



सत्यमेव जयते
Ministry of Ports,
Shipping & Waterways
Government of India

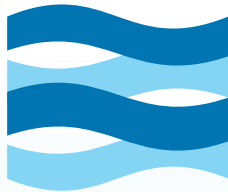


INDIA
MARITIME
WEEK
2025



Chintan
Research
Foundation

CRF presents



TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY

Shaping Future Strategic Ties

October 29, 2025 | 10:00-14:00 IST

Bombay Exhibition Center, Goregaon, Mumbai

ABOUT CHINTAN RESEARCH FOUNDATION

Chintan Research Foundation is an independent think tank committed to shaping policy through rigorous research and thought leadership. With a strong focus on fostering collaboration between policymakers and industry, CRF aims to incorporate practical insights into its research and advocacy efforts. It conducts comprehensive research to support informed decision-making and engages with stakeholders through discussions, events, and workshops. By publishing research papers, articles, and op-eds, CRF seeks to address key challenges in India and the Global South, fostering diverse perspectives and contributing to impactful policy advocacy.

CRF is committed to intellectual rigor, ethical integrity, and independent analysis. We prioritize objectivity, sustainability, and people-centric, data-driven solutions that address pressing policy challenges. Elevating ideas, empowering people is at the core of our mission, driving meaningful dialogue and impactful change. To undertake research that drives impactful policy solutions across climate change, energy transition, economy, trade, investment, geopolitics, and strategic affairs, with a special focus on India and the Global South.

Organising Team

Col. Rajeev Agarwal (Retd.), Dr. Cchavi Vasisht, Nishit Patil, Avni Goel and Lakshmi Kusuma Kotha

TRANSNATIONAL CONNECTIVITY – SHAPING FUTURE NATIONAL TIES

The world is in churn amid tariff wars, economic sanctions and continuing conflicts across the globe. Countries are closing in with protectionist measures and policies aimed at “Making Country Great Again” slogans. The established world order is collapsing (if not effectively collapsed). The UN is unable to stop conflicts, has no say in militarily superior nations launching assaults into sovereign territories of other nations, often at flimsy pretexts and its desperate calls against genocides are left unattended. WTO, similarly has lost its teeth, is unable to resolve trade disputes and is left to watch as a bystander as countries impose tariffs on other countries, often at the whims of their leaders.

Amid this prevailing global scenario of gloom and despair, connectivity is emerging as the new buzzword and international connectivity corridors promise to provide the right solutions, having the potential to unlock the untapped economic potential by integrating the countries and regions together through corridors and trade linkages.

International corridors – whether economic, digital, or green – are fast emerging as the backbone of global trade, connectivity, and sustainable growth. India’s strategic location makes it a natural connector between Asia, West Asia, Africa, Europe and the Far East. At the same time, connectivity projects such as the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor (IMEC), EU Global Gateway, G7 Partnership for Global Infrastructure (PGII), and Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) underline the importance of building inclusive and transparent connectivity frameworks.

Among these corridors, the IMEC and EMC are extremely important not only for India because it anchors both these, but for the entire globe which is seeking solutions to diversify trade and seek newer and safer opportunities with new and reliable partners.

India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor

Pitched as a bold and transformative connectivity project, the IMEC was launched at the G20 Summit in New Delhi on 9th September 2023. In its concept, it is a bold vision to connect India with Europe across the deserts of the Arabian Peninsula. It envisions a multi-modal economic corridor involving multiple businesses, integrating railways, ports, highways, energy networks, and digital infrastructure to enhance trade, investment, and connectivity across the continents.

The proposed structure of the IMEC has three distinct sections. The eastern section links India with West Asia via sea links connecting key ports in India to the UAE. This section has provision for a sea link as well as an under-sea pipeline for data and energy transfer. The central section is the overland rail route across

the West Asian region, traversing the UAE, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan and culminating at the port of Haifa in Israel. The western leg of the corridor is sea-bound wherein the containers have to be put back on ships at Haifa, to be transported to various ports in Europe. The current alignment envisages the use of ports of Mundra, Kandla and Mumbai in India. ports of Fujairah and Jebel Ali in the UAE, followed by the port of Haifa in Israel, and along with ports Marseille in France, Trieste in Italy and Piraeus in Greece.

The project's success involves developing modern and well-integrated ports, seamless and well synchronised regulatory framework and a compatible and efficient railway network. Plus, the under-sea pipeline is a crucial element of IMEC as it envisages installation of infrastructure for electricity and digital connectivity, as well as pipelines for clean hydrogen export. When implemented in full, it promises to unlock new opportunities of multi-dimensional trade through multi-modal transport linkages across regions that have traditionally been close trade partners. It has the potential to facilitate faster and more efficient movement of goods, bypassing existing bottlenecks, reducing shipping delays, lowering greenhouse gas emissions, and cutting costs.

