

Major Ports in India

[UPSC Notes]

Importance of Ports

Ports are important for a country countries to foster commercial prosperity and trade. They also serve military purposes because the warships adopt before proceeding to the battleground.

Ports are a key origin of employment, as they employ a significant number of individuals. The ports assist frequent cargo dealings, and most ports, (particularly sea ports) are now well equipped with specialized equipment like gantry cranes and forklifts.

Features of Port

Ports can accommodate both huge maritime ships and inland waterways like rivers and lakes. The port's depth is critical in permitting different types of ships to enter and berth at the port.

A port, however, nowadays is provided with a variety of amenities and facilities in addition to its primary function. The following are some of the most frequent port facilities given by some of the most prevalent types of ports:

- **Loading and unloading facility:** Every port must have a loading and unloading facility to facilitate freight and passengers to be loaded and unloaded.
- **Special warehouse:** This is accessible at all ports and is used to keep goods and maintain regular stock levels.
- **Port reception:** The reception has a record of all anticipated shipments as well as a guide to the port facilities.
- **Fishing facilities:** Fishing ports offer fishing aids and facilities to their clientele.
- **Workshop:** Every one of the larger and more important ports have a vessel workshop in this location where spare parts and attachments can be procured. In addition, out-of-service vessels or fixed and serviced in the workshop.
- **Other amenities:** For port visitors, other amenities such as hotels, eateries, restaurants, and cafes are offered at seaports. Some ports give medical services to the people that visit them.

Sea Ports in India

As per the Ministry of Shipping, seaports handle 95% of India's overseas trade. The International North-South Commerce Corridor (INSTC), which links the Indian Ocean for trade with Eurasian trade networks and the Arctic, relies heavily on these ports. Nine of

India's 13 major seaports are located along the coast of Maharashtra, Kerala, Goa, Karnataka, Gujarat, Andhra Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Orissa, and West Bengal.

List of Major Ports in India

The Major Ports of India that are situated on the east and west coastlines are listed below:

Eastern Coast Ports

- **Chennai Port (Tamil Nadu):** The port of Chennai is India's third-largest port, with 1.5 million TEU in yearly traffic. It began operations in 1881 and is one of India's oldest. It holds the distinction of being the first specialized container terminal in India which opened in 1983.
- **Ennore Port (Tamil Nadu):** Located 24 km from Chennai, this port is now called Kamarajar Port Ltd. It is India's inaugural corporate seaport and it is a public business with governmental ownership of 68%.
- **Kolkata Port (Kolkata):** With yearly traffic of 796000 TEU, Kolkata port is India's fourth busiest port, Haldia docks, and Kolkata docks are the two dock systems used. It was built by the British East India company.
- **Paradip Port (Orissa):** located at the junction of the Mahanadi and the Bay of Bengal in Orissa, it was the first seaport built on India's eastern coast after independence; this weather port is located a hundred kilometers east of Cuttack. A depth of 12 meters surrounds the port allowing it to carry cargo weighing more than 60,000 DWT.
- **V.O.Chidambaranar Port (also called Tuticorin port) Tamil Nadu:** The V.O. Chidambaranar Port trust sees over 698000 TEU in annual traffic. The all-weather port is also India's fourth-largest cargo terminal by volume.
- **Visakhapatnam Port (Andhra Pradesh):** The Visakhapatnam Port often known as Vizag port, is India's oldest shipyard, located on the country's east coast; it was established in 1933 and its 24 berths handle 1.2 million metric tonnes of cargo each year.

Western Coast Ports

- **Cochin Port (Kerala):** The port of Cochin is one of the most important ports in southwest India, handling 11 million metric tonnes of imports annually. It was founded in 1928 and is located on two islands- Vallarpadam and Willingdon Island. The port handled over 0.4 million TEU of freight in 2016. The spices, coffee mineral oils, and fertilizers are the most common exports and imports.
- **Kandla Port (Gujarat):** This port is located 90 km from the Gulf of Kutch in the Kandla Creek area. It was built in the 1950s and was India's first export processing port.
- **Jawaharlal Nehru Port (also called Nhava Sheva port) Maharashtra:** With yearly traffic of 5.05 million TEU, the Nhava Sheva port is one of India's busiest container ports. It handles 56% of India's cargo transportation and will virtually travel capacity once the fourth terminal is finished.

- **Mangalore Port (Karnataka):** It is a new port in the state of Karnataka, located in Panambur, at the junction of the Gurupura River and the Arabian Sea. The port started out small, with only a few docks for small vessels.
- **Mormugao Port (Goa):** Located at Alto Desterro, Mormugao in Goa, it is a major iron ore exporter. The port is also a popular tourist destination as the Konkan railway has elevated the attraction of this port.
- **Mumbai Port (Maharashtra):** It is India's largest port in terms of size and maritime traffic, and is located on the western coast of the country with a depth of 10- 12 meters allowing large cargo ships to dock and pass easily. It handles 20% of India's international trade and is vital to the country's economy. It was India's first cargo terminal, carrying more than 2 million TEU per year.

