



Sagar Mein Samman

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Celebrating
'International Day for Women in Maritime'
18th May 2026

Theme: 'From Policy to Practice: Advancing Gender Equality'



DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING

Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways | Government of India

EVENT REPORT

International Day for Women in Maritime 2026

Theme: 'From Policy to Practice: Advancing Gender Equality'

18th May 2026

Mumbai & Kolkata

Maritime Training Institute (MTI), SCI, Powai, Mumbai | ITC Sonar, Kolkata

Under the aegis of the National Maritime Day Celebrations Committee

Sagar Mein Samman Initiative



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1. Mumbai Celebration of International Day for Women in Maritime 2026

1.1 Event Invitation & Programme Schedule

The celebration was formally announced through an official invitation issued by the National Maritime Day Celebrations Committee (NMDC), under the aegis of the Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways. The invitation and the minute-to-minute programme schedule are reproduced below for record.

1.2 Introduction

The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), Government of India, under the aegis of the National Maritime Day Celebrations Committee (NMDC), organised the International Day for Women in Maritime 2026 on 18th May 2026 at the Maritime Training Institute (MTI), Shipping Corporation of India, Adi Shankaracharya Marg, Powai, Mumbai — 400076. The event commenced at 1500 hours.

The celebration was held under the overarching banner of the Sagar Mein Samman (SMS) initiative — DGS's flagship programme for advancing gender equality, dignity, safety, and inclusion across India's maritime sector. This year's theme, 'From Policy to Practice: Advancing Gender Equality,' reflected the imperative to move beyond policy declarations and ensure tangible, measurable progress at the institutional and operational levels.

The event brought together senior maritime administrators, women seafarers, academic toppers, industry representatives, training institutions, and cadets in a spirit of collective resolve. It was a landmark occasion — not merely ceremonial, but substantive — marked by inspiring stories, felicitations, a cultural programme, and the formal introduction of a Five-Year Action Plan Framework under Sagar Mein Samman.

1.3 Distinguished Dignitaries and Guests

The event was graced by a distinguished gathering of senior officials and maritime leaders. The Chief Guest was:



- **Chief Guest:** Shri Sushil Mansing Khopde, IPS, Additional Director General of Shipping

Other dignitaries present included:

- Capt. Abul Kalam Azad — Nautical Advisor
- Dr. Sudhir Kohakade, IRS — Deputy Director General & Member Secretary, NMDC (Central)
- Shri S. M. Rai — Treasurer, NMDC (Central) Committee
- Shri Deependra Singh Bisen — Deputy Director General, DGS
- Dr. Kusum Kanwar — Joint Chairperson, Sagar Mein Samman
- Mrs. Ambika Singh — Joint Chairperson, Sagar Mein Samman

Video messages were received from the following distinguished personalities, underscoring the national and international significance of the occasion:

- Shri Sarbananda Sonowal — Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways
- Mr. Arsenio Dominguez — Secretary General, International Maritime Organization (IMO)
- Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS — Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Government of India and Chairman, NMDC (Central) Committee
- Ms. Ashwini Bhide, IAS — Municipal Commissioner, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation

1.4 Minute-to-Minute Programme

The event was meticulously organised and followed a structured schedule. The full programme as conducted on the day is captured in the table below:

Time	Programme
1500 hrs.	Arrival of the Chief Guest — Shri Sushil Mansing Khopde, IPS, Additional Director General of Shipping
1502 hrs.	Guard of Honour to the Chief Guest by the cadets of Maritime Training Institute, Shipping Corporation of India, Mumbai
1504 hrs.	Dignitaries escorted to the dais by the Member Secretary, NMDC (Central) Committee



