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Monthly Magazine of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)



# The Institute of Marine Engineers (India)

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# From the Editor's Desk

### **Dear Esteemed Readers,**

As the maritime world sails forward, we invite you to embark on a new journey through the pages of this October 2024 edition of *iMélange*. This issue offers a fresh wave of thought-provoking seminars, industry milestones and cherished traditions that collectively shape our path toward a sustainable and vibrant maritime future.

This year's theme, "Navigating the Future: Safety First," took the centre stage at The National Maritime Day Celebrations Committee, under the aegis of the Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways. The event focused on the critical role of maritime safety and environmental responsibility in shaping the future of our industry. Experts thought leaders and key stakeholders came together to explore the latest innovations and policies that will help safeguard our oceans and shipping lanes for generations to come.

At the IMO several initiatives were held to commemorate the World Maritime Day 2024 which included a Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather, Lighting up important landmarks and Social media participation. This theme resonated globally as the *IMO* gathered maritime leaders to discuss strategic initiatives aimed at protecting lives and the marine environment.

To celebrate the World Maritime Day 2024, The Institution of Engineers (India), Punjab and Chandigarh State Centre in collaboration with the Chandigarh Chapters of the Institute of Marine Engineers India and the Company of Master Mariners of India along with the Merchant Navy Officers' Association organised a seminar to celebrate the theme *"Navigating the Future - Safety First."* 

At a distinguished ceremony Dr. B.K. Saxena and Shri A.K. Gupta were honoured with the prestigious Lifetime Achievement Award by the Shipping Tribune. This accolade celebrates their exceptional contributions and decades of dedicated service to the maritime industry. Both awardees have been instrumental in driving innovation, shaping the future of shipping, and promoting growth and development within the sector.

As I participated in the discussions at Intersessional Working Group on the STCW Convention and Code Review at IMO (HQ), London earlier this month, I was reminded of how crucial it is for us in India to stay at the forefront of maritime advancements. The evolving challenges of cybersecurity, mental health, and technological innovation at sea demand not just adaptation but leadership. It was an honor to contribute to the ongoing review of the STCW Convention, ensuring our seafarers are equipped with the skills necessary to navigate the complexities of modern maritime operations.

As we navigate these dynamic waters, I encourage you to share your insights with us at **editornewsletter** imare.in by 7th November 2024. Your thoughts shape our shared journey.

As the festival of lights graces our homes and hearts, we extend our warmest wishes for a joyous and prosperous Diwali! May this auspicious occasion illuminate your lives with happiness, success, and the promise of new beginnings. Thank you for your continued support, and may the year ahead bring you and your loved ones peace, good health, and boundless opportunities.

SUNIL KUMAR Honorary Editor – iMélange



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Branch News

# Chandigarh

# Several Thematic Seminars Mark World Maritime Day 2024 Celebrations

The Institution of Engineers (India), Punjab and Chandigarh State Centre (IEI P&CSC), in collaboration with the Chandigarh Chapters of the Institute of Marine Engineers India – IME(I) and the Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI), along with the Merchant Navy Officers' Association (MNOA), organised a seminar to celebrate World Maritime Day 2024. The seminar, themed *"Navigating the Future - Safety First,"* aligned with the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s focus for World Maritime Day 2024, aiming to address innovations and solutions for the maritime industry.

The seminar commenced with a tribute to Sir Mokshagundam Visvesvaraya, as Chief Guest **Shri. Ramkishan Bhaker**, Chief Engineer, along with other dignitaries, garlanded his bust. **Dr. Labh Singh Bhari**, Chairman of IEI P&CSC, welcomed the attendees, followed by addresses from key speakers, including the Chairman of the CMMI-Chandigarh Chapter, who shared their thoughts on the occasion.

Shri. Bhaker delivered an insightful speech, followed by **Prof. Dr. S.K. Sharma**, Professor at Panjab University, Chandigarh, who highlighted the environmental impacts of various fuels on greenhouse gas emissions. He emphasised the importance of life cycle assessments in evaluating fuels from production to disposal. Dr. Sharma also explored innovations in *Carbon Capture*, *Utilization*, *and Storage (CCUS)*, the development of small modular nuclear reactors, and advancements in energy efficiency and hybrid propulsion systems. He noted the potential of the North-South Corridor, connecting Iran to Russia, in reducing shipping distances, costs, and emissions.

**Capt. Dr. Nitin Agarwala**, Senior Fellow at the Centre for Joint Warfare Studies, Indian Navy, spoke about the IMO's efforts to meet the carbon emission targets set by the Paris Agreement. While Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG) has shown limitations as a decarbonising fuel, hydrogen is emerging as a promising net-zero emission fuel for the future. He elaborated on ongoing research to make hydrogen production safer, more reliable, and cost-effective for ships.

Sardar Harjinder Singh Cheema, a renowned entrepreneur and innovator, presented his research on hydrogen fuel cells, explaining how he successfully produced hydrogen in a cost-effective and safe manner. He described the use of doped graphite plates (a more affordable alternative to rare earth elements like palladium) in hydrogen cells and discussed his plans to commercialise these technologies for land-based engines and boilers.

**Capt. L.C. Dharmani,** former Principal and Senior Faculty Member of SHAPE-ARI, raised safety concerns related to the use of alternative fuels, particularly regarding handling, storage, and fire risks. He emphasised the critical need for training not only ship staff but also stakeholders involved in the shipping industry to ensure safe operations.

**Shri. Ashok Gupta,** former Head of the Marine Safety Inspectorate (MSI) office in Delhi, spoke about the challenges posed by Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS), including issues related to safety, security, and accountability in case of accidents or pollution. He highlighted the implications for insurance companies, classification societies, and port state controls.

The event also included an engaging panel discussion led by **Capt. Jagdeep Kahlon**, Managing Director of Ocean One Ship Management and Chairman of CMMI-Chandigarh Chapter, along with his team.

The seminar concluded with a vote of thanks by Shri. Swinder Singh, FIE, Honorary Secretary of IEI P&CSC, and the proceedings were expertly moderated by Shri. Rakesh Mittal, President of MNOA. Shri. Arun Kr. Agarwal, Chairman of IMEI-Chandigarh Chapter, provided a closing summary.

The seminar was attended by approximately 80 participants from various sectors of the maritime industry, including a significant number of sailing personnel. Certificates of participation were jointly issued by the Chandigarh Chapters of IME(I) and CMMI to all attendees. The event concluded with the singing of the National Anthem.

In summary, the seminar on "Navigating the Future - Safety First" was a highly successful and thoughtprovoking event. It brought together experts from diverse fields to discuss innovative solutions for achieving net-zero emissions in the maritime industry. The collaboration between multiple organisations and the active engagement of participants contributed to the success of the event, offering valuable insights for a sustainable future in maritime operations.



# THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERS (INDIA)

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VENUE: IMEI HOUSE, Plot No.94, Sector-19, Nerul, Navi Mumbai- 400706

For Registration:- CLICK HERE or click on - https://imeimum.marineims.com/course/register

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**Glimpses of the Event** 













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MEO CL-II (FG) - NEW	4 Months	02nd Nov 2024 /01st Dec 2024 / 02nd Jan 2025 / 01st Feb 2025 / 01st Mar 2025 / 01st April 2025 / 02nd May 2025	Rs. 40000/-	CLICK HERE
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MEO. CL-IV NCV	4 Months	2nd January 2025	Rs. 36000/-	CLICK HERE
Diesel Engine Gas Combustion Simulator for MEO Class I	3 Days	4th Nov 2024/ 7th Nov 2024/         28th Dec 2024/ 2nd Jan 2025/         6th Jan 2025/ 25th Feb 2025/         1st Mar 2025/ 5th Mar 2025/         28th Apr 2025/ 2nd May 2025/         6th May 2025		<u>CLICK HERE</u>
Engine Room Simulator Management Level for MEO Class II	5 Days	26th Oct 2024/ 02nd Nov 2024/ 26th Nov 2024/ 2nd Dec 2024/ 6th Dec 2024/ 2nd Jan 2025/ 27th Jan 2025/ 1st Feb 2025/ 24th Feb 2025/ 1st Mar 2025/ 26th Mar 2025/ 1st Apr 2025/ 25th Apr 2025/ 2nd May 2025/ 27th May 2025	Rs.14000/-	<u>CLICK HERE</u>
Engine Room Simulator Operational Level for MEO Class IV	3 Days	18th Nov 2024 / 16th Dec 2024 Rs.7500/-		CLICK HERE
Refresher Updating Training Course for all Engineers (RUCE )	3 Days	22nd Oct 2024/ 7th Nov 2024/ 25th Nov 2024/ 9th Dec 2024/ 26th Dec 2024 Rs.7000/-		<u>CLICK HERE</u>
Basic Training for Ships using Fuels covered within IGF code Course	5 Days	4th Nov 2024/ 18th Nov 2024/ 2nd Dec 2024/ 16th Dec 2024	Rs.15500/-	CLICK HERE
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for Marine Engineers, Electro Techno Officers & Superintendents

Faculty Name : Mr. Pravin R Marathe, Ex- Chief Engineer (MEO Class I)

## **OBJECTIVES:-**

- To understand Principle of operation of various hydraulic equipments suchs as pumps, control valves and actuators.
- To understand the symbolic representation of various hydraulic equipments so as to read and analyse the hydraulic circuit diagrams.
- To know the correct dismantling and assembly procedure for various hydraulic equipments.
- To understand safe operation and trouble shooting of hydraulic systems.

# Venue : Web Platform / Zoom

## Time: 0900 hrs to 1700 hrs

Fees : Members - Rs. 11,800/- (Inclusive of GST ) (IMEI, CMMI and INA Members)

Non Members - Rs. 14,160/- (Inclusive of GST )

# **MORE INFORMATION**

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# **O**Mélange

# Chandigarh

# Chandigarh Chapter AGM 2024: Reviewing Achievements and Future Goals

The Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the Institute of Marine Engineers India IME(I) Chandigarh Chapter was held on 18th September 2024 at Hotel Chandigarh Beckons, Sector 42C, Chandigarh, at 1600 hrs. The meeting began with a review of the chapter's activities for the year 2023-2024.

Branch News

One of the highlights of the year was the celebration of National Maritime Day (NMD) on 5th April 2023 at the IEI Bhawan, Sector 19A, Chandigarh. This was the first time NMD was celebrated jointly with the Institution of Engineers India (IEI) after it became a part of their official calendar. The event was organised in collaboration with MNOA-Chandigarh, CMMI-Chandigarh, and members of the IEI-Chandigarh & Punjab State branch.



Another key event was the seminar on "Net Zero: Alternate Fuel for Marine Propulsion," held on 25th April 2023 at the IEI Bhawan. This seminar, organizsd by the Marine Engineering Division Board of IEI Punjab and Chandigarh State Centre in association with IMEI Chandigarh, MNOA, CMMI, and other organizations, attracted 100 attendees. The event focused on exploring alternative fuels and innovative solutions for achieving net-zero emissions in the maritime sector.

Throughout the year, several webinars were organised by various maritime bodies, with IME(I) members encouraged to participate.

One of the major events was the All-India Two-Day Seminar, held in collaboration with the Institution of Engineers India, the Institute of Marine Engineers India, and the Institution for Innovation Industrial Engineering and Entrepreneurship Mumbai. The seminar, on the theme "Sailing Towards a Circular Economy: Imperatives and Opportunities in the Maritime Sector," took place on 6th June 2023 at Engineers' Bhawan, Shimla. It was inaugurated by Shri Sanjay Kundu, DGP of Himachal Pradesh, and a distinguished alumnus of DMET. The seminar was a resounding success.

On 27th October 2023, IME(I) Chandigarh Chapter, in association with MRDB, IEI, and MNOA, hosted a seminar on "Basics of Contemporary Ship Finance" at IEI Bhawan, Chandigarh. The event was presided over by **Cdr. Dr. Baskar Bhandarkar**, Vice President of IME(I) and Chairman of MEDB, IEI. **Shri. Jagmeet Makkar**, former IME(I) Chair at Indian Maritime University, delivered the lecture. This hybrid event saw 35 mariners attending in person.

Another significant event was the seminar on "Increasing Global Risks and Probable Impact on the Shipping Industry," held on 1st March 2024 at IEI Bhawan, Chandigarh. The seminar, presented by Mr. Jagmeet Makkar, included a panel discussion and was attended by 32 mariners.

During the year, a total of six management meetings were held to discuss various chapter activities. The minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2023 at Hotel Chandigarh Beckons were presented, and the action taken report was adopted without modifications.

The audited account statement for FY 2023-24, along with the balance sheet, was circulated to all members via email and presented during the AGM. The financials were approved by those in attendance.

Looking ahead, the chapter plans to focus on increasing its membership base. A key point of discussion was the challenge of encouraging sailing members to attend seminars and events. The chapter aims to engage more young professionals and increase participation in future activities.

A suggestion to organise an Annual Contributory Dinner for members and their families was well received, and the chapter hopes to implement this idea in the upcoming year.

The meeting concluded at 5:30 PM and was followed by high tea.



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# Mélange

Branch News

# Kochi

# IME(I) Kochi Branch Celebrates Traditional Onam with Enthusiasm

The IME(I) Kochi Branch celebrated Onam in a vibrant and traditional manner, highlighting the unity and inclusivity that define the festival. Onam, cherished by all Keralites regardless of religion or social status, was marked by several key activities.

The celebration featured the creation of beautiful flower carpets, known as "Pookkalam," and cultural performances, including singing



Pookkalam Group-1

and dancing. The festivities concluded with a traditional Onam feast, enjoyed by all.

Students of the Institute actively participated in the event. They formed two groups to design and lay two Pookkalams, competing for the best design. The most impressive Pookkalam was awarded the first prize, adding a friendly and creative spirit to the occasion.



