

Indian Navy's Submarine Arm

Why in news?

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The submarine arm of the Indian Navy is celebrating its golden jubilee this year

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How has the submarine arm progressed?

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- The submarine arm of the Indian Navy has made notable accomplishments since its inception.

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- This is possibly due to the professionalism of the human resource that lies at its core.

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- India acquired its first submarine, the INS Kalvari, on December 8, 1967.

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- In the intervening decades, the Navy has progressed to designing and indigenously building SSBNs (Ship Submersible Ballistic Nuclear), the INS Arihant.

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- The Navy has also invested in building conventional boats in India through partnership programmes with foreign suppliers.

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- Notably, India is the first country in the world to move straight to SSBNs, without moving up the scale from conventional boats.

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- The combination of warship building, submarine building and finally the nuclear submarine building has supported a whole range of SME/MSME segments of industry in India.

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- Further the plans for acquisition in place and operationalising them would give India a very credible underwater capability.

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- A new platform demands trained manpower for operational needs.
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- Very importantly, it requires a host of administrative, logistics and repair support facilities that are manpower-critical.
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What is the way forward?

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- The navy has to strategically overcome the challenge of balancing the short and long term implications on manpower.
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- The core national security interests should be insulated from the vagaries of political/electoral compulsions.
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- Beyond the ceremonial symbolism, the Indian Navy should be given due focus for its substantive policy-related issues.
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Source: The Hindu

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