

WORKING DRAFT BACKGROUND NOTE

STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP - VISAKHAPATNAM

Stepping Stone Towards a Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy in India

Thematic focus: Shipping & Ports, Blue Finance & Investment



12 January 2026 | 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM



Indian Institute of Management Visakhapatnam

Strategic Partners



Institutional Partner



Other Partners



Genesis for the Series of Stakeholders' Workshops

Workshop 1	Workshop 2	Workshop 3	Workshop 4	Workshop 5	Workshop 6	Workshop 7	Workshop 8
Kochi	Mumbai	Chennai	Bhubaneswar	Visakhapatnam	Mangalore	Goa	Kolkata
11.09.2025	03.11.2025	28.11.2025	19.12.2025	12.01.2026	06.02.2026	24.02.2026	10.03.2026

Ocean Centres India, stepping another stone towards a safe and sustainable ocean economy by introducing a series of multi-stakeholder workshops in India. As a closed-group discussion, these workshops aim to deliberate on the issues, challenges, and solutions towards a safer and more sustainable ocean economy in India. During these workshops, stakeholders will collectively map ocean-related safety and sustainability challenges and identify the key gaps that require collective action to address, particularly the safety challenges associated with adopting sustainable practices. By giving voice to a wide range of organisations, including the voices of the unheard, the workshops will serve to explore the systemic causes of safety deficits. Best practices, both on the business and governmental level, will be shared with stakeholders as useful points of reference when identifying gaps and opportunities. We truly hope to count on your engagement in this unique, locally-led, and globally connected initiative. Your participation in these workshops will help deliberate upon issues, challenges, and possible solutions to advance a shared vision of ocean industries that are not only productive but also inclusive, safe, and sustainable for generations to come.

The Workshop in Visakhapatnam on 12 January 2026

The Workshop at Visakhapatnam is the fifth in the series of eight national workshops. The central theme of this workshop revolves around the shipping & ports and blue finance & investment sectors. The workshop will bring together multi-stakeholders around the identified themes with a focus on putting safety at the heart of sustainability. This interactive workshop is divided into three parts with an inaugural session and two panel discussions. The inaugural session will feature speeches by key dignitaries in the sector, while panel 1 will focus on the issues and challenges associated with port security in India. Panel 2 will be on demand and supply gaps in blue finance & investments in India.

Inaugural Session

The inaugural panel will highlight the Ocean Centres initiative and its goals as a multi-stakeholder platform and will set the context for deliberations on the identified themes. Addresses by different dignitaries will give strategic importance towards a safer and more sustainable ocean economy in India, highlighting the key issues, challenges, and possible solutions in national as well as local contexts. The inaugural session is intended to give strategic directions on some of the pertinent aspects, like -

- Background & Rationale of the Ocean Centres Initiative
- UN Global Compact and its ten Principles

- Best practices from the Government and Businesses in the Shipping & Ports Sectors
- Strategies for attracting blue finance and investments in India
- Foster collaborations and locally-led solutions
- Putting Safety at the Heart of Sustainability

High-Level Panel 1 – Port Security: Issues & Challenges in India

Port Security is one of the important aspects in the maritime sector. It is crucial for protecting over 90% of India's trade, energy (oil & gas) imports, economic growth, coastal livelihoods, and preventing smuggling/terrorism, etc. Andhra Pradesh, particularly, with the ambition of becoming a major logistics and maritime trade hub, and with its long coastline and numerous ports, makes it a vital economic asset on the one hand and a potential target for unlawful activities on the other. Protection of the environment, infrastructure, and ensuring operational efficiency are key to achieving the desired goals of the maritime Amritkal vision. This high-level panel will focus its deliberations on the specific issues, challenges, and suggested solutions related to port security in India. Though the experts and stakeholders will deliberate on key issues and challenges, some of the suggested issues for discussion may be -

- Trade Facilitation and Protection of the Economic Hubs
- Technological Integration and Surveillance
- Logistics, Infrastructure, and Regulatory Environment
- National Security, Threat Perception & Risk Assessment
- Regional cooperation and geopolitics
- Institutional framework and Inter-Agency Coordination
- Community Engagement, Capacity Building, and Livelihoods Protection
- Maintaining Investors' Confidence

High-level Panel 2 – Demand & Supply Gaps in Blue Finance & Investment in India

Blue Finance & Investment is another irrefutable area without which the desired transitions and developments are not possible. The objective of this high-level panel is to explore the demand & supply gaps in blue finance and investments in India, with a key focus on local aspects in Andhra Pradesh. Though experts and stakeholders will deliberate upon key aspects during the panel discussions, some of the identified issues for discussion may be -

- Scaling up and accelerating transition to a Safe & Sustainable Ocean Economy
- National Priorities, Strategies, Frameworks and Regulations
- ESG aspects in attracting Blue Investment - Risk Mitigation and Opportunities
- Tools & frameworks in Blue Finance (Ocean Investment Protocol 2025, etc.)
- Sub-sector specific needs and gaps in blue finance & investments in India
- Suggestive solutions to financing the blue economy in India

Target Participants

Stakeholders in these workshops will be comprised of a diverse range of organisations committed to advancing a safe and sustainable ocean economy. These include businesses and industries, government agencies, regulatory bodies, financial institutions, trade unions, NGOs, academic and research institutions, as well as community-led organisations of all kinds. These workshops are in hybrid mode, with an option to participate online as well.

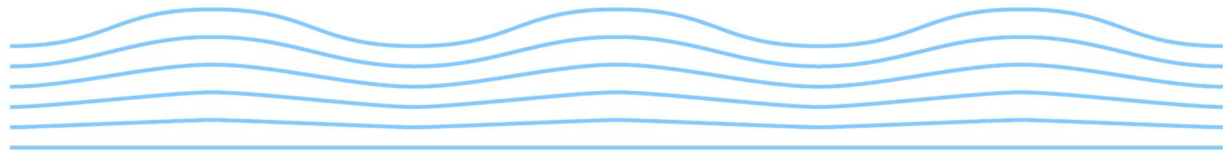
Workshops Registration

To participate in the workshops, please express your interest by submitting the workshop registration form at - <https://forms.gle/WrSR5mkDhgkvFes46> or scan this QR Code:



About the Ocean Centres

The Ocean Centres were established through a partnership between the UN Global Compact (UNGC), a leading advocate for sustainability in the private sector, and Lloyd's Register Foundation, a global safety charity. They are implemented through UNGC Country Networks in seven nations identified by local experts during the initiative's scoping phase: Brazil, Ghana, Kenya, India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and the Philippines. The Ocean Centres are multi-stakeholder collaboration platforms dedicated to accelerating the transition toward **safer and more sustainable ocean economies**, enabled by better standards, skills, and evidence. By fostering dialogue and co-creation among government bodies, private sector actors, trade unions, financial institutions, civil society, youth, community-led organisations, academia, and other stakeholders, each Ocean Centre aims to support them in safe adoption of sustainable and resilient business practices in four main Action Areas: **Shipping & Ports, Fishing & Aquaculture, Offshore Renewables, Finance & Investment.**



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Save the dates and register your interest at: <https://forms.gle/WrSR5mkDhgkvFes46>