

iMélange

November 2025



Monthly Magazine of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)





The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)

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Edited and Published by:
Sunil Kumar on behalf of
 The Institute of Marine
 Engineers (India).
 Published from 1012,
 Maker Chambers V,
 221 Nariman Point,
 Mumbai - 400021.

Printed by:
Corporate Prints
 Shop No.1, Three Star Co-op. Hsg.
 Society, V.P Road, Pendse Nagar,
 Dombivli (E) - 421 201.
 District - Thane

Design and Layout:
Kryon Publishing Services (P) Ltd.,
 www.kryonpublishing.com

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From the Editor's Desk

Dear Esteemed Readers,

This month unfolded with a sense of renewed energy for the maritime fraternity as **India Maritime Week 2025** took centre stage and set the tone for purposeful reflection and forward momentum. The event became a dynamic platform where ideas, innovation and national ambition came together in a powerful showcase of India's vision for a safe, sustainable and technology-driven ocean economy. IME(I)'s strong presence throughout the week highlighted not only our commitment to excellence but also our growing role in shaping the nation's maritime future.

IME(I)'s participation at **India Maritime Week** stood out with thought-provoking interactions, displays of maritime excellence and the unveiling of a White Paper that captured the collective wisdom of industry leaders, regulators and academicians. The event did not merely highlight achievements but strengthened the resolve to build a maritime future that is resilient, green and globally competitive.

Complementing this was the **Stakeholders' Workshop on Shipping and Ports** which brought together voices from across the sector. Discussions on safety, sustainability and future-readiness reinforced the central message that collaboration remains the most powerful engine of progress.

At IME(I) House, we had the pleasure of welcoming representatives from MLA College. Their visit reflected our expanding academic partnerships and the shared aspiration to enhance maritime education through global best practices and technology-enabled learning.

Across chapters the spirit of dedication was equally strong. Chandigarh and Pune marked **World Maritime Day** with meaningful sessions that encouraged reflection on this year's theme. Vizag contributed with a technical analysis on ship hull heeling moments due to rudder manoeuvres offering both clarity and practical depth for professionals and students.

On the industry front, India's maritime strength shone once again during **India Maritime Week 2025** through showcases of innovation, start-up participation and technological breakthroughs. The nation's direction is clear: a future anchored in safety, digitised operations and sustainable growth.

As we step into the final quarter of the year the path ahead is illuminated by renewed energy, thoughtful collaboration and a shared belief in India's maritime destiny.

We welcome your articles and perspectives for the next edition at editornewsletter@imare.in or subeditor@imare.in by **7th December 2025**.

SUNIL KUMAR
Editor-in-Chief (Hon.) – iMélange



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Stakeholders' Workshop on “Shipping and Ports” Highlights India's Drive Towards a Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy



The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, participated in the *Stakeholders' Workshop on "Stepping Stone Towards a Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy in India"*, organised by the UN Global Compact Network India and Ocean Centres, India, with support from the Lloyd's Register Foundation. The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) acted as the Institutional Partner of the workshop.

The event brought together key stakeholders from government, industry and academia to discuss pathways for advancing safety, sustainability and green transition across India's shipping and port sectors.

Delivering the *Keynote Address*, **Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS**, Director General of Shipping, highlighted India's leadership in maritime safety, digitalisation and decarbonisation initiatives, underscoring the nation's commitment to achieving a sustainable ocean economy.

Senior officers from DGS, including **Shri Satish Kamath**, Deputy Chief Surveyor-cum-Sr. DDG (Tech.) and **Capt. Harinder Singh**, Nautical Surveyor-cum-DDG (Tech.), contributed as moderators and speakers in high-level sessions. The other dignitaries included: **Shri Ratnesh Jha**, Executive Director, UN Global Compact

Network India; **Ms. Dagmara Karbowska**, Senior Programme Manager, Lloyd's Register Foundation; **Shri Rajeev Nayyar**, Imm. Past President, IME(I) and **Shri Anil Devli**, CEO, INSA.

The workshop was based on two topics:

- *Putting Safety at the Heart of Sustainability: Issues & Challenges in the Indian Shipping Sector*
- *Transitioning to Green Ports in India: Issues & Challenges*

Session 1: Panellists:

- **Mr. Ambrish Bansal**, Senior VP & Global Head, Management Consulting & ESG Advisory, Lloyd's Register
- **Capt. Vikas Vij**, Chairman & MD, I Marine Infratech (India) Pvt. Ltd.
- **Shri Satish Kamath**, Deputy Chief Surveyor-cum-Sr. DDG (Tech.)
- **Ms. Shashi Kala Agarwal**, Sr. Counsellor, CII
- **Ms. Kalpana Desai**, Ex - Board Member, Mumbai Port Authority,
- **Mr. N.M. Pustry**, Chief Mentor cum Director, CDDMASS

Session 2: Panellists:

- **Ms. Saleha Shaikh**, Founder Women's Wing, The Maritime Union of India
- **Capt. Shiv Halbe**, CEO, MASSA
- **Capt. Ram Iyer**, VP, Seashore Ship Agencies Pvt. Ltd.
- **Mr. Kaushik Kumar Seal**, President, IME(I)
- **Mr. Anil Kumar PK**, Principal Surveyor & Area Business Development Manager- South Asia, Lloyd's Register

- **Mr. Chirag Bahri**, International Operations Manager, ISWAN
- **Capt. Harinder Singh**, Nautical Surveyor-cum-DDG (Tech.)

The deliberations emphasised the importance of collective action and innovation to ensure safer, greener and more resilient maritime operations. The discussions also aligned with India's **#MaritimeAmritKaal** vision — fostering sustainable growth, environmental stewardship and global maritime leadership.

Glimpses of the Event





WALPANA DESAI



CAPE UNILAK



IATH



IME(I) Showcases Maritime Excellence at India Maritime Week



The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) [IME(I)] made a strong impression at **India Maritime Week 2025**, with its exhibition stall serving as a hub of engagement for professionals, students and industry leaders. The stall showcased IME(I)'s pivotal role in advancing maritime education, technology and safety standards. Throughout the

event, visitors explored the Institute's initiatives, membership benefits and training programmes, fostering valuable networking and collaboration opportunities. IME(I)'s active participation reflected its commitment to promoting excellence and innovation in India's maritime sector.





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White Paper Unveiled at India Maritime Week 2025



At India Maritime Week 2025, the **Directorate General of Shipping (DGS)**, the **Institute of Marine Engineers (India) [IME(I)]** and the **Indian Register of Shipping (IRS)** jointly launched a comprehensive **White Paper** titled “**IMMEX SMM India 2025.**” The unveiling took place during the session “**Guardians of the Sea – Maritime Safety and Security.**”

The White Paper presents a detailed strategic roadmap formulated under IMMEX SMM 2025, aimed at reinforcing India's emergence as a global

maritime manufacturing and technology hub. It emphasises innovation-driven growth, sustainable shipbuilding practices and enhanced global competitiveness of India's maritime ecosystem.

