

TENDER

ISTC Floats RFP for Shipbuilding Skill Gap Study and Development of Skill Plan (2027-32).

India Ship Technology Centre (ISTC) is set to conduct a comprehensive Skill Gap Study and develop a Skill Plan for the Indian Shipbuilding and Ship Repair Sector, covering the period 2027-32. Towards this, ISTC floated a Request for Proposal on 28.07.2026, published on the ISTC website, inviting bids from professional agencies with relevant expertise; proposals are to be submitted in two-bid format (technical and financial), with the last date for submission being 28.08.2026. The bid submission deadline has been subsequently extended to 11 September 2026.

Agencies with prior experience in conducting skill gap studies, particularly in the maritime, shipbuilding, or port sector, and meeting the financial and experience eligibility criteria specified in the RFP, are eligible to bid. The selected agency will be onboarded shortly thereafter to carry out the study over the coming months.

The initiative responds to a pressing need. As India pursues an ambitious shipbuilding growth agenda, demand for skilled manpower across design, production, quality, and allied trades is set to rise sharply. Still, there is limited granular visibility into current workforce capacity, specific skill shortages, and the training infrastructure needed to meet future demand. The study will address this by assessing existing skilled and trained manpower across NSQF and non-NSQF trades, including gender diversity, and mapping industry demand against training capacity across shipyards, ITIs, polytechnics, and maritime institutions, identifying shortfalls by states and sub-sectors.

Building on this analysis, the selected agency will develop a forward-looking Skill Plan, projecting manpower requirements for 2027-32, with actionable recommendations for skilling interventions, institutional capacity building, and industry-academia collaboration. The resulting data-backed plan is expected to align skilling investments with actual sectoral needs, strengthen the pipeline of industry-ready talent for shipyards, and support India's broader push towards indigenous shipbuilding capability. ISTC will keep stakeholders updated as the process progresses.



IMPORTANT DATES	
28 July 2026	Date of Publication of Tender Document
11 Sept 2026	Last Date for Submission of Bids.

GLOBAL SHIPBUILDING NEWS

DEFENCE SHIPBUILDING

07 July 2026

UK and Netherlands Launch £2.4 Billion Ship Partnership



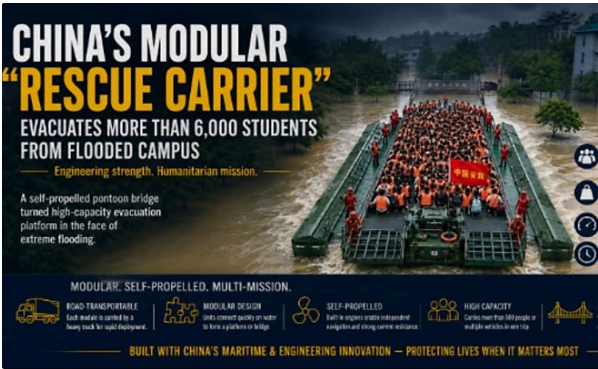
[Photo credit: Royal Navy]

The **UK** and **Netherlands** have launched a £2.4 billion programme to jointly develop amphibious transport ships. Each country will operate four 160-metre vessels, designed to carry troops, vehicles and equipment. Built in British Shipyards using Dutch designs, the ships will strengthen NATO cooperation, create skilled jobs and support advanced autonomous maritime technologies.

MARITIME SAFETY

10 July 2026

China’s Modular Rescue Platform Evacuates 6,000 Students



[Photo credit: Xinde Marine News]

China deployed a self-propelled modular pontoon bridge to evacuate over 6,000 students stranded by severe flooding at a college in **Guangxi**. Transported by road and assembled on-site, the 60-metre modular platform carried hundreds of passengers per trip, working alongside inflatable rescue boats. The operation highlighted the growing role of modular maritime technology in rapid disaster response and emergency evacuations.

ALTERNATIVE FUELS

15 July 2026

KR and HD Hyundai Advance Ammonia Vessel Trial



[Photo credit: HD Hyundai Heavy Industries / KR]

Korean Register (KR) and **HD Hyundai Heavy Industries (HHI)** have successfully completed Korea’s first ammonia dual-fuel vessel sea trial. Conducted under the Government's Green Shipping Corridor initiative, the trial will support the development of technical standards and operating guidelines for ammonia-powered ships, advancing the country’s maritime decarbonisation efforts.

