INS Sagardhwani (A74)

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance*

Why in News?

INS Sagardhwani was flagged off for the fifth edition of the Sagar Maitri mission (SM-5) from Kochi.

- INS Sagardhwani is ***an Indian oceanographic research vessel*** engaged in scientific ocean research and international collaboration missions.
- **Builder -** Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE).
- **Operated by –** Indian Navy.
- **Commissioned in –** 1994.
- **Owned by –*Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL),*** Kochi.
    - NPOL functions under the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO).
- **Type -** Marine Acoustic Research Ship (MARS).
- **Features**
    - **Laboratories** – 8 acoustically isolated labs for various research parameters.
    - **Aviation** - A helicopter landing pad for a HAL Chetak.
    - **Equipment**- Cranes and a gantry for deploying research gear, specialized machinery for low noise/vibration.
- **Key Missions & Role –** INS Sagardhwani conducts oceanographic missions under ***the Sagar Maitri programme***.

  Sagar Maitri is an initiative of the Indian Navy and DRDO aims to strengthen scientific cooperation and capacity building among Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries.

- INS Sagardhwani to retrace the historic routes of INS Kistna.
    - INS Kistna was a part of the International Indian Ocean Expedition (1962–65).

- INS Sagardhwani serves as the centrepiece of DRDO’s efforts for *Underwater Domain Awareness* (UDA) for the Indian Navy.

References

1. PIB | INS Sagardhwani (A74)
2. ET | INS Sagardhwani (A74)
3. New Indian Express | INS Sagardhwani (A74)

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