1507 hrs.	National Song — "Vande Mataram"
1510 hrs.	Lighting of Lamp and Saraswati Vandana
1513 hrs.	Presentation of bouquet to the dignitaries
1516 hrs.	Welcome address by Shri S. M. Rai, Treasurer, NMDC (Central) Committee
1520 hrs.	Video message of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways
1523 hrs.	Video message of Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary General, International Maritime Organization (IMO)
1525 hrs.	Video message of Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Govt. of India and Chairman, NMDC (Central) Committee
1530 hrs.	Video message of Ms. Ashwini Bhide, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation
1533 hrs.	Address by Chief Guest — Shri Sushil Mansing Khopde, IPS, Additional Director General of Shipping
1543 hrs.	Panel Discussion on the theme: "From Policy to Practice: Advancing Gender Equality"
1610 hrs.	Presentation from Maersk Fleet Management and Technology India on the best practices and initiatives taken towards implementation of gender equality
1615 hrs.	Presentation from Training Ship Rahaman on the best practices and initiatives taken towards implementation of gender equality
1620 hrs.	Cultural programme by women in the maritime sector
1650 hrs.	Short film on 'Sagar Mein Samman' — Initiatives of D. G. Shipping
1700 hrs.	Presentation by Dr. Kusum Kanwar & Mrs. Ambika Singh, Joint Chairpersons, 'Sagar Mein Samman' initiatives of D. G. Shipping
1720 hrs.	Felicitation of Women excelling in Maritime Sector
1725 hrs.	Vote of Thanks by Dr. Sudhir Kohakade, IRS, DDG & MS, NMDC Central Committee
1728 hrs.	National Anthem
1732 hrs.	Proceed for High Tea



1.5 Opening Ceremony

The event commenced with the arrival of the Chief Guest, Shri Sushil Mansing Khopde, IPS, who was accorded a Guard of Honour by the smart and disciplined cadets of the Maritime Training Institute, Shipping Corporation of India, Mumbai. The cadets' precision and bearing set a dignified tone for the afternoon.

The ceremony was formally opened with presentation of flower bouquet, singing of the National Song 'Vande Mataram,' followed by the traditional Lighting of the Lamp and Saraswati Vandana — invoking blessings of knowledge, wisdom, and enlightenment, for the proceedings ahead.

The Welcome Address was delivered by Shri S. M. Rai, Treasurer, NMDC (Central) Committee, who warmly greeted all dignitaries, guests, participants, and cadets. He underlined the importance of the International Day for Women in Maritime as a moment for the sector to reflect on its commitments and renew its resolve to make maritime careers genuinely accessible and fulfilling for women.

1.6 High-Level Video Messages

One of the defining features of the event was the series of high-level video messages that connected the gathering with the broader national and global maritime leadership. These messages reinforced the significance of the occasion and demonstrated the support of the highest levels of government and international organisations for gender inclusion in maritime.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, reaffirmed the Government of India's commitment to building an inclusive maritime workforce. The Minister's message acknowledged the courage and dedication of women seafarers and called upon institutions to strengthen support mechanisms.

Mr. Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), congratulated India's maritime sector on the occasion and highlighted the IMO's global agenda on women in maritime. His message was particularly significant given India's active role in international maritime governance.



Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping and Chairman, NMDC (Central) Committee, expressed his pride in the progress made under the Sagar Mein Samman initiative and called for sustained institutional efforts to translate policy frameworks into ground-level change.

Ms. Ashwini Bhide, IAS, Municipal Commissioner, Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, appreciated the DGS's leadership in advancing gender inclusion and expressed solidarity with the women seafarers and cadets present

1.7 Address by the Chief Guest

Addressing the gathering, Shri Sushil Mansingh Khopde, IPS, Additional Director General of Shipping, delivered an inspiring address that combined personal warmth with institutional resolve. He paid tribute to the courage, determination and resilience of women who have chosen maritime professions, particularly careers at sea, in a sector that has traditionally been male-dominated. He underlined the importance of increasing women's participation in the maritime domain through safety, equality, skill development, scholarships, welfare measures, mentorship and strong institutional support. Reflecting on his tenure in Bihar, he shared initiatives undertaken to promote women's empowerment by ensuring safety, respect and employment opportunities for women in the police force. He reaffirmed the Directorate General of Shipping's commitment to creating an enabling environment where women seafarers and maritime professionals are not merely welcomed, but genuinely supported through institutional frameworks, safety standards, grievance redressal mechanisms and equal opportunities. He also highlighted the Directorate's flagship initiatives, including Sagar Mein Samman, Sagar Mein Yog, and digital grievance redressal mechanisms, as important steps towards building a safer, more inclusive and future-ready maritime ecosystem. He expressed pride in the Sagar Mein Samman initiative and emphasized that the Five-Year Action Plan Framework would serve as a living document, to be monitored, evaluated and strengthened year after year. His address was warmly received and set an encouraging tone for the substantive proceedings that followed.



