

# Maritime India Vision (MIV)-2030

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**Context-** Recently the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways has released the “Maritime India Vision (MIV)-2030” to increase inland transport’s share.

## Key Highlights

- Port infrastructure, logistics efficiency, technology, policy framework, shipbuilding, coastal shipping, inland waterways, cruise tourism, marine ecosystem, and maritime security are among the 150 initiatives in the vision’s ten themes.
- The IWT mode should be promoted because it has lower operating costs, uses less fuel, is less polluting, and is better for the environment than other modes.

## Maritime sector of India

- India’s maritime industry is significant, with more than 200 non-major ports along its 7500-kilometer coastline and a vast network of navigable waterways.
- With maritime transport accounting for 95% of the country’s trade volume and 65% of its trade value, the country’s maritime sector is crucial to its overall trade and growth.
- India’s two container ports, JNPT and Mundra, are among the top 40 worldwide, and the nation is ranked 21st in shipbuilding and 2nd in ship recycling.
- Over the course of the past five years, cargo volumes have increased by 19% year-over-year and the country’s modal share of cargo has increased from 0.5 percent to 2 percent.
- Inland Water Transport is the most efficient method of transportation, particularly for mass freight like coal, iron mineral, concrete, food grains and compost.

## Efforts to increase traffic on the National Waterways

- **Fairway development works**
  - In the Haldia-Barh, Barh-Ghazipur, and Ghazipur-Varanasi stretches of the NW-1, fairway development works to ensure Least Available Depth (LAD) of 3.0 meters, 2.5 meters, and 2.2 meters, respectively.
  - These are moving forward as part of the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP), which IWAI started with technical and financial help from the World Bank.
- **Construction of Brand-New National Waterways:**
  - Through techno-economic feasibility studies, IWAI has identified 25 new NWs for the implementation of technical interventions to make the waterways navigable for transportation purposes.
  - When prepared, these new streams will give a substitute method of transportation in separate topographies.
- **The Ro-Ro and Ro-Pax service began on a number of national waterways:**
  - The operation of Ro-Ro and Ro-Pax vessels in Neamati, Kamalabari (Majuli),

Guwahati, and North Guwahati, as well as on Bolghaty and Wellington Island.

- **Levy Revision and Fee Collection:**

- The initial three-year waiver of waterway user fees has been considered by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways.

- **Easy-to-Use Digital Solutions for Business:**

- The CAR-D (Cargo Data) Portal is a web-based portal for National Waterways' cargo and cruise movement data collection, analysis, and dissemination to stakeholders.

## Obstacles faced by India's maritime sector

- **Inadequate facilities:** India's maritime infrastructure, including ports and inland waterways, is inadequate and requires significant investment and development, despite the country's extensive coastline and waterways.
- **Connectivity issues:** Inefficiencies and higher costs result from a lack of connectivity between ports as well as between ports and the hinterland.
- **Obstacles to regulation:** The oceanic area in India is dependent upon perplexing and divided guidelines, which can make it trying for organizations to proficiently work.
- **Unmet needs:** In the maritime industry, professionals such as engineers, seafarers, and others are in short supply.
- **Concerns about the environment:** There are concerns regarding issues such as oil spills, pollution, and the impact of climate change because the maritime sector can have a significant impact on the environment.
- **Problems with security:** Piracy and terrorism pose additional security risks to the maritime industry.

## Way Ahead

- Maritime transportation will receive a significant boost as a result of the development work under Jal Marg Vikas Project-II (Arth Ganga), which is based on the principles of the sustainable development model to energize economic activities. 1 (Ganga River).
- The government should also work to define initiatives, encourage innovation, develop a time-bound action plan, conduct benchmarking, focus on human resources and capability building, and investigate concepts for achieving "Waste to Wealth."
- In addition to addressing the marine ecosystem and maritime security, the proposed vision will significantly improve infrastructure, develop world-class mega ports, create a transshipment hub in Southern India, and increase brownfield capacity.