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12 YEARS OF MARITIME TRANSFORMATION

SAGAR SE SAMRIDDHI

JALMARG SE VIKAS

A nation shaped by its waters, rising towards a bold new future

“ We Indians are the inheritors of a glorious maritime heritage, and it is the endeavour of our Government to restore India's position of eminence in the global maritime sector.

~ Narendra Modi, Prime Minister

12 YEARS BY THE NUMBERS

1,668 MMT

Total cargo handled at Indian ports, a 59% rise from 1,052 MMT

2,818 MMT

Total port capacity, an 81% rise from 1,561 MMT

218 MMT

Cargo on national waterways, a 652% rise from just 29 MMT

3.23 LAKH

Indian seafarers deployed globally, up 155% from 1.27 lakh. Women seafarers grew 340%

₹26,583 CR

Major port annual revenue, up 126% from ₹11,760 Cr



India — World No. 1 in Ship Recycling

Maritime India Vision 2030 target achieved five years ahead of schedule



PILLARS OF TRANSFORMATION



PORTS

BIGGER & SMARTER

- ₹15,000 Cr Annual maritime CAPEX, up 362% since 2014.
- PPP investment alone surged 836% to ₹8,000 Cr.
- Coastal cargo more than doubled, from 74 to 177 MMT.



WATERWAYS

A REVOLUTION UNDERWAY

- 111 National Waterways notified, up from 5 in 2014.
- Operational waterways grew from 3 to 32.
- Over 10 crore passengers now travel by inland waterways every year.



SHIPBUILDING

RISING TO THE WORLD STAGE

- Mega Shipbuilding push: ~ ₹70,000 Cr
- New dry dock at Cochin Shipyard inaugurated 2024.
- Domestic fleet acquisition plan: 437 vessels worth ₹2.2 lakh Cr.



GREEN TRANSITION

CLEANER SEAS, CLEANER RIVERS

- Renewable energy use at major ports up 30x since 2014.
- India's first hydrogen-powered ferry launched at Varanasi, December 2025
- Green Tug Transition Programme targets zero-emission tugs at all major ports by 2040.



LANDMARK PROJECTS

- **Jal Marg Vikas Project** — Transforming NW-1 from Haldia to Varanasi, ₹5,061 Cr
- **Jogjhopa IWT Terminal, Assam** — New gateway for Northeast India's trade corridor
- **Mumbai Marina** — 424 yacht berths, ₹887 Cr, India's first world-class marina, 2028
- **Vadghvan Port, Maharashtra** — India's future largest container port, ₹76,000 Cr investment
- **National Maritime Heritage Complex, Lothal** — Envisioned as the world's largest maritime museum
- **Tuna Tekra Container Terminal, Gujarat** — 2.19 million TEU annual capacity

REFORMS & MILESTONES

- **3 Indian ports in Global Top 30** — 7 in Global Top 100 (World Bank Container Port Performance Index 2025)
- **Sagarmala Programme** — 7,100+ km of port connectivity infrastructure across India
- **11 landmark Acts enacted** — including the Merchant Shipping Act 2025 and Indian Ports Act 2025, replacing colonial-era laws
- **One Nation One Port Process** — Over 39% reduction in documentation transactions at all 12 major ports
- **Sea cruise passengers up 328%** — from 1.08 lakh to 4.62 lakh
- **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047** — 300+ initiatives targeting 10,000 MMTPA port capacity

Consider the following statements with reference to the Sagarmala Programme of the Government of India :

- I. The Sagarmala Programme seeks to achieve port-led economic growth through cost-effective and sustainable coastal infrastructure.
- II. The success of the Sagarmala Programme is reflected in significant growth in coastal and inland waterway shipping, along with improved global port rankings.
- III. Sagarmala 2.0 aims to position India as a global maritime innovation hub aligned with Atmanirbhar Bharat and Viksit Bharat 2047 visions.

Which of the following relationships among the above statements is/are correct ?

1. Statement II validates the effectiveness of the strategies envisioned in statement I.
2. Statement III extends the objectives of statement I by embedding them into a future-oriented innovation framework.
3. Statement I contradicts statement III by focusing only on traditional infrastructure instead of modern innovation.

Select the answer using the code given below :

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2
- (c) 2 and 3
- (d) 3 only

1. **Context:** The Government highlighted a decade of maritime reforms and unveiled Sagarmala 2.0 to strengthen port-led growth, inland waterways, shipbuilding, logistics efficiency and green shipping under Viksit Bharat 2047.

2. Sagarmala Programme

Launch: 2015 | **Ministry:** Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW)

Objective: Port-led economic development through lower logistics costs and improved trade competitiveness.

Pillars: 1. Port Modernisation 2. Port Connectivity 3. Port-led Industrialisation 4. Coastal Community Development.

