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Monthly Magazine of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)



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From the Editor's Desk

Dear Esteemed Readers,

April stands as a defining month for India's maritime fraternity—a time when we honour our legacy, acknowledge the spirit of our seafarers and reaffirm our commitment to a sustainable maritime future. This edition of **iMélange** captures the essence of this commemorative period, with a panoramic view of celebrations, reforms and innovations that are shaping the next chapter of India's maritime journey.

At the heart of this month's issue is the **62nd National Maritime Day Celebration**, marked by a series of inspiring events across the country. From **Pune's anchoring of maritime heritage**, **Chandigarh's heartfelt tribute to our oceans** and **Kochi's showcase of excellence**, to the **grand finale in Mumbai inaugurated by the Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra**, each celebration reflected pride in our maritime identity and deep respect for those who navigate our seas.

The NMDC 2025 Seafarer Seminar, with its focus on youth leadership and maritime sustainability, highlighted the role of the next generation in shaping a greener and more inclusive industry. The Shipping Seminar on Greener Seas, along with a meaningful blood donation drive, beach clean-up activities and a moving tribute at Victoria Dock, embodied both purpose and compassion. India also saluted her wartime seamen, honouring their courage and timeless contributions.

Underscoring the spirit of collaboration and progress, the **inaugural National Maritime Games 2025** added a new dimension to this year's celebrations—bringing athleticism and team spirit to the fore. Beyond our shores, the **India Pavilion at Singapore Maritime Week 2025** made waves at the Suntec Expo & Convention Centre, showcasing India's expanding global maritime presence. Also, IME(I)'s President visit to IMarEST HQ reinforces global maritime collaboration and professional development initiatives.

Driving the decarbonization narrative forward, the **seminar jointly hosted by IME(I) and the Methanol Institute** explored methanol as a promising marine fuel. The dialogue offered critical insight into emerging fuel technologies, practical pathways to decarbonization and India's evolving policy landscape aimed at supporting clean shipping solutions.

April also witnessed a growing emphasis on inclusive and secure maritime growth. The **WISTA India Conference** brought together leaders to discuss sustainable shipping and the growing success of diversity initiatives. In parallel, the **National Port and Ship Security Conference 2025** focused on enhancing resilience across our maritime infrastructure.

Strategic investments reinforced this month's forward momentum. The **Union Minister's inauguration of ₹67.7 crore projects across IMU campuses**, including the foundation laying of a **girls' hostel in Kochi**, reflected a commitment to nurturing future-ready maritime talent. The **Indian Register of Shipping's 50th Foundation Day**, commemorated with a special India Post cover, was a proud milestone for an institution that continues to uphold the highest standards.

We also witnessed a leap in innovation, with **Docker Vision winning a ₹1 crore grant from Cochin Shipyard Ltd and IIT Madras**, while **Adani's Colombo Terminal began operations**, marking a new chapter in India–Sri Lanka maritime collaboration.

As we reflect on this momentous month, it is clear that India's maritime sector is navigating with renewed purpose anchored in legacy, powered by innovation and steered toward sustainability.

I welcome your thoughts and contributions at editornewsletter@imare.in and subeditor@imare.in by 7th May 2025.

SUNIL KUMAR Honorary Editor – iMélange



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Branch News

Mumbai

Methanol as the Future of Marine Fuel: IME(I) and Methanol Institute Host Seminar on Decarbonization Pathways



The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) – IME(I) in collaboration with the Methanol Institute (MI), successfully hosted a seminar titled "Methanol as a Marine Fuel: Pathways to Decarbonization" at IMEI House, Nerul, Navi Mumbai on 27th March 2025. The event brought together maritime professionals, government representatives, classification societies and technical experts to explore methanol's growing role in sustainable shipping and India's energy transition.

The seminar began with a welcome address read on behalf of **Mr. David Birwadkar**, Chairman of IME(I) Mumbai Branch, by **Mr. Saanjeev V Mehra**, Hon. Secretary IME(I) Mumbai Branch assuring of IME(I)'s commitment to conduct such seminars on relevant topics to increase

awareness regarding issues of concern, current developments and new regulatory orders approved. This was followed by a safety briefing by **Mr. Mohan Singh Pal,** Director, Maritime Education & Training, IME(I) who outlined emergency procedures and venue safety protocols, ensuring a secure and wellcoordinated experience for all attendees.



Chief Guest **Shri Ajithkumar Sukumaran**, Chief Surveyor-cum-Addl. DG(Engg.), DG Shipping delivered an engaging and forward-looking keynote address. He shared insights into India's evolving maritime regulatory landscape and took several audience questions, leaving participants with practical takeaways and a renewed sense of urgency for embracing cleaner fuels.

The technical session featured expert presentations by **Mr. Kjeld Aabo**, Senior Technical Advisor – Maritime Transport and **Ms. Prakriti Sethi**, Chief India Representative, Methanol Institute. Highlights included:

 E-Methanol and Bio-Methanol Developments: Updates on global and Indian projects showing rapid scaling of renewable methanol production.



• Bunkering and Safety Protocols: Presentation of methanol-specific handling guidelines, standards (ISO/ CD 6583) and crew training requirements.

 India-Specific Outlook: Developments in Tamil Nadu, Odisha and Madhya Pradesh aimed at reducing import dependency and fostering domestic green methanol infrastructure.

A highlight of the session was the special address by **Mr. Alexander Döll**, Chief Operating Officer of the Methanol Institute, who offered a global industry perspective and a historical analogy:

"The energy transition presents complex challenges for shipowners, requiring a flexible

and pragmatic approach to fuel choices. This period of transformation is reminiscent of the industry's shift from coal to marine liquid fuels. While the path to zero-









carbon fuels will take time to settle, the collaborative efforts and strategic decisions being made today will define the future of sustainable shipping."

The seminar concluded with a "Vote of Thanks" by **Mr. Shobhit Kapoor**, Head of the IME(I) Mumbai Branch Technical Sub-Committee, who acknowledged the valuable contributions of the speakers, dignitaries and participants for making the event impactful and solution-oriented.





Branch News

Chandigarh Chapter (Under Delhi Branch)

A Day Dedicated to Our Ocean: National Maritime Day Celebration in Chandigarh



The spirit of maritime fraternity echoed through Engineer's Bhawan, Madhya Marg, Sector 19A, Chandigarh on 6th April 2025, as a significant function was organised to commemorate National Maritime Day. Anchored by the compelling theme, "Our Ocean, Our Obligation, Our Opportunity," the event served as a vibrant platform for discussion, knowledge sharing and camaraderie amongst the region's mariners.

The celebration was a collaborative endeavour, proudly presented in association with esteemed organisations including the Institution of Engineers (India), Punjab & Chandigarh State Centre; the Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Chandigarh Chapter; the Merchant Navy Officers Association, Chandigarh; the Company of Master Mariners (India) Chandigarh; and the Maritime Trainers Guild.

The proceedings commenced at 11:30 hrs and continued until 14:00 hrs, culminating in a delightful lunch. The event witnessed a strong turnout, with the presence of 90 dedicated mariners hailing from the Tri-city region.

