Deep Ocean Mission

- Government of India is all set to launch ‘Deep Ocean Mission’ by January 2018 and it will **improve India’s position in ocean research field.**
- **Achievements in the field of ocean research:** The program on Poly metallic nodules was initiated at CSIR-NIO with the collection of the first nodule sample from Arabian Sea on board the first Research Vessel Gaveshani on 26 January 1981.
- India was the first country in the world to have been given the Pioneer Area for exploration of deep-sea mineral viz. **Polymetallic nodules** in the Central Indian Ocean Basin in 1987.
- Based on the resource evaluation, India has now retained an area of 75,000 sq km with an estimated resource of about 100 million tons of strategic metals such Copper, Nickel, Cobalt besides Manganese and Iron.
- A First Generation Mine-site (FGM) with an area of 18,000 sq km has been identified. Latest technologies for extraction of metals from the minerals have also been developed under the programme.