GREEN SHIPPING

16 July 2026

Samskip Strengthens Hydrogen Shipping Ambitions



[Photo credit: Samskip]

Samskip has joined the European HyShip initiative to accelerate hydrogen-powered shipping. Its Sea Shuttle vessels, scheduled to enter service in 2027, will transport containers between **Rotterdam and Oslo** using liquid hydrogen. The partnership will support the development of hydrogen infrastructure, bunkering facilities, and zero-emission shipping, advancing Europe’s maritime decarbonisation goals.

SUSTAINABILITY

16 July 2026

MACS Launches Toolkit for Sustainable Plastic Procurement in Shipping



[Photo credit :Maritime Gateway]

The **Maritime Association for Clean Seas (MACS)** has released practical guidelines to help the shipping industry reduce unnecessary plastic use through sustainable procurement. The toolkit provides a common framework for selecting lower plastic alternatives, improving supplier engagement, and supporting the IMO’s marine plastic reduction goals. The draft guidance is open for public consultation until 16 August 2026 before its final adoption.

GREEN SHIPPING

17 July 2026

DNV Certifies Econowind VentoFoil System



[Photo credit: Econowind / DNV]

DNV has awarded a **Type Approval Design Certificate (TADC)** to **Econowind’s 16-metre VentoFoil 3-Series**, enabling faster installation on DNV-classed vessels. With over 150 units sold, the wind-assisted propulsion system helps reduce fuel consumption, lower emissions, and improve compliance with Fuel EU regulations, supporting the shipping industry’s decarbonisation efforts.

GREEN SHIPPING

18 July 2026

China Launches Largest Hydrogen-Powered Inland Cargo Ship



[Photo credit: Yuntao Hydrogen Energy / CSSC]

China has launched Yun Tao No.1, the country’s largest **hydrogen-powered inland cargo vessel**, developed by Yuntao Hydrogen Energy in collaboration with China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC). Designed for operation on the Yangtze and Pearl River systems, the vessel is expected to reduce fuel costs and support the decarbonisation of inland waterway transport.

INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING

18 July 2026

DP World Considers New Port to Bypass Strait of Hormuz



[Photo credit: India Shipping News]

DP World, based in the UAE proposes to develop a new multipurpose port and container terminal at Fujairah to reduce dependence on the Strait of Hormuz amid regional security concerns. The project aims to strengthen the country’s trade resilience by providing an alternative shipping route through the Gulf of Oman. Expected to be operational within 18 months, the new port will complement, not replace, Jebel Ali port, while enhancing the UAE’s logistics network and safeguarding trade against future disruptions.

SMART SHIPBUILDING

21 July 2026

CSSC Develops AI Models for Ship Design



[Photo credit :Marine Insight]

China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) is developing **AI-powered ship design models** to improve design efficiency and streamline engineering processes. The AI tools are being trained to interpret technical specifications and design standards, while experienced engineers continue to oversee and approve all final designs. The initiative marks a significant step toward digital transformation in the global shipbuilding industry.

SHIPBUILDING INNOVATION

22 July 2026

World’s First Bidirectional Self-Unloading Ship Delivered



[Photo credit: Rio Tinto SimFer / CSSC]

China State Shipbuilding Corporation (CSSC) has delivered **Wontanara**, the world’s first bidirectional self-unloading vessel, built for Rio Tinto. The 215-metre diesel-electric ship can carry 41,800 tonnes of cargo and unload using its own onboard system, eliminating the need for shore-based equipment. Equipped with advanced automation, the vessel will support iron ore transport for the Simandou Project in Guinea, with four more ships scheduled for delivery.

SHIPBUILDING

23 July 2026

ABS Grants AIP for Nuclear-Powered 15,000 TEU Containership



[Photo credit: ABS]

ABS has granted Approval in Principle (AIP) for a 15,000 TEU nuclear-powered containership concept developed with the **Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering (KRISO)** and the **Korea Atomic Energy Research Institute (KAERI)**. Equipped with a small modular reactor (SMR), the design aims to advance the technical feasibility, safety standards, and future development of next-generation nuclear powered commercial ships.