Pookkalam Group-2



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Branch News

# Kochi

# World Maritime Day Celebrated in Collaboration with Mariners Society



Shri. N.M.C. Nair being felicitated in the World Maritime Day Function in Kochi

World Maritime Day was celebrated in a grand event organised in collaboration with the Mariners Society. The occasion also included a felicitation for **Shri. N.M.C. Nair**, in recognition of his contributions to the maritime industry.

As part of the celebrations, several prominent shipowners who initiated the shipping business in Kochi were honored. Distinguished invitees on stage included **Dr. K.A. Simon, Shri. Rajesh Gopalakrishnan** (Executive Director, Cochin Shipyard Ltd.), **Shri. V.V. Paul** (Director General of Shipping, Kochi Office), **Dr. Jose Paul** (Former Chairman of Mangalore Port Authority), **Shri. Sajan Thommachi** (Fleet Management), and **Capt. Muthukumar** (Deputy Conservator, Cochin Port Trust).

The event was well-attended by members of the marine fraternity in Kochi, student cadets from METI-CSL, and the seafaring community, along with their families, making it a memorable and unifying celebration of maritime heritage.



Dr. K.A. Simon and Shri. Krishnankutty adorning Shri. N.M.C. Nair with Ponnada in Kochi



Some of the members who gathered to felicitate Shri. N.M.C. Nair in Kochi



# THE INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERS (INDIA)

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VENUE:- IMEI HOUSE, Plot No.94, Sector-19, Nerul, Navi Mumbai-400706 Course Date: 2nd – 7th December 2024

# For Registration: <u>CLICK HERE</u>

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# Mélange

# Kolkata

# Technical Lecture on 'CII – Corrective Action Plan'

The Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Kolkata Branch, held a Technical Lecture on 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 at its newly developed Maritime Education & Training Centre. The lecture was delivered by **Shri. Sadhan Kumar Sarkar**, an Executive Committee Member of IME(I) Kolkata Branch and former Director (i/c) of the Marine Engineering & Research Institute, Kolkata. The topic of discussion was the "CII – Corrective Action Plan."



Shri. Gautam Sen, Chairman of IME(I) Kolkata Branch, welcomed Shri. Sarkar and provided a brief introduction to the audience.

In his presentation, Shri. Sarkar explained the global challenge of rising temperatures due to global warming and outlined the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) strategies to limit temperature increases to 1.5°C. He discussed key regulatory measures such as the Energy Efficiency Design Index (EEDI), the Energy Efficiency Existing Ship Index (EEXI), and the Carbon Intensity Indicator (CII) ratings.

Shri. Sarkar elaborated on various corrective actions approved by the IMO, including the adoption of alternative fuels, renewable energy sources, and carbon-neutral fuels like ammonia and hydrogen. He also highlighted ways to enhance hull and propeller efficiency. Among the corrective actions, Shri. Sarkar emphasised Engine Power Limitation (EPL) and Shaft Power Limitation (ShaPoLi) as the most practical and immediate solutions for existing ships.

The lecture also touched on Market-Based Measures (MBMs) under review by IMO advisory bodies, which are expected to be implemented soon to help shipowners achieve Net Zero Emission targets.

Despite the inclement weather, the event saw attendance from distinguished guests such as **Mr. Santanu Paul** from the Indian Maritime University, **Mr. Supriyo Bhattacharya** from Eastern Marine Engineers, as well as MEO Class-I candidates from institutions like the Indian Maritime University, Marine Education Charitable Trust, and Hoon Maritime Institute. Several trainee cadets were also present.



The event concluded with a vote of thanks.



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Industry News

# *World Maritime Day 2024 - 'Navigating the Future: Safety First'*

The National Maritime Day Celebrations Committee, under the aegis of the Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, commemorated World Maritime Day 2024 on 24th September at the Maritime Training Institute (MTI), Shipping Corporation of India, Powai, Mumbai. The event brought together a large gathering of maritime industry stakeholders, government officials, seafarers, and their families. This year's theme, selected by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), was "Navigating the Future: Safety First."

**Capt. B. K. Tyagi**, Chairman and Managing Director of Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. and Vice-Chairman of the NMDC (Central) Committee welcomed all the participants to the event. He underscored the significance of World Maritime Day, highlighting its alignment with global maritime trends, green shipping and its relevance to the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In a video message, Union Cabinet Minister **Shri Sarbananda Sonowal**, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, marked 2024 as the 50th anniversary of the adoption of the 1974 SOLAS Convention—an essential IMO treaty governing maritime safety. He spoke about the rapid advancements in maritime technologies, which are enhancing safety, efficiency, and sustainability while also reducing environmental impact. Shri Sonowal emphasised that India is modernising its legal and regulatory framework to embrace these innovations and to steer the sector toward a sustainable future.

The event also featured a video address from IMO Secretary-General **Mr. Arsenio Dominguez**, who emphasised the critical role of the SOLAS Convention in ensuring safe ship construction, equipment, and operations, thus preventing maritime disasters. He called for global collaboration to prioritize safety as the shipping industry navigates technological and operational transformations.

A panel discussion on the theme "Navigating the Future: Safety First" was Moderated by **Capt. Mahesh Yadav** Director of Maritime Education & Training at the Foreign Owners Representatives and Ship Managers Association (FOSMA). The panel included prominent speakers such as **Capt. Anish Joseph**, Deputy Nautical Advisor at DG Shipping, who guided the seminar emphasising on the current demanding situation in the industry. **Capt. Abhijith Balakrishnan**, DPA at Scorpio Marine Management; **Capt. Pratigya Arora**, Master Mariner on a Bulk Carriers at SCI and **Mr. Vivek Mahadev Lakhwani**, Second Engineer were the other speakers. The entire WMD programme was compered by **Shri David Birwadkar**, Chairman of IME(I) Mumbai Branch.

In his keynote address, Director General of Shipping and Chairman of the NMDC Central Committee, Shri Shyam Jagannathan, stressed the need to prioritise safety in the increasingly complex and challenging global maritime environment. He elaborated on Indiass efforts to position itself as a global maritime leader, including updates to maritime legislation, the Maritime India Vision 2030, and the Maritime Amrit Kal Vision 2047. He further outlined DG Shipping's initiatives in occupational health, safety, security, disaster preparedness, and contingency planning. Specific programs like "Sagar Mey Yog" and "Sagar Mey Samman," a comprehensive revision of the STCW Convention, the establishment of the Bureau of Port Security, and measures to achieve zero carbon emissions were also highlighted.

As a token of appreciation for providing commendable contribution in organising the NMDC events during the year, Organising Committee Chairman Shri Atul Ubale and Convener Shri SM Rai presented flowerpots to the members of the team which included Shri. David Birwadkar, Shri Sanjeev Mehra and Shri Mohan Pal Singh from the IME(I) Mumbai Branch.

In conclusion **Dr Sudhir Kohokade**, Dy Director General of Shipping (Training) complimented the shipping fraternity for the services they are rendering to humanity and gave a vote of thanks. This year's World Maritime Day celebrations underscored the industry's commitment to safety, sustainability and innovation as it navigates toward a secure and environmentally responsible future.

