



India's First Indigenous Polar Research Vessel

Why in News?

Garden Reach Shipbuilders and Engineers Limited (GRSE) Kolkata, a Government of India undertaking, has signed an MoU with **Norway's Kongsberg firm** to develop **India's first indigenously built Polar Research Vessel (PRV)**.

Key Points

- **About the Polar Research Vessel (PRV):**
 - A PRV is a ship that supports research in the polar regions (around the North and South Poles) and ocean areas, tailored to the needs of the [National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research](#).
 - PRV will support India's **polar and ocean research missions**, strengthening its existing three research stations: **Bharati** and **Maitri** in **Antarctica**, and **Himadri** in the **Arctic**.
 - The vessel will be equipped with **advanced scientific instruments** to explore marine ecosystems and **deep-sea biodiversity** in polar and southern ocean realms.
 - The project will reinforce India's commitment to [MAHASAGAR \(Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security Across the Regions\)](#).
 - Under [Sagarmala 2.0](#), India aims to become a **global maritime leader** by bridging infrastructure gaps and **enhancing shipbuilding, repair, and recycling**.
 - The collaboration with Norway also aligns with India's **'Make in India'** and [Atmanirbhar Bharat](#) goals by boosting **indigenous shipbuilding capability**.

State PCS Course



Hindi Medium



English Medium

UPPCS

RAS

MPPSC

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BPSC

JKPSC

KPSC

HCS

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National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)

- It was established as an autonomous **Research and Development Institution** of the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** on the **25th May 1998**.
- Earlier known as the [National Centre for Antarctic and Ocean Research \(NCAOR\)](#), NCPOR is India's **premier R&D institution** responsible for the country's research activities in the Polar and

Southern Ocean realms.

- It is the **nodal agency** for planning, promotion, coordination and execution of the entire gamut of polar and southern ocean scientific research in the country as well as for the associated logistics activities.

MAHASAGAR

▪ About:

- It is India's **strategic initiative launched in 2025** to expand its security, trade, and development cooperation beyond the Indian Ocean Region to include the broader Global South—covering **Africa, ASEAN, Latin America, and Pacific Island Nations**.
- MAHASAGAR **builds on the 2015 SAGAR (Security and Growth for All in the Region) doctrine**, which focuses on maritime security, sustainable development, and regional collaboration in the **Indian Ocean Region (IOR)**.

▪ Key Focus Areas:

- **Trade & Connectivity:** Strengthens maritime and economic linkages across the Global South.
- **Maritime Security:** Enhances domain awareness and ensures free and secure sea lanes.
- **Disaster Resilience & Humanitarian Aid:** Promotes rapid response mechanisms and regional support systems.
- **Economic & Cultural Engagement:** Deepens partnerships with island and coastal nations through shared heritage, capacity building, and mutual growth.



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