Mega Ports in India

Prelims: *Current events of national and international importance | Economy*

Why in News?

Recently, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has notified four ports as "mega ports," with the notification taking effect upon its publication in the Gazette of India.

Mega Port

***Mundra** Port is operated by **Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone** and is classified as a non-**major port**.*

India has 12 major ports and over 200 non-major ports.

- A port qualifies as a **mega port** if it meets the specified cargo-handling

threshold during the previous **financial year**.

- **Cargo-Handling Thresholds**
  - **Bulk Cargo Port –** At least 150 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo.
  - **Container Cargo Port –** At least 7.5 million twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs).

TEU refers to a twenty-foot equivalent unit.

- **Mixed Cargo Port –** If a port handles **both container and bulk cargo, the following applies:**
  - Container volumes must be converted into **tonnes.**
  - The conversion method is determined by the port's established procedures.
- Cargo throughput comprises the following categories:
  - Export cargo
  - Import cargo
  - Coastal cargo
  - Bulk cargo
  - Break-bulk cargo
  - Liquid cargo
  - Dry cargo
  - Containerised cargo
- **Duration –** Once a port meets the criteria,
  - It may be declared a mega port **within 90 days**.
  - The classification remains valid for 5 **years**.
  - If cargo throughput falls below the threshold during this period, the status remains unchanged.
  - The status will be **reviewed after 5 years**.
- **Status –** A mega port maintains its current classification as either:
  - **Major port**, or
  - **Non-major port**
- It remains subject to the laws that apply to its current category.

Paradip Port
• During 2025–26, it handled 156.45 million metric tonnes (MMT) of cargo. • It represents the **port's highest-ever cargo throughput.** • Among the four mega ports notified in 2026, Paradip Port is the **only one located on India's east coast.**

Reference

[The Hindu | Mega Ports in India]