

AI and Data Science: The Future of Maritime Careers



The Chennai Branch of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) successfully conducted a Technical Meeting on 3rd April 2026 at 1800 hrs, focusing on the theme “*AI and Data Science: The Future of Maritime Careers.*” The session brought together maritime professionals, industry experts and aspiring seafarers to explore the growing impact of data-driven technologies in the maritime sector.

Mr. S. Ramesh, Hon Secretary, IME(I), Chennai commenced the meeting by introducing the concepts and ground rules of online technical meeting. The event commenced with a welcome address by **Mr. R. Muthusamy**, Chairman, IME(I) Chennai, who highlighted the importance of embracing emerging technologies to remain relevant in an evolving maritime landscape. This was followed by the introduction of the Chief Guest, **Mr. Sunil Kumar**, Vice President, IME(I) and Head, Training & Assessment, The Great Eastern Shipping Co. Ltd. who addressed the gathering and emphasised the critical role of innovation, digitalisation and data analytics in shaping the future of the maritime industry.

The highlight of the session was an insightful presentation by **Mr. Venkat Krishna Soundarraja** (FIMarE), Chief Data Officer, Volteo Maritime and a veteran Chief Engineer turned Data Scientist. His talk provided a comprehensive understanding of how data flows from ship to shore, how it is analysed and the practical applications

of data science in maritime operations. He elaborated on key aspects such as predictive maintenance, operational efficiency, safety enhancements and decision-making driven by real-time data.

The session also addressed important questions related to the parameters that can be analysed, the processes involved in data handling and the skill sets required for maritime professionals to transition into data-centric roles. The speaker emphasised the advantages of domain expertise, particularly how experienced marine engineers can leverage their knowledge to excel in data science applications within the industry.

Mr. Dinesh K.R., Committee Member, IME(I), Chennai moderated the Q & A Session where the participants raised questions on the topics. Participants actively interacted with the speaker, seeking clarity on career prospects and the pathway to becoming proficient in this emerging field. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks from **Cdr. Kamalakannan Meenatchi Sundaram**, Committee Members, IME(I) who thanked the Chief Guest, Speaker and all participants for taking great interest in the proceeding and making the technical meet a grand success.

The technical meeting served as a valuable platform for knowledge sharing and underscored the significance of AI and data science in transforming maritime careers, encouraging professionals to upskill and adapt to the changing industry dynamics.