Achievements: Port capacity and cargo handling increased • National Waterways expanded 5 → 111 (National Waterways Act, 2016) • Coastal and inland cargo movement surged • India became World No.1 in Ship Recycling • Improved port efficiency and global competitiveness.

Sagarmala 2.0 Focus:

1. Maritime Industrial Clusters (MICs) 2. Coastal Economic Zones (CEZs) 3. Shipbuilding & Ship Repair Ecosystem 4. Multimodal Logistics Hubs 5. Green Shipping & Decarbonisation 6. Maritime Innovation & Digital Ports.

3. Important Projects

1. Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) – National Waterway-1 cargo corridor (Haldia–Varanasi).
2. Jogighopa Inland Water Terminal – Multimodal logistics hub on Brahmaputra.
3. VadHAVAN Port – Mega deep-sea container port in Maharashtra.
4. National Maritime Heritage Complex (NMHC), Lothal – Maritime heritage and tourism hub.
5. Tuna-Tekra International Container Terminal (TICT) – Modern container transshipment facility.

Tehran says it won't permit IAEA inspectors at bombed nuclear sites

U.S. President Trump and Vice-President Vance have said Iran would allow nuclear inspections of its sites 'long into the future'; Mohammad Ghalibaf says the Strait of Hormuz 'will never return' to the days of free passage before the conflict

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran said on Tuesday the UN's nuclear watchdog will not be able to inspect key nuclear sites bombed by the U.S. and Israel last year, as the first round of talks to end the war wrapped up in Switzerland.

Tehran and Washington have signed a memorandum of understanding to end a war that sowed chaos across West Asia and rattled the global economy, embarking on a 60-day period to settle broader issues. Diplomacy on that final deal ramped up on Tuesday, with Iran's leader



Destroyed buildings at Isfahan Nuclear Technology Centre after it was hit by U.S. air strikes, in Isfahan, Iran, on June 22, 2025. REUTERS

heading to mediator Pakistan, U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio setting off on a tour of Gulf allies, and Lebanon and Israel due for direct talks in Washington.

But Iran denied the claim of U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance that Tehran had agreed to invite International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors

back, after Iran blocked them from nuclear sites struck by its arch foes in a 12-day war last year.

"We have not had a meeting with the director general of the IAEA, nor do we have any plans for the agency to inspect Iran's nuclear facilities damaged by the U.S. and Zionist military aggression," Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmaeil Baqaei told a press briefing.

But U.S. President Donald Trump later said Iran had signed off on comprehensive nuclear inspections.

"Iran has fully and completely agreed to highest level Nuclear inspections

long into the future," he posted on social media.

When the U.S. joined Israel's war with Iran in mid-2025, it bombed nuclear facilities at Fordow, Natanz and Isfahan.

Iran's UN ambassador Ali Bahreini also told presspersons on Tuesday "there hasn't been such a decision" to accept IAEA inspectors.

It came as Tehran's top negotiator Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said the strategic Strait of Hormuz "will never return" to the days of free passage before the war, despite both sides agreeing to set up communication lines to keep it open.

In India, why are some nuclear reactors kept under "IAEA Safeguards" while others are not ?

- (a) Some use uranium and others use thorium
- (b) Some use imported uranium and others use domestic supplies
- (c) Some are operated by foreign enterprises and others are operated by domestic enterprises
- (d) Some are State-owned and others are privately-owned

1. **Context:** Iran refused to allow International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors to access nuclear facilities damaged during the recent Iran–Israel–US conflict, raising concerns over nuclear verification, safeguards and transparency.

2. **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

Established: 1957 | **HQ:** Vienna, Austria

Objectives:

1. Promote peaceful uses of nuclear energy.
2. Ensure nuclear safety and security.
3. Verify non-diversion of nuclear materials through inspections and safeguards.

Key Terms:

A. IAEA Safeguards – Verification mechanism to ensure nuclear material is not diverted for weapons; civilian facilities under safeguards are subject to inspections.

B. Additional Protocol – Expands IAEA access to information and inspection rights, enhancing transparency of civilian nuclear programmes.

C. Civilian vs Strategic Nuclear Facilities – Civilian facilities may be placed under IAEA safeguards and access international nuclear cooperation; strategic/military facilities remain outside safeguards for national security reasons.

Exclusive: 13 years later, protection for Western Ghat areas in 3 states almost ready

Over 56,000 square km of land in six states are proposed to be demarcated as ESA, based on the 2013 recommendations of a high-level working group led by former ISRO chairman K Kasturirangan.

