

5. One Nation One Port- Economy

ONOP to Cut Documentation by 33%. The "One Nation, One Port" initiative seeks to harmonize India's maritime sector by standardizing procedures across all major and non-major ports and reducing documentation by roughly 33% to lower logistics costs. It leverages digital tools like the MAITRI platform and the Sagar Ankalan index to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and integration with global value chains.

One Nation, One Port (ONOP) Initiative

Introduction- The One Nation, One Port (ONOP) Process is a flagship reform launched by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW). It aims to unify the currently fragmented port ecosystem in India by creating a uniform, efficient, and technology-driven framework. The core vision is to standardize procedures across all ports to enhance India's competitiveness in global trade and reduce logistics inefficiencies.

Objectives

Standardization- To enforce uniform port-related procedures and regulatory clearances across the country.

Cost & Time Reduction- To significantly lower transaction times and logistics costs, which are currently higher than global benchmarks.

Ease of Doing Business- To simplify maritime trade processes, making it easier for exporters and importers to operate.

Global Hub Positioning- To elevate Indian ports to international standards, positioning India as a global maritime and logistics hub.

Key Features of ONOP

Standardized Port Operations

Uniformity- Implementation of uniform documentation, customs procedures, and clearance mechanisms across all major and non-major ports.

Elimination of Disparity- Removes delays caused by port-specific practices and varying interpretations of rules by local authorities.

Reduction in Documentation Burden- The framework significantly cuts down the paperwork required for trade

1. **Container Cargo-** Documentation reduced by 33% (from 143 to 96 documents).
2. **Bulk Cargo-** Documentation reduced by 29% (from 150 to 106 documents).
3. **Impact-** This leads to faster cargo movement and lower compliance costs for traders.

Sagar Ankalan – Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI)

Data-Driven Ranking- Introduction of a new index to measure and rank the efficiency of ports based on real-time data.

Competition- Encourages healthy competition among ports to align with global logistics benchmarks and improve service delivery.

MAITRI Digital Platform

Tech Integration- Leverages AI (Artificial Intelligence) and Blockchain technology to automate trade approvals.

Virtual Trade Corridors (VTCs)- Supports the creation of digital corridors with key trading partners like the UAE, BIMSTEC nations, and ASEAN.

Benefits- Enhances transparency, traceability, and predictability in cross-border trade flows.

Green and Smart Port Infrastructure

Sustainability- Promotes low-carbon logistics and the adoption of renewable energy within port complexes.

Smart Tech- Encourages the use of smart technologies for port management.

Climate Goals- Aligns port development with India's climate commitments (Net Zero) and sustainable shipping goals.

Maritime Development Fund

1. **Financial Support-** Provides funding for domestic shipyards and maritime infrastructure projects.
2. **Industry Support-** Specifically aims to strengthen India's shipbuilding, ship repair, and ancillary industries to reduce reliance on foreign entities.

Strategic Importance of ONOP

Lowering Logistics Cost

Current Challenge- India's logistics cost is high at 13–14% of GDP, compared to 8–10% in developed economies (Germany, Japan).

ONOP Solution- By cutting documentation (33% for containers) and standardizing processes, the initiative directly lowers transaction and compliance costs, aiming to bring national logistics costs down to single digits.

Improving Global Rankings

Performance- India has historically lagged in logistics benchmarks due to procedural delays.

LPI Improvement- In the World Bank's Logistics Performance Index (LPI), India improved from Rank 54 (2014) to Rank 38 (2023).

Future Gain- ONOP is expected to further boost this ranking by improving customs efficiency and infrastructure quality.

Integration with Global Value Chains (GVCs)

Just-in-Time- Modern manufacturing relies on "Just-in-Time" logistics. Fragmented rules previously made Indian ports unpredictable.

Predictability- ONOP ensures time-bound clearances.

Partnerships- The **MAITRI platform** facilitates smoother integration with global partners (UAE, ASEAN) through Virtual Trade Corridors.

Supporting National Strategies (Atmanirbhar Bharat & PM Gati Shakti)

Atmanirbhar Bharat- Incentives for domestic shipyards reduce dependence on foreign vessels. Efficient ports lower input costs for domestic manufacturers, making Indian goods more competitive globally.

PM Gati Shakti

Multimodal Integration- ONOP ensures seamless connectivity between ports and rail, road, and inland waterways.

Last-Mile Connectivity- Standardized processes support better linkage with economic zones and manufacturing clusters.

Comparative Snapshot- Pre-ONOP vs. Post-ONOP

Feature	Pre-ONOP Status	Post-ONOP Framework
Procedures	Fragmented; varied by port.	Standardized across all ports.
Documentation (Container)	~143 documents required.	96 documents (33% reduction).
Documentation (Bulk)	~150 documents required.	106 documents (29% reduction).
Clearance	Manual, prone to delays.	Automated via MAITRI (AI/Blockchain).
Performance Tracking	Lack of unified metrics.	Sagar Ankalan (LPPI) for data-driven ranking.

Conclusion

The One Nation, One Port initiative is a transformative reform that addresses the structural bottlenecks of India's maritime sector. By harmonizing operations through standardization, digitization, and sustainability, it not only enhances the ease of doing business but also strategically positions India to become a global maritime hub. Aligned with the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and PM Gati Shakti, ONOP is crucial for transitioning India towards an export-led growth model.

Source- <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/epaper/delhicapital/2025/dec/10/et-comp/onop-to-cut-documentation-by-33/articleshow/125877411.cms?from=mdr>