# नौक्षितिज़म्

**Maritime Horizon, Future of the Seas**

**QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD**

**Year 2026-27** **Volume-V** **April- June**



**"समुद्रे प्रज्ञा, राष्ट्रे प्रगतिः"**

**Wisdom in the ocean, progress in the nation**

## NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD

**India's Apex Advisory Board on Shipping & Maritime Affairs**

**(Merchant Shipping Act, 2025)**

# GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
# MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING & WATERWAYS

The Maritime Transport is a critical infrastructure for the social and economic development of a country. It influences the pace, structure, and pattern of development. The Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways encompass within its fold ports, shipping, and waterways sectors which include Shipbuilding and Ship-repair, Major Ports, National Waterways, and Inland Water Transport.

The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has been entrusted with the responsibility to formulate policies and programs on these subjects and their implementation. A comprehensive policy package is necessary to address the diverse issues facing the Maritime transport sector.

The National Shipping Board is established by the Central Government by way of a notification issued under the Section (4) of the Merchant Shipping Act-2025 (the old Merchant Shipping Act-1958) for a period of 2 years, from the date of notification. As per the statute, the Board shall advise the Central Government on matters relating to Indian Shipping including the development thereof and on such other matters arising of this act as the Central Government may refer to it for advice. The Board shall have power to regulate its own procedure for the conduct of business.

सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways
Government of India

## HONORABLE MINISTERS



**SHRI SARBANANDA SONOWAL**
**Honorable Cabinet Minister**



**SHRI SHANTANU KUMAR**
**Honorable Minister of State**

## NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD



# Chairperson's Message

It gives me immense pleasure to present the 5th edition of नौक्षितिज़म्, capturing the key deliberations, initiatives, and milestones achieved by the National Shipping Board during the vibrant quarter of April to June 2026.

As India progresses decisively towards the goals envisioned under Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, the maritime sector continues to serve as the principal catalyst for economic resilience, international trade competitiveness, and sustainable coastal development. Over this past quarter, the Board engaged closely with key regional clusters and national stakeholders to address operational bottlenecks, evaluate emerging technological shifts, and shape actionable policy recommendations for the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

**Highlights of Key Board Engagements: April – June 2026**

**1. Mumbai: Anchoring Maritime Finance, Technology, and Seafarer Welfare**
In our interaction at the historic maritime capital of Mumbai, deliberations centred on enhancing India's commercial tonnage, streamlining domestic ship financing frameworks, and modernising digital compliance mechanisms. Mumbai offered an ideal ground to convene shipowners, financial institutions, and classification societies to debate innovative financing models, including the promotion of maritime clusters at GIFT City. Equally, the Board reaffirmed its commitment to the welfare, digital certification, and advanced skill upgrading of our seafarers, who remain the bedrock of global and domestic trade.

**2. Tuticorin (V.O. Chidambaranar Port): Green Ports and Coastal Industrialization**
Our meeting at Tuticorin underscored the immense potential of Southern India's coastal economic corridors. Deliberations focused on the operational expansion of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port, with particular emphasis on outer harbour developments, transshipment capabilities, and the integration of green hydrogen and green ammonia bunkering ecosystems. The Board observed first-hand.

Continued.....

# Chairperson's Message

Continued.....

3. New Delhi (Virtual Deliberations): Policy Harmonisation and Inter-Ministerial Synergy
To maintain continuity and translate ground-level insights into strategic policy advisories, the Board convened in New Delhi via a hybrid/online session.

This engagement brought together central administrative perspectives to examine regulatory streamlining, multi-modal logistics integration, and the implementation of national coastal shipping reforms. The virtual format enabled comprehensive inter-agency dialogue, focusing on removing legacy procedural frictions, incentivising domestic shipbuilding and repair clusters, and reinforcing India's active engagement in bilateral and multilateral maritime corridors.

**Charting the Horizon**

The maritime domain is experiencing a profound transformation marked by automated operations, green corridors, and evolving geopolitical supply chains. The collective insights gathered across Mumbai, Tuticorin, and New Delhi reflect our shared determination to position India not merely as a major coastal economy, but as a premier global maritime leader.

