



INS SAGARDHWANI FLAGS OFF FOR SAGAR MAITRI V

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 18 JAN 2026 1:40PM by PIB Delhi

INS Sagardhwani, India's oceanographic research vessel under the Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL) of DRDO, was flagged off for the **fifth edition of the *Sagar Maitri* (SM-5)** initiative from **Southern Naval Command, Kochi on 17 Jan 2026.**

The vessel was flagged off by **Shri Radha Mohan Singh, Honourable Member of Parliament and Chairperson, Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence**, in the presence of honourable Members of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Defence, Dr Samir V Kamat, Secretary, Department of Defence R&D and Chairman DRDO; RAdm Upal Kundu, Chief of Staff, Southern Naval Command; Dr R. V. Hara Prasad, Director General (Naval Systems & Materials); and Dr Duvvuri Seshagiri, Director, NPOL, along with senior officials from the Indian Navy and DRDO.

Sagar Maitri is a flagship collaborative initiative of the Indian Navy and DRDO, aligned with the Government of India's vision of '**Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions (MAHASAGAR)**'. The initiative aims to promote closer cooperation in socio-economic aspects and greater scientific interaction, especially in ocean research, among Indian Ocean Rim (IOR) countries.

Naval Physical and Oceanographic Laboratory (NPOL), Kochi has been conducting oceanographic missions under the *Sagar Maitri* programme with the objective of strengthening scientific cooperation and capacity building among IOR nations. Under the aegis of this programme, DRDO initiated a scientific component titled '**MAITRI (Marine & Allied Interdisciplinary Training and Research Initiative)**' to establish long-term collaboration with IOR countries in the field of ocean research and development.

Under the *Sagar Maitri* programme, **INS Sagardhwani will retrace the historic routes of INS Kistna, which participated in the International Indian Ocean Expedition during 1962–65.** The initiative seeks to build sustained scientific collaboration with **eight IOR countries, namely Oman, Maldives, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia, and Myanmar.** The ongoing mission marks the initiation of collaborative oceanographic studies with Maldives, enabling joint research and professional exchange among scientists of IOR nations.

Sagar Maitri represents the centrepiece of DRDO's efforts towards achieving relevant Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) for the Indian Navy. During these missions, oceanographic and acoustic data of importance are collected along designated observational tracks by DRDO research vessel INS Sagardhwani, aligned with planned scientific objectives relevant to UDA.

INS Sagardhwani is a specialised marine acoustic research vessel designed by NPOL and built by Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE). Commissioned in Jul 1994, the ship has served as a key platform for ocean observations and marine research for over three decades, contributing significantly to India's maritime scientific capabilities.







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इस विज्ञप्ति को इन भाषाओं में पढ़ें: Urdu , हिन्दी , Tamil , Malayalam