



20th Maritime State Development Council

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Why in News?

The 20th [Maritime State Development Council \(MSDC\)](#) concluded recently in Goa with significant advancements in India's maritime sector.

- This event brought together stakeholders from the Central Government, States, and Union Territories to resolve over 80 issues, focusing on port modernisation, maritime infrastructure, connectivity, and regulatory frameworks.

What are the Key Highlights of the 20th MSDC?

- **New Initiatives Launched:**
 - The MSDC launched the **National Safety in Ports Committee (NSPC) application** on the National Single Window System platform to streamline regulatory processes, improve efficiency, and reduce costs for maritime sector stakeholders through real-time performance monitoring and enhanced information sharing.
 - **Indian International Maritime Dispute Resolution Centre (IIMDRC)** was launched to resolve multi-modal and international maritime disputes, reinforcing the **'Resolve in India'** initiative.
 - **Indian Maritime Centre (IMC)**, a think tank focused on fostering collaboration and innovation among maritime stakeholders was launched.
- **Port and State Ranking Systems:** The council discussed the implementation of a **state ranking framework and a port ranking system** to promote competition and improve performance in the maritime sector.
- **Heritage Initiatives:** The [National Maritime Heritage Complex \(NMHC\)](#) at Lothal, Gujarat was highlighted as an international tourist destination, showcasing India's rich maritime heritage through advanced technology.
- **Focus on Seafarers:** [Seafarers](#) were recognised as essential workers, improving their working conditions and access to shore leave.
- **Major Port Projects:** India's 13th Major Port at [Vadhavan in Maharashtra](#) and the designation of [Galathea Bay in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a 'Major Port'](#) were highlighted.
 - The key highlight of the event was the keel laying ceremony for **India's largest dredger, a 12,000 Cu. M. Trailer Suction Hopper Dredger (TSHD), at Cochin Shipyard Limited**, marks a significant achievement for India's maritime infrastructure and capabilities.
- **Mega Shipbuilding Park:** Discussions were held on establishing a Mega Shipbuilding Park across multiple states to consolidate shipbuilding capabilities and drive innovation.
- **Radioactive Detection Equipment (RDE):** Plans were made to install [Radioactive Detection Equipment](#) at ports for enhanced security. Discussions included setting up **places of refuge for ships in distress**.

What are the Other Initiatives Related to India's Maritime Sector?

- [Maritime India Vision 2030](#)

- [Sagarmala program](#)
- [Maritime AmritKaal Vision 2047](#)
- [National Waterways](#)

Maritime State Development Council

- The MSDC, established in 1997, serves as the **apex advisory body for the development of India's maritime sector**. Its primary aim is to promote the integrated growth of Major and Non-Major ports in close coordination with State governments.
- MSDC monitors the **development of minor, captive, and private ports** in Maritime States to ensure their integrated development with Major Ports and assess infrastructure requirements, making recommendations to the concerned Ministers.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

Prelims

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

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

Ans: (d)

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