



## Harit Sagar: The Green Port Guidelines 2023

**For Prelims:** Harit Sagar Green Port Guidelines 2023, [Zero Carbon Emission Goal](#), Sagar Shreshtha Samman awards, Green Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard.

**For Mains:** Harit Sagar: The Green Port Guidelines 2023, [Zero Carbon Emission Goal](#).

### Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways** has launched 'Harit Sagar' **Green Port Guidelines 2023** to achieve the [Zero Carbon Emission Goal](#).

- **Sagar Shreshtha Samman** awards were also conferred to major ports for their exceptional achievements in various operational parameters.

### What are Harit Sagar Guidelines 2023?

#### ▪ About:

- Harit Sagar is a Sanskrit term that means **“green ocean”**. It reflects the vision of making **India’s ports more environmentally friendly and sustainable**.
- They also cover aspects of the [National Green Hydrogen Mission](#) pertaining to ports, development of green hydrogen facility, LNG bunkering, and Offshore Wind Energy among others.
- These guidelines also provide **the provision for adopting the global Green Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard**.

#### ▪ Objectives:

- To promote the **adoption of best practices and technologies for green port development** and operations, such as [renewable energy](#), [water conservation](#), **biodiversity protection**, and [climate resilience](#).
- To minimize waste through **Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle** to attain zero waste discharge from port operations.
- To establish a **rating system for assessing and benchmarking** the environmental performance of ports based on **various indicators and parameters**.
- To **incentivize and recognize the ports** that achieve high standards of environmental excellence and sustainability.
- To facilitate the integration of green port principles into the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of port infrastructure and services.

#### ▪ Significance:

- They are aligned with **India’s commitments under the Paris Agreement** and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#), as well as the national policies and initiatives such as the [National Action Plan on Climate Change](#), and the [Swachh Bharat Mission](#).
- They are expected to enhance **India’s image and reputation as a responsible maritime nation** that cares for its environment and its people.
- They are expected to create new opportunities for **innovation, investment, employment, and collaboration in the port sector**.

#### ▪ **Benefits:**

- Enhancing the **competitiveness and attractiveness** of ports by improving their **efficiency, reliability, safety, and quality of service.**
- Reducing the **operational costs** and **increasing the revenue generation** potential of ports by optimizing the use of resources and minimizing waste.
- Improving the **environmental compliance.**
- Mitigating the environmental impacts and risks of port activities by reducing **greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, noise pollution, water pollution, and marine litter.**
- Contributing to the national and global goals of sustainable development and climate action by supporting the transition to a **low-carbon and circular economy.**

### **What are the Challenges and Barriers for Implementing?**

- Lack of **awareness and capacity** among port stakeholders.
- Lack of **coordination and collaboration** among different agencies and sectors.
- Inadequate **data and information on environmental aspects of ports.**
- **Weak enforcement and monitoring mechanisms** for environmental compliance.

### **What are India's Efforts for Green Port Development?**

#### ▪ **Initiatives:**

- **Green Port Awards, Green Port Policy, and Sagarmala Programme.**

#### ▪ **Setting Targets:**

- Increase the share of renewable energy in ports, reduce **carbon emissions per ton of cargo handled**, and adopt **green fuels** and technologies for port operations.

#### ▪ **Selection as Pilot Country:**

- India selected as the **first country under the IMO Green Voyage 2050** project to conduct a pilot project related to green shipping.

### **What is the Sagar Shreshtha Samman Award?**

- The Sagar Shreshtha Samman Award is conferred by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** to major ports in India for their outstanding achievements in various operational parameters.
  - The award recognizes ports that demonstrate high standards of environmental excellence and sustainability.
- The awards for FY2022-23 are:

# SAGAR SHRESHTHA SAMMAN AWARDS

TO MAJOR PORTS

Performance Shield (Absolute)

CARGO HANDLED  
DEENDAYAL PORT

TURN AROUND TIME  
JAWAHARLAL NEHRU PORT

SHIP BERTH DAY OUTPUT  
PARADIP PORT

PRE-BERTHING DETENTION  
KAMARAJAR PORT

TURN AROUND TIME (NON-CONTAINER PORT)  
COCHIN PORT



## Conclusion

- The Harit Sagar guidelines are a visionary initiative that will transform the Indian port sector and make it more sustainable and resilient in the face of the changing climate and market conditions.
- The guidelines will not **only benefit the ports but also the environment and society at large.**
  - They will also enhance India's image and reputation as a responsible maritime nation that cares for its environment and its people. The Harit Sagar guidelines are a **shining example of how India is leading the way in green port development and operations.**

[Source: PIB](#)

PDF Refernece URL: <https://www.drishtias.com/printpdf/harit-sagar-the-green-port-guidelines-2023>