Fig. 2 — Address at the podium during the International Day for Women in Maritime 2026

1.8 Panel Discussion: From Policy to Practice

The event also featured an engaging and substantive panel discussion on the theme “From Policy to Practice: Advancing Gender Equality”, moderated by Mrs. Ambika Singh, Joint Chairperson, Sagar Mein Samman and Senior Manager (Marketing), JNPA. The panel brought together distinguished women maritime professionals, industry leaders and institutional representatives, including Ms. Sanjam Sahi Gupta, President Emeritus and Founder of WISTA India and representative of the National Shipping Board; Ms. Saleha Shaikh, Founder of MUI Women’s Wing and Founder & President of WIMA India; Chief Engineer Pooja Kumari, SCI; Second Officer Kamana Menshram, SCI; and Fourth Engineer Meghana Menon, Seaspan Corporation. The discussion focused on the journey of translating gender equality from policy intent into practical implementation across the maritime sector.

The panelists shared valuable perspectives on the challenges and opportunities faced by women in maritime careers, including access to training, workplace safety, social attitudes, mentorship, institutional support, visible role models and equal opportunities at sea and



ashore. The session encouraged candid dialogue on the structural barriers that continue to affect women's participation and highlighted the importance of supportive policies, strong grievance redressal systems and sector-wide commitment. Thereafter, industry representatives from Maersk Fleet Management and Technology India and Training Ship Rahaman made presentations on best practices and gender equality initiatives implemented in their respective organisations, offering practical insights that may be replicated across the maritime ecosystem.



Fig. 3 — Women Panelists with the Additional Director General of Shipping, IPS, and Distinguished Guests at the event





Fig. 4 — Distinguished dignitaries and panelists seated at the dais

1.9 Celebrating Women Seafarers — Voices from the Voyage

Perhaps the most emotionally resonant segment of the afternoon was the 'Voices from the Voyage' — where women seafarers took the stage to share their personal journeys of courage, perseverance, and passion in choosing a career at sea. These were not scripted speeches but authentic accounts of real lives — lives marked by determination in the face of doubt, resilience in the face of adversity, and the quiet pride of proving that the sea belongs to everyone.

The women seafarers featured were:

- Vaishnavi Rajendra Kadam — Anglo Eastern Maritime Academy
- Payal Sharma — Tolani Maritime Institute (TMI)
- Fateen Maqsood Ahmed Kazi — Tolani Maritime Institute (TMI)

Each story was unique, yet bound by a common thread — the experience of being a pioneer, of navigating not just the oceans but the social and professional currents that make the maritime profession a challenging yet deeply rewarding choice for women. Their presence on stage was a powerful reminder that women are not merely entering the maritime sector — they are leading it, inspiring it, and shaping its future.



Fig. 5 — Women Seafarers being honoured for sharing their inspiring success stories under the Sagar Mein Samman initiative

1.10 Felicitation of IMU Female Toppers and Meritorious Cadets

The Directorate General of Shipping, in a gesture that will long be remembered by all present, formally acknowledged and felicitated the academic toppers and meritorious cadets from leading maritime training institutions across India. These young women represent the future of India's maritime workforce — and their achievements across academics, research, leadership, sports, and co-curricular domains signal a new era of women's excellence in maritime education.

The women honoured included:

- Parvana G. Dinesh — Anglo Eastern Maritime Academy
- Akanksha Shrivastava — IMU Chennai Campus
- Nandana T. P. — IMU Chennai Campus



- Bipanshika Bezbaruah — IMU Kolkata Campus
- Kashvi Rana — IMU Mumbai Port Campus

The felicitation was conducted in a dignified and celebratory manner, with each awardee receiving recognition for her specific area of distinction. The moment was particularly significant for the younger cadets in the audience, for whom these achievers served as visible, tangible proof that excellence in maritime education has no gender.



Fig. 6 — Felicitation of Women Excelling in Academic Performance in the Maritime Sector (I)



Fig. 7 — Felicitations of Women Excelling in Academic Performance in the Maritime Sector (II)

1.11 Cultural Programme and Short Film

The event concluded with a vibrant cultural programme featuring enthusiastic participation from maritime institutes and organisations. Performances included “Sagar Mein Samman – The Pride of Professionalism” by Samudra Institute of Maritime Studies (SIMS), “Waves of Change” by Anglo-Eastern Maritime Academy (AEMA), and “Waves Do Not Discriminate” by Mediterranean Crewing Services Pvt. Ltd. The cultural segment beautifully reflected the spirit of the occasion, combining artistry with advocacy and celebrating the identity, strength and contribution of women in the maritime sector. The performances highlighted the values of diversity, inclusion, dignity and unity, adding a festive and meaningful dimension to the International Day for Women in Maritime 2026 celebrations.

