

# WMTC: Uniting Global Societies for Advancing Marine Engineering and Sustainability

**W**MTC is a global confluence of various societies across the world (USA, UK, Germany, Denmark, Norway, Spain, Portugal, India, Singapore China, S Korea and Japan) involved in the learning of Marine Engineering, Naval Architecture, Science, Technology and Sustainability.

The World Maritime Technology Conference, WMTC 2024 has been conducted over 3 days, December 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> 2024 in the Hotel Leela Palace, Chennai, with a thought-provoking theme: "Global Shipping - A Battle for Survival or a Torch Bearer of Hope."

The conference had come back to India after 15 years, and the 2024 Conference was hosted by The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) – Chennai Branch. It was earlier hosted in Copenhagen (2022), Shanghai (2018), Houston (2015), St. Petersburg (2012), Mumbai in 2009.

WMTC 2024 was supported by a host of Sponsors, Exhibitors, Advertisers and donors from the maritime fraternity. The Institute places on record its gratefulness for such kindness and generosity.

The Plenary session in the evening of December 4<sup>th</sup> was capped with an address by the Chief Guest **Shri Shyam Jagannathan (IAS)**, DG and Addl Secretary, Shipping, Govt. of India, who also released the Conference Souvenir, featuring all the papers presented at the conference. **Shri Arun Sharma**, Executive Chairman, Indian Register of Shipping, the Strategic Forum Leader also spoke, along with other dignitaries from Lloyd's Register and DNV. The session was presided by **Mr Rajeev Nayyar**, the President of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India).

Prior to the Plenary Session, the conference featured two prominent panel discussions, coined "The White House" and "The Poseidon Senate."

"The White House" panel discussion was anchored by **Mr. David Loosely**, CEO & Secretary General of BIMCO (Baltic & International Maritime Council) and comprised a distinguished panel of experts, which focussed on a range of critical issues facing the Business leaders:

- **Ms Maren Moxon**, CFO, The Wallem Group
- **Shri Shyam Jagannathan (IAS)**, DG Shipping
- **Mr. Jonathan Andrews**, CEO Steamship Mutual P&I
- **Mr. Aditya Trehan**, MD Maersk Tankers, India

"The Poseidon Senate" panel discussion was anchored by **Mr. Tim Wilkins**, Deputy Managing Director of INTERTANKO (International Association of Independent Tanker Owners), which delved into the latest trends in the maritime industry, such as sustainability, crew welfare, technology, and regulatory developments.

- **Mr. Durga Das**, Founder, Aero Nero
- **Mr. Nikolaus H Schues**, President of BIMCO
- **Mr. Nils Kovdal**, CEO / Managing Partner of North Cape Capital
- **Mr. Sanjay Varma**, Director Head Decarbonisation Solutions, Wartsila

As a stress buster, the organisers arranged for **Shri Devdutt Pattanaik**, Author, Mythologist to speak before dinner, which turned out to be extremely engaging.



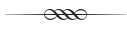
Over the 3 days, the conference featured more than 60 papers presented on various topics, with delegates from India and overseas participating in intense discussions, on subjects related to Technology, Markets and Insurance.

Speakers included **Dr Malini Shankar, IAS (Retd.)**, **Capt Rahul Choudhuri**, **Mr. Anil Devli**, **Capt. Suresh Amirapu** and other eminent industry personalities.

The themes covered over the three days were:

1. Reforming (of Romancing) the Future – is Education better than Schooling?
2. Managing Learning – The Future of the Shipping world
3. Navigating the Future – Blockchain, Ai, Data Analytics and Digital transformation
4. The Connectivity Conundrum – Linking Rivers, Ports and Railways
5. Classification Society – A voice of influence
6. Managing Learning – what can Shipping learn from other industries
7. Shipping Markets – Can we predict the future?
8. Duty of Care – Safety Management and Crew welfare
9. Ship building and repairs – Can India grab a share of the market?
10. Managing and Hedging Risk – Asset, Cargo and Currency

- 11. Sustainable Development – Is it only about Climate Change?
- 12. Technical innovations – Marine Applications
- 13. Ocean Governance & Energy Transition
- 14. Cost leadership in Maintenance
- 15. Advancements in Product Technologies – Fuels, Lubricants, Paints and Chemicals
- 16. Powering Academic Research – Hulls, Propulsion Equipment, Vibration and Underwater noise



The Valedictory session held on December 6<sup>th</sup> was chaired by the Chief Guest, **Vice Admiral G Srinivasan**,

AVSM VSM, Director General Naval Projects and the Guest of Honour, **Shri Amitabh Kumar, IRS (Retd.)** who spoke on the industry, its challenges and benefits to the world at large.

The conference concluded with a formal transfer of a traditional lamp from the incumbent, **Shri C V Subba Rao** to the next Conference Chairperson, **Dr Dina Pas Dimas** of the Portuguese Engineers Association. The conference now travels to Lisbon, Portugal where it shall be held in the summer of 2027.

The organisers place on record their gratitude to the Members of the Press for their unwavering sense of duty, courage and kindness.

## *Glimpses of the Event*