SHIPBUILDING

24 July 2026

Korea-U.S. Partnership Advances \$150 Billion Shipbuilding Initiative



[Photo credit: Hanwha Philly Shipyard]

South Korea and the U.S. have launched the **Korea-U.S. Shipbuilding Partnership Centre (KUSPC)** in Washington, D.C., to strengthen shipbuilding cooperation. The broader US\$150 billion MASGA initiative is intended to support the revitalisation of the U.S. shipbuilding sector through investment, technology transfer, workforce training and supply-chain development. A new \$80 million joint research programme will also focus on AI, robotics, autonomous welding and advanced shipbuilding technologies.

INDIAN SHIPBUILDING NEWS



PORTS

05 July 2026

MSC to Invest US\$ 1.4 Billion in Vizhinjam Port



[Photo credit: Maritime News]

MSC’s terminal arm, Terminal Investment Limited (TIL), will invest US\$ 1.397 billion for a 49% interest in Adani Vizhinjam Port Private Limited (AVPPL), the concessionaire of Vizhinjam Port. The partnership is expected to strengthen role of Vizhinjam as a global transshipment hub, while the transaction remains subject to regulatory approval by the Kerala Government.

MARITIME INVESTMENT

09 July 2026

AP Invites Korean Firms to Invest in Dugarajapatnam Shipbuilding Cluster



[Photo credit: BusinessLine / PTI]

Andhra Pradesh has invited Korean maritime companies to invest in the proposed ₹30,000 crore Dugarajapatnam Shipbuilding Cluster during an investment roundtable in Busan. Minister Nara Lokesh highlighted the State’s maritime strengths and proposed collaboration in technology, skill development, and R&D. He also inaugurated APEX Korea, Andhra Pradesh’s first overseas investment facilitation centre, to strengthen investor engagement and attract global investments.

SHIPBUILDING

11 July 2026

SHM Global Unveils India’s First IRS-Approved Lifeboats



[Photo credit: India Shipping News]

SHM Global has developed India’s first indigenously manufactured and IRS-approved KISS 700 and PN95FA enclosed fire-protected lifeboats in collaboration with Palfinger Marine. Certified by the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), the lifeboats meet international safety standards, strengthening India’s maritime manufacturing capabilities and supporting the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative by reducing reliance on imported marine safety equipment.

SEAFARERS

11 July 2026

DG Shipping Proposes Digital Seafarers’ Employment Agreements



[Image credit : Marine News]

The Directorate General of Shipping (DG Shipping) has proposed the introduction of Digital and Smart Seafarers Employment Agreements (SEAs) using Aadhaar-based e-Sign and Digital Signature Certificates. The move aims to enable paperless employment contracts, improve regulatory compliance, enhance transparency, and modernise India’s maritime labour governance. The draft circular has been released for stakeholder feedback before final implementation.

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

14 July 2026

Cochin Shipyard Eyes Bharat Container Ship Orders



[Image credit : Cochin Shipyard Limited]

Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL) has submitted bids under the **Bharat Container Shipping Line (BCSL)** initiative to build vessels in India, supporting the Government’s push to strengthen domestic shipbuilding. Backed by a new large dry dock, expansion plans, and investments in ship design and marine battery technology, CSL aims to boost indigenous shipbuilding and reduce dependence on foreign shipping.

NEW SHIPYARDS

17 July 2026

HSL Proposes Greenfield Shipyard in Andhra Pradesh



[Photo credit: India Shipping News]

Hindustan Shipyard Limited (HSL) has proposed a greenfield shipyard in Andhra Pradesh to boost India’s domestic shipbuilding capacity under the Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. Machilipatnam and Dugarajapatnam have been identified as potential locations. The project aims to strengthen India’s maritime self-reliance, reduce dependence on foreign shipyards, and position Andhra Pradesh as a major shipbuilding hub.

DEFENCE SHIPBUILDING

22 July 2026

Indian Navy Commissions INS Malvan



[Photo credit : Wikipedia]

The **Indian Navy** has commissioned **INS Malvan**, the second Mahe-class **Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC)** built by **Cochin Shipyard Limited**. With over 80% indigenous content, the vessel enhances India’s coastal defence and anti-submarine warfare capabilities. Equipped with advanced sonar, torpedo tubes and an RBU-6000 rocket launcher, INS Malvan will strengthen maritime security and surveillance in the Indian Ocean Region.