A respectful beginning marked the function as Executive Committee members representing IEI, IME(I), MNOA, CMMI and MTG jointly garlanded the statue of the **Bharat Ratna Shri M. Visvesvaraya** ji, a figure of immense inspiration in the engineering field. The formal welcome address was delivered by **Prof.** (**Dr.**) **Baljit Singh Khera**, the esteemed Chairman of IEI. He eloquently highlighted the contemporary challenges confronting the shipping industry, setting the stage for the insightful discussions that followed. Dr. Khera also noted the significance of this being the third consecutive year that National Maritime Day was being observed by the Institution of Engineers (India).

The session of Key Speakers proved to be the intellectual heart of the event. The first speaker, **Capt. (Dr.) Nitin Agarwala** from the Indian Navy, presented a thought-provoking paper on the "Utility of 3D Printing in Ship Repairs." He meticulously explained the concepts



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of subtractive and additive manufacturing, drawing an intriguing parallel to the ancient technique of using building blocks, as seen in the pyramids and Greek Pillars. Capt. Agarwala further elaborated on the process, from preparing the 3D CAD model and the printing file to creating precise slices for printing, ensuring quality and finally, the printing process itself, emphasising the crucial selection of appropriate materials. He provided a balanced perspective by outlining both the advantages and disadvantages of this emerging technology. Despite the fact that the application of 3D printing in the marine sector, both onboard and onshore, is still in its nascent stages, Capt. Agarwala's presentation sparked considerable interest, evident in the numerous pertinent questions posed by the engaged audience.

The second Key Speaker, **Capt. Rohit Shridhar**, offered a lucid explanation of SIRE-2.0 + Human Factor. He skilfully delineated the key differences between the updated SIRE-2.0 and its predecessor, VIQ-7. Through practical examples drawn from his extensive experience in vessel inspections, he elucidated the intricacies of the Vessel Inspection Questionnaire. Crucially, Capt. Shridhar placed significant emphasis on the HUMAN FACTORS now integrated into SIRE-2.0. The overwhelming number of questions from the attendees on this specific aspect underscored the profound importance and relevance of this inclusion within the maritime safety framework.



The final Key Speaker, **Mr. Piyush Jindal**, a dynamic and astute Chartered Accountant from the Tricity, addressed the pressing issue of Taxation and Seafarers, particularly in the context of the recent 2025-26 budget, encompassing both the old and new tax regimes. This topic resonated deeply with the entire shipping fraternity present, as it directly impacts their financial well-being.

Mementoes were presented to the Key Speakers in recognition of their valuable contributions to the seminar. **Mr. Karnail Singh**, Honorary General Secretary of IEI-Chandigarh, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the speakers, organisers, attendees and sponsors.

The formal event concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

Mr. Arun Kr. Agarwal, Chairman, IME(I) Chandigarh Chapter, specifically acknowledged the large attendance and extended his appreciation to the sponsor of the gala lunch, Fleet Management Limited, A Caravel Group Company.

Based on the positive response and the relevance of the topics discussed, it was suggested that similar seminars and technical sessions continue to be organised on a regular basis to address evolving challenges and opportunities within the maritime industry.



Branch News

Pune

Anchoring Heritage: National Maritime Day Celebration Sets Sail in Pune



The 62nd National Maritime Day was commemorated on 5th April 2025 in Pune, jointly hosted by the Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Pune Branch, Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI), Indian Maritime Foundation (IMF) and Maha Mariners Association (MMA) at PYC Hindu Gymkhana, Pune.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from the maritime fraternity. The Chief Guest, **Vice Admiral Vinod Pasricha**, **PVSM**, **AVSM**, **NM** (former Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief, Western/Eastern Naval Command), graced the occasion with his presence.

In recognition of their dedicated service to the maritime profession, Mr. Rajanikumar Bhave, IME(I), Capt. Ravindra Hazarnavis, (IMF), Capt. Vijay Barve, (CMMI) and Capt. Unmesh Abhyankar (MMA) were felicitated by the Chief Guest.

In his keynote address, Vice Admiral Pasricha emphasised the strategic importance of maritime security around the Indian peninsula. He highlighted the pivotal role played by the Indian Navy in strengthening the nation's maritime defense over the years.

The event was hosted by **Capt. Indranath Banerjee**, who engaged the audience with the historical significance of National Maritime Day, commemorating the maiden voyage of SS Loyalty, the first Indian-owned steamship, which sailed from Mumbai to London on 5th April 1919. CMMI, IMEI,IMF MAA

The event was seamlessly coordinated by:

- Mr. Sanjeev Ogale, Chairman, IME(I), Pune Branch
- Capt. Anand Dixit, President, IMF
- Capt. Milind Phadnis, Chairman, CMMI, Pune Chapter
- Capt. Kedar Chaudhary, President, MMA

Several esteemed guests and maritime veterans graced the celebration, including **Dr. B. K. Saxena**, **Capt. Sudhir Subhedar** (founder member of CMMI, Pune Chapter), **Capt. Sudhir Naphade**, **Capt. Swanand Patankar**, **Capt. Harshad Patwardhan** and many others, along with their families.

The evening concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by **Capt. Kiran Joshi**, Secretary, CMMI Pune Chapter.



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Kochi

IME(I) Kochi Highlights Contribution to Maritime Excellence During NMDC Celebrations



IME(I) Kochi Branch Hon. General Secretary, Shri Neithileth Rajan at KMSME Seminar

The Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Kochi Branch, demonstrated strong engagement and commitment to India's maritime community by actively participating in the National Maritime Day 2025 celebrations organised by the Mercantile Marine Department (MMD), Kochi.



Commencement of Walkathon

A key highlight of the celebrations was the Walkathon held on April 4, 2025, which witnessed keen participation from IME(I) Kochi members, reflecting solidarity with the national maritime sector.

The week-long celebrations culminated on April 5, 2025, with a grand function held at the Merchant Navy Club Hall, Kochi. The event was graced by esteemed dignitaries including:

• Shri Madhu S. Nair, Chairman & Managing Director, Cochin Shipyard Ltd. (Chief Guest)

- Ms. K. Padmavathy, IRS, Commissioner of Customs (Preventive), Kochi (Guest of Honour)
- Shri J. Senthil Kumar, Principal Officer, MMD, Kochi
- Capt. Anish Joseph, Deputy Nautical Adviser-cum-Senior DDG (Tech), DG Shipping
- Shri R. Vinod Kumar, Deputy Commissioner of Maritime Affairs, Republic of Marshall Islands
- Shri Ubaidu Rehman, Hon. Secretary, NMDCC & Deputy Director General (Tech), DG Shipping

During the valedictory function, awards and mementoes were presented for various competitions held as part of the celebrations.



IME(I) Kochi's Course-in-charge Mr. Malcom Oliver receiving prize for the Institute At the final function

In parallel celebrations, IME(I) Kochi also took part in the National Maritime Day programme organised by The Institution of Engineers (India), Marine Division, Kochi Branch, where Shri J. Senthil Kumar served as the Chief Guest.

Additionally, IME(I) Kochi contributed to the NMD Seminar hosted by Kunjali Marakkar School of Marine Engineering (KMSME), CUSAT, where Shri Neithileth Rajan, Hon. General Secretary, IME(I) Kochi Branch, served as Session Chair during the technical paper presentation sessions.

Members from IME(I) also participated in events held at the CIFNET campus, further showcasing the branch's wide-reaching involvement across multiple platforms during the week.

