



Ocean Litter : An Indian Perspective

Directorate General of Shipping

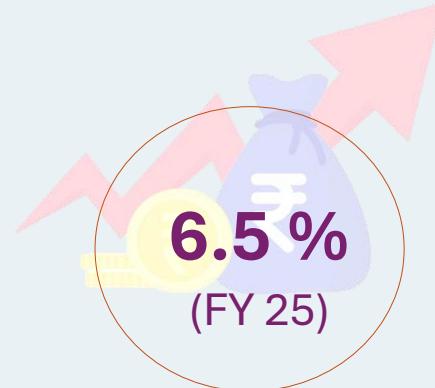
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India's Economic Growth and the Significance of Maritime Domain



World's 4th largest economy



projected 6.3–6.7% annual growth through coming years



IMF projects India will surpass Germany by 2028, becoming the world's 3rd largest economy

**The
Maritime
sector
facilitates**



**Maritime sector
contributes to 4-5% of the GDP**



Contribution to the Blue Economy



Towards Viksit Bharat 2047

India and its Blue Economy

95%

By trade volume

70%

By trade value

India's Infrastructure Leverages

12

Major Ports

200+

Non-major Ports

11,098 km

Total length of India's coastline

India's Vessel Advantage



India has 1,520+ merchant vessels with 13 mn+ GT capacity



India ranks 18th globally in flag registration and 19th globally in carrying capacity

India is emerging as the leader of the Blue Economy in the world with multiple initiatives focusing on infrastructure, business and the overall economy

Port-led Development

Ports for Prosperity

Policy reforms driving EoDB, modern infrastructure and multi-modal logistics



Global Competitiveness



2

Indian Ports in Global top 30 Ports (Mundra & Visakhapatnam), 2023

(No Indian Port in Top 30 in 2015)

16th

Largest ship building sector globally with rapid capability expansion, 2024

(23rd Rank in 2016)

0.9 days

TAT ahead of many leading maritime nations (JNPA), 2022
(4 days in 2015)

41st

Rank in World Competitiveness Index, 2025
(71st Rank in FY 2015)

Top 3

In trained manpower, 2025 with >3.2 Lakh Indian Seafarers
(1.2 lakh Seafarers in 2014)

14th

Rank in Liner Shipping Connectivity Index, 2024
(30th Rank in 2014)

2nd

Rank in global ship recycling, 2024
(3rd rank in 2017)

38th

Rank in Logistics Performance Index, 2023
(54th Rank in 2014)



India's Vision for the Maritime Sector

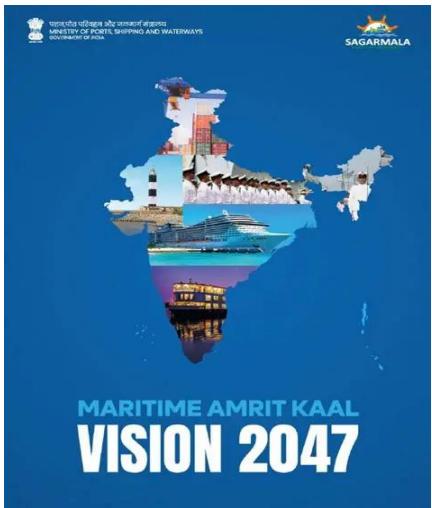


MARITIME INDIA VISION 2030



Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030

- Position India Globally in the Top 10 Shipbuilding, repair nations
- Production Targets: Increase from current 30k GT to 500k+ GT annually by 2030
- Investment: INR 20,000+ Crores
- Employment Generation: 1,00,000+ additional jobs (direct and indirect)



Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047

- Advanced phase targeting Top 5 global position in shipbuilding and maintaining 1 position in ship recycling
- 69% Indian-Built Ships Share (up from current 5%)
- 300+ Strategic Initiatives across 11 key maritime areas
- Financial Assistance: 20-30% assistance for green vessels (including retrofitting)



Current Indian Maritime Sector Overview



Ports

- Total Ports In India
 - i. Major Ports: **12**
 - ii. Other than Major Ports: **200+**
- Total Cargo Handling Capacity: **2,762 MTPA**
- Total Cargo Traffic Handled: **1,600 MTPA**



Shipping

- Indian flagged vessels: **1,549**
- Seafarers: **3.2 lakh+**
- Lighthouses: **200+**
- Over **18 lakh** tourist footfall in last year



Waterways

- No. of operational National Waterways (NWs): **29 (Length 4,862 km)**
- Cargo handled **146 MTPA**
- Cargo growth in the past decade: **359%**

MMTPA: Million Metric Tonnes per Annum || DWT: Dead Weight Tonnage || GT: Gross Tonnage



Why Oceans Matter Today

The foundation of our climate, commerce and collective future



- Oceans regulate climate, sustain ecosystems and support millions of livelihoods.
- Over 90% of global trade moves through the seas, making ocean stability vital for economic growth.
- For India, the ocean is a cultural and economic lifeline, supporting ports, fisheries, coastal communities and tourism.
- The Blue Economy holds immense potential for sustainable industries, clean energy, biotechnology and future jobs.
- Healthy oceans directly influence food security, weather, mobility and global supply chains.

Impact

- Diversification of coastal economies.
- Stronger ecosystem resilience & biodiversity protection.
- Positioning India as a global maritime hub for sustainable trade & logistics.

Focus Areas :

- Fisheries & Aquaculture
- Maritime Transport & Ports
- Livelihood Generation
- Tourism & Coastal Development
- Marine Renewable Energy
- Shipbuilding & Recycling
- Marine Biotechnology & Research

India's Vision :

- Target to be a **leading Blue Economy nation by 2047**.
- Enhance ocean-based GDP contribution while ensuring **net-zero pathways**.
- Integrate **Harit Sagar Guidelines** for green port practices.
- Promote **regional cooperation** (IORA, BIMSTEC, ASEAN, IMO initiatives).



Emerging Global Reality

Oceans are changing beyond borders and our response must too



The Changing Ecosystem of Our Oceans

- Oceans are warming, acidifying and becoming more unpredictable.
- Key ecosystems - reefs, mangroves, wetlands are under serious stress.
- Climate-driven weather shifts affect coastlines, communities and infrastructure.
- Maritime sectors must adapt to a rapidly changing ocean environment.

A Cross-Border Reality

- Ocean impacts easily move across national boundaries.
- Marine litter, spills and debris travel across regions.
- Shared waters require joint action and coordinated systems.
- Regional unity and aligned frameworks are essential for long-term resilience.



Impacts of Climate Change



Economic Loss

8.7% of India's GDP

As per ADB, global failure to address climate change could result in economic losses

Sea Level Rise & Flooding

36 Million People

Flooding & sea level rise could displace millions of people along the coasts in India

Agricultural Productivity

30% Decline

As per Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, agricultural production in India could fall if emissions remain high

Water Scarcity

40% of Population

If trends continue, the population facing water scarcity in India would increase from 33% to 40%

Glacier Reserves

70% Decline

A huge decline in western Himalayan reserves could be faced



The Ocean Under Stress

The foundation of our climate, commerce and collective future



- **Climate pressures:** Rising sea temperatures, stronger cyclones, shifting monsoons and coastal erosion reflect mounting climate stress on oceans.
- **Pollution:** Land and sea-based pollution is degrading water quality and harming marine life across ecosystems.
- **Overuse of resources:** Unsustainable fishing, heavy maritime traffic and fast coastal development are straining marine systems.
- **Coastal vulnerability:** Erosion, flooding and habitat loss are putting millions in coastal areas at risk.
- **Threat to the Blue Economy:** Tourism, fisheries, maritime transport and ocean-energy potential weaken as ocean health declines.
- **Combined impact:** These pressures demand urgent, coordinated, multi-sectoral action to sustain ocean stability and productivity.





Marine Litter & Ocean Pollution



- Marine litter is now **one of the most visible and urgent indicators** of ocean decline.
- **Plastic pollution** reaches shorelines, seabeds and even remote ocean regions.
- Key sources include **packaging waste, cargo residues, single-use plastics, ALDFG, shipboard garbage and port-related waste**.
- Microplastics and ghost nets create long-term risks — entangling marine animals and entering the food chain.
- Marine litter disrupts shipping lanes, affects navigational safety and complicates port and fisheries operations.
- Coastal communities suffer economic losses from polluted beaches, damaged gear and declining fish stocks.
- The transboundary nature of ocean pollution requires coordinated regional and global action.
- Solutions lie in awareness, enforcement, port reception facilities, recycling systems, technology and sustained regional cooperation.





