



Research Unit
Press Information Bureau
Government of India

Vizhinjam to Vision 2047

Building Blue Corridors for Economic, Strategic, and Sustainable Growth

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The **Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport**, located in **Kerala**, stands as a monumental achievement in India's maritime infrastructure. Inaugurated **on May 2, 2025**, by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, this **₹8,800 crore** project underscores India's commitment to enhancing its port capabilities and fostering economic growth through strategic maritime initiatives.



Vizhinjam was chosen for the development of this multi-purpose port because of its **strategic location** near **international shipping routes**, which significantly reduces transit times for vessels, making it a pivotal point for maritime trade. As one of India's few natural deep-water ports, this port can **efficiently accommodate large cargo and container ships**, thus making it an ideal choice for this development.

Features of Vizhinjam Seaport

- **India's first dedicated container trans-shipment port.**
- Strategically located near one of the **world's busiest sea trade routes**.
- The port boasts a **natural deep draft** of nearly 20 meters, enabling it to accommodate some of the **world's largest cargo ships**.
- The capacity of this trans-shipment port is expected to **increase three times** in the coming years.

Benefits of Vizhinjam Seaport

- The development of this port is expected to **significantly reduce** India's **reliance on foreign ports** for trans-shipment, which previously accounted for **75%** of such operations, thereby **retaining revenue within the country** and **creating new economic opportunities for Kerala** and its people.
- Vizhinjam is set to become a **key player** in regional trade, potentially serving as a gateway for commerce between **Southeast Asia, the Middle East, and Africa**.

Important Initiatives by the Government to promote India's Ports, Shipping, and Waterways Sector

Government of India's initiatives like the **Sagarmala Project** and **PM Gati Shakti**, aimed at enhancing port infrastructure and improving inter-connectivity of waterways, railways, highways, and airways. Over the past decade, **investments** under **Public-Private Partnerships** have **upgraded Indian ports** to global standards, reducing ship turn-around time by **30%** and **doubling the capacity of ports**. These efforts have positioned India among the **top three countries globally** in terms of **seafarer numbers** and among the **top 20** in **global shipbuilding**. For further strengthening India's maritime sector, the government is working towards the establishment of a **shipbuilding and repair cluster** in **Kochi**, which will create numerous employment opportunities. Additionally, initiatives like the **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision** and the **India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor**, which was discussed during the **G-20 Summit**, underscore Kerala's critical role in global trade networks.

The Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, formulated by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, builds on the Maritime India Vision 2030 and aims to develop world-class ports and promote inland water transport, coastal shipping, and a sustainable maritime sector. It encompasses aspirations in Logistics, Infrastructure, and Shipping, supporting India's 'Blue Economy'. The vision, shaped through over 150 consultations with various stakeholders and the analysis of 50 international benchmarks, outlines more than 300 actionable initiatives for enhancing ports, shipping, and waterways by 2047.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC) was launched during India's G20 presidency and aims to integrate India, the Europe, the Middle-East through UAE, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Israel and the European Union. It is an important initiative that can add to India's maritime security and faster movement of goods between Europe and Asia. IMEC will reduce the logistics costs by up to 30% and transportation time by 40%. Recently, on April 16, 2025, the IMEC High-Level Roundtable on Connectivity and Economic Growth was held in New Delhi.

One Nation One Port

The 'One Nation One Port Process (ONOP)' initiative focuses on **mapping** and **standardizing port processes** and **documentation**. This involves conducting a **comprehensive review** of the **existing procedures** and **documents** exchanged within the port value chain across all major ports which cover various cargo types, including containers, dry bulk, and liquid bulk, as well as different movement categories such as export-import, trans-shipment, and coastal operations. The implementation of the ONOP initiative is anticipated to **significantly reduce paperwork** by **approximately 25%** for both container operations and bulk cargo, leading to a **reduction in logistics costs**.

Master Plan to Develop Mega Ports

Six port clusters, out of which **four port clusters**, namely, **Cochin – Vizhinjam Port cluster**, **Galathea South Bay Port**, **Chennai – Kamarajar – Cuddalore Port cluster**, **Paradip** and other **Non-Major Ports cluster** with capacity of more than **300 Million Tonnes Per Annum (MTPA)** and **two port clusters**, namely, **Deendayal** and **Tuna Tekra Port cluster**, **Jawaharlal Nehru – Vadhavan Port cluster** with capacity of more than **500 MTPA** are being developed as **Mega Ports** by the year **2047**. These activities are included in the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision, 2047. The works for **infrastructure enhancement** and **capacity augmentation** in the Major Ports are already under progress through **Public Private Partnership (PPP) mode** and also through internal resources.

Conclusion

The inauguration of the Vizhinjam International Deepwater Multipurpose Seaport marks a transformative moment in India's maritime journey, reinforcing the nation's commitment to becoming a global trade and

logistics hub. With its strategic location, state-of-the-art infrastructure, and alignment with key government initiatives like Sagarmala, PM Gati Shakti, and the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, Vizhinjam is poised to significantly boost India's economic growth, regional connectivity, and global shipping competitiveness. As India steers into a future shaped by integrated transport corridors like the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor, the Vizhinjam Seaport stands as a beacon of progress, sustainability, and strategic foresight in the country's maritime renaissance.

References

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[Rajya Sabha Unstarred Question No. 3513 Dated April 1, 2025](#)

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