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MESSAGE

India's economy and industry offer 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 enterprises.

The Government of India has embarked on many initiatives like opening up of various sectors for the private sector and permitting 100% FDI under the automatic route, signing of FTAs, allowing tax incentives, quick approval for projects, etc. India has approximately 15,000 km of navigable inland waterways, offering immense scope for cargo transportation. In short, the maritime industry is intertwined with the country's economic and trade-growth.

Ministry of Commerce and Industry continues to proactively support the growth of India's trade and commerce, which in turn creates demand for the maritime and logistics sectors.

I am very happy to note that industry professionals are organising **3rd edition** of the International Conference-cum-Exhibition: **Maritime Nation India 2018** in Navi Mumbai on 20-22 September 2018. I am confident that this event will significantly contribute in projecting the opportunities of investment and collaboration among the exporters, importers and the maritime and logistics ecosystem in India.

I congratulate the organizers for the event and wish the Conference a grand success.

(Suresh Prabhu)