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### MESSAGE

India's maritime industry offers entrepreneurs, across the world, a huge potential for trade and business. With a coastline of over 7500 kms stretching over 11 maritime states and island territories, India is a basket of opportunities for maritime enterprises.

The Government of India has embarked on a number of initiatives like opening of ports and related areas for the private sector and permitting 100% FDI under the automatic route, allowing tax incentives, quick approval of projects etc. India has approximately 15,000 kms navigable inland waterways offering immense scope for cargo transportation. Indian maritime industry is intertwined with the country's economic and trade growth.

Ministry of Shipping continues to support the growth of the maritime ecosystem in India and contribute to aligning its practices with international standards.

I am very happy to note that industry professionals are jointly organising this 2<sup>nd</sup> edition of the International Conference and Exhibition: Maritime Nation India-2017 in Navi Mumbai on 14-16 September, 2017. I am confident that this event will significantly contribute in projecting the opportunities of investment and collaboration in the maritime and logistics ecosystem in India.

On behalf of my team at the Directorate, I wish the organisers of the event all the best and wish you have good conversation on rebuilding India as an even stronger Maritime Nation and contributing to the global trade. I look forward to the gist of the deliberations post the event.

  
(Dr. Malini V. Shankar)  
Director General of Shipping  
& ex-officio Additional Secretary