

SPRINT Challenges

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In news— The Prime Minister of India has unveiled 'SPRINT Challenges' during Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar 'Swavlamban' in New Delhi recently.

What are SPRINT challenges?

- SPRINT challenges **aimed at giving a boost to the usage of indigenous technology in Indian Navy.**
- In a bid to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav', **NIIO, in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO)**, aims to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy.
- This **collaborative project is named SPRINT** {Supporting Pole-Vaulting in R&D through Innovations for Defence Excellence (iDEX), NIIO and Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC)}.

NIIO's seminar 'Swavlamban'-

- It was the first 'Swavlamban' (self-reliance) seminar for a self-reliant Navy.
- It aimed to engage Indian industry and academia towards achieving self-reliance in the Defence sector.
- It was **organised by the Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) and the Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM).**
- It provided a platform for leaders from Industry, Academia, Services and Government to come together on a common platform to ideate and come up with recommendations for the Defence Sector.

Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation(NIIO)-

- It was launched by the Defence Minister in 2020.
- The NIIO puts in place dedicated structures for the end users to interact with academia and industry towards **fostering innovation and indigenisation for self-reliance** in defence in keeping with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat.
- **The NIIO is a three-tiered organisation.**
 - Naval Technology Acceleration Council (N-TAC) that brings together the twin aspects of innovation and indigenisation and provide apex level directives.
 - **A Technology Development Acceleration Cell (TDAC)** was created for induction of emerging disruptive technology in an accelerated time frame.
- The Draft Defence Acquisition Policy 2020 (DAP 20) envisages service headquarters establishing an Innovation & Indigenisation Organisation within existing resources.
- Indian Navy already has a functional **Directorate of Indigenisation (DoI)** and the new structures created will build upon the ongoing indigenisation initiatives, as well as focus on innovation.

The Society of Indian Defence Manufacturers (SIDM) -

- SIDM is a not-for-profit association formed to be the apex body of the Indian defence industry.
- Itl plays a proactive role as an advocate, catalyst, and facilitator for the growth and capability building of the defence industry in India.