

# iMélange

February 2026



Monthly Magazine of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)





# The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)

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## From the Editor's Desk

Dear Esteemed Readers,

February brings with it renewed momentum as India's maritime sector continues to expand its strategic depth, regulatory engagement and professional excellence. This edition of *iMélange* reflects a month marked by purposeful dialogue, policy progression and community spirit across the maritime landscape.

The highlight of the month was **COMARSEM-2026 in Kochi**, where policymakers and industry leaders deliberated on India's maritime roadmap. The discussions balanced growth with sustainability, reinforcing the need for capacity enhancement, technological adaptation and environmental responsibility. In Kolkata, the **Annual Paper Meet – Oceans of Opportunities and Responsibilities** showcased the intellectual strength of our fraternity, reminding us that opportunity must always align with accountability. Vizag's feature on **Fostering Maritime Excellence Through Leadership** further underscored the importance of principled guidance in shaping resilient maritime institutions.

On the global regulatory front, this issue presents key takeaways from the **13th Session of the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 13)**. With growing emphasis on marine environmental protection, deliberations on alternative fuels, pollution response preparedness and regulatory safeguards hold direct implications for ship operators and administrations. India's continued engagement reflects its commitment to responsible maritime governance.

Industry celebrations and knowledge exchange remained vibrant. The **SCI ceremonial event honouring professional excellence** recognized outstanding contributions to the sector. Academic-industry collaboration gained momentum through **IMU's 2nd International Conference Azimuth 2026** and the **EZAME Annual Technical Seminar 2026**, both strengthening the bridge between research, innovation and operational practice.

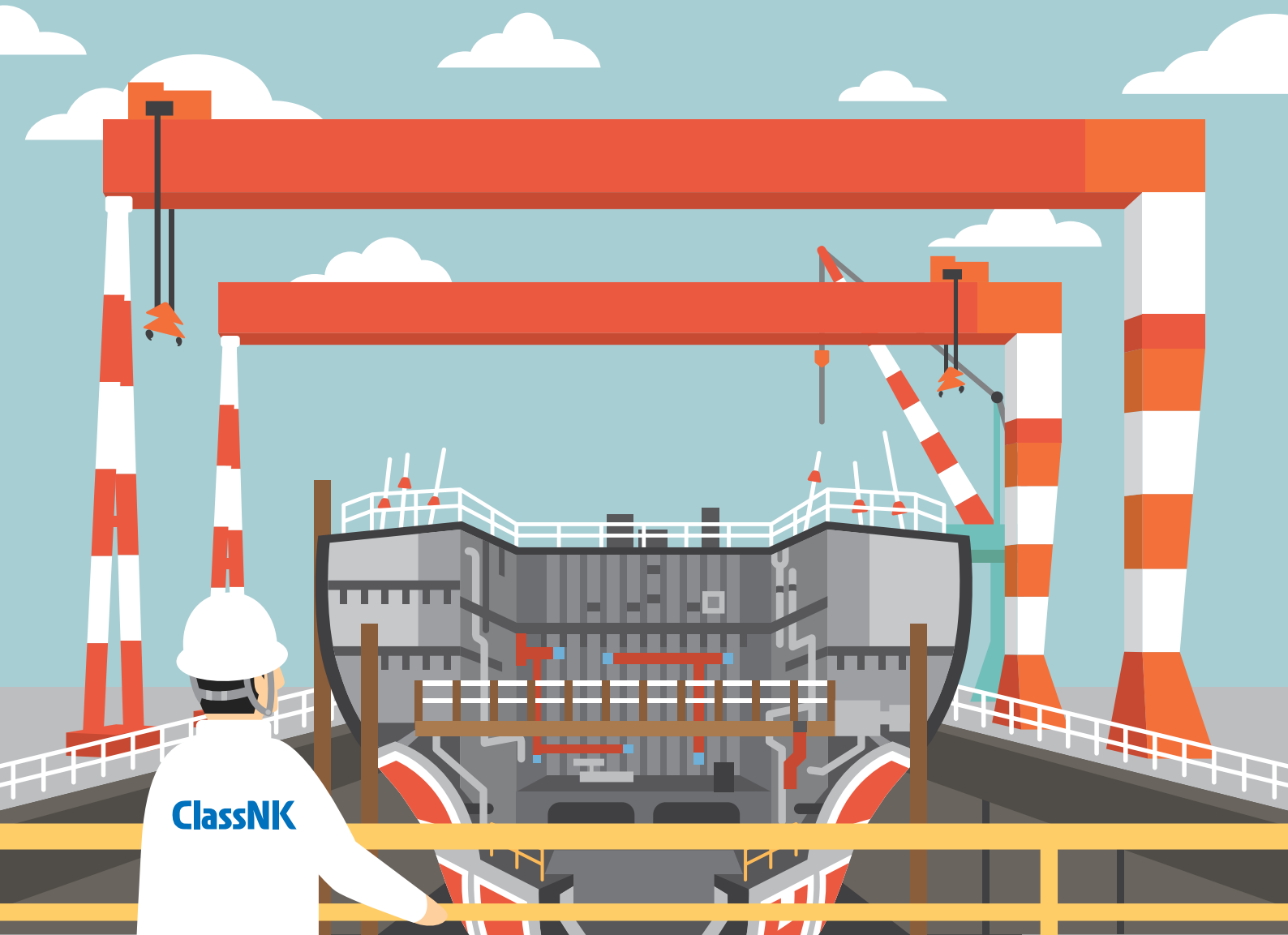
Policy reforms continued to shape the sector's growth trajectory. The extension of the **Tonnage Tax Regime to Inland Vessels** supports inland waterways transport, while the **Integrated Container Ecosystem initiative under the Atmanirbhar Bharat vision** reinforces India's drive toward resilient and self-reliant logistics infrastructure. Strategic developments such as **Mazagon Dock's acquisition of a 41.73% stake in Colombo Dockyard** and the launch of India's first **Anti-Drone Security System by V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority** demonstrate industrial expansion and proactive security readiness. Environmental leadership was celebrated as **Paradip Port Authority secured top honours at the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025**.

