

Coastal Zone Management

P.V.Rao

1. Coastal Profiles

- Coasts embrace natural and human endowments. They are the terminals of land-sea convergence, chains of marine attractions like corals, mangroves, sand dunes and luring beaches of recreational and tourist attractions.
- Coasts are also domains of human dwelling, dynamism, economic activism and navigational adventurism. In fact, coasts have been a key constituent in the evolution of human progress, maritime explorations, overseas trade and imperial enterprises.
- But, coastal profiles have been undergoing serious changes with the advent of industrial revolution. Growing demands for maritime resources, economic exchanges, port and shipping development and the current drive to integrate global economies (globalization) are fast transforming the morphology of coastal zones of every maritime state. Hence the State are intervening to regulate coastal activities and affairs.

2. Coasts as Development Zones

- Coasts throughout history served economic progress of maritime state. They were agents of trade and transportation, tourism and pilgrimage. Indians right from the Indus Valley age were great navigators and traders leaving the coasts to distant overseas destinations to the east and west of the Indian Ocean. It is in this sense, coasts were catalysts in the historical progress of a state.
- As UNCLOS granted vast EEZ spaces to each maritime state, costs turned into buzzing zones of resource exploration, industrial establishments, urbanization. India's *Sagarmala* project (2015) launched ambitious programmes of port expansion, port-led development and industrialization. *Sagarmala* is official objective is *Building Gateways of Growth.*



- The need to manage coastal zones and regulate the growing activities around the shores therefore calls for legislation to regulate coastal zones.

3. Issues in Coastal Management

- Industrialization of coasts invariably demands regulating location, types of industries, SEZs, industrial clusters and corridors. To prevent irregular and unplanned spread of manufacturing centres state intervention for planned industrialization around coasts is necessary.

- Urbanization is the bigger problem faced due to commercialization of coastal areas. Transport corridors, bylanes, supply chain networks, warehousing, residential building and auxiliary industries and port/shipping infrastructure transforms the morphology of coasts. The need to prevent these structures disturbing the coastal ecology is very important.
- Coastal ecology is the much endangered domain as a result of industrialization and urbanization. Discharging industrial effluents, felling mangroves, emptying sand dunes, damaging the marine biology are some of the natural endowments of sea which are already being damaged.

4. Coastal Security

- Coasts lamentably are becoming frequent zones of criminality. As the developmental activities are fast underway, agents and networks of maritime crime are spreading their illegal activities around. Curbing them and checking these unlawful forces is assuming greater priority in the coastal states security responsibilities.
- Apart from the known coastal criminal agents like poachers, smugglers, drug peddlers and money launderers, terrorists and pirates are among the more recent non-state threats to the coastal and maritime zones of a state.
- All maritime states are raising the strength and military skills their maritime security forces. Newer law enforcement agencies are created by some states. Since no single state can effectively act against these threats, bilateral and multilateral security cooperation agreements are signed between the regional coastal states.
