

## Denmark Country session at IMW

**Hall 4, Arabian Sea | 29<sup>th</sup> October 2025 | 1:15 pm to 1:25 pm**

**Guest of Honour Speech by DG(S)**

### Opening Acknowledgment

- H.E. Ambassador Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen,
- Director General, Danish Maritime Authority, Mr. Brian Adrian Wessel,
- Additional Director General of Shipping, Shri Sushil Mansingh Khopde ji,
- Distinguished representatives from the Danish and Indian maritime administrations,
- Leaders from Maersk, L&T Shipbuilding, ZeroNorth, EltronicFuelTech, Hempel, Powercon, Vibratex, DBI, Bawat, Terma India, and other participating organizations,
- Colleagues, partners, and friends from the global maritime community,

On behalf of the Directorate General of Shipping, it is my privilege to extend a very warm welcome to all of you to this Denmark Country Session at India Maritime Week 2025 on the theme *“Maritime Efficiency: Opportunities and Obstacles Seen from an Industry and Regulatory Perspective.”*

This special session brings together eminent government officials, industry leaders, innovators, and maritime professionals from India, Denmark, and across the world — all united by a shared vision to enhance efficiency, sustainability, and safety in the maritime sector.

As India and Denmark strengthen their collaboration under the Indo-Danish Centre of Excellence in Green Shipping, today’s discussions offer an opportunity to exchange insights, explore partnerships, and chart a path toward a more innovative and sustainable global maritime ecosystem.

India’s maritime sector is undergoing a major transformation under the vision of the Hon’ble Prime Minister, guided by the *Maritime India Vision 2030* and the *Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047*. These frameworks aim to modernize our ports, enhance operational efficiency, and ensure that growth is both sustainable and inclusive.

The Directorate General of Shipping, which is the Indian regulator is working closely with its parent organization Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, and has been spearheading multiple initiatives to digitalize regulatory functions, streamline processes, and enable safe, efficient, and environmentally responsible maritime operations.

In today’s session, we will be looking at three major themes through three panel discussions:

1. Improving Operations & key Initiatives in India.
2. Enhancing Efficiency
3. Innovation & Safety

I am proud to state that the Indian Maritime Administration is working very actively in all three fields.

## **1 – Improving Operations: Towards a Greener Shipping Sector**

Both the Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 and the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV) 2047 prioritise logistics efficiency and green shipping as pillars of sustainable maritime growth. MIV 2030 aims to build integrated logistics corridors, multimodal connectivity, and environmentally sustainable ports to reduce logistics costs and emissions. MAKV 2047 envisions a carbon-neutral, technology-driven maritime ecosystem, promoting green fuels, energy-efficient vessels, and circular port economies. Together, they set the direction for a seamless, sustainable, and globally competitive maritime logistics network.

**India's Panchamrit Plan:** 500 GW non-fossil capacity by 2030; 50% renewable energy by 2030; net-zero by 2070

Aligned with this vision, the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) has undertaken transformative initiatives:

- **National Green Shipping Policy** – a comprehensive roadmap under formulation by the DGS to decarbonize Indian shipping through phased adoption of alternative fuels, clean propulsion technologies, and sustainability benchmarks aligned with IMO's 2050 net-zero targets.
- **Alternative Fuels & Clean Propulsion** – promotion of transitional and next-generation fuels including LNG, biofuels, methanol, green hydrogen, and green ammonia to prepare India's fleet and ports for the global green fuel transition.
- **Green Voyage 2050 & Green Shipping Corridors** – collaboration with IMO and international partners to pilot low- and zero-emission shipping routes and scale up climate-resilient maritime solutions.
- **Indian Ocean Centre of Excellence for Sustainable Maritime Transport (IOCE-SMaRT)** – a proposed R&D and innovation hub to incubate green maritime technologies, foster global partnerships, and drive regional sustainability leadership.
- **Green Port Initiatives** – integration of renewable energy, shore-to-ship power, waste and effluent management, and air quality monitoring into port operations; introduction of a Green Port Index to benchmark sustainability performance across ports.
- **Renewable Energy Integration** – major ports installing solar and wind power plants and offering green channel clearances and priority berthing for low-emission vessels.

These measures ensure that India's maritime sector is efficient, sustainable, and future-ready, balancing operational excellence with environmental stewardship.

A flagship effort in this transformation is the Indo-Danish Centre of Excellence on Green Shipping, established under the 2024 Maritime Cooperation MoU. This Centre

is operational through India's National Centre of Excellence for Green Ports and Shipping (NCoEGPS), with TERI as the knowledge partner.

Together, the Ministry, the DGS, and our Danish partners have made concrete progress:

- The national portal for green ports and shipping went live in February 2025 — serving as India's single digital platform for best practices, tools, and capacity building.
- India was selected as a pioneer lead country under IMO's GreenVoyage2050 programme, with pilot projects on alternative fuels already underway.
- The Indo-Danish Centre of Excellence is now advancing work on green fuels, digital certification, and regulatory innovation, supported by a structured three-year work plan.

