



सत्यमेव जयते

प्रधान मंत्री
Prime Minister

MESSAGE

It is heartening to learn about the inaugural edition of *Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue*. The concept of *Sagarmanthan* is central to our cultural pride, as described in our ancient texts, exemplifies how collaboration and effort can yield the tools and direction we need to ensure prosperity.

Heartiest congratulations and greetings to everyone associated with the organisation of this Dialogue.

Efforts of organisations like the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) in fostering meaningful dialogues are commendable. Collaborations and discussions not only add value to the global discourse on maritime developments, but they also ensure that our path forward is rooted in inclusion and innovation.

Such platforms not only encourage an exchange of ideas, but also provide experts with an opportunity to present their insights, enabling the people to understand the broader vision for our nation's growth and its vision for the future.

India's maritime tradition goes back several millennia and is among the richest in the world. The thriving port cities of Lothal and Dholavira, the fleets of the Chola dynasty, the exploits of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj are great inspirations.

Oceans are a shared heritage for nations and societies, as well as the lifeline for international trade. Today, the security and prosperity of nations is intimately connected to oceans. Recognising the potential of oceans, several transformative steps have been taken to bolster India's maritime capabilities.

Over the last decade, guided by the vision of 'Ports for Prosperity', 'Ports for Progress' and 'Ports For Productivity', we have doubled the capacity of our ports. By enhancing port efficiency, reducing turnaround times and strengthening last-mile connectivity through expressways, railways, and riverine networks, we have transformed India's shoreline.

Our vision for a free, open, and secure maritime network – be it the Indian Ocean or the Indo-Pacific region – is finding resonance across the world. The "Indo-Pacific Oceans Initiative" envisions marine resources as a key pillar for growth for nations.

May this Dialogue on Oceans further strengthen the rules-based world order and enhance peace, trust and friendship between nations.

As we strive to realize the vision of a Viksit Bharat by 2047, dialogues such as *Sagarmanthan* are invaluable to build consensus, partnerships and most importantly, a prosperous future.

With the collective efforts of all stakeholders, I am confident that these discussions will resonate far and wide, paving the way toward a brighter, more connected future.

Best wishes for making *Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue* a resounding success.

(Narendra Modi)

Camp Office, Nigeria

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