International cooperation advanced with strengthened **India-Seychelles maritime and Blue Economy partnership**, while the **Maritime Soccer League 2026** and **Mariners, Memories and a Match to Remember** highlighted the camaraderie that binds our community beyond professional roles.

As February's developments show, India's maritime progress remains multidimensional anchored in leadership, sustainability and global engagement.

We invite readers and contributors to share their articles, insights and feedback at [editornewsletter@imare.in](mailto:editornewsletter@imare.in) or [subeditor@imare.in](mailto:subeditor@imare.in) by 7th March 2026.

**SUNIL KUMAR**  
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## COMARSEM-2026: Charting the Course for India's Maritime Future



After a small gap, compelled by circumstances well beyond its control, indeed a global phenomenon, the Kochi Branch has re-entered the track of conducting international seminars with renewed vigour by successfully hosting **COMARSEM-2026**, a two-day International Seminar held on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The venue was Vivanta by Taj - Kochi, overlooking the idyllic backwaters of Kochi.

The list of invitees in attendance, numbering more than 300 and filling the well-appointed conference hall to the brim, resembled a virtual who-is-who of luminaries from the Indian maritime skyscape. The event was inaugurated by **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways in virtual mode and was followed by a live video address by **Shri R Lakshmanan, IAS**, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. **Shri Madhu S. Nair**, then Chairman & Managing Director of Cochin Shipyard Limited, was the Chief Guest. Other dignitaries who graced the event included **Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Directorate General of Shipping, DG Shipping, Shri Ajithkumar Sukumaran, Chief Surveyor-cum-Addl. DG (Engineering), DG Shipping, Shri B Kasiviswanathan (IRSME), Chairman, Cochin Port Authority, Shri P K Mishra, Managing Director, Indian Register of Shipping, Shri Senthil Kumar, Principal Officer, MMD Kochi, Shri Kaushik Seal, President, The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) and Shri Rajeev Nayyar, Past President, The Institute of Marine Engineers (India).**

The two days were packed with a programme that featured in-depth discussions on current issues facing the Indian shipping industry, led by stalwarts whose decisions have a profound impact on the industry's performance. There were four panels comprising senior stakeholders, deliberating on the themes: *Impact of New Policy Initiatives, Path Towards Net Zero – Opportunities and Challenges, Shaping Future Shipping – Leveraging Indian Human Capital and Marine Infrastructure – The Catalyst for Nation Building*. A major segment of the seminar was the presentation of technical papers. Sixteen papers were presented by leaders from industry, academic experts, research organisations and the student community. In both segments, the lively exchanges between the eloquent experts on the dais and the keen participants in the hall were curtailed only by the sheer paucity of time.

The seminar was privileged to receive close involvement from the Directorate General of Shipping, which collaborated in the conduct of the event. The Director General of Shipping delivered a special address on "Blue Shipping-....." to the gathering and the Chief Surveyor made a presentation on "Green Shipping Transition and Development on MEPC Deliberations," adding significant value to the proceedings.

Another unique episode of the seminar was the felicitation of **Shri Madhu S. Nair**, who was officially stepping down from his position as C&MD of Cochin Shipyard Limited on the second day of the seminar. A

Ponnada and a plaque of felicitation were presented by the organisers, the plaque eulogising his contributions to the nation's shipping industry by elevating the organisation he led to the forefront of its class in India and transforming its performance from a prolonged period of modest outcomes to a scintillating phase under his stewardship. The Institute further honoured him with an Honorary Fellowship, the certificate being presented by the President of the Institute, made possible through the prompt and timely action of the Head Office.

The programme on the first day commenced with the Inaugural Function, with the inaugural address by Shri Sonowal, in virtual mode, followed by the key-note address by Mr. Lakshmanan again in virtual mode because of the imminent Parliament Sessions which prevented ministers and other senior officials from leaving the capital. These were followed by panel discussions and paper presentations on technical subjects very relevant to the Indian Maritime Sector. The day culminated in a one-hour boat ride through the picturesque backwaters of Kochi, thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. The boats, kindly offered by Kochi Water Metro Limited, the

water transport wing of Kochi Metro Rail Limited, were electrically propelled vessels constructed by Cochin Shipyard Limited. These boats have revolutionised water transport services in Kochi, bringing unprecedented levels of comfort, safety, convenience and economy to thousands commuting daily between their homes and workplaces. The boat ride was followed by the dinner.

The seminar also featured a number of stalls, utilised by participating companies to showcase their activities and attract the keen attention of delegates.

The successful conduct of the event was made possible by the tremendous support extended by leading members of the shipping industry, academia and training institutes, the Maritime Ministry and Administration and various classification societies led by The Cochin Shipyard Ltd. The seamless execution of COMARSEM-2026 was preceded by the sincere and dedicated efforts of the organising committee, active involvement of Institute members beyond their call off duty, and the relentless contribution of the Branch office staff in ensuring timely completion of all preparatory work in an exemplary manner.

