



Blueprint for Transforming the Blue Economy

For Prelims: [Blue economy](#), International Container Trans-shipment Port, Indian Ports Association, [Deep Ocean Mission](#), [Sagarmala project](#), [O-SMART](#), [Integrated Coastal Zone Management](#), **NavIC**, **Indian ports**

For Mains: Significance of the Blue Economy, Challenges Related to India's Blue Economy.

Source: [TH](#)

Why in News?

Recently, Indian Prime Minister unveiled '**Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**', the long-term blueprint for the **Indian maritime blue economy** while inaugurating **Global Maritime India Summit 2023** in Mumbai.

- It includes initiatives like **Advanced Mega Ports**, an [International Container Trans-shipment Port](#), island development, **Expanded inland waterways**, and **multi-modal hubs** for efficient trade.
- The Prime Minister also highlighted the government's vision for the maritime sector, encapsulated in the phrase '**Ports for Prosperity**' and '**Ports for Progress.**'

What is the Global Maritime India Summit 2023?

- **About:**
 - **Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS) 2023** is a flagship event aimed at propelling the Indian maritime economy by promoting global and regional partnerships and facilitating investments.
 - It is an annual meet of the Indian and international maritime community to address key industry issues and exchange ideas to bring the sector forward.
- **Organisers**
 - **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways**
 - **Indian Ports Association**
 - [Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry \(FICCI\)](#)

What is the Blue Economy?

- **About:**
 - According to the [World Bank](#), the blue economy is the "**sustainable use of ocean resources for economic growth, improved livelihoods, and jobs while preserving the health of the ocean ecosystem.**"
- **Significance of the Blue Economy:**
 - **Food Security:** Fisheries and aquaculture are integral components of the **Blue Economy**,

providing a **substantial portion of the world's protein sources**. Sustainable practices in these sectors are essential for global food security.

- **Environmental Conservation:** By promoting responsible resource management, the Blue Economy supports the **preservation of [marine biodiversity](#) and ecosystems**.
 - Healthy oceans play a crucial role in climate regulation and carbon sequestration.
- **Tourism and Recreation:** Coastal and marine tourism is a significant contributor to the global economy.
 - The Blue Economy enhances **opportunities for [tourism](#) and recreation**, attracting visitors to coastal areas and promoting conservation awareness.
- **Renewable Energy:** It encourages the development of renewable energy sources such as **offshore wind, tidal, and wave energy**, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and mitigating climate change.
- **Transportation and Trade:** Maritime shipping is a **lifeline for global trade**. Efficient and sustainable maritime transportation is vital for the global economy.

Note

- India has a **vast coastline of 7500 km**, and its **[exclusive economic zones \(EEZ\)](#)** extend over 2.2 million square km. Also, India is home to **12 major ports, over 200 other ports**, 30 shipyards and a comprehensive hub of diverse maritime service providers. This means India has much potential to be a frontrunner in a healthy **blue economy**.

What are the Challenges Related to India's Blue Economy?

- **Fragmented Fishing Industry:** The Indian fishing industry is **highly fragmented**, primarily comprising small fishermen who lack access to credit and modern technology, hindering their competitiveness.
 - Also, **overfishing**, driven by a lack of regulation, further threatens the industry's sustainability.
- **Climate Change and Natural Disasters:** Climate change poses a significant threat to the Blue Economy through **[sea-level rise](#), increased ocean acidity, and extreme weather events**.
 - Preparing for and mitigating these impacts is essential for long-term sustainability.
- **Waste and Pollution:** Pollution, including **marine litter, chemical pollutants, and untreated sewage**, threatens the health of marine ecosystems.
 - The introduction of **non-native, invasive species through [oil spills](#)** can disrupt marine ecosystems and negatively impact indigenous species and industries.
- **Congestion in Ports:** Many **[Indian ports](#)** experience congestion due to **inadequate maintenance infrastructure, inefficient operations, and high cargo volumes**, leading to delays and increased costs.

What are the Key Government Initiatives Related to the Blue Economy?

- **[Deep Ocean Mission](#)**
- **[Sagarmala project](#)**
- **[O-SMART](#)**
- **[Integrated Coastal Zone Management](#)**
- **[NavIC](#)**

Way Forward

- **Policy Reforms and Regulation:** Develop a comprehensive and stable regulatory framework for all sectors of the Blue Economy, addressing fragmentation and inconsistencies and encouraging responsible and sustainable practices through **effective enforcement and incentives**.

- Streamline customs and documentation processes to expedite cargo clearance in ports.
- **Infrastructure Development:** Invest in **modernizing and expanding port infrastructure**, including **berths, terminals, and equipment**, to accommodate growing cargo volumes efficiently.
 - Improve **road and rail connectivity to ports** for the seamless movement of cargo to and from the hinterland.
- **Sustainable Fishing:** Promote responsible fishing and aquaculture practices through **education, incentives, and regulation**, addressing overfishing and environmental degradation.
 - Implement **strict pollution control measures and waste management** systems to safeguard marine ecosystems.
- **Investment and Financing:** Attracting private sector investment in Blue Economy sectors through public-private partnerships, incentives, and financial support.
 - Facilitate access to credit and finance for **small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) in the Blue Economy** to promote their growth.
- **Enhancing Shipbuilding Industry:** To promote innovation in shipbuilding and repair, India should establish research and development centers, in collaboration with the private sector, with a **specific focus on advanced materials, and green technologies**.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year's Question (PYQs)

Prelims:

Q. What is blue carbon?

- (a) Carbon captured by oceans and coastal ecosystems
- (b) Carbon sequestered in forest biomass and agricultural soils
- (c) Carbon contained in petroleum and natural gas
- (d) Carbon present in atmosphere

Ans: (a)

Mains

Q. Defining blue revolution, explain the problems and strategies for pisciculture development in India. (2018)