

**High Commission of India
Nairobi

**Statement by Shri Nitin Gadkari,
Hon'ble Minister of Road Transport & Highways; Shipping; and Water
Resources, Rivers Development & Ganga Rejuvenation, Republic of India
at The Leaders Commitment Segment, Sustainable Blue Economy Conference,
Nairobi, Kenya on 28 November, 2018**

Excellencies, Distinguished participants, Ladies and Gentlemen

- Congratulations to Kenya and the co-hosts Canada & Japan for hosting this Conference which provides a global forum for contributing to and advancing a global discussion on **Blue Economy**.
- India is a nation with rich maritime history. It is home to some of the oldest seaports in the world- the waters of the Indian Ocean have not only facilitated trade but also helped to carry India's culture, religion, and ideas far and wide.
- The "Blue Economy" is an important part of India's economic development agenda. We have a vast coastline of more than **7,500Km and over 1,300 island territories with more than 95% of our trade being carried on by sea.**
- On the basis of its strategic location of the Indian Ocean region, India supports the growth of the Blue Economy in a **sustainable, inclusive and people centred manner** through the framework of the **Indian Ocean Rim Association**.
- India is developing its maritime infrastructure as well as its inland waterways and coastal shipping through the launch of the ambitious "**Sagarmala Programme**" which will revolutionize maritime logistics and port led developments in India, with 600 projects leading to investment of \$ 120 billion.
- Our **National Vision** for the Blue Economy is stated as "**SAGAR**"- **Security and Growth for All in the Region** coined by our **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**. In Hindi the word 'Sagar' means Ocean.
- As a part of Sagarmala, Coastal Employment Zones are being developed with a proposed investment of **\$ 150 Million** for each zone. The CEZs will provide employment and business opportunities to the coastal communities.
- These include: Skill gap analysis, skill development centres to train coastal communities, sustainable use of ocean resources, modern fishing techniques and coastal tourism in this regard investment of \$1.10 Bn is planned across various coastal districts in India

- To encourage **“responsible utilization of resources rather than indiscriminate exploitation” green initiatives** are being pursued in ports, such as:
 - Captive solar power generation leading to self-sufficiency.
 - Installation of Oil Spill response facilities.
 - Recycling waste water.
- As we move towards harnessing the potential of the Blue Economy, I would like to highlight the following steps taken by my country:
 - The Honourable Prime Minister of India has taken a dynamic initiative of Swachh Bharat which means clean India. We have extended it to the clean ocean and taken several measures to ensure cleanliness of the ocean and the community.
 - We have a very strict Coastal Regulation Zone control regime which ensures that the pollution from land does not spill over to the oceans.
 - We are committed to sustainable deep-sea fishing and an ecosystem for skill development of the coastal community including women in the fisheries sector.
 - We are promoting inland waterways in recognition of the fact that it is the least energy conserving method of transportation.
 - The oceans have emerged as global economic highways for transit of sea borne trade. We are following IMO standards to ensure safety and security of international shipping lanes from the vast threats and challenges in the maritime domain.
- The Blue Chakra of India’s national flag represents the potential of the Blue Economy. India is committed to working for the sustainable development of Blue Economy.

[Nairobi, 28 November 2018]