

Coastal Shipping Bill, 2020

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In news

Shipping Ministry issues draft “Coastal Shipping Bill, 2020” for public consultation

Key highlights of the draft bill

The Ministry of Shipping has drafted a Coastal Shipping Bill, 2020 **in lieu of part XIV of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958**. Some of the highlights of the Bill are as under:

- The **definition of coastal shipping** and coastal waters has been expanded.
- It is proposed to do away with the requirement of trading licence for Indian flag vessels for coastal trade.
- The Bill seeks to create a competitive environment and reduce transportation costs, while encouraging Indian vessels to increase their share in coastal shipping.
- The Bill also proposes the **integration of coastal maritime transport with inland waterways**.
- There is a provision for a **National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan**.