## Glimpses of the Event



Lamp lighting ceremony by the dignitaries



Invocation



Shri Sajan P. John, Chairman, IME(I), Kochi Branch welcoming the guests



Shri R Lakshmanan, IAS, Joint Secretary, MoSPW, delivering key-note address



**Shri Krishnan Kutty, briefing about the event**



**Shri Madhu S Nair delivering Chief Guest's Address**



**Shri Shyam Jagannathan, DGS, presenting his paper on Blue Economy**



**Shri Ajith Sukumaran, Chief Surveyor-cum-Addl. DG, presenting the Paper**



**Shri B Kasiviswanathan, Chairman, Cochin Port Authority, talking about the industry**



**Mr. Kaushik Seal, President, IME(I), talking about the event and its significance**



**Shri P K Mishra, MD, IRS giving the speech**



**Mr. Kaushik Seal presenting IME(I) Fellowship Certificate to Shri Madhu S. Nair**



**DGS presenting the eulogy to Shri Madhu S. Nair**



**Shri Madhu S Nair presenting memento to Shri Ajith Sukumaran**



**Shri Madhu S Nair presenting memento to Shri Kaushik Seal**



**Shri Krishnan Kutty presenting memento to Shri Madhu S. Nair**



Shri Madhu S Nair presenting memento to Shri P K Mishra



Mr. Krishnan reading the eulogy to Shri Madhu S. Nair



Mr. Sanjeev presenting a memento to Mr. Antony Prince



Souvenir Release



Panel-1 Chair Shri Ajith Sukumaran initiating the discussion



Panel-1 Shri Rajeev Nayyer speaking in the panel



Panel-1: Mr. Mun Dae-Yeon speaking



Mr. Prince Antony presenting memento to Mr. Rajeev Nayyer



Mr. Antony presenting memento to Mr. Mun Dae Yeon



Panel 1: Speakers



Panel 2: Presenters with Moderator Mr. V.V. Paul



Dr. Joshin John of Xavier Institute, Kochi presenting his paper



Mr. T.K. Sahu, presenting his paper



Mr. Mangesh V. Karekar of Magnolid Tech presenting his paper



Mr. Johnny Kackur presenting his paper



Panelists with Dr. Malini V Shankar



Paper Lot-2 Presenters



Panel-3 with Dr. Malini V Shankar



Mr. Sunil Kumar Iyyappan in panel discussion



Mr. Prince presenting a memento to Mr. Rajesh Gopalakrishnan of CSL



Mr. Sonny Joseph presenting a memento to Mr. V.V. Paul



Mr. Sivaram N. Swamy presenting a memento to Mr. Antony Prince



Mr. Prince sharing his thoughts about Shri Madhu S. Nair



Mr. Aditya Patel in panel discussion



Panel-4 with Mr. Sivaram N. Swamy, leading organisers



GC 2025 - 27 with Shri Shyam Jagannathan, DGS



Some Panelists with Shri Shyam Jagannathan, DGS



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**Dr. K. A. Simon reviewing the event**



**Mr. N Rajan, Convener, delivering Vote of Thanks at Valedictory Function**



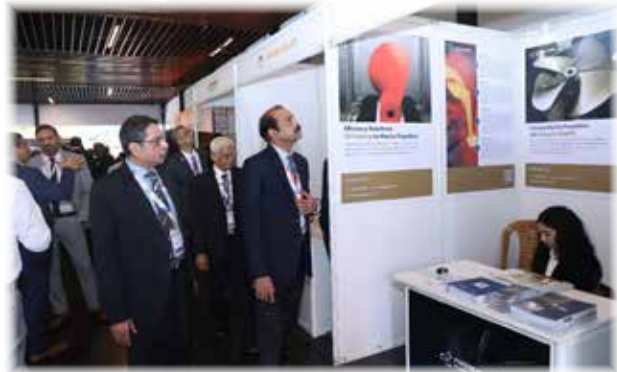
**Paper by Mr. Jorma Koponen on DP Positioning**



**Panelists with Dr. Simon and Mr. Mathew Koshy**



**Shri Ajith Sukumaran opening the Stalls**



**Stall Visit**



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## Annual Paper Meet - Oceans of Opportunities and Responsibilities



The Annual Technical Paper Meet of IME(I) Kolkata Branch was organised on 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2026 from 9.30 am onwards at Princeton Club, Kolkata. The theme of this year was 'Oceans of Opportunities and Responsibilities'.

**Shri Abhijit Banerjee**, EC Member, IME(I), Kolkata Branch, conducted the proceedings.

In his opening address, Chairman of the Branch, **Shri S. K. Sarkar**, welcomed all and opened the session with a brief account of our responsibilities towards the ocean, while also touching upon the opportunities and issues connected with shipbuilding in India.

Chief Guest, **Shri Debashis Saha**, Principal Surveyor, Indian Register of Shipping, Kolkata, in his keynote address, elaborated on the background of the theme of the technical seminar. He also talked about The Arctic Report, the IMO Net-Zero Framework, Europort Maritime Exhibition, Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 - Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, Maritime India Vision 2030, IRS Strategic MoUs and IRS-classified Green Projects.

Guest of Honour, **Shri Asit Kumar Banerjee**, Senior Consultant, Genco-Synergy Ship Management Limited,

Noida, took the audience through an interesting journey from ancient maritime history to the present state. He then talked about the steps taken by the Indian government, like the Sagarmala Project, and also what we need to do to build a modern maritime workforce, highlighting the need of more skilled marine personnel.



The first speaker in the paper presentations, **Shri Ramkumar Vishvanath**, Ex-Principal, Hoon Maritime Institute, Kolkata, speaking on the subject 'Rapidly Changing Marine Technology', said the shipping industry was undergoing rapid changes due to new regulations, procedures and technologies. Traditional methods were being replaced by innovations in design, materials, manufacturing methods, communications, maintenance techniques, etc. He said many new methods would be tried, some replacing obsolete ones, with shipping becoming more efficient and environment friendly. He then focused on three new technologies – Digital Twin, Predictive Maintenance and Additive Manufacturing (3D Printing).



The second speaker, **Dr Shantanu Paul**, Faculty of Marine Engineering, IMU-Kolkata Campus, speaking on



the subject 'Our Oceans, Our Regulations, Our Responsibilities', underscored the ocean's critical importance to human survival. He made a critical analysis of environmental responsibilities such as IMO efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, particularly focussing on the Net-Zero Framework (NZF) that failed adoption in October 2025. He then made out a pragmatic argument for Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) as a politically viable solution to reduce shipping emissions.

The last speaker, **Shri Suvendra N. Bagchi**, Senior Principal Surveyor, American Bureau of Shipping, speaking on the subject 'Opportunities for the Marine Engineer of Tomorrow', reminded that most of the larger ship management companies of the world now operate out of India. He also spoke on diverse career paths available

for marine engineers, beyond traditional seafaring roles. He said there were opportunities in areas such as ship building, ship management, risk evaluation, incident investigation, regulatory compliance, where a strong marine engineering background was required.

Summing up, **Shri Soumitra Neogi**, Hon. Secretary, IME(I), Kolkata Branch, said the presentations collectively painted a picture of an industry at a crossroads – embracing technological innovation, expanding professional opportunities, while, at the same time, there was an urgent need for environmental responsibility, amid complex geopolitical realities. The future of shipping would require balancing efficiency, sustainability and practical political considerations.