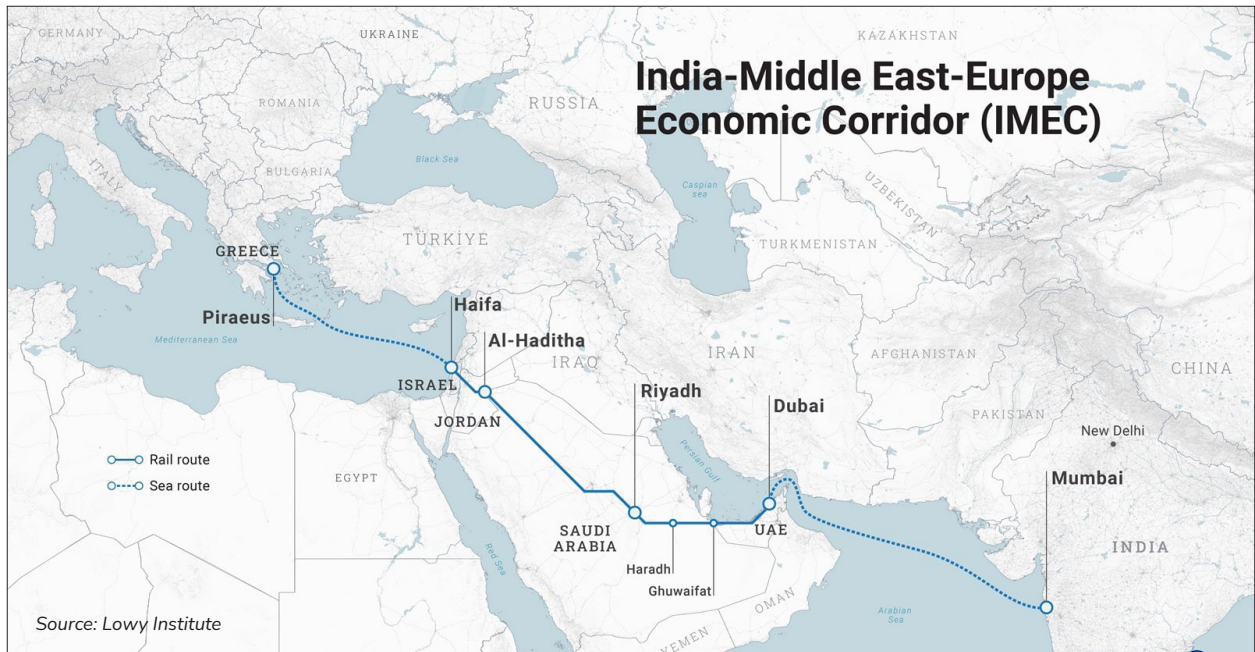
However, even before this path breaking project could be take off, the war in Gaza broke out on 7th October 2023, resulting in the project getting stalled. Two years on, the Gaza war has amply proven that the IMEC in its current form has serious missing links. During the course of this war, Houthis in Yemen have often blocked access to the Red Sea and the critical Port of Haifa is inaccessible. There is therefore a need to rethink the original structure of IMEC and add links that make IMEC less conflict prone and while enhancing its resilience and long-term viability.

The Significance of IMEC

Geopolitically, IMEC has been pitched as an expression of India's rise as a global power, both politically and economically, almost coinciding with it becoming the 4th largest global economy. For India, IMEC represents a strategic vision well beyond the physical infrastructure in its quest for building a more connected, resilient, and inclusive global order. It also pitches it as a hub linking its 'Act East' and 'Link West' policies, enhancing economic and geopolitical integration.

Additionally, IMEC helps India in achieving its targets towards energy transition too. Having set a target of becoming energy independent by 2047 and achieving net zero emission by 2070, India's increasing use of renewable energy across all economic spheres is central to India's Energy Transition. Green Hydrogen is considered a promising alternative for enabling this transition. IMEC provides an opportunity for India to not only promote hydrogen as an alternative fuel and an effective long-term alternative to fossil fuels but also export the fuel by incorporating clean hydrogen pipelines into the corridor.

IMEC is also seen as a geopolitical tool to bring Israel closer to the West Asian region. The inclusion of Haifa Port in Israel and the US being a part of the project without having any direct linkages or benefits, clearly points in this direction. In terms of trade between the EU and India, the IMEC is being seen as an economic game changer and an opportunity to strengthen strategic partnerships. The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, during her visit with a delegation of EU Commissioners to



India in February 2025, had pitched for the IMEC as an important cornerstone for enhancing India-EU trade.