Written by:

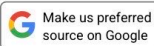
Nikhil Ghanekar,

Amitabh Sinha

9 min read New Delhi

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The Western Ghats have different types of rock types but this team chose to work on basalt cliffs that spans only on the south of Gujarat, entire Maharashtra, north of Goa and Karnataka. (Express File Photo)

Twelve years after it issued the first draft notification, the Centre is finally ready to finalise and notify the demarcation of Ecologically Sensitive Areas (ESA) in the Western Ghats region, at least in the three states in which contentious issues have more or less been resolved, *The Indian Express* has learnt.

Over [56,000 square km of land in six states](#) are proposed to be demarcated as ESA, based on the 2013 recommendations of a high-level working group led

'Gadgil Committee Report' and 'Kasturirangan Committee Report', sometimes seen in the news, are related to

- (a) constitutional reforms
- (b) Ganga Action Plan
- (c) linking of rivers
- (d) protection of Western Ghats

1. **Context:** The Centre is close to finalising the Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) notification in the Western Ghats, covering about 56,000 sq km, based largely on the K. Kasturirangan Committee recommendations.

2. Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA) & Western Ghats

Ecologically Sensitive Area (ESA): Areas notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, where mining, quarrying, thermal power plants and highly polluting industries are restricted to protect biodiversity.

Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ): Buffer around National Parks and Wildlife Sanctuaries; generally a minimum 1 km protection zone where applicable (earlier 10 km was only a guideline, not a uniform rule).

Western Ghats: UNESCO World Heritage Site • One of the **world's 8 Hottest Biodiversity Hotspots** • ~1,600 km long • States (North → South): Gujarat → Maharashtra → Goa → Karnataka → Kerala → Tamil Nadu.

3. Western Ghats Committees

Kasturirangan Committee (2013): ESA for ~37% of Western Ghats (~60,000 sq km) • Natural Landscape vs Cultural Landscape approach • Balanced conservation and development.

Gadgil Committee (2011): Protection for most of the Western Ghats • Stricter environmental safeguards • Community-led conservation model.

● EXPERTS SAID THE RESULTS MAY REFLECT BEIJING'S PUSH TO PROJECT SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN COMPUTING SYSTEMS MORE THAN ITS POSITION IN THE GLOBAL AI RACE

China beats US with world's fastest supercomputer

Reuters

San Francisco, June 23

CHINA HAS overtaken the US to win the top spot on a list of the world's fastest supercomputers, but the results may say more about Beijing's desire to show self-sufficiency in computing systems than its standing in the global AI race, experts said.

The LineShine system at the National Supercomputing Centre in Shenzhen, China, uses domestically designed chips and won the top spot on the TOP500, a biannual global ranking of supercomputers, with the country's first listing in three years.

The ranking comes as the US and China are increasingly competing in advanced computing, with US President Don-

ald Trump on Monday signing an executive order that aims to put the US ahead of China in the emerging field of quantum computing.

In the June 2026 edition of TOP500, LineShine beat out the previous titleholder, El Capitan, a supercomputer housed at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory that the US government uses to develop and maintain its nuclear weapons stockpile.

But technology and policy experts interviewed by Reuters said the results do not mean that China has the world's fastest computer for AI work because of changes in the computing industry in recent years and the methods used to compile the list. LineShine ranked fourth on a benchmark test designed to simulate computing work that



The ranking comes as the US and China are increasingly competing in advanced computing. REUTERS

is more similar to AI.

Benchmark tests

For decades, supercomputers strung together many separate machines to work on

complex scientific problems such as simulating how atoms interact with one another and were mostly the domain of national labs and universities.

To be ranked on the

TOP500 list, supercomputer operators must run a set of benchmark tests that aims to mimic such work.

But in more recent years, cloud computing companies such as Microsoft, Amazon.com and Alphabet's Google built out massive supercomputers of their own but geared them for AI work instead.

Most of those companies do not opt to compete for a spot on the TOP500 list.

A study last year by AI policy researchers Konstantin Pilz, James Sanders, Robi Rahman and Lennart Heim found that SpaceX-owned xAI's Colossus system was already likely more powerful than the US government's El Capitan.

"If the hyperscalers submitted their systems, this

'world's fastest' would not crack the top five," said Jimmy Goodrich, a senior fellow at the University of California's Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation.

Chip design efforts

The Chinese victory on the list more likely shows that China wanted recognition for its chip design efforts, which is a change from recent years, experts said. China first took the top spot on the TOP500 in 2010 and traded titles back and forth with the US and Japan until 2023, when China stopped submitting its systems after years of chip- and computing-related export controls from Trump's first administration and later under President Joe Biden.

1. **Context:** China's "LineShine" supercomputer topped the latest TOP500 global ranking, overtaking the US-based El Capitan. The system uses domestically designed chips, highlighting China's push for technological self-reliance amid growing competition with the US in advanced computing and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

2. **Supercomputer:** An extremely powerful computer capable of performing trillions/quadrillions of calculations per second (FLOPS – Floating Point Operations Per Second).