As part of forward-looking initiatives, the COARSEM-2026 Organising Committee convened on 4th April 2025, to strategise for the upcoming two-day International



Members from IME(I) Institute at CIFNET Campus

Seminar, scheduled for January 29th -30th 2026. Discussions centered around planning, participation and theme-setting for the prestigious event.



The Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Goa Branch, is proud to announce that **Mr. B. S. Mathur** (F628), a distinguished senior member, has been conferred with the prestigious award for **"Outstanding Contribution to the Maritime Industry"** by the National Maritime Day Celebrations Committee of Goa.

The honour was presented during the 62nd National Maritime Day celebrations held on 5th April 2025. This recognition highlights Mr. Mathur's ongoing commitment and significant impact on India's maritime sector over the years.



Maharashtra Governor Inaugurates 62nd National Maritime Day and Merchant Navy Week Celebrations



Maharashtra Governor Shri C P Radhakrishnan inaugurated the 62nd National Maritime Day and the Merchant Navy Week at Raj Bhavan, Mumbai on 31st March 2025. Director General of Shipping Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, pinned a miniature flag of National Maritime Day on the Governor's jacket and presented a memento and a Coffee Table Book to the Governor.

Addressing the officers, the Governor stressed the importance of the maritime sector to achieve the goal of Viksit Bharat. He called for better coordination between the Directorate General of Shipping, the Shipping Corporation of India, the Container Corporation, the Railways and traders. He further expressed the need for the modernisation of ports in the country.

The theme for this year's National Maritime Day was Samriddh Sagar – Viksit Bharat evam Neel Arth aur Harit Vikas Ke Liye Yuva' (Prosperous Seas – Developed India and Youth for Blue Economy & Green Growth).

Shri Ajithkumar Sukumaran, Chief Surveyor-cum-Addl. DG (Engineering), DG Shipping; Shri Pandurang Raut, Deputy Director General of Shipping; Capt. B. K. Tyagi, Chairman, Shipping Corporation of India; Shri Pradeep Sudhakar K, Chief Ship Surveyor-cum-Joint DG (Tech.) (I/C); Dr. Sudhir S Kohakade, Deputy Director General of Shipping; Capt. Nitin Mukesh, Dy. Nautical Advisor-cum Sr. DDG(Tech); Shri Mukul Dutta, Shipping Master, Govt. Shipping Office; Shri S M Rai, senior Fellow Member, Institute of Marine Engineers (India); Capt. Tushar Pradhan, Chairman, Maritime Union of India; Capt. Sankalp Shukla, Manging Director, Bernhard Schulte Shipmanagement Crew Service and Shri Milind Kandalgavkar, General Secretary, National Union of Seafarers, were among those present.

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Glimpses of the Event





Beach Clean-Up Marks National Maritime Day Celebrations

As part of the 62nd National Maritime Day and Merchant Navy Week celebrations, the National Maritime Day Celebrations (Central) Committee under the aegis of the Directorate General of Shipping, organised a beach clean-up drive at Dadar Beach, Mumbai on 31st March 2025.



The event began with an address by **Dr. Pandurang K. Raut, IRS,** Deputy Director General of Shipping, at Naarli Baug, Shivaji Park. Speaking on the theme *"Prosperous Seas – Developed India and Youth for Blue Economy & Green Growth"*, he highlighted the critical role of oceans in livelihoods, climate and economic development.



Career guidance sessions were conducted by **Capt.** (Dr.) Ashutosh Apankar, Capt. Mihir Chandra and Mr. Mohan Singh Pal, sharing insights into maritime career opportunities. Students from SCI MTI performed a skit titled "Environment First", focusing on the importance of environmental protection.





Over 600 students and volunteers, including participants from maritime colleges, schools, NCC, NSS, seafarers and Jay Foundation, took part in the initiative, collecting around one ton of waste and contributing significantly to the beach's cleanliness. The event was supported by Maharashtra Maritime Board, Maritime Union of India, National Union of Seafarers of India and MSC Crewing Pvt. Ltd.



The event concluded with certificate distribution and a vote of thanks by **Ms. Bharati Bhandarkar**, promoting environmental awareness and community participation.



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National Maritime Day 2025

Youth at the Helm: NMDC 2025 Seafarer Seminar Highlights Maritime Sustainability



A s part of the 62nd National Maritime Day, the Seafarer Seminar was successfully held on 1st April 2025 at the SCI Auditorium, Nariman Point, Mumbai. Centered around the theme **"Sustainable Shipping – Youth for Maritime Development,"** the event focused on the critical role of young professionals in advancing a sustainable future for the maritime industry. Held from 1500 to 1730 hrs, the seminar brought together key figures from the maritime sector, including industry leaders, policymakers and aspiring seafarers, to engage in thought-provoking discussions and share insights.

Under the stewardship of Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping and Capt. B.K. Tyagi, Chairman & Managing Director of the Shipping Corporation of India the seminar illuminated key facets within the theme. A special highlight of the event was the presence of **Capt. D.C. Sekhar**, Managing Director of AlphaMERS Ltd, who attended as a special invitee.

The seminar served as a dynamic platform to inspire the next generation of maritime leaders and promote collaborative efforts towards sustainable shipping practices. The seminar featured insightful discussions, expert perspectives and interactive sessions, providing valuable takeaways for attendees. The event reinforced the importance of youth engagement in driving sustainability within the maritime sector and concluded on a positive note with key takeaways for future initiatives.

Glimpses of the Event











National Maritime Day 2025

Greener Seas Ahead: Industry Unites at NMDC Shipping Seminar



A s part of the National Maritime Day Celebrations (Central) Committee, the committee successfully hosted a seminar on *"Green Shipping Challenges"* at the Indian Register of Shipping, Powai, Mumbai on 2nd April 2025. The event brought together maritime professionals, industry leaders and policymakers to explore sustainable solutions for the shipping sector.

The seminar focused on critical topics such as alternative fuels, eco-friendly ship technologies,

regulatory frameworks and sustainable port operations. Subject matter experts shared valuable insights on the challenges facing green shipping and discussed practical strategies to implement environmentally responsible practices within the maritime industry. The seminar served as a platform for knowledge exchange and collaboration aimed at reducing the environmental impact of global shipping.

Glimpses of the Event



















The National Maritime Day Celebrations (Central) Committee successfully partnered with reputed blood banks to organise a meaningful Blood Donation Drive on 3rd April 2025, held from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The drive took place across four locations: Sailors Home, Masjid, SCI MTI, Powai, MSC House, Andheri East and IMEI House, Nerul. Many generous donors came forward to support the cause, making a positive impact through their life-saving contributions. This initiative stood as a testament to NMDC's commitment to community welfare and social responsibility.

A Gift of Life: NMDC's Successful

Blood Donation Drive

Glimpses of the Event



























In Memory's Wake: A Tribute at Victoria Dock



As part of the 62nd National Maritime Day Celebrations, the National Maritime Day Celebrations (Central) Committee under the aegis of Directorate General of Shipping organised a solemn visit to the Fire Explosion Memorial at Victoria Dock, Mumbai on 4th April 2025. This memorial commemorates the tragic explosion of April 14, 1944, when the SS Fort Stikine–carrying explosives– detonated in the dock during World War II, leading to immense devastation and the loss of countless lives.

The event was graced by Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping,

who led the tribute to the brave seafarers, dock workers and first responders who perished in the disaster. His presence underscored the importance of remembering maritime heritage and honouring those who laid down their lives in service to the nation.

