

## Navigating India's Maritime Path

*Mains: GS-III – Infrastructure – Ports & Shipping Sector*

### Why in news?

India's maritime sector is undergoing a transformative journey under the Maritime India Vision 2030 (MIV 2030) and the ambitious Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

### What is Maritime India Vision 2030?

- **Comprehensive roadmap** – It is a comprehensive roadmap to develop India's maritime sector, encompassing ports, shipping, and waterways.
- **Launched in** - 2021
- It outlines over 150 initiatives to make India a global maritime leader by modernizing infrastructure, improving logistics efficiency, and promoting sustainability.

*Nearly 95% of the country's trade by volume & around 70% by value moves through maritime routes.*

- **Promoter of growth** – More than a blueprint for cargo movement, MIV 2030 is a catalyst for trade, investment, and employment, charting India's course toward economic growth and global competitiveness.



### How has India's ports sector evolved between 2014 and 2025?

- **Capacity expansion** - Total port capacity nearly doubled from 1,400 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) to 2,762 MMTPA due to significant infrastructure investments.
- **Cargo growth** - Cargo volumes rose from 972 MMT to 1,594 MMT, with major ports handling 855 million tonnes in FY 2024-25, up from 819 million tonnes in FY 2023-24.
- **Efficiency gains** - Average vessel turnaround time improved dramatically from **93 hours to 48 hours**, enhancing overall productivity and global competitiveness.
- **Net surplus growth** - Annual surplus jumped from Rs. 1,026 crore to Rs. 9,352 crore, reflecting stronger revenue and better cost control.
- **Efficiency boost** - Operating ratio improved from 73% to 43%, indicating more sustainable and profitable operations.

### How has India's shipping sector evolved between 2014 and 2025?

- **Fleet expansion** - Indian-flagged vessels has charted steady growth from 1,205 to 1,549, expanding India's maritime presence.
- **Capacity growth** - Gross tonnage of Indian fleet rose from 10 million gross tonnes (MGT) to 13.52 MGT, enhancing shipping strength.
- **Coastal shipping surge** - Cargo movement nearly doubled from 87 MMT to 165 MMT, promoting cost-effective and eco-friendly transport modes.

### How has India's Inland Waterways evolved between 2014 and 2025?

- **Cargo surge** - As per the reports of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), the cargo movement rose from 18 MMT in 2014 to 146 MMT in 2025 — a **710% increase**.

- **Network expansion** - No of operational waterways expanded from **3 to 29**, enhancing India's inland transport network.
- **Infrastructure boost** - **Haldia Multi-Modal Terminal** built with World Bank support, was handed over to IRC Natural Resources under the PPP model, enhancing inland waterway infrastructure and promoting multimodal logistics.
- **Passenger growth** - Ferry and Ro-Pax services (a ship that carries both vehicles and passengers) carried over 7.5 crore passengers in 2024-25, showing rising public preference for water-based travel.

### How has India's seafaring workforce evolved between 2014 and 2025?

- **Workforce expansion** - Increased from 1.25 lakh to over 3 lakh in 10 years, now represents 12% of the global seafaring workforce.
- **Top supplier** - Ranked among the world's top three providers of trained seafarers.
- **Career opportunities** - Boosts prospects in navigation, ship operations, logistics, and maritime industries both domestically and internationally.

### How the major investments made between 2014 and 2025 contributed to the transformation of India's maritime sector?

- **MIV 2030 Vision** - Rs. 3-3.5 lakh crore projected across ports, shipping, and inland waterways.
- **Shipbuilding boost** - Rs. 69,725 crore package to revitalize the maritime ecosystem.
- **Maritime Development Fund (MDF)** - Rs. 25,000 crore for long-term financing of shipping and shipbuilding.
- **Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Scheme (SBFAS)** - Rs. 24,736 crore to offset domestic cost disadvantages and promote ship-breaking.
- **Shipbuilding Development Scheme (SbDS)** - Rs. 19,989 crore for greenfield clusters, yard expansion, and risk coverage.
- **Indian Ship Technology Centre (ISTC), Visakhapatnam** - Rs. 305 crore hub for ship design, R&D, engineering, and skill development.
- **Northeast infrastructure** - Rs. 1,000+ crore has been invested in the development of Inland Waterway Infrastructure.
- **River Tourism upgrade** - 2 luxury cruise ships currently being built at the Hooghly Cochin Shipyard in Howrah, Kolkata .
- To launch in 2027, on Brahmaputra river to transform Assam's river tourism landscape, under Cruise Bharat Mission.
- **Sagarmala Programme** - 840 projects are being implemented by 2035, which focuses on cutting logistics costs, enhancing trade efficiency, and creating employment through smarter, greener transport networks.

***Sagarmala Programme*** is a flagship initiative to transform India into a global maritime hub - core pillar of the MIV 2030 & Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

## What are the future prospects?

- **Strategic Vision** - India's maritime sector is entering a decisive decade, with new laws, mega projects, and global investment ambitions shaping the Maritime India Vision 2030.
- MIV 2030 & Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 outline a Rs. 80 lakh crore roadmap for ports, coastal shipping, inland waterways, shipbuilding, and green initiatives.

*India is preparing to not only meet its trade demands but also emerge as a maritime leader.*

- Focus on green corridors, green hydrogen bunkering at major ports, and methanol-fueled vessels to drive sustainable maritime operations.
- Over 300 actionable initiatives aim to position India among the top global maritime and shipbuilding powers by 2047.
- **Major milestones & MoUs** - At the Samudra Se Samriddhi event (Sept 2025), 27 MoUs worth Rs. 66,000 crore were signed.
- It aims at creating more than 1.5 lakh jobs across port infrastructure, shipping, shipbuilding, sustainable mobility, finance, and heritage.

## What are the some of the notable projects that further reinforce India's vision?

- **Bahuda Greenfield Port, Odisha** - 150 MTPA capacity, with an expected investment of Rs. 21,500 crore.
- **Patna Water Metro** - Using electric ferry system, valued at around Rs. 908 crore.
- A strategic Vessel Owning Joint Venture Company between Shipping Corporation of India (SCI) & Oil Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) to reduce foreign fleet dependence and boost Indian-built ships.
- **Shipbuilding MoUs** - Across five states with major yard investments and financing tie-ups.
- **Lothal Lighthouse Museum** - Rs. 266 crore investment at the National Maritime Heritage Complex to preserve maritime heritage.
- **Initiatives of New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA)** - 8 new projects including cruise gate for international tourists, 150-bed multi-speciality hospital under PPP mode, etc, to enhance user experience and operational capacity.

## What lies ahead?

- With Maritime India Vision 2030, the nation is not just building ports, it's building futures, empowering millions with jobs, skills, and sustainable growth.
- This is India's moment to rise as a global maritime leader, proving that vision, strategy, and determination can turn waves into pathways of prosperity.

## Quick Facts

- **Hosted by** - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in partnership with the Indian Ports Association (IPA), from October 27-31, 2025
- **Aim** - To showcase India's maritime potential and establish the country as a global maritime hub.
- The event also incorporates the 4<sup>th</sup> Global Maritime India Summit (GMIS).
- **Theme** - "Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision".
- It will serve as a strategic platform for dialogue, collaboration, and business development.

## Reference

[PIB | India's Maritime Path: From Vision 2030 to Amrit Kaal 2047](#)