Despite being stalled for over two years due to the Gaza conflict, there is a positive momentum towards IMEC in the past few months. Italy and France have nominated special envoys for the project while India and the UAE have commenced work bilaterally on coordinating the digital regulatory framework. The launch of the India-UAE Virtual Trade Corridor and Master Application for International Trade and Regulatory Interface (MAITRI) is one such significant development. It aims to integrate Indian trade portals with the UAE counterparts to enable seamless, paperless, and efficient trade by streamlining regulatory processes and reducing transshipment and logistics costs.

The first meeting of IMEC envoys and Sherpas was held on 5-6 August 2025, hosted by India wherein a clear sense emerged that IMEC cannot wait for the conflict in West Asia to get over and a work-around needs to be worked out. Inclusion of Egypt and Oman within the alignment too is gaining traction as IMEC is being seen more as a networked alignment instead of a point-to-point corridor. Aspects of coordination within partner countries, pooling in of financial resources and most importantly, making IMEC attractive and viable enough for the private sector to invest capital is being discussed. A possible meeting of Foreign Ministers is likely to take place in November 2025, before a possible IMEC Summit later.

With the right mix of infrastructure, investment, seamless regulatory framework, diplomatic engagement, and institutional coordination, IMEC can become a cornerstone of 21st-century connectivity, creating new avenues for shared prosperity. For India, IMEC offers the perfect opportunity to explore new economic partnerships and take all necessary steps to secure its national interests. For other countries signatories to the project as well as those who are looking to join in, there is a definite recognition of the advantages of making this project a success soon.



Eastern Maritime Corridor

The Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) – also referred to as the Chennai-Vladivostok Maritime Corridor – is a direct sea route linking connects Chennai on India's east coast with Vladivostok in Russia's Far East, traversing the South China Sea, the Malacca Strait, and the Sea of Japan. India and Russia first formalized intent to develop this link through a Memorandum of Intent signed in Vladivostok in September 2019, aiming to create a faster, more reliable connection between the Indian Ocean and Russia's Far East.

The route spans about 5,600 nautical miles and entails an estimated transit time of roughly 24 days, a saving of up to ~16 days compared with routing cargo via Europe and the Suez Canal, which typically takes 35-40+ days. The EMC is expected to foster the diversification of India-Russia trade beyond hydrocarbons to include coal, LNG, fertilizers, metals, and other commodities. Strategically, the EMC complements the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) by offering a direct Indo-Russian maritime axis while INSTC provides a multimodal link via Iran and the Caspian. For India, the EMC enhances access to the resource-rich Russian Far East (e.g., coking coal), and for Russia it deepens its "pivot to Asia." In late 2024 that the Chennai-Vladivostok Sea route became operational, with shipments reported on the corridor and an expected cut in transit times. This follows sustained engagement at the Eastern Economic Forum (2023) and related working-level coordination.

The Significance of EMC

The EMC has very low requirements to develop supporting infrastructure as it is a dedicated sea route only. Goods once loaded get offloaded at the destination only. It thus obviates the trans-shipment requirement

and saves the traders from complicated documentation and regulatory requirements. The EMC offers India a means to solidify its influence in the Indo-Pacific region, a crucial area that is of great interest to both Western powers and China. In addition to Russia, the EMC, if leveraged properly, can result in increased maritime trade with Southeast Asian countries. With Eastern Russia rich in minerals, the EMC offers India direct access to Russia's vast natural resources, including hydrocarbons, coal, and rare earth minerals. In addition, EMC enhances India's economic footprint in a region that is a focal point for both Russian and Chinese interests. While currently limited in volume, EMC holds strong potential for resource-driven trade and could become a strategic lever for India's energy security and Indo-Pacific outreach. EMC also complements the INSTC by providing maritime access to Russia's eastern frontiers, while INSTC handles the western land connection.

The Structuring of the Event

The India Maritime Week, October 2025, hosted by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India provides the perfect platform to discuss economic corridors and transnational connectivity options. Within this, Chintan Research Foundation (CRF) will organize a half day dialogue focussing exclusively on connectivity corridors, their concept, need and future viability. Discussions will focus on corridors that reflects global perspectives, not only national ones, while prioritizing practical outcomes such as partnerships, investment opportunities, and regulatory cooperation. The event will also ensure balancing voices from developed and developing economies, ensuring collective ownership of growth. A dialogue like this is not truly global if it does not carry along the Global South, if it does not balance perspectives of large economies with those of smaller nations, or if it overlooks the voices of private enterprise and civil society. The sessions are therefore anchored in partnerships, investment opportunities, and the search for common standards. Whether in logistics interoperability, digital trade facilitation, or green shipping technologies, the panels will highlight specific areas where collaboration is not only possible but immediately actionable. In convening experts from multilateral organisations, from developed and developing partners, and from the private sector alongside government, it will be ensured that the diversity of voice translates into depth of outcome.

