

Draft Background Note

STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP - KOLKATA

Stepping Stone Towards a Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy in India

Themes: Shipping & Ports | Finance & Investment

 10 March 2026 | 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM

 The Lalit Great Eastern, Kolkata

Strategic Partners



Other Partners



भारतीय समुद्री विश्वविद्यालय
INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY
(A Central University, Government of India)
Established by an Act of Parliament in 2008



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. These workshops aim to deliberate on the issues, challenges, and solutions towards a safer and more sustainable ocean economy in India. Stakeholders are expected to collectively map ocean-related safety and sustainability challenges and identify key gaps that require collective action, particularly the safety challenges associated with adopting sustainable practices. By giving voice to a wide range of organisations, including the voices of the unheard, these workshops are expected 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.

With the strategic direction from the Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India, and the Directorate General of Shipping India, as well as active partnerships with region and theme specific organizations, we truly hope to count on stakeholders' engagement in this unique, locally-led, and globally connected initiative to 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.

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

The Workshop in Kolkata on 10th March 2026

The workshop in Kolkata is the last in a series of eight national workshops. The focus area of this workshop is on the shipping & ports as well as on finance & investment sectors, with a central theme centred on the net zero targets in the maritime sector in India and mobilising capital and ensuring safe investment in India's maritime sector towards a safer and more sustainable future. 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 two panel discussions.

Workshop Title	: Ocean Centres Stakeholders Workshop - Kolkata "Stepping Stone Towards a Safe & Sustainable Ocean Economy in India"
Workshop Themes	: Maritime India @ Net Zero From Vision to Value: Mobilising Capital and Ensuring Safe Investment in India's Maritime Sector
Date	: 10 March 2026 (Tuesday) - 10:00 AM - 04:00 PM
Venue	: Hotel The Lalit Great Eastern, Kolkata

The Inaugural Panel

The inaugural panel will highlight the Ocean Centres initiative and its goals as a multi-stakeholder platform, setting the context for deliberations on the identified themes. Addresses by different dignitaries will lend strategic importance to a safer and more sustainable ocean economy in India, highlighting key issues, challenges, and possible solutions in both national and local contexts. The inaugural panel is intended to give strategic directions on some of the pertinent aspects, like the rationale of the Ocean Centres initiative, the ten principles of the UN Global Compact, sharing of best practices from the Government and Businesses in the Shipping & Ports and Finance & Investment sectors, fostering collaborations and locally-led solutions while putting Safety at the Heart of Sustainability.

High-Level Panel 1 – Maritime India @ Net Zero

Maritime India is actively pursuing a net-zero transition, targeting a sustainable and green maritime ecosystem. **Ministry of Earth Sciences** focuses on protecting and restoring Blue Carbon Ecosystems, the development of Renewable Ocean Energy, support to the National Green Hydrogen Mission, Ocean Climate Monitoring and Resilience Services, Deep Ocean Mission, and formulated the Draft National Blue Economy Policy. The **Directorate General of Shipping** is also driving the Indian Maritime Sector towards Net Zero emissions by 2070 through initiatives like the National Green Shipping Policy, enforcing the Hong Kong Convention for the Green Ship Recycling, Safety & Sustainability Index, Infrastructure Development and International alignments. The **Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047** aims to transform India into a global leader in sustainable shipping, targeting net-zero emissions through 300+ initiatives with ₹80 lakh crore in investments. Key goals include reducing port carbon emissions by 30% by 2030 and 70% by 2047, enhancing renewable energy to over 90% by 2047, and adopting green hydrogen/ammonia. This panel will explore the critical intersection of green technology, alternative fuel bunkering, and the strategic financing required to future-proof India's position in the global maritime value chain and aims to bridge the gap between ambitious net-zero targets and the operational realities of the Indian shipping industry while keeping safety at the heart of sustainability.

High-level Panel 2 – From Vision to Value: Mobilising Capital and Ensuring Safe Investment in India's Maritime Sector

India's burgeoning blue economy represents a critical frontier for safer and sustainable growth, driven by a strategic emphasis on attracting robust investment through transparent and investor-friendly frameworks. A cornerstone of this strategy is the liberal Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) policy, which permits 100% FDI under the automatic route in key enabler sectors such as port development, shipping, shipbuilding, and ship repair, thereby inviting global capital, technology, and skills. Such private sector participation is further incentivised through extensive Public-Private Partnership (PPP) models, often utilising mechanisms like Viability Gap Funding (VGF) to de-risk commercially viable projects in areas such as port infrastructure and eco-tourism, ensuring effective risk allocation and fostering innovation across the maritime domain. To mobilise capital from both commercial and

social avenues, India is actively encouraging blended finance solutions that combine public, private, and philanthropic funds to support projects with a high social rate of return, complemented by a push for businesses to deploy their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) funds into catalytic blue economy initiatives. These investment avenues are underpinned by evolving Policy and Governance Frameworks, including the development of a **Draft National Blue Economy Policy** by the **Ministry of Earth Sciences** and a robust regulatory framework for ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance) debt securities, including specific provisions for blue bonds, by the **Securities and Exchange Board of India**. Further, the Maritime India Vision 2030 and the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047 aim to secure over ₹80 lakh crore in investments while positioning India as a global leader in sustainable maritime infrastructure. This panel will address key investment barriers and highlight de-risking strategies to ensure a safe and sustainable blue future for all stakeholders.

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.

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 this QR Code. There is no fee for registration, but prior registration is required.



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**.

