

DRAFT BACKGROUND NOTE

STAKEHOLDERS WORKSHOP – AHMEDABAD

Navigating the Future: Safety & Sustainability in Gujarat's Maritime Sector

 21 May 2026 | 09:30 AM - 02:00 PM

 Crowne Plaza Ahmedabad City Centre IHG

Strategic Partners



In Partnership with



Stepping Stone Towards a Safe and Sustainable Ocean Economy in India

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.**

Genesis: Stakeholder Workshop Series

Ocean Centres India is spearheading a transformative initiative for India's maritime future through a series of multi-stakeholder workshops. These sessions serve as a critical platform to map safety and sustainability challenges while identifying key gaps that require collective action. By amplifying a diverse range of voices—including often-unheard community perspectives—we aim to uncover the systemic causes of safety deficits and exchange cross-sectoral best practices. Under the strategic guidance of the Ministry of Earth Sciences and the Directorate General of Shipping, this locally-led yet globally connected initiative invites your engagement. Together, we can build a shared vision for ocean industries that are productive, inclusive, and safe 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
Safe & Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture; Shipping & Ports	Safety Challenges in Shipping; Transition to Green Ports	MSP, Nature Positive & Social issues in Offshore Renewables	Decarbonisation; Safe & Sustainable Fisheries & Aquaculture	Port Security; Blue Finance & Investment – Demand & Supply Gaps	Seafarers, Fishers & Aquaculturists socio-economic issues	Shipbuilding ; Safety Tech., Climate resilience	Net-Zero Targets; Mobilising Capital

The 9th Workshop in Ahmedabad - 21st May 2026

The workshop in Ahmedabad is another addition to the series of eight national workshops. Gujarat occupies a singular position in India's maritime geography. It has the longest coastline of any Indian state at nearly 1,600 km, hosts the country's largest cargo-handling port (Mundra) and one of its busiest major ports (Deendayal/Kandla), operates the world's largest ship-recycling yard at Alang–Sosiya, and anchors the emerging ship-finance and ship-leasing ecosystem through GIFT

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City's International Financial Services Centre. The state also faces distinct safety and sustainability pressures, ranging from occupational risks at ship-breaking yards and cyclone exposure along the Saurashtra and Kutch coasts, to the environmental demands of scaling up green-fuel bunkering, offshore wind, and major-port expansion. Convening stakeholders' consultation in Ahmedabad, therefore, closes a critical gap in the national consultations convened by the Ocean Centres India and brings forward voices that have so far been underrepresented in the series. The workshop will bring together multi-stakeholders around the identified themes with a focus on putting safety at the heart of sustainability. The workshop will be in a roundtable format, with a high-level panel and addresses by dignitaries.

Workshop Title	:	Ocean Centres Stakeholders Workshop, Ahmedabad - “Stepping Stone Towards a Safe & Sustainable Ocean Economy in India”
Consultation Themes	:	Safety & Sustainability in Shipping & Ports and Offshore Renewable Sectors
Date	:	21 May 2026 (Thursday) - 09:30 AM - 02:00 PM
Venue	:	Crowne Plaza Ahmedabad City Centre IHG, Ahmedabad

The workshop is divided into three parts: an inaugural session, followed by two high-level panel discussions focused on safety and sustainability in the shipping, ports, and offshore renewable sectors.

The Inaugural Session

The inaugural session 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.

Participants will also be briefed on the eight previous workshops held across India's coastal states. Across these eight convenings, over 140 speakers from government, research institutions, industry, associations, academia, labour unions, and civil society shared inputs that have been synthesised into the draft National Report. Sharing these cross-regional findings with Gujarat stakeholders is intended to both contextualise the state-level discussion and invite Gujarat's experience in ship recycling, major-port operations, maritime finance, and large-scale renewables to shape the final national recommendations.

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High-Level Panel 1 – Safety & Sustainability in Gujarat’s Shipping & Port Sector



As Gujarat solidifies its position as the maritime gateway of India, ensuring the long-term resilience of its port and shipping infrastructure through the dual lenses of safety and sustainability has become a strategic imperative. This high-level panel brings together key policymakers, industry leaders, and environmental experts to address the evolving regulatory landscape and the adoption of "green port" technologies. By examining international safety benchmarks, decarbonisation strategies, and the integration of digital monitoring systems, the session aims to chart a collaborative roadmap for Gujarat’s maritime sector. Discussions will focus on balancing rapid industrial expansion with ecological stewardship to ensure that the state's blue economy remains globally competitive, safe, and environmentally sound.

High-Level Panel 2 – Safety & Sustainability in Gujarat’s Offshore Renewables Sector

As Gujarat pivots toward becoming a global hub for offshore wind and tidal energy, the "Safety & Sustainability in Gujarat’s Offshore Renewables Sector" panel will examine the unique operational challenges of the marine environment. This session focuses on the technical integration of subsea infrastructure, the application of stringent safety protocols for offshore personnel, and the mitigation of ecological impacts on coastal biodiversity. By bringing together energy developers, maritime regulators, and environmental scientists, the discussion aims to establish a robust framework for project lifecycle safety—from installation to decommissioning. The panel will explore how Gujarat can leverage its extensive coastline to meet national net-zero targets while ensuring that offshore renewable projects remain resilient to climate-related risks and aligned with international environmental standards.



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. There is no participation fee; however, prior registration and its confirmation from the Ocean Centres India are mandatory.



Target Participants

A diverse range of organisations committed to advancing a safe and sustainable ocean economy, including businesses, government agencies, regulatory bodies, financial institutions, trade unions, NGOs, academic and research institutions, and community-led organisations of all kinds.