Following the cultural programme, a specially curated short film on the Sagar Mein Samman initiative of the Directorate General of Shipping was screened. The film presented a compelling visual narrative of the initiative’s journey, covering its inception, core philosophy, key milestones and future aspirations. It served as an effective contextual introduction to the flagship presentation that followed and was received with appreciation and applause by the audience.



1.12 Launch of the Five-Year Action Plan Framework under Sagar Mein Samman

A key institutional milestone of the event was the formal introduction of the Five-Year Action Plan Framework (2025–2030) under the Sagar Mein Samman initiative of the Directorate General of Shipping. The framework represents a structured and forward-looking roadmap for advancing gender equality, dignity, safety and inclusion across India’s maritime sector through sustained, measurable and accountable action over a five-year period. It was introduced not merely as an administrative plan, but as a strong institutional commitment towards creating a maritime ecosystem where women are encouraged, supported and empowered to participate equally at sea and ashore.

The Five-Year Action Plan Framework was presented by Dr. Kusum Kanwar and Mrs. Ambika Singh, Joint Chairpersons of Sagar Mein Samman, in the distinguished presence of Capt. Abul Kalam Azad, Nautical Advisor and Deputy Director General of Shipping; Dr. Sudhir Kohakade, IRS, Deputy Director General of Shipping and Member Secretary, NMDC; and Shri Deependra Singh Bisen, Deputy Director General of Shipping. The presentation highlighted the Directorate’s commitment to translating the vision of Sagar Mein Samman into practical, phased and outcome-oriented action.

The framework focuses on awareness generation and policy strengthening in the first year; education, skill development and mentorship in the second year; welfare, healthcare and inclusive facilities in the third year; leadership, innovation, sustainability and global collaboration in the fourth year; and institutional integration with long-term impact assessment in the fifth year. Its key components include structured implementation across multiple phases, defined targets for women’s participation, capacity building through maritime training institutions, policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and a robust monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess progress year after year. More than a plan, the framework stands as a promise of sustained, measurable and inclusive progress for women in India’s maritime sector.