Highlighting key focus areas such as **modernisation of shipyards, indigenisation of marine equipment, digital transformation and skill development**, the document also underscores the importance of **collaboration between government bodies, industry stakeholders and academia** to foster maritime self-reliance and technological excellence.



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Marine Electrical/ Electronics/ Automation Workshop	5 days	Maritime Risk Assessment & Management of Change	2 days
WIN-GD Engines Operations & Management	5 days	Emergency Preparedness, Crisis and Media Handling	1 day
Soft Skills for induction into Merchant Marine	2 day	SIRE 2.0 & Human Element	2 days

Visit of MLA College Representatives to IME(I) House



On 30th October 2025, representatives from **MLA College**, a globally recognized and award-winning higher education provider specializing in UK distance learning degrees, visited **IME(I) House**, Nerul.

The delegation was warmly received by **Mr. Mohan Singh Pal**, Director of IME(I), who conducted a guided tour of the institute's facilities, including classrooms, simulator room, library, auditorium and administrative





offices. The MLA College team appreciated the state-of-the-art infrastructure and the quality standards maintained by IME(I).

The visiting team included **Ms. Pallavi Sharma** (Director of Student Recruitment & Partnerships), **Ms. Sheefa Fijwala** (Head of Marketing), **Mr. Arjun Sekhon** (Student Recruitment Advisor), **Ms. Cassandra Ann Dnavis** (Student Recruitment Advisor), **Ms. Natasha Telepneff**, Executive Assistant and **Capt. Vineet Shukla**, Director, Education, Sea and Beyond.



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1	Basic Training for Oil and Chemical Tanker Cargo Operations (OCTF)	₹6,900/-	6 Days	11 November, 2025
2	Basic Training for Liquefied Gas Tanker Cargo Operations (LGTF)	₹6,900/-	5 Days	24 November, 2025
3	Basic Training for Ships using Fuels covered within IGF Code (IGFB)	₹10,500/-	5 Days	18 November, 2025
4	Security Training for Seafarers with Designated Security Duties (STSDSD)	₹4,000/-	2 Days	18 November, 2025
5	Ship Security Officer (SSO)	₹4,900/-	3 Days	20 November, 2025

- ◆ **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.**



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About Cochin – The Marine and Commercial Capital of Kerala

Cochin, known as the Queen of the Arabian Sea, is a vibrant city located on the south west coast of India, star of God's Own Country, Kerala. From time immemorial, Arabs, British, Chinese, Dutch, and Portuguese traders have left an indelible mark on the history and development of this beautiful coastal town.

Cochin has preserved many of its historic landmarks and monuments, which continue to add to its charm and glory. The city is the Maritime and Commercial capital of Kerala, boasting of major infrastructure such as seaports, container terminals, modern shipyard, maritime educational and training centres, airport, an efficient Metro and Water Metro network.

Cochin enjoys excellent connectivity to Kerala's major tourist destinations through rail, road, and inland waterways. A wide range of hotels and restaurants offering delicious cuisine at affordable prices make it a destination for both business and leisure travellers.

The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)

The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) is a premier professional body representing marine engineering professionals across the country. With a membership strength of over 13,000, the Institute members include professionals serving both in India and abroad in key positions across the maritime industry.

Headquartered in Mumbai, the Institute operates eight regional branches located in different parts of the country. It actively provides various facilities to enhance the knowledge and professional competence of its members, while extending a wide range of services aimed at their professional growth and welfare.

The primary objectives of the Institute are to promote the scientific and technological advancement of marine engineering, facilitate the exchange of ideas and information among marine engineers, uphold the professional status of its members, foster cooperation with other professional institutions, classification societies, and the maritime industry, and contribute to the advancement of engineering education in the country.

About the event, COMARSEM 2026

COMARSEM (Cochin Marine Seminar) is a flagship event periodically organised by the Cochin Branch of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India). The upcoming COMARSEM 2026, scheduled for January 2026, will be an international seminar bringing together eminent stakeholders from across the global maritime industry under one roof.

COMARSEM 2026 organized by IMEI Kochi branch in association with DG Shipping

Themed "**Maritime India – Innovations and Collaborations**," this mega event will feature panel discussions, technical presentations, and interactive sessions that deliberate on the progress of India's maritime sector and explore strategies to realise the nation's vision of becoming a maritime superpower.

The event will host focused panel discussions and paper presentation on key topics such as:

- ◆ Policy framework and new legislations to accelerate Indian Shipping and Inland Waterways.
- ◆ Infrastructure growth for enhancing shipping, shipbuilding & repair and ship recycling.
- ◆ Accelerating the adoption of greener technologies to meet decarbonisation goals
- ◆ Innovate training methodologies for skill development focused on alternate fuel, digital, autonomous, AI technology etc.
- ◆ Developing maritime clusters to address emerging challenges indigenously
- ◆ Improvements in logistics and supply chain systems for sustained growth.

These discussions aim to foster cross-industry collaboration, drawing valuable insights from both Indian and international participants, while exploring the financial and technological pathways essential for achieving these ambitious goals.

This event will feature:

TECHNICAL PRESENTATIONS, PANEL DISCUSSIONS & NETWORKING

- ◆ Inauguration Session attended by Industry Leaders.
- ◆ Four (4) Sessions of Paper presentation of 4 papers each
- ◆ Four (4) sessions of Panel discussions
- ◆ Industry Exhibits
- ◆ Kochi back water networking cruise.
- ◆ Valedictory function.



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N Rajan: +91 8129852288 (Convener)

rajun1953@yahoo.co.in

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Chandigarh Chapter

World Maritime Day Celebrations at IME(I) Chandigarh Chapter



World Maritime Day (WMD) 2025 was celebrated in Chandigarh on 26th September 2025 through a joint initiative of the Chandigarh Chapters of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) [IME(I)] and the Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI), along with the Marine Navigation Officers' Association (MNOA). The event was held at Hotel Chandigarh Beckons and aligned with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) theme for the year, "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity." The seminar served as a platform for maritime professionals,

academicians and thought leaders to discuss innovation, sustainability and the future of the global shipping industry. About 40 maritime professionals participated in the seminar, which was conducted under the able coordination of **Capt. Amarjit Thakur**, Chairman of CMMI-Chandigarh, who steered the proceedings with engaging commentary and insightful moderation.

The event opened with an address by **Shri Ajit Singh**, Vice President of MNOA-Chandigarh, who presented a



fascinating historical overview of the maritime journey from the earliest boats made of prairie grass on the Nile to the advanced container ships of today. He emphasised that throughout history, mastery of the seas has symbolised control of trade, power and prosperity. Recalling that the Romans once called the Mediterranean “Mare Nostrum” or “Our Sea,” he highlighted the ocean’s enduring role in shaping civilisations. He also traced the origins of World Maritime Day to 1978, when the IMO first established it to recognize shipping’s vital contribution to international cooperation, safety and environmental protection.

