

1. Blue Ports – Economy

India signs agreement with FAO to strengthen Blue Port infrastructure in India. India has partnered with the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to launch the Blue Port Initiative, aiming to develop smart, tech-enabled, and sustainable fishing harbours. Supported by schemes like PMMSY, the initiative uses eco-friendly infrastructure to modernize the fisheries sector and enhance export competitiveness.

India-FAO Partnership for Blue Ports

India and the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations have signed a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) agreement. This partnership is aimed at strengthening and modernizing Blue Port infrastructure across India's extensive coastline.

About the Global Blue Ports Initiative

The Blue Ports Initiative is a global concept focused on transforming fishing harbours into hubs of comprehensive and sustainable development.

Core Goal – It seeks to transform marine and coastal areas into zones that are socially, economically, and environmentally sustainable.

Methodology – The initiative is built on a foundation of collaboration among all stakeholders, including government bodies, local communities, and the private sector.

Role of Fishing Ports – Fishing ports are recognized as central hubs of the maritime industry that directly impact local communities. The initiative aims to develop these ports into strategic platforms for growth and value creation at local, national, and regional levels.

The Blue Ports Framework in India

India is adopting the Blue Ports framework to create a new generation of fishing harbours that are efficient, eco-friendly, and resilient.

Objective – To develop smart, sustainable, and inclusive fishing harbours.

Nodal Ministry – The Department of Fisheries (DoF), under the Ministry of Fisheries, Animal Husbandry & Dairying, is leading the implementation.

Key Features of India's Blue Ports Framework

The framework integrates modern technology with sustainable practices, backed by robust government support.

Feature Category	Key Components & Actions
Technology Integration	Adoption of cutting-edge technologies like 5G, AI, automation, IoT, digital platforms, and satellite communication for efficient and transparent harbour operations.
Eco-friendly Infrastructure	Implementation of green practices such as rainwater harvesting, energy-efficient lighting, comprehensive sewage treatment, and systems for marine debris clean-up.
Climate Resilience & Competitiveness	Focus on ensuring sustainable fishing practices and strengthening the competitiveness of India's seafood exports by meeting global standards.
Flagship Policy Support	The initiative is financially and programmatically backed by two major government schemes – the Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY) and the Fisheries and Aquaculture Infrastructure Development Fund (FIDF).

Pilot Projects and Implementation

FAO-Supported Pilots – The ports of Vanakbara (Diu) and Jakhau (Gujarat) have been selected as initial pilot projects to receive direct technical support under the FAO's TCP.

PMMSY-Approved Harbours – Three Smart and Integrated Fishing Harbours have been approved for development under the PMMSY scheme –

1. Vanakbara (Diu)
2. Karaikal (Puducherry)
3. Jakhau (Gujarat)

The total investment for these three projects is ₹369.8 crore.

Global Model – The Port of Vigo in Spain is being studied as a model case study for its success in integrating sustainability and innovation in its operations.

Significance of the Blue Port Initiative for India

This initiative is a crucial step forward for India's fisheries sector and blue economy.

Fisheries Modernization – It will significantly strengthen post-harvest infrastructure, which is vital for reducing waste and ensuring food and nutritional security.

Export Competitiveness – By aligning with global standards, it enhances India's role and reputation in the international seafood market.

Livelihoods – It is expected to boost the incomes of fishing communities by improving efficiency, reducing operational costs, and creating new value-added opportunities.

Environmental Protection – The initiative strikes a critical balance between economic viability and ecological health, promoting the long-term sustainability of marine resources.

Global Best Practices – The collaboration with the FAO ensures that India's port development is aligned with the latest international sustainability norms and best practices.

Source - [https - //www.business-standard.com/markets/capital-market-news/india-signs-agreement-with-fao-to-strengthen-blue-port-infrastructure-in-india-125091900265_1.html](https://www.business-standard.com/markets/capital-market-news/india-signs-agreement-with-fao-to-strengthen-blue-port-infrastructure-in-india-125091900265_1.html)

