



Sagarmala Seaplane Services

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Why in News

The **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** is starting the ambitious Project of **Sagarmala Seaplane Services (SSPS)** with potential airline operators.

A seaplane is a **fixed-wing aeroplane** designed for taking off and landing on water.

Key Points

- **Mechanism:**
 - The project is being initiated under a **Special Purpose Vehicle (SPV) framework** through prospective airline operators.
 - **SPV** is a legal object formed for a **specifically-defined singular purpose**.
- **Project Implementation:**
 - The project execution and implementation would be through **Sagarmala Development Company Ltd (SDCL)**, which is under the administrative control of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.
 - Airline operators will be invited to form a SPV with SDCL.
 - The routes may be operated under the government's subsidised **ude desh ka aam nagrik (UDAN) scheme**.
- **Location:** Several destinations are envisaged for seaplane operations:



- **Benefits and Significance:**
 - The seaplanes services will be a game-changer providing a **supplementary means of faster and comfortable transportation across the nation.**
 - Apart from providing air connectivity to various remote religious/tourist places, it will **boost tourism for domestic and international holiday makers.**
 - It will **save travel time** and **stimulate localized short distance travelling** especially in the hilly regions or across the rivers/lakes etc.
 - It will provide **infrastructure enhancements** at the places of operations.
 - It will **generate employment opportunities.**
- **Previous Project:**

One such Seaplane Service is already in operation between **Kevadia and Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad** which was inaugurated in October 2020.

Sagarmala Programme

- The Sagarmala Programme was **approved by the Union Cabinet in 2015** which aims at holistic port infrastructure development along the 7,516-km long coastline through modernisation, mechanisation and computerisation.
- Under this port-led development framework, the government hopes to increase its cargo traffic three-fold.
- It also includes the establishment of rail/road linkages with the port terminals, thus providing last-mile connectivity to ports; development of linkages with new regions, enhanced multi-modal connectivity including rail, inland water, coastal and road services.

Source:PIB