

Blue Economy-Wave 12

(Series on "Blue Economy" By Capt. Gajanan Karanjikar)

Ocean Technologies:

Ocean technologies correspond to technologies used for -

- renewable energy production,
- deep-sea mining,
- freshwater production from sea,
- offshore structural components,
- ocean acoustics,
- seabed classification,
- modelling of oceanic processes,
- ocean electronics,
- marine biotechnology,
- aquaculture,
- coastal and
- Environmental engineering.

The potential of those technologies are vast in terms of their future contribution to energy supply, production process, drug development, seabed management, and so on. The development of ocean technologies may get more attention in coastal economies

pursing blue economy. In conventional policies for oceans, the nature of resource allocation and the mind-set delay the process of implementation, sometimes leading to project closure.

As highlighted above, blue economy encompasses a wide range of sectors that could address key developmental challenges facing the coastal economies. Blue economy as a concept is not much explored in India because there are no specialised courses. And hence there is immense need to develop the academic course on this so that the more and more number of people can take part in exporting the ocean wealth. Government will have to create a complete eco-system for blue economy. There are courses of Ocean engineering available but how much they cover the holistic aspects of BE is not known.

While Blue Economy deals with all the economic issues in the maritime domain, Maritime Power too encompasses some



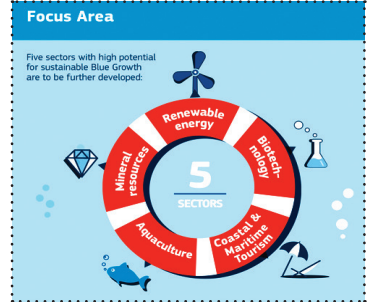
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Multi Modal Logistics Expert

components of the maritime economy. However, there is no literature linking the two. As a result, there is considerable misunderstanding on the convergence, leading to incoherence in prioritisation. The Indian government has laid significant emphasis on the development of maritime infrastructure. However, government reports by Ministries and Departments do not explicitly state how these projects integrate

with SDGs and the nation's Blue Economy.

As we have seen the opportunities in India with respect to Blue economy in various sectors of Maritime as well as riverine economy it is necessary to look at the Policy making for this direction. Seeking policy making in India is tedious process as the policies are made by Law makers and Policy decisions are always all inclusive. It has always made me wonder, the public policy making involves the Governance as well administration, new initiative policy making also involves lot of work and goes through the grind of Governance system and acceptance.

The word **Blue Economy** is new to India but not the concept. We have been using ports and waterways effectively since age old history. In fact to make a bold statement, India's major history is Maritime. The settlement on Indian coast was high and India coastal areas were always manufacturing bases. We were forced to be in agriculture by British rulers who took away all the manufacturing techniques to Europe and left Indians with



agriculture as it is most laborious industry. Anyhow but this was not the case 2000 years BC, when Lothal was functioning, lot of Riverine economy and water transport was then being used along the most prominent rivers in India. The Indian rivers were tricky and only locals had the knowledge about it. The currents in the rivers were strong and every changing. British Rulers also brought about the change in mode of transport. They formed lot of transport policy which took away the local knowledge from application and thus all our policy making has been stuck around British Policy making systems, which in short meant to make it simple and back bone breaking of Indian known systems.

(To be continued...)

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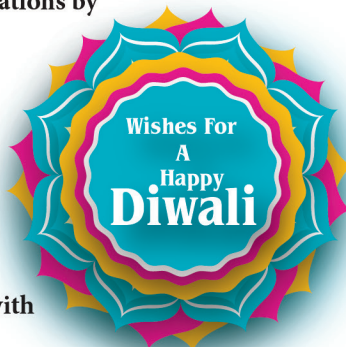
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