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News: Environmental Ship Index (ESI)

- Recently, Mormugao Port Authority (MPA), Goa became the first Indian port to be listed on the Environmental Ship Index (ESI) portal for MPA's Harit Shrey programme.

Environmental Ship Index (ESI)

- Environmental Ship Index (ESI) is a system designed to evaluate and reward ships for their environmental performance.
- ESI identifies seagoing ships that perform better in reducing air emissions than the current International Maritime Organization (IMO) emission standards.
- The 2023 IMO greenhouse gas (GHG) Strategy envisages a reduction in the carbon intensity of international shipping by at least 40% by 2030.

Origin of ESI

- The ESI Initiative commenced on 1st January 2011 and from then onwards, its database under the administration of International Association of Ports and Harbours (IAPH).

Evaluation Criteria

- It assesses the emissions of nitrogen oxides (NOx) and sulphur oxides (SOx) released by ships.
- The index includes a reporting scheme for greenhouse gas emissions from vessels.

Main Characteristics of ESI

- **Port-Centric System:** Designed specifically as a system from ports to ports.
- **Voluntary Participation:** Allows shipowners to demonstrate the environmental performance of their vessels on a voluntary basis.
- **Applicability:** Can be applied to all types of seagoing ships, regardless of size or function.
- **Automated Calculation:** It is automatically calculated and maintained.
- **Incentives:** Ports and authorities may offer incentives, such as reduced port fees or priority berthing, to ships with higher ESI scores.