

## **Topic: Economic and Strategic Significance of Coastal India**

The essay should mainly cover the following broad points:

### **1. Emerging sectors of marine based economic activities**

This section would discuss the role of coastal lines as a source of diversified livelihood opportunities and the technology driven emerging sectors. How important are the emerging sectors like deep sea fishing, marine tourism, biotechnology and marine derived pharmaceuticals for economic growth, nutrition and food security? What is the role of technology and conducive legal framework to benefit from these activities? What are India's opportunities and challenges?

### **2. Blue economy:**

This section should analyse the importance of coastal lines for a sustainable model of 'blue economy' which can potentially contribute to development of the region and country as a whole. What is 'blue economy'? What are its basic principles? What significance does it hold for a sustainable and inclusive growth across sectors? What are the experiences of other nations?

### **3. Maritime security:**

What are the implications of the changing geo-political and strategic environment on maritime security? How a rise in the elements of complexity and unpredictability in external threat along the coastal lines can impact on the country's security challenges? Critically analyse how far recent maritime security establishments and strategies address the security challenges?

### **4. Seaborne trade:**

The essay should discuss the significance of seaborne trade in country's international trade. How India's strategic location in Indian Ocean helped easy access to important trade routes? Rising volume of maritime trade, its composition and economic significance. What is the infrastructure gap in maritime transport and what are the requisite investments for sustainable growth in this sector? What is the strategic significance of ship building industry, what are the challenges it is facing and how the recent supportive measures taken will be helpful in rejuvenating the industry? Can India play a leading role in transshipment traffic in Indian Ocean? What are the geographic and structural challenges for this? Are the policy measures taken in this direction are sufficient?

### **5. Industrial development in coastal regions:**

This section should analyse the significance of port led industrial development of coastal areas by harnessing geographical and other natural advantages. What are the recent policy measures taken in this direction? What are the coastal economic zones (CEZs)? How does the economy stand to gain from CEZs?

## **6. Mining and energy security:**

This section should focus on the significance of India's recent endeavors to tap the unexplored possibilities of mining and energy from oceans. How important are India's deep sea mining of polymetallic nodules and rare earth for economy? What is the strategic significance of deep sea mining for India? What is the significance of renewable energy from oceanic tides, waves and thermal gradient for meeting growing demand for energy in a sustainable way? How far India is technologically prepared to harness the potential of mining and energy from ocean?