



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पत्तन, पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

समुद्रीय प्रशासन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF MARITIME ADMINISTRATION, MUMBAI

F. No. 15-13011/4/2025-MSL - DGS (C. No 34445 )

Dated: 31.07.2026

To

All stakeholders Concerned (Through DGMA website)

**Public Notice**

Sub.: Public Consultation on Draft Merchant Shipping (Tribunal Members' Qualification, Experience, and Submission of Award) Rules, 2026 to be issued under the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025

The Directorate General of Maritime Administration/ Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, GoI., has framed draft Merchant Shipping (Tribunal Members' Qualification, Experience, and Submission of Award) Rules, 2026, for their notification in the official Gazette.

All the stakeholders are kindly requested to peruse the draft rules and submit their comments, suggestions or objections within 30 days from the date of publication of this Public Notice through e-mail or by post to the following address:

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Deputy Director General of Maritime Administration  
Directorate General of Maritime Administration  
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(Ash Mohomad)

Deputy Director General (MSL)

Encl.: Copy of Draft Rules mentioned above.

DRAFT

[To be published in the Gazette of India, Extraordinary, Part II, Section 3, Sub-section (i)]

MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS

NOTIFICATION

New Delhi, \_\_\_\_\_, 2026

**G.S.R. \_\_\_\_\_ (E).** — In exercise of the powers conferred by clauses (y) and (z) of sub-section (2) of section 113 read with sub-sections (1) and (7) of section 89 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 (24 of 2025), the Central Government hereby makes the following rules, namely: —

**1. Short title, commencement and application.** — (1) These rules may be called the Merchant Shipping (Tribunal Members' Qualification, Experience, and Submission of Award) Rules, 2026.

(2) These rules shall come into force on the date of their publication in the Official Gazette.

(3) These rules shall apply to every Tribunal constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 89 of the Act.

**2. Definitions.** — (1) In these rules, unless the context otherwise requires, —

(a) "Act" means the Merchant Shipping Act, 2025 (24 of 2025);

(b) "Chairperson" means a member of the Tribunal designated as Chairperson under sub-rule (2) of rule 3;

(c) "member" means a person notified by the Central Government to be a member of the Tribunal;

(d) "Tribunal" means a Tribunal constituted by the Central Government under sub-section (1) of section 89 of the Act.

(2) The words and expressions used in these rules but not defined, and defined in the Act, shall have the meanings respectively assigned to them in the Act.

**3. Qualifications and experience for appointment as Member of the Tribunal.** — (1) A person shall not be qualified for appointment as a member of the Tribunal unless such person has knowledge of maritime matter and, —

(a) possesses specialised knowledge of, and has not less than ten years of practical experience in, the maritime sector or matters relating to the employment of seafarers; or

(b) has been an advocate for at least ten years with proven specialised experience in maritime law.

(2) Where the Tribunal consists of more than one person, the Central Government may designate one of them as the Chairperson of the Tribunal.

**4. Time-period for passing the award.** — (1) The Tribunal shall dispose of the reference made to it by the Central Government by passing an award within a period of 90 days from the date of reference.

*Explanation-* For the purposes of this sub-rule, the "date of reference" means the date on which a dispute is referred by the Central Government to the Tribunal under the provisions of sub-section (1) of section 89 of the Act.

(2) Where the Tribunal is satisfied that, for reasons to be recorded in writing, it is not possible to submit the award within the period specified in sub-rule (1), the Central Government may, on a request made by the Tribunal in this behalf, extend such period by a further period not exceeding 90 days.

(3) The Tribunal shall, as soon as practicable after passing the award referred to in sub-rules (1) and (2), as the case may be, submit its award in writing, along with the reasons thereof, to the Central Government.

[F. No. \_\_\_\_\_]

(Name, Designation)

