

IME(I), MUMBAI BRANCH WEBINAR ON CHALLENGES FACED BY THE INDIAN SHIPPING INDUSTRY DUE TO COVID 19 PANDEMIC

The Shipping Industry already reeling under the pressures of reducing trade, and the impact of meeting the compliance to Low Sulphur Cap 2020 has faced the enormous challenge that is wreaking havoc across the world, the COVID-19 Pandemic. The industry has kept many a lifelines going in these trying times with support from all quarters of the maritime fraternity. In such trying times, the topic “**COVID19 - Challenges & Impact on Indian Shipping and Way Forward**”, chosen by the Mumbai Branch of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) for its maiden Webinar on 25 April 20 was more than apt. Expectedly it drew the interest of more than 800 + Registrations with the peak attendance being in excess of 500 Participants.

INSTITUTE OF MARINE ENGINEERS (INDIA)

Mumbai Branch Presents

Webinar on COVID-19: Challenges & Impact on Indian Shipping and Way Forward

- Introductory Remarks by The Director General of Shipping, **Mr. Amitabh Kumar, IRS**
- 'Issues faced by the Ship Owners, Seafarers and the Industry due to the Pandemic' by **Mr. Anil Devli, CEO, INSA**, and 'Challenges faced by Crew Management Companies due to Pandemic and Effects on Moral of Seafarers Onboard' by **Mr. Maneesh Pradhan, MD, AESM(I) Pvt. Ltd.**
- Panel Discussion 1
 1. Mrs. H. K. Joshi - CMD, SCI
 2. Mr. Anil Devli - CEO, INSA
 3. Mr. Rajeev Navroze - CEO, QGD Services Ltd.
 4. Mr. Uday Burabhi - President, IME
- Panel Discussion 2
 1. Dr. Sujata Nair Tolaji - Chairperson, Tolaji Shipping Company Ltd.
 2. Mr. Amar Singh Tatar - Gen. Secy, MUI
 3. Mr. Maneesh Pradhan - MD, AESM(I) Pvt. Ltd.
 4. Mr. Sanjeev S. Vakil - CEO, HMT

Organizing Committee:

- Mr. V.K. Jain - Chairman
- Mr. Bhupesh Tater - Hon. Secretary
- Mr. Bryan D'sa - Hon. Treasurer
- Mr. S.M. Raj - Member
- Mr. T.S. Girish - Head, Technical Meetings
- Mr. David Birwadkar - Head, Training Courses
- Mr. Sanjeev Mehra - Head, T&S Sub-Committee

Mr. V. K. Jain - Chairman, Mumbai Branch of IME(I), during the introductory speech stressed that the purpose of the Webinar is to look for a Way Forward during the Lockdown and also took the opportunity to speak about the Branch's new initiative i-Talk that brings views of industry stakeholders to the fraternity at large on You Tube in a series of regular interviews. While thanking the Administration and DG Shipping in particular he acknowledged on their collective effort to bring relief to the industry and requested the DG Shipping to deliver his Inaugural Address to the large audience which included industry stalwarts, CEOs, maritime institutions, mariners from India tuned in from across more than 10 countries and the members of the Media.

DG Shipping, Mr. Amitabh Kumar, IRS, complimenting the Organisers, brought out that the impact of the Pandemic on the thought process of people has been enormous. Acknowledging that while other sectors of the Economy have been severely

affected, impact of COVID-19 in the shipping sector has been primarily limited to the SOPs, turnaround times at ports, MTIs, RPS Agencies, Classification Societies, Ship Owners, Managers, Charterers and most importantly, the Seafarers. 'While the impact of COVID19 could be reduced by issuing certain SOPs from the Administration', the DG Shipping also added that 'these safety precautions did bring down the efficiency and has raised issues related to cargo, ports running beyond supplemented storages'. Speaking on the problem of Crew Change, and Seafarer's facing expiry of certificates he informed that 'the Administration has come out with detailed orders in DG Circular and extended the applicable Certificates'. While elaborating on other measures to deal with issues arising out of this Pandemic, he stressed upon the need to find more solutions through such interactions, with an immediate focus on starting virtual classes and urged the industry and IME(I) to contribute towards e-Learning.

The Webinar witnessed some very interesting points being debated during the two Panel Discussions interspersed with two insightful presentations. The Panelists were introduced by the Head of Technical Sub-Committee at IME(I), Mr. T.S. Girish and the sessions were moderated by Fellow and past Chairman of the Branch, Mr. S.M. Rai.