COASTAL SECURITY

22 July 2026

Indian Coast Guard Continues Fleet Expansion Plans



[Photo credit: Wikipedia]

The **Indian Coast Guard (ICG)** plans to expand its operational fleet to 200 ships and 100 aircraft, strengthening maritime surveillance and rapid response capabilities. As part of the expansion, Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Ltd. (MDL) is building six Next Generation Offshore Patrol Vessels equipped with AI-based predictive maintenance, drones, and advanced integrated systems. The initiative will enhance India’s coastal security and reinforce the Coast Guard’s ability to safeguard the country’s maritime interests.

SHIPBUILDING

25 July 2026

Govt. of India announces important measures to revitalise the shipbuilding sector



[Photo credit: India Shipping News]

Hon. Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal stated that the Government has revived India’s Shipbuilding sector following the announcement of measures under the Union Budget 2025–26 and adoption of a 4-pillar strategy to revitalise the shipbuilding sector. According to figures cited by the Govt. of India from the latest UNCTAD report, India’s shipbuilding output increased by 41% from 40,923 GT in 2024 to 57,637 GT in 2025 .

MARITIME INFRASTRUCTURE

25 July 2026

EIL Signs MoU with DGMA for Maritime Project Consultancy



[Photo credit: India Shipping News]

Engineers India Limited (EIL) has signed an MoU with the Directorate General of Maritime Administration (DGMA) to provide engineering, technical advisory and project consultancy services for maritime infrastructure projects.

The partnership will support feasibility studies, infrastructure planning, technology integration and capacity enhancement, helping strengthen India’s maritime infrastructure and promote a modern, sustainable maritime sector.

POLICY

27 July 2026

Gujarat Unveils Shipbuilding Policy to Boost Maritime Manufacturing



[Photo credit: India Shipping News]

The **Gujarat Government** has launched the **Shipbuilding and Repair Policy 2026**, aiming to attract over ₹27,000 crore in investments and establish two integrated mega shipbuilding parks. The policy focuses on expanding shipbuilding capacity, promoting green and smart shipyards, supporting marine manufacturing and innovation, and creating large-scale employment through skill development. The initiative aligns with Maritime Vision 2047 and is expected to strengthen Gujarat’s position as India’s leading maritime manufacturing hub.

DEFENCE SHIPBUILDING

29 July 2026

Indian Navy Launches ASW Shallow Water Craft Machilipatnam



[Photo credit: Cochin Shipyard Limited]

The Indian Navy launched Machilipatnam (BY 529), the seventh Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) built by Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The vessel is designed for anti-submarine warfare, underwater surveillance, mine warfare, and coastal operations. With over 80% indigenous content, the project strengthens India’s maritime defence capabilities and supports the Aatmanirbhar Bharat initiative in defence manufacturing.



ISBT Goa

The Sandwich Diploma Advantage

The Diploma in Shipbuilding Engineering, pioneered by ISBT Goa, established an innovative sandwich-pattern structure to bridge the persistent gap between theoretical learning and heavy maritime operations. Spanning four years, the curriculum incorporates a full year of mandatory in-plant industrial training divided into two six-month operational blocks. By embedding students inside active shipyards, ISBT Goa turns abstract naval architecture into practical expertise in hull fabrication, testing, and engine maintenance. This hands-on structure ensures graduates master dockside safety protocols and technical execution long before graduation, securing direct recognition from the Directorate General of Shipping and setting a National benchmark for specialised marine education.

Drawing inspiration from this established framework, GPC Kalamassery is introducing a dedicated Diploma in Shipbuilding Technology that incorporates a full semester of industrial immersion. Developed in collaboration with Cochin Shipyard Limited, the programme places strong emphasis on practical ship construction and provides students with direct exposure to shipyard operations. This extended industry engagement complements classroom learning with practical experience and helps students develop workplace-ready competencies. Together, the programs at ISBT Goa and GPC Kalamassery demonstrate how industry-integrated diplomas turn traditional polytechnic coursework into vital, workforce-ready preparation for expanding maritime sectors.



MARITIME EDUCATION

Kerala Government Approves New Industry-Linked Shipbuilding Diploma Course at Kalamassery, Kochi.

