

Press Release

Shri Rahul Modi takes over charge as Chairman, Indian Maritime Centre in the presence of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways at Mumbai

Mumbai, 2 October 2026

In the presence of Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways at Mumbai on 2 October 2026, Shri Rahul Modi has taken over as Chairman, Indian Maritime Centre. It may be mentioned here that in the 12th meeting of the Board of Directors of Indian Maritime Centre held on 22-09-2026, Shri Rahul Modi was elected as Chairman and Mr Maneesh Pradhan as Vice Chairman of the Indian Maritime Centre. Mr Rahul Modi is the President of Coastal Container Transporters Association (CCTA) and also is a member of National Shipping Board. He takes over from Shri Devki Nandan, outgoing Chairman. Shri Maneesh Pradhan is the Chairman of Maritime Association of Ship Owners and Ship Agents (MASSA). He presently works as the Chief Operating Officer of the Synergy Marine Group. He takes over from Shri Shankar Shinde, outgoing Vice Chairman.

The Minister chaired a review meeting of Indian Maritime Centre on 02-10-2026 at Mumbai to review the progress so far made, its future plans and the operational requirements. The Indian Maritime Centre is an apex maritime body set up under the guidance of the Government of India.

The meeting was attended by Shri Rahul Modi, Chairman and Directors Shri Devki Nandan, Capt. Dr. Sankalp Shukla, Capt. Chandran Daniel, Shri P.K. Mishra, CEO Capt. Tushar Pradhan and Advisor, Capt. Vikas Vij (former First Director of IMC).

Various topics were discussed on the process of way forward keeping in mind the role of IMC as a facilitator of international maritime engagement. It was brought out by Mr Devki Nandan that IMC has recently signed a Memorandum of Understanding with German Maritime Centre to strengthen cooperation and promote greater collaboration between the maritime sectors of Germany and India. He also informed that Germany is actively looking toward India for about 70,000 skilled maritime labour in various defence and private shipyards and engineering plants and also seafarers. There is an opportunity for India here. This was echoed by Capt. Sankalp Shukla who too had feelers from Germany, Japan and Singapore and was approached by various stakeholders in this regard. Capt. Vikas Vij briefed the Hon'ble Minister that during his recent trip to Japan in Aug 2026 he accompanied Hon Minister of Commerce and Industry and in presence of Indian ambassador at Tokyo interacted with Japanese Govt officials and Industry leaders and advised them of Maritime India Vision 2030 & MAKV 2047. He also highlighted the role of Indian Maritime Centre as the nodal federation of majority maritime associations under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways. Japanese delegates took keen interest in

collaborating for Indo Japan Maritime partnership for ship building, marine skill centres and shipping trade. Capt. Vikas Vij dedicated a full day to visit and meet Japan Maritime Centre and commenced dialogue for eventually collaborate and sign a MoU between JMC & IMC. Hon. Minister asked IMC to invite Chairman of JMC to India. Shri P.K. Mishra suggested we should look into this matter as we have the ability to upskill our work force from multiple institutions. Capt. Sankalp Shukla mentioned that we need to sign MOUs with various countries who are interested to collaborate with India. He mentioned that IMC should approach various Agencies, Organisations and start the process of collaboration with them. India can not only provide the work force, but we should also look into such collaboration whereby spare parts can be manufactured in India and supplied to these countries.

Congratulating the new Chairman, Mr Rahul Modi, who has taken over the reins of IMC, the Minister assured the support of the Government to Indian Maritime Centre in taking forward its agenda, especially in respect of acting as a common platform where every stake holder in maritime community can interface and becoming a facilitator of international maritime engagement. He advised that IMC should strive towards having structured engagements with various maritime nations/bodies and develop institutional partnerships/MOUs with selected leading maritime institutions which will go a long way in achieving the goal of developing India into a great maritime nation. Mr Rahul Modi assured the Minister, on behalf of the IMC Team, that every effort will be made to meet the expectations of the Government in achieving the laid down objectives.
