

PARLIAMENT QUESTION: White Paper on Blue Economy

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The Ministry's white paper titled, "Transforming India's Blue Economy: Investment, Innovation and Sustainable Growth," aims to unlock India's marine resource potential by strategically leveraging sustained investment in blue infrastructure, research and ocean innovation. It emphasizes fostering public-private partnerships and targeted financial mechanisms. The paper outlines a roadmap to 2035, prioritizing feasible projects and building investor confidence to establish the blue economy as a vital engine for national development.

The white paper confirms collaborative efforts across various ocean-related sectors involving 25 central ministries/departments, coastal states, and union territories.

The white paper identifies specific models demonstrating economic growth and environmental sustainability:

- **Community-led seaweed cultivation in Odisha:** This initiative addresses the socio-economic vulnerability of fishing communities due to dwindling fish stocks by offering seaweed cultivation as a low-investment, high-impact alternative livelihood. It provides supplementary income for over 10,000 coastal households and is estimated to absorb dissolved carbon dioxide, contributing to climate change mitigation and improving water quality.
- **Kochi's smart port transformation:** Integrating digital twin technology, this has led to improved operational efficiency, reduced vessel waiting times, and better resource utilization, enhancing sustainability through precise environmental monitoring.
- **Alang, Gujarat's shipbreaking transformation:** Adhering to Hong Kong International Convention standards, Alang now maximizes resource recovery, with steel and non-ferrous metals channeled back into the economy, and hazardous waste managed through dedicated facilities and bioremediation, minimizing environmental impact.
- **Andaman and Nicobar Islands' sustainable tourism:** Initiatives like eco-friendly infrastructure and community-led eco-tours have generated significant revenue and jobs, while bans on single-use plastics and Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) have preserved coral reefs and cut tourist-zone waste.

This information was given by Dr. Jitendra Singh, Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Science and Technology, Earth Sciences, MoS PMO, MoS Personnel, Public Grievances & Pensions, Department of Atomic Energy and Department of Space, in a written reply in the Rajya Sabha today.

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