JOURNAL ARTICLE

Maritime Connectivity and Port-Led Growth in the Bay of Bengal

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ABSTRACT

This article examines how new deep-sea and river ports around the Bay of Bengal are reshaping trade routes, and asks under what conditions port investment translates into broad-based growth rather than isolated enclaves.

KEYWORDS

Bay of Bengal, ports, maritime connectivity, regional trade, blue economy

FULL TEXT

Port investment has become a central part of development strategy across the Bay of Bengal. Bangladesh, India, Myanmar and Sri Lanka are all expanding capacity, often with financing from external partners.

Using trade and shipping data, the article compares port projects by their links to inland transport, customs efficiency and industrial zones. Ports with strong hinterland connections show far larger effects on regional exports.

The findings suggest that governments should treat ports as part of wider logistics corridors, coordinate customs procedures across borders, and avoid competing for the same transshipment traffic.

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