Continuing the discussions, **Mrs. Anuradha Singh**, an Organizational Psychologist with rich experience in maritime and corporate training, spoke on “Indian Seafarer Excellence in Climate Action.” She highlighted the responsibility of seafarers as active protectors of the marine environment rather than passive participants in sustainability initiatives. Stressing the importance of cultivating officer-like qualities such as effective intelligence, clear expression and strong reasoning, she urged Indian seafarers to rise to the challenges posed by climate change. According to her, the oceans have always tested human endurance and in this era, that test lies in safeguarding marine ecosystems. She noted that Indian seafarers, known for their resilience and adaptability, can lead by example in addressing global environmental concerns.

Prof. Jasjeet Suri, motivational speaker and faculty member at Chitkara University’s School of Maritime Studies, presented an engaging session on developing an “EPIC” mindset — Empower, Protect, Innovate and



Collaborate — as a framework for building a sustainable maritime future. Under the principle of “Empower,” he called for strengthening seafarers through education, mentorship and digital literacy. “Protect” emphasised safeguarding marine ecosystems and reducing pollution, while “Innovate” highlighted the importance of renewable





element as the cornerstone of the maritime sector. He addressed the ongoing challenges of officer shortages, mental health issues and disruptions caused by global conflicts such as those in Ukraine and the Middle East. He encouraged maritime professionals to embrace technological transformations including automation, digitalisation and the adoption of green fuels, while highlighting that upskilling and retraining remain critical. With proper preparation and adaptability, he said, Indian seafarers can establish the nation as a leading global talent hub for maritime services.

ocean energy and efficient technologies. Finally, “Collaborate” underscored the need for cooperation between governments, academia and industry. Prof. Suri concluded that cultivating an EPIC mindset would help transform obligations into opportunities, ensuring that oceans continue to be a source of life, livelihood and inspiration.

Technical aspects of maritime operations were addressed by **Capt. Rohit Shridhar**, accredited SIRE inspector, who elaborated on the updates under SIRE 2.0 with a particular focus on Human Factors. He explained the significance of developing clear, user-friendly procedures that can be easily understood and followed by seafarers at all levels, especially new recruits. He further discussed Performance Influencing Factors (PIFs), both healthy and unhealthy, which play a crucial role in determining how safely and effectively a task is performed. Recognising and managing these factors, he said, can help minimise accidents and promote a culture of compliance, safety and accountability within the maritime industry.

Health and fitness at sea were addressed by **Dr. Deepanjali Sharda**, a specialist in diabetes management and a DG Shipping-approved medical examiner, in her talk on “Seafarers’ Health and PEME.” Using a powerful metaphor, she likened health management to maintaining discipline aboard a ship to prevent a “mutiny” within the body. She underscored that small daily choices, such as avoiding smoking, consuming fresh foods and minimising packaged items, can prevent chronic conditions like hypertension, obesity and diabetes. With increasing health risks among younger seafarers, Dr. Sharda stressed that preventive care and disciplined habits are key to sustaining energy and fitness for the demanding nature of sea life.

Capt. Jagdeep Kahlon, Managing Director of Ocean One Ship Management, focused on the human

The Chief Guest, **Rear Admiral Sandeep Beecha (Retd)**, delivered an insightful address on the strategic significance of the Indian Ocean, describing its evolution from an ancient trade route to a modern arena of diplomacy, security and economic growth. He emphasised that India, through over 30 bilateral and multilateral naval exercises, is actively reinforcing its role as a responsible maritime stakeholder. He spoke of India’s vast maritime neighbourhood—from Jakarta in the east to Mombasa in the west—encompassing Sri Lanka, Maldives, Myanmar, Bangladesh and the island nations of Seychelles, Mauritius, Madagascar, Comoros and Reunion. He emphasised that sustained investments in shipbuilding, Defence production and regional partnerships would continue to enhance India’s maritime strength and strategic autonomy.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri Arun Kr. Agarwal, veteran Chief Engineer and NGO leader, who acknowledged the valuable contributions of speakers, organisers and participants. The event ended with a high tea session that offered a platform for informal interaction and networking among maritime professionals.

The celebration of World Maritime Day 2025 in Chandigarh served as a timely reminder of the shared responsibility humanity holds toward the ocean. The discussions across various sessions highlighted that the future of maritime progress depends on innovation, sustainability and collaboration. As speakers reiterated throughout the event, the ocean is not only our obligation but also our greatest opportunity—a living link that binds nations, drives economies and sustains life on Earth. Through collective effort and forward-thinking leadership, the maritime community can ensure that the oceans remain a source of prosperity, peace and progress for generations to come.

Assessment of Ship Hull Heeling Moments Caused by Ship Rudder Turning Manoeuvres



The Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Visakhapatnam Branch, organised a technical meeting on 24th October 2025 at the Seminar Hall of the Department of Marine Engineering, Andhra University College of Engineering. The session featured an enlightening presentation by **Mr. Dauson Nyonyi** from the Department of Marine Engineering, Andhra University College of Engineering, on the topic “Assessment of Ship Hull Heeling Moments Caused by Ship Rudder Turning Manoeuvres.”

The meeting was graced by **Dr. D. S. Anand**, Chairman, **Dr. V. V. S. Prasad**, Vice Chairman and **Mr. Lakshmipati Rao**, Hon. Secretary of IME(I) Visakhapatnam Branch, along with senior members of the Institute, faculty members and students from the Marine Engineering Department.

Mr. Nyonyi’s presentation, provided a detailed assessment of ship hull heeling moments induced by rudder turning manoeuvres. His talk explained how hydrodynamic forces generated by rudder deflection influence the heeling of ships during turning, affecting vessel stability and safety. Through his research findings, Mr. Nyonyi highlighted the importance of accurately

predicting and controlling these moments to ensure optimal ship design and operational performance.

The lecture offered valuable insights into ship dynamics, hydrodynamics and control mechanisms, combining theoretical principles with practical applications. The audience found the session both informative and engaging. Members and students actively participated in the interactive Q&A session that followed, exchanging ideas and clarifying technical aspects discussed in the presentation.

His paper on the same topic, published in *Marine Engineers Review (MER)*, earned him the **H. S. Rao**



Memorial Award for its originality and technical merit.

Following the technical presentation, the IME(I) Visakhapatnam Branch also took the opportunity to honour **Mr. Amara Vijayananda Kumar**, who was conferred the **Eminent Engineer Award 2025**. The award was presented in recognition of his distinguished professional service, technical leadership and sustained contribution to the maritime engineering field.



The evening's proceedings reflected IME(I) Visakhapatnam Branch's continued commitment to promoting technical excellence, professional interaction and knowledge sharing among marine engineers, academicians and students. Such events play a crucial role in bridging the gap between academic learning and industry practices while fostering innovation and research in marine technology.

The meeting concluded with the rendition of the National Anthem, marking the end of an inspiring and successful event.