Objectives of the Event

This conference event aims to position India as a natural leader and convenor of inclusive, future oriented conversations on connectivity corridors, where solutions are grounded in cooperative action across geographies and sectors. Such corridors are seen not only as trade routes, but as comprehensive frameworks of connectivity driving economic dynamism, digital integration, and climate aligned growth.

The objectives can be broadly classified into following categories:

1. **Global Framing:** Situate international corridors in a worldwide context, aligning India's efforts with evolving global connectivity initiatives.
2. **Practical Outcomes:** Highlight areas for partnerships (public-private, international regional), explore investment opportunities, and discuss regulatory and policy convergence.
3. **Inclusivity:** Create a dialogue space that brings together perspectives from both developed and developing economies, underscoring shared prosperity.
4. **Future-Readiness:** Explore how corridors can integrate economic, digital, and green dimensions to build resilient and sustainable pathways for growth.

Program Agenda

Time (IST)	Detailed Description of Activity
Inaugural Session	
10:00-10:45	1. Sh. Shantanu Thakur, Minister of State, PSW 2. Mr. Edoardo Rixi, Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Italy 3. Moderator – Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, President, CRF
Session 1 (10:45-12:15 IST)	
Transnational Connectivity – The New Currency of Geopolitical Convergence and Geo-economic Alignment	
10:45-10:50	Moderator Remarks – Vice Admiral (Retd.) Biswajit Das Gupta, National Maritime Security Coordinator, NSCS
10:50-11:00	Transport corridor vs an economic connectivity corridor Mr. Pranav Choudhary, CEO, Adani Ports and SEZ (APSEZ), Gujarat
11:00-11:10	The need for connectivity corridors, especially in a post-COVID 19 world Mr. Sanjay Swarup, Chairman and Managing Director, Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), New Delhi
11:10-11:20	Past experience with such corridors (INSTC, BRI, etc.) in terms of fostering ties, return on investment, and ensuring collective economic growth Mr. Deepak Shetty, Former Secretary to the Gol & Director General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping
11:20-11:30	Role of international organisations like IMF, WTO and World Bank in transnational connectivity H.E. Amb Lazar Comanescu, Secretary-General, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization
11:30-11:40	Future of such corridors in view of conflicts and protectionist policies Mr. Algis Latakas, DG - Port of Klaipėda, Lithuania
11:40-11:50	Transnational connectivity as key to collective prosperity and supply chain management Mr. L. Satya Srinivas, Special Secretary to the Gol, Department of Commerce
11:50-12:00	Moderator's Summary
12:00-12:15	Q&A

Time (IST)	Detailed Description of Activity
Session 2 (12:30 - 14:00 IST) IMEC and EMC – The Future of Global Connectivity	
12:30-12:35	Moderator Remarks – Mr. Ashwani Gupta, Director and CEO, Adani Ports and SEZ (APSEZ), Gujarat
12:35-12:45	The concept, significance and estimated benefits of IMEC Mr. Sunil Vaswani, Executive Director, CSLA (Container Shipping Lines Association), Mumbai
12:45-12:55	IMEC – Beyond being a connectivity corridor; Under sea links, solar and electricity transmission, and more H.E. Mr. Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen, Denmark Ambassador
12:55-13:05	Between connectivity and conflict, IMEC's challenges Mr. Shyam Jagannathan, Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Gol, Mumbai
13:05-13:15	IMEC progress so far – A reality check Mr. S. Ramakrishnan, Executive Chairman, Transworld Group of Companies (Shipping & Logistics), Dubai
13:15-13:25	Chennai-Vladivostok Eastern Maritime Corridor (EMC) – The concept, significance, and estimated benefits Mr. Sunil Paliwal, Chairman, Chennai Port Authority, Kamarajar Port Authority & Indian Ports Association, Chennai
13:25-13:35	India's role and centrality in IMEC and EMC Mr. Anil Devli, CEO, INSA (Indian National Shipowners Association), Mumbai
13:35-13:40	Moderator's Summary
13:40-14:00	Q&A

Speakers Profile



Sh. Shantanu Thakur

Minister of State, PSW

Mr. Shantanu Thakur is Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping & Waterways in the Modi government's third term and Member of Parliament from Bangaon, West Bengal. He first became MoS in July 2021 and was reappointed on June 9, 2024, after winning the 2024 Lok Sabha election from Bangaon. In May 2025, he launched and laid foundation stones for key maritime infrastructure at Deendayal Port Authority, Kandla, including a new Seafarer Centre, underscoring MoPSW's focus on capacity, seafarer welfare, and efficiency. He regularly champions India's maritime modernization and public-private collaboration. His portfolio aligns with India's aims to expand port capacity, streamline logistics, and enhance coastal employment, while deepening international connectivity and trade competitiveness.



