



# India Re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council

[Source: PIB](#)

## Why in News?

Recently, India has been re-elected to the [International Maritime Organisation \(IMO\)](#) Council, marking its continuous service at IMO.

- This re-election, part of the 2024–25 biennium, places India among the Category of **10 states with "the largest interest in international seaborne trade,"** reaffirming its pivotal role in **global maritime affairs**.

## What is the International Maritime Organisation?

### ▪ About:

- The IMO is a **specialized agency of the [United Nations \(UN\)](#)** that is responsible for **regulating shipping and preventing [marine pollution](#)** from ships.
- IMO was established in 1948 following a UN conference in Geneva and came into existence in 1958.

### ▪ Members:

- IMO has 175 Member States and three Associate Members, and its headquarters are in **London, United Kingdom**.
  - **India joined the IMO in 1959.**

### ▪ Role:

- Its main role is to create a **regulatory framework** for the shipping industry that is **fair and effective, universally adopted** and universally implemented.
- It is also involved in **legal matters**, including **liability** and **compensation issues** and the **facilitation of international maritime traffic**.
- IMO celebrates **World Maritime Day** every last Thursday of September, to highlight the importance of shipping and maritime activities.

### ▪ Structure of IMO:

- IMO is governed by an **assembly of members**, which meets every two years, and a **council of 40 members**, which is elected by the assembly for a two-year period.
  - The Assembly is the highest Governing Body of the IMO.
- The **IMO Council, being the executive organ**, is responsible for supervising the organization's work, especially in maritime safety and pollution prevention.
- IMO's work is conducted through five committees and several subcommittees, which develop and adopt international conventions, codes, resolutions, and guidelines.

### ▪ India and IMO:

- India maintains to be in **Category B of IMO Council**, highlighting its consistent **commitment to maritime affairs**.
- [India's Vision 2030](#) aims to enhance **representation at IMO** by appointing permanent representatives at IMO London.
- The [Amrit Kaal Vision 2047](#) outlines goals to strengthen India's global maritime presence.

- Initiatives include establishing a dedicated IMO cell, appointing a permanent representative at IMO headquarters, and implementing the [Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation \(BIMSTEC\)](#) Master Plan.

## UPSC Civil Services Examination, Previous Year Question (PYQ)

### **Prelims**

**Q. With reference to 'Indian Ocean Rim Association for Regional Cooperation (IOR-ARC)', consider the following statements: (2015)**

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)**

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