A vote of thanks was proposed by Shri Banerjee.



## Fostering Maritime Excellence Through Leadership



President of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) **Mr. Kaushik Seal**, visited the IME(I) Vizag Branch to meet and interact with members. **Mr. Dilshah Singh Anand**, Chairman, **Dr. Varaha Siva Prasad Vanthala**, Vice Chairman and **Mr. Voona Lakshmiipati Rao**, Hon. Secretary, Vizag branch welcomed the president.



His visit provided an excellent opportunity for meaningful engagement, where he shared insights on professional development, leadership and the future direction of the maritime fraternity. The interaction strengthened the bond between the leadership and members, reinforcing a shared commitment to excellence in the marine engineering profession.

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## Report of IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution prevention and response (PPR) - 13th Session



The IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution prevention and response held its 13<sup>th</sup> session from February 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> 2026 at the IMO headquarters in London. Because of the heavy workload of the MEPC, the ground work is increasingly being done by the PPR Sub Committees who in turn prepare reports containing various amendments and additions to the existing regulations for consideration by the MEPC. The 13<sup>th</sup> PPR session was attended by 3 delegates from India with 3 other delegates attending the Sub Committee session online. The Indian delegation was headed by **Shri Gopikrishna C.**, Engineer & Ship Surveyor-cum-Deputy DG(Tech), DG Shipping.

India had submitted two papers to this Sub-Committee: one addressing amendments to Marpol Annex IV, and another concerning the disposal of machinery space bilge water. Both these papers were actively discussed by the designated working groups towards development of draft amendments to the statutory regulations.

This Brief provides an overview of the significant issues finalised at this session and the way forward for some of these regulations.

### • MARPOL Annex I:

- Finalisation of draft amendments to MARPOL Annex I and consequential changes to the IOPP Certificate and Oil Record Book, with respect to the forced evaporation of

oily bilge water. These will be sent to MEPC for approval and subsequent adoption.

- Agreement to draft *2026 Guidelines for systems for handling oily wastes in machinery spaces of ships incorporating guidance notes for an integrated bilge water treatment system (IBTS)*.

- Agreement to draft revised *Guidance for the recording of operations in the Oil Record Book Part I – machinery space operations (all ships)*, which will ultimately replace MEPC.1/Circ.736/Rev.2.

### • MARPOL Annex II & IBC Code:

- Agreed a draft revised PPR.1/Circ.10 *Resubmission of products listed in lists 2 and 3 of the MEPC.2 Circular on provisional categorization of liquid substances in accordance with MARPOL ANNEX II and the IBC Code (with a view to endorsement by MEPC 84)*.

### • MARPOL Annex IV:

- Made further progress on the revision of MARPOL Annex IV and associated guidance with respect to improving sewage effluent discharge from ships.

### • MARPOL Annex VI & NOx Technical Code:

- Agreed a package of amendments to the NOx Technical Code 2008 to provide a means for certification



of engines that operate on non-carbon-containing fuel or mixtures of carbon-containing and non-carbon-containing fuels, which will be sent to MEPC 84 for approval.

- Approved draft amendments to MARPOL Annex VI Regulation 15 and the supplement to the IAPP certificate (Appendix I of MARPOL Annex VI), introducing a requirement for new tankers carrying crude oil to be fitted with p/v valves with a minimum opening pressure of 0.20 bar.

- Agreed to the following new unified interpretations (subject to approval by MEPC 84 and eventual inclusion into a future revision of MEPC.1/Circ.795):

- Clarification of the application of regulation 16 (shipboard incineration).

- Clarification of the application of the “three-date” criteria for PSSA application dates, in relation to NOx Technical Code compliance after major conversion.

- **Development of a legally binding framework for the control and management of ships’ biofouling:**

- Established a correspondence group to further progress the overarching objectives and structure of the framework, as well as associated guidance and develop a work plan.

- **Follow-up work emanating from the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships:**

- Agreed the *2026 Strategy and the Action Plan to Address Marine Plastic Litter from Ships*, for adoption by MEPC 84.

- Recommended to MEPC that a new mandatory code for the carriage of plastic pellets could be developed through MARPOL Annex III and or SOLAS.

- Agreed a draft MEPC circular to promote the implementation of fishing gear marking systems and the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear, to be sent to MEPC 84 for approval.



## A Ceremonial Tribute to Achievement and Professional Excellence



The 46th Convocation & Prize Distribution Ceremony of Narottam Morarjee Institute of Shipping (NMIS), Mumbai, was held on 13th February 2026 at Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Mumbai, in the presence of distinguished dignitaries, faculty members, cadets and invitees from the maritime fraternity.

The programme commenced with the arrival of the Chief Guest **Capt. B. K. Tyagi**, Chairman & Managing Director, SCI and Guest of Honour **Capt. Mahendra Pal Bhasin**, Managing Director, MSC Crewing Services India Pvt. Ltd., followed by a Guard of Honour presented by the cadets. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp marked the formal inauguration of the proceedings.

The Welcome Address was delivered by **Capt. Rahul Bhargava**, Chairman, NMIS, who highlighted the institute's continued commitment to excellence in maritime training and character building. This was followed by the Report of the Institute presented by **Dr. Surjit Dhingra**, Director, NMIS, outlining the academic achievements, training milestones and overall progress of NMIS.

An address was then delivered by the Guest of Honour, Capt. Bhasin, who shared insights on professionalism and industry expectations. Mementos were presented to distinguished contributors in recognition of their association and support to the institute.

The ceremony proceeded with the conferment of the NMIS Lifetime Achievement Award upon **Shri Arun Kumar Gupta**, Ex- CMD, SCI and senior Fellow Member, The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) honouring his outstanding contribution to the maritime sector. This was followed by the felicitation of **Shri Rajeev Nayer**, Past President, IME(I) with the NMIS Honorary Fellowship, acknowledging his leadership and service to the industry.

Faculty recognition formed an important segment of the programme, with felicitation of Capt. Shailesh Bhambhani for dedicated service and contribution to maritime education.

The core segment of the ceremony comprised the Distribution of Prizes and Award of Certificates to graduating cadets and meritorious students, celebrating their academic performance, discipline and professional readiness.