Mr. Edoardo Rixi

Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport, Italy

Elected to the Italian Chamber of Deputies in March 2018 Parliamentary elections, in the Liguria constituency, he currently holds the position of Deputy Minister of Infrastructure and Transport. From 2015 to 2018 he was Councilor for Economic Development, Ports and Logistics of the Liguria Region, a position he left following his election to the Chamber of Deputies. Already a Deputy in the XVI legislature, he resigned after being elected Councilor of the Liguria Region in 2010, holding the position of Group leader of the Lega Party. Regional secretary of the Lega Party in Liguria since 2015, former Deputy Secretary of Matteo Salvini, he was Municipal Councilor of Genoa for two terms, in which he held the position of Group leader.



Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi

President, Chintan Research Foundation

Mr. Shishir Priyadarshi, President of Chintan Research Foundation, was the first IAS officer to serve as Director of the WTO's Development Division in Geneva, working closely with the World Bank, IMF, UNCTAD, and OECD. With over two decades in the Indian Administrative Service, he contributed to economic and industrial policy at state and federal levels. A prolific author, he has published extensively on trade, development, and economic issues, and has held academic affiliations with institutions including LSE, ISB, NUS, IIT Delhi, University of Barcelona, and the World Trade Institute.



Vice Admiral (Retd.) Biswajit Das Gupta

National Maritime Security Coordinator, NSCS

Vice Admiral Biswajit Dasgupta is India's National Maritime Security Coordinator (NSCS) and former Commander-in-Chief, Eastern Naval Command. An alumnus of NDA, DSCSC (Bangladesh), Army War College (Mhow) and NDC (New Delhi), he served 38 years, including 15 in senior/apex roles. He commanded four frontline warships, including aircraft carrier INS Viraat, led the Navy's Navigation School, and taught at Defence Services Staff College, Wellington. He headed operations at Western Naval Command, commanded the Eastern Fleet, served as Additional DG, NCC; Controller of Personnel Services at Naval HQ; and Chief of Staff, Eastern Naval Command, before elevation to Commander-in-Chief. He is a recipient of the Param Vishisht Seva Medal, Ati Vishisht Seva Medal, Yuddh Seva Medal and Vishisht Seva Medal. A regular speaker at military, academic and youth forums, he now provides apex-level guidance and inter-agency coordination on all aspects of India's maritime security.



H.E. Amb Lazar Comanescu

Secretary-General, Black Sea Economic Cooperation Organization

H.E. Amb. Lazar Comanescu is a senior Romanian diplomat with five decades of service across European and transatlantic institutions. He served as Romania's Minister of Foreign Affairs (2008) and previously as Ambassador and Head of Mission to the European Union (2001-2007; Permanent Representative 2007-2008), as well as Ambassador to NATO and the Western European Union (1998-2001). Since 2009, he has been Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of Romania to the Federal Republic of Germany. Earlier in his career, he held senior roles in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, including State Secretary, Director General, and Director of the EU Unit, and began as a diplomat in 1972. Amb. Comanescu holds a doctorate in International Economic Relations and taught at the Academy of Economic Studies, Bucharest. He holds the diplomatic rank of Ambassador (1998) and Romania's National Order "For Loyal Service," Grand Officer (2000) and Grand Cross (2007). He contributes to several Romanian and European policy advisory boards.



Mr. L. Satya Srinivas

Special Secretary to the GoI, Department of Commerce

Shri L. Satya Srinivas is a senior Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer of the 1991 batch and currently serves as Executive Director (India) at the Asian Development Bank. A seasoned trade and governance professional, he has held multiple leadership roles in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, driving India's trade negotiations, export promotion, and trade-related infrastructure initiatives. Prior to his ADB appointment, he served as Additional/Special Secretary in the Department of Commerce, where he advanced policy reforms to enhance competitiveness and logistics efficiency across sectors. He has also been entrusted with the role of Chief Executive Officer of Government e-Marketplace (GeM) on additional charge, steering digital public procurement toward greater transparency, scale, and value for money. Across three decades of public service, Mr. Srinivas has worked at the intersection of policy design, institutional execution, and international cooperation – bringing a pragmatic, results-oriented approach to strengthening India's trade architecture and development partnerships.



