

Draft Speech for Shikṣita Nāvikaḥ - Saśakta Saṁsthānam - Surakṣita Samudraḥ– 25 August 2025

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to address this distinguished gathering on the vital subject of maritime training — a cornerstone for India's maritime growth and the foundation for a skilled, competent seafaring workforce.

At the recent RPSL symposium held on 21 August 2025, during the insightful presentation by Chief Surveyor, Shri Ajith Sukumaran, we explored the important distinction between *a seafarer* and *a competent seafarer*. This distinction is critical because while many may enter the maritime profession, it is competency that ensures safety, efficiency, and global recognition.

Today, as part of our continued efforts, we will delve deeper into how a seafarer can not only enter the profession but evolve into a truly competent and globally respected maritime professional.

Vision Alignment: MIV 2030 and Amrit Kaal Vision 2047

India's maritime ambitions are clearly articulated in the Maritime India Vision 2030, which emphasizes the need for a highly skilled, future-ready seafarer workforce. This vision prioritizes the modernization of maritime training institutes, expansion of training capacities, adoption of digital tools such as web-based and 360-degree simulators, and alignment with international standards like the STCW Convention.

Complementing this, the Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 envisions a sustainable, digitally empowered maritime workforce skilled in green technologies and digital learning, aimed at creating abundant global employment opportunities through high-quality training.

Key DGS Initiatives toward Future-ready Maritime Training

As the regulatory authority, the Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) has taken concrete steps to implement this visionary agenda:

- Approval, Regulation, and Oversight of Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs) across India, ensuring compliance with the provisions of the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW).
- Deployment of immersive, web-based simulators and interactive 360-degree simulation platforms to facilitate competency-based training accessible remotely, thereby broadening reach and flexibility.

- Launch of a centralized **Learning Management System (LMS)** to streamline course delivery, assessments, and progress tracking across Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs), ensuring consistency and transparency.
- Introduction of the **Faculty Development Program (FDP)** aimed at continuous upskilling of trainers within MTIs, focusing on pedagogical improvements and integration of cutting-edge maritime technologies.
- Thorough **examination reforms** featuring an advanced, end-to-end e-examination system, designed to enhance reliability, security, and structure of seafarer competency assessments. This system reinforces the credibility of DG Shipping certifications and adapts dynamically to emerging technologies and global best practices.
- Launch of **comprehensive awareness programs** promoting the merchant navy as an attractive and rewarding career option. These include career guidance sessions in educational institutions, participation in education fairs, and vibrant digital media campaigns aimed at inspiring youth and dispelling myths.
- Implementation of the **Centralized Attendance System (CAS)** — a biometrics-based attendance and verification system developed with C-DAC Mumbai. This ensures attendance accuracy and certifies genuine student participation in maritime training programs, with ongoing modernization efforts underway.
- Introduction of the **new Maritime Training Institutes (MTI) Module**, a centralized digital platform that manages MTI approvals, creates seafarer profiles, and tracks certification compliance is envisaged. This module shall elevate coordination between DG Shipping and training institutions and enhances the overall quality of maritime education.

Conclusion

These initiatives underscore DG Shipping's commitment to nurturing a highly competent, ethically trained, and globally competitive seafaring workforce, enabling India to realize its goals under both Maritime India Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal Vision 2047.

Together, through innovation, collaboration, and strategic foresight, we will build a maritime training ecosystem that supports India's leadership in global shipping and creates lasting opportunities for our seafarers.

I look forward to our collective efforts towards this bright future.

Thank you. Jai Hind