I extend my sincere appreciation to the Members of the National Shipping Board, port authorities, industry partners, and seafarers' associations for their valuable contributions and proactive engagement throughout this quarter.

May this edition of नौक्षितिज़म् provide insightful perspectives into our ongoing work. Let us continue to collaborate with renewed purpose, agility, and vision to steer Indian shipping toward greater horizons.

Fair winds and following seas.

**Sameer Kumar Khare, IAS (Retd.)**
**Chairperson, National Shipping Board**
**Government of India**

# Meet Your New Member



## DIG Girish Datt Raturi

A representative of Indian Coast Guard

**Deputy Inspector General Girish Datt Raturi has been appointed as the representative of the Indian Coast Guard in place of DIG Pankaj Verma during this quarter. He is a 1999 batch Indian Coast Guard General Duty Officer. The officer is holding the appointment of Principal Director (Operations, Coastal Security and Sea Training) at Indian Coast Guard Headquarters. During his 27 years long career he has done various afloat and ashore appointments including sea command of three Coast Guard ships, the latest being a Special Role (Pollution Response) Vessel.**

**The officer specialises in Navigation and Direction. An alumni of National Defence College, New Delhi, the Officer possesses a Masters degree in Nautical Science and Tactical Operations, and an Executive - MBA degree in Strategic Leadership and Public Policy.**

**The officer has sailing experience of thirteen years, wherein he has participated in variety of ICG operations ranging from Tsunami rescue & relief, SAR, Anti-terror ops, Oil Pollution Response etc. The officer has navigation experience of sailing across Asian and African regions and entering several foreign ports. The officer has also participated in various exchange programs and bilateral exercises with Coast Guards and Navies of Asian countries. The Officer has been commended by the Director General Indian Coast Guard twice for his contribution in various ICG Operations. The Officer is a keen golfer who enjoys listening to good music.**

# Stakeholder Consultations with the Board

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1. | Mumbai on 16-17.04.2026 | • Indian Register of Shipping Mumbai<br>• Federation of Freight Forwarders Association of India, Mumbai .<br>• Brian Mumbai Custom Brokers Association, Mumbai<br>• Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGC) (online)<br>• Great Eastern Shipping Company Ltd, Mumbai<br>• BP Marine Academy, Belapur-Panvel campus, Mumbai<br>• BP Marine Academy, Belapur-Panvel campus, Mumbai<br>• TS Rahaman, Mumbai, Nava Sheva<br>• Indian Association of Tour Operators (IATO), Mumbai<br>• Global Express Multi-logistics Pvt Ltd, Mumbai<br>• Tolani Maritime Institute, Mumbai<br>• Seven Islands Maritime Institute, Mumbai<br>• SCI - Maritime Training Institute, Mumbai<br>• Great Eastern Institute of Maritime Studies, Mumbai | • Regulatory framework for abandoned Vessels.<br>• Stranded Indian Seafarers in the Strait of Hormuz.<br>• Difficulties faced by Seafarers at various Indian sea ports with regards to grant of Shore Leave.<br>• Request for exemption in NRI Status for Indian seafarers for the financial year 2025-26 due to crisis in Persian Gulf Region.<br>• Proposal for re-defining infrastructure status to the Shipping Industry.<br>• SOP on Crew Sign-On & Sign-Off for inland coastal vessels.<br>• Pending issue of withdrawal of IGST on Indian ships .<br>• Conducting of COC examination at MMD, Goa .<br>• Interaction with the Indian Register of Shipping, Mumbai.<br>• Interaction with the FFFAI.<br>• Interaction with the Stakeholders' Associations. |

