

The GOI has taken efforts in the direction of expansion and modernization of major ports of the country. Explain. [200 words]

India is the sixteenth largest maritime country in the world, whose "around 95% of trade by volume and 70% by value is done through maritime transport." — MIN. OF SHIPPING

The Indian ports (12 major & 205 notified minor and intermediate) and shipping industry play a vital role in sustaining growth in the country's trade and commerce. The Indian Govt. plays an important role in supporting the ports sector.

⇒ EFFORTS TAKEN BY GOI — in the direction of expansion & modernization of major ports;

- ↳ GOI has allowed FDI of upto 100% under the automatic route — for port and harbour construction and maintenance projects.
- ↳ It has also facilitated a 10-year tax holiday — to enterprises that develop, maintain and operate ports, inland waterways & inland ports.
- ↳ Under Sagarmala Project — six new mega ports will be developed in the country along with 10 coastal economic regions.
- ↳ GOI is also developing inland waterways — Allahabad-Haldia (National Water (NW)-1), Dhubri-Sadiya (NW-2), as an alternative to

road and rail routes to transport goods to the nation's ports.

→ It has also introduced Major Port Authorities Bill 2020 (in LS) - which intends to provide regulation, operation and planning of major ports in India and to vest the administration control and management of such ports upon the boards of Major Port Authorities.

→ It has also started Project UNNATI - to identify opportunities for improvement in the operations of major ports.

⇒ FURTHER SUGGESTIONS : ~~same~~

- Increase Investment and cargo traffic point towards a healthy outlook for the Indian ports sector.
- Public-Private-Partnership (POP) model needs to be strengthened to give boost to the domestic shipbuilding and shipping industries.
- This ^{will} not ~~also~~ only contribute towards long-term economic growth of our country but will also promote 'Make in India' initiative and make a self-sufficient India (Atmanirbhar Bharat).