



Vallarpadam Terminal

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Why in News

Recently, the **Ministry of Shipping** reviewed the development of the **country's first trans-shipment hub - Kochi International Container Trans-shipment Terminal (ICTT)**.

ICTT is **locally known as the Vallarpadam Terminal**.

Key Points

- **Trans-shipment Hub:**
 - It is a **terminal** at a port which handles containers, stores them temporarily and transfers them to other ships for the onward destination.
 - It basically **acts as a switching point** for cargo carried by deep-sea vessels operating on trans-continental trade routes.
- **Vallarpadam Terminal:**
 - It is a **part of the Cochin Port** in Kochi, **Kerala**. It is located on **Vallarpadam Island**.
 - It was built with an **investment of about Rs. 3,200 crore**, shared by the government and the Dubai-government-owned entity (Dubai Ports World).
 - It was opened in February 2011 and can handle cargo up to one million TEUs (Twenty-foot equivalent units) per annum.
 - It is proposed to be a **leading trans-shipment hub of South Asia**. This is because of its:
 - Proximity to International sea routes.
 - Location with respect to all Indian feeder (secondary/smaller) ports.
 - Proximity to key hinterland markets of India.
 - Large infrastructure to manage large ships and capacity to scale it up as per requirement.

- **Expected Benefits:**

- It will **cut India's dependence on neighboring hub ports** such as Colombo in Sri Lanka, Jebel Ali in Dubai and Port Klang in Malaysia to send and receive container cargo, thus saving time and cost for exporters and importers.
- It is in line with the Prime Minister's vision of **Atmanirbhar Bharat**. It will ensure that Indian cargo trans-ship through an Indian Port.
Further, the Indian ocean is one of the most critical maritime transportation links in the world.
- It will **facilitate the setting up of port based industries** and their allied facilities such as Container Freight Station, Island Container Depots, etc. in Kerala which will generate additional employment opportunities.

Source: PIB