Officers and staff of the Directorate General of Shipping accompanied the Director General during the visit, reflecting the maritime community's collective respect, remembrance and continued commitment to maritime safety.











































On successful completion of this course, candidates will be qualified in accordance with regulation Section A-VI/1 of the STCW code for Seafarers, 1978 as amended and will be eligible to carry out the assigned specific duties and responsibilities related to cargo or cargo equipment on Oil and Chemical Tankers



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National Maritime Day 2025

Honouring India's Wartime Seamen

The 62nd National Maritime Day Celebrations (Central) Committee organised a solemn Wreath Laying Ceremony on Saturday, 5th April 2025, at the Indian Sailors' Home Society, Masjid Bunder, Mumbai, to honour the memory of Indian seafarers who sacrificed their lives during World Wars I and II.

Smt. Sujata Saunik, IAS, Chief Secretary, Government of Maharashtra, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest, joined by Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping and Chairman, NMDC (Central) Committee. Wreaths were laid by dignitaries and members of the shipping fraternity to pay tribute to the valiant seamen.

The Chief Secretary commended the facilities provided by the Indian Sailors' Home for seafarers and emphasised the importance of collaboration between the maritime industry and the Government of Maharashtra for infrastructure development, including Vadhvan Port and shipbuilding initiatives.

The ceremony also highlighted the rich history of the Memorial Hall and the Seamen's Hostel, established in remembrance of over 8,700 Indian seafarers who perished at sea during the two World Wars.

















India's Maritime Strength Showcased at 62nd National Maritime Day Grand Finale



The Grand Finale of the 62nd National Maritime Day was held on Saturday, 5th April 2025, at the GJEPC Bharat Ratnam – Mega Common Facilitation Centre, SEEPZ SEZ, Andheri (East), Mumbai. The theme for this year was **"Samriddh Sagar - Viksit Bharat yevam Neel Arth aur Harit Vikas Ke Liye Yuva"** ("Prosperous Seas - Developed India and Youth for Blue Economy & Green Growth"). Distinguished maritime professionals, seafarers and their families attended the event, commemorating the first voyage of the Indian-owned vessel "S S Loyalty" from Mumbai to London on this day in 1919.

In a video message, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, appreciated the shipping industry's progress and highlighted the policy reforms under Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji, promoting globalstandard infrastructure and seamless connectivity.

Shri T. K. Ramachandran, IAS, Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, conveyed his greetings, emphasising initiatives that aim to reduce carbon emissions, enhance air quality and control marine pollution. **Capt. B. K. Tyagi,** CMD of Shipping Corporation of India and Vice Chairman, NMDC (Central) Committee, delivered the keynote address, highlighting youth contributions in the maritime sector. He spoke about rising talents and how government policies are supporting their growth and involvement in nation-building.

As 2025 marks the 75th Anniversary of the Directorate General of Shipping, former Secretaries and Director Generals were honoured through courtesy visits and a tribute video that evoked a strong sense of nostalgia. A compilation of NMDC functions and sports events across India showcased the wide reach of the celebrations.

Shri Dnyaneshwar Patil, IAS, Development Commissioner, SEEPZ SEZ, was the Guest of Honour. He congratulated the maritime community and connected SEEPZ's role with the shipping industry, suggesting collaborative opportunities in shipbuilding, training and skill development. He encouraged stakeholders to explore business possibilities in SEEPZ and expressed hope for achieving Maritime India Vision-2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision-2047.

Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping and Chairman, NMDC (Central) Committee, reflected on India's maritime legacy and congratulated the Sagar Samman awardees and other recognised institutions. He praised the National Maritime Games-2025 and assured continued support for the 'Kheloge to Khiloge' initiative through better infrastructure and outreach. He also shared progress on current initiatives in areas like women seafarers, shipbuilding, IT and e-Governance.

The year 2025 is significant as it marks the inaugural **National Maritime Games**, held throughout March. Winners were felicitated during the programme.

Sagar Samman Awards were presented to:	
--	--

S. N.	Name of the NMDC Award	Name of awardees	Contribution
1	Sagar Samman Varuna Award (Highest category of such awards)	Capt. Rajesh Madhavan Unni	The highest singular and signal honor and recognition in the India maritime arena. It is an acknowledgement of the absolutely outstanding contributions of a stellar order of an Indian national rendered on a sustained basis, over time, primarily to and in the Indian maritime sector.
2	Sagar Samman Award for Excellence	Shri Bhuwaneshwar Saraswat	This is the second highest category of such awards, instituted and granted in recognition of meritoriously excellent contributions, of a very high order, made all-round and consistently by an individual in the maritime sector, over time.
3	Sagar Samman Award for Gallantry:	Captain Anmol Kumar Srivastava	To recognize acts of Gallantry performed by Indian seafarers employed in the Merchant Navy in India or elsewhere; To introduce general emulation of their exemplary conduct; And thus develop the best traditions amongst Indian seafarers

Additionally, 18 maritime organisations were recognised for outstanding performance across categories.

The celebration was attended by special invitees, officers from the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, DG Shipping, SCI, IRS and various government departments. Maritime companies, training institutes, RPSL, MTOs, unions and families of award winners also joined. Cultural performances by cadets from various Maritime Training Institutes added charm to the event.

Shri Atul Ubale, Director (B&T) and Chairman, NMDC (Organizing), delivered the welcome address, while Dr. Raut Pandurang, Deputy Director General of Shipping and Member Secretary, NMDC (Central) Committee, gave the vote of thanks.

Recognition of Outstanding stakeholders in Maritime industry

Sr. No.	Name of the NMDC Award	Recommendations	
1	Recognition For Outstanding Maritime Training Institutes		
1.1	Pre-sea training institutes conducting courses for Officer Cadets (Nautical & Engineering).	 a) Samundra Institute of Maritime Studies, Lonavala- 1st Rank b) Anglo Eastern Maritime Academy (A Division of Anglo Eastern Institute)-2nd Rank c) Training Ship Rahaman - 3rd Rank 	
1.2	Post-sea training institutes conducting Competency Courses.	 a) Hindustan Institute of Maritime Training, Tidal Park, Thiruvanmiyur, Chennai - 1st Rank b) Hindustan Institute of Maritime Training, Kilpauk, Tamilnadu - 2nd Rank c) FOSMA Maritime Institute And Research Organisations, Kolkata - 3rd Rank 	
2	Recognition of outstanding Indian Employers of Seafarers	 The Shipping Corporation of India (SCI)- 1st Rank Columbia Aurus Ship Management Private Limited- 2nd Rank 	

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Sr. No.	Name of the NMDC Award	Recommendations	
3	Recognition of outstanding Foreign Employers of Indian Seafarers		
	Shipboard berth above 1000 GT	 Anglo Eastern Ship Management Pvt Ltd- 1st Rank Synergy Maritime Pvt Ltd -2nd Rank Elegant Marine Services Pvt. Ltd - 3rd Rank 	
4	Recognition of outstanding Indian Ports		
	outstanding Indian Ports	 Kamarajar Port Ltd- 1st Rank Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA)- 2nd Rank 	
5	Recognition of outstanding Indian Terminals		
	outstanding Indian Terminals	 PSA Mumbai (Bharat Mumbai Container Terminals Pvt. Ltd.)- 1st Rank)DP World Nhava Sheva- 2nd Rank 	
6	Recognition of outstanding Indian Ship-owning Companies		
	outstanding Indian Ship-owning Companies	 The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd- 1st Rank Seven Island Shipping Ltd 2nd Rank Ocean Sparkle Limited & Adani Harbour Services Limited- 3rd Rank 	