Applications:

1. Weather forecasting & climate modelling.
2. Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML).
3. Nuclear and defence simulations.
4. Space, astrophysics and scientific research.
5. Drug discovery and genomics.
6. Earthquake, flood and disaster prediction.

3. India & Supercomputers

National Supercomputing Mission (NSM): Launched in 2015 by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) and Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY); implemented by Centre for Development of Advanced Computing (C-DAC) and Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bengaluru.

Key Facts:

1. **AIRAWAT** – India's leading AI-focused supercomputer.
2. **PARAM Series** – Indigenous supercomputers developed by C-DAC.
3. **Objective:** Strengthen indigenous High Performance Computing (HPC) capacity for research, academia and strategic sectors.

Centre tightens norms for foreign contributions

Amended FCRA Rules stipulate that NGOs must stick to specified activities in their category and geographical areas; disclosure of social media accounts and other publications made mandatory

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) wanting to access foreign funds must now stick to a list of activities specified by the Centre, according to the latest amendment to the Rules of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act (FCRA), 2010, notified on Monday.

While NGOs seeking foreign funds are required to register under one of the five permitted categories, namely social, economic, educational, cultural, and religious, this is the first time separate activity lists have been laid out for those in each category.

NGOs must now disclose their activities, the geographical scope of their programmes, their websites, social media accounts, and publications. They must pay separate fees for each category and State or Union Territory they operate in, as opposed to the previous single fee for FCRA registrants.

Any new registration must follow the new norms and existing registrations must comply with the

Funding check

Under the fresh changes to Rules of the Foreign Contribution Regulation Act, all NGOs are required to disclose specific activities and geographical scope of their programmes to receive contributions under 5 permitted categories:



EDUCATIONAL

- Schools, colleges, and libraries
- Scholarships
- Research institutions and think tanks
- Civic-awareness and constitutional-rights programmes



ECONOMIC

- Livelihood generation
- Skill development
- Agricultural sectors
- Entrepreneurship and micro-enterprises
- Financial and digital inclusion



RELIGIOUS

- Places of worship
- Religious education
- Pilgrim services
- Meditation programmes
- Preservation of religious traditions



SOCIAL

- Public health
- Rehabilitation
- Sanitation and nutrition
- Disaster relief



CULTURAL

- Preservation of Indian arts and languages
- Museums, archives, and cultural festivals
- Heritage conservation

changes within the next year. Any violations will be penalised with a minimum fine of ₹1 lakh, according to another order from the Union Home Ministry.

The Ministry regulates all foreign donations through the FCRA. Earlier amendments of the Rules only required NGOs to give an undertaking that their acceptance of foreign funds is not likely to affect the sovereignty and integrity of India or impact friendly relations with foreign states or disrupt communal harmony.

The amended Rules also broaden the definition of an NGO's "key functionary" beyond office-bearers and directors to include trustees, partners, the *Karta* or head of a Hindu Undivided Family, governing body members, and anyone else controlling or managing the organisation. Associations having foreign nationals (other than persons of Indian origin) as key functionaries will ordinarily not be considered eligible for registration or prior permission, unless specifically permit-

ted by the Centre, according to the new Rules. NGOs must also declare whether their association or any of their key functionaries brought out any publication during the year, including books, magazines, and newspaper articles.

A senior government official said that the amendments were effected to bring uniformity in Foreign Contribution forms (F-C) and to avoid duplication.

CONTINUED ON
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- Examine critically the recent changes in the rules governing **foreign funding of NGOs** under the **Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 1976.**

2015

Context: The Centre amended the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Rules, 2011 under the Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA), 2010, tightening disclosure norms for NGOs receiving foreign funds by mandating declaration of activities, geographical scope, social media accounts and publications.

2. Foreign Contribution (Regulation) Act (FCRA)

Ministry: Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA)

Objective: Regulate foreign funding and ensure it does not affect sovereignty & integrity of India, national security, public interest, electoral processes or communal harmony.

Permitted Categories:

1. **Social** – Public health, rehabilitation, sanitation, nutrition, disaster relief.
2. **Educational** – Schools, colleges, scholarships, research institutions.
3. **Economic** – Livelihood generation, skill development, financial inclusion.
4. **Religious** – Places of worship, religious education, pilgrim services.
5. **Cultural** – Arts, languages, museums, archives and heritage conservation.

Key Changes: NGOs must operate within declared category and geographical scope • Mandatory disclosure of websites, social media accounts and publications • Expanded definition of Key Functionary (trustees, partners, managers etc.) • Stricter scrutiny where foreign nationals hold key positions.

3. FCRA Basics

1. Registration valid for 5 years.
2. Foreign funds received through designated State Bank of India (SBI), New Delhi Main Branch account.
3. Transfer of foreign contribution to another NGO prohibited.
4. Administrative expenditure capped at 20% of foreign funds.