

India Reinforces Global Maritime Leadership at the 137th IMO Council Session



India reaffirmed its commitment to global maritime governance and international cooperation during the 137th Session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) Council, held in London from 6th to 10th July 2026. The Indian delegation was led by **Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS**, Director General of Maritime Administration (DGMA), along with **Shri Ash Mohomad**, Deputy Director General of Maritime Administration, **Shri Kaushik Seal**, President, The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) and representatives from the Indian maritime industry.

Throughout the five-day session, India actively participated in deliberations on key maritime issues, contributing to policy discussions while engaging with leading international organisations to strengthen cooperation on maritime safety, digital governance, environmental responsibility and seafarer welfare.

India participated in discussions on proposed amendments to the IMO Rules of Procedure and emphasised the need to preserve the Organisation's

consensus-based and technical decision-making process. The delegation supported efforts to improve the clarity, consistency and accessibility of the Rules of Procedure while ensuring that any future amendments continue to promote constructive international collaboration.

The delegation also contributed to discussions on the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS), highlighting that audit implementation indicators should be interpreted with appropriate context. India underlined that such indicators should support capacity building and continuous





improvement among Member States rather than serve as comparative rankings.

Seafarer welfare remained one of India's foremost priorities during the Council session. The delegation reiterated the importance of enhanced international cooperation to ensure timely repatriation of abandoned seafarers, effective financial security mechanisms and stronger implementation of the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC). India also highlighted the initiatives undertaken by the DGMA, including the 24x7 e-Navik Seafarer Assistance Portal and crisis response system, which provide prompt grievance redressal, welfare support and emergency assistance to Indian seafarers across the globe.

On the sidelines of the Council, the Indian delegation held several high-level bilateral meetings with international maritime organisations.

During its meeting with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), discussions focused on addressing seafarer abandonment, strengthening welfare measures and promoting ethical recruitment practices. The delegation highlighted the progress made in reducing abandonment cases involving Indian seafarers and reaffirmed India's zero-tolerance approach towards corrupt crewing practices. Issues relating to the criminalisation of seafarers and the need for maintaining robust standards among flag administrations also formed





part of the discussions. India also invited ITF to undertake an independent evaluation of the Indian Flag Administration.

The delegation's meeting with the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) centred on strengthening digital maritime

governance. Discussions explored collaboration on the proposed International Seafarers Validation Platform and the development of secure digital systems to facilitate certificate verification while ensuring compliance with international data protection standards. India also showcased the digital



transformation undertaken by the DGMA through online certification, training institute approvals and recruitment management systems.



Another significant engagement took place with the IMO's Senior Legal Officer responsible for the database of abandoned seafarers. India highlighted the importance of maintaining accurate records of seafarer nationality and ensuring timely sharing of information with the concerned Member States. The delegation explained that improved coordination would facilitate quicker assistance and more effective resolution of abandonment cases. India's initiatives to promote greater participation of women in the maritime sector were also shared during the discussions.

Several important follow-up actions emerged from the Council session. India will continue to monitor proposed amendments to the IMO Rules of Procedure ahead of the next Council session, pursue the establishment of the Late C. P. Srivastava Chair at the World Maritime University and advance the country's accession to the Ballast Water Management Convention



and the Bunker Convention under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025. Discussions also progressed on collaboration with the International Chamber of Shipping for the proposed International Seafarers Validation Platform, subject to appropriate safeguards relating to data privacy and protection.

The delegation further engaged with senior IMO officials and international partners on matters concerning technical cooperation, maritime capacity building and measures to address the criminalisation of seafarers. India also expressed interest in strengthening long-term cooperation with the IMO, including exploring the

establishment of an enhanced technical cooperation framework and a future IMO regional presence in the country.

India's participation at the 137th IMO Council Session reflected its growing stature in the international maritime community. Through constructive interventions, active stakeholder engagement and continued emphasis on seafarer welfare, digital transformation and responsible maritime governance, India reinforced its commitment to contributing towards a safer, more secure, sustainable and efficient global shipping industry.



THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERS (INDIA)

KOLKATA BRANCH

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Kolkata Branch of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) will be held on **Tuesday, 28th July 2026 at 1830 hrs**, followed by sponsored refreshments.

VENUE

Sapphire Inn, 1st Floor, Princeton Club,
26, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata – 700 033

All valid Corporate Members of the Kolkata Branch are cordially invited to attend the meeting and participate in the proceedings.

Members are requested to kindly confirm their attendance in advance with the Branch Office by e-mail at imeikol@yahoo.co.in.

The Branch looks forward to the gracious presence and active participation of all members.