Venkata Ramana Akkaraju takes charge as Vice-Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University

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News

Venkata Ramana Akkaraju took charge as Vice-Chancellor of the Chennai-headquartered Indian Maritime University (IMU) on 3 November 2026. The President of India, as Visitor of the University, appointed him under Statute 2(1) of the IMU Act. His term is five years or until he turns 70, whichever is earlier. He was Chairman of the New Mangalore Port Authority (June 2019 – Nov 2025); earlier, as Deputy Chairman of Cochin Port Trust he held additional charge of its Chairman, and he also held additional charge of Mormugao Port. From 2007 to 2009 he was Deputy Director at IMU and the National Maritime Academy. He has experience in port automation, sustainability and technology-led growth. IMU is a Central University under the Union Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
New VC	Venkata Ramana Akkaraju
Took charge	3 November 2026
Appointed by	President of India (Visitor)
Term	5 years or till age 70

Point	Details
Earlier posts	Chairman – New Mangalore, Cochin, Mormugao port authorities
IMU set up	14 November 2008 – IMU Act, 2008
Headquarters	Chennai
Campuses	Chennai, Kochi, Kolkata, Mumbai Port, Navi Mumbai, Visakhapatnam
Ministry	Ports, Shipping and Waterways

Background

- IMU was created as a Central University by an Act of Parliament on 14 November 2008 by merging seven institutions: the National Maritime Academy (Chennai), TS Chanakya and LBS College of Advanced Maritime Studies (Mumbai), the Marine Engineering and Research Institutes (Mumbai, Kolkata), the Indian Institute of Port Management (Kolkata) and the National Ship Design and Research Centre (Visakhapatnam).
- Polity: the President is the Visitor of Central Universities, with powers to appoint Vice-Chancellors and order inquiries. Central Universities are created by Acts of Parliament.
- Major ports are now run as Port Authorities under the Major Port Authorities Act, 2021, which replaced the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963. In shipping history, SS Loyalty of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company sailed from Mumbai to London on 5 April 1919; the day is observed as National Maritime Day.
- Economy: about 95% of India's foreign trade by volume moves by sea. 'Maritime India Vision 2030' and 'Amrit Kaal Maritime Vision 2047' stress building a trained seafaring workforce.

Tamil Nadu link: IMU is headquartered in Chennai (East Coast Road, Uthandi), and its forerunner, the National Maritime Academy, was also in Chennai. Tamil Nadu has three major ports – Chennai, Kamarajar (Ennore) and V.O. Chidambaranar (Thoothukudi).

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

New VC: Venkata Ramana Akkaraju; Took charge: 3 November 2026; Appointed by: President of India (Visitor); Term: 5 years or till age 70.

What is the background to this news?

IMU was created as a Central University by an Act of Parliament on 14 November 2008 by merging seven institutions: the National Maritime Academy (Chennai), TS Chanakya and LBS College of Advanced Maritime Studies (Mumbai), the Marine Engineering and Research Institutes (Mumbai, Kolkata), the Indian Institute of Port Management (Kolkata) and the National Ship Design and Research Centre (Visakhapatnam).

Practice questions (with answers)

1. Who is the 'Visitor' of Central Universities in India?

A) Prime Minister

B) Union Education Minister

C) Chairman, UGC

D) President of India

Answer: D – Explanation: The President is Visitor of Central Universities, including IMU, and appointed Akkaraju.

2. Which law replaced the Major Port Trusts Act, 1963?

A) Indian Ports Act

B) Merchant Shipping Act

C) Major Port Authorities Act

D) Inland Vessels Act

Answer: C – Explanation: The Major Port Authorities Act, 2021 turned port trusts into autonomous 'Port Authorities'.

3. National Maritime Day (5 April) recalls the 1919 Mumbai–London voyage of which ship?

A) SS Gallia

B) SS Loyalty

C) Jala Usha

D) SS Swaraj

Answer: B – Explanation: SS Loyalty of the Scindia Steam Navigation Company marks the start of Indian-owned ocean shipping.

4. In which city is the headquarters of the Indian Maritime University?

A) Mumbai

B) Chennai

C) Kolkata

D) Visakhapatnam

Answer: B – Explanation: IMU, formed in 2008, is headquartered in Chennai; the National Maritime Academy, Chennai, was one of its merged units.

5. The Indian Maritime University functions under which Union Ministry?

A) Ports, Shipping & Waterways

B) Education

C) Defence

D) Earth Sciences

Answer: A – Explanation: IMU is a Central University under the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

Sources: BW Education; IMU; PIB. © Shanmugam IAS Academy.