Prize winners of National Maritime Games-2025

S.N.	GAMES	CATEGORY	GOLD
1	Table Tennis	TT Singles	Sanjay Patankar, MPA
		TT Doubles	Pankaj Kadoo and Sunil Kelkar, MPA
2	Swimming	Male	Vanshraj Khanna, Tolani
2		Girls	Bhakti Zemse, NYK
3	Badminton	Singles	Ifitar Alom, IMU NMC
3	Badminton	Doubles	Ajay Moghe & Prashant, JN Ports
4	Futsal		Parthiv June, Abhinav, Akhilesh Lobo, Jerson June from HIMT
E	Carrom	Singles	Sandeep Jadhav, Anglo Eastern
5		Double	Sandeep Jadhav and Girish Nachne, Anglo Eastern
6	Pickle Ball		Yousuf And Omkar, TS Rahman
7	Chess		Rishi Jha, IMU NMC
8	Athletics-100 mtrs	Women Below 30	Diya Dilip, TMI
0	Athletics-100 mtrs	Men Below 30	Vishal Varma, TMI
9	Relay-4 x 100 mtrs	Mens	SIMS
9	Relay-4 x 100 mtrs	Women	TOLANI
10	Rowing	Women	Parvathy Manoj, IMU NMC
10		Men	Gaurav Kumar, Menet
11	GOLF	Winner Over all	Jaywant Chaudhary
12	Darts		Sachin Pandit, SCI
13	Cricket	Winner	NUSI
14	Cricket	Exhibition match Women	IMU Chennai

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Glimpses of the Event








































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Industry News

> India Celebrates 62nd National Maritime Day: Saluting Seafarers and Steering Towards a Sustainable Maritime Future



ndia marked the 62nd National Maritime Day with pride and patriotic fervor, spotlighting the country's rich maritime legacy and the invaluable contributions of its seafarers. Spearheaded by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), the celebration resonated across the nation, reinforcing the importance of a resilient and future-ready maritime sector.

The theme for this year, **"Prosperous Seas – Developed India and Youth for Blue Economy and Green Growth,"** captured the spirit of sustainable development and the integral role of youth in shaping a greener, innovationdriven maritime future.

At the heart of the celebrations was the central event hosted by the Delhi chapter of the National Maritime Day Celebration Committee (NMDCC), under the aegis of the Directorate General of Shipping. The gathering took place at the Vinay Marg Sports Ground, New Delhi, and was graced by the presence of the Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, as Chief Guest.

In his address, Shri Sonowal emphasized the profound impact of the maritime community in powering India's economy. He said, "On this occasion, we salute the spirit of our seafarers and the maritime sector that keeps the nation's commerce thriving. Under the able leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, we are enhancing port infrastructure, embracing digital transformation, and reinforcing coastal shipping. Our vision is clear – to establish India as a global maritime powerhouse."

The National Maritime Week was marked by an array of commemorative events nationwide. These included ceremonial flag pinning for dignitaries including the Prime Minister and Governors of maritime states, solemn tributes to departed seafarers, blood donation camps, and expert-led seminars focusing on the Blue Economy and maritime innovation.



Highlighting the broader transformation underway, Shri Sonowal remarked, "India's maritime sector is undergoing a renaissance, guided by the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister. With cutting-edge infrastructure and a robust maritime ecosystem, we are scripting the next chapter of our development story – a 'Viksit Bharat' propelled by our oceans."

A notable highlight of the day was the Minister's interactive session with cadets, particularly the young women training to be maritime professionals. He engaged them in thoughtful dialogue, encouraged their leadership, and recognized them as torchbearers of a dynamic and inclusive maritime future. "The cadets' enthusiasm is truly inspiring. Their dedication exemplifies the spirit of a new India – determined, skilled, and ready to lead globally," he added.

To foster community spirit and encourage healthy engagement, a series of sports events – including football, cricket, volleyball, and athletics – saw spirited participation from professionals across the maritime industry. These events symbolized the values of teamwork, endurance, and solidarity that define life at sea.

The Ministry also honored excellence in service by presenting awards and commendations to individuals and institutions demonstrating exemplary contributions to the maritime sector. The event was attended by senior officials, including the Secretary (Shipping), Joint Secretary (Ports), and other dignitaries, along with over 500 cadets and faculty members.

The 62nd National Maritime Day not only paid homage to India's maritime pioneers but also echoed the country's vision of an inclusive, green, and globally competitive maritime future. The occasion also commemorated the historic voyage of **S.S. Loyalty**, the first Indian-owned steamship that sailed from Mumbai to London on **April 5**, **1919**, a landmark event that laid the foundation for India's international maritime identity.











Industry News

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India Made Maritime History with the Inaugural National Maritime Games 2025



ndia marked a historic milestone in its maritime journey with the successful launch of the first-ever National Maritime Games 2025, an ambitious initiative led by the Directorate General of Shipping (DGS). This ground breaking event brought together maritime professionals from across the country in a celebration of sportsmanship, unity and excellence. It served as a platform to strengthen the bonds within the maritime community while promoting the values of discipline, resilience and collaboration. The event was officially inaugurated by Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, Hon'ble Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, who introduced the motivating slogan "Kheloge To Khiloge," emphasising the significance of sports in personal and professional development. Adding to the spirit of the occasion, the official mascot, Capt. Matsya, was unveiled, symbolising the courage, determination and sporting spirit of India's maritime workforce.

The Opening Ceremony took place on Sunday, 23rd March 2025, at 5:00 PM at the Indian Maritime University, Navi Mumbai (T.S. Chanakya Campus). The event was honoured by the presence of **Dr. P.T. Usha** (MP), President of the Indian Olympic Association, who served as the Chief Guest, lending her stature and inspiration to the occasion. The following morning, on Monday, 24th March 2025, Dr. Usha officially inaugurated the Games at the Ramsheth Thakur International Sports Complex in Ulwe, Navi Mumbai, delivering a powerful message of encouragement to the athletes and participants. The Games witnessed active participation from nearly 70 companies across the maritime sector, reflecting the collective enthusiasm and support of the entire industry.

Under the able leadership of **Shri Shyam Jagannathan**, **IAS**, Director General of Shipping and guided by **Capt**. **Girish Phadnis**, the Competition Director, the event redefined the intersection of sports and maritime life. The Games were organised with robust support from premier institutions such as the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. (SCI), Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority (JNPA) and the Mumbai Port Authority (MbPA). The execution of the event was managed by K2K Events, known for their expertise in delivering high-impact sporting experiences. More than just a sporting competition, the National Maritime Games 2025 stood as a celebration of resilience, unity, and pride—ushering in a new era where India's maritime community showcased its strength not only at sea but also on the sporting field.