Mr. Algis Latakas

DG - Port of Klaipėda, Lithuania

Mr. Algis Latakas is an accomplished executive in port, logistics, and maritime business management, with over 20 years of experience spanning business operations, administration, commerce, and strategic development. Since 2020, Mr. Latakas has served as the Director General of the Klaipeda State Seaport Authority, overseeing the implementation of Lithuania's maritime policy and the port's overall management, modernization, and expansion. He holds a Master's degree from the Vilnius Engineering Construction Institute and completed specialized training at the International Maritime Academy in Italy, focusing on hazardous cargo handling. Over two decades of his career, Mr. Latakas has held senior managerial positions at KLASCO, one of the largest stevedoring companies in Klaipeda, and later managed his own maritime business consultancy firms.



Mr. Sanjay Swarup

Chairman and Managing Director, Container Corporation of India (CONCOR), New Delhi

Mr. Sanjay Swarup is the Chairman and Managing Director of Container Corporation of India Limited (CONCOR), a Navratna CPSE under the Ministry of Railways, Government of India. An alumnus of IIT Roorkee (B.E. in Electronics & Communication) and IIM Bangalore (PGDM in Public Policy & Management), he belongs to the 1990 batch of the Indian Railway Traffic Service (IRTS). Mr. Swarup has over three decades of leadership experience across the railways and logistics sectors. He has been instrumental in operationalising 15 greenfield multimodal logistics parks, pioneering IT solutions like the Logistics App and AI-based TMS, and introducing innovative business strategies that reinforced CONCOR's market leadership. He also advanced international logistics through collaborations with Russian Railways and Nepal Railways. A champion of green logistics and customer-centric innovation, he is President of the Institute of Rail Transport and a life member of CILT, AITD, CTRAM, and AIMA.



Mr. Deepak Shetty

Former Secretary to the Gol & Director General of Shipping, Ministry of Shipping

Mr. Deepak Shetty, IRS (Retd.), is a senior public-policy and regulatory leader with 40+ years' experience across government and industry. A former Secretary to the Government of India and Director General of Shipping, he has led policy governance and reform in maritime affairs, textiles, civil aviation, and indirect taxes, combining institutional design with on-ground execution. His expertise spans trade facilitation, international diplomacy, UN sanctions implementation, law enforcement, AML/CFT, e-governance, business-process reengineering, systems automation, corporate governance, risk management, and personnel and financial management. He has also driven capacity building, anti-corruption and vigilance initiatives, and stakeholder outreach to improve transparency and accountability. Mr. Shetty has represented India and coordinated extensively with multilateral and international bodies, including the United Nations, International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Labour Organization (ILO), INTERPOL, and the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia. He brings a pragmatic, results-oriented approach to regulatory modernization and maritime sector competitiveness.



Mr. Pranav Choudhary

CEO, Adani Ports and SEZ (APSEZ), Gujarat

Pranav Choudhary is Chief Executive Officer (Ports) at Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone (APSEZ), India's largest integrated ports and logistics company. He brings extensive experience across port operations, commercial strategy, and asset expansion from senior roles at APSEZ and Gangavaram Port Limited. At APSEZ, he leads multi-port operations and performance improvement, partnering with customers, regulators, and ecosystem stakeholders to strengthen throughput, reliability, and safety. His focus areas include network efficiency, digital process improvement, and scalable operating models that support trade growth. Mr. Choudhary holds deep, hands-on expertise in terminal management and end-to-end cargo solutions across India's maritime value chain.



Mr. Ashwani Gupta

Director and CEO, Adani Ports and SEZ (APSEZ), Gujarat

Mr. Ashwani is a visionary global business leader with over 35 years of experience transforming the automotive, manufacturing, and logistics industries across continents. His strategic acumen and bold, customer-centric leadership have consistently delivered innovation, operational excellence, and sustainable growth. Currently, he is the Director & CEO of Adani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd (APSEZ), India's largest integrated transport utility. He is also the Chairman of the National Committee on Shipping & Ports for 2025–26 at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), where he plays a pivotal role in shaping national policy and industry direction. He is the only Indian to have held the position of Global Chief Operating Officer at a major automobile manufacture – first at Mitsubishi Motors and later at Nissan Motor Corporation. A graduate of JNEC, INSEAD, and Harvard, Ashwani Gupta is an engineer by training.