The Chief Guest, Capt. Tyagi, addressed the gathering, commending the graduates and emphasising the responsibilities of maritime professionals in a global shipping environment.

The ceremony concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Ajay Reshamwala, GC Member, NMIS, followed by the National Anthem, bringing the formal proceedings to a dignified close.

# Glimpses of the Event







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## IMU's 2nd International Conference Azimuth 2026



The Indian Maritime University (IMU), a Central University under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, organised its 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference AZIMUTH 2026 – dedicated to Digital Transformation and Innovation in Maritime Management, at the IMU Chennai Campus on 12<sup>th</sup> – 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026.

The programme featured an invocation and ceremonial lighting of the lamp, followed by a welcome address by **R Adm. Dr. Rangachari PJ (IN) (Retd.)**, Director IMU Chennai Campus, **Dr. Malini V. Shankar, IAS (Retd.)**, Vice Chancellor IMU, addressed the gathering and released the conference proceedings. The inaugural session





was further enriched by addresses from the Chief Guest, **Ms. J. P. Irene Cynthia, (IAS)**, MD, KPL and Guest of Honour **Shri Madhu S. Nair**, ex-CMD, Cochin Shipyard. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by **Dr. M. Sekar**, Head (SMM). The inauguration marked the formal commencement of two days of academic and industry engagement.

AZIMUTH 2026 a two-day Conference brings together a diverse and influential gathering of global maritime leaders, policymakers, academicians, researchers,

technologists and industry professionals to examine how emerging technologies are reshaping the future of maritime operations, logistics, sustainability, safety and governance.

The conference served as a strategic platform to accelerate dialogue on the regulatory frameworks, global standards and governance systems required to support maritime digital transition while ensuring long-term resilience, security and efficiency across maritime ecosystems.



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## EZAME Annual Technical Seminar 2026



The Eastern Zonal Association of Marine Engineers (EZAME), Kolkata, successfully conducted its Annual Technical Seminar on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at the Institution of Engineers' Auditorium, Kolkata. The seminar brought together marine engineering professionals, industry experts and members for insightful technical deliberations and knowledge exchange.

**Shri Kaushik Seal**, President of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India), graciously served

as the Moderator for the event. In recognition of his valuable contribution and leadership during the seminar, a memento was presented to him by EZAME.

The seminar once again reaffirmed EZAME's commitment to promoting technical excellence, professional development and collaborative learning within the marine engineering fraternity.





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## India Extends Tonnage Tax Regime to Inland Vessels, Strengthening Waterways Transport



In a significant policy move aimed at boosting the inland waterways sector, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has extended the Tonnage Tax Scheme to cover inland vessels. The decision is expected to provide a major impetus to the development of India's inland water transport ecosystem while promoting cost-effective and sustainable cargo movement.

Earlier, the Tonnage Tax Scheme was applicable only to seagoing vessels. With the latest expansion, inland vessels registered under the Inland Vessels Act, 2021 will now also be eligible to avail benefits under the simplified taxation framework. The move is designed to encourage greater private sector participation by offering a stable, predictable and transparent tax regime for operators in the inland waterways segment.

The amendment has been carried out through changes to the Income-tax Act, 1961, as part of the Finance Act, 2025. By bringing inland vessels under the tonnage-based taxation system, the government aims to reduce compliance complexities and enhance financial viability for operators, thereby attracting fresh investments into the sector.

The revised provisions will come into effect from 1 April 2026 and will be applicable from the Assessment Year 2026–27, corresponding to the financial year 2025–26 onwards. The reform is expected to accelerate the growth of inland water transport and support India's broader objective of developing an efficient, multimodal logistics network.



# THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERS (INDIA)

## KOLKATA BRANCH

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### Course Fee & Schedule for DGS Approved Courses at IMEI, Kolkata Branch

Sr. No.	Name of the course	Course Fee	Course Duration	Schedule
1.	Basic Training for Ships using Fuels covered within IGF Code (IGFB)	Rs.10,000 /- (including lunch & one-time Exit Examination fees)	5 days	2 <sup>nd</sup> March- 6 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026/ 6 <sup>th</sup> April - 10 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026/ 4 <sup>th</sup> May - 8 <sup>th</sup> May, 2026/ 1 <sup>st</sup> June – 5 <sup>th</sup> June, 2026
2.	Crowd management, Passenger Safety and Safety Training	Rs. 3,500 /- (including lunch & one-time Exit Examination fees)	3 days	09 <sup>th</sup> March -11 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026/ 13 <sup>th</sup> April- 15 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026/ 11 <sup>th</sup> May - 13 <sup>th</sup> May, 2026/ 8 <sup>th</sup> June – 10 <sup>th</sup> June, 2026
3.	Crisis Management & Human Behaviour	Rs. 8,000 /- (including lunch & one-time Exit Examination fees)	5 days	16 <sup>th</sup> March -20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026/ 20 <sup>th</sup> April- 24 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026/ 18 <sup>th</sup> May – 22 <sup>nd</sup> May, 2026/ 15 <sup>th</sup> June – 19 <sup>th</sup> June, 2026
4.	Security Training for Seafarer with Designated Security Duties (STSDSD)	Rs. 2,000 /- (including lunch & one-time Exit Examination fees)	2 days	19 <sup>th</sup> March -20 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026/ 27 <sup>th</sup> April- 28 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026/ 25 <sup>th</sup> May - 26 <sup>th</sup> May, 2026/ 22 <sup>nd</sup> June - 23 <sup>rd</sup> June, 2026
5.	Ship Security Officer (SSO)	Rs. 2,500 /- (including lunch & one-time Exit Examination fees)	3 days	23 <sup>rd</sup> March-25 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026/ 29 <sup>th</sup> April- 1 <sup>st</sup> May, 2026/ 27 <sup>th</sup> May - 29 <sup>th</sup> May, 2026/ 24 <sup>th</sup> June – 26 <sup>th</sup> June, 2026

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## Integrated Container Ecosystem Gains Momentum Under Atmanirbhar Bharat Vision



The Government of India has taken a significant step toward establishing a self-reliant and integrated container shipping ecosystem with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for the formation of the Bharat Container Shipping Line (BCSL). The signing ceremony was attended by Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** and Union Minister for Railways, Information and Broadcasting and Electronics and Information Technology, **Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw**, reflecting coordinated efforts across shipping, ports and rail-linked logistics. Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Shri Shantanu Thakur**, was also present at the event.