The Government of Kerala has accorded in-principle approval for the commencement of the State’s first Industry-Linked Diploma Programme in Shipbuilding Technology at Government Polytechnic College, Kalamassery, in academic collaboration with Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL). The order, issued by the Higher Education Department on 31 July 2026, marks a significant step towards strengthening the availability of industry-ready technical manpower for the shipbuilding sector and represents an important industry-academia collaboration between CSL and Government Polytechnic College, Kalamassery. The programme is expected to commence from the 2027–28 academic year. The programme will be offered under a self-financing model, with an initial annual intake of 60 students. The three-year programme will comprise six semesters, with the sixth semester dedicated entirely to industry internship, providing students with an opportunity for hands-on exposure to shipbuilding operations and a direct interface with the industry.

Under the approved arrangement, CSL will provide the infrastructure, laboratories, equipment and other facilities required for the programme, while the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE) will retain overall responsibility for academic matters, including curriculum development, syllabus revision, faculty engagement, student admissions, conduct of classes, examinations and certification. Up to two acres of Government land within the Government Polytechnic College, Kalamassery campus, has been permitted for establishing the required infrastructure, while ownership of the land will continue to vest exclusively with the Government of Kerala.

The initiative represents a significant addition to Kerala’s shipbuilding skill-development ecosystem, bringing together industry participation, academic governance and dedicated training infrastructure within an industry-linked framework. By providing students with structured academic learning alongside direct industry exposure, the programme is expected to contribute to the development of a sustained pipeline of skilled, industry-ready technicians for the shipbuilding sector. It also reflects the growing importance of industry-academia collaboration in strengthening India’s maritime skills ecosystem and supporting the country’s broader shipbuilding ambitions.

FROM THE CEO'S DESK

Laying the Groundwork : Why Systems and Data Precede AI Success

The importance of system implementation and data management before AI can be fully adopted.

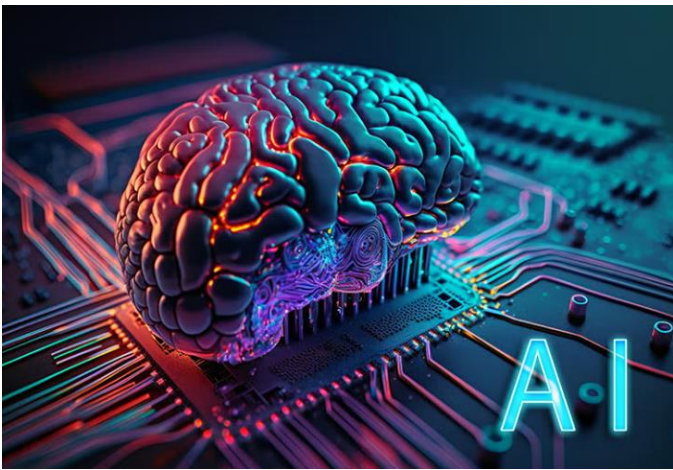
BY
Jathesh Chandra G
CEO, India Ship Technology Centre

As organisations across industrial and technology sectors explore the transformative potential of Artificial Intelligence, it is natural to feel inspired by what lies ahead. From automated workflows to advanced predictive modelling, AI promises extraordinary capabilities. However, to truly unlock these benefits, our journey must begin with a strong, resilient foundation built on robust system implementation and disciplined data management.

Artificial Intelligence is inherently a reflection of the data it consumes. Without clean, structured, and accessible data, even the most sophisticated AI models risk yielding unpredictable or limited results. Preparing our digital ecosystem is not merely a technical step, but a strategic prerequisite that ensures long-term operational success.

To build an environment where digital intelligence can genuinely thrive, we must first focus on breaking down operational silos. In complex technical environments, critical data often remains trapped within disconnected enterprise platforms, specialised engineering software, or legacy databases. For instance, if real-time supply chain management systems cannot share material availability with shipyard production planning software, an AI scheduling tool cannot accurately forecast construction timelines. Connecting these enterprise systems creates a unified data flow that provides intelligent models with full operational context.

"Innovation is not powered by algorithms alone, but by the discipline and clarity of the systems behind them"



Establishing rigorous data integrity and standardised governance is equally critical. AI systems excel at pattern recognition, but when fed inconsistent or poorly formatted records, they amplify those errors across decision-making processes. Consider quality control: if historical maintenance reports list identical structural defects under dozens of different names or unstandardised metrics, an automated predictive maintenance model will fail to identify high-risk components correctly. Enforcing clean data entry, validation standards, and security protocols protects operational safety while building organisational trust in automated outputs.