Institute of Marine Engineers (India)

Kochi Branch

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World Maritime Day Celebration at IME(I) Pune



The World Maritime Day 2025 was celebrated with great enthusiasm and unity at IME(I) Pune on 27th September 2025, under the joint auspices of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) [IME(I)] Pune branch, the Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI) Pune, the Institute of Marine Faculties (IMF), the Mariners' Mercantile Association (MMA) and the Association of Nautical Alumni (ANA). The event took place at Hotel Deccan Royaale, Pune, and brought together maritime professionals, academicians, cadets and guests from various parts of the maritime community.

This year's International Maritime Organization (IMO) theme, "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity," provided the guiding message for the celebration. Reflecting the theme's focus on sustainability, responsibility and opportunity in the maritime domain, the organisers invited maritime institutes from the Pune region to participate in a research paper presentation competition. The response was overwhelming, with twelve teams presenting their papers on topics inspired by the year's theme. Participants represented some of the leading maritime institutions, including Maharashtra Academy of Naval Education and

Training (MANET), Samundra Institute of Maritime Studies (SIMS), Great Eastern Institute of Maritime Studies (GEIMS), Tolani Maritime Institute (TMI) and T.S. Rahaman.

The papers were reviewed by a panel of three eminent maritime experts—**Capt. R. G. Khare**, **Capt. (Dr.) Shashank Jahagirdar** and **Capt. (Dr.) Ashutosh Apandkar**—who brought their vast experience and professional insight to the judging process. The competition aimed to encourage young cadets to think critically about maritime challenges and to explore innovative, sustainable solutions for the industry's future. Winners were awarded cash prizes along with trophies and certificates in recognition of their effort and excellence.

In addition to the competition, the event featured the "Late Capt. P. S. Barve Memorial Lecture," organised in memory of the late Captain P. S. Barve, who passed away on 24th August 2025. The lecture was delivered by the distinguished **Dr. Brijendra K. Saxena** who was also the Chief Guest of the event and attended by an audience comprising distinguished guests, senior maritime professionals, representatives

from various organizations and their spouses. The occasion provided an opportunity to honour Capt. Barve's legacy and contribution to maritime education and leadership. The presence of representatives from prominent maritime training institutes and the cadets who participated in the research paper competition lent a vibrant academic and professional spirit to the evening.

Dr. Saxena and the judging panel members—Capt. Khare, Capt. (Dr.) Jahagirdar and Capt. (Dr.) Apandkar—were felicitated by the Chairman and the founder members of the organizing bodies for their valuable contributions. The celebration was also graced by the presence of **Capt. M. P. Bhasin**, Chairman/Master of CMMI, who travelled from Mumbai to attend the event. Capt. Bhasin expressed his appreciation for the collaborative effort of the various maritime organizations—IME(I), CMMI, IMF, MMA and ANA—in organizing events such as National Maritime Day (NMD), Day of the Seafarer (DOTS) and World Maritime Day (WMD). He emphasised the importance of strengthening cooperation among such bodies across India, noting that unity within the maritime fraternity contributes significantly to the nation's progress in this vital sector.

The much-awaited prize distribution ceremony was one of the highlights of the evening. The first prize, comprising a certificate, trophy and a cash award of 5000, was presented by **Mr. Girish Kotwal**, Chairman of ANA, to Cadets Saeed Sudhir Shinde and Tanishka Manoj



Atkire from MANET. The second prize, which included a certificate, trophy and a cash prize of 3000, was handed over by **Capt. Harshad Patwardhan** of MMA to Cadets Rachit and Kshitij Gupta from Tolani Maritime Institute. The third prize, consisting of a certificate, trophy and a cash award of 1000, was presented by Capt. Khare to Cadet Dhruv Badalia from the Samundra Institute of Maritime Studies.

Two consolation prizes were also awarded. The first, a certificate, trophy and a cash prize of 500, went to Cadets Alok Harsh and Vanish Kumar from Samundra Institute of Maritime Studies, while the second consolation award, also with a certificate, trophy and 500 cash prize, was presented to Cadet Archu Singh from the same institute. To recognise all participants for their efforts and enthusiasm, **Capt. Pradeep Nadkar**, an alumnus of Dufferin (1964–66 batch), presented certificates of participation to each cadet.

Adding a touch of nostalgia and warmth to the proceedings, **Capt. Shrirang Gokhale**, Treasurer of CMMI Pune, generously presented beautifully crafted wooden ship models—carefully preserved by him over many years—to select dignitaries among the guests. This thoughtful gesture symbolised the shared pride and enduring passion that bind the maritime community together.

The event was skillfully anchored by **Capt. Kiran Joshi** of CMMI and **Mrs. Jayee Atharva Kotwal**, whose engaging presentation and coordination ensured a seamless flow of the programme. The evening concluded with a heartfelt vote of thanks delivered by **Mr. Sanjeev Ogale**, Past Chairman of IME(I), Pune Branch. He expressed deep gratitude to all who contributed to making the celebration a resounding success, including the organising committee, participating institutes, sponsors and the enthusiastic audience.





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INDIA MARITIME WEEK 2025

Showcases Nation's Maritime Strength and Innovation



India Maritime Week 2025, a global event under Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways took place from **27th to 31st October 2025** at the Bombay Exhibition Centre, Goregaon, Mumbai. The event concluded successfully, reaffirming India's prominence in the global maritime arena. The event served as a strategic platform for government bodies, industry experts, port authorities, shipowners and technology leaders to engage on

critical issues shaping the maritime and logistics sectors.



Through high-level conferences, exhibitions and networking sessions, the week highlighted India's commitment to innovation, sustainability and growth in the blue economy. The participation of leading national and international stakeholders underscored the event's importance as a catalyst for maritime progress and collaboration.



Union Home Minister Amit Shah Inaugurates India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai



The Union Minister for Home Affairs and Cooperation, **Shri Amit Shah**, inaugurated **India Maritime Week (IMW) 2025** at the NESCO Exhibition Centre, Mumbai on 27th October 2025, marking the commencement of the world's largest maritime gathering.

Held under the theme "Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision," the five-day event brings together over 100,000

participants from 85 countries, including 500 exhibitors, 350 speakers and 12 concurrent conferences and exhibitions. IMW 2025 reflects India's growing maritime resurgence and its ambition to emerge as a global maritime leader by 2047.

In his inaugural address, Shri Amit Shah highlighted that the maritime sector embodies India's strength,



stability and sustainability. “This is India’s maritime moment — one that transforms the Gateway of India into the Gateway of the World,” he remarked, attributing this transformation to the deep structural reforms initiated by **Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi**.

He emphasised that India’s strategic position and extensive coastline provide it with unparalleled maritime advantages, citing the nation’s 11,000 km coastline, 13 coastal states and a 23.7 lakh sq. km Exclusive Economic Zone. “Nearly 60% of our GDP comes from coastal states and over 800 million people depend on the sea for their livelihood,” Shah noted.