Mr. Shyam Jagannathan

Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Gol, Mumbai

Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS (1997), is the Director General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Government of India, since 3 July 2023. A career administrator with wide Union and state experience, he earlier served as Zonal Development Commissioner, SEEPZ SEZ, Mumbai (Ministry of Commerce & Industry), and held senior roles as Commissioner & Secretary, Finance (Assam); Commissioner, North Assam Division; Commissioner of Commercial Taxes and Chairman, Civil Supplies Corporation (Kerala); and District Magistrate, West Garo Hills (Meghalaya). His expertise spans public finance, export promotion, prospective planning, policy analysis, and sectoral oversight in rural development, animal husbandry, and veterinary services. At the Directorate General of Shipping, he is leading process re-engineering and full-stack digitisation of workflows, and advancing examination reforms aligned with the STCW convention to strengthen training, certification, and watchkeeping standards. He is committed to technology-enabled regulation and a globally competitive, safety-focused Indian maritime ecosystem.



H.E. Mr. Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen

Denmark Ambassador

Rasmus Abildgaard Kristensen (b. 1974) is Denmark's Ambassador to India and non-resident Ambassador (designate) to Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, and the Maldives, assuming office in February 2025. He leads Denmark's mission in New Delhi across political, economic, commercial, consular, and people-to-people ties. A career diplomat, he previously served as Denmark's Ambassador to Indonesia, Timor-Leste, Papua New Guinea, and ASEAN (2017–2020), and has held senior roles shaping Denmark's green diplomacy—Head of Department for Green Diplomacy & Climate at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Head of the International Department at the Ministry of Climate, Energy & Utilities. Beyond government, he was Vice President and Head of Group Public Affairs at Danfoss, advancing partnerships in clean technology and energy efficiency. Ambassador Kristensen holds a Master of Science (with distinction) in Climate Change and Development from SOAS, University of London, alongside other degrees.



Mr. S. Ramakrishnan

Executive Chairman, Transworld Group of Companies
(Shipping & Logistics), Dubai

Ramakrishnan Sivaswamy Iyer ("Ramesh") is Chairman of Transworld, a second-generation entrepreneur who has led the Group's transformation through strategic diversification, digital innovation, and strengthened governance. Beginning his career under his father, the late R. Sivaswamy, he learned the business from the ground up before assuming leadership in 1989. Ramesh holds a degree from H.R. College, Mumbai, and completed Harvard Business School's Owner/President Management Program. A values-driven leader, he has embedded sustainability and social responsibility into Transworld's identity, while actively supporting charitable trusts and community initiatives. Based in Dubai, he engages widely across business and civic platforms in the region. His contributions have been recognised with the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award 2025, The Maritime Standard Hall of Fame Award 2024, and repeated listings as one of Forbes Middle East's "Top Indian Leaders in the Arab World" since 2014. He serves on several industry bodies and boards, reflecting his commitment to long-term, people-centric value creation.



Mr. Sunil Paliwal

Chairman, Chennai Port Authority, Kamarajar Port Authority & Indian Ports Association, Chennai

Shri Sunil Paliwal, IAS (1993, Tamil Nadu cadre), is a senior maritime administrator currently serving as Secretary to the Government of India and Chairman of the Chennai Port Authority, Kamarajar Port Authority, and the Indian Ports Association. He previously took charge as Chairman-cum-Managing Director of Kamarajar Port Ltd. on 16 September 2019, where he led corporate governance, capacity expansion, and operational efficiency at India's only corporatised major port. Earlier, he served the Government of Tamil Nadu as Principal Secretary, Labour & Employment Department, bringing a strong policy and stakeholder orientation to complex reform agendas. A computer scientist by training, Shri Paliwal holds a B.Tech in Computer Science from IIT Kanpur, an M.S. in Computer Science from the University of Maryland, USA, and an MBA from the University of Birmingham, UK. He is known for championing technology-enabled port operations, safety and sustainability standards, and seamless multimodal connectivity in support of India's maritime growth.



