

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Draft of Indian Ports Bill (2020) has been issued for public consultation

December 11, 2020

Relevant to Mahindra Logistics & IO

The aim of the Bill

- The Bill seeks to provide increased opportunities for public and private investments in the Indian maritime and ports sector by way of removing barriers to entry, simplifying processes and establishment of agencies and bodies to plan and enable growth of the ports sector.
- The up-to-date provisions of the proposed Bill would ensure safety, security, pollution control, performance standards and sustainability of Ports.
- The Bill ensures that all up-to-date conventions /protocols to which India is a party, are also suitably incorporated. This will promote marine safety and security in the true sense.
- The Bill will fill up the gaps for achieving scientific development of Ports and Port Network.
- The Bill seeks to provide increased opportunities for public and private investments in the Indian maritime and ports sector by way of removing barriers to entry, simplifying processes and establishment of agencies and bodies to plan and enable growth of the ports sector.
- Enhancing “Ease of Doing Business”, it will provide greater impetus to a self-reliant domestic investment climate in the maritime sector, towards Atamanirbhar Bharat initiatives of the Government.

The Bill also seeks to create an enabling environment for the growth and sustained development of the ports sector in India through the following broad methods:

- Constitution of Maritime Port Regulatory Authority
- Formulation of the National Port policy and National Port plan in consultation with Coastal State Governments, State Maritime Boards and other stakeholders.

- Formulation of specialised Adjudicatory Tribunals namely Maritime Ports Tribunal and Maritime Ports Appellate Tribunal to curb any anti-competitive practises in the port sector and act as a speedy and affordable grievance redressal mechanism.

For Further Reading

1. <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1679974>
2. <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/politics-and-nation/govt-issues-draft-ports-bill-for-consultation/articleshow/79679420.cms>