



Initiatives in India's Maritime Sector

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Why in News?

The **Ministry for Ports, Shipping and Waterways** launched major initiatives to modernize India's **maritime infrastructure**.

What are the Key Initiatives Taken to Modernize Maritime Infrastructure?

- **One Nation-One Port Process (ONOP):** Standardizes port operations, reducing **documentation inconsistencies**.
 - Through the ONOP process, the Ministry standardized documentation, **reducing** container operation **documents by 33%** and **bulk cargo documents** by 29%.
- **Sagar Ankalan - Logistics Port Performance Index (LPPI) 2023-24:** Evaluates **port efficiency** based on turnaround time, berth idle time, and cargo handling.
- **Bharat Global Ports Consortium:** Expands India's **maritime reach** by integrating key stakeholders in **port operations, finance, and infrastructure development**.
 - The consortium of [India Ports Global Ltd](#) (operations), [Sagarmala Development Company Limited](#) (finance), and [Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Limited](#) (infrastructure development) will drive port expansion, operations, and financing, strengthening India's role in global trade and logistics.
- **MAITRI Platform:** Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface (**MAITRI**) to **digitize trade documentation**, reduce processing time, optimize trade flows, and contribute to sustainable development.
 - It enables the [Virtual Trade Corridor \(VTC\)](#) between India and the UAE (under [IMEC](#)) and aims to expand to [BIMSTEC](#) and [ASEAN](#) using [AI](#) and [Blockchain](#) for efficiency and security.
- **NCoEGPS: National Centre of Excellence in Green Port & Shipping (NCoEGPS)** to promote **eco-friendly shipping** and **carbon footprint reduction**.
 - It promotes **cleaner fuels and eco-friendly port management**, aiming to build a future-ready maritime ecosystem aligned with global environmental goals.

Initiatives for Maritime Sector in Union Budget 2025-26

- **Maritime Development Fund (MDF):** It is a **Rs 25,000 crore** [MDF](#) to support the maritime sector through **equity and debt financing**.
- **Ship Breaking Credit Note Scheme:** It incentivises ship scrapping by issuing a **credit note** of **40%** of the **scrap value** which can be reimbursed to **buy new Made in India ships**.
- **Infrastructure HML:** Large ships will be added to the **Infrastructure Harmonised Master List (HML)**, enabling long-term financing, tax incentives, private investment, and fleet modernization.

UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year's Question (PYQs)

Prelims

Q. Consider the following in respect of Indian Ocean Naval Symposium (IONS): (2017)

1. Inaugural IONS was held in India in 2015 under the chairmanship of the Indian Navy.
2. IONS is a voluntary initiative that seeks to increase maritime co-operation among navies of the littoral states of the Indian Ocean Region.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (b)

Q. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)', consider the following statements:

1. It was established very recently in response to incidents of piracy and accidents of oil spills.
2. It is an alliance meant for maritime security only.

Which of the statements given above is/ are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

Ans: (d)