

navio

**THE
NAVIO DIGEST**

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A Journey into the History of Indian Shipbuilding

India has a rich maritime heritage that dates back thousands of years, making shipbuilding one of its oldest industries. From the ancient civilizations of the Indus Valley to modern naval engineering, Indian shipbuilding has played a significant role in trade, exploration, and defense. India's shipbuilding industry impressed many foreign visitors in ancient and medieval times. Alexander the Great reportedly ordered ships in India in 326 BCE, and later travellers like Ma Huan, a member of Zheng He's expedition, and others praised Indian vessels for their size, strength, and craftsmanship.

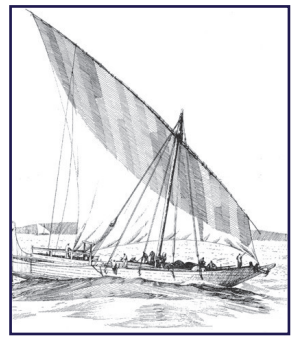


India also had an early and active maritime trade network. Archaeological evidence from Lothal shows advanced shipbuilding techniques using teak wood, stitched planks, and protective coatings, highlighting the skill of ancient Indian craftsmen and the importance of sea trade.

Evidence from ancient Dwarka, including iron sea anchors from around 1800 BCE, shows early maritime activity and advanced technology in ancient India. Mauryan texts like the Arthashastra and Indica mention a state official for shipping and support for shipbuilders, while the Yuktikalpataru describes different types of vessels used for sea travel and trade, including voyages to Ceylon.

Shipbuilding in ancient India is less documented than maritime activity, suggesting knowledge was mainly passed down orally as a trade secret. Along the Konkan coast, skilled carpenter communities like the Mestas or Acharis inherited this craft within families, using traditional methods and measurements. Teak was the preferred material, though wood types varied based on availability and use.

Two main shipbuilding traditions in the Indian Ocean were the dhow and junk styles, blending South, Southeast Asian, and later Chinese influences. By the 16th century, Indian Ocean trade was highly active, with widespread shipbuilding under rulers like Akbar and growing Portuguese interaction.



By the 17th century, India had become a major shipbuilding hub, with centers like Surat, Cochin, Bombay, and Bengal. The Wadia shipbuilders further strengthened the industry, producing durable ships for trade, travel, and pilgrimage, showing the importance of ships in maritime history

NEWS ARTICLE

Vizhinjam Port Set to Begin Full EXIM Operations, Marking a New Chapter in India's Maritime Trade



India's maritime sector is set to achieve a significant milestone as the deep-water port at Vizhinjam prepares to commence full-fledged Export-Import (EXIM) operations from 18 August 2026. The move marks the port's transition from a container transshipment facility to a comprehensive international gateway capable of handling direct import and export cargo.

Until now, the port has primarily focused on transshipment, where containers are transferred between vessels before reaching their final destinations. With the launch of EXIM services, exporters and importers will be able to ship cargo directly through the port, reducing reliance on overseas transshipment hubs and creating a more efficient trade route for Indian businesses.

Located close to one of the world's busiest international shipping lanes, the port offers a strategic advantage for global container traffic. Its natural deep draft enables it to accommodate some of the largest container vessels, enhancing direct connectivity with major international trade routes. The commencement of EXIM operations is expected to reduce logistics costs, shorten transit times, and improve supply chain efficiency for businesses across the country.

The development is also expected to strengthen India's position as a global maritime and logistics hub by attracting higher cargo volumes and supporting export-oriented industries. In addition to improving trade competitiveness, the expansion is likely to stimulate economic activity through better port infrastructure, enhanced connectivity, and increased employment opportunities within the maritime sector. As the port enters this new phase, the start of EXIM operations represents one of the most important developments in India's shipping and logistics industry this year. It reflects the country's continued focus on building world-class maritime infrastructure and improving the efficiency of its international trade network.

NAVIO SPOTLIGHT

Participated in Kerala Samudra Mission 2026, held on 15th July in Thiruvananthapuram, graced by Honourable Chief Minister Shri V.D. Satheesan as Chief Guest.





Fun on the Floor: One Team. One Spirit. Countless Smiles! Teams from all our Navio offices take a short break from work to simply have fun.



Junior Art Competition: The employee's children were invited to bring their favorite artwork and showcase their creativity.



Potluck Snackathon: The team brought and shared their favorite UAE snacks, sweets, and savories, enjoying a delicious mid-morning feast together.



GAMES



Identify one word that begin with 'CAN'

1. A can that gives light

2. A can that is sweet

3. A can that is truthful

4. A can that is country

5. A can that crosses off

6. A can that is a way a horse runs

7. A can you can row in
8. A can that is an astronomical sign

9. A can that is a fruit

10. A can that projects from a vertical support

11. A can used to paint on

12. A can that is a deep valley

13. A can that is used for irrigation, waterway

14. A can that is also a bird

MEME

Me stuck in a meeting that has nothing to do with me because my manager wants me there



my boss when I'm doing the job of 3 people.



my boss when I stop for 2 seconds to rest.



When you accidentally click restart instead of shut down on your 8 year old laptop



This little maneuver is gonna cost us 51 years

QUOTE

“You are never too young to lead, nor too old to act. And you should never doubt your capacity to triumph where others have not.”

– Kofi Annan

UAE | INDIA | OMAN | MALAYSIA | SINGAPORE | QATAR

Mumbai | New Delhi | Gandhidham | Kochi | Tuticorin

Chennai | Bengaluru | Ahmedabad | Kolkata | Visakhapatnam | Ludhiana