

INMEX SMM India 2025 – Driving Coastal Shipping Reforms

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The **Directorate General of Shipping** actively participated in **INMEX SMM India 2025** (10–12 September, Bombay Exhibition Centre, Mumbai). On **Day 2, Session 1**, **Shri Ravi Kumar Moka**, SS-cum-Deputy Director General (Coastal Shipping), addressed the session on “**Coastal Shipping: Government Policies & Framework**” under the theme “**Coastal Shipping 2.0 – Transforming India’s Maritime Trade.**”

The discussion focused on how **policy reforms, digital initiatives, and financial interventions** are strengthening India’s coastal shipping ecosystem—supporting the ambitious goals of **Maritime India Vision 2030** and **Viksit Bharat 2047**.

Coastal Shipping Act 2025 – Key Highlights

- **Enacted on 9 August 2025** with Presidential assent, modernizing outdated coastal trade regulations.
- **Simplified licensing** for Indian vessels and a clear framework for foreign vessels, soon supported by a **digital licensing portal**.
- **National Database for Coastal Shipping (NDCS)** to be established.
- A **National Coastal & Inland Shipping Strategic Plan** will be prepared and updated every two years.

Policy Drivers for Growth

- **Maritime Development Fund** with blended finance to boost Indian tonnage, shipbuilding, multimodal connectivity, and port-linked infrastructure while de-risking private investment.
- **Fleet Modernization** to address ageing vessels (nearly 50% are 20+ years old).
- **Right of First Refusal (RoFR)** for Indian-built and Indian-flagged vessels.
- **Tax incentives at IFSC, GIFT City** to strengthen shipping finance and leasing.
- **Integration focus:** Linking coastal shipping, inland waterways, and ports for multimodal efficiency.

Reflections from INMEX SMM 2025

The forum provided a platform to engage with **industry leaders, technology providers, and port authorities**, with discussions on:

- Shipbuilding & ship repair
- Green shipping & sustainability
- Modal shift & supply chain resilience

With **11,098 km of coastline**, India is strategically positioned to scale up coastal shipping reducing logistics costs, enhancing supply chain resilience, and driving sustainable maritime growth.

The **DG Shipping** remains committed to translating these reforms into action—delivering:

- More coastal services
- Higher Indian tonnage
- Better port utilization
- Long-term alignment with **Viksit Bharat 2047**