



# Mormugao Port on Environmental Ship Index

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## Why in News?

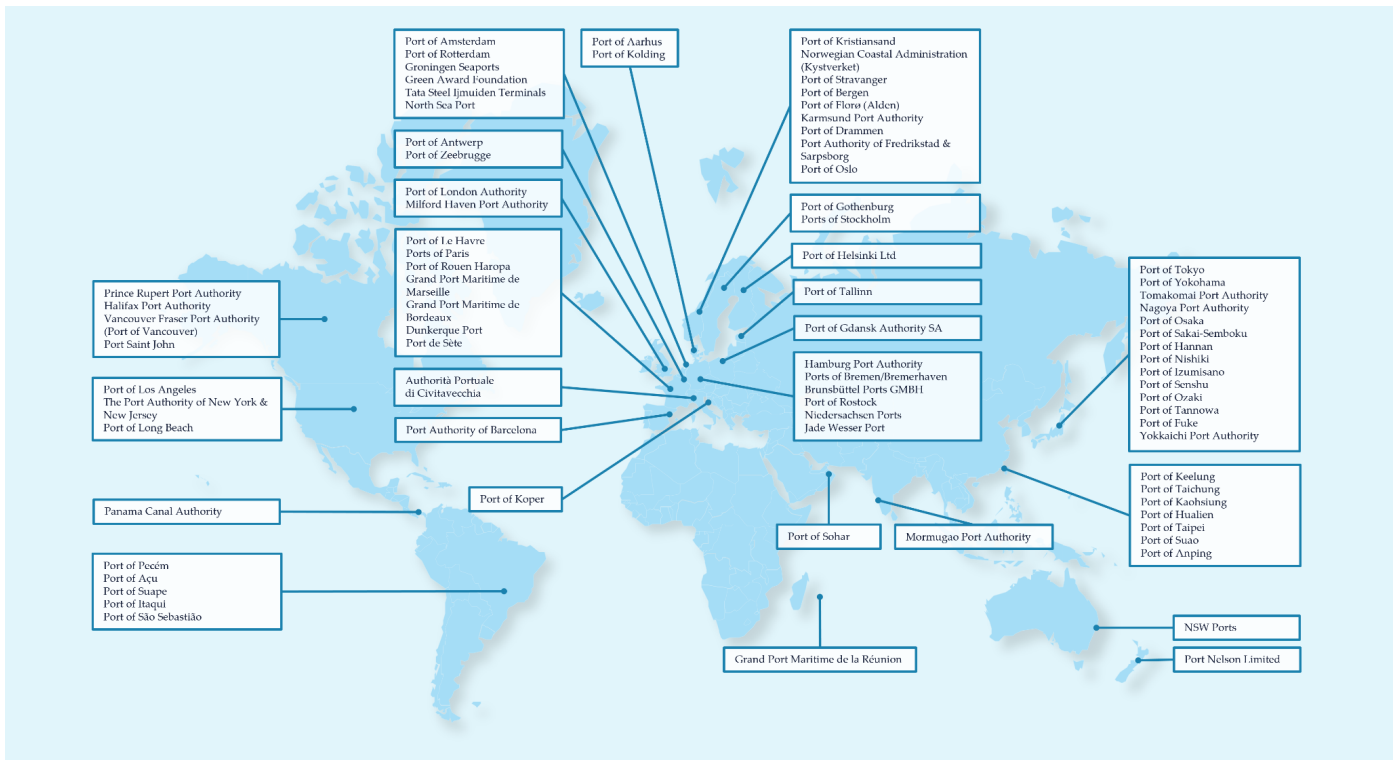
Recently, [Mormugao Port Authority \(MPA\)](#), Goa became the **first Indian port** to be listed on the [Environmental Ship Index \(ESI\)](#) portal for **MPA's Harit Shrey** programme.

- It was acknowledged by the **International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH)**.
- In another development, the government plans to **limit the development of inland waterway terminals (IWTs)** near major ports to safeguard their economic interests.

