



## Global Sulphur Cap

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### Why in News

Recently, the Parliament was informed about Government efforts to clear the uncertainty of the Shipping industry on **reducing sulphur oxide emission levels**.

From 1 January 2020, usage of **sulphur in fuel oil** used on board ships will be **capped and reduced to 0.50% m/m (mass by mass)**.

### Key Points

- The main type of **bunker oil (heavy fuel oil for ship)** is derived as a residue from crude oil distillation and it contains sulphur. On combustion in the engine, it **emits oxides of sulphur**.
- Sulphur oxides are harmful to **human health**, causing **respiratory symptoms** and **lung disease**. In the **atmosphere**, they lead to **acid rain** harming crops, forests and aquatic species and contributing to the **acidification of the oceans**.
- **International Maritime Organisation (IMO)** regulations to reduce sulphur oxides emissions from ships first came into force in **2005**, under Annex VI of the **International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL Convention, 1973)**.  
**India is a signatory** to this International Convention and all its Annexes.
- Limiting sulphur oxides emissions from ships will **improve air quality and protect the environment**. It will have major health benefits particularly for populations living close to ports and coasts.

**Source: PIB**