

India's Fisheries Ocean Science Research Vessel (FORV) Sagar Sampada needs replacement

New Delhi, July 30 (Vigyan Samachar): India's Fisheries Ocean Science Research Vessel (FORV) Sagar Sampada is reaching its end-of-life during the next 3 to 5 years. In view of this, Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES) has advised a replacement of the research vessel with a modern state-of-the-art research vessel which would empower CMLRE to provide timely data and information which would be of relevance for timely intervention of environmental impacts, biochemistry, fishery resources and other biological aspects in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

Formulation of an approach to understand and manage our oceans for its sustainable development is a challenging task. A state-of-the-art new research vessel would help expanding the scope of the ocean research scientists working on marine ecology assessment, marine living resource surveys and other marine biogeochemistry studies while empowering India and its people in safeguarding and harnessing the ocean wealth efficiently.



Fisheries Ocean Science Research Vessel (FORV) Sagar Sampada is owned by MoES and managed by its Center for Marine Living Resources and Ecology (CMLRE), Kochi to strengthen marine science in India since 1984.

CMLRE, Kochi is an important National Maritime Institute infrastructure providing world-class oceanography research facilities to the researchers, teachers, students helping them to achieve many major milestones in the field of marine ecology, biology, biogeochemistry, and deep-sea ecosystems research, where FORV Sagar Sampada played a significant role.

CMLRE scientists have been surveying deep-water new species of marine animals using FORV Sagar Sampada from 2010 to 2016. CMLRE recorded three nematodes, two polychaetes, one echinoderm, over 15 fishes, many species of sea spiders and crabs during this period and revealed new information on these species. A continued effort is certainly going to add more new species/records from India's Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ).

The research vessel has been offering a wide range of opportunities for collection of scientific data, research outcomes and information generated from the sampling and has been instrumental in establishing the marine living resources programme of the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India. The vessel was designed to operate in the harsh conditions experienced off the Indian coastline.

It also has support capability for Remotely Operated Vehicles (ROVs); ROVs are unoccupied, highly maneuverable underwater robots that can be used to explore ocean depths while being operated by someone at the water surface from the ship. Sagar Sampada also supports Autonomous Underwater Vehicle operations enabling the exploration of our deep ocean down to 1,000m. The vessel has an accommodation capacity for up to 35 crew and 22 scientists for performing a multidisciplinary surveys in geological, biological, Physical, Meteorological, Chemical, Oceanographic and exploration activity in the Bay of Bengal and Arabian Sea with the participation of various CSIR and ICAR institutions by fulfilling the needs of on-board research.

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