Underscoring India’s expanding influence in the Indo-Pacific, he added, “Leveraging its maritime position, democratic values and naval capability, India acts as a bridge between the Indo-Pacific and the Global South, promoting development, security and sustainability.” He reaffirmed the government’s maritime vision rooted in MAHASAGAR – Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions, with a focus on cooperation and environmental harmony.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, described IMW 2025 as “a defining moment in India’s maritime journey.” He outlined India’s ambition to triple its share of global seaborne trade by 2047, supported by major capacity expansions and policy reforms. “Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Modi ji, India is not just keeping pace — it is setting benchmarks,” Shri Sonowal said, noting 10 lakh crore in investment commitments and record growth across ports and inland waterways.

Shri Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, emphasised India’s commitment to sustainability, digitalisation and human resource development, aiming to build “a smart, sustainable and globally competitive maritime ecosystem.”

The inaugural day featured ministerial plenaries, bilateral sessions with Sri Lanka, the Netherlands and Saudi Arabia and the prestigious “Sagarmanthan: The Great Oceans Dialogue” at the Jio World Convention Centre — a platform for dialogue on ocean governance, connectivity and sustainability.



The plenary session saw participation from eminent global leaders including **H.E. Anthony Smith Jr. (Antigua and Barbuda)**, **H.E. Magdalene Dagoseh (Liberia)**, **H.E. Dr. Arvin Boolell (Mauritius)**, **H.E. Robert Tieman (Netherlands)**, **H.E. Marianne Sivertsen Næss (Norway)**, **H.E. Anura Karunathilaka (Sri Lanka)**, **H.E. Aung Kyaw Tun (Myanmar)**, **H.E. Dr. Rumaih Al-Rumaih (Saudi Arabia)** and **Mr. Lee Hyun (South Korea)** — all underscoring the importance of global maritime cooperation and the blue economy.

The ceremony was attended by **Shri Devendra Fadnavis**, Chief Minister of Maharashtra; **Shri Bhupendrabhai Patel**, Chief Minister of Gujarat; **Dr. Pramod Sawant**, Chief Minister of Goa and **Shri Mohan Charan Majhi**, Chief Minister of Odisha. Also present were **Deputy Chief Ministers Eknath Shinde and Ajit Pawar**, senior officials, diplomats, industry leaders and maritime students.

As India Maritime Week 2025 continues through 31st October, it will host over 100 thematic sessions, CEO roundtables and global ministerial dialogues, reaffirming India’s maritime vision inspired by *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* — “The World is One Family.”

Ministerial Plenary Showcases Global Collaboration for a Sustainable Maritime Future



Ministerial Plenary of India Maritime Week (IMW) 2025 brought together an esteemed gathering of global maritime leaders, ministers and policymakers to deliberate on emerging challenges and opportunities shaping the maritime sector.

Held under the overarching theme “Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision,” the session focused on strengthening international cooperation and promoting a shared vision for a resilient and future-ready maritime ecosystem. Discussions centred on accelerating the green transition, driving digital transformation and

ensuring inclusive growth across the global maritime value chain.

The plenary featured ministerial addresses and policy insights from IMW country partners and several leading maritime nations, reflecting a strong global consensus on advancing sustainable shipping practices, enhancing maritime safety and fostering innovation-led growth.

The session commenced with **opening remarks by Shri Shantanu Thakur**, Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India. In his address, Shri Thakur emphasised India’s commitment to



fostering global maritime partnerships, sustainable growth and digital transformation in alignment with the theme “Uniting Oceans, One Maritime Vision.” He underlined the need for collaboration to enhance maritime safety, innovation and climate resilience across nations.

GMIS Amrit Kaal Session 1



Amrit Kaal Session – Global Practice in Ship Registration

The session was chaired by **Shri Shyam Jagannathan (IAS)**, Director General of Shipping, who delivered the opening remarks.

The session focused on global ship registration models, comparing closed (national) and open

(Flags of Convenience) registries. Experts discussed evolving frameworks such as Special and International Ship Registries to prevent “flagging out” and explored global best practices to strengthen India’s national registry while enhancing competitiveness and fleet retention under the national flag.



GMIS Amrit Kaal Session 2

Amrit Kaal Session – Innovative Mechanisms for Ship Financing

The Amrit Kaal Session on *Innovative Mechanisms for Ship Financing*, organised by the Centre for Maritime Economy & Connectivity (CMEC) during India Maritime Week 2025, focused on unlocking new-age financial models to support India's ambitious shipbuilding targets. The session explored emerging approaches to fund the construction of 1,000 large ships by leveraging innovative and technology-driven mechanisms.



GMIS Amrit Kaal Session 3



CMEC (RIS) Session – Global Tonnage Tax Regimes

The Amrit Kaal Session on *Global Tonnage Tax Regimes*, organised by the Centre for Maritime Economy & Connectivity (CMEC) during India Maritime Week 2025, brought together maritime and taxation experts to deliberate on international best practices in tonnage taxation and their potential to enhance ship registration under the Indian flag.

Gujarat State Session: Highlights Holistic Maritime Investments and Strategic Growth Initiatives

The session, themed “Holistic Investment in Gujarat,” featured a panel discussion with experts from diverse maritime domains. It highlighted Gujarat’s strategic initiatives in port-led urban development, shipbuilding and recycling, port expansion, connectivity infrastructure and sustainable practices—showcasing the state’s comprehensive approach to strengthening its maritime sector and enhancing its contribution to India’s blue economy.



Odisha State Session Showcases Port-Led Growth and Industrial Vision for “Viksit Odisha 2047”



The Odisha State Session at India Maritime Week 2025 centered on the theme “Port-led Industrialization for Viksit Odisha”, aligning with the national vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. The session underscored Odisha’s ambitious plan to expand its port capacity from the current 80 MTPA to 500 MTPA by 2047 through modernization, new port development and the creation of coastal industrial ecosystems.



Netherlands Country Session Strengthens Indo-Dutch Maritime Cooperation for a Sustainable and Digital Future



The Netherlands Country Session at India Maritime Week 2025 celebrated the enduring maritime partnership between India and the Netherlands, built on shared values of innovation, sustainability and trade connectivity. Themed around “Green and Digital Sea Corridors and Maritime Financing,” the session focused on fostering collaboration in advancing sustainable maritime infrastructure, clean technologies and digital transformation in port operations and logistics.



Goa State Session Showcases Vision for Sustainable Maritime Growth

The Goa State Session at India Maritime Week 2025 highlighted the State's growing leadership in India's maritime transformation, where trade, tourism and sustainability converge. With one major port, five non-major ports and six national waterways, Goa is advancing projects that strengthen connectivity and coastal development through innovation and environmental stewardship.



Guided by the Government of Goa and the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the State is implementing a balanced maritime model that promotes green-energy vessels, smart ports and eco-friendly inland waterways. Initiatives in cruise tourism, capacity building and coastal livelihoods further reflect Goa's vision of "Blue Growth with Green Responsibility."

