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HongKong Convention for Ship Recycling

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Why in News

The **Union Cabinet** has **approved accession** to the **Hong Kong International Convention for Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships, 2009**.

- The Convention was adopted at a diplomatic conference held in Hong Kong, China, from 11th-15th May 2009.
- **Aim:** To ensure that ships, when being recycled after reaching the end of their operational lives, do not pose any unnecessary risks to human health and safety and the environment.
- **Objectives**
 - It intends to **address all the issues around ship recycling**, including the probable presence of **environmentally hazardous substances** such as asbestos, heavy metals, hydrocarbons, ozone depleting substances and others.
 - It aims to address concerns about working and environmental conditions in many of the world's ship recycling facilities.
- **Scope**
 - It covers the **design, construction, operation and preparation of ships** so as to facilitate safe and environmentally sound recycling, without compromising the safety and operational efficiency of ships.
 - The **operation of ship recycling facilities** in a safe and environmentally sound manner.
 - The **establishment of an appropriate enforcement mechanism** for ship recycling, incorporating certification and reporting requirements.

India and Ship Recycling

- **India is the leader in the global ship recycling industry**, with a share of over 30% of the market.

- The Union Cabinet has recently approved the proposal for enactment of **Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019**.
 - The Bill **restricts and prohibits the use or installation of hazardous material**, which applies irrespective of whether a ship is meant for recycling or not.
 - However, restriction or prohibition on the use of hazardous material **would not be applied to warships and non-commercial ships operated by the Government**.
 - The **Provisions of the Hong Kong Convention will be implemented** under the provisions of the Recycling of Ships Bill, 2019 and rules and regulations framed there under.

Source: PIB