

## **SPRINT Challenge**

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Why is in news? Navy signs contract for autonomous armed boat swarms

The Indian Navy has signed an agreement with Sagar Defence Engineering Pvt. Ltd. for armed autonomous boat swarms under 'SPRINT', an initiative to promote development of niche defence technologies by domestic companies, this is the 50th contract under 'SPRINT'.

The honourable Prime Minister unveiled 'SPRINT Challenges', aimed at giving a boost to the usage of indigenous technology in Indian Navy, during Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO) seminar 'Swavlamban' in New Delhi on July 18, 2022.

In a bid to achieve 'Aatmanirbharta' in defence and as part of 'Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav' SPRINT project aims to induct at least 75 new indigenous technologies/products into the Indian Navy.

SPRINT Challenges is being organized by Naval Innovation and Indigenisation Organisation (NIIO), in conjunction with the Defence Innovation Organisation (DIO).

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)}.

SPRINT Challenges aims to engage Indian industry and academia towards **achieving self-reliance** in the Defence sector.

SPRINT Challenges will provide 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.