The MoU for BCSL was executed among the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOCPA), Chennai Port Authority and Sagarmala Finance Corporation Limited (SMFCL), under the aegis of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The initiative is aligned with the objectives of the Container Manufacturing Assistance Scheme (CMAS) announced in the Union Budget 2026–27, reinforcing the government's broader push toward domestic capability in container production and shipping.

In addition to the BCSL agreement, a separate tripartite MoU was signed to facilitate financing for the Outer Harbour Project at V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority, Tuticorin. This agreement was

entered into by VOCPA, Indian Railway Finance Corporation Limited (IRFC), and SMFCL. The arrangement provides for joint funding of up to 15,000 crore for eligible port capacity expansion projects under the Sagarmala Programme and the PM Gati Shakti National Master Plan. The funding model will primarily focus on debt financing for breakwater construction and associated onshore and offshore infrastructure, largely through the Hybrid Annuity Model (HAM).

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Sonowal described the initiatives as strategic measures aimed at strengthening India's container shipping capabilities, enhancing port infrastructure and advancing the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat and Maritime Amrit Kaal 2047. He noted that the establishment of the Bharat Container Shipping Line, in alignment with CMAS, would help ensure that India's container trade remains anchored within the country. He further stated that strengthening port infrastructure through the Outer Harbour project would reinforce India's maritime foundation, generate multiplier benefits and enhance the nation's strategic and commercial footprint in global trade. Together, these efforts are expected to support resilient supply chains, improve multimodal connectivity and position India more prominently in international maritime commerce.

Shri Vaishnaw remarked that the initiative marks the realisation of a long-standing vision and highlighted the government's commitment to expediting approvals and ensuring timely



implementation of key projects. He emphasised that the development of a new shipping and container line in collaboration with CONCOR would contribute to building a world-class container ecosystem across the country, supported by investments of around 15,000 crore. He added that this step follows earlier initiatives in shipbuilding financial support, ship recycling, and broader maritime sector reforms.

Shri Thakur observed that both MoUs reflect forward-looking leadership aimed at strengthening India's maritime presence and transforming the country into a major force at sea.

With India currently the world's fourth-largest economy and projected to reach a GDP of approximately \$7.3 trillion by 2030, export-import volumes and containerised cargo traffic are expected to grow substantially. The absence of a strong domestic container carrier has previously exposed Indian exporters and importers to fluctuating freight rates and global supply chain disruptions. The proposed national container line and expanded port infrastructure are therefore seen as timely interventions to secure India's long-term trade and logistics interests.

## THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERS (INDIA), KOCHI BRANCH

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### Course Fee & Schedule at IMEI Kochi Branch

Sl.no	Course Name	Course Duration	Course Fee	Schedule
1	MEO Cl. I (FG) preparatory course	2 Months	Rs.40,000/-	01 <sup>st</sup> April 2026, 01 <sup>st</sup> June 2026 ... <u>(Alternate months)</u>
2	MEO Cl. II (FG) preparatory course	4 Months	Rs.44,000/-	01 <sup>st</sup> April 2026, 01 <sup>st</sup> June 2026 ... <u>(Alternate months)</u>
3	Refresher & Updating Training Course for All Engineers (RUT)	3 Days	Rs.7,000/-	6 <sup>th</sup> April - 9 <sup>th</sup> April 2026
4	Vertical Integration Course for Trainers (VICT)	10 Days	Rs.16,000/-	9 <sup>th</sup> Mar – 19 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2026
5	Assessment Examination and Certification of Seafarers (AECS)	10 Days	Rs. 18,000/-	23 <sup>rd</sup> Feb - 6 <sup>th</sup> Mar 2026

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## Maritime Soccer League 2026 Kicks Off with Distinguished Presence



The Maritime Soccer League 2026 organised by The Naval Connection was held on Saturday, 31<sup>st</sup> January 2026 at Goalster, St. Joseph's Sports Complex, Bandra, Mumbai, bringing together maritime professionals for a spirited display of sportsmanship and camaraderie.

Mr. Kaushik Seal, President, IME(I), graced the occasion as the Guest of Honour. His presence

added prestige to the event and reflected IME(I)'s encouragement of holistic engagement beyond technical and professional spheres.

The league successfully fostered teamwork, networking, and fraternity within the maritime community, reinforcing the spirit of unity and healthy competition among members.





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1	Basic Training for Oil and Chemical Tanker Cargo Operations (OCTF)	₹7,250/-	6 Days	26 <sup>th</sup> February, 2026 21 <sup>st</sup> April, 2026
2	Basic Training for Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations (LGTF)	₹7,250/-	5 Days	18 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026 29 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026
3	Basic Training for Ships using Fuels covered within IGF Code (IGFB)	₹12,550/-	5 Days	11 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026 1 <sup>st</sup> April, 2026
4	Security Training for Seafarers with Designated Security Duties (STSDSD)	₹4,050/-	2 Days	30 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026 13 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026
5	Ship Security Officer (SSO)	₹4,950/-	3 Days	26 <sup>th</sup> March, 2026 16 <sup>th</sup> April, 2026

- ◆ **Course Fee includes** lunch, two tea breaks, and one examination fee.
- ◆ **5% discount on group bookings of more than 6 candidates.**
- ◆ **7% discount on group bookings for combo courses (OCTF + LGTF) with more than 6 candidates.**
- ◆ **Note: Course dates are subject to change.**

## Mazagon Dock Acquires 41.73% Stake in Colombo Dockyard



Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) has acquired a 41.73 percent stake in Colombo Dockyard PLC (CDPLC), marking a significant cross-border development in the South Asian maritime sector. The transaction, executed under a tripartite agreement involving Mazagon Dock, Colombo Dockyard and Onomichi Dockyard, has resulted in the triggering of a mandatory open offer to the existing shareholders of CDPLC.