# **Glimpses of the Event**























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# Dr. B.K. Saxena and Shri A.K. Gupta Honoured with Lifetime Achievement Awards

**n** a prestigious ceremony held on 4th October 2024, **Dr. B.K. Saxena (F 1264)** and **Shri. A.K. Gupta** (**F 2247)** were conferred with the esteemed *Lifetime Achievement Award* by the Shipping Tribune. This honour was bestowed upon them in recognition of their extraordinary contributions and long-standing service to the maritime industry. Both recipients have played pivotal roles in shaping the future of shipping, bringing innovative practices, and fostering growth and development in the sector.

Arun Kumar Gupta is the former **Chairman & Managing Director of The Shipping Corporation of India Ltd**. (SCI), the national shipping line and a Navratna PSU. He was instrumental in dramatic turnaround of the Company in 2014, which had been suffering losses for three consecutive years.

On his superannuation from SCI on 31st December 2015, Ministry of Shipping appointed him as the Managing Director of **India Ports Global Ltd** (IPGL) on 1 st January 2016.

IPGL is a Company formed in January 2015 and is an extended arm of the

Government of India to make investments in Ports overseas. As the first task IPGL was entrusted to undertake the strategic Port Project at Chabahar, in Islamic Republic of Iran.

Industry News

Mr Gupta has been responsible for the critical Contract negotiations with the Iranian side which led to its signing during Hon. Prime Minister visit to Iran in May 2016. Thereafter he spearheaded the commencement of India's first overseas port operations at Chabahar in December 2018.

Mr Gupta has served as **Director** Administration with



**Irano-Hind Shipping Company Tehran** from May 2002 to November 2005. He was also **Chairman** of the Board of **India Ports Global Free Zone, Chabahar** from June 2018 to September 2020.

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A Marine Engineer from the Directorate of Marine Engineering and Training (1972-76), he possesses First Class Engineer (MOTOR) Certificate of Competency from Government of India.

He is a Fellow Member of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Member of Narottam Morarji Institute of Shipping and also has the membership of The Institution of Engineers (India) as well as Indian Arbitration Council. Informatively Mr Gupta is the current Chairman of Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Navi Mumbai Chapter.

He has earlier served as a **Trustee** of Kandla, Tuticorin and Cochin Ports. Mr Gupta has been on the Board of several entities of the maritime industry. He is in the panel of Advisors of **Union Public Service Commission**.

Mr Gupta has also been associated with a number

of **committees** related to the marine field, including as a panel member of **Mumbai University** for finalising syllabus for post graduate degree courses in maritime studies. He is also is a faculty for virtual MBA programme of **Indian Maritime University**.

Overall Mr Gupta has over 48 years of experience in Port and Shipping sector, including 14 years at the Board level. Mr Gupta was been recently conferred with Life Time Achievement Award by "Shipping Tribune".

Due to his immense domain experience, presently Mr Gupta is serving as **Advisor** and also



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as a Director on the Board of several Private and Public sector Companies.

Mr Gupta is registered in the Data Bank for Independent Directors, maintained by Institute of Corporate Affairs.

Presently he is Director with **Dredging Corporation** of India Ltd and Jubilant Ship Management Company. He has also been appointed by **Central Vigilance Commission** as Independent External Monitor in the following PSUs:

> Numaligarh Refinery Ltd. Hindustan Organic and Chemicals Ltd.

Dr. Brijendra K. Saxena is a highly accomplished marine engineer with over five decades of experience in the shipping industry. He is the Founder Principal of Tolani Maritime Institute, Pune, where he served for nearly 20 years before retiring in 2018. Currently, he continues to contribute to the institute as an Advisor. He is also a former President of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India).

Dr. Saxena is a graduate of the prestigious World Maritime University (WMU), Malmö, Sweden, where he has also taught. He holds a Master of Science degree from BITS, Pilani, and has pursued advanced qualifications in chartering, insurance, insurance law, financial management, and maritime law, including a PhD. Most recently, he completed a Postgraduate Diploma in International Maritime Law from WMU. His expertise is widely recognized, and he has published and presented numerous papers at conferences both in India and internationally. He also serves as a guide for postgraduate and PhD students.

Dr. Saxena has received multiple prestigious accolades for his contributions to maritime education. In 2023, he was honored with the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Narottam Morarjee Institute of Shipping. Previous awards include recognition from the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) in 2020, GlobalMET, FOSMA, and Samudra Manthan. Additionally, the Government of India awarded him for his "Outstanding Contribution to Maritime Education and Training."

Internationally, Dr. Saxena has participated in HTW meetings as part of the Indian delegation and served on IMO panels for evaluating regulatory documentation submitted by various countries in accordance with the 1978 STCW Convention. He is a Fellow of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India), the Institution of Engineers (India), and the Narottam Morarjee Institute of Shipping. He is also a Senior Member of the American Society of Quality (USA), a Member of the Institute of Chartered Shipbrokers (London), and holds memberships in the Indian Council of Arbitration, Indian Maritime Foundation, and the Association of Maritime International Commercial Interests & Expertise (AMICIE).

Dr. Saxena currently serves as the Chairman of both the Academic Council and Research & Training Committee of the Narottam Morarjee Institute of Shipping, and he is the Associate Editor of the technical journal of the Institution of Engineers (India).





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# Leadership Transition in INSA: New President and Vice President Take Charge

The Indian maritime industry is witnessing a significant leadership transition with the appointment of two highly esteemed professionals to helm the Indian National Shipowners' Association (INSA). Shri. C.V. Subba Rao, Managing Director of SANMAR, has taken over as the President, while Capt. B.K. Tyagi, Chairman and Managing Director of Shipping Corporation of India (SCI), has assumed the role of Vice President.

Both leaders bring decades of experience, expertise, and commitment to the maritime sector. Shri Rao

is known for his strategic vision and leadership at SANMAR, a company that has set benchmarks in the shipping and chemical sectors. On the other hand, Capt. Tyagi, with his distinguished career at SCI, has been instrumental in driving growth and innovation in India's shipping industry.

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IME(I) extends its heartfelt congratulations to Shri C.V. Subba Rao and Capt. B.K. Tyagi on their new roles and wishes them great success as they steer the course of INSA towards new milestones.



Shri. C.V. Subba Rao



Capt. B.K. Tyagi



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# IMO Celebrates World Maritime Day 2024



As the maritime community prepares to navigate the waters of change, 2024's World Maritime Day, celebrated on September 26, has brought the theme "Navigating the future: safety first" to the forefront, spotlighting the significance of safety at sea in an era of considerable transformations and new risks.

# Several initiatives were held to commemorate the Day, including:

The World Meteorological Organization (WMO) -International Maritime Organization (IMO) Symposium on Extreme Maritime Weather: The event focused on **Bridging the Knowledge Gap Towards Safer Shipping** and took place on 23-26 September 2024 at IMO Headquarters, London.

**Lighting up landmarks:** IMO Headquarters were bathed in blue light in the evening of the day to promote this year's theme. IMO invited Member States, intergovernmental organizations in cooperation with IMO, and non-governmental organizations in consultative status with IMO to light up landmarks.

