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India Becomes the World’s Top Ship Recycling Nation

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India Becomes the World’s Top Ship Recycling Nation

India hit a 2030 target in 2025. It became the world’s number one ship recycling nation, five years early.

This lesson explains the numbers, the laws behind the rise and the exam facts.

The idea in brief

- **Milestone:** India became the world’s top ship recycling nation in 2025.
- **Global share:** 35.4% in 2025, up from 30.1% in 2024.
- **Volume:** 2.99 million gross tons (GT), up nearly 60%.
- **Target beaten by:** 5 years: the Maritime India Vision 2030 goal.
- **Planned capacity:** About 9 million light displacement tons (LDT) at Alang.

What Ship Recycling Is

What is ship recycling?

Old ships are taken apart at the end of their life. Their steel and other parts are reused.

It is also called ship breaking. It gives jobs and cheap steel, but unsafe yards can harm workers and the sea.

Who announced the milestone?

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways announced it. It is the department that handles ports, shipping and inland waterways.

The global data came from UNCTAD, released on 22 June 2026.

Sources: itln.in

> **Quick check 1.** The ship recycling milestone was announced by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. *(True or False?)*
>
> See answer ↓

The 2025 Numbers

What share of global ship recycling did India reach?

India's share rose to 35.4% in 2025. In 2024 it was 30.1%.

That made India the largest ship recycling nation in the world.

How much did volumes grow?

Volumes at Indian yards rose nearly 60% to 2.99 million gross tons. In 2024 the figure was 1.86 million gross tons.

Gross tons measure the size of the ship's enclosed space, not its weight.

Sources: worldports.org

What is the Maritime India Vision 2030?

It is the government's plan for the maritime sector. One goal was to lead the world in ship recycling.

India reached that goal five years ahead of the 2030 deadline.

Quick check 2. India reached its Maritime India Vision 2030 recycling goal in 2030. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

Laws and Schemes

Which law supports the industry?

The Recycling of Ships Act, 2019 sets the rules. It lines up India's regime with the Hong Kong Convention.

The full name is the Hong Kong International Convention for the Safe and Environmentally Sound Recycling of Ships. India ratified it in 2019.

How has the government helped yards modernise?

The government gave about Rs 53.5 crore to upgrade yards. This helped 115 facilities become compliant with the convention.

Better yards mean safer work and less pollution.

What is the Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme?

A shipowner gets a credit note worth 40% of the scrap value of a recycled ship.

The note can pay for up to 5% of the cost of a new vessel built at an Indian shipyard.

So the scheme supports both recycling and shipbuilding.

Quick check 3. The credit note equals 40% of the ship's scrap value. *(True or False?)* See answer ↓

What Comes Next

What is planned at Alang?

Alang is in Gujarat. The government plans to nearly double national recycling capacity to about 9 million light displacement tons (LDT).

The Government of Gujarat has prepared a master plan for the expansion.

Why seek approval from the European Union?

India wants its yards on the European Union approved list of ship recycling facilities.

This would let European shipowners send their ships to Indian yards.

How many ships could India recycle?

BIMCO projects that more than 16,000 vessels will be recycled worldwide over the next decade.

India could handle about 500 to 600 ships a year while it expands capacity.

Exam Traps

The figure 35.4% is India’s global share in 2025. The 2024 share was 30.1%.

The volume is 2.99 million gross tons, not light displacement tons.

LDT is used for the planned capacity of about 9 million.

The goal was met five years early, not on time.

Practice MCQs

1. What was India's share of global ship recycling in 2025?

A. 35.4%

B. 25.0%

C. 50.2%

D. 30.1%

See answer ↓

2. How many years early did India reach its Maritime India Vision 2030 ship recycling goal?

A. Two

B. Ten

C. Five

D. One

See answer ↓

3. Which law aligned India's ship recycling regime with the Hong Kong Convention?

A. Recycling of Ships Act, 2019

B. Indian Ports Act, 2025

C. Ports Act, 1908

D. Merchant Shipping Act, 1958

See answer ↓

4. The Ship-breaking Credit Note Scheme gives a credit note equal to what share of a recycled ship's scrap value?

A. 40%

B. 75%

C. 10%

D. 25%

See answer ↓

5. How many Indian ship recycling facilities became Hong Kong Convention compliant with government support?

A. 16,000

B. 35

C. 500

D. 115

See answer ↓

6. India plans to nearly double its recycling capacity to about how much?

A. 9 million LDT

B. 2 million LDT

C. 90 million LDT

D. 900 thousand LDT

See answer ↓

7. In which state is the Alang ship recycling yard located?

A. Odisha

B. Tamil Nadu

C. Gujarat

D. Maharashtra

See answer ↓

Answer Key

1. **A.**
   The 2024 share was 30.1%.
   ↑ Q1
2. **C.**
   The goal was met in 2025.
   ↑ Q2
3. **A.**
   The Act came in 2019.
   ↑ Q3
4. **A.**
   It can pay up to 5% of a new vessel's cost.
   ↑ Q4
5. **D.**
   The support helped 115 facilities.
   ↑ Q5
6. **A.**
   The expansion is planned at Alang in Gujarat.
   ↑ Q6
7. **C.**
   The Government of Gujarat prepared the master plan.
   ↑ Q7

Quick-check answers

1. **True.** The ministry announced it after the UNCTAD data release. ↑ 1
2. **False.** It reached the goal in 2025, five years early. ↑ 2
3. **True.** It can cover up to 5% of a new vessel built in India. ↑ 3

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