

Kilo class submarine INS Sindhudhvaj decommissioned

(GS Paper 3, Defence)

Why in news?

- Recently, the Navy's **Kilo-class submarine, INS Sindhudhvaj**, was decommissioned from service at Visakhapatnam after 35 years in service.
- With this, the Navy now has 15 conventional submarines in service.



10 Kilo-class submarines:

- With the retirement of **INS Sindhudhvaj**, the 10 Kilo-class submarines that **India bought from Russia between 1986 and 2000** are now down to **seven conventional boats** (as the Navy calls submarines).
- **INS Sindhurakshak sank in Mumbai** after a cataclysmic explosion in August 2013 that killed all 18 sailors on board.
- **INS Sindhuvir was transferred to the Myanmar navy** in March 2020 as a goodwill gesture.
- One more Kilo-class submarine is earmarked to be given to the Defence Research and Development Organisation for use as a test-bed in developing the air-independent propulsion that will power 12 indigenous submarines to be built in the future.

Salient features:

- The Kilo-class boats are called the Sindhughosh-class, after the lead vessel in the series.
- They are **diesel-electric submarines** that displace 3,000 tonnes, can dive to a depth of 300 metres, have a top speed of 18 knots, and **can operate solo for 45 days** with a crew of 53.
- The Kilo-class is a highly trusted conventional boat, with an estimated 62 in service in nine navies. They were the Indian Navy's first submarines that could fire anti-ship and land-attack cruise missiles from underwater.

French Scorpene submarines:

- Incrementally replacing the Kilo-class boats are six French Scorpene submarines, being built under licence by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders in Mumbai.
- Termed the Kalvari-class after the lead vessel, four have been inducted, while the remaining two are likely to join the fleet before the end of 2023.

Other conventional submarines:

- In addition to seven remaining Kilo-class boats, the Navy is operating four Shishumar-class conventional submarines, which are German-designed.
- The Navy has also leased an Amur-class nuclear-powered submarine from Russia, to learn the ropes of operating nuclear-powered boats.

Project 75-I:

- With the Navy's requirement of conventional submarines standing at 24, there is critical need to expedite the planned acquisition of six more conventional submarines under Project 75-I.
- With delays in submarine induction, the Kilo submarines and HDW submarines are being put through the Medium Refit Life Certification (MRLC) process to extend their service life.

India set to be home of cheetahs after 70 years

(GS Paper 3, Environment)

Why in news?

- A wildlife sanctuary in Madhya Pradesh is getting ready for African cheetahs, which are being brought under an **intercontinental translocation project** in August 2022.



Details:

- Cheetahs will be introduced in the **Kuno-Palpur National Park (KNP) in Sheopur district**.
- KNP has made preparations for housing 12 to 15 cheetahs, including females, and has earmarked an area of five square kilometre having eight compartments in it for initially keeping the translocated animals.

Why KNP?

- KNP is spread across an area of over 750 sq km and is capable of handling the carnivores as it has maintained a large prey base of cheetal, sambhar, blue bull, wild boar and langoor among others.
- The Kuno National Park, located in the Chambal region, has the right environmental conditions for hosting cheetahs.
- Earlier, the wildlife sanctuary was shortlisted as a second home for the famous Asiatic lions of Gujarat, but the programme ran into trouble after the government of the neighbouring state opposed shifting of the big cats from the Gir forest.

Background:

- The country's last spotted cheetah died in Chhattisgarh in undivided Madhya Pradesh in 1947 and the wild animal was declared extinct in the country in 1952.
- The Wildlife Institute of India (WII) some years back prepared a cheetah reintroduction project.