SAGARDHWANI EMBARKS ON SAGAR MAITRI MISSION-2

Prelims: IR- India Bilateral Cooperation

Mains: GS-II- Bilateral, regional and global groupings and agreements involving India and/or affecting India's interests.

Why in News?

- Oceanographic research vessel of Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO), INS Sagardhwani, embarked on a two-month long SAGAR MAITRI

SAGAR MAITRI:

- SAGAR MAITRI is a unique initiative of DRDO which promote closer co-operation in socio-economic aspects as well as greater scientific interaction especially in ocean research among Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries.
- INS Sagardhwani has been designed and developed by Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi, a premier systems laboratory of DRDO.
- It conducts ocean research experiments in the Indian waters and spearheads NPOL's at-sea data collection activities
- SAGAR MAITRI Mission-2 commemorates the Golden Jubilee Celebrations of India's lone research ship INS Kistna's missions as part of the historic International Indian Ocean Expeditions (IIOE), which took place during 1962-65.
- The prime objectives of the SAGAR MAITRI Mission are data collection from the entire North Indian Ocean, focussing on the Andaman Sea and adjoining seas and establishing long-term collaboration with eight IOR countries in the field of ocean research and development.
- The other IOR countries, include Oman, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Myanmar.
- The programme also aims at establishing long term scientific collaboration with these countries in the field of 'Ocean Research & Development' and data collection with a focus in the Andaman Sea.