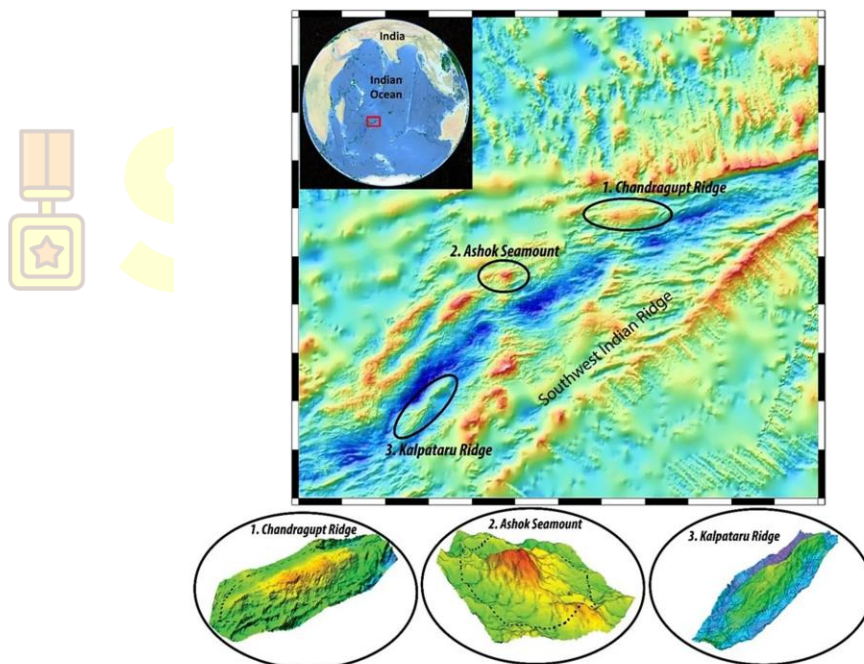


India Names Three Underwater Structures

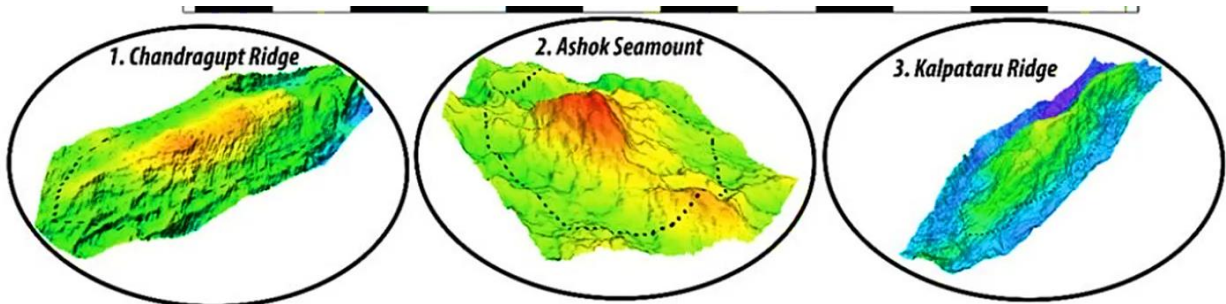
Why In News

- **Three underwater geographical structures** located in the Indian Ocean have been awarded names proposed by India. Named after the rulers of the Mauryan dynasty are the **Ashoka seamount** and the **Chandragupt ridge**. **Kalpataru ridge** is the third structure for which the **International Hydrographic Organization (IHO)** and **UNESCO's Intergovernmental Oceanographic Commission (IOC)** have recently awarded names originally proposed by India.



All You Need To Know

- **All the three recently named structures** were discovered by oceanographers from the **National Centre for Polar and Ocean Research (NCPOR)**, Goa. These are located along the **Southwest Indian Ridge** area of the Indian Ocean and were discovered during an international survey exploration programme.
- Since 2004, India has been undertaking the **Indian Southern Ocean Research Programme** with NCPOR being the nodal agency.



- These **sea explorations aim at** studying the bio-geochemistry, biodiversity, lower atmospheric processes, paleoclimate, hydrodynamics, air-sea interactions among a host of other research areas.
- It was with the help of the **Russian Sea vessel Akademik Nikolay Strakhov** that the Indian research team discovered the **Ashok seamount in 2012**. The oval shaped structure spans over an area of 180 sqkm.



- Also discovered by the same Russian vessel in 2012 was the elongated **Kalpataru ridge** which is spread over an area of 430 sq km.
- Experts said that this ridge may have supported marine life, habitat shelter and food for various species. Discovered in 2020 by the Indian ocean research, the vessel **MGS Sagar Chandragupt ridge** is an elongated and oval shaped body covering a total area of 675 sq km.
- The worldwide ocean data is maintained and provided by the General Bathymetric Chart of **Oceans operating under the IOC and IHO**.

Other Structures

- Previously, other structures bearing **Indian names** include the **Raman ridge** (accepted in 1992), discovered in 1951 by a US oil vessel. It was named after Physicist and Nobel Laureate Sir CV Raman.



- In 1992, the **Panikkar Seamount** (accepted in 1993) was discovered by India research vessel **Sagar Kanya**. It is named after **NK Panikkar**, a renowned oceanographer.



- For its successful 22nd cruise in 1986 leading to its discovery, a seamount was named after the research vessel **Sagar Kanya** (accepted in 1991) itself.
- **Geologist DN Wadia** was honoured when an underwater volcanic mountain, known as guyot, was named after him in 1993 following its discovery in 1992 by Sagar Kanya.