

Chapter-7

CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF BLUE ECONOMY AND OCEAN GOVERNANCE IN INDIA: A CRITICAL STUDY OF THE POLICY FRAMEWORK

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ABSTRACT

Blue economy is basically a subset or an element of the national economy. As the term suggests, it includes a variety of ocean resources that can be utilized to boost economic development, environmental sustainability as well as national security. In India, the socio-economic landscape presented by ocean-based economy is vast and full of opportunities. Ocean-based sectors including fisheries, tourism, shipping, marine research, mining, etc., play a vital role in generating employment. An efficient blue economy framework facilitates the exploration of a multitude of opportunities relating to investment and long-term development. In terms of numbers, India is a huge hub of ocean-based economic and maritime activities. With a massive coastline of around 7500 kilometers, 9 coastal states, 1382 islands, 205 minor and intermediate ports, and 12 major ports that handle around 1400 million tons of cargo every year, India is positioned to be a leader in blue economy and ocean governance. We have a large number of fisherfolk and coastal communities as well. Regulation of such activities certainly requires bold policy measures. The author, through this article, attempts to explore the future of blue economy in India in terms of development and sustainability. The author also touches upon the contemporary issues and challenges in the domain.

Keywords: Blue Economy, Ocean Governance, Blue Economy Policy, Coastal State, Sustainable Development.

INTRODUCTION

According to the “Global Ocean Commission” estimates, the resources of the ocean: (1) make up for 5% of the total GDP worldwide; (2) provide employment to approximately three bn people; and (3) sustain the livelihood of 350 million people.¹ These estimates really drive our attention towards the ocean and what it has to offer. Flourishing future of humanity lies in the ocean and countries around the world have started participating.

The philosophy of Blue Economy was presented at the United Nations University (UNU) by Professor Gunter Pauli wherein he deliberated both growth and threat aspects of the ocean. He discussed the potential of economic growth along with the perceivable global warming

¹ Jose Maria Figueres, ‘From Decline to Recovery: A Rescue Package for the Ocean’ (GEF Blog, 15 June 2018) < <https://www.thegef.org/blog/decline-recovery-rescue-package-ocean> > accessed on 24-11-2023.

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