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Glimpses of the Event















MARITIME GAMES 2025



























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Singapore Maritime Week 2025

India Pavilion Makes Waves at Singapore Maritime Week 2025 at the Suntec Expo & Convention Centre



S ingapore Maritime Week is a flagship event organised by the Government of Singapore, held biennially to bring together maritime leaders, professionals and stakeholders from around the world. The 2025 edition of Singapore Maritime Week took place at the Suntec Expo & Convention Centre, Singapore, themed "Decarbonization: Accelerating the Green Transition", which attracted over 20,000 attendees from 80+ countries, including industry leaders, policymakers and maritime professionals. The event featured 200+ Local and International exhibitors and 100+ conference sessions, reinforcing Singapore's position as a key maritime hub.

The event venue was divided into two main sections – one designated for the conferences and roundtable discussions and the other for the exhibitions.

The exhibition segment was held from 25th to 27th March 2025, and for the first time, it featured a dedicated India Pavilion. Thoughtfully curated to reflect India's rich heritage and identity, the pavilion garnered significant attention from the global delegates. Many of those delegates remarked that this marked the first significant participation from the Indian maritime industry at this event.



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From the Indian public sector, Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL), Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE), and the Indian Maritime University (IMU) had an active presence within the India pavilion. In addition, private sector representation was facilitated under the Shipyards Association of India (SAI), with participation from following:

- Swan Defence and Heavy Industries (SDHI)
- Chowgule and Company
- SAN Marine
- Vedam Design & Technical Consultancy

The India Pavilion was inaugurated on 25th March 2025 by the Hon'ble Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal.** Following the inauguration, the Minister visited all the stalls and engaged in meaningful interactions with the participating organisations.

Over the subsequent two days, the pavilion hosted a series of presentations that generated significant interest among visitors.

Key presentations included following:

- GTTP by the Indian Ports Association (IPA)
- Cochin Shipyard Limited (CSL)
- Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers (GRSE)
- Shipyards Association of India (SAI)



- Swan Defence and Heavy Industries (SDHI)
- Chowgule and Company

Each presentation was well attended and appreciated by the audience. Additionally, a dedicated stage area within the pavilion was used to host panel discussions. Notably, SDHI participated in a panel discussion organized by IPA on "Shaping the Future of Shipbuilding."

The Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) was also present at the exhibition, with its own dedicated stall, further showcasing India's growing maritime capabilities.





Strengthening Global Maritime Ties: IME(I) President Visits IMarEST HQ



Mr. Rajeev Nayyer, President, IME(I) with Chris Goldsworthy, Chief Executive Officer, IMarEST

The Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) had the pleasure of welcoming **Mr. Rajeev Nayyer**, President of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India), to its headquarters on 2nd April 2024.



The visit provided an excellent opportunity for constructive dialogue and exchange of ideas between the two esteemed institutions. Discussions focused on strengthening global maritime collaboration, addressing industry challenges and exploring initiatives for professional development within the marine engineering community.

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This visit marked a continued effort to build strong international partnerships and promote innovation and excellence in the maritime sector.

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Industry News

WISTA India Conference Shines Spotlight on Sustainable Shipping and Diversity Success



The Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) India successfully hosted the WISTA India ExCo Conference in Mumbai on 9th April 2025, spotlighting sustainability and diversity in maritime. The event coincided with the first WISTA International Mid-Term Meeting held in India, marking a historic moment for the global network of women in shipping.

Held under the theme "Navigating Change: The Future of Sustainable Shipping", the conference brought together WISTA International's Executive Committee members, maritime professionals and dignitaries including consular representatives. The programme included discussions on strengthening National WISTA Associations, the upcoming IMO/WISTA Women in Maritime Survey and professional training initiatives.

Ms. Elpi Petraki, President of WISTA International, emphasised collaboration and diversity as essential components in tackling the industry's evolving challenges. "A collaborative spirit is essential to make the most of the opportunities that arise from the challenges we face," she stated, while acknowledging WISTA India's dedication to progressive change.

Ms. Sanjam Sahi Gupta, founder member of WISTA India and driving force behind the event, said, "We are proud to host this flagship conference, which allowed us to discuss key elements of the industry's green transition and the role of women in shaping that future. The dialogue demonstrated India's growing leadership in sustainable shipping and our commitment to diversity."

Dr. Malini V. Shankar, IAS (Retd.), Vice Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University, delivered an insightful talk

on "India's Preparedness for Women." She highlighted the strides India has made in creating inclusive spaces for women, especially in traditionally male-dominated sectors like maritime and logistics. Dr. Shankar emphasised the importance of policy support, education and leadership development to empower women and drive meaningful change. Her address inspired the audience, underlining a collective vision for a more equitable and progressive future.

Speaking at the panel, Mr. Sunil Kumar, Hon. General Secretary of IME(I), Head - T&A at G.E. Shipping, a member of the Maritime Just Transition Task Force (MJTTF) and part of the Indian delegation to previous MSC and HTW sessions at the IMO, emphasised that maritime training is rapidly evolving to equip seafarers for emerging technologies and sustainable practices. He highlighted the challenges related to alternative fuels and the necessity of advanced simulators and virtual reality tools, stressing the need to shift from compliance to true competence. Mr. Kumar underlined the importance of integrating technology to support a seamless transition towards a more sustainable shipping industry and the need for standardised training programmes aligned with global sustainability goals. Warning of a looming skills gap, he urged faster adoption of new training methods and roles to prepare seafarers to effectively meet the IMO 2030 Strategy. He also noted that regulatory developments and technological innovations are set to redefine the future of shipping.

A highlight of the programme was the visit to the Anglo-Eastern Maritime Academy, where WISTA International members met with cadets, including a growing number of female trainees. The interaction emphasised efforts

toward building a more inclusive maritime profession. "Over 450 cadets graduate from the Academy annually, and the increasing number of female cadets reflects positive change," Ms. Petraki noted.

The conference received widespread appreciation from participants, underlining the importance of such platforms for exchanging ideas and reinforcing gender equity in the sector. With more than 6,000 members globally, WISTA International continues to support its network through advocacy, training, and strategic partnerships.

By combining themes of sustainability and inclusion, the WISTA India ExCo Conference served as a pivotal platform for collaborative action and progress. The gathering reinforced India's role in shaping a greener, more equitable maritime future.









Glimpses of the Event























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Union Minister Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Inaugurates ₹67.7 Cr Projects in IMU Campuses; Lays Foundation for Girls' Hostel at Kochi



U nion Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW) Shri Sarbananda Sonowal inaugurated 26 projects worth ₹67.77 crore across six Indian Maritime University (IMU) campuses nationwide, marking a significant push toward strengthening maritime education and empowering women in the sector. The ceremony also included the foundation stone laying for a Girls' Hostel-cum=Library building at IMU's Kochi campus.



Calling the event a "very special occasion," the Union Minister said it reflected the Government's collective commitment to transform maritime education. "The maritime sector is the backbone of global trade and economic growth. Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister **Shri Narendra Modi** ji, India is making rapid strides to emerge as a global maritime powerhouse. These 17 projects mark a significant step in our mission to strengthen India's maritime education landscape. With modern infrastructure and advanced facilities, we are enabling students to excel and meet global maritime standards," Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said.

Shri Sonowal inaugurated 17 key infrastructure projects across IMU campuses in Chennai, Kolkata, Navi Mumbai, Mumbai Port and Visakhapatnam, including advanced simulators, solar power plants, improved sports facilities and hostel upgrades—aimed at enriching academic and campus life. The ₹13.11 crore Girls' Hostel at IMU Kochi will enhance residential facilities for female



students, reinforcing Government's commitment to gender inclusion in maritime education.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal highlighted flagship initiatives like the Maritime India Vision 2030, the Sagarmala Programme, and the 'Maritime Amritkaal Vision 2047', describing them as central to modernising ports and developing sustainable infrastructure. He pointed out that between 2014-15 and 2023-24, India's major ports doubled their cargo-handling capacity.