The open offer has been initiated in accordance with Rule 31(1)(a) of Sri Lanka's Takeovers and Mergers Code, 1995. Following the completion of the stake acquisition, Mazagon Dock indicated that further information regarding the open offer and subsequent procedural developments will be communicated to the relevant stock exchanges in compliance with the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Listing Obligations and Disclosure Requirements) Regulations, 2015.

Colombo Dockyard is widely recognised as one of South Asia's leading shipbuilding and ship repair facilities, catering to a diverse range of commercial and defence vessels. The acquisition is being

viewed as strategically important for Mazagon Dock as it seeks to expand its international footprint and strengthen its technological and industrial partnerships.

Industry observers note that the transaction is expected to enhance Mazagon Dock's capabilities in shipbuilding, repair and offshore engineering, while providing access to Colombo Dockyard's established infrastructure and regional market presence. The collaboration may also create opportunities for joint ventures, technology sharing and expanded service offerings across the Indian Ocean region.

Beyond commercial considerations, the deal is seen as reinforcing maritime and industrial cooperation between India and Sri Lanka. It aligns with broader efforts to deepen engagement in shipbuilding, defence manufacturing and allied maritime sectors. The acquisition is therefore expected to contribute not only to Mazagon Dock's long-term growth strategy but also to strengthening bilateral industrial ties within the evolving regional maritime landscape.

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## Paradip Port Authority Secures Top Honour at Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025



Paradip Port Authority (PPA) has been conferred the First Prize at the Swachhata Pakhwada Awards 2025, instituted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), in recognition of its exemplary efforts in promoting cleanliness, environmental sustainability and active community participation.

The award was presented by the Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, in the presence of Minister of State **Shri Shantanu Thakur** and **Shri Vijay Kumar, IAS**, Secretary, MoPSW. The ceremony took place in New Delhi on Tuesday, 3rd February 2026. **Shri P. L. Haranadh, IRTS**, Chairman of Paradip Port Authority, accepted the award on behalf of the entire port team.

The Swachh Bharat Pakhwada Awards-2025 recognised several MoPSW organisations for their outstanding performance during Swachhata Pakhwada 2025 and Swachhata Hi Sewa 2025. These initiatives included extensive cleanliness drives, citizen outreach programmes, advocacy efforts and welfare measures for Safai Mitras, all aimed at fostering a cleaner, healthier and more sustainable work environment.

This recognition represents a significant milestone for Paradip Port Authority and reflects its steadfast commitment to the principles of the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, environmental responsibility and inclusive

development. Guided by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, PPA effectively implemented the three foundational pillars of Swachhata Pakhwada 2025: Jan Bhagidari, Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam and Safai Mitra Suraksha.

Through the Jan Bhagidari initiative, the port ensured widespread public involvement in cleanliness campaigns conducted across schools, heritage locations, temples, beaches, ponds and port premises. Programmes such as cyclothons, Swachhata Raths, rallies, Swachhata Runs, human chains and community-led activities under the campaign Ek Din Ek Ghanta Ek Saath reinforced the idea that cleanliness is a shared responsibility.

Under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam campaign, PPA organised extensive plantation drives that converted underutilised and neglected spaces into green zones. A major highlight was the planting of 40,000 saplings at Paradip Sea Beach to commemorate the birthday of the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi under the Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam 2.0 initiative. This large-scale plantation effort underscored the port's dedication to environmental conservation, sustainable development, and the creation of a greener future.

The Safai Mitra Suraksha component focused on the welfare, safety and dignity of sanitation workers. Health check-up camps were organised, and Safai Mitras were formally acknowledged for their invaluable service,

including special recognition on the Prime Minister's birthday. These efforts highlighted the importance of ensuring both safety and respect for frontline sanitation personnel.

In addition, PPA carried out awareness campaigns against single-use plastics through street plays, rallies, cotton bag distribution drives and public engagement programmes under the theme End Plastic Pollution. Innovative concepts such as Scrap to Structure and Waste to Wealth exhibitions demonstrated sustainable reuse practices while encouraging participation from youth and local communities.

Other activities included Swachhata-themed painting and rangoli competitions, installation of selfie booths to promote awareness, clean food street initiatives, blood donation camps and renovation of the Administrative Building under Special Campaign 5.0. These efforts further strengthened a culture of cleanliness and sustainability throughout the port ecosystem.

Speaking at the ceremony, Shri Haranadh stated that the award reflects the collective efforts of employees, contractual workers, stakeholders and the local community. He reiterated Paradip Port Authority's



continued commitment to maintaining high standards of cleanliness, environmental stewardship and meaningful community engagement.

The Swachhata Pakhwada Awards are an annual initiative of MoPSW, assessing ports and maritime institutions nationwide on parameters such as sanitation drives, waste management practices, green initiatives and public involvement. This recognition reaffirms Paradip Port Authority's leadership in advancing the Clean India Mission and setting benchmarks for sustainable port operations.



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## V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority Launches India's First Anti-Drone Security System



In a major step toward strengthening maritime and coastal security, V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority (VOC Port Authority) has become the first port in India to initiate the implementation of an advanced Anti-Drone Security System. This milestone underscores the port's commitment to safeguarding critical infrastructure and enhancing national maritime security.

The project involves deploying a comprehensive, integrated Radio Frequency (RF) and radar-based drone detection and jamming system tailored for complex port environments. Designed to provide 360-degree surveillance with omnidirectional coverage, the system combines a drone detector, drone detection radar and a man-pack jammer. Together, these components create a robust security framework with an effective operational range of up to 5 kilometres.

Engineered for rapid deployment in sensitive operational zones, the system significantly strengthens protection across strategic areas of the port. It enables real-time detection, tracking, identification, classification and neutralisation of unauthorised drones. This capability ensures enhanced safety of assets, personnel and

uninterrupted port operations, while also representing a notable advancement in indigenous electronic countermeasure technology.

The agreement for the project was formally signed by **Mr A. Ganesan**, Chief Mechanical Engineer, VOC Port Authority and **Mr Anurag Agarwal** on behalf of Central Electronics Limited (CEL), a Government of India enterprise under the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, Ministry of Science and Technology. The signing took place in the presence of Chairperson **Shri Susanta Kumar Purohit**, IRSEE and Deputy Chairperson **Shri Rajesh Soundararajan, IAS**. The project is expected to be completed within three months.