## What is the Environmental Ship Index (ESI)?

- **About:** It is a system designed to **evaluate and reward ships** for their environmental performance.
  - ESI identifies seagoing ships that perform better in **reducing air emissions** than the current [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#) emission standards.
    - The **2023 IMO greenhouse gas (GHG) Strategy** envisages a **reduction in the carbon intensity** of international shipping by **at least 40% by 2030**.
- **Origin of ESI:** The ESI Initiative commenced on **1st January 2011** and from then onwards, its database under the administration of **International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH)**.
- **Evaluation Criteria:** It assesses the emissions of [nitrogen oxides \(NOx\) and sulphur oxides \(SOx\)](#) released by ships.
  - The index includes a reporting scheme for [greenhouse gas emissions](#) from vessels.
- **Main Characteristics of ESI:**
  - **Port-Centric System:** Designed specifically as a system from **ports to ports**.
  - **Voluntary Participation:** Allows shipowners to demonstrate the environmental performance of their vessels on a **voluntary basis**.
  - **Applicability:** Can be applied to **all types of seagoing ships**, regardless of size or function.
  - **Automated Calculation:** It is automatically calculated and maintained.
- **Incentives:** Ports and authorities may offer incentives, such as **reduced port fees or priority berthing**, to ships with higher ESI scores.

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## Mormugao Port Authority (MPA)

- **Historical Background:** Mormugao Port was commissioned in **1888**.
  - With the rise of **mining** as a key industry in Goa, Mormugao Port was developed as an **iron ore terminal**.
- **Major Port Designation:** Mormugao Port was declared a **Major Port in 1964**.
  - Iron ore traffic growth, especially due to **Japanese** demand during their **industrial reconstruction**, helped in the dramatic growth of Mormugao port.
- **Strategic Development Plans:** In 1965, a **Perspective Plan** was established to develop Mormugao Port for **deep-water** access and high-capacity loading to compete with **Brazil and Australia** in the iron ore market.
- **Green Transition:** Harit Shrey program was launched in **October 2023** that offers **discounts on port charges** to vessels that use **green fuel** and **emit no nitrogen oxides and sulphur oxides**.

# Major Ports in India



- Ports in India are classified as **Major** and **Minor Ports** according to the jurisdiction of the Central and State government as defined under the **Indian Ports Act, 1908** i.e. Major Ports are owned and managed by the Central Government and Minor ports are owned and managed by the State Governments.
- The **Major Port Authorities Act, 2021** provides for regulation, operation and planning of major ports in India and provide greater autonomy to these ports. It replaced the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963.
- There are 12 major ports. 13<sup>th</sup> Major Port (under construction) is Vadhavan port, Maharashtra.

## Developments on Inland Waterways

- **National Waterways(NW) Expansion:** India is developing **111 national waterways (NWs)** that span over **20,000 kilometres**.
- **Current Status of IWTs:** There are approximately **50 IWTs** currently operational.
- **Cargo Traffic Growth:** Since **2013-14**, cargo transported through inland waterways rose from **29.16 million tonnes** in FY15 to **133.03 million tonnes** in FY24.
- **Future Targets:** Under the **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047**, the government aims to increase cargo traffic through inland waterways to **200 million tonnes** by 2030 and **500 million tonnes** by 2047.

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

**Prelims**

**Q. In the context of proposals to the use of hydrogen enriched CNG (H-CNG) as fuel for buses in public transport, consider the following statements: (2019)**

1. The main advantage of the use of H-CNG is the elimination of carbon monoxide emissions.
2. H-CNG as fuel reduces carbon dioxide and hydrocarbon emissions.
3. Hydrogen up to one-fifth by volume can be blended with CNG as fuel for buses.
4. H-CNG makes the fuel less expensive than CNG.

**Which of the statements given above is/are correct?**

**(a)** 1 only

**(b)** 2 and 3 only

**(c)** 4 only

**(d)** 1, 2, 3 and 4

**Ans: (b)**

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/mormugao-port-on-environmental-ship-index>

