

# Draft Indian Ports Bill 2022 to promote ease of doing business

Bill, up for stakeholder feedback, seeks to streamline development of the sector

## OUR BUREAU

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The draft Indian Ports Bill, 2022, which intends to consolidate and amend laws relating to ports, is now available for stakeholder consultation and feedback.

In a statement issued on Thursday, the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways said it seeks feedback and suggestions from stakeholders.

It will also replace the more than century-old Indian Ports Act, 1908.

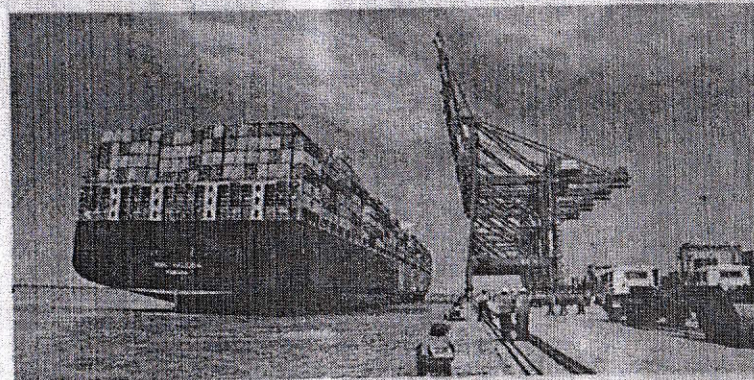
### Primary objectives

The primary objectives of the proposed Bill are to promote integrated planning between the Centre and the States; ensure prevention of pollution at ports; address lacunae in dis-

pute resolution framework; and usher in transparency and cooperation in development through the use of data.

The proposed Bill intends to streamline development of the sector, promoting ease of doing business, eliminating unnecessary delays and disagreements, and defining responsibilities. It will incorporate State Maritime Boards into the national framework too.

Additionally, the Maritime State Development Council will ensure cooperative federalism with the Centre and State Governments and Union Territories working together. Existing penalties in the Act which are outdated have been updated with respect to amounts and offences relevant to the present-day scenario.



The Ports Bill seeks to repeal and replace the Act of 1908 vintage PTI

Three earlier versions of the Bill were circulated by the Ministry to various stakeholders, including major ports, State governments, State Maritime Boards and various central government ministries.

The Draft IP Bill, 2022 has been formulated, keeping in view all the remarks that have been received, the Ministry said in a statement.

About 95 per cent of India's trade by volume and 65 per cent by value is done through

maritime transport facilitated by ports.

Under the government's Sagarmala programme of port-based development, several initiatives for port-led development have been identified and launched. The ongoing developments and committed investments (public and private) in ports need to be aided by scientific and consultative planning, with a keen focus on ever increasing safety, security, and environmental issues.