National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)

***Prelims**: Current events of national and international importance.*

Why in News?

Recently Union Minister of Earth Sciences inaugurated "Sagar Bhavan" and "Polar Bhavan" at the National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR) in Goa.

- **NCPOR –** It serves as the nodal agency for India's polar and ocean research.
- **Location –** Vasco da Gama, Goa
- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES)
- **Established –** 1998
- **Functions –** It undertakes and coordinates scientific expeditions to:
  - Antarctica
  - Arctic
  - Himalayas
  - Southern Ocean
- It leads India's Deep Ocean Mission under the Blue Economy initiative
- It maintains Indian research stations,
  - Maitri and Bharati in Antarctica
  - Himadri in the Arctic
  - Himansh in the Himalayas
- It plays a crucial role in cryosphere studies, climate science, sea level rise monitoring, and India's polar diplomacy

New Facilities Inaugurated

Polar Bhavan

- It is an integrated facility for polar and ocean research on,
  - Cryosphere and ocean research
  - Climate monitoring
  - Weather pattern studies
- It hosts **Science on Sphere (SOS)** a 3D visualization platform.
- It also has **India's first Polar and Ocean Museum,**

Sagar Bhavan

- It is a storage facility dedicated to archiving and processing polar samples.
- It supports cryosphere and oceanographic research.
- It enables high-precision analysis of polar and deep-sea samples.
- It enhances India's capacity in,
  - Climate change research

    - Sea-level monitoring
    - Marine and polar geochemistry

Significance

- It supports Blue Economy, climate resilience, and ocean geopolitics.
- It is expected to make NCPOR a global hub for integrated polar and ocean science.
- It helps India participate more actively in international climate initiatives.

Reference

PIB| Union Minister inaugurated Sagar Bhavan and Polar Bhavan

