



ROPAX Service

Why in News

The **Ministry of Shipping** has launched a **roll on-roll off cum passenger ferry service**, called '**ROPAX**', between **Mumbai and Mandwa** (Maharashtra).

- ROPAX service is a **water transport service** project under **Eastern Waterfront Development**.
- The road distance from Mumbai to Mandwa is about 110 kilometres, and it takes three to four hours, whereas by waterway the distance is about 18 kilometres and a journey of just an hour.
- **ROPAX Vessel M2M -1** was built in Greece in September 2019. This Vessel has a speed of 14 knots and can carry 200 cars and 1000 passengers at a time. It is capable of operating even in a monsoon season.
 - People will be able to travel in their cars directly on to the ROPAX vessel.
- The **benefits** of this service include reduction in the travel time, vehicular emission and traffic on the road.

Eastern Waterfront Development

- The Eastern Waterfront is the **Mumbai Port Trust's (MbPT's) plan** to develop the port lands across Mumbai's eastern coast stretching from Sassoon Dock to Wadala.
 - MbPT is an autonomous Body of the Government of India under the Ministry of Shipping.
- Some of the major proposals under the project include a 93- hectare park near Haji Bunder, around 17 hectares for tourism-related projects such as themed streets and affordable housing.
- The project also has a focus on a water transport by making a provision for water taxis, international and domestic cruises and ro-pax (roll on/roll off passengers) services.

Source: PIB

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