



सत्यमेव जयते

Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways
Government of India

INDIA STRIVING AHEAD TO EMBRACE **THE BLUE ECONOMY**

CANDIDATURE FOR ELECTION TO IMO COUNCIL -
CATEGORY B FOR BIENNIA 2026-27



Vue de Goa (1752) by Jacques Nicolas Bellin – shows Ribeira Grande and dockyards.

Sailing through Indian Maritime History

- India's maritime history began around 3000 BC with the Indus Valley Civilization.
- The civilization had maritime trade links with Mesopotamia.
- Excavations at Mohenjo-Daro, Harappa, and Lothal show evidence of active sea trade.
- Lothal's dry dock (2500 BC) is the earliest known dockyard in the world.
- It also featured religious sites like the Chapel of Cinco Chagas and the Church of Santos Mártires.
- During Portuguese rule, Goa became a major naval hub.
- The Ribeira Grande dockyard (1752) (later Arsenal da Marinha) built key ships like Cinco Chagas and Bom Jesus.
- Located near the Mandovi River, it was flanked by major quays and the Viceroy's Palace.
- The complex housed the Royal Mint, gun foundry, customs house, cargo depots, weighing station, and elephant stables.

India's Blue Horizon With opportunity

- India has been a seafaring nation for centuries.
- India's GDP is the fourth-largest globally with an estimated GDP of \$4.19 trillion and the third-largest by purchasing power parity (PPP).
- In FY 2024-25, cargo traffic at major Indian ports rose by 4.3% to 855 million tonnes.
- The country has an extensive coastline of around 11,098.8 km with more than 200 ports, geographically one of the world's largest peninsulas and a nexus for East-West shipping routes.



- India's maritime sector serves as the backbone of its trade and commerce, handling around 95% of the country's trade by volume and 70% by value.
- India's strategic Indian Ocean location, astride routes like the Malacca Strait, positions it as a potential transhipment hub, rivalling Singapore and Dubai.
- India allows **100% Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)** in shipping projects and offering a 10-year tax holidays.
- In 2023-24, major Indian ports reduced container turnaround time to 22.57 hours, exceeding global benchmarks.



- India has one of the largest merchant shipping fleets among the developing countries.
- India is the 19th largest ship owning cluster (an underweighted ~1.5% of world fleet and 22nd largest flag state (0.7%), but aims to have a top 5 fleet of 100m GT by 2047.
- Operational performance continued to improve in FY 2024-25, with Pre-Berthing Detention (PBD) Time (on port account) improving by 36% compared to last year. Financially, Major Ports witnessed an 8% increase in total income in FY 2024-25 and the operating surplus grew 7%.
- IWT based freight movement in the country has increased 7x times- from 18.1 MMT in FY 14 to 133.03 MMT in FY 24.



Strengthening Ties with IMO and Global Maritime Community

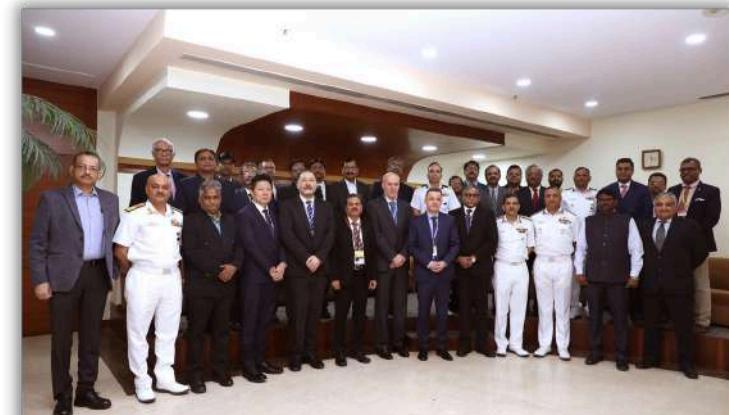
- India became a member of the IMO in 1959. India has had the privilege of being elected to the Council of the IMO ever since it started functioning, except for one term.
- India was among the first few countries that has ratified the SOLAS Convention in 1974
- As of 2025, India has ratified 47 ILO Conventions, 1 Protocol, and 18 of 36 IMO instruments, is party to 33 IMO treaties under the Merchant Shipping Act, with 7 more under consideration.