At the outset, **Mr. Anil Devli - CEO, INSA** presented a very good comparison of various segments of the shipping viz., Tanker, Bulk Carrier and Container Fleet in India before the Pandemic and after it struck. He brought out that despite a growing trend in the Indian Flag over past two years, we in the shadow of COVID-19 are now dealing with the problems of plenty in the Tanker Trade, bulk cargo segment is strained due to severe drop in demand, and the adverse impact of Force Majeure is now showing including that on the Container Segment which is also impacted by the absence of hinterland movement and credit burden on the working capital. Mr. Devli thanked the Administration in enabling the prompt movement of men and material but stressed that the impact on ship owners, operational losses, seafarers, insurance claims, shippers, and ports is yet to be fully assessed and more problems are likely to surface in the days to come. Steps being taken up by MbPT, facilities and initiatives taken up by the government authorities upholding critical aspects would need to be continued and other stakeholders will play the role of responsible partners.

Mr. Maneesh Pradhan, MD of AESM (I) Pvt Ltd in the

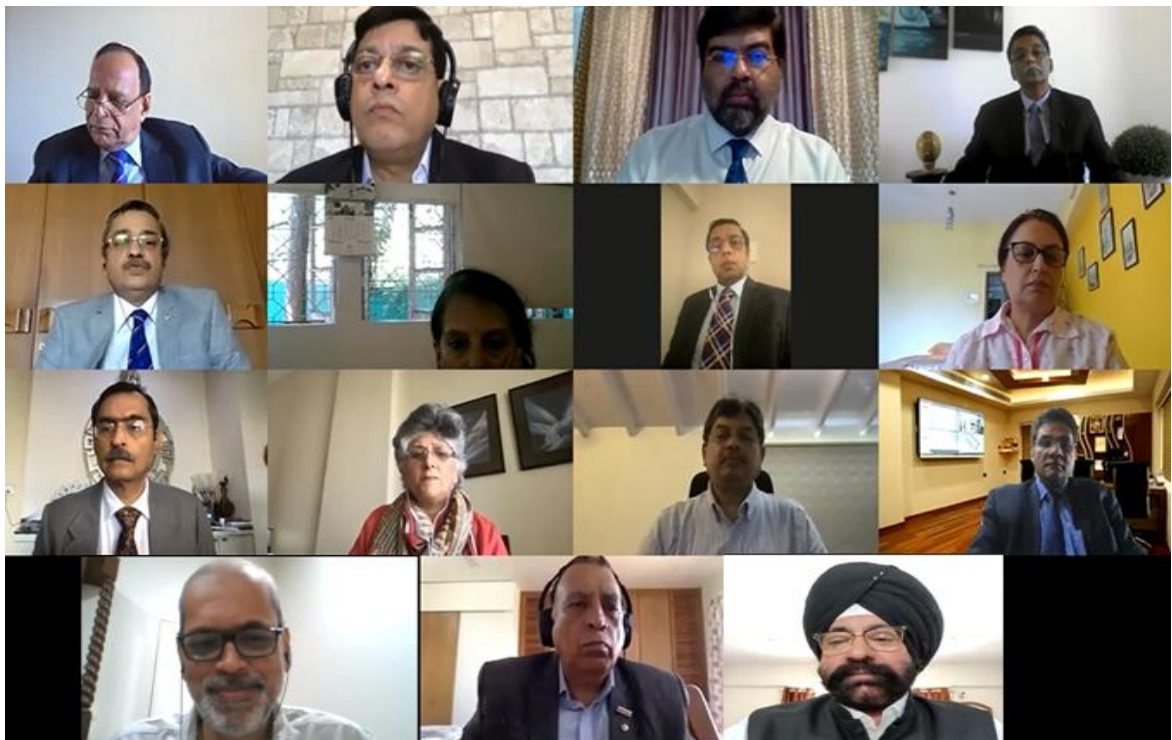
next presentation foreseeing a possible Global Recession, wherein shipping would form



The image shows a composite of elements from a webinar. On the left is a presentation slide with a blue background. The title is 'COVID-19 How is it affecting us in SHIPPING?' in yellow and white text. Below the title is a small image of a ship at sea. At the bottom left of the slide is the 'ANGLO-EASTERN' logo. At the bottom right, the name 'Maneesh Pradhan' is listed as 'Managing Director, Anglo-Eastern Ship Management India Pvt. Ltd.'. To the right of the slide are two video thumbnails. The top one shows a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a white shirt and blue tie, speaking. The bottom one shows a man with glasses and a white shirt, also speaking. To the right of the bottom video thumbnail is the INSA logo, a circular emblem with a ship and the letters 'INSA' below it. Below the INