

## NATIONAL

### **President Kovind approves Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance 2018**

President Ram Nath Kovind gave his nod to the Fugitive Economic Offenders Ordinance, 2018. With his assent, the Ordinance, approved by the Union Cabinet on 21 April, got promulgated. The Union Cabinet had on Saturday approved a proposal of the Ministry of Finance in which it was decided that Indian authorities will be able to attach the properties and confiscate proceeds of crime associated with economic offenders to deter them from evading the process of Indian law by remaining outside the jurisdiction of Indian courts. The Ordinance was passed in the backdrop of a series of economic offenders fleeing the country and the law.

(S.,24/04)

### **India plans to gift obsolete weaponry to friendly countries**

In a bid to boost defence cooperation, the government has asked the armed forces to compile a list of obsolete military equipment that can be “refurbished at minimal cost” and gifted to “friendly” countries. Apart from the strategic significance, sources said, the government hopes to create a base “to expand export of newer defence platforms, which have been made in India, to these countries”. However, the move appears to have taken by surprise senior army and air force officers, who say much of the equipment that can be classified as obsolete is currently in use due to lack of funds.

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### **Maharashtra’s road agency wants portion of Arabian Sea to be deemed as govt land**

Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation Limited (MSRDC) wants a portion of the Arabian Sea to be treated as ‘government land’. It also wants to raise construction rights, worth several thousand crores, for it. The cash-strapped agency, which is in the process of building the 17.17-km long Versova-Bandra Sea Link (VBSL) off the Mumbai coast, has approached the chief minister-led urban development department with the proposal. The sea bridge, which is part of Mumbai’s coastal road project, is coming up 900 meters away from the Mumbai coast, and would involve piling on the sea bed and erected of piers for building the cable-stayed bridge. The construction project would also involve building dispersal points connecting the sea link to the main land at three different points along the route.

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