Maharashtra State Session: Maharashtra at the Helm of India's Maritime Transformation



The Maharashtra State Session at India Maritime Week 2025 underscored the State's pivotal role in driving India's maritime transformation. Through focused discussions on Vadhvan Port development, shipbuilding and repair policy initiatives and the Mumbai Water Metro project, the sessions highlighted Maharashtra's integrated vision for sustainable port expansion, industrial growth and coastal mobility—cementing its status as India's maritime growth powerhouse.

Andaman & Nicobar UT Session



“Emerald Blue is Calling You – Partner in Andaman & Nicobar’s Maritime Future”

The special session highlighted the transformation of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands into India’s emerging Eastern Maritime Hub and a vital Blue Economy powerhouse. It explored opportunities in port modernisation, inter-island connectivity, cruise and ferry

services, tourism and sustainable fisheries. Bringing together policymakers, industry leaders and maritime experts, the discussion aimed to catalyse infrastructure development, promote public-private partnerships and enhance regional integration—positioning the Andaman & Nicobar Islands as a strategic maritime gateway for India’s Indo-Pacific engagement and a cornerstone of the nation’s sustainable Blue Economy vision.



Green Maritime Day



Green Maritime Day brought together national and international stakeholders to discuss sustainable shipping solutions, green fuel initiatives and decarbonisation pathways. The sessions fostered collaboration, innovation and knowledge sharing to shape the future of green shipping in India and beyond.





GMIS - Ports as Engines of Transformation: Beyond Gateways



The session explored how ports are evolving beyond traditional gateways to become strategic platforms for sustainable growth, innovation and economic resilience. It highlighted

their role as anchors for industrial ecosystems, drivers of green transition and enablers of digital connectivity, fostering regional collaboration and resilient supply chains.



GMIS – Cruise and Passenger Economy



The session explored India's growing cruise and passenger sector, focusing on coastal cruising, passenger terminals and maritime leisure infrastructure. The session highlighted investment opportunities, regulatory frameworks and public-private partnerships to enhance tourism, create jobs and position India as a premier cruise destination.



Session 2:

Passenger Experience, Sustainability & Policy Framework



GMIS – Reviving Veins of Inland Trade



The session highlighted the potential of India's inland waterways as a sustainable and cost-effective freight solution. The session focused on infrastructure development, multimodal integration and policy support to enhance connectivity, reduce logistics costs and drive inclusive economic growth.



Karnataka State Session



The Karnataka State Session will showcase the state's maritime potential and its role in advancing India's Blue Economy. It will focus on Public-Private Partnerships driving sustainable growth in ports, fisheries and coastal innovation through policy, technology and collaboration.



Norway Country Session



The Norway Country Session showcased Norway's leadership in green shipping, advanced maritime technology and sustainable innovations such as electric ferries and hydrogen fuels. It will highlight opportunities for collaboration to support India's growing maritime sector.



Sweden Country Session



The Sweden Country Session highlighted Sweden's global leadership in innovation, green technologies and maritime excellence. With a strong shipping ecosystem and a

shared vision with India for sustainable, innovation-driven growth, the session explored collaboration in ports, digitalisation and maritime infrastructure.

Andhra Pradesh State Session



The Andhra Pradesh State Session at India Maritime Week 2025, themed "Unlocking Andhra Pradesh's Maritime Advantage," highlighted the state's 1,053 km coastline, advanced port infrastructure and multimodal

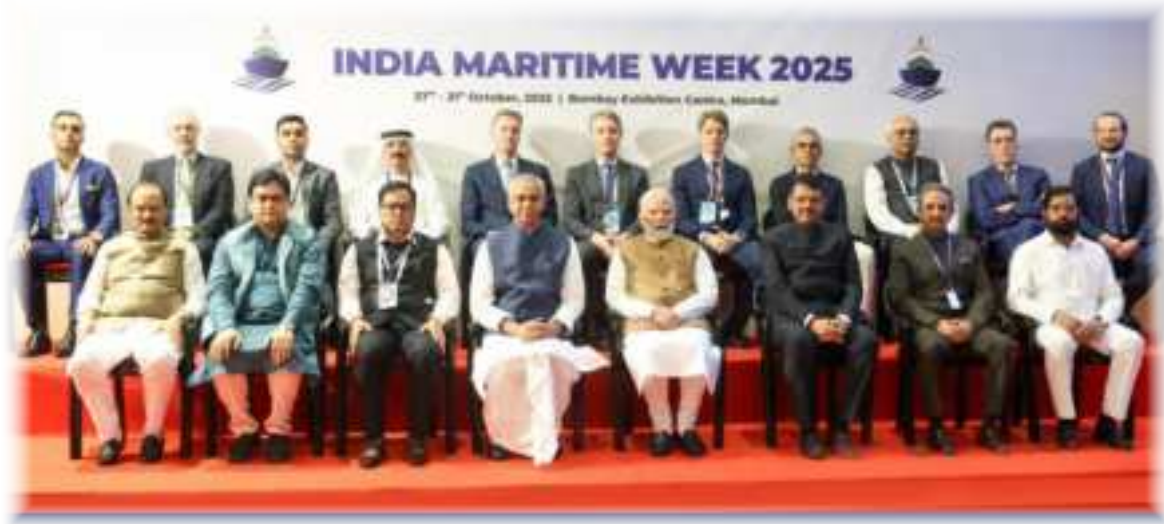
connectivity. The session emphasised smart port automation, sustainable inland waterways and global investment opportunities, reinforcing Andhra Pradesh as India's Maritime Gateway to the East.

Maritime Leader's Conclave (Open Forum with the Hon'ble Prime Minister)



The Maritime Leaders' Conclave, the flagship event of India Maritime Week 2025, was graced by **Shri Narendra Modi**, Hon'ble Prime Minister of India. This high-profile conclave brought together global policy and business leaders representing the entire value chain of the maritime economy. The event served as a premier platform for dialogue on advancing India's maritime vision, fostering international cooperation and driving sustainable growth across ports, shipping, logistics and the blue economy.

The Global Maritime CEO Forum – Close Door Interaction Between Hon'ble PM and CEOs



The Global Maritime CEO Forum – a closed-door interaction between the Hon'ble Prime Minister and leading global CEOs – focused on investment priorities and strategic opportunities in India, regulatory enablers and long-term partnerships for maritime growth. Key discussions

covered the development of world-class smart ports, growth in shipping and inland waterways, expansion of shipbuilding and repair infrastructure, promotion of cruise tourism and maritime services and advancements in maritime skilling and port-led industrialisation.

Maritime Corridors: Unlocking Trade Through Strategic Connectivity



The session explored the growing importance of Alternative Trade Corridors in ensuring resilient global connectivity and supply chain reliability. With disruptions in traditional routes impacting costs and transit times, experts discussed how multimodal infrastructure and diversified corridors can strengthen regional integration and port-led development.

GMIS - Shipbuilding: Build in India, Build for the World



Denmark Country Session



The Denmark Country Session highlighted the growing Indo-Danish maritime collaboration, focusing on green shipping, digitalisation and efficiency. Through the Indo-Danish Centre of Excellence in Green Shipping, both nations are advancing the goals of Maritime India Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.