# Stakeholder Consultations with the Board

| S.N. | Venue of the Meeting and Date | Details of the Stakeholders Consulted | Agenda discussed |
|---|---|---|---|
| 2. | Tuticorin on 11-12.05.2026 | • Indian Potash Ltd, Tuticorin<br>• TCI Seaways, Tuticorin<br>• SHV Energy Pvt Ltd<br>• Coastal Sail Vessel Owners Association, Tuticorin<br>• Indian Chamber of Commerce & Industry, Tuticorin<br>• Seaport Logistics Limited, Tuticorin<br>• CM, NTPL (NLC Tamil Nadu power Limited, Tuticorin<br>• Imcola Crane Company Pvt Ltd. (IMC Ltd.), Tuticorin<br>• JSW Tuticorin Multipurpose Terminal Pvt Limited, Tuticorin<br>• Tuticorin Ship Agents Association<br>• SPIC Electric Power Limited (SEPC), Tuticorin<br>• TICT (Tuticorin INternational Container Terminal ) Private Limited, Tuticorin<br>• DBGT (Dakshin Bharat Gateway Terminal ) Limited, Tuticorin<br>• TTPS(Tuticorin Thermal Power Limited ), Tuticorin<br>• Shri T. Selvam, TTPS Exports Pvt Ltd, Tuticorin<br>Continued..... | • Discussion on the ongoing conflict in Middle East & its implications on the Shipping<br>• Briefing on the meeting with the Member, GST on 28.04.2026<br>• Briefing on the meeting with the Member, GST on 06.05.2026<br>• Discussions on a note to be prepared for MHA for discussion on immigration related issues of foreign going vessels and coastal vessels including issues on shore leave signing off/signing on/procedure for immigration etc.<br>• Proposed Meeting with infrastructure finance companies<br>• Proposed meeting with the Cargo Owners for aggregation of demand for Merchant Ships and Coastal Ships<br>• To finalize the way forward on FFFAl issues raised during the Mumbai meeting on 16-17" April, 2026 in Mumbai and assigning a nodal officer for the board to interact with FFFAI<br>• Examination on the RO-RO issue by DG Shipping<br>• Details of the NSB Meetings held prior to 2020 as discussed in the Mumbai Meeting<br>• Suggested Reforms Measures in maritime sector<br>• Suggested measures to Indianize the Indian Colonial Maritime Legacy<br>Continued..... |

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| S.N. | Venue of the Meeting and Date | Details of the Stakeholders Consulted | Agenda discussed |
|---|---|---|---|
| . | | Continued..... | Continued..... |
| 2. | Tuticorin on 11-12.05.2026 | • Association for Tuticorin Hub Port Development (Council earlier)<br>• St. John,'s Logistics, Tuticorin<br>• DP world Tuticorin<br>• PSTS, Shipping Services, Tuticorin<br>• Greenstar Logistics, Tuticorin<br>• Evergreen Line, Tuticorin<br>• J M Baxi Tuticorin<br>• Tuticorin CFS Association<br>• Zim Integrated Shipping Services Pvt Ltd., Tuticorin | • NSB Annual Report 2025-26<br>• Status of Board Sub Committees' Reports.<br>• Interaction of the Board with the Chairperson and Senior Management of the V.O. Chidambaranar Port Authority.<br>• Consultations with the Stakeholder's |

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|---|---|---|---|
| 3. | **New Delhi on 12.06.2026 (online)** | • No Stakeholders Consultations | • Discussion on the ongoing conflict in Middle East & its implications on the Shipping Sector including Seatarers.<br>• Finalisation of the NSB annual report 2025-26 & it's likely submission to the Hon’ble Minister of PSW in the 2nd fortnight of July, 2026.<br>• Finalisation of sub- committee's reports & their likely submission to the Hon'ble Minister of PSW in the 2nd fortnight of July,2026.<br>• Likely Launching of the NSB website by Hon'ble Minister PSW in the 2nd fortnight of July,2026.<br>• Finalisation of the structure of the honourable minister's program in 2nd fortnight of July, 2026 to be organised under the banner of NSB.<br>• Finalisation of seminars' topics to be held during the day of the program<br>• Reimbursement of TA bills of the NSB members.<br>• Finalisation of the organisation chart of the NSB.<br>• Finalisation of the space requirement for NSB office in New Delhi. |