- Dr C.P. Srivastava has been the longest-serving IMO Secretary General from India and he has been instrumental in the establishment of World Maritime University, Malmo and International Maritime Law Institute, Malta
- India takes part actively in the various committees and working groups of the IMO.



- India has been actively participating in the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS), Shared Awareness & De-confliction (SHADE) & Friends of the Gulf of Guinea (FoGG) to curb the menace of piracy. India is also a part of the newly formed Contact Group on Illicit Maritime Activities (CGIMA).



- India in March 2024 successfully completed its first IMO Member State Audit Scheme (**IMSAS**) **audit**, demonstrating full compliance with all relevant IMO conventions, codes and guidelines and reaffirming the strength of its maritime regulatory framework.
- In 2024, India successfully underwent an **independent evaluation of the seafarers competence** acquisition & assessment activities, as mandated under Regulation I/7 of the STCW.



- India has entered into unilateral, bilateral agreements & MoUs regarding its maritime transport cooperation with 34 countries.
- The country has signed MoUs on recognition of certificates of seafarers with 40 countries.
- India is privileged to be the First Pilot Project country for the IMO-Norway Green Voyage 2050 Project and is also one of the leading Partner Countries in The GloLitter Partnerships Project
- India also engages proactively with other international maritime bodies, including IMSO, IOPC Funds, UNCTAD, and ESCAP.



India's Green Shipping Commitment

- India's National Green Shipping Policy (NGSP) is a flagship roadmap aimed at achieving net-zero emissions in Indian shipping by 2070. The policy is aligned with the country's COP26 'Panchamrit' commitments.



- India hosted the **Green Shipping Conclave 2025** to advance its maritime decarbonization goals, aiming for 5% use of alternative fuels by 2030 and net-zero emissions by 2050.
- A dedicated Maritime Development Fund was also established to support green maritime investments.
- Green Tug Transition Program (GTTP)** aims to phase out conventional, fuel-based harbour tugs at Indian major ports.
- India is the third-largest in the world in terms of ship recycling by tonnage, underscoring its role in sustainable maritime practices and the global supply chain.
- Sustainable ship recycling is practiced globally, with 112 HKC-certified yards. Circular economy initiatives are also being implemented at the World's Largest ship recycling yard, Alang-Sosia in India.
- India has launched online facility named '**Swachh Sagar**' that is 'Clean Seas' for implementation and monitoring of maritime environmental regulations on Port Reception Facilities.

- Green shipping is being advanced through the 30% Shipbuilding Financial Assistance (SBFA) Scheme, the National Green Shipping Policy and **Future Fuel Strategy** (2025–2047).
- Established the National Centre of Excellence in Green Port and Shipping (NCoEGPS) Indian Ocean Centre of Excellence – **SMarT** which will serve as the national hub for green R&D and regulatory policy to support the transition to green shipping through electrification, renewables, and biofuels.
- Harit Sagar (**Green Ports**) guidelines launched to reduce carbon intensity and to develop an environment-friendly ecosystem at Major Ports with participation of all Stakeholders.



- The **Green Tug Transition Programme** and **Harit Nauka** (Green Vessel) Initiative, focuses on adopting low-emission and alternative fuel-powered ships.
- India is ready to launch its first **domestic coastal green shipping corridor**, linking on the west coast with southern tip. The corridor is expected to become operational within December 2025.



Anchored in Strength and Excellence: The Indian Seafarer Legacy

- India contributes 12% to the global seafarer supply, with more than 5.5 lakh registered seafarers and a 17% annual growth rate. Of these, 85% work on foreign-flag ships, while 15% work on Indian-flag ships.



- India has launched the flagship initiative '**Sagar Mein Samman**', which promotes women in maritime. The number of women seafarers rose by 1715% (345 to 5,918); tackles pay gaps, safety, leadership access, and inclusivity.



- MT Swarna Krishna sailed with an all-women officer crew, showcasing Indian women's maritime capabilities and resilience.
- “Sagar Mein Yog”** integrates yoga and mindfulness across seafarer life stages to boost mental, emotional, and physical well-being.



