



## Vizhinjam Port Project

**For Prelims:** Adani port in Vizhinjam, PPP

**For Mains:** Issues and Challenges in Development Projects in India

### Why in News?

Recently, Adani Group approached the Kerala High Court requesting the security cover of central forces in its **port construction site in Vizhinjam** which was marred by violent protests by the Fishermen.

### What is the Vizhinjam Port Project?

#### ▪ About:

- It is a Rs 7,525 crore port, being built under a **Public Private Partnership (PPP) model** with Adani Ports Private Limited at Vizhinjam near Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala.
- It was laid in December 2015 and has since missed its completion deadline.
- The port is to have **30 berths, and will be able to handle giant “megamax” container ships.**

#### ▪ Significance:

- It is believed that the ultramodern port, located close to major international shipping routes, **will boost India’s economy and** its location is also of strategic importance.
- The port is expected to **compete with Colombo, Singapore, and Dubai** for a share of trans-shipment traffic.
- The port’s advantages are **“availability of a 20m contour within one nautical mile from the coast**, minimal littoral drift along the coast, hardly any maintenance dredging required, links to national/regional road, rail network, and proximity to international shipping routes.

### Why are Fishermen Protesting?

- Fisherfolk have been protesting against the project for the past four months, alleging that its construction is causing **massive sea erosion, taking away their livelihood and dwellings.**
- They want an impact study conducted and the project **to remain suspended until the study report comes out.**
- The fishing community has also put forward six **other demands:**
  - Rehabilitation **of families who lost their homes** to sea erosion
  - Effective steps **to mitigate coastal erosion**
  - Financial **assistance to fisherfolk** on days weather warnings are issued
  - compensation **to families of those who lose their lives in fishing accidents**
  - **Subsidised** kerosene
  - A mechanism to **dredge the Muthalappozhi fishing harbour** in Anchuthengu in Thiruvananthapuram district.
- The kerosene subsidy has been demanded by claiming that because of the project, **fishermen have to venture deeper into the ocean for catch, increasing the fuel cost burden.**

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

**Q. Recently, which of the following States has explored the possibility of constructing an artificial inland port to be connected to sea by a long navigational channel? (2016)**

- (a) Andhra Pradesh
- (b) Chhattisgarh
- (c) Karnataka
- (d) Rajasthan

**Ans: (d)**

**Exp:**

- The State of Rajasthan is developing an artificial inland port in Jalore which would be connected to the Arabian Sea by developing a channel along the Kutch Creek.
- The Inland Waterway Authority of India (IWAI) proposed to guide and support the Rajasthan government for building this port.
- Therefore, option (d) is the correct answer.

**Source: MINT**

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