Furthermore, modernising our underlying core systems ensures that our workforce is properly supported through this technological transition. Advanced algorithms cannot create value in isolation; they must seamlessly integrate into daily human workflows. Upgrading legacy software into modern, user-friendly platforms allows employees to interact naturally with AI-generated insights, transforming potential complexity into practical everyday assistance.

By investing thoughtfully in our systems and data infrastructure today, we lay a solid foundation for sustainable innovation. This steady, structured approach empowers our team, protects our intellectual assets, and ensures that every step we take toward automation delivers clear, reliable, and meaningful value to our overall mission. Innovation is not powered by algorithms alone, but by the discipline and clarity of the systems behind them.

INDIAN MARITIME SECTOR IN JULY : CONCLAVES, VISITS, DECISIONS



STATE VISIT

03

JULY

India and Japan Advance Naval MRO Cooperation and Defence Tech Co-Development

During the official visit of Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi to New Delhi for the 16th India-Japan Annual Summit from 1st to 3rd July, bilateral talks focused heavily on strengthening the Special Strategic and Global Partnership through enhanced naval defence technology, maritime domain awareness, and deep-sea supply chain resilience. A key outcome of the bilateral summit was the agreement to co-develop the Unified Complex Radio Antenna (UNICORN) system for naval warships to boost stealth capabilities. Additionally, Prime Minister Modi and Prime Minister Takaichi expanded cooperation across satellite-driven maritime domain awareness, naval Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO) services, joint exercises, and resilient maritime energy transport value chains.



Prime Ministers Narendra Modi and Sanae Takaichi during the ceremonial welcome.
[Photo credit : Ministry of External Affairs]

INDONESIA VISIT

08

JULY

India-Indonesia Maritime Security & Port Partnership Deepens

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's state visit to Indonesia, from 6th to 8th July, bilateral maritime strategy reached a major milestone anchored by deep security, defence manufacturing, and port infrastructure integration. The visit yielded an expanded agreement for the integrated development of Sabang Port in Sumatra, covering shipbuilding, ship repairs, and offshore energy logistics, creating a direct commercial bridge to India's trans-shipment hub at Great Nicobar.

To reinforce domain awareness across the Malacca Strait and the Indian Ocean, Indonesia formally stationed its first International Liaison Officer at India's Information Fusion Centre-Indian Ocean Region (IFC-IOR). Strategic defence deterrence was further upgraded with landmark agreements on the procurement of BrahMos supersonic cruise missiles and Astra air-to-air missiles, underscoring joint operational capabilities to safeguard vital regional sea lines of communication.



Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto during the ceremonial welcome.
[Photo credit : Ministry of External Affairs]

AUS-NZ VISIT

11

JULY

India Expands Maritime Logistics and Naval Interoperability across Australia and New Zealand

During Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visits to Australia and New Zealand from 8th to 11th July, bilateral outcomes heavily prioritised regional maritime security, naval interoperability, and shipping logistics. In Melbourne, India and Australia launched a Maritime Security Collaboration Roadmap alongside an MoU between the Indian Coast Guard and Australia's Maritime Border Command to curb illicit sea-lane activities. The leaders also issued a Joint Statement on Energy Security to secure offshore clean tech supply chains.

In Wellington, the elevation of ties to a Strategic Partnership delivered a landmark Mutual Logistics Support Arrangement between the Indian Navy and New Zealand Defence Force, alongside a broader Maritime Cooperation Arrangement. Crucially for shipping operations, both Nations initiated frameworks to establish mutual recognition of seafarer competency certificates and partner on the National Maritime Heritage Complex at Lothal, solidifying long-term Indo-Pacific maritime logistics.