**Social media participation:** IMO invited Members States and everyone in the maritime industry to celebrate



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the day by using the hashtag #WorldMaritimeDay and tagging IMO on social media

For the IMO, the year 2024 marks a particularly special occasion. It has been exactly 50 years since the adoption of the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), the world's chief treaty for the security of merchant ships.

### SOLAS: then and now

SOLAS was first adopted in 1914 as a direct response to the sinking of the RMS Titanic two years before. The catastrophic event, which claimed the lives of over 1,500 people, exposed considerable shortcomings in maritime safety regulations and accentuated the need for global standards that could protect passengers and crew at sea.

In recognition of this need, the SOLAS convention was developed to establish 'comprehensive' safety protocols, setting the foundation for modern maritime safety practices.

As per IMO, the SOLAS convention that is in force today was adopted on November 1, 1974, and has undergone several amendments. It consists of 15 chapters that cover a wide range of crucial topics, including lifesaving appliances and arrangements, distress and safety communications, the carriage of dangerous goods, and the integrity of ship structure and stability.

"We can be proud of the crucial role this convention has played in setting international safety standards for ship construction, equipment, and operation, preventing maritime disasters and protecting lives," said **Arsenio Dominguez**, Secretary-General of the IMO.

"But we cannot be complacent. World Maritime Day calls for collective effort to ensure we keep pace with the ongoing transformation in shipping. We must ensure the continued development and implementation of the regulatory regime to prioritize safety as we steer toward tomorrow."

Over the past 50 years, SOLAS has provided a framework to protect countless lives. However, now that five decades have passed, IMO remarked that the maritime community is still at a crossroads, facing rapid technological advancements, global security challengers and the shift to green energy.

In his message, United Nations Secretary-General **Antonio Guterres**, pointed out that, as it steers toward greater digitalization, automation, and decarbonization, the maritime industry is bound to undergo more profound changes.

"New technologies and designs offer the opportunity to make important contributions to climate action. I count on the commitment of regulators, seafarers and ship operators alike," he highlighted.

### **Celebrating World Maritime Day**

There will be several initiatives to mark this year's World Maritime Day. As disclosed, one of those events was the WMO-IMO symposium on extreme maritime

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Mr. Rajeev Nayyer, President, IME(I) with Arsenio Dominguez, Secretary-General, IMO

weather, which took place from September 23 to 26, 2024, at IMO Headquarters in London.

Another key highlight, IMO has revealed, will be the World Maritime Day Parallel Event, which is hosted every year in a different IMO Member State. This year it will be Spain.

The event is set to held from October 20 to October 22, featuring a number of speakers who will explore critical topics in the maritime industry.

Last year, IMO's theme for the World Maritime Day 2023 was "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on". The theme reflected upon the significance of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), which covers the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes.

Courtesy: IMO



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### IMO News

# India's Participation in

Intersessional Working Group on the STCW Convention and Code Review at IMO (HQ), London





ndia took on a prominent role during the Intersessional Working Group on the Comprehensive Review of the STCW Convention and Code, held from October 7th to 11th, 2024, at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) headquarters in London. This critical meeting focused on updating the 1978 STCW (Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers) Convention and Code, ensuring that global maritime training standards are in line with modern challenges and advancements.

The Indian delegation was led by **Shri Dependra Bisen**, Deputy Director General of Shipping, who headed a diverse team of experts and representatives from various Indian maritime institutions. The delegation included:

- Shri Praveen Nair, Engineer & Ship Surveyor, Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) (in online mode)
- Capt. Ravi Singh Sikarwar, Nautical Surveyor, DGS (in online mode)
- 3. Capt. Pankaj Sarin, Representative from the Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI)
- 4. Capt. Mahesh Yadav, Representative from the Foreign Owners Representatives and Ship Managers Association (FOSMA) (in online mode)
- Capt. Kersi Deboo (in online mode) and Capt. S.M. Halbe, Representatives from the Maritime Association of Shipowners, Shipmanagers and Agents (MASSA)
- Mr. Rajeev Nayyer (in online mode) and Mr. Sunil Kumar, Representatives from the Institute of Marine Engineers (India)
- 7. Capt. Harish Khatri, Representative from the Board of Examinations for Seafarers Trust (BES)
- 8. Capt. Philip Mathews, Representative from Indian Shipowners

India's involvement in the working group was centered on addressing emerging challenges in the maritime sector, including new technologies on ships,





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e-certification, cybersecurity awareness, mental health, and gender sensitization. The delegation actively participated in discussions on updating outdated training requirements, proposing solutions to align with digital advancements and promoting psychological safety within the seafaring profession.

As part of the comprehensive review, a two-step methodology was agreed upon, beginning with an in-depth assessment of the STCW Convention and Code. The identified gaps would be followed by revisions to ensure the standards reflect modern technological trends and global best practices. India contributed to the drafting groups focused on these reforms and submitted papers addressing various issues, including training requirements for emerging technologies and mental health awareness at sea.

The Intersessional Working Group on the Comprehensive Review of the STCW Convention and Code, chaired by Capt. Cathleen Mauro from the United States, saw active participation from India alongside other key member states. Delegations from countries such as Argentina, Australia, China, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as representatives from various intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, contributed to critical discussions. The Group focused

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on addressing gaps and updating provisions in the STCW Convention to incorporate new technological trends, mental health, cybersecurity, and gender diversity in maritime training.

involvement The of Indian representatives in the discussions was significant, given India's vast seafaring workforce and its prominent role in global maritime activities. The delegation's contributions reflect India's commitment to improving international maritime standards and ensuring that its seafarers are equipped to meet new global challenges. The progress made during this session will form the foundation for further reforms, with the comprehensive review targeted for completion by 2027.

India's active participation in the intersessional working group underscores its role as a key player in shaping the future of global maritime training and certification standards, ensuring its seafarers remain at the forefront of industry developments.





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Cohort Reflections

# The Bread Thief: Unpacking the Myth

Many natives in developed countries wonder why they're losing jobs and struggling to find new ones. Somewhere in this bewilderment, they start rationalising what is there in front of their eyes and what they encounter at market place, school, hospital, restaurant or any other similar crowded / most often visited place on a daily basis. The obvious culprit, in their eyes, is immigrants. However, this assumption warrants a closer look.

Prolonged unemployment leads to financial strain, reduced family outings, and increased stress levels. This can escalate into psychological disorders, substance abuse and irrational behavior. The frustration sometimes manifests as racial attacks on immigrants, further complicating the issue. Regular venting out incidents, misplaced anger when seen as a bigger picture, leads to increased divide between job holders v/s job seekers, natives v/s immigrants and haves v/s have nots in a given society.

But are immigrants truly the bread thieves? A more nuanced perspective reveals a different story.

#### **The Bigger Picture**

Immigrants have been around in neighbourhood of these attackers since long time, contributing to their economies, paying taxes, and trying to integrating into local cultures. While they may have taken some jobs, they're not the primary reason for native's unemployment. And if one shift one's lens of wisdom and focuses on bigger picture and try to see the whole globe as a flat one, one may see a different picture altogether. The real culprit lies in global economic shifts:

- 1. Economies of scale and business economics drive producers/ service providers to reduce costs.
- 2. Rapid industrialization in Asian countries (mainly China) has led to a mass exodus of jobs related to production / operation / maintenance / warehousing / logistics and administration activities from developed economies to these nations. And this led to a spiral effect into other allied sectors like transportation of all kind, travel, hotel, leisure, expats positioning and host of other similar opportunities.

