

## India's New Maritime Bills

**Mains: GS II** - *Government Policies and Interventions for Development in various sectors and Issues arising out of their Design and Implementation*

### Why in News?

Recently, the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2025 and the Carriage of Goods Sea Bill, 2025 were passed by the parliament to modernise India's shipping laws.

### What is the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024?

- **Need** - The, Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 had become bulky, fragmented, and outdated.
  - With its 561 Sections it failed to address contemporary maritime challenges.
  - It fell short to fully implement India's obligations under several key International Maritime Organization (IMO) conventions.
- **Structure of the new bill** - 16 Parts and 325 clauses
- India's maritime legal framework by aligning with international conventions
- **Features** - The Bill aims to make India a globally respected maritime jurisdiction and unlock sustainable growth, investment, and innovation in the sector by
  - Enhancing safety at sea
  - Improving emergency response
  - Ensuring environmental protection
  - Reducing compliance burdens
  - Promotes Indian tonnage
  - Prioritises seafarer welfare
  - Increasing ship safety.

### What is The Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2025?

- **Repealed** - The Indian Carriage of Goods by Sea Act, 1925.
- **Significant principle** - The Hague-Visby Rules

*The Hague-Visby Rules is a globally accepted maritime standard also followed by countries like the United Kingdom.*

- **Features** - The legislation is expected to
  - Simplify maritime trade
  - Reduce litigation risks

- Enhance transparency
- Improve commercial efficiency in cargo movement by sea.

### What are the significances of the two bills?

- **International compatibility** - The bills was made to be Well-suited with international trade agreements like the Comprehensive Economic and Trade Agreement (CETA) with the U.K.
- **Promoting ease of doing business** - It promotes ease of doing business in the maritime sector by removing the hardships in litigations and compliances.
- **Supports maritime security** - It provisions India's maritime security architecture through better legal and regulatory frameworks.
- **Encourages green initiatives** - It Creates opportunities for green maritime initiatives and sustainable coastal development.
- **Generates employment** - It increases the employment opportunity especially in coastal regions.
- **Enhances capability** - It boost India's capability to compete with global maritime powers such as Singapore, China, and the UAE.

### What lies ahead?

- This Bill represents a decisive step that could position India as a global leader in maritime trade and governance.
- It is a progressive and advanced legislation, that could align with international maritime conventions and informed by the best practices of leading maritime nations.

### Reference

[The Hindu| New Maritime Bill of India](#)