Aligned with the Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 and Maritime India Vision 2030, the initiative aims to enhance airspace surveillance, strengthen compliance with evolving coastal defence norms and improve emergency preparedness. With this pioneering move, VOC Port Authority sets a benchmark for security innovation across Indian ports while reinforcing its proactive approach to protecting critical maritime infrastructure and supporting national security objectives.



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## India and Seychelles Advance Maritime and Blue Economy Partnership



India and Seychelles explored avenues to strengthen cooperation in maritime trade, blue economy sectors and sustainable development during an Indo-Seychelles Business Roundtable held in Mumbai. The high-level engagement was attended by **H.E. Dr. Patrick Herminie**, President of the Republic of Seychelles and Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, along with senior officials and industry leaders from both nations.

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sonowal highlighted that India and Seychelles share a historically rooted relationship reinforced by strong people-to-people connections. Maritime exchanges between the two countries, he noted, predate modern diplomatic ties and have evolved into a close partnership founded on shared democratic values, pluralism and mutual respect. Cooperation today spans development assistance, capacity building, education, healthcare, maritime security and disaster response.

India's engagement with Seychelles is guided by the MAHASAGAR vision—Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions—which

underscores economic collaboration, sustainability and collective security across the Indian Ocean Region. Shri Sonowal stated that the partnership has gained renewed momentum under the leadership of Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi**, whose neighbourhood-first approach and focus on ocean-centric cooperation have provided strategic direction to India's engagement with island nations, including Seychelles. Both countries, he said, share a common vision of the Indian Ocean as a region of peace, stability and shared prosperity.

Emphasising areas of opportunity, Sonowal pointed out that India's expertise in port-led development, logistics, maritime services and renewable energy aligns well with Seychelles' development priorities. He also noted that Mumbai's financial and fintech ecosystem offers potential to support innovation and financial inclusion initiatives in Seychelles.

Identifying priority sectors for deeper collaboration, he highlighted blue economy domains such as fisheries, aquaculture, port development, marine infrastructure, ocean-based renewable energy and marine research. Tourism and hospitality, healthcare, pharmaceuticals,



financial services, fintech, education and skills development were also cited as promising areas for partnership.

The roundtable saw participation from Indian companies active in infrastructure, ports, fisheries, healthcare, education, fintech and automobile sectors. Shri Sonowal underlined that Mumbai's strengths as a historic port city—with its established ports, logistics networks, shipyards, maritime services and financial ecosystem—make it a natural platform to advance bilateral cooperation in maritime trade and ocean-based industries.

Referring to India's broader economic progress, Shri Sonowal observed that the country stands at a pivotal juncture, driven by sustained domestic demand, structural reforms and large-scale infrastructure investments. Over the past decade, India has introduced significant reforms in taxation, corporate regulation and digital governance, enhancing transparency and improving ease of doing business. He further noted that in the last eleven years, India's port capacity has doubled, the number of seafarers has tripled, and sea cruise passenger traffic has increased fourfold, creating new synergies with maritime partners such as Seychelles.

He emphasised that India's young and skilled workforce remains central to its economic trajectory and offers long-term opportunities for global collaboration. With strong political trust, expanding connectivity and

shared maritime priorities, India and Seychelles are well-positioned to elevate their economic engagement.

Shri Sonowal also highlighted that Indian exports to Seychelles include pharmaceuticals, food products, textiles, engineering goods, construction materials, automobiles and consumer products. Indian companies have played a role in infrastructure, energy and service sector development in Seychelles. Improved connectivity, including direct flights between Mumbai and Mahé, has further strengthened tourism, business travel and commercial exchanges.

Organised by the Confederation of Indian Industry in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs, the roundtable was attended by senior officials including **Shri Vijay Kumar, IAS**, Secretary, MoPSW; **Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS**, Director General of Shipping; **Captain B K Tyagi**, CMD, Shipping Corporation of India; **Shri M Angamuthu**, Chairperson, Mumbai Port Authority; **Shri Gaurav Dayal**, Chairperson, JNPA; **Shri Rohit Rathish**, High Commissioner of India to Seychelles and **Shri S. Kuppuswamy**, Special Advisor, Shapoorji Pallonji, among others.

Concluding his remarks, Shri Sonowal stated that from Mumbai to Mahé, the distance is narrowing while opportunities continue to expand, urging businesses from both nations to build enduring and mutually beneficial partnerships across the Indian Ocean region.



## *Mariners, Memories and a Match to Remember*



The 10th edition of the DMECA–DRACEA Cricket Match was celebrated with great enthusiasm on 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup> January 2026 at Tolani Maritime Institute (TMI). Alumni, along with their families, travelled from Mumbai, Pune and surrounding regions, transforming the serene campus into a vibrant hub of nostalgia and camaraderie.

The occasion marked not merely a sporting contest but a grand alumni reunion steeped in warmth and tradition.

The celebrations commenced with an elegant evening gathering on the lawns of the Academic Block. Amidst pleasant weather and the scenic backdrop of the Sahyadris, alumni reconnected, shared memories and enjoyed cultural performances and light-hearted spot prizes. The hospitality extended by the TMI team ensured a memorable experience for all attendees.



The following morning began with leisurely walks across the picturesque campus, followed by breakfast and preparations for the much-awaited cricket match. A well-organised shamiana at the sports field created a festive atmosphere, with families and children cheering enthusiastically.



In the main match, DMECA batted first and posted an imposing total. DRACEA responded valiantly but fell short, resulting in a win for DMECA under the leadership of Lalatendu Acharya and Samrat Sen. Farzuk was declared Man of the Match for his outstanding all-round performance. Individual



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accolades were also awarded to Arpit, Mrigank, Jitesh and Divyanshu for their commendable contributions.

While the match was competitive, the true victory lay in the spirit of fellowship, unity and shared legacy. The event once again reinforced the enduring bonds among alumni and the continued tradition of celebrating maritime brotherhood at TMI.



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