GloLitter Partnerships Project (IMO-FAO)

A global initiative to prevent and reduce marine plastic litter from ships and fisheries



- **Joint initiative of IMO and FAO** under the *OceanLitter Programme*
- Helps countries strengthen **MARPOL Annex V implementation** and reduce ship-source plastic litter
- Focus areas:
 - **Shipping & Port Operations** – PRFs, waste segregation, garbage management
 - **Fisheries Sector** – ALDFG, gear marking, responsible fishing waste practices
- Develops **National Action Plans**, legal/policy updates and capacity-building tools
- Supports **public-private partnerships** through the *Global Industry Alliance (GIA)*
- Promotes **women-led and community-led initiatives** in coastal and fishing sectors
- Implemented across **5 regions, 30 countries**
- **India is Lead Partner Country (Asia)** – guiding regional capacity building



RegLitter

A Regional initiative to prevent and reduce
marine plastic litter in Asia



- Builds on GloLitter to address wider **sea-based marine plastic litter** in Asia.
- Supported through **ODA funding from the Republic of Korea**, a major milestone for IMO.
- Strengthens **national capacity, policies and institutions** for coordinated regional action.
- Aligns **maritime and fisheries sectors** to jointly tackle ship-source litter and ALDFG.
- Pilots a **web-based e-navigation tool** for tracking fishing gear and marine litter.
- Enhances **monitoring, reporting and data-sharing** for evidence-based decisions.
- Positions **India as a key regional leader** under the Asia Task Force.



Role of IMO, FAO & Partners

Driving global, sectoral and regional cooperation for cleaner oceans.



IMO – Global Maritime Stewardship

- Leads global work on maritime environmental protection.
- Provides conventions, guidelines and capacity-building for strong national systems.
- Drives global action on marine plastic litter through coordinated programmes.

FAO – Sustainable Fisheries & Coastal Resilience

- Promotes responsible and sustainable fishing practices.
- Reduces fishing-related litter, including ALDFG, through tools and community engagement.
- Connects fisheries, coastal livelihoods and marine ecosystem protection.

Regional & International Partners – Collective Strength

- Amplify national efforts through shared expertise and joint initiatives.
- Enable faster knowledge exchange and collaborative problem-solving.
- Create a strong platform for regional leadership and long-term cooperation.



Regional Cooperation & Vision

For Cleaner Ocean



Asia Leads by Example

- Asia hosts major shipping lanes, large coastal populations and highly productive fisheries.
- This scale gives the region both a responsibility and an opportunity to lead on ocean stewardship.
- Regional cooperation enables Asia to shape global standards and set new benchmarks for ocean sustainability.
- A united regional approach accelerates progress and strengthens resilience.

Partnerships as Our Strongest Tool

- No single nation or sector can address ocean pollution alone.
- Partnerships provide shared knowledge, tools and coordinated solutions.
- Collaboration across maritime, fisheries and environmental communities ensures long-lasting impact.
- Regional unity amplifies collective influence at global forums.



India's Leadership in Regional Ocean Stewardship



Why India

- Long coastline (11000+km), strong port network and rich coastal traditions anchor India's maritime identity.
- A fast-growing blue economy places India at the forefront of regional maritime development.
- Strategic location in the Indian Ocean makes India a natural regional connector.
- India actively supports regional and global efforts on ocean governance and marine protection.

