

DRAFT DGS Order No. XX of 2026

Subject: Establishment of Maritime Training Institute in North East Remote Mountain Terrain – reg.

Whereas the Directorate General of Shipping issued Training Circular No. 06 of 2016 titled “Guidelines for North-East Sector” for the promotion and development of maritime training institutes in the North-East region.

2. Whereas, despite the passage of almost a decade since the issuance of the aforesaid circular, only one Maritime Training Institute (MTI) is presently operational in the North-East region;

3. Whereas, the Directorate has received representations from MTIs operating in the North-East region highlighting the various challenges faced in the hilly terrain of the region, due to which they are unable to fully comply with the Directorate General of Shipping guidelines prescribed for approval of Pre-Sea Training Institutes;

4. Whereas, a team from the Directorate General of Shipping visited the North-East region and observed that -

- a. Topographical Constraints: The terrain in the North-East is predominantly mountainous and uneven, making large-scale construction technically challenging. Steep gradients, unstable soil conditions, and frequent rainfall increase the complexity of excavation, foundation work, and structural stability.
- b. Construction on Sloping and Limited Land Parcels: Most available land parcels in hilly areas are small in size and located on sloping terrain. Developing a large building on such land requires extensive cutting, filling, retaining structures, and slope stabilization measures, which significantly increase project risks and construction challenges.
- c. Limited Usability of Available Land: Due to irregular land shapes, steep slopes, and environmental restrictions, only a limited portion of the land may be practically usable for construction. Large flat areas required for audience seating, parking, emergency access, and ancillary facilities are often unavailable.

- d. Environmental and Ecological Sensitivity: The North-East region is ecologically sensitive, and large-scale land modification may adversely affect natural drainage patterns, vegetation, and slope stability.
- e. Space Constraints for Supporting Facilities: In addition to the main building, adequate space is required for sports facilities, swimming pools, physical activities, crowd movement, emergency evacuation, utility services, and landscaping. Accommodating all such supporting infrastructure at a single location is difficult due to the constrained and hilly terrain.
- f. And whereas, representations have been received from MTIs stating that the prescribed requirement of maintaining 50% students from the North-Eastern Region could not be achieved due to the inadequate number of applicants from the said region, and that the vacant seats are being filled by candidates from other parts of India.

The Directorate General of Shipping has examined the matter before the STCW Compliance Board, and the following modified requirements shall be applicable to all existing MTIs as well as any newly proposed institutes located in the North Eastern Region:

1. For Maritime Training Institutes located in the North Eastern States, the minimum land requirement is hereby relaxed, and the requirement of an independent campus shall stand reduced from 4 hectares to 1 hectare, subject to compliance with all other applicable provisions, infrastructural requirements, and guidelines issued by the Directorate General of Shipping from time to time.
2. Now, therefore, considering the above challenges, tie-up arrangements for swimming pool or waterbody facilities located outside the main campus may be permitted, subject to inspection by the jurisdictional MMD, recommendation of the concerned Principal Officer, and compliance with all other applicable provisions, conditions, safety requirements, and guidelines prescribed under DGS Training Circular No. 59 of 2025, as amended from time to time.
3. Therefore, considering the challenges arising from the limited availability of plain land in the North Eastern Region, relaxation with respect to auditorium and sports ground facilities may be permitted through shared infrastructure arrangements located within 5 km of the main campus, without compromising the standards prescribed by the Directorate General of Shipping. The MTIs operating in the North Eastern States may also be permitted to enter into tie-ups for conducting BST and STSDSD courses exclusively for their in-house candidates.

4. And whereas, the prescribed requirement of maintaining a minimum of 50% students from the North Eastern Region is hereby relaxed, and the resultant vacant seats may be filled by candidates from other parts of India.
5. All Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs) located in the North-Eastern Region are hereby advised to provide a concession of up to 10% in the fees of any course and other associated expenses to cadets taking admission in MTIs situated in the North-Eastern Region, as compared to the fee structure applicable in MTIs located in the mainland areas of India.

Now, therefore, in order to facilitate optimum utilisation of the available infrastructure while ensuring continued compliance with the prescribed standards, MTIs may be permitted the aforesaid relaxations and arrangements, subject to fulfilment of all applicable provisions, conditions, safety requirements, and any other guidelines or instructions issued by the Directorate General of Shipping from time to time.
