



PM Lays Foundation of India's 1st Freight Village

Why in News?

The **Prime Minister** laid the foundation for **key infrastructure projects in Varanasi**, including a **ship repair facility** and **India's first freight village**, under the '**Prosperity from the Sea**' initiative, aimed at boosting water transport and creating employment.

- He emphasized the role of waterways in strengthening the economy and creating jobs, aligning with the vision of '**Make in India.**'

Key Points.

- **First Freight Village in India:** The freight village is located over 100 hectares in Milkipur, Chandauli district, and will serve as a **logistics hub**, connecting **different transport modes** for smoother and more affordable goods movement.
 - It will link Haldia, Patna, Kolkata, and Kashi with **eco-friendly freighters** that cut transport costs by approximately 50% compared to road and rail.
- **India's First Dry-Dock Facility:** Located in Ramnagar, Varanasi, this **dry-dock**, India's first along the **Ganga River**, will be capable of repairing four vessels simultaneously, reducing both repair times and costs.
 - This will enhance regional development and provide **sustainable employment** opportunities for the youth in the **Purvanchal region**.

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