

Chapter 7 Infrastructure Development and Investment in Hinterland Connectivity for Indian Ports: A Sustainable Approach

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ABSTRACT

With global trade booming, efficient Indian ports are crucial. However, weak hinterland connectivity, the link to inland areas, hinders their effectiveness. This review examines how infrastructure development, investment, and hinterland connectivity impact port efficiency, competitiveness, and costs. It explores historical trends,

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current infrastructure status, and investment scenarios. Successful case studies offer insights into seamless port-hinterland integration. The analysis considers emerging technologies and government initiatives like Sagarmala. Ultimately, the review aims to inform policy recommendations for sustainable growth, highlighting the importance of continued investment and strategic infrastructure development for Indian ports to thrive globally.

INTRODUCTION

In the complex network of global trade, Indian ports (Hussain, A. 2018) stand as hubs, anchoring the nation's economic aspirations and facilitating seamless connectivity to the world. The significance of Indian ports (Jayakumar, T. 2017) goes beyond mere geographical boundaries, playing a critical role in shaping the trajectory of international commerce and trade. Cushioned along the vast coastline of the Indian subcontinent, these ports serve as gateways to a growing economy, linking diverse industries and trade partners across continents.

The importance of Indian ports in the global trade ecosystem is underscored by their strategic locations and capacity to handle a substantial volume of goods. As channels for imports and exports, these ports act as vital outlets for raw materials, finished products, and commodities that traverse the oceans, forming the lifeblood of India's economic strength.

Yet, the efficacy of these maritime gateways extends beyond the immediate shores. The success of Indian ports hinges intricately on the symbiotic relationship between robust infrastructure and hinterland connectivity (Acciaro, M., & McKinnon, A. 2015). Infrastructure development, encompassing state-of-the-art terminals, efficient cargo handling systems, and streamlined logistical networks, is the backbone that reinforces the functionality of these ports. Equally integral is the hinterland (Aregall, M. G., Bergqvist, R., & Monios, J. 2018) connectivity that ensures a seamless flow of goods to and from the ports, knitting together the coastal terminals with the vast hinterlands that define India's economic landscape (Bajaj, P., & Youdon, C. 2021).

This paper embarks on a journey to explore the degree of interplay between infrastructure development, investment strategies, and hinterland connectivity in the context of Indian ports (Behdani, B., et.,al. (2020). By navigating through the historical evolution of these ports and critically examining their current state, this review paper aims to explore the factors that contribute to the success and challenges faced by Indian ports in the global trade ecosystem. As we examine into the complex dynamics of this relationship, we unearth the essential components that drive Indian ports towards becoming not just regional hubs but key players in the ever-evolving narrative of global commerce (Bergqvist, R., & Wilmsmeier, G. 2016).

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