Now think of vast evaporation of jobs, (at all levels, skilled, semi skilled and low skill levels) in developed economies. Somewhere this evaporation was a rapid phenomenon (e.g. in sectors like IT, back end operations etc.) and somewhere it happened slowly (e.g. in sectors like production, warehousing, maintenance etc). Unfortunately this process did happen in all developed nations cutting across all continental barriers.

The poor natives, less educated locals who lost their jobs in this process still kept thinking that these immigrants have taken away their jobs.

#### The Challenge

Educating and explaining this global shift to frustrated natives is crucial. Equally crucial is advising him how to cope up with this change or how to up-skill or again become employable. However neither the immigrants (who themselves have been at receiving end of this misplaced anger) nor old generation of natives (who themselves did not experience this shift or could not foresee it coming) can be expected to reason with angry youths.

#### Instead, it's up to:

- Politicians
- Educators
- Entrepreneurs
- Community leaders

to guide them toward understanding the new world order.

#### **Consequences of Inaction**

If left unaddressed, this misinformation can lead to:

- Protectionist economies
- Decrease in immigrant population
- Lower intake of new immigrants
- Reduced tax collections
- Decreased spending
- Further job losses

Additionally, parents of prospect immigrants back in rest of the developing / under developed countries will stop sending their wards for higher education to developed countries, further straining education system of developed nations. All this shall result into a spiral downward process adding additional burden to an already complex global challenge. To make things further difficult, newer technologies like artificial intelligence etc are making jobs evaporate all across globe and not only within developed nations.

#### A Wake-Up Call

It's time for all to accept that the world today is a multi-polar one, and for remaining relevant, one requires:

- Continuous up-skilling
- Awareness of global trends
- Understanding economic shifts

#### The Silver Lining

Humans have always adapted to challenges, overcome them in the past resulting in a more comfortable, technologically advanced conditions and life styles. We shall overcome this challenge too and will be in a better state going forward. By acknowledging the new world order and preparing accordingly, we can:

- Create a more sustainable planet

- Blur lines between developed, developing, and underdeveloped nations
- Foster a more peaceful and comfortable world

#### About the Author

Commander JP Singh, MBA (Finance & Marketing, M.Tech (Nuclear Technology), B.Tech (Mechanical) served Indian Navy for 20 years. He was one of the key members of its Nuclear Submarine Design team. He served on board as Engineer Officer on various ships (Vidyut -class missiles boats, Nanuchka-class corvettes and Sukanya Class offshore patrol vessels) After leaving Indian Navy in 2007, he served as Director Marketing, Mahindra Consulting, Vice President, Dantal Hydraulics and a key member of business development team of Reliance Naval Engineering Ltd (erstwhile Pipavav Shipyard). He started Makk Consulting (an equity research & investment firm and co-founded Sohsheel Foundation (an Education Research Foundation) in 2014.

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नीलाभ गगन की छतरी ताने, नील-समंदर ! खो जाते आगोश में जिसके सरित-सरोवर | श्वेत-सलोने चन्द्र की छबि ले, हृदय-के-अंदर ! कहां मिलेगा यह सुख ! बोलो तो ? धरती पर |



उदित भानु का चरण पखारें, लहरें जाकर ! उन्मत्त पवन, जल-मदिर , घटों में भर-भर कर, दौड़ी जाती,सुन,प्यासी-धारिणी का दारुण स्वर ! कहां मिलेगी? रजनी काली ! तारक मणियों से सजधजकर !.....

हूँ देख रहा मैं, ठगा-ठगा सा, विस्मित होकर। यह कौन?उतर जोआया!स्वर्गलोक से,धरतीपर ! था खोज रहा मैं, जीवन की, जो छटा मनोहर ! ले रहा हिलोरें मनस-पटल पर, वह, रह-रह कर।

🗼 Atul Kumar Singh 🙏

# Futuristic Approach Towards Safe Pilot Transfer Arrangement

#### ABSTRACT

P ilot boarding is considered as a high-risk activity and several instances of causalities have been reported over the years. The task of pilot transfer between vessels out at the sea has been recognized as hazardous for a few decades now since it has resulted in much undesired fatalities and serious causalities. Through this paper we have tried to convey a new idea that can mitigate the risk and improve the safety and security of a pilot's life to an extent. This research paper focuses on the risks and threats of using a traditional pilot ladder and mitigate the risks of pilot boarding keeping in mind the innovations and technologies that surround us today and make the best use of the futuristic ideas and future resources that are yet to come.

#### **KEYWORDS**

Pilot Ladder, embarkation accidents, alternatives to pilot ladder, safety of pilot

#### **ABBREVIATIONS USED**

SOLAS- International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea

OHS- Occupational Health and Safety

IMPA- International Marine Pilots Association

IMO- International Maritime Organization

#### INTRODUCTION

Pilots come aboard ships to support the captain navigate a vessel in the most effectual and safe style in the precise zone and safeguard arrivals and departures from ports. Pilot embarkation is hence considered a critical operation. Numerous factors affect this process deeming whether it will be successfully carried out or result in a casualty or disaster. International rules and regulations have stated the necessities for pilot boarding arrangements in order to ensure successful boarding and operations thus reducing the risk to life.

The task of pilot transfer between vessels out at the sea has been recognized as hazardous for a few decades now since it has resulted in much undesired fatalities and serious causalities. Historical evidences and documents suggest that no changes in the transfer arrangements have taken place over many years with the pilot continuing to rely on a ladder made up of rope and timber with no protection or mechanical assistance as such. Considering the developments innovation in technology all around us and the extent that man is dependent on technology on their day to day lives, use of a traditional pilot ladder seems really unsafe and bleak.

During the pilot transfer process, there should be sufficient preparations onboard the ship. The first and most important thing is to establish proper communication with the pilot and understand their requirements.

Every time a pilot boards a ship, a Master/Pilot exchange happens. This procedure is carried out to ensure that the pilot is provided with the necessary information available about the ship to maneuver the ship in the safest and most effectual way.

Pilots ensure maximum safety for the ship's crew, the cargo itself, and the environment when navigating in precise areas. A pilot is a person who is tremendously familiar of the specific area being navigated. The knowledge includes various things, such as:

- 1. The capability of the pilot to anticipate the effects of the current and tides
- The skill to understand the local traffic and the finest way to navigate efficiently in a narrow channel or in close proximity to land
- **3.** His familiarity with the use of tugs and handling linesmen.

## WHY THE USE OF PILOT LADDERS IS NOT SAFE

The pilot's embarking and disembarking of a vessel at sea using a pilot ladder has long been recognized as hazardous. This has resulted in Marine Pilot accidents which result in disabling medical conditions or even in the worst-case scenario; death.