# Stakeholder Consultations of the Chairperson, NSB

| SN. | Venue of the Meeting & Date | Details of the Stakeholder Consulted |
|---|---|---|
| 1. | Khopoli on 24/04/2026 | • Seven Island Maritime Training Institute ,Khopoli<br>• Indian Maritime University - Navi Mumbai Campus |
| 2. | Tuticorin on 12/05/2026 | • Tuticorin Port<br>• Tuticorin Maritime Museum |
| 3. | Thiruvananthapuram on 14/05/2026 | • Vizhinjam Port<br>• Keralam House boat Association<br>• NICHE Maritime Training Institute |

# PHOTO GALLERY




**National Shipping Board's Meeting at Mumbai, 16-17 April 2026.**



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**National Shipping Board's Meeting at Mumbai, 16-17 April 2026.**

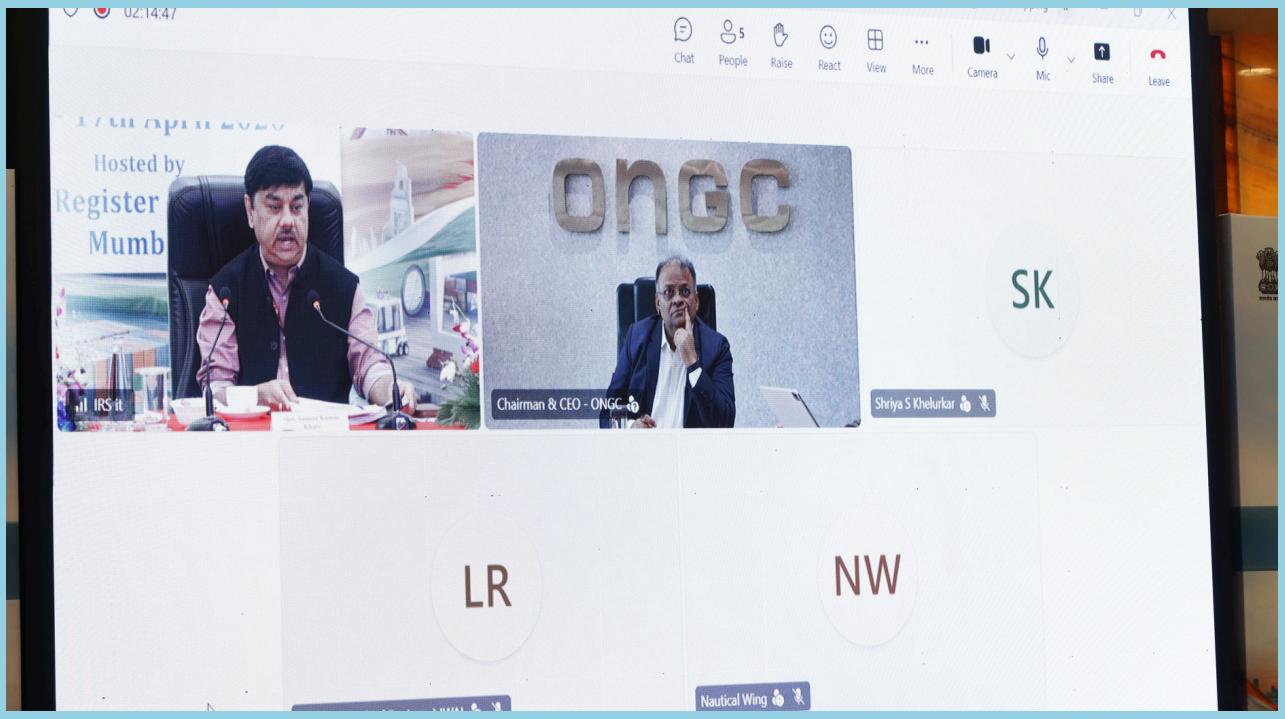



**National Shipping Board's Meeting at Mumbai, 16-17 April 2026.**

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**Seven Island Maritime Training Institute Khopoli & IMU Navi Mumbai Campus Event at Khopoli Navi Mumbai on 24.04.2026.**