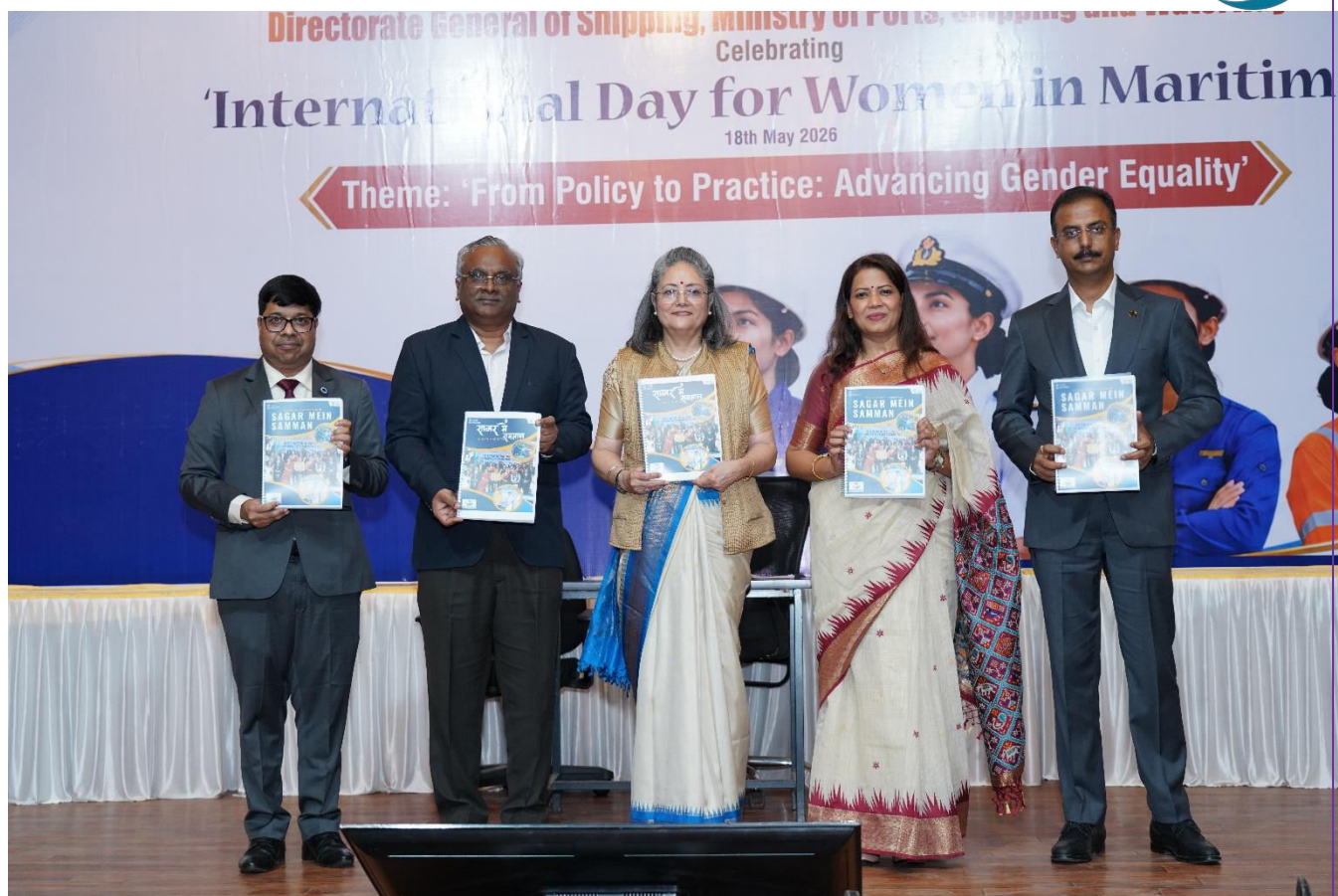


Fig. 8 — Distinguished Dignitaries and Sagar Mein Samman Joint Chairperson at the International Day for Women in Maritime 2026

1.13 Sagar Mein Samman Committee Members and Cadets

A formal group photograph was taken, bringing together the Sagar Mein Samman Committee members, senior dignitaries, and the cadets who participated in the event. The photograph captures the collective spirit of the initiative — institutional leadership standing shoulder to shoulder with the next generation of women maritime professionals.



Fig. 9 — Sagar Mein Samman Committee Members and Cadets at the International Day for Women in Maritime 2026

1.14 Felicitation of Women Excelling in Maritime

The celebrations also recognized distinguished women leaders for their outstanding contributions to the maritime sector under the Sagar Mein Samman initiative. Felicitated during the event were Mrs. Manisha Umakant Jadhav, General Manager – Admin. & Secretary, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA); Ms. Janhavi Mehta, Senior Vice President, MSC Mediterranean Shipping Company – MSC Agency (India) Pvt. Ltd.; Chief Engineer Ms. Pooja Kumari, Shipping Corporation of India Ltd.; and Mrs. Aishwarya Gupta Pilankar, Vice Chairperson, International Maritime Federation (IMF) and Head of the Women’s Wing, Forward Seamen’s Union of India (FSUI).

1.15 Vote of Thanks and Conclusion

The formal proceedings concluded with the Vote of Thanks delivered by Dr. Sudhir Kohakade, IRS, Deputy Director General & Member Secretary, NMDC (Central) Committee. He expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, all dignitaries, panellists, speakers, the women seafarers who shared their stories, the cadets who were felicitated, the industry organisations that contributed presentations, and the entire organising team.



The National Anthem was sung with collective pride, bringing the formal programme to a close. The gathering then proceeded to a High Tea, which provided an informal yet valuable space for continued conversation, networking, and the building of connections across institutions, organisations, and individuals who share the commitment to a more inclusive maritime sector.

1.16 Observations and Impact

The International Day for Women in Maritime 2026 was, by every measure, a success — not simply as an event, but as a statement of intent. It demonstrated that the Directorate General of Shipping is committed to going beyond symbolism and creating real, structural change in how women are supported, recognised, and empowered within the maritime sector.

