

**SPEECH BY CHAIRPERSON NATIONAL SHIPPING BOARD**

**at**

**NUSI MARITIME ACADEMY GOA**

**Date: 25/02/2026 Time: 5:30 P.M.**

**Distinguished members of the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI),  
The Captain Superintendent and dedicated faculty of this esteemed Academy,  
and most importantly, the future of India's maritime prowess—our young  
ratings including girl students**

Indeed, it is a privilege to stand before you at an institution that is the brainchild of visionaries like the late Dr. Leo Barnes. This academy is unique—it is a testament to what a trade union can achieve when it prioritizes the technical training and welfare of its workforce. You are being trained at one of the finest facilities in the country, nestled here in Goa, to become the backbone of global trade.

It is my privilege to convey the appreciation of the board to the past & present trustees and office bearers of the NUSI for building such an impressive academy with modern infrastructure. The Initiative of the academy to induct the girl students on regular basis is an example to be emulated by the other training academies. The impressive placement figures of the academy symbolise the strenuous efforts made by NUSI and the faculty of the academy.

Dear students, as Chairman of the National Shipping Board, I see a transformative era ahead. Under the Maritime India Vision 2030 & Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047, our nation is committed to port-led development, enhancing coastal shipping, and revitalizing our shipbuilding industry. You are entering the industry at a time when India is jumping ranks globally—moving from 52nd to 35th in logistics performance—and aiming for even greater heights.

The world has finally recognized seafarers as "key workers" essential to the global supply chain. While the National Shipping Board advises the government on policy, it is your skill, discipline, and hard work on the high seas that give weight to those policies. Indian seafarers are second to none and are highly respected across the globe for their competence and resilience. The Government of India and the NSB are deeply focused on your well-being. From addressing seafarer taxation issues to improving social security and mental

health support, we are working to ensure that your career at sea is not just a job, but a dignified and secure profession.

Dear students, as you prepare to join your first vessels, the board has some useful advice for you:

Firstly, do not fear to embrace Technology: The future is green and digital. Stay updated with latest maritime technologies.

Secondly, make 'Safety First' a habit: Never compromise on the safety of life at sea.

Integrity: Carry the Indian flag with pride and maintain the highest ethical standards.

I wish you "Fair winds and following seas." The oceans are vast, and so is your potential.

Jai Hind.