



## Initiatives in India's Maritime Sector

[Source: PIB](#)

### 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)**