



**Date - 25 April 2022**

## **iDEX व DISC 6**

- Recently Ministry of Defense launched Innovation for Defense Excellence (iDEX) Prime and 6th Defense India Startup Challenge (DISC 6) during DefConnect 2.0 in New Delhi.
- DEFCONNECT 2.0 is a one-day event to bring together startups, large companies and armed forces personnel to promote indigenous innovation and self-reliant India in the defense sector.

### **Today Current Affairs**

#### **iDEX Innovations :**

- iDEX, launched in the year 2018, is an ecosystem that will promote innovation and technology development in defense and aerospace by engaging new innovators and entrepreneurs to modernize and deliver technologically advanced solutions to the Indian Army.

### **The main purpose : The Hindu Analysis**

- **Indigenization:** Rapid development of new, indigenous and innovative technology.
- **Innovation:** To build an enhanced startup culture to encourage co-creation.

- It provides grants to Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs), startups, individual innovators, R&D institutions and academicians for research and development.
- 'iDEX Prime' aims to finance projects with a requirement of Rs 1.5 crore to Rs 10 crore to support the ever-growing startups in the defense sector. **Today Current Affairs**
- iDEX is financed and managed by the "Defense Innovation Organization".
- The iDEX portal has been launched to provide wider publicity and better field of view and to deal with the challenges of the future in a more efficient manner through better information management of iDEX activities.

## Defense Innovation Organization (DIO) : The Hindu

### Analysis

- DIO is a not-for-profit organization constituted under Section 8 of the Companies Act 2013.
- It is financed by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Bharat Electronics Limited (BEL).
- It provides high level policy guidance to iDEX.

## What is Defense India Startup Challenge? The Hindu

### Analysis

- It aims to support startups/MSMEs/innovators to build prototypes/commercial products in the field of National Defense and Security.
- The first Defense India Startup Challenge (DISC) was launched on August 4, 2018 in Bangalore.
- It was launched by the Ministry of Defense in partnership with Atal Innovation Mission.
- Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) is the flagship initiative of the Government of India to promote a culture of innovation and develop an entrepreneurship ecosystem in our country. **Today Current Affairs**
- Startups, Indian companies and individual innovators (including research and educational institutions) can participate under the programme.
- DISC 6 saw the participation of seven newly formed defense companies, Indian Coast Guard and organizations under the Ministry of Home Affairs for the first time.

# Scorpene Submarine 'Vagsheer'

- Recently Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders launched the sixth Scorpene submarine 'Vagsheer' of Project-75.

## What is a Scorpene class submarine?

- The Project-75 Scorpene class submarines are powered by a diesel-electric propulsion system.
- The Scorpene is one of the most sophisticated submarines, capable of carrying out a range of missions including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, and mine laying and area surveillance.
- The Scorpene class is the Navy's first modern conventional submarine line-up in nearly two decades since INS Sindhusashtra, which was procured from Russia in July 2000.

## Today Current Affairs

### Vagsheer:

- Vagshir is named after the sandfish, a deep-sea predator species of the Indian Ocean.
- The first Vagshir class submarine received from Russia was inducted into the Indian Navy in December 1974 and decommissioned in April 1997.
- Vagsheer is the last of the Scorpene-class submarines built under the P75 project which can be inducted into the Navy's fleet within 12-18 months after sea trials.

## Features : The Hindu Analysis

- The Vagsheer is a Diesel Attack Submarine, which is designed to evade enemy surveillance at sea.
- It is equipped with C303 anti-torpedo countermeasure system.
- It can carry up to 18 torpedoes or Exocet anti-ship missiles or 30 mines instead of torpedoes.

- Its superior features include surveillance evasion capabilities, advanced sound absorbing technology, low radiative noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimized shape, etc. that can make an unexpected attack underwater or on the surface with precision-guided weapons.

## **Project-75 : The Hindu Analysis**

- It is one of two lines of P75 submarines, the other being the P75I, part of a plan approved in 1999 to build indigenous submarines with technology borrowed from foreign firms.
- The contract for six submarines under the P75 was awarded to Mazagon Dock in October 2005 and deliveries were to begin in 2012, but the project is now facing delays.
- The program has been initiated with the transfer of technology from French company Naval Group (earlier known as DCNS) to Mazagon Dock Limited (MDL).
- INS Kalvari, INS Khanderi, INS Karanj and INS Vela have been commissioned under P75.
- Sea trials of Vagir are underway.
- Vagsheer is the sixth submarine whose construction has been delayed due to the pandemic.

**Swadeep Kumar**