- India along with DG Shipping & ITF, has introduced **stress-management training** for cadets/instructors and launched helplines, data collection, and customized insurance initiatives.
- India is the first to issue biometric, face-recognition-based B-SID cards, with over 2.5 lakh issued for enhanced identity security.



- An Indian woman seafarer received the IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea, marking global recognition of Indian maritime valour.
- India prioritizes seafarers' mental and physical wellbeing and therefore hosted its first **National Maritime Games**—engaging 70+ institutions across 20+ sports to foster fitness, camaraderie, and morale.



Maritime Safety and Security in India

- India operates 24x7 Maritime Emergency Operations, the DGComm Centre (MMDAC), ensures continuous surveillance and coordination with the Indian Navy, Coast Guard, MRCCs, IFC-IOR, and other agencies.



- Since 2008 Indian warships have been strategically positioned in piracy-prone areas and High-Risk Zones like the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Arabian Sea, and Western Indian Ocean.



- The Indian Coast Guard's SAR role involves managing maritime search and rescue operations within India's SRR, supported by advanced facilities and protocols.
- Regular DGS Circulars and issuance of Maritime Security Advisories ensure compliance with national and international safety norms, SOPs, BMPs, and anti-piracy protocols.

- India has enacted Maritime Anti-Piracy Act, 2022 legislation aligned with UNCLOS to address piracy threats on high seas effectively.
- India established Information Fusion Centre – Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR) in 2018 and is being operated by the Indian Navy, which facilitates regional maritime security collaboration and intelligence sharing.
- Critical Incident Coordination (IFC-IOR) supported responses to major piracy incidents (e.g., MT Marlin Luanda, MV Ruen, MV Lila Norfolk), earning the Indian Navy the 2024 IMO Bravery Citation.
- Under the motto "Vayam Rakshamah" (**We Protect**), the ICG has saved over 11,800 lives, including 169 in 2024 alone.



Building Maritime Independence Through Training



- The Indian government continues to focus on building world-class maritime training facilities, including some of the most renowned Maritime Universities.
- Recognizing the significance of maritime education for safe shipping and the introduction of new shipping technology industry, Maritime India Vision-2030 envisions partnerships with leading global maritime universities for knowledge sharing.
- As per Sec. B 1/6 of the STCW Convention, India has launched a three-tier learning mechanism, which includes e-learning, classroom training at Maritime Training Institutes (MTI), online exit examinations, and digital certificate generation.
- There are 177 Maritime Training Institutes producing highly qualified seafarers.
- India established the Training Examination and Assessment Program (**TEAP**) **Manual** provides a framework for maritime training institutes (MTIs) in India, ensuring alignment with STCW standards.



Digital Governance and Maritime Transformation in India

- India's ongoing **E-Samudra** project is central to India's border vision of a sustainable, footfall-free, and fully automated governance framework, aligning with India's broader Digital India and Maritime India Vision 2030 initiatives. The platform supports port decarbonisation efforts (targeting 60% renewable energy use by 2047).



- In April 2025, in collaboration with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and National Waterways Digital, launched the NOC Digital Portal. This initiative enables stakeholders to obtain No Objection Certificates (NOCs) online for the development of jetties and terminals along the country's waterways.



- In February 2025, MoPSW launched the One Nation-One Port initiative and LPPI ("Sagar Ankalan") index to standardise major port operations.
- India's Master Application for International Trade & Regulatory Interface (**MAITRI**) digital application leverages blockchain and AI to create a virtual trade corridor, simplifying clearances and reducing procedural bottlenecks

- The National e-Governance Division (NeGD) and Indian Ports Association (IPA) have partnered to address logistics fragmentation for advancing software integration, capacity-building, and emerging tech adoption to interlink ports digitally and improve turnaround efficiency.



Media Gallery



Indian Coast Guard assisting Foreign flag vessel in distress



Collaborating on Sustainable Shipping through Center of Excellence



Indian Coast Guard Rescue Crew on high seas



India reaffirms its commitment
to IMO's vision by
championing safe, sustainable,
and technology-driven
maritime growth.



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