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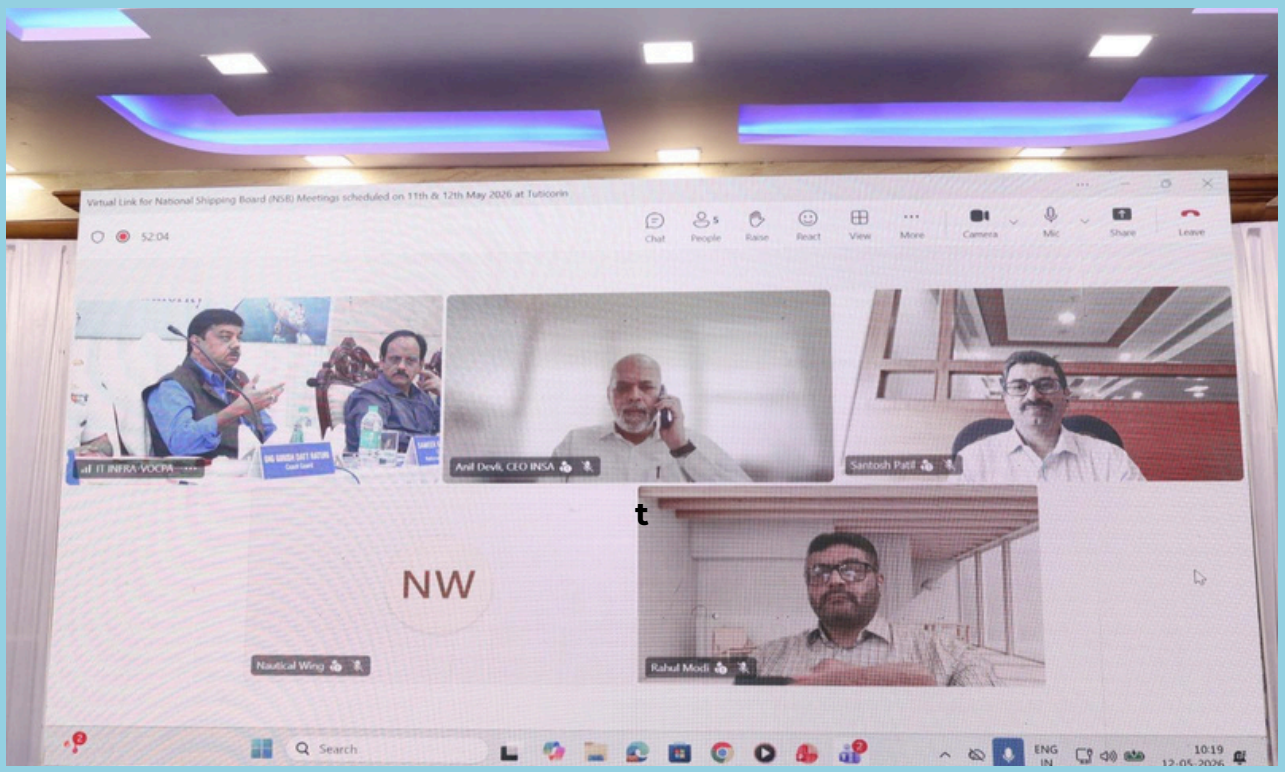



**National Shipping Board's Meeting at Tuticorin, 11-12 May 2026.**

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**Cultural Function Organised by V. O. Chidambaranar Port on 11.05.2026 at Tuticorin.**

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**Visit to V.O.Chidambaranar Port Authority on 12.05.2026.**



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**Visit to the V.O. Chidambaranar Port's Museum on 12.05.2026.**




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**Visit to the Vizhinjam International Seaport on 14.05.2026.**




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**Meeting with the Keralam House Boat Associations on 14.05.2026.**



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**Meeting with the Keralam House Boat Associations on 14.05.2026.**



**Meeting with The office bearers of NICHE Maritime Training Institute on 14.05.2026.**

We gratefully acknowledge the contributions of the Board Members, stakeholders and partners in preparing this issue. Stakeholders are invited to share articles, suggestions and inputs for the next volume at ***chairperson.nsb@gov.in***

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