Key outcomes and observations from the event include:

- The personal testimonies of women seafarers created an atmosphere of inspiration and connection that resonated deeply with young cadets in the audience.
- The felicitation of IMU female toppers and meritorious cadets sent a powerful signal that academic and professional excellence among women in maritime will be recognised and celebrated at the highest institutional levels.
- The panel discussion generated substantive dialogue on practical pathways to gender equality, drawing on experiences from institutions and industry partners.
- The formal introduction of the Five-Year Action Plan Framework under Sagar Mein Samman gave the event institutional weight — translating aspiration into a structured, time-bound commitment.
- The presence of video messages from the IMO Secretary General and senior Government of India officials underlined the national and international significance of India's maritime gender inclusion agenda.

The event reaffirmed the Directorate General of Shipping's commitment to advancing gender equality, dignity, safety, inclusion, and equal opportunity across India's maritime sector — through the Sagar Mein Samman initiative and beyond.



2. Kolkata Celebration of International Day for Women in Maritime 2026

In addition to the main celebration held at Mumbai, the National Maritime Day Celebrations Committee, Kolkata celebrated the International Day for Women in Maritime 2026 on 18th May 2026 at ITC Sonar, Kolkata. The programme was organized as a special commemorative event to recognize the growing role of women in India's maritime sector and to further the objectives of the Sagar Mein Samman initiative of the Directorate General of Shipping.

The Kolkata celebration reflected the national character of the International Day for Women in Maritime 2026 and demonstrated the shared commitment of maritime administration, training institutions, industry stakeholders, women professionals, and seafarer welfare bodies towards advancing gender equality, dignity, safety, inclusion, and opportunity across India's maritime ecosystem.

2.1 Chief Guest and Institutional Milestone

The event was graced by Shri Dilip Ghosh, Hon'ble Minister-in-charge, Department of Panchayat and Rural Development, Government of West Bengal, as the Chief Guest. On this occasion, the Five-Year National Action Framework for Women in Maritime was unveiled as a significant step towards translating the objectives of Sagar Mein Samman into structured, long-term action for gender inclusion, equality, welfare, and empowerment in the maritime domain.

The unveiling of the framework was an important institutional milestone. It reaffirmed the direction of the Sagar Mein Samman initiative and emphasized the need for sustained, measurable, and accountable action to increase women's participation and strengthen support systems in the maritime sector.

2.2 Address by the Chief Guest

Addressing the gathering, the Chief Guest highlighted the deep symbolic connection between women and the ocean, observing that the ocean, like women, represents strength, depth, resilience, and immense untapped potential. He emphasized that the International Day for Women in Maritime marks a crucial shift towards gender equality and provides an opportunity to recognize the invaluable contributions of women who serve, lead, navigate, and contribute within the shipping and maritime industries.

His address underlined the importance of recruitment, retention, recognition, and advancement of women in the maritime sector, while calling for continued institutional and stakeholder support to ensure that the maritime ecosystem becomes more inclusive and enabling for women at sea and ashore.

2.3 Remarks by Principal Officer, MMD Kolkata

Speaking on the occasion, Shri Vikrant Rai, Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Kolkata, shared valuable insights on maritime policy, industry growth, and the changing role of women in shaping the future of the maritime sector. He observed that the maritime sector, which was historically perceived as a male-dominated domain, is undergoing a meaningful



transformation, with women increasingly entering, contributing to, and leading within the industry.

His remarks emphasized that the progress of women in maritime is not a symbolic development, but a substantive change in the sector's professional culture, institutional expectations, and future direction.

2.4 Felicitation of Women in the Maritime Sector

A key highlight of the Kolkata event was the felicitation of women for their outstanding contributions to the maritime sector. The National Maritime Day Celebrations Committee, Kolkata received thirteen nominations for recognition. The top four awardees were felicitated by the Hon'ble Minister for their exemplary work:

Sr. No.	Awardee	Category of Recognition
1	Ms. Aparajita Ghosh, CGM Finance, GRSE	Maritime Excellence Award
2	Ms. Baishali Chowdhuri, Director, Seacom Marine College	Maritime Educator & Mentor Award
3	Ms. Sreya Mukherjee, Director, NCGB Group	Maritime Entrepreneur Award
4	Ms. Komal, 2nd Cook, Maersk Line	Emerging Women Seafarer Award

Women officials serving under the Indian Maritime Administration and its field and allied offices, including the Mercantile Marine Department, Government Shipping Office, Seamen's Employment Office, and Seamen's Provident Fund Organisation, were also felicitated for their continued service and contribution to the sector.