Blue Economy Finance & Investor Forum



The forum at India Maritime Week 2025 brought together government leaders, investors and industry experts to discuss ship leasing, blue bonds and innovative financing models, strengthening India's position as a global hub for maritime finance and investment.



Tamil Nadu State Session



The Tamil Nadu State Session underscored the state's strategic importance in realising India's Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, which aims for a sustainable, green and globally competitive maritime ecosystem. With three major ports—Chennai, Kamarajar and VOC (Tuticorin)—and over 17 non-major ports under the Tamil Nadu Maritime Board, the state serves as a critical hub for manufacturing and exports across sectors like automobiles, renewables, electronics and agri-products. The session focused on the Tamil Nadu Ports Development Policy 2023, which promotes Public-Private Partnerships, multi-port strategies and enhanced connectivity through major infrastructure projects such as the CPRR and industrial corridors (CBIC and CKIC).



GMIS – Maritime Human Capital



Focusing on the theme “Navigating the Future: Building a Modern Maritime Workforce,” the session highlights India’s pivotal role in shaping a future-ready, skilled and inclusive maritime workforce. With India already contributing over 12% of the world’s seafarers, two expert panels will explore strategies to strengthen and expand this global leadership.



Digital Tech Forum



The Digital Tech Forum served as a global platform that brought together Maritime CXOs, Port Chairpersons, Technology Leaders and senior policymakers to shape the international agenda on smart maritime innovation. It provided an

opportunity to exchange ideas with policymakers, peers and industry experts who are driving the sector's transformation and to contribute to the dialogue on how digital and AI technologies can enable the next generation of ports and shipping.



Maritime Excellence Achievers 2025



The Maritime Excellence Achievers 2025 celebrated outstanding leadership and innovation across the global maritime sector during India Maritime Week 2025. The event honoured achievers in eight categories—six global and two India-level—recognising excellence in operations, sustainability, technology and community impact.





GMIS Sagar Samriddhi

The *Sagar Samriddhi* sessions, jointly organised by the **Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCIL)** and the **Centre for Maritime Economy & Connectivity (CMEC)** at RIS, focused on advancing India's dredging sector through technology, sustainability and innovation.



Ports of the Future Partnership: A Quad Initiative



The Quad Initiative aims to advance modern and resilient port infrastructure across the Indo-Pacific by fostering collaboration, sharing best practices and mobilising public-private investments. The partnership strengthens maritime connectivity and logistics resilience, leveraging the Quad's collective expertise and institutional strengths.

Transnational Connectivity: Shaping Future Strategic Ties



The session explored the growing importance of global connectivity corridors like IMEC and EMC in fostering trade resilience, sustainability and strategic partnerships. With India at the center of these initiatives,

discussions led by **MoPSW** and **CRF** highlighted investment, interoperability and inclusivity as key pillars for positioning India as a global leader in future-ready connectivity solutions.



Assam State Session



Sagarmanthan – The Great Oceans Dialogue



Sagarmanthan – The Great Oceans Dialogue focused on advancing India's dredging and maritime innovation landscape. Organised by the **Dredging Corporation of India Limited (DCIL)** and the **Centre for Maritime Economy & Connectivity (CMEC)**, the event featured sessions on *Advances in Dredging Technologies* and *Waste to Wealth Opportunities*. Discussions highlighted AI-enabled dredging, sustainable reuse of materials and circular economy strategies, reinforcing India's commitment to innovation, sustainability and growth in the maritime sector.



UNESCAP Asia-Pacific Regional Dialogue on Sustainable Maritime Connectivity – Navigating Uncertainty, Advancing Together



Held during India Maritime Week 2025, the dialogue, organised in partnership with United Nations ESCAP, brought together 50 participants to strengthen regional collaboration in maritime transport. Under the theme “Navigating Uncertainty, Advancing Together,” discussions focused on global maritime trends, sustainable transport cooperation, green shipping corridors, port digitalisation, improved hinterland connectivity and national strategies for sustainable maritime development.

Women in Maritime – SheEO Conference: Empowering Women in Maritime

The Maritime SheEO Conference celebrated women’s leadership and innovation under the theme “Dream, Believe, Achieve.” The three-day event featured a Career Fair and Future Leaders Forum, a Leadership and Innovation Summit with CEOs and changemakers and ANCHORCON, a legal conference on admiralty law and compliance. Bringing together over 400 participants, the conference underscored inclusion, empowerment and the evolving role of women in the global maritime industry.



GMIS – Guardians of the Sea: Maritime Safety and Security



Held under the theme “*Navigating Safely: Building Smart, Secure and Sovereign Seaways*,” this session focused on strengthening maritime safety and security to protect national interests and ensure seamless trade. Discussions highlighted technological innovations, cybersecurity, surveillance and emergency response, along with international cooperation and strategic partnerships aimed at safeguarding shipping lanes, coastal assets and marine resources—affirming India’s vision for secure and resilient maritime operations.



₹1,500-Crore Infrastructure and CSR Push Unveiled



Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal** joined the *Golden Jubilee Celebration of the New Mangalore Port Authority (NMPA)* at Mangaluru on 13th November 2025, marking 50 years of its service as one of India's leading maritime gateways. The event also witnessed the **inauguration, dedication and foundation stone laying of 16 key infrastructure projects and 113 CSR initiatives worth ₹1,500 crore.**

The celebration highlighted the remarkable journey of NMPA and its transformation under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, from a regional gateway into a technologically advanced and globally competitive maritime hub.

"This Golden Jubilee is not merely the celebration of an institution; it is the celebration of a vision," said **Shri Sonowal**, while addressing the gathering. *"The vision of an Atmanirbhar Bharat under the leadership of our Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji stands tall on the strength of India's maritime heritage and sails confidently toward a future of innovation, prosperity and global leadership."*

At the recently concluded India Maritime Week 2025 in Mumbai, MoUs worth over ₹12 lakh crore were signed across India's maritime sector, of which **₹52,000 crore were by NMPA.** *"This is a strong signal of the rising confidence of investors in the transformed maritime ecosystem of our nation,"* **Shri Sonowal** said.

Union Minister also inaugurated the newly renovated campus of **Mangalore Marine College and Technology (MMCT)** calling it a milestone in India's journey toward becoming a top three maritime nation.

Addressing cadets, faculty and maritime industry representatives, Shri Sonowal said *"Hon'ble Prime Minister Narendra Modi Ji has often said – the oceans connect us to the world, and the future of India's growth is anchored in its maritime strength. "Under his visionary leadership, India is charting a new course to emerge among the top three maritime nations of the world."*

The Minister also inaugurated the **new ₹9.51 crore office building of the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), Mangalore**, built on land allotted by NMPA. The facility will conduct



competency examinations for seafarers from Karnataka and neighbouring states, easing their travel burden for documentation and certification.