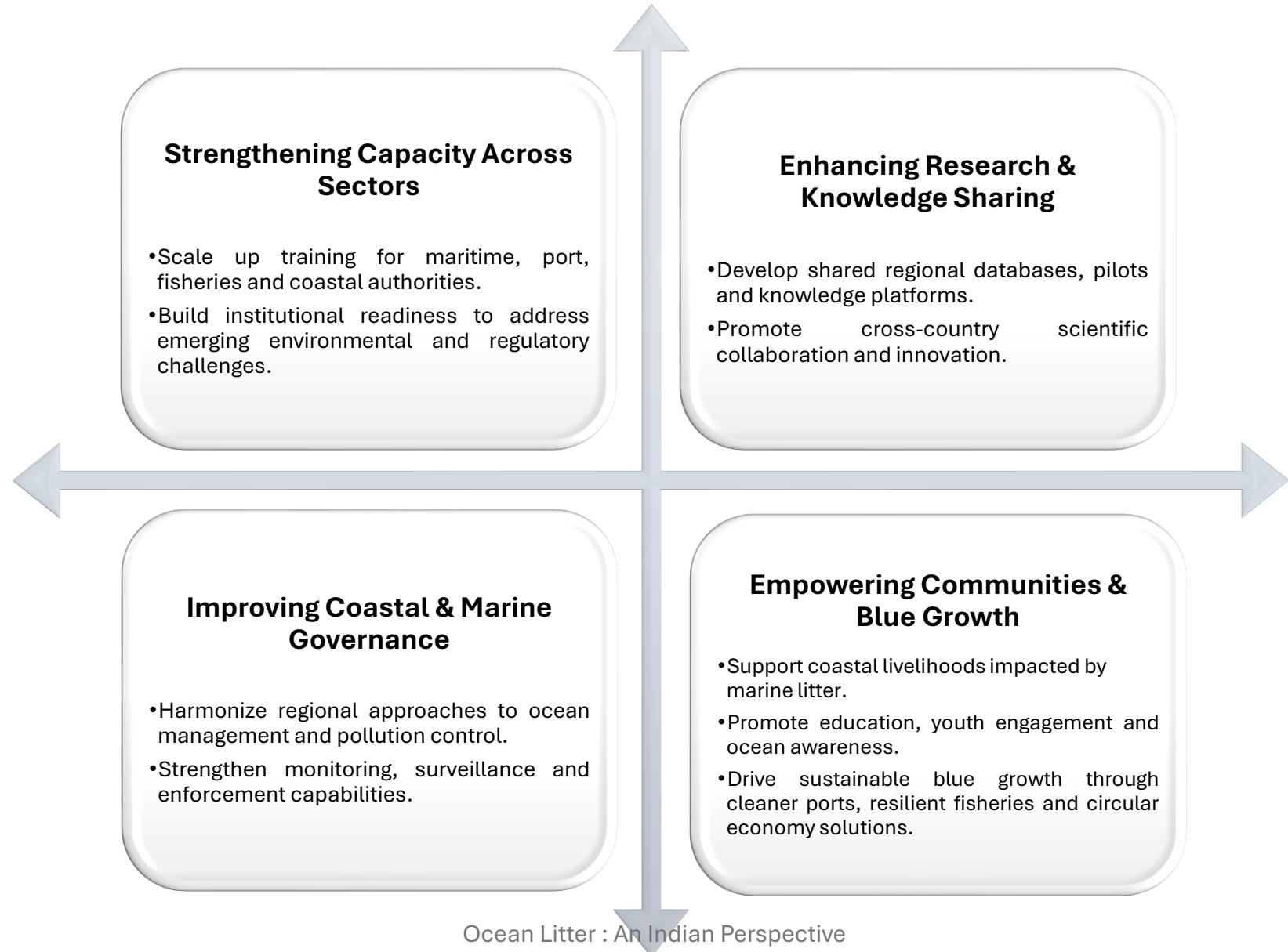
India's Commitment

- Committed to cleaner oceans and sustainable maritime development.
- Hosts collaborative initiatives to strengthen capacity, knowledge and regional solidarity.
- Sees ocean health as a shared responsibility across neighboring nations.
- Will continue championing cooperation, stronger institutions and long-term ocean sustainability.





Strengthening Regional Capacities for a Cleaner Ocean





Looking Ahead Together



Shared Vision for the Future

- A future where our oceans remain clean, resilient and productive.
- A region united by shared responsibility, shared purpose and shared ambition.
- Stronger institutions, cleaner environments and sustainable livelihoods.

Our Oceans, Our Collective Duty

- The ocean is a shared heritage — its protection must be a shared priority.
- Cooperation, trust and mutual support will define the success of our initiatives.
- Every action we take today shapes the legacy we leave for tomorrow & India remains committed.



संगच्छृद्धं
संवदृद्धं
सं वो मनांसि
जानताम्।

*“Move together,
speak together,
may your minds
be in harmony.”*
(Rigveda 10.191.2)



Ministry of Ports,
Shipping & Waterways
Government of India

