

Draft Speech for Maritime and Logistics Awards (MALA) 2025

Good evening, ladies and gentlemen,

Greetings: It is a privilege to stand before you today at the Maritime and Logistics Awards 2025, a prestigious platform to recognize and celebrate outstanding achievements across India's maritime and logistics sectors. I extend my heartfelt greetings to all dignitaries, industry leaders, award nominees, and guests present here.

Significance of the Maritime Industry:

India's maritime and logistics sectors are not just enablers of trade—they are the lifelines of our national growth. These sectors support millions of livelihoods, drive industrial development, and ensure our strategic presence across international waters.

The Directorate General of Shipping, under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, is focused on developing a secure, skilled, and globally competitive maritime ecosystem. Improving logistics efficiency and cost competitiveness through innovation and technology has been a key focus area for DG Shipping and is also highlighted in the Maritime India Vision 2030.

Initiatives at DGS related to Logistics:

1. **MTO Branch:** As many of you know, the movement of goods across borders is a key part of international trade. At the Directorate General of Shipping, the MTO Branch plays an important role in regulating this movement under the Multimodal Transportation of Goods Act, 1993 and related rules. Our main responsibility is to register and renew Multimodal Transport Operators, ensuring that only qualified and compliant entities are allowed to operate. This helps maintain trust and reliability in global supply chains. The branch also manages changes in registration details and addresses stakeholder queries. All services are now fully online, making the process more efficient and accessible. DGS is presently in the process of making MTO module as part of e-samudra. Through these efforts, the MTO Branch supports smoother trade operations and contributes to policy development aimed at improving logistics standards across the country. Currently, 3,808 MTOs have been registered with DG Shipping, out of which 2,535 MTOs are currently valid.
2. **Maritime Single Window (MSW):** The **Maritime Single Window (MSW)**, operational since January 2024, is a digital platform mandated by the IMO to streamline maritime documentation by enabling ship operators to submit all required forms electronically through a single portal. While 85% of vessels and 85 ports are onboarded, integration with Customs and Immigration

remains pending, limiting full functionality. Plans are underway to upgrade to **MSW 2.0** to address these gaps and enhance system performance.

2. **Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy:** The **Shipbuilding Financial Assistance Policy (2016–2026)** provides Indian shipyards with up to 20% financial support for vessel construction, encouraging domestic shipbuilding. Alongside revised Right of First Refusal (RoFR) criteria and a ₹1,624 crore subsidy scheme for Indian-flagged vessels, these efforts have significantly increased Indian tonnage and aim to make India a self-reliant maritime nation.
2. **The Tonnage Tax Scheme:** The **Tonnage Tax Scheme (TTS)** is a specialized taxation framework introduced to promote the growth of the Indian shipping industry by offering a simplified and lower tax regime for shipping companies. Instead of taxing profits under the standard corporate tax structure, the scheme allows eligible shipping companies to pay tax based on the net tonnage of their vessels, calculated using a fixed daily profit per ton. This approach provides predictability and financial relief, encouraging Indian companies to register vessels under the Indian flag and invest in fleet expansion. By aligning with global best practices, the TTS has played a significant role in enhancing India's competitiveness in international shipping and increasing national tonnage.

Encouragement and Vision:

As we look ahead, it is important that we continue to improve our standards and practices. The maritime and logistics sectors must work together, adopt new technologies, and ensure that everyone has a role to play.

Congratulations to Awardees

To all the winners and nominees—your hard work and contributions are helping the sector grow stronger and more efficient. You are setting an example for others to follow. Congratulations.

Closing Remarks

The Directorate General of Shipping remains committed to supporting the industry through clear policies, training, and collaboration. Let us continue working together to build a modern and capable maritime India.

Jai Hind.