Highlighting India's Maritime sector's growth, the Union Minister said, "Nine Indian ports are now ranked among the top 100 globally". He also emphasised the rise in maritime employment, stating that the number of Indian seafarers increased by 170% in the past decade – from 1.17 lakh in 2014 to over 3.17 lakh in 2024. "Our target is to reach five lakh active seafarers by 2030, and we are firmly on that path," Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said.



The Union Minister further hailed the progress made in women's participation in maritime careers, noting a 700% increase in women seafarers—from 1,699 in 2014 to 13,756 in 2024. "This foundation stone for the Girls' Hostel at IMU Kochi is a step forward in promoting gender equity in the maritime sector. 'Nari Shakti' and 'Yuva Shakti' are the backbone of our nation as well as for our aspiration to become a global maritime major. Their active role as nation builders will propel our country to become 'Viksit Bharat'," Shri Sonowal said, adding that the IMU actively supports women students through scholarships offered by corporate houses and government agencies.

The Indian Maritime University (IMU) also received praise from the Minister for expanding its footprint and contributions to workforce development. "With a current enrolment of 7,156 students and over 21,000 alumni since its inception in 2008, IMU has seen an 80% rise in admissions over the past decade. With our rich talent pool, our endeavour to become a global maritime nation is going to be a reality soon. This is very inspiring towards realisation of Atmanirbhar Bharat — the vision of PM Narendra Modi ji," the Union Minister said.

Among the newly inaugurated projects are flood mitigation structures, RFID-enabled libraries, solar power installations, and simulators at multiple campuses.



These upgrades aim to provide students with a holistic, environmentally sustainable, and technologically advanced learning environment. "The future of global shipping lies in automation, Artificial Intelligence, and green technologies. IMU must incorporate these innovations into its curriculum to prepare our youth for a rapidly evolving industry," suggested Shri Sonowal, during the event at IMU. He further urged IMU to integrate emerging domains such as shipbuilding, ship recycling, inland water transport, and advanced sailing technologies like hydrofoils into its training programmes. "We want a dedicated, professional human resource base to drive India's maritime ecosystem forward. IMU must lead this transformation," he added.

The Union Minister also commended the faculty and staff of IMU for their unwavering commitment. "Your efforts are invaluable in shaping the future of India's maritime sector and ensuring we remain at the forefront of global maritime education," the Union Minister said. In a message to students, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "You are the future of India's maritime vision. The knowledge and skills you gain here will not only shape your careers but also contribute to the growth and prosperity of the nation. With the guidance and experience of our educators, combined with the passion and dedication of our youth, India, under the dynamic leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, is on course to become a leading global maritime power by 2030," said Sarbananda Sonowal.

Expressing hope that the newly inaugurated infrastructure would catalyse further excellence in training, research, and industry collaboration, the Union Minister concluded, saying, "this is just the beginning, may this milestone lead to many more achievements for India's maritime sector".

The ceremony was graced by the presence of several dignitaries, including **Hibi Eden**, Member of Parliament (Lok Sabha) from Ernakulam and **Dr. Malini V. Shankar**, Vice Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University (IMU). The event concluded with an engaging interactive session that brought together experts, faculty and policymakers to explore the future of maritime education, innovations in seafarer training and the development of sustainable infrastructure across IMU campuses.



National Port and Ship Security Conference 2025

The National Port and Ship Security Conference 2025 brought together key experts and decision-makers from across India's maritime sector. The event aimed to strengthen the country's coastal and port security by encouraging collaboration between policymakers, port authorities, intelligence agencies and maritime security professionals.

Top officials like Shri T.K. Ramachandran, IAS, Secretary of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways and Dr. Rajendra Kumar, IAS, Secretary (Border Management), Ministry of Home Affairs, addressed the gathering. They stressed the need for better coordination among different agencies to tackle new and emerging security threats. Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Shipping, opened the conference with an important message: real security isn't just about reacting to threats—it's about staying ready, planning ahead and using technology alongside strong maritime laws. He highlighted the importance of a united and forwardthinking approach to coastal security.

The conference included technical sessions and panel discussions on:

- Security checks at port facilities
- Implementation of MS-ISPS rules and coastal coordination
- Cybersecurity in shipping



- Responding to security incidents
- Role of Recognized Security Organizations (RSOs) and examples of best practices from major ports

Participants included representatives from the CISF, Indian Navy, Coast Guard, Customs, Intelligence Bureau, RSOs and private sector stakeholders. Together, they shared valuable insights and recommended practical steps such as:

More training and skill development

- Regular security drills
- Updated standard operating procedures (SOPs)
- Better information sharing
- Use of AI for maritime surveillance

The conference ended with a strong reminder: maritime security is a shared responsibility, not just a rule to follow. The Directorate General of Shipping thanks all attendees and looks forward to continued cooperation in keeping India's maritime borders safe.



Industry News

Indian Register of Shipping marks 50th Foundation Day with release of Special Cover by India Post



On its 50th Foundation Day – 4th April 2025, Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) marked a historic milestone as India Post released a Special Cover commemorating 50 years of IRS's excellence in the maritime industry. This prestigious philatelic tribute highlights IRS's contributions to maritime safety, environmental sustainability and regulatory compliance, symbolising its significant impact on the global maritime sector.

The special cover was released by Chief Guest **Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS,** Director General of Shipping along with **Shri Amitabh Singh,** Chief Postmaster General Maharashtra Circle, India Post and **Capt. B K Tyagi,** CMD, Shipping Corporation of India who graced the occasion. To further mark this momentous day, IRS also released the *Touch of Class* Golden Jubilee Edition – Volume 3 and announced the forthcoming launch of its newly updated website, which reflects the organisation's continued evolution and commitment to innovation.

Commenting on the milestone, **Mr. Arun Sharma**, Executive Chairman of IRS, said, "This Golden Jubilee is not just a celebration of our past, but a reaffirmation of our commitment to the future. The Special Cover is symbolic of IRS's enduring legacy and reflects our readiness to embrace the opportunities of tomorrow.'

This event also marked the formal conclusion of the year-long Golden Jubilee celebrations, which saw a series of commemorative activities and stakeholder engagements across the country.



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Adani's Colombo Terminal Begins Operations — A Milestone in India–Sri Lanka Maritime Collaboration



A dani Ports and Special Economic Zone Ltd. (APSEZ), India's largest integrated transport utility, has officially commenced operations at the Colombo West International Terminal (CWIT), located within the Port of Colombo.

Developed through a landmark public-private partnership, CWIT is managed by a consortium that includes Adani Ports & SEZ Ltd., Sri Lanka's leading conglomerate John Keells Holdings PLC, and the Sri Lanka Ports Authority. The project operates under a 35-year Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) agreement.

With a total investment of USD 800 million, CWIT features a 1,400-metre quay and a depth of 20 metres, enabling the terminal to handle up to 3.2 million Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) annually. It is Colombo's first fully-automated deep-water terminal, aimed at boosting cargo efficiency, reducing vessel turnaround times and strengthening the port's role as a premier transshipment hub in South Asia.

