

Port Development

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1

Ports in History

- The growth and destiny of maritime states in the world was determined by their ports. History amply testifies to the port establishments serving as dynamic conduits of civilizational and imperial ascendancy. Port of Alexandria, Oman Dwaraka and Kalingapatnam were historic ports which played key role in the evolution of their respective maritime States.
- Ports served as channels of religious, cultural and commercial relations. Roman, Egyptian, Arab and Indian ports served as legendary conduits of these overseas contacts.
- Indian subcontinent extended its religions, languages and cultural practices to the Southeast Asian and Pacific countries. *Baliyatra* from the present Orissa coast to the Hindu town of Bali in Indonesia is a good example.

2

Ports for National Security

- Maritime states are vulnerable to external threats and invasion. Land based threats are easily predictable and manageable than threats from seas.
- Fate of several maritime states in history was determined by sea-based threats. All imperial states therefore erected strong fortifications around their coastal zones.

- Nature of maritime security has changed today. Threats to maritime states are more from non-military sources like pirates, terrorists and smugglers.

3

Port and Development

- Sea is a great source of marine resources. Ocean domains and terrains are endowed with abundant living and non-living resources.
- Economic development of a coastal state is determined broadly by TWO factors: types and quantities of marine resources; secondly, whether and how the coastal state avails such resources.
- Current economic philosophy of growth has tremendously increased the importance of ports development. Many countries including India have launched port modernization programmes.

4

Types of Ports

- Port location is determined by Geography. Coastal ports are the most common entities around the maritime boundaries of States.

- Ports are also built around rivers, straits and islands. River Ganga is a good example, as also the Andaman Islands which are studded with busy ports. Today Indian government is keenly developing River ports.
- Land locked countries and cities build Dry Ports. Dry port is a land/hinterland cargo movement station. It is connected by road/rail to sea port.