2.5 Panel Discussions and Thematic Deliberations

The programme featured three panel discussions focusing on practical issues concerning women's participation, advancement, safety, and career progression in the maritime sector. The sessions encouraged meaningful dialogue among policymakers, maritime professionals, educators, industry leaders, and women seafarers.

Panel	Topic	Moderator
Panel 1	Challenges faced by women seafarers onboard	Smt. Baishali Chowdhuri, Director, Seacom Marine College
Panel 2	Increasing women's participation in technical maritime jobs	Capt. Ashok Menon, Principal, IMEI Kolkata



Panel 3	Alternative career opportunities for women seafarers in the maritime sector	Shri David Birwadkar, Maritime Leader
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All panel members were presented with mementos as a token of appreciation for their active participation and contribution to the deliberations. The discussions added practical depth to the celebration by focusing not only on recognition, but also on the structural and professional pathways required to increase women's participation in maritime careers.

2.6 Seafarer Welfare, Institutional Presentations and Outreach

A special video presented by the Seafarers Welfare Fund Society highlighted its role in promoting the welfare, safety, and social security of Indian seafarers and their families, with particular emphasis on women seafarers. The presentation also referred to important welfare investments in Kolkata, including modernization of Nabik Griha Samity and development of facilities for women seafarers, along with modernization of Marine Club, Kolkata.

Shri Amal Day, a senior official of the Mercantile Marine Department with more than 25 years of experience in the Indian Maritime Administration, delivered a presentation on the transition of shipping from a male-dominated sector to an increasingly gender-neutral maritime ecosystem. Ms. Sreya Mukherjee, Director, NCGB Group, also delivered a presentation on the initiatives Sagar Mein Samman and Sagar Mein Yog, focusing on empowerment, wellness, and positive transformation within maritime communities.

2.7 Photographic Glimpses from the Kolkata Celebration



Fig. 10 - Guard of Honour and ceremonial welcome arrangements at ITC Sonar, Kolkata.



Fig. 11 - Arrival and ceremonial reception of the Chief Guest and dignitaries.



Fig. 12 - Lighting of the ceremonial lamp during the Kolkata celebration.



Fig. 13 - Unveiling of the Five-Year National Action Framework for Women in Maritime.



Fig. 14 - Felicitation of distinguished women contributors from the maritime sector.



Fig. 15 - Presentation and recognition segment during the Kolkata programme.



Fig. 16 - Group photograph of dignitaries, officials, participants and stakeholders at the Kolkata celebration.



2.8 Outcome and Significance of the Kolkata Celebration

The Kolkata celebration strengthened the outreach and impact of the International Day for Women in Maritime 2026 by extending the message of Sagar Mein Samman beyond the central event and into a major regional maritime hub. It provided a platform for recognition, dialogue, welfare-focused engagement, and institutional alignment around the shared objective of advancing women's participation in the maritime sector.

The event concluded with a Vote of Thanks, followed by a Gala Dinner. Overall, the celebration reinforced the collective commitment of the Directorate General of Shipping, maritime administration, industry stakeholders, training institutions, and welfare organisations towards creating a maritime sector where women are respected, supported, recognized, and empowered to excel.

3. Event Conclusion

The International Day for Women in Maritime 2026 was observed with significance at both Mumbai and Kolkata, reflecting the expanding national momentum behind the Sagar Mein Samman initiative. While the Mumbai event emphasized policy-to-practice transformation, the introduction of the Five-Year Action Plan Framework, recognition of women achievers, and national-level engagement, the Kolkata celebration further amplified the initiative through regional participation, felicitation of women maritime professionals, panel discussions, welfare-focused presentations, and the unveiling of the Five-Year National Action Framework for Women in Maritime.

Together, the celebrations demonstrated that gender inclusion in maritime is no longer limited to policy intent. It is being advanced through structured frameworks, institutional leadership, recognition of women's achievements, stakeholder dialogue, welfare initiatives, and continued commitment from maritime administrations and industry partners. The events reaffirmed the Directorate General of Shipping's resolve to advance equality, dignity, safety, inclusion, and opportunity for women across the Indian maritime sector.