



Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA)
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India

Event Name: Interaction of the Hon'ble Union Cabinet Minister, PSW with stakeholders on Seafarer Security, Safety & Seafarer Welfare and Inauguration of the E-Samudra

Venue: Taj Lands End, B.J. Road, Mount Mary, Bandra West, Mumbai-400050

Date: 08.08.2026

Time of the Speech: 1115 hrs to 1123 hrs (5 Mins)

Welcome Address for the Additional Director General of Maritime Administration

Interaction of Hon'ble Union Minister with RPSLs, Seafarer Bodies and Cadets

(Approx. 5 Minutes)

Hon'ble Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Ji,

Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways,

Director General of Maritime Administration Shri Shyam Jagannathan Ji,

Chairman, Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) Shri Gaurav Dayal ji,

Chairman, Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA), Dr. M. Angamuthu, ji

CMD, Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), Capt. Binesh Kumar Tyagi ji,

MD, Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Limited (IPRCL), Shri Manoj Kumar Semwal ji,

Distinguished representatives of Recruitment and Placement Service Licence Agencies, Cadets, Seafarer Unions, Shipping Companies, esteemed stakeholders, and members of the maritime fraternity,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is my privilege to welcome all of you to this important interaction on **Seafarer Security, Safety and Welfare**, and the inauguration of **e-Samudra**, a landmark initiative in the digital transformation journey of the Directorate General of Maritime

Administration. Today's event brings together the key stakeholders who shape the future of Indian seafaring, policy makers, industry leaders, recruitment agencies, maritime institutions, welfare organisations and the next generation of Indian seafarers.

India today stands 2nd after Philippines (3.23 lakh) among the world's leading maritime nations and contributes nearly **12 percent of the global seafaring workforce**. Over the last decade, the number of Indian seafarers has grown steadily, reflecting the rising global confidence in Indian maritime professionals. Under Maritime India Vision 2030, India has set itself the ambitious goal of further increasing its share in the global seafaring workforce and strengthening its position as a leading maritime nation.

At the heart of this growth story stands the Indian seafarer.

It is therefore our collective responsibility to ensure that every Indian seafarer is supported not only while at sea but also throughout the entire maritime journey, from recruitment and training to welfare, safety and career progression.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In this regard, the role of **Recruitment and Placement Service Licence Agencies, or RPSLs**, is extremely important.

For every aspiring cadet, an RPSL is often the first gateway into the maritime profession. RPSLs connect talent with opportunity, facilitate placements across global shipping companies and contribute directly to India's reputation as a reliable supplier of quality maritime manpower. Their contribution is therefore central to India's ambition of becoming a leading seafaring nation.

However, the importance of RPSLs today extends far beyond recruitment and placement.

Recently, the **maritime sector has faced significant geopolitical** and security challenges across regions such as the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Black Sea and Persian Gulf. **The Hon'ble Minister has been monitoring the situation closely.**

During incidents affecting Indian seafarers, **RPSLs play a critical role in validating crew information, confirming incidents, coordinating with shipowners, supporting communication with families, and assisting the Directorate in responding effectively to emergencies.** Verification of crew details through shipowners and RPSLs forms an important element of the Directorate's incident response framework.

RPSLs also become crucial partners **in welfare and repatriation efforts**. Through coordinated action involving the Government of India, Indian Missions abroad, welfare organisations, shipowners and RPSLs, more than **4,000 Indian seafarers**

have been repatriated from high-risk and crisis situations, ensuring that support reaches our seafarers whenever required.

Today brings together two pillars of India's maritime future:

Our cadets, who represent the aspirations and talent of tomorrow.

And our RPSLs, who connect those aspirations with opportunities across the world.

The interaction between the Hon'ble Minister, RPSLs and cadets today is therefore far more than a stakeholder consultation.

It is an opportunity for RPSLs to directly share field-level experiences, highlight emerging challenges, and contribute towards shaping the future of maritime governance.

It is an opportunity for cadets to understand the opportunities available to them and gain confidence from direct engagement with industry and Government.

I wish today's deliberations and interactions every success.

I once again welcome you all to the interaction.

Jai Hind.