also purchase the bonds via different payment channels provided to them.
3. However, a political party can only redeem the bond from one of the 29 authorized branches of the bank.
4. A political party must also have at least 1% vote share in the most recent general elections or assembly elections to receive donations via electoral bonds.



### Criticism:

The scheme was first floated in 2017, implemented in 2018, and has since met with criticism for lacking transparency. Those opposed to the scheme have also asserted that nearly 95% of the money donated has gone to the national political hegemon, the BJP. A petition seeking a stay on the sale of the bonds is pending before the Supreme Court



## The UGC regulations for collaboration between Indian and foreign universities

1. The apex regulatory body for higher education in India has decided to allow certain Indian higher education institutions to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with foreign institutions to offer dual degrees, joint degrees or twinning programmes.
2. To qualify for such academic collaboration, the Indian college, institute or university must figure among the top global 1,000 QS World University or Times Higher Education rankings or have emerged as one of the top 100 universities under the National Institutional Ranking Framework (NIRF).
3. The college or university must have secured a minimum grading of 3.01 on a 4-point scale from the National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC).
4. Likewise, the foreign collaborator institution must also have figured among the 1,000 global top QS or Times Higher Education Rankings.

### Understanding the academic route

UGC has approved a regulation to allow 3 types of academic collaborations between Indian and foreign varsities. The regulations may come into effect from 2022-23 onwards

#### Twinning programme

Students enrolled with an Indian university will be allowed to complete their programme partly in the foreign university

#### Joint programme

At least 30% of the total credits must be scored from each collaborating institution in conventional or physical mode

#### Dual programme

At least 30% of total credits must be scored from an Indian institution

#### Who is eligible?

##### Indian institutions:

NAAC score of 3.01/ top 100 in varsity category of NIRF/ top 1000 of Times Higher Education or QS ranking

##### Foreign institutions:

Among 1000 of Times Higher Education or QS ranking



### How will the courses with foreign collaboration be offered?

1. The qualifying Indian university or college can offer a “dual degree”, “joint degree” or a “twinning programme” in collaboration with foreign institutions.
2. The “dual degree” programme is new, while the other two programmes were offered under the 2016 regulations, though only fewer institutions had introduced such programmes due to the bureaucratic approval process.



3. The degrees, under the “dual degree programme” shall be conferred by the Indian and foreign institutions “separately and simultaneously” upon completion of degree requirements of both universities.
4. For the twinning degree programme, a student can get up to 30% course credit utilisation of the total course from the collaborating foreign university.
5. For the joint and dual degree programmes, the students shall be permitted to get more than 30% of the total course credits from the university or institution abroad.
6. As per the 2021 draft rules, for enrolling in dual degree programmes, prospective students must meet the admission requirements of both the Indian and foreign institutions and shall apply to and be admitted separately to both institutions. Besides, the students must earn at least 50% of their total credits from the Indian institution.

Also, the student shall submit to only one examination and evaluation process for each of the courses by the institutions in which he/she has registered.

### **Advantages and Concerns:**

1. While qualifying Indian institutions will now be free to collaborate with foreign universities, for students the cost of education with international exposure would come down.
2. Institutions that are committed to academic excellence will provide the students with an opportunity for advanced learning with global expertise.
3. However, it remains to be seen whether the top global institutions would immediately sign MoUs with Indian institutions.
4. Private autonomous colleges and deemed universities are most likely to utilise this opportunity to enter into agreements for twinning or dual / joining degree programmes with foreign institutions, flaunting them in their brochures to attract students. The UGC may have to monitor the quality of academic delivery in such programmes.



## MAINS DAWP

Q1. *History bears testimony to the fact that all nations with a strong military-industrial complex had a strong military force, resulting in a strong and vibrant foreign policy to stand comfortably amongst the comity of nations. Critically discuss the imperative of the Indigenisation of the Indian defence industry.*

Q2. Discuss the need for and positive implications of the Criminal Procedure (Identification) Act, 2022.

## MCQs

Q1. Consider the following statements

1. Electoral bonds are sold four times a year and allow political parties to accept money from donors whose identities are kept anonymous.
2. SBI is the only authorised bank by the government to sell and redeem these bonds
3. A political party must also have at least a 1% vote share in the most recent general elections or assembly elections to receive donations via electoral bonds

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- a. 1 and 2 only
- b. 2 only
- c. 1 and 3 only
- d. 1, 2 and 3