

Seven years of Sagarmala

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In news— The government's flagship Sagarmala program has completed seven years recently.

About Sagarmala-

- It is the **flagship programme of the** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) **launched in March 2015** to promote **port-led development in the country** through harnessing India's 7,500 km long coastline, 14,500 km of potentially navigable waterways and strategic location on key international maritime trade routes.
- **The main vision of the Programme is to reduce logistics cost for EXIM** and domestic trade with minimal infrastructure investment.
- **Its objectives are** to achieve port modernization & new port development, port connectivity enhancement, port-led industrialization and coastal community development.
- The program has followed a stepped approach of implementation with **first attempt** on implementing the **maritime projects through Public Private Partnership (PPP) wherever feasible.**
- Projects which have high social and economic quotient but low IRR are being implemented through funding support under the Sagarmala program.
- **The financial assistance is provided to State Governments** and other MoPSW agencies for port infrastructure projects, coastal berth projects, Road & Rail projects, fishing harbours, skill development projects, Coastal community development, cruise terminal and unique projects such as Ro-Pax ferry services etc.

Components of the programme-

- **Port Modernization & New Port Development:** Debottlenecking and capacity expansion of existing ports and development of new greenfield ports
- **Port Connectivity Enhancement:** Enhancing the connectivity of the ports to the hinterland, optimizing cost and time of cargo movement through multi-modal logistics solutions including domestic waterways (inland water transport and coastal shipping)
- **Port-linked Industrialization:** Developing port-proximate industrial clusters and Coastal Economic Zones to reduce logistics cost and time of EXIM and domestic cargo
- **Coastal Community Development:** Promoting sustainable development of coastal communities through skill development & livelihood generation activities, fisheries development, coastal tourism etc. Main features of the Coastal Community Development plan consists of below:
 1. Skill development.
 2. Coastal tourism.
 3. Development of fishing harbors.
 4. R&D in the port and maritime sector.
- **Coastal Shipping & Inland Waterways Transport:** Impetus to move cargo through the sustainable and environment-friendly coastal and inland waterways mode.
- **The Ministry showcased that 802 projects worth Rs. 5.48 lakh Crore under the Sagarmala program targeted to be executed by 2035** out of which 194 projects worth Rs. 99,000 Crore have been completed.
- Several projects have been undertaken across various categories such as port modernization, rail, road, cruise tourism, RORO, ROPAX, fisheries, coastal infrastructure and skill development.