

**CHIEF GUEST CONVOCATION ADDRESS**  
**BY THE CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD**  
**AT NAROTTAM MORARJEE INSTITUTE OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI**

**Respected Director, esteemed faculty members, industry dignitaries, proud parents, and most importantly, graduating students,**

Namaskar and good morning.

It is an honour and a privilege to address this convocation of the Narottam Morarjee Institute of Shipping, a premier maritime institution that has contributed immensely to India's shipping and logistics sectors for over five decades. I thank the leadership of this Institute for inviting me as Chief Guest and for the opportunity to connect with the brilliant minds who will be leading India's maritime future.

**Saluting the Legacy of Narottam Morarjee**

It is fitting that this Institute bears the name of Shri Narottam Morarjee, one of India's earliest industrial visionaries. At a time when our seas were dominated by foreign ships, he established the Scindia Steam Navigation Company—a daring move that not only challenged colonial dominance but gave rise to India's own commercial maritime identity. He believed that India must chart its own course on the oceans—and today, each one of you inherits that dream.

**The Institute's Role in Maritime Nation-Building**

Founded in 1969, this Institute has been a silent but vital force behind India's shipping sector. For over 50 years, it has produced skilled professionals who have taken on leadership roles across ports, shipping lines, freight and logistics firms, regulatory bodies, and international trade platforms. It has not merely trained individuals—it has shaped the backbone of India's maritime ecosystem. Your graduating batch now joins this legacy. You do not just leave this campus with a diploma—you leave with the responsibility to build upon a proud national mission.

**India's Maritime Transformation & Vision 2047**

As we celebrate Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav, India stands at the threshold of Amrit Kaal—the 25-year journey towards 2047, when we complete 100 years of independence. To realise this vision, the Government of India has laid out bold and transformative agendas such as: Sagarmala- Modernising ports, improving connectivity, and unlocking port-led industrialisation / Make in India: Reviving shipbuilding, marine equipment manufacturing, and logistics parks/ Atma Nirbhar Bharat - Encouraging Indian tonnage, domestic ship finance, and indigenous maritime capability. Ease of Doing Business - Digitisation of port operations, single-window clearances, and customs reforms /

Ease of Living / Enhancing port-city integration, seafarer welfare, and last-mile coastal connectivity / Maritime India Vision 2030 and the Amrit Kaal Maritime Vision 2047 - Our long-term blueprints to position India as a global maritime power—not just in cargo volume, but in innovation, green shipping, skill development, and international engagement.

These are not just slogans. These are structural transformations—and your generation is expected to implement and lead them.

### **Opportunities for the New Maritime Professional**

In this exciting era, the role of the maritime professional has changed: You must be well-versed in emerging technologies like blockchain, digital freight systems, and port automation. You must be aware of geopolitics, trade corridors, and the Indo-Pacific narrative. You must align with global goals of carbon neutrality, decarbonisation, and the Blue Economy. And most importantly, you must have the integrity and courage to serve not just your companies, but the larger interest of India and the world.

### **A Call to Service and Leadership**

Let me offer one thought as you step into the professional world:

**“You are not just joining the shipping sector—you are joining India’s journey of resurgence through the maritime domain.”**

Whether you join a port, a private logistics firm, a shipping company, or a regulatory agency—you are part of Team India. You represent a country with a 7,500 km coastline, 12 major ports, 200 minor ports, and a billion dreams. You are the custodians of India's maritime destiny.

### **Closing Tribute**

I salute the faculty who have mentored this generation. I commend the families whose sacrifices are often unseen but essential. And I thank the leadership of this Institute for sustaining such high academic and professional standards. To the graduating students: May you carry forward the legacy of Narottam Morarjee, live by the principles of nation before self, and never stop learning.

### **Final Words**

Let me close with a thought:

**“Ships are safest in the harbour—but that’s not what ships are built for.”**

Go forth. Explore new waters. Lead with knowledge, courage, and values. May you not just witness India's maritime rise—but shape it.

**Jai Hind.**

**Jai Maritime India**