At the Kochi Green Fuels Workshop in August 2025, both nations reaffirmed collaboration and agreed on clear deliverables — from finalizing National Guidelines on Alternative Fuel Bunkering by end-2025, to developing training modules on methanol and ammonia handling, and identifying two to three pilot Green Corridor routes.

These are not just policy discussions — they represent concrete steps toward decarbonisation and cleaner, more efficient maritime operations.

## **2 – Enhancing Efficiency: Towards a Digital Shipping Sector**

Both the Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 and the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV) 2047 identify efficiency and digital transformation as key drivers of India's maritime growth. MIV 2030 focuses on port modernisation, process automation, and digital platforms like the Port Community System (PCS) to enhance transparency and turnaround times. MAKV 2047 builds on this foundation, envisioning smart ports, integrated logistics, and real-time digital ecosystems powered by emerging technologies such as AI, IoT, and blockchain. Together, they chart a roadmap for a fully digital, efficient, and globally competitive maritime sector.

Over the years with the broadening maritime horizons, DGS has transformed from a traditional regulatory office into a dynamic institution driving holistic maritime governance. Now, we are leveraging technology to reinvent maritime administration. Key initiatives include:

- **Digital Transformation Roadmap** – over 25 strategic projects under the Government's Digital India mission to create a smart, user-centric maritime administration.

- **e-Samudra Portal** – a one-stop online platform for certificates, licenses, applications, fee payments, and chartering services; cloud-based architecture enables real-time decision-making and seamless stakeholder connectivity.
- **e-Examination System** – secure, computer-based seafarer competency assessments ensuring fairness, transparency, and convenience.
- **Digital Record Room** – electronic archiving of shipping records and seafarer documents for easy retrieval and protection against data loss.
- **Maritime Single Window (MSW)** – centralized platform for vessel arrival, stay, and departure declarations; operational in 85 ports with real-time KPI dashboards.
- **Web-based & Immersive Training Tools** – ensuring Indian seafarers are trained to **highest global standards**.
- **Network Operations & Command Centers** – integration of DG Shipping operational oversight through seamless monitoring and response systems.

This digital transformation has already delivered measurable results: reduced turnaround times, improved compliance, enhanced stakeholder satisfaction, and positioning India as a global leader in digital maritime governance.

Efficiency is no longer defined by speed alone; it now means smart operations, data-driven decision-making, and circular economy integration. The Indo-Danish CoE's technical cooperation with the Danish Maritime Authority exemplifies this shift.

A key example is our joint effort on digital seafarer certificates. Denmark became the first country to issue fully digital certificates in December 2024, setting a global benchmark. India is now working toward a common roadmap for digital seafarer certification — enhancing security, reducing administrative burden, and ensuring interoperability with global standards.

This collaboration also extends to recognition mechanisms for alternative design approvals, enabling regulatory agility for emerging ship technologies.

At the Maritime Digital Transformation Workshop held in Mumbai in September 2025, our teams — from DGS, MoPSW, and DMA — reached consensus on this roadmap, marking a major milestone toward digital governance in the maritime sector.

Each of these actions contributes directly to the IMO's decarbonisation and energy efficiency mandates, demonstrating India's commitment to align with international frameworks while strengthening national capacity.

### **3 –Safety Solutions: A Safer Shipping Sector**

Both the Maritime India Vision (MIV) 2030 and the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision (MAKV) 2047 place strong emphasis on the safety and security of life at sea. MIV 2030 highlights the development of safe, resilient, and sustainable port and shipping infrastructure as a core priority to ensure efficient and secure maritime operations. MAKV 2047 goes further by explicitly committing to safe, efficient, and secure shipping, in line with international conventions on maritime safety, environmental protection, and seafarer welfare. Together, these visions underscore India's long-term goal of building a safe, secure, and sustainable maritime ecosystem.

In today's evolving maritime landscape, the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) places crew welfare and safety at the heart of its mission. Indian seafarers—now numbering nearly 3 lakh, with 2.5 lakh active—represent 12% of the global workforce, with a goal to reach 20% in the coming years. Our focus goes beyond skills—it's about caring for the people behind the profession.

Key initiatives include:

- **“Sagar Mein Yog”** – a flagship wellness programme covering ten dimensions of well-being—physical, mental, emotional, and spiritual—to ensure holistic health of seafarers at sea and ashore.
- **“Sagar Mein Samman”** – a gender inclusion campaign promoting women in maritime professions; women seafarer registrations have risen from 1,669 in 2015 to 14,255 in 2024—a 739% increase, marking a transformative leap in diversity.
- **Seafarer Welfare & Recognition** – continued collaboration with global partners to address crew-change challenges, uphold the recognition of seafarers as key workers, and strengthen mental health and family support systems.
- **Training & Careers** – enhanced onboard training, skill development, and a robust grievance redressal framework to promote professional growth and seafarer dignity.

