

Draft Background Note

STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP - GOA

Stepping Stone Towards a Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy in India

Theme: Fishing & Aquaculture, Shipping & Ports

 24 February 2026 | 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

 The International Centre Goa (ICG)

Strategic Partners



In Partnership with



Genesis for the series of Stakeholders' Workshops

Ocean Centres India is 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 Goa on 24 February 2026

The workshop in Goa is the seventh in a series of eight national workshops. The focus area of this workshop is shipping & ports as well as the fisheries & aquaculture sectors, with a central theme centred on the “Challenges in Shipbuilding and the Knowledge & Skill Gaps in India”, and “Navigating Change: Integrating Modern Safety Technologies and Climate Resilience into Goa’s Traditional Fishing and Aquaculture Ecosystem”. The workshop will bring together multi-stakeholders around the identified themes with a focus on putting safety at the heart of sustainability. There will be an inaugural session followed by three panel discussions. The workshop will take place at The International Centre Goa (ICG), Dona Paula, Goa, from 10:00 AM to 04:00 PM.

Inaugural Panel

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 panel is intended to give strategic direction by providing a background rationale of the Ocean Centres Initiative, the UN Global Compact and its ten principles; sharing of the best practices on the given themes from the Government and Businesses; fostering collaborations and locally-led solutions while putting Safety at the Heart of Sustainability.

High-Level Panel 1 – Challenges in Shipbuilding and the Knowledge & Skill Gaps in India

India's shipbuilding industry stands at a strategic crossroads, tasked with elevating its global market share from less than 1% to a top-five position by 2047. Despite the sector's high multiplier effect on economic growth, it remains hindered by structural challenges, including capital costs that are nearly double those of global competitors and a 25–30% production cost disadvantage compared to leaders like China and South Korea. These financial hurdles are compounded by a critical knowledge and skill gap; while India possesses a large labour pool, there is a systemic shortage of expertise in niche areas such as automated robotic welding, digital twin integration, and the design of green-propulsion systems. Furthermore, a lag in the adoption of Industry 4.0 technologies and a curricula-industry mismatch have created a productivity deficit that threatens the timely delivery of vessels. This panel seeks to address how India can leverage new initiatives, such as the Maritime Development Fund and specialised maritime clusters, to bridge these technological and talent voids and transform the nation into a global hub for sophisticated, eco-friendly shipbuilding.

High-level Panel 2 – Modern Safety Technologies in Traditional Fishing

The Indian fishing sector seems to be at a critical juncture where centuries-old traditions meet the harsh realities of a changing climate. With a coastline exceeding 7,500 km, India's traditional fishers are increasingly exposed to "Extreme Weather Events" and maritime hazards that outpace conventional safety measures. This panel explores the urgent transition toward a "Safety-First" culture by integrating cutting-edge technology into the artisanal and small-scale fleet. The discussion will centre on indigenous innovations like ISRO's NavIC-powered messaging devices and DATs. These provide a lifeline for mariners who operate outside mobile network ranges. Through initiatives like the PMMSY, the government subsidises the adoption of AIS (Automatic Identification Systems) and GEMINI devices. These devices prevent mid-sea collisions and provide real-time cyclone warnings. The discussion will evaluate how these digital interventions, including satellite-based PFZ advisories and blockchain-linked insurance, are saving lives and de-risking the livelihoods of millions.

High-level Panel 3 – Building Climate-Resilient Fisheries and Aquaculture

This panel explores the strategic shift toward Climate-Smart Fisheries and Aquaculture. The discussion will focus on scaling adaptive technologies—such as Recirculating Aquaculture Systems and Biofloc—which insulate production from external environmental shocks. Furthermore, the session will address the critical need for "Nature-based Solutions," including Mangrove restoration and the promotion of climate-resilient species like Seaweed and Cobia. By integrating INCOIS-led ocean state forecasts with robust financial safeguards like weather-indexed insurance, this panel aims to define a roadmap for a secure, sustainable, and climate-proofed Indian fisheries and aquaculture sector.

Workshops Registration

To participate in the workshops, please express your interest by submitting the workshop registration form at <https://forms.gle/WrSR5mkDhgkvFes46> or by scanning the QR Code Below. There is no fee for registration; however, prior registration is kindly requested.



Target Participants

Stakeholders in these workshops will comprise 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, and community-led organisations of all kinds.

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.**



Stakeholders Workshop Series

Stepping Stone Towards a Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy in India

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

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