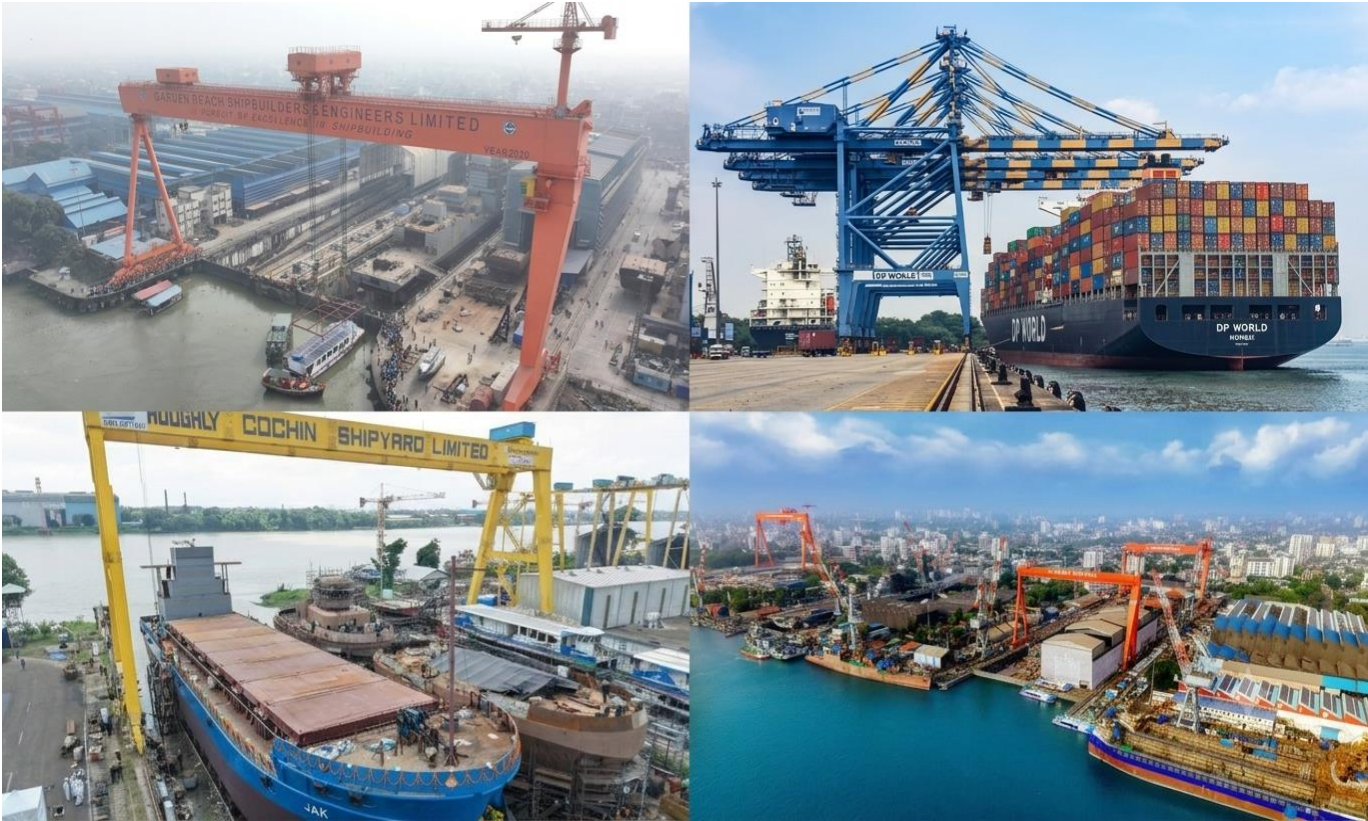


Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Australian Prime Minister Anthony Albanese during discussions.
[Photo credit : Ministry of External Affairs]



“

ISTC is Building Indigenous Capability Today for a Globally Competitive Indian Shipbuilding Industry Tomorrow.”



From the Editor's Desk

Welcome to the fourth monthly issue of the ISTC newsletter. This edition is published on 1 August 2026, covering maritime related milestones alongside the wider currents shaping India's and the world's shipbuilding future. Your feedback, story leads, advertising enquiries and contributions for future issues are warmly invited and may be sent to **info@istcindia.org**.

PUBLISHED BY

India Ship Technology Centre,
Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL),
Kochi, Kerala, India.

Established under the initiative of the
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and
Waterways, Government of India.

WEBSITE

<https://istcindia.org/>

Published by India Ship Technology Centre,
Kochi .

For internal and stakeholder circulation.

With acknowledgement of the support of the
Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways,
Government of India.