### **Safety First, Always – Suraksha Sarvapratham**

Ensuring the safety of life at sea remains paramount. Through *Suraksha Sarvapratham*, DGS is fostering a **zero-accident safety culture**, anchored in SOLAS principles. In coordination with the **Indian Coast Guard (MRCCs)** and the **Indian Navy**, we safeguard mariners and fishermen across the region.

Our safety framework includes:

- Long-Range Identification and Tracking (LRIT) and upgraded casualty reporting systems for real-time situational awareness.
- Integration with the National Maritime Domain Awareness Centre (NMDAC), IMAC, and IFC–IOR for 360° maritime surveillance.
- Strengthened multi-agency coordination to counter piracy, terrorism, and illegal fishing and ensure rapid incident response.

Through these efforts, we reaffirm a simple belief — if we take care of our seafarers, they will take care of our ships.

Another area of Safety & Security is Cybersecurity, where especially cooperation is of great use.

As the maritime industry continues to embrace digitalization, cyber security must remain a top priority to ensure the safety, security, and resilience of maritime operations. By understanding the unique cyber security challenges facing the sector and implementing proactive resilience strategies. DGS focusing on enhancing IT and OT infrastructure, incorporating advanced threat detection and response capabilities, and enforcing strict access protocols. Regular security audits and vulnerability assessments are essential for identifying potential risks and ensuring the resilience of port infrastructure against evolving cyber threats. Additionally, robust incident response, vulnerability reporting, and clear recovery plans are key to minimising the impact of cyber breaches and ensuring operational continuity. Strengthening the cybersecurity capabilities of port personnel is also essential and requires practical, simulation-based training. Such training should cover technical and procedural measures for preventing cyber breaches, as well as effective response strategies to minimise operational disruptions. Importantly, capacity-building efforts must extend beyond cybersecurity professionals to include regular users of digital systems within ports. Alongside these measures, deepening international cooperation among the Indo-Pacific countries can serve as a force multiplier for strengthening cybersecurity across the region's maritime infrastructure.

A sustained focus on strengthening port security infrastructure is critical to safeguarding the maritime sector from evolving digital threats. As India builds next-generation port infrastructure, cyber resilience must become a strategic imperative, fully embedded in national maritime and digital policies.

Under the India–Denmark Joint Action Plan (2021–2026), cooperation has expanded to include maritime cybersecurity for ports and shipping. The Danish Maritime Authority's Cybersecurity Unit and the Centre for Cyber Security (CFCS) offer valuable models for proactive defence, risk management, and incident reporting.

India is rapidly strengthening its digital and cyber frameworks:

- The Digital Centre of Excellence under the Indian Ports Association (IPA) and IIT Kanpur's C3iHub is developing cybersecurity readiness programmes for ports.
- A ₹320 crore Enterprise Business System (EBS) across five major ports is harmonising over 2,400 processes into a secure, unified digital framework.
- In December 2024, NeGD and IPA signed an MoU to drive digital transformation and cyber resilience across the maritime value chain.
- In May 2025, the DGS directed all Indian ports and vessels to maintain MARSEC Level 2 preparedness under the ISPS Code as a proactive security measure.

Looking ahead, both nations are exploring the creation of a dedicated Maritime Cybersecurity Unit under the DGS, supported by periodic threat assessments with

Denmark's CFCS and aligned with IMO best practices. Joint training, audits, and data-sharing mechanisms will further strengthen sector-wide cyber preparedness.

Our shared goal is clear—to build a secure, digital, and resilient maritime ecosystem that safeguards trade, ensures safety of life at sea, and enhances global confidence in maritime operations.

### **Closing Remarks**

Ladies and Gentlemen, the journey of India and Denmark in maritime cooperation is a journey of shared values — of innovation, sustainability, and mutual trust. From green fuels to digital certificates, from efficiency reforms to cybersecurity frameworks — every initiative underlines a common belief that efficiency and sustainability are not competing goals, but complementary imperatives.

As we continue to advance through the Indo-Danish Centre of Excellence and our Joint Working Groups, I am confident that our collaboration will not only strengthen bilateral relations but also contribute meaningfully to global maritime governance under the IMO.

I warmly welcome all participants once again and look forward to the deliberations that follow. Together, let us reaffirm the common Indian and Danish commitment to a safer, greener, and more globally engaged maritime future.

And in the timeless wisdom of the Rigveda, which resonates so deeply with the spirit of this gathering:

“संगच्छध्वं सं वदध्वं सं वो मनांसि जानताम्।”

*Sanga-chcha-dhvan san vaddhvan san vo manansi janatham.*

Move together, speak together, let your minds be in harmony.

May this spirit guide our dialogue today and our work in the years to come. Thank you.