Mr. Anil Devli

CEO, INSA (Indian National Shipowners Association), Mumbai

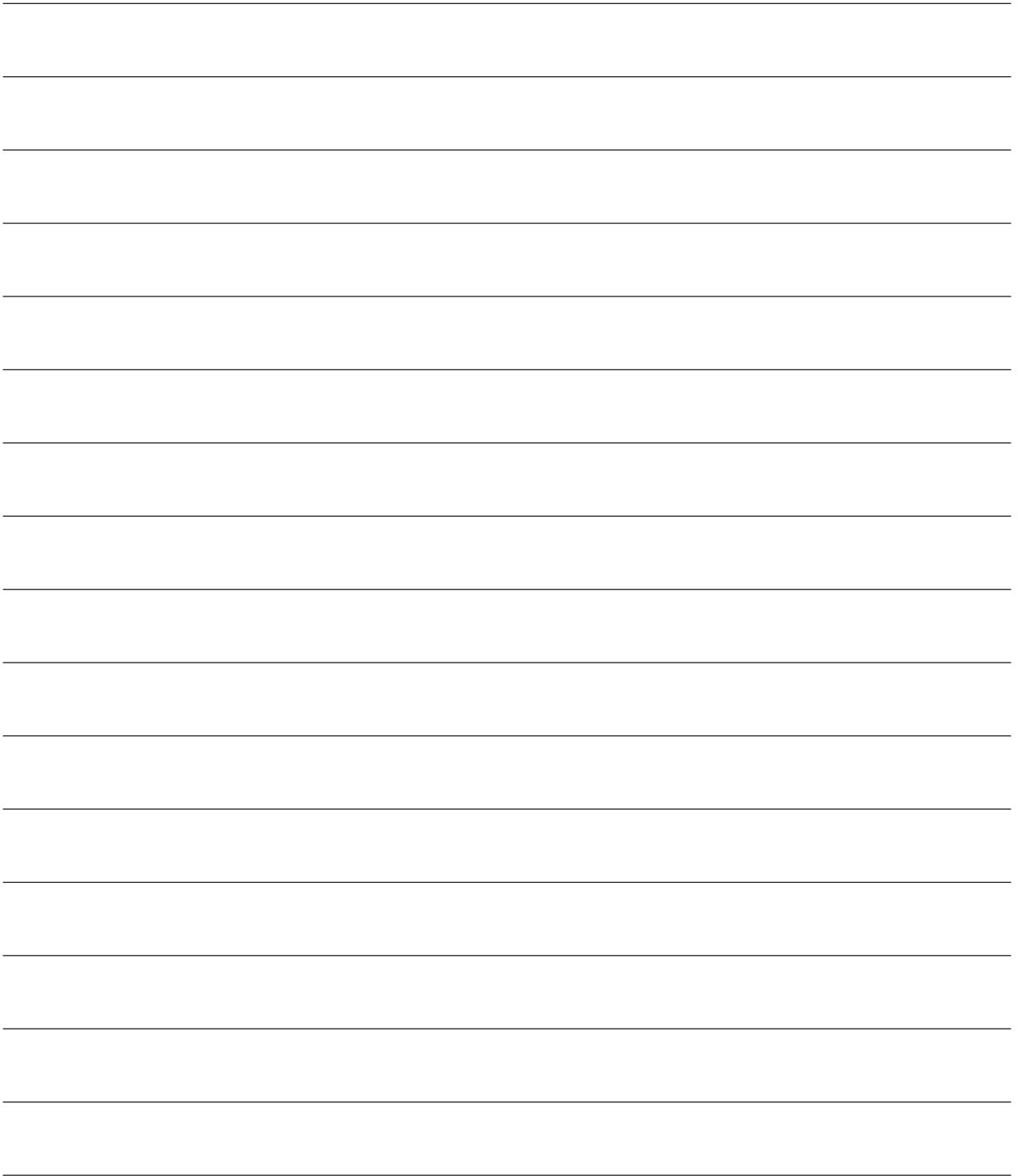
A lawyer by training, Mr. Anil Devli is an active member of the Indian maritime fraternity. He has been involved with the Indian shipping industry for over 20 years. He is currently the Chief Executive Officer of the Indian National Shipowners' Association, an organisation which is involved in furthering the interests of the Indian flag. He has varied experience in the business of ship owning & operations. In addition to his experience in pursuing policies for the growth of the Indian shipping industry, he engages in thought contribution towards other maritime related activities. He is a strong believer that the growth of India as a world maritime power is of paramount importance and India's relevance and standing in the world is irretrievably linked to the growth of the Indian flag shipping industry.



Mr. Sunil Vaswani

Executive Director, CSLA (Container Shipping Lines Association), Mumbai

Mr. Sunil Vaswani, a distinguished professional in the industry, holds a Commerce degree from H.R. College of Commerce & Economics, Mumbai. He further pursued postgraduate studies in Business Management at the Jamnalal Bajaj Institute of Management Studies and in Shipping at the Narottam Morarjee Institute of Shipping, both in Mumbai. He has over three decades of experience in leadership roles with leading organisations such as the American President Lines, the Forbes Group, Jardine Shipping Services & currently as Executive Director with the Container Shipping Lines Association (India) which is better known as CSLA. CSLA has 26 global container shipping lines as its members who have been consistently serving the Indian trade since decades. Mr. Vaswani is a regular speaker at events & is well known in Shipping Circles. He is also a Rotarian & believes in giving back to society.





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