



Harit Sagar: The Green Port Guidelines 2023

For Prelims: Harit Sagar Green Port Guidelines 2023, [Zero Carbon Emission Goal](#), Sagar Shreshtha Samman awards, Green Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard.

For Mains: Harit Sagar: The Green Port Guidelines 2023, [Zero Carbon Emission Goal](#).

Why in News?

Recently, the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways** has launched 'Harit Sagar' **Green Port Guidelines** 2023 to achieve the [Zero Carbon Emission Goal](#).

- **Sagar Shreshtha Samman** awards were also conferred to major ports for their exceptional achievements in various operational parameters.

What are Harit Sagar Guidelines 2023?

▪ About:

- Harit Sagar is a Sanskrit term that means “**green ocean**”. It reflects the vision of making **India's ports more environmentally friendly and sustainable**.
- They also cover aspects of the [National Green Hydrogen Mission](#) pertaining to ports, development of green hydrogen facility, LNG bunkering, and Offshore Wind Energy among others.
- These guidelines also provide **the provision for adopting the global Green Reporting Initiative (GRI) standard**.

▪ Objectives:

- To promote the **adoption of best practices and technologies for green port development** and operations, such as [renewable energy](#), [water conservation](#), **biodiversity protection**, and [climate resilience](#).
- To minimize waste through **Reduce, Reuse, Repurpose and Recycle** to attain zero waste discharge from port operations.
- To establish a **rating system for assessing and benchmarking** the environmental performance of ports based on **various indicators and parameters**.
- To **incentivize and recognize the ports** that achieve high standards of environmental excellence and sustainability.
- To facilitate the integration of green port principles into the planning, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of port infrastructure and services.

▪ Significance:

- They are aligned with **India's commitments under the [Paris Agreement](#) and the [Sustainable Development Goals](#)**, as well as the national policies and initiatives such as the [National Action Plan on Climate Change](#), and the [Swachh Bharat Mission](#).
- They are expected to enhance **India's image and reputation as a responsible maritime nation** that cares for its environment and its people.
- They are expected to create new opportunities for **innovation, investment, employment, and collaboration in the port sector**.

▪ **Benefits:**

- Enhancing the **competitiveness and attractiveness** of ports by improving their **efficiency, reliability, safety, and quality of service**.
- Reducing the **operational costs** and **increasing the revenue generation** potential of ports by optimizing the use of resources and minimizing waste.
- Improving the **environmental compliance**.
- Mitigating the environmental impacts and risks of port activities by reducing **greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution, noise pollution, water pollution, and marine litter**.
- Contributing to the national and global goals of sustainable development and climate action by supporting the transition to a **low-carbon and circular economy**.

What are the Challenges and Barriers for Implementing?

- Lack of **awareness and capacity** among port stakeholders.
- Lack of **coordination and collaboration** among different agencies and sectors.
- Inadequate **data and information on environmental aspects of ports**.
- **Weak enforcement and monitoring mechanisms** for environmental compliance.

What are India's Efforts for Green Port Development?

▪ **Initiatives:**

- **Green Port Awards, Green Port Policy, and Sagarmala Programme.**

▪ **Setting Targets:**

- Increase the share of renewable energy in ports, reduce **carbon emissions per ton of cargo handled**, and adopt **green fuels** and technologies for port operations.

▪ **Selection as Pilot Country:**

- India selected as the **first country under the IMO Green Voyage 2050** project to conduct a pilot project related to green shipping.

What is the Sagar Shreshtha Samman Award?

- The Sagar Shreshtha Samman Award is conferred by the **Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways** to major ports in India for their outstanding achievements in various operational parameters.
 - The award recognizes ports that demonstrate high standards of environmental excellence and sustainability.
- The awards for FY2022-23 are:



Conclusion

- The Harit Sagar guidelines are a visionary initiative that will transform the Indian port sector and make it more sustainable and resilient in the face of the changing climate and market conditions.
- The guidelines will not **only benefit the ports but also the environment and society at large.**
 - They will also enhance India's image and reputation as a responsible maritime nation that cares for its environment and its people. The Harit Sagar guidelines are a **shining example of how India is leading the way in green port development and operations.**

[Source: PIB](#)

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