



Ocean Research Vessel- Sagar Nidhi

Why in News

Recently, the Union Minister of Earth Sciences visited the Indian Subcontinent's Pioneer **Ocean Research Vessel (ORV) Ship [SagarNidhi](#)**.

- Earlier, the [Ministry of Earth Sciences \(MoES\)](#) has launched India's first manned ocean mission "[Samudrayaan](#)" in Chennai.

Key Points

▪ About:

- It was commissioned in 2008 for the **country's marine research programme**.
 - It is the third research vessel after **Sagar Purvi** and **SagarPaschimi**.
- The vessel is capable of carrying out **geo-scientific, [meteorological](#) and [oceanographic research](#)**, and is designed with blue-water capability with ranges of up to 10,000 nautical miles (19,000 km) for voyages lasting up to 45 days.
 - A **blue-water capability** refers to an oceangoing fleet able to operate on the high seas far from its nation's home ports.
- It is the first Indian flagged research ship that reached **the 66°S latitude [Antarctic waters](#)**, facing 11 storms and 73 nm/hr wind speed, witnessing nature's harshest conditions.
- MoES has, at present 6 ships, **SagarNidhi, SagarManjusha, SagarKanya, SagarSampada, Sagar Tara & SagarAnveshika**, which are used for many ocean studies and applications including ocean observations.

▪ Significance:

- Research Vessels (Ships) are required for exploration and harnessing ocean resources for the **Blue Economy** and participation in search and rescue operations, more specifically for the implementation of the **Deep Ocean Mission**.
- It is used for launching **tsunami monitoring systems** and remotely operable vehicles, for identifying **mines** and **gas hydrates**
- It will also be used for conducting **oceanic studies on the fuel** of the future gas hydrates and search for scientific evidence about **origin of life and cures for chronic diseases** (Diseases that last one year or more).

Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)

- It has the mandate of **providing weather, climate, Ocean and seismological services** and to harness living and non-living resources.
- It is also involved in development of relevant **Ocean Technology and Ocean Survey** of the **Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)** and deep oceans for minerals and energy.
 - **National Institute of Technology (NIOT)** Chennai has the mandate to develop

technologies for the sustainable harvesting of living and non-living resources of the ocean.

Source: PIB

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