Construction began in early 2022 and has made remarkable progress. Now nearing completion of its advanced infrastructure phase, CWIT is set to redefine operational excellence and reliability in the regional maritime sector. "The launch of CWIT is a pivotal moment in the maritime partnership between India and Sri Lanka," said **Mr. Gautam Adani**, Chairman of the Adani Group. "This terminal is not only a symbol of the Indian Ocean's trade future but also a proud milestone for Sri Lanka, firmly placing it on the global maritime stage. CWIT will generate thousands of direct and indirect jobs and unlock significant economic value for the country. It stands as a testament to the strong bonds between our two nations and showcases the potential of transformative public– private collaborations. Delivering a world-class facility of this scale in record time highlights the Adani Group's proven capabilities in executing complex infrastructure projects globally."

Mr. Krishan Balendra, Chairperson of John Keells Group, added, "We are proud of the progress at the West Container Terminal — one of the largest investments by the John Keells Group and a landmark private-sector investment in Sri Lanka. Partnering with the Sri Lanka Ports Authority and the Adani Group, we are committed to advancing Colombo's role as a key transshipment gateway. This project will significantly enhance regional trade connectivity and global integration."



Industry News

Docker Vision Wins ₹1 Crore Grant from Cochin Shipyard Ltd and IIT Madras



n a big boost for maritime innovation, Docker Vision – a startup using AI and computer vision – has been awarded a ₹1 crore grant by USHUS, a special programme by Cochin Shipyard Ltd in collaboration with IIT Madras. This grant recognizes Docker Vision's cutting-edge work in making ports and shipping more digital and efficient.

The award was presented during the Dedication Ceremony of *Terra Maris* on 7th April 2025, at Cochin Shipyard Limited, as part of the Green Tug Transition Programme.

Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, was the Chief Guest at the event. He praised the new technologies that are making the maritime sector more sustainable and future-ready. **Shri Madhu S Nair**, Chairman and MD of Cochin Shipyard, highlighted the need to support young talent and tech innovations as India modernizes its maritime industry.

"The entire maritime sector is evolving rapidly, especially with initiatives like Maritime India Vision 2030 and Maritime Amrit Kaal Vision 2047. It's important to train and encourage our youth to lead this change," he said. Docker Vision received the grant for its Al-powered OCR (Optical Character Recognition) technology that helps automate operations at ports. Their system can quickly identify containers, vehicles and shipping documents, which helps reduce manual work, improve accuracy and speed up the movement of goods.

Shri Prajith Nair, CEO of Docker Vision, said, "This grant is a big moment for us. It's not just about funding — it's a sign that we're on the right track with our mission to bring deep-tech innovation to the maritime and logistics world. We look forward to working with IIT Madras and Cochin Shipyard to build smart solutions for the future."

Ms. Athira M, CTO of Docker Vision, added, "With this support, we can invest more in research and development, especially in making our OCR technology work in real-time and under tough conditions at ports. Our goal is to create AI tools that are fast, reliable and help modernise India's port infrastructure."

This recognition reinforces Docker Vision's commitment to supporting India's maritime goals and becoming a global leader in smart and sustainable port technologies.

Industry News

> New ME-GI Engine Training Centre Opens in Mumbai

O n February 19, 2025, Anglo-Eastern and MAN Energy Solutions officially opened a new training facility for ME-GI (Gas Injection) engines at the Anglo-Eastern Maritime Training Centre (AEMTC) in Mumbai. This new setup focuses on Mk 2 ME-GI engines and helps demonstrate how to safely operate and maintain these advanced ship engines.

From left to right: Philip Elberling, Head of MAN PrimeServ Academies Denmark; Michael Petersen, Senior Vice President of MAN Energy Solutions and Head of PrimeServ Denmark; Francis Akkara, Principal of AEMTC Mumbai; and Carsten Ostenfeldt, Chief Operating Officer - Asia of Anglo-Eastern.

This project builds on a long-standing partnership between Anglo-Eastern and MAN Energy Solutions that started back in 2003. Over the years, they have worked together to deliver many PrimeServ training programs for maritime professionals across the region.

The new training centre was launched during Anglo-Eastern's major conference in Mumbai. Leaders like Mr. Michael Petersen, Senior Vice President at MAN Energy Solutions and Carsten Ostenfeldt, COO for Asia at Anglo-Eastern, were present at the event. Mr. Petersen spoke about their commitment to offering world-class





engine services, while Mr. Ostenfeldt praised the strong collaboration that helps provide the latest technology and training to ship crews.

As shipping moves toward cleaner operations, engines like the ME-GI, which can run on both traditional heavy fuel oil and cleaner LNG (liquefied natural gas), are becoming more important. Proper training for crew members is essential to operate these dual-fuel engines safely and efficiently.

Mr. Francis Akkara, Principal and Director of AEMTC Mumbai, explained that the facility will be used to deliver

> a 5-day course approved by MAN PrimeServ Academy. This training will help upgrade the skills of ship crew members, benefiting ship owners, managers, and the wider maritime industry.

> Earlier in February, Anglo-Eastern's technical team also visited MAN Energy Solutions' workshop in Singapore. They learned about how engine parts are repaired and the processes involved in getting official certifications, which further strengthens their technical expertise.

> Together, Anglo-Eastern and MAN Energy Solutions are taking strong steps toward training the next generation of maritime professionals for a cleaner, safer future.



Shri H.K. Taneja (F001)

Obituary

(1934 – 2025)

t is with deep sorrow that the Indian maritime community marks the passing

of Shri H. K. Taneja (1934 – 2025), who departed this life on 5th April 2025. Shri Taneja was the founder and most senior Fellow Member of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India), and a towering figure in the field of marine engineering.

His leadership and service to the organisation were both exemplary and enduring. He served as Vice President of IME(I) from 1984 to

1986 and went on to lead the institution as President from 1986 to 1989.

Shri Taneja's professional journey stands as a symbol to his great commitment, technical expertise and dedication to the maritime profession:

- DMET Graduate Class of 1956
- Class I Certificate Steam August 1961

Class I Certificate – Motor – August 1964

- Marine Apprentice, Kolkata Port Trust – 1st August 1952 to 30th July 1955
 - Junior Engineer to Chief Engineer – 4th October 1956 to 1965
 - Joined Lloyds Register of
 Shipping 1st January 1966
 - Joined Indian Register of Shipping 1st February 1975

His contributions have left an

permanent mark on the maritime industry, and he will be remembered with great respect and admiration by all who knew him.

We humbly pay tribute to his noble soul and extend our heartfelt condolences to his family. May the Almighty grant them strength and solace during this time of profound loss.





Shri Dipankar Ghosh (F1506)

(1949 - 2025)

The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) regret to inform the passing of Shri Dipankar

Ghosh a respected senior member of the Institute. Shri Ghosh passed away on the night of Saturday, 12th April 2025.

Shri Ghosh had a distinguished career in the maritime industry, having served with dedication in various esteemed organisations including Varun Shipping, Essar



Group and SNP Ship Management Pvt. Ltd., among others.

His contributions to the field and to the Institute were held in high regard, and he will be remembered for his professionalism and commitment.

We extend our heartfelt condolences to his family during this difficult time. May his soul rest in eternal peace.



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The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)

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