Indian Navy receives indigenous military-grade ROVs

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News

Kochi-based EyeROV (IROV Technologies) handed over two 'TROUT' systems – India's first indigenous military-grade underwater Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) – to the Indian Navy on 7 Oct 2026. Five systems are on order; they work down to 300 m. TROUT was built under the iDEX DISC-7 'SPRINT' challenge; the contract is worth about ₹47 crore.

Key facts

Company	EyeROV (IROV Technologies), Kochi – Johns T. Mathai (CEO), Kannappa Palaniappan (CTO)
Name	TROUT – underwater ROV
Number	5 ordered; first 2 delivered
Depth	Up to 300 m
Programme	iDEX DISC-7 SPRINT; cleared by DQA (Naval)
Uses	Hull and port-infrastructure inspection, harbour security, surveillance, search and recovery

Background

- An ROV is tethered to a ship and piloted from the surface; an AUV runs untethered on a pre-programmed mission.
- iDEX (Innovations for Defence Excellence) was launched by the Defence Ministry in 2018 and is run by the Defence Innovation Organisation set up by HAL and BEL. SPRINT (2022) aimed at 75 indigenous technologies for the Navy.
- The Deep Ocean Mission (2021, Ministry of Earth Sciences) includes 'Samudrayaan', where NIOT Chennai is building 'Matsya-6000' to carry 3 people to 6,000 m.
- Naval commands: Western (Mumbai), Eastern (Visakhapatnam), Southern (Kochi – training). Navy Day is 4 Dec (1971 'Operation Trident').
- Aatmanirbhar Bharat: 'positive indigenisation lists' bar imports of listed defence items so they are made in India.

Tamil Nadu link: the National Institute of Ocean Technology (NIOT, 1993) is at Pallikaranai, Chennai – it built the 'ROSUB 6000' ROV and is building 'Matsya-6000'. INS Rajali at Arakkonam is India's largest naval air station; L&T's Kattupalli shipyard is near Chennai.

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