Too many fatalities, injuries and repeated deficiencies in the rigging, maintenance of the ladder and understanding cause. It is a critical operation

For a critical operation, there is a percentage of ladder related errors of 21% which is very high considering the fact that it has to do with human lives. (Survey done by IMPA in the last 6-7 years in major maritime commence areas).

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Charles Dickens comes to our minds as we reflect upon the state of shipping today. Juxtaposed between Trade Wars, Galloping Technology, Regulatory Challenges and Climate Change issues, we could be looking like a deer caught in the headlights, unable to comprehend where our future lies.

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Columbia Bar is one of the roughest places where the pilot exchange becomes treacherous especially due to the waves, wind, and current are hazardous for vessels of all sizes.

Compared with other ladders, climbing a pilot ladder is more challenging as it is completely vertical and may have considerable negative slope. Moreover, it is not rigid, but flexible and in rough weather, it is a serious challenge to climb.

Root cause of these accidents is the lack of awareness amongst maritime society.

Past credentials suggest that the pilot transfer arrangement has not changed over many years, with the pilot continuing to depend on a rope and timber ladder, with no mechanical assistance. The ladder design and rigging arrangements are not within the control of pilots but are affected by the needs and preferences of many international stakeholders.

#### NEW INNOVATIVE IDEAS THAT MITIGATE RISKS AS WELL AS TO MAKE PILOT TRANSFER EASY

#### 1. Using a ladder made up of a magnetic material

Using a pilot ladder made up of galvanized steel (chain links) that can be retracted with the help of a motorized pulley/winch so that the crew members on board do not have to lug/pull up the heavy weight every time a pilot transfer takes place. When the ladder is rigged for the boarding and disembarking of the pilot, it should be attached to the ship's sideshell with the help of electromagnets placed at both the starboard and port so that the ladder doesn't swing around in rough weather or end up twisting while the pilot is climbing.

Several electromagnetic blocks can be attached to the starboard and port side of the ship's hull so that when activated they can hold the weight of the ladder and the weight of the pilot. The electromagnetic power of the blocks and the factor of safety of the ladder should be more than enough to avoid any kind of causalities. The pilot ladder should be let down when the pilot is in close vicinity and then the electromagnets can be activated to fix the pilot ladder onto them. The pilot should be wearing magnetic gloves (with braided metal inserts) to get attracted to the ladder (already magnetic due to mechanism of attraction). This attraction should be moderate to an extent that the pilot can move up the steps without any problem and on the other hand strong enough not let any slippage happen. There should be constant communication between the pilot boat, the officer in charge on the deck and the crew who is controlling the electromagnets through the VHF while the pilot is boarding. Once the pilot is at the top of the ladder, the officer in charge can help him onboard the vessel. After a safe pilot boarding has been carried out, the electromagnets can be deactivated fully and the ladder can be pulled up with the help of the winch.



Table.1: Failure loads of ladders and full ladder results [2]



A safety harness secured on the main deck would be tied around the body of the pilot during ascent or descent. So that there's no causalities when the pilot jumps/ mounts on to the pilot ladder or from the pilot ladder. This safety harness will have a fall arrester mechanism which works on the mechanism of a car seatbelt. When pulled slowly, the safety harness will not obstruct the movements of the pilot. During the case of an accidental slip, this mechanism will arrest the movement and make sure that no sudden movements or jolts are allowed thus minimizing the effect of a potential fall. This safety harness can be retracted with the help of winch so that it does not swing around in rough weather and also in case of an accidental slippage, does not let the pilot fall all the way down the ladder because the sudden stopping force at the end can heavily injure the pilot.

Alternative- The ladder can have wheels and be attached to electromagnetic rails which will allow free vertical movements of the ladder and prevent the ladder from twisting or swinging around. A pilot may wear magnetic gloves that will prevent the ladder from slipping. These magnetic gloves can be turned on and off according to the instructions given.

The galvanized ladder can be stored anywhere on board without worrying about rust or corrosion from moisture.

#### 2. Passenger Lifts and Elevators

A platform made up of galvanized steel which can be operated with the help of a mechanical or a hydraulic



Figure 1: Illustrating how the pilot ladder will be held on to the sideshell of the ship by the electromagnetic blocks



Figure 2: Illustrating how the passenger lift will work against the ship's sideshell

winch. The platform should have small wheels on the side adjacent to the ship's body which moves on rails. These wheels will not be detachable so as to reduce the risk of coming free and always remain clamped to the rails. These rails should be welded on the ship's body and then bended onto the main deck so that the platform can move up and over it with the help of wheels attached to it causing no increase in breadth of the ship. The platform will have two guard rails for the pilot to hold on to while the transfer takes place. When on reaching the upper edge, the platform can be pulled up on the main deck and can be secured on the main deck with the help of chains or locks. The galvanization will allow the platform to be on the main deck exposed to all weather conditions without any issues of rust or corrosion even after being in contact with moisture.

#### CONCLUSION

Through this paper we have put in words our ideas and visualizations which, after testing and further researching can improve the pilot transfer arrangement and reduce the risks. The use of Helicopters was not considered during this project since it has already been advantageous and accepted as a safe transfer method. This research paper has been written keeping cost of production and operation in mind and thus bringing out the most cost effective and long-lasting forms of pilot transfer that are safe as well.

This idea calls out for further research and development since as students, it is not possible for us both technically and financially to test these ideas out practically.

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The completion of this paper could not have been possible without the active participation, guidance and assistance of my friends, teachers and faculty members of Tolani Maritime Institute, whose names may not all be enumerated. The contributions and helping hands are sincerely appreciated and gratefully acknowledged. I would like to express deep gratitude and indebtedness to Capt. Kevin.S. Mascarenhas (Professor), Dr. Nitin Junnarkar (Professor), Professor Anirudh Kumar, Mr. Akshay Arun Singh (2<sup>nd</sup> Officer; OSM Maritime Group), Professor Sujit Das and Professor Abhishek Sharma who has been our my side thick and thin during this undertaking.

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Cohort Reflections

**Sailing Memoirs** 

## The Evolution of Control: The Controllable Pitch Propeller Saga



A Ship being battered in the North Sea

When revisiting and reconstructing the events that led to a disaster or a tragic sinking that cost lives or a breakdown at sea, one can find the genesis of the cause for such a disaster in a series of small errors in decision making, which gets compounded by others following suit, till the fatal incident occurs at a much later date.

The following narrative is about a series of such decisions that will certainly have had a serious impact on the ship, but prevented from happening by taking some firm - and unpopular - decisions.

#### What is a Controllable Pitch Propeller (CPP)?

A Controllable Pitch Propeller (CPP) is a type of propeller where the blade angle can be adjusted during operation, allowing for better maneuverability and efficiency. This feature enables ships to change speed or direction without altering the engine's RPM, making CPP ideal for vessels requiring frequent speed adjustments or precise control, such as naval ships, tugs, and ferries. The hydraulic mechanism within the propeller hub adjusts the blade angles to optimize propulsion based on the ship's operating conditions.

