



KAMARAJ IAS ACADEMY
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India Becomes World's Top Ship Recycling Nation in 2025

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India has emerged as the world's leading ship recycling nation in 2025, achieving a major target under the Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 nearly five years ahead of schedule.

According to the latest report of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), India's share in global ship recycling increased from 30.1% in 2024 to 35.4% in 2025.

Ship recycling activity in India rose significantly to 2.99 million Gross Tonnes (GT) in 2025, registering a growth of nearly 60% compared to 1.86 million GT in 2024.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways stated that this achievement reflects the success of policy reforms, modernization efforts, and compliance with international environmental and safety standards.

Union Minister Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted that India is now emerging as a global hub for responsible and sustainable ship recycling.

About Ship Recycling

Ship recycling refers to the dismantling of old ships for recovering:

Steel and metals

Machinery and equipment

Reusable components

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It contributes to:

Circular economy

Resource efficiency

Sustainable industrial development

The recycled steel obtained from ships supports various manufacturing industries.

Key Factors Behind India's Achievement

Implementation of the Recycling of Ships Act, 2019.

Ratification of the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships (HKC).

Introduction of the Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme.

Modernization of ship recycling yards.

Expansion plans for the Alang-Sosiya Ship Recycling Yard.

Efforts to include Indian yards under the European Union Ship Recycling Regulation (EUSRR) approved list.

Additional Key Facts:

Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030

Launched by: Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Released in: 2021

A blueprint for India's maritime sector development.

Contains over 150 initiatives across ports, shipping, inland waterways, and shipbuilding.

Aim:

Make India a leading maritime nation.

Improve logistics efficiency.

Promote shipbuilding and ship recycling.

Alang-Sosiya Ship Recycling Yard (ASSRY)

Located in Bhavnagar district, Gujarat.

World's largest ship recycling cluster.

Accounts for about 97% of India's ship recycling activity.

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Benefits from:

High tidal range (10–11 metres).

Gentle beach gradient suitable for beaching vessels.

Hong Kong Convention (HKC)

Full Name: Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships.

Adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in 2009.

Objective:

Ensure ship recycling does not pose risks to human health and the environment.

India ratified the Convention in 2019.

Recycling of Ships Act, 2019

Enacted to align India's ship recycling industry with global environmental and safety standards.

Provides a framework for:

Authorization of ship recycling facilities.

Safe handling of hazardous materials.

Environmental protection during ship dismantling.

United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD):

Established: 1964

Headquarters: Geneva

Specialized UN body dealing with:

Trade

Investment

Sustainable development

Maritime transport and logistics

Blue Economy:

Refers to the sustainable use of ocean resources for:

Economic growth

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Improved livelihoods

Employment generation

Ocean ecosystem conservation

Exam Focus Points (Quick Revision Notes):

Achievement in News ? India became World's Top Ship Recycling Nation

Year ? 2025

Global Share ? 35.4%

Previous Share (2024) ? 30.1%

Ship Recycling Volume (2025) ? 2.99 Million GT

Target Achieved Under ? Maritime India Vision 2030

Major Ship Recycling Hub ? Alang-Sosiya Ship Recycling Yard, Gujarat

Relevant Law ? Recycling of Ships Act, 2019

International Convention ? Hong Kong Convention (HKC)

Related Concept ? Blue Economy