Shri Sonowal praised MMCT for its role in maritime education, noting its world-class infrastructure, simulators and ship-in-campus training.

Shri Sonowal commended Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) – the world’s largest container shipping line – for its collaboration with MMCT.



Shri Sonowal emphasised NMPA’s commitment to sustainability, *“NMPA’s green initiatives exemplify India’s resolve for sustainable growth and maritime innovation.”*

During the ceremony, the Union Minister inaugurated multiple infrastructure and CSR projects worth ₹1,500 crore, including a **150-bed multi-specialty hospital built under the PPP model**.

As the event concluded, the Union Minister paid tribute to all visionaries, leaders, administrators, employees and workers who have contributed to the port’s success over the past five decades. Union Minister Shri Pralhad Joshi, along with MP Shri Brijesh Chowta, former MP and former BJP State President Shri Nalin Kumar Kateel, MLAs Dr. Bharath Shetty and Mr. D. Vedavyasa Kamath, Director General of Shipping Shri Shyam Jagannathan, NMPA Chairman Dr. Venkata Raman Akkaraju and Deputy Chairman Shri S. Shanthi graced the Golden Jubilee Celebration of the NMPA.

Additional Director General of Shipping Shri Sushil Khopde, MSC Crewing Services Managing Director Capt. M. P. Bhasin, Panchayat President Ms. Vanitha and CMC Group of Institutions Chairman and Founder Shri S. I. Nathan were among the dignitaries who attended the MMCT event.



Dreams, Discipline and Determination: My Path Through NEET



Everyone wants to make a positive impact on the world.

It's human nature- to want to serve, want to help, want to make the world a better place.

I had the privilege of knowing just how to do that from a very young age. From the doctors I saw on television, to the family of doctors that surrounded me- everything was subtly pushing me towards choosing the career path that I did.

And so, when I was only nine years old, I knew I wanted to be a doctor myself. To wear the white coat, and to vow to heal.

From childhood, I had been encouraged to participate in Olympiads and other such academic competitions and quizzes that helped to sharpen my mind and build my social circle, filling it with like-minded students who further challenged me and inspired me to keep doing better.

I made a conscious effort to work towards my decision to be a doctor when I entered the sixth grade, and chose to join ALLEN, which was, at the time, and still remains to this day, one of the best coaching institutes for preparing for the medical entrance exam 'NEET'.

Because of joining ALLEN at a younger age, I got a lot of exposure to competitive environments and examinations. So, indirectly, ALLEN was always preparing me to partake in this nationwide highly competitive exam. There were, of course, sacrifices that had to be made. Time that I would have otherwise spent on extracurriculars or hanging out with friends, I was instead choosing to spend at ALLEN. That said, it was never a decision I regretted.

When eleventh grade rolled around, and I made my first real choice in pursuing medicine- choosing the PCB stream, I was surprisingly conflicted. I thought I'd known my whole life what I wanted, but this was the first time I would be making an irreversible decision to set myself on that path, and so, naturally, I was momentarily hesitant. It didn't help that I really loved maths, and the thought of dropping it perpetually was saddening.

Still, I gathered my resolve and reminded myself why I wanted to be a doctor in the first place. It wasn't for the love of the subject, although that did play a major part in it, but it was for the future lives that I would be saving and helping to improve.

When I began my 2-year long journey wherein I actively prepared for NEET, it



wasn't at all smooth sailing. I started my eleventh year, all gung-ho, and ready to rock the exam. But 2 years is a long time, and I pushed myself too far too quickly, which resulted in burnout.

This wasn't the first time I'd experienced burnout- my first time being over the pandemic- but it was at a far more crucial moment, where I didn't have time I could afford to spend in a rut.

For almost an entire year- starting from the end of eleventh grade to the middle of twelfth grade- I felt unmotivated and unable to concentrate. I was lost and confused, because I was never uncertain of my decision to prepare for NEET, so I didn't understand why I couldn't regain my enthusiasm for it. It wasn't that I didn't *want* to study, but that I *couldn't*.

As I saw my marks drop, and my rank within my batch take a fall, I thought there was something wrong with me. It was a cycle of being unmotivated to study, watching my mock test results plummet, and being further unmotivated by those results.

My parents, through it all, remained supportive and understanding, offering advice and counselling whenever they thought it to be necessary. However, at the end of the day, they're only human, and I could tell that they were rightfully disappointed, though they made a valiant effort not to let me know.

I despised disappointing my parents, my teachers, and most of all, myself. I felt like I was failing to prove my potential and the longer I took to regain my motivation, the more fearful I became that I never would.

As the day of the final exam drew nearer, I knew I had to get back on my horse, and that I had worked too hard and for too long, to give up now. I pushed myself past my demotivation to keep studying. I tried every trick in the book- whether it was pomodoro, tempting myself with treats and rewards, studying in a different location, etc. I can't be certain which one worked, or whether it was the cumulative effect of all of them, but eventually, little by little, I began to regain my drive and my determination, which persisted until the day of the exam.

On that fateful day, I was naturally quite nervous. A small part of me was afraid that even though I *had* regained my ambition, that it was too late, and that everyone else had prepared far more than I had and that I was undeserving of getting a good result.

Still, I pushed these fears to the side, and focused on the present. I was familiar with the text; I had a deep understanding of the



concepts; I had practiced thousands of questions for hours and hours. Maybe, at the end of the day, I wasn't the one who worked the hardest, but I had worked the hardest that I could, and that was what mattered.

The NEET exam paper was one of the hardest papers that I had ever written, and not only because of the impact that it would have on my future career; the paper went down in history as one of the hardest NEET papers of all time.

I did not, however, know this at the time of calculating my marks. At face value, 580 was a score much lower than what I had hoped to get, which shattered my heart and made me wonder if my worst fears had come true.

Until the results came, we were in a state of dubiety. The news told us one thing; the information we got from others told us something else. It was hard to tell where I would stand on a national scale.

When the results finally did arrive, it was a day of celebration. I had gotten an AIR of 3483, which ensured that I would get into the best government MBBS colleges Mumbai had to offer. My worries were washed away, and my fears forgotten.

To this day, I'm still a little unsure of how I managed it all, but I can say for certain that I wouldn't have been able to achieve what I did if it weren't for the support, patience, prayers and blessings of the people that have always been there for me: my family, my teachers and my friends.

I hope to keep walking this path in stride. I know it won't be easy- far from it, in fact- but I'm willing and ready to face any challenges that come my way. If there's anything I want you to take away from this, it's to never give up. Even when things get hard, and the doubts and fears threaten to overwhelm you, believe in yourself and your efforts, and you will achieve far more than you thought possible.



About the Author

Samiksha Sunil Kumar is a first-year MBBS student with a strong academic foundation and a keen interest in the medical sciences. She recently featured in an interview where she shared her journey, insights and strategies that led to her success in cracking the NEET examination.

Her interview is available on YouTube and can be viewed at the following link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x3tPiZ9cMmA>



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