INS Sunayna, PASSEX Exercise and SAGAR Initiative

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Defence & Security*

Why in News?

INS Sunayna, deployed under the Indian Ocean Ship (IOS) SAGAR initiative, arrived at Male, Maldives marking the first port call of her operational deployment.

- It is the ***2nd Saryu-class offshore patrol vessel of the Indian Navy.***

  *The **Saryu class** of Naval Offshore Patrol Vessels (NOPVs) represents the Indian Navy's advanced indigenously designed and built patrol ships and the first commissioned Vessel is **INS Saryu.***

- It is designed and constructed indigenously by the *Goa Shipyard Limited.*
- **Commissioned in -** 2013.
- **Displacement -** 2,200 tonnes.
- **Speed -** 25 knots (≈46 km/h).
- **Range -** 6,000 nautical miles at 16 knots.
- **Role –** Maritime security, surveillance, humanitarian assistance, and regional cooperation under the *SAGAR.*
- **Objectives**
  - Strengthen maritime partnerships and interoperability in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR).**
  - Enhance capacity building and collective readiness among friendly foreign navies.
  - Promote India's **Neighbourhood First** and **One Ocean, One Mission** vision.
- **Key Features – Multifaceted Mission Capability –** Equipped for long-range patrols, surveillance, and maritime security to effectively safeguard critical sea lanes.
- **Integrated Crisis Response –** Supports anti-piracy, search and rescue,

and humanitarian assistance during disaster relief and medical outreach missions.
- **Operational Capacity Building –** Designed for multinational deployments and joint naval exercises to enhance training and capacity building with partner nations.

IOS SAGAR Initiative

- **Full Form –** Indian Ocean Ship – Security and Growth for All in the Region (SAGAR).
- **IOS SAGAR –** It is a maritime engagement program aimed at fostering cooperation with ***16 Indian Ocean Region (IOR) nations.***
- It involves training and sailing maritime personnel onboard INS Sunayna to enhance maritime security, interoperability, and strengthen ties under the MAHASAGAR framework.
- **Participants –** Naval personnel from 16 Friendly Foreign Countries (FFCs) join Indian crew.
- **Highlights –**Strengthen maritime partnerships in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR).
- Support humanitarian assistance, disaster relief (HADR), and anti-piracy operations.
- Port calls in Maldives, Sri Lanka, Indonesia, Singapore.
- Engagements with partner navies to build trust and professional links.
- Reinforces India's Neighbourhood First policy.
- Builds the largest multinational crew deployment under an Indian Navy initiative.

MAHASAGAR

- **MAHASAGAR -** Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.
- **Introduced in–** March 2025, linked to the IOS SAGAR initiative.
- **Focus –** Expands India's SAGAR doctrine (2015) from bilateral to multilateral maritime cooperation.
- **Objectives –** Collective security, blue economy, disaster relief, and regional connectivity in the Indian Ocean Region.
- **Significance –** Positions India as a net security provider, complements forums like *Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS) and Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA),* and supports the vision of "One Ocean, One Mission."

References

1. PIB | INS Sunayna
2. Indian Navy | INS Sunayna

