MINUTES OF THE 35TH NSB MEETING HELD ON 09/07/2026 FROM NSB OFFICE AT NEW DELHI IN VIRTUAL MODE TO DISCUSS PREPARATORY ARRANGEMENTS FOR THE UPCOMING NSB EVENT

The 35th Meeting of National Shipping Board (NSB) was held on 9th July 2026 chaired by Shri Sameer Kumar Khare, IAS (Retired), Chairperson, National Shipping Board from NSB's office at New Delhi in virtual mode to discuss the arrangements for the forthcoming NSB event. The discussion points raised by each participant are summarised name-wise below. The list of online participants / attendees is as follows**:**

Attendees:

Board Members:

1. Shri Sameer Kumar Khare, IAS (Retired), Chairperson, National Shipping Board, New Delhi
2. Shri Rakesh Singh, President, Indian Coastal Conference Shipping Association, Mumbai
3. Shri Rahul Modi, President, Coastal Containers Transporters Association
4. Shri Milind Kandalgaokar, General Secretary, National Union of Seafarers of India, Mumbai
5. Shri Pankaj Verma, DIG, Coast Guard Headquarters, New Delhi
6. Shri Shantanu Kalita, Advisor, Indian Ports Association, New Delhi
7. Ms. Sanjam Sahi Gupta, Director, Sitara Shipping Limited, Mumbai
8. Capt. Vikas Anand, Indian Navy, New Delhi
9. Shri Anil Laxman Devli, Chief Executive Officer, Indian National Shipowners Association, Mumbai
10. Capt. Savio Ramos, General Secretary, MUI
11. Dr. K. Murali, Professor, IIT Madras, Chennai

Board Member absent with prior leave of absence:

Nil

Board Member absent without prior leave of absence:

12. Ms. Esha Srivastava, Joint Secretary (IC), MoPNG
13. CMD CSL Kochi
14. Shri Arun Sharma, Executive Chairman, Indian Register of Shipping, Mumbai

Ex Board Members whose substitutes are yet to be placed by the Government:

15. Shri Ajith Sukumaran, Ex CS DGS Shipping Mumbai (VRS)
16. Shri Mandeep Singh Randhawa, Ex In-charge Maritime Administration Division, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, New Delhi (Repatriated to his parent cadre)

Member Secretary:

17. Captain Nitin Mukesh, Secretary NSB (Absent-on training)

Permanent Invitees:

18. DG Shipping Mumbai (Representative absent)

19. Chairman IWAI (Representative absent)

Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai:

20. Shri Jitendra Jadhav, ADG National Shipping Board, officiating Secretary

21. Shri Shubham Jain, Consultant DGS

22. Ms. Shriya S Khelurkar, Consultant DGS

2. **Deliberations in the Meeting**:

2.1. **Shri Sameer Kumar Khare, IAS (Retired), Chairperson, National Shipping Board** informed the members that the office of the Hon'ble Minister Ports Shipping & Waterways has tentatively fixed 6–7 August 2026 for the event. The dates may shift by a week or two if Parliament's schedule (sensitive Bills expected during the session) causes disruption, but the event will definitely be held in first fortnight of August 2026. He proposed that the event be inaugurated by the Hon'ble Minister PSW, with a possible three post-lunch sessions involving Hon'ble Minister of State PSW and other Ministers, who Ministry could contribute either business or policy value to stakeholders. Proposed three seminar / thematic sessions in addition to the inaugural session, covering: (i) Coastal Shipping; (ii) Seafarer Welfare and Security (with participation from the Ministry of Labour, ILO and IMO), (iii) Ship Building & repairs / Infrastructure financing He proposed the following committee structure: three seminar-specific committees Coastal Shipping (headed by Shri Rakesh Singh), Seafarer/Labour (headed by Shri Milind Kandalgaonkar) and Shipbuilding/Ship Repair (headed by Shri Anil Devli) along with an overarching Programme Committee Headed by Shri Rakesh Singh comprising the three seminar committees' chairs, a representative from IRS (Shri KK Dhawan), Ms. Sanjam Gupta (for PR/gender representation) & Shri Shantanu Kalita Advisor IPAto finalise the complete

programme including the inaugural / seminar sessions, Master of Ceremony and technical moderators. He Offered to remain available round-the-clock for guidance during the preparatory process.

2.2. **Shri Shantanu Kalita Advisor IPA** proposed that the venue could be a government owned venue which should not be overtly lavish. It could be either Ashok Hotel or India Habitat Centre, Delhi since NSB caters primarily to Delhi-based policy makers. He suggested an expected footfall of approximately 350 attendees (up to 500 on the higher side), with the program running from 10:30 a.m. to 6:00–6:30 p.m., including morning snacks, lunch and evening snacks with tea & coffee available throughout the event. He indicated a ballpark budget not exceeding ₹25 lakh for the event. Requested members to flag any scheduling conflicts well in advance so that responsibilities could be reassigned in time. He proposed that the event theme/tagline could be aligned with India's Maritime Vision "Maritime India / India Maritime Future 2047"and invited members to suggest a suitable punchline.

2.3. **Shri Rakesh Singh, President, Indian Coastal Conference Shipping Association, Mumbai (Chair, Seminar Committee-Coastal Shipping)** concurred with the broad programme outline, attendance of ~350, timing 10:30 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. noting that exact dates may shift slightly but the outline should remain fixed. He volunteered to approach sponsors, beginning with the public sector specifically the Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), given its stake in the container trade followed by private players. He proposed reactivating a WhatsApp coordination group for the committee to freeze ideas quickly and coordinate on dignitaries, including participation from the Ministry of Shipping. He suggested inviting a senior international representative (e.g., from ILO / ITF) for the Seafarer Welfare session, to speak on solutions concerning the roughly 3 lakh Indian seafarers serving on foreign-going ships. He flagged the urgency of finalising the event manager at the earliest, noting that logistics planning cannot proceed without one on board. He confirmed panel composition for the Seafarer Welfare seminar (Shri Milind Kandalgaonkar GS NUSI & Chair, Rakesh Singh President ICCSA & Shri & Captain Savio Ramos GS MUI as other members) for the Coastal Shipping seminar (Shri Rakesh Singh President ICCSA as Chair with Shri Rahul Modi President CCTA and Shri Anil Devli CEO INSA as members) and the Ship Building Seminar (Shri Shri Anil Devli CEO INSA as Chair with Shri Rahul Modi President CCTA and Rakesh Singh President ICCSA as members). He recommended keeping the programme focused rather than over-

extended, suggesting shipbuilding be treated as a central, priority theme given time constraints. He suggested including IRS (Shri Santosh Pait Sr. VP) as a member of the Shipbuilding Committee. He also raised the need to finalise a punchline / tagline for the event. He undertook the responsibility to prepare a broad programme sketch (10:30 a.m.–6:00 p.m. timeline) and proposed an in-person review meeting in Delhi the following week; targeted finalisation of dates, timelines and formal invites by the end of the following week.

2.4. **Shri Milind Kandalgaokar, General Secretary, National Union of Seafarers of India, Mumbai a**greed to have his team finalise the invite list. He assured members that sponsorship arrangements (through NUSI MUI) are being handled and need not be a cause for concern. He confirmed his participation on the Seafarer Welfare seminar panel. He proposed "India Maritime Future 2047" / "Maritime India 2047" as a possible theme for the event, in line with the national maritime vision.

2.5. **Ms. Sanjam Sahi Gupta, Director, Sitara Shipping Limited, Mumbai r**ecommended a 10:00 a.m. start instead of 10:30 a.m. to build in a buffer, noting that events commonly run behind schedule. She advised building in 15-minute gaps between sessions / panels (for stage transitions and photographs) and a 15-minute buffer before lunch. She estimated a per-head cost of approximately ₹2,000, lower than the ₹3,000–3,500 typical for events that include dinner, which this event will not have. She emphasised the importance of PR and promotion, suggesting the event be publicised with a clear "by invitation only" caveat; offered to circulate a PR / promotion strategy note after the meeting. She stressed the need for strict time management — including an on-screen countdown for each session — citing the tendency of similar events to overrun and reflect poorly on the organisers. She welcomed her inclusion in the Programme Committee representing PR / gender-representation aspects.

2.6. **Shri Anil Laxman Devli, Chief Executive Officer, Indian National Shipowners Association, Mumbai r**eported positive feedback from banks and SMFCL on the availability of funding for the sector, based on a meeting attended a day earlier. He flagged that the open issue is infrastructure status for smaller ships, rather than funding availability. He Suggested a session sequence of: Inauguration → second session → Coastal Shipping (third) → Shipbuilding (fourth), while noting that shipping and shipbuilding do not naturally pair together but could be combined given time constraints. He suggested scheduling

one smaller session ahead of the Minister's arrival, to accommodate the Minister's likely later arrival for the inaugural session. He raised the need to actively involve ship owners and shipbuilders in the Shipbuilding session, noting that the committee as currently constituted does not include shipbuilders.

2.7. **Capt. Savio Ramos, General Secretary, MUI c**onfirmed blocking of the proposed dates (6–7 August) for Delhi. He suggested that the event / initiative be given a formal name/branding. He recommended engaging a local event manager for logistics, given their familiarity with local venues and arrangements.

2.8. **Shri K. K. Dhawan, VP, Indian Register of Shipping, Mumbai a**greed, on behalf of IRS, to be included as a member of the Programme Committee and the Shipbuilding Committee, as proposed.

2.9. **Shri Rahul Modi, President, Coastal Containers Transporters Association** informed that he will be available online for any responsibility entrusted, in case he has to visit abroad due to family exigencies. Inany case, he will attend the event physically.

3. The board unanimously agreed that

(i) Coastal Shipping Seminar Committee will have Shri Rakesh Singh as Chair and Shri Rahul Modi & Shri Anil Laxman Devli as members.

(ii) Seafarer Welfare Seminar Committee will have Shri Milind Kandalgaokar; as Chair and Shri Rakesh Singh & Capt. Savio Ramos (MUI) as members.

(iii) Shipbuilding & Ship Repair Committee will have Shri Anil Laxman Devli as Chair & Shri Rahul Modi, Shri Rakesh Singh & Shri Santosh Patil (IRS) as members.

(iv) Programme Committee (overarching) will have Shri Rakesh Singh as Chair, Shri Milind Kandalgaokar as Co-Chair, Shri Anil Devli , Shri Shantanu, Shri K. K. Dhawan (IRS), Ms. Sanjam Sahi Gupta and Captain Nitin Mukesh as Member Convenor.

(v) All the committees will finalize the program finer details like Minute-to-Minute program, Invitee list, design /printing / distribution of invitation cards, finalisation of the Chief Guests for each session, MOC, technical experts, time manager, event manager, component wise budget, finalisation of venue, finalization of caterers / vendors, payment of bills, reception of guests, finalization & distribution of mementos etc. Finalization will be done in consultation with Shri Shantanu Kalta.

(vi) Efforts will be made to seek sponsorship, if feasible.

(vii) wherever needed, NSB Budgetary provisions could be used.

(viii) The Chairperson will be available 24X7 for any clarification/ guidance.

4. **Vote of Thanks:**

4.1. The meeting attended with vote of thanks from the Chair

5. **Next Meeting**:

5.1. The board decided to meet again on 23rd /24th July 2026 at Chennai where the next meeting of the Board will be held.

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