

Speech by Additional Director General, Directorate General of Shipping

MANET Silver Jubilee Celebration – 30th January 2026

[Opening and Welcome]

Distinguished dignitaries, members of the MIT ADT University leadership, esteemed faculty, dear cadets, alumni, and guests,

It is my privilege to join you as MANET enters its silver jubilee year, marking 25 years of commitment to maritime training and professional excellence. As part of the renowned MAEER's MIT Group of Institutions, MANET stands at the forefront of promoting quality education and shaping shipping professionals who contribute meaningfully to global seafaring.

[India's Global Maritime Role & Seafarers]

With India now among the **world's top three nations** for seafarer supply, our sector is experiencing unprecedented growth in opportunities and expectations. Today, more **than 3 lakh Indian seafarers** are active across international waters. Our vision, guided by Maritime India Vision 2030 and Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, is to expand India's global workforce share from **12% to 20% by 2030**, setting new benchmarks in quality, inclusivity, and technological readiness.

[Diversity and Wellbeing: Sagar Mein Samman & Sagar Mein Yog]

As India's shipping workforce grows, **our commitment to diversity and wellbeing is clear**. The "Sagar Mein Samman" initiative and special incentives through the Maritime Training Trust have significantly accelerated the participation of women seafarers—moving from **0.78% in 2021 to 1.93% in 2024**.

Wellness programs such as "**Sagar Mein Yog**" focus on resilience, mental and physical health, and holistic care—ensuring cadets and seafarers are equipped to thrive not only professionally but personally.

[Enhancing Maritime Training for Tomorrow's Challenges]

As the maritime administration, DG Shipping continues to drive reforms focused on excellence and integrity in maritime education. Some of the strategic initiatives now strengthening Indian training institutions include:

- **Deployment of a Digital Learning Management System, AI-driven immersive simulation tools, and web-based training platforms** to ensure competency-based, future-ready seafarer skill development.
- **Faculty Development Programs** to equip trainers with the latest pedagogical and technological expertise.

- **Examination reforms:** Standardized, online exit examinations for ratings and officers, transparent assessment systems, and globally recognized Certificates of Competency aligned with STCW conventions.
- **Centralized Attendance System (CAS 2.0)** and digitized assessment records for reliability, transparency, and prevention of fraudulent practices.
- **Placement and Job Portals:** Secure, authentic career guidance and placement support.
- **Zero tolerance for fraud:** Increased awareness, monitoring, and an escalation matrix to protect aspirants from fake institutes and unauthorized agencies.

The Way Forward: Global Competence and Integrity

Today, quality is not optional—competence and ethics are paramount. While regulatory compliance is essential, true competency is built, sustained, and validated by modern training, reliable assessment, and global exposure.

DG Shipping's mission is clear: to foster a transparent, digitally empowered, and inclusive training environment at every DGS-approved institute, so that every cadet at MANET and not just MANET, at all training institutes and beyond enjoys a foundation that secures international recognition and lifelong growth.

Closing

As you celebrate 25 exemplary years, let us resolve to keep moving forward—to champion innovation, safeguard our seafarers' rights and welfare, and shape a new era for Indian maritime leadership.

Congratulations to MANET, MIT ADT University, and every aspiring cadet graduating into the world shipping fraternity. The Directorate General of Shipping stands ready to support your journey—towards integrity, excellence, and global achievement.

Thank you. Jai Hind.