## A slight increase in the rpm of the Main Engine takes place with increase of load / pitch.

Earlier, CPPs were either manufactured by Kawasaki or by LIPS. Each had a different reaction to loss of power or loss of hydraulic pressure. One shifted the propeller to 'Full Ahead' pitch of the propeller blades automatically (due to a spring & piston arrangement), while the other (Kawasaki?) brought the blades to zero pitch. (Nowadays, most are Wartsila made).

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The North Sea - the most dangerous sea in the world



A CPP Blade being Fitted on the Propeller

The advantage of the propeller blades going to 'Full Ahead' pitch is that the ship can continue running, while the Main Engine can be taken on to 'Local Control', the fuel regulated to required rpm and the engine reversed using local controls.

On the other type, if there is a loss of pitch (zero), an emergency tool kit can be used, where a countersunk screw on the shaft is removed, a threaded hollow tube inserted and a hand hydraulic pump used to build pressure to push the blades to 'Full Ahead' pitch, after which the hollow tube is locked in place. About 20 litres of oil is needed for this operation.

I joined a ship (a Self Unloader) and we sailed out almost immediately. During the 4 days to the next port, I noticed that the second (standby) hydraulic pump for the CPP was not in place.

The Second informed me that they were awaiting spares for the hydraulic pump. Fair enough.

My second question was how many weeks has the second pump been non functional - he was not aware. Digging through the maintenance logs, we found that it had broken down - shaft and all - about 9 months ago, after which a requisition was made.

In today's ISM world, this hydraulic pump would have come under the category of 'Critical Equipment' and spares would have been sent post haste to the ship. Those days, 9 months had passed and still no spares sent. The outgoing Chief Engineer had not even reminded the Office nor enquired about the spares, nor had he mentioned it in his 'Handing Over Report'.

My third question stumped all. I asked 'What happens if the remaining hydraulic pump failed?'

The Instruction Manual informed us that the blades would come to zero pitch and advised us to use the supplied tool and hydraulic pump to push the blades to 'Full Ahead' pitch.

I decided that, as soon as we were alongside at the load port, I'll have a 'dry run' of shifting the propeller pitch to 'Full Ahead' and, at the same time, try out th Main Engine on 'Astern' - both of which procedures had never been carried out - there were no records.

The tool - a hollow threaded tube - was nowhere to be found. As for the hand hydraulic pump, we could always use any other hydraulic pump, using adaptors for matching the threads. One full day of searching and we found it in a remote place, dusty, never been touched - and the ship was twenty years old, a Laker.

In port, we tried to use the tool and hydraulic pump to push the blades to 'Full Ahead' pitch. The Instruction Manual had provided the information that about 20 litres of hydraulic oil would be needed for the hand hydraulic pump.

Even after 200 litres of oil was used by the pump, the blades had not shifted. A careful look at the drawing revealed that a seal in the cone of the pitch mechanism was, most likely, leaking because of which the oil we were pumping in was returning to the tank from which the main hydraulic pumps took suction, suspected so, as the Hydraulic Oil Tank Level was increasing as we used up 200 litres in the process of trying to shift the CPP blades to 'Full Ahead' pitch.

Which meant that, in case of a failure of the only operational hydraulic pump, we would be stuck in mid sea.

I contacted the Office and asked the Superintendent to expedite the spares to the same port that we were in,

Nobody knew.



in Norway, as we were staying there for another 36 hours. He insisted on supplying it at the next port and told me that the previous Chief Engineer had not made a noise for 9 months and "Why are you doing so?" I patiently explained the consequences of loss of hydraulic pressure and our inability to push the blades to full pitch angle due to the leaky seal, further adding that we were traversing the North Sea and that too in winter when the weather was at its worst.

He was adamant that I can get the spares only in the next port. I had to insist on getting the spares here before we sail out or else 'we will not sail out'. I also informed him that I will be calling the Class Surveyor in order to stop the sailing.

As promised, after we completed cargo, we went out to anchorage for the spares to arrive. On the 8th hour at anchor, a boat came alongside with the spares. 7 hours later, having tried out the newly assembled pump, we were on our way.

Meanwhile, we had cleaned out the hydraulic oil tank, found a lot of metal particles, possibly from the running pump.We renewed the oil and used the new pump.

Just to be sure, I put in an 'urgent' order for a set of spares for the second pump, more as a precaution than anything else. My instinct proved to be true as that pump broke up a month later.

One of the questions that came to my mind was - if the seal in the propeller assembly was leaking, how is it that the pitch was capable of being changed with the one remaining, operational, hydraulic pump.

These hydraulic pumps were on 'Auto' and were supposed to cut in and cut out when the pressure in the system reduces or increases. My only, surmised, explanation was that the pumps were running continuously to maintain the required pressure, to offset the leaking seal. They were not cutting in or cutting out.

The reversing of the Main Engine was also tried out and found that, because of stuck pneumatic valves in the reversing circuit, reversal was not taking place. We started on that job also.

Renewal of the seal in the propeller assembly required dry docking of the vessel. A 'Work Order' was issued to the Office.

#### Why am I writing about this incident?

Firstly, Engineers should be suspicious of any "Handing Over Report' that does not mention specifics when you are taking over.

Secondly, neither the outgoing Chief Engineer nor the other Engineers would have gone that extra mile - mainly through ignorance - to ask themselves the question of 'What if the running pump fails,, when we do not have a standby?'

Thirdly, most of the Superintendents of today are overly inexperienced and are not able to make that leap of knowledge, that connection, that needs to be made



when a Requisition for Spare Parts is in front of him. Each Requisition should, therefore, be followed up with a detailed history of the failure of the equipment, the urgency of those spares and the consequences of not receving them soon enough. The Requisition should specify that they be air freighted, depending on the urgency.

In earlier times, this 'Urgent' requisition would be lying on the Superintendent's desk, while he occasionally looked at it and pondered over the cost of all the parts of the full pump.

In today's ISM and SMS world, this hydraulic pump would have been categorised as "Critical Equipment", which is supposed to force an immediate reaction from him.

Fourthly, Chief Engineers should demand action on a loitering Spares Requisition. One of the methods that can be used is to send a monthly message on "Status of Requisitions", by e-mail.

Lastly, if the risk is high for the ship to perform the next voyage, the Chief Engineer has the authority to call the Class Surveyor and let Class decide. If you have solid evidence, like in the above incident, he will back you up with a 'No Sail' order.

Decisive action matters and saves lives.

#### About the Author

**Mr. A. Ranganathan**, 1970 batch of DMET, now retired worked in Sisco and Barber SM. Of the 38 years at sea, 28 where as Chief Engineer, served on Car Carriers, Container Vessels, Bulk Carriers, MPCs and Self Unloaders. After leaving sea, he has been a Consultant and Vessel Manager with Maersk USA for 6 years.



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# Obituary

#### Ramesh Madhavan Menon

On behalf of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) – Mumbai Branch, including the Navi Mumbai & Gujarat Chapters, we are deeply saddened by the passing of Mr. Ramesh Madhavan



Menon (F 9469), MDL Batch 78-82, on 7<sup>th</sup> October 2024. We offer our heartfelt tribute to his departed soul and extend our thoughts and prayers for strength and solace to his grieving family.





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