

India Gains Sittwe Port Access

Source: BS

Recently, the **Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** has approved a proposal for **India Ports Global Ltd (IPGL)** to take over the operations of the entire **Sittwe port** located on the **Kaladan River, Myanmar.** It will be **India's 2nd overseas** port after **Chabahar Port.**

• IPGL is a company 100% owned by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Sittwe Port:

- The Sittwe Port, located in the Rakhine State of Myanmar, is a crucial component of the Kaladan multi-modal transit transport project.
- The <u>deep-water port</u> offers a significant connectivity advantage for cargo to reach from Vizag and Kolkata to the Northeastern states, bypassing Bangladesh.
- It will also reduce dependency on the Siliguri Corridor (or the chicken's neck) squeezed between Bhutan and Bangladesh.
- India's operational control over these 2 overseas ports, Chabahar and Sittwe, will strengthen India's maritime influence to counter <u>China's String of Pearls policy</u> with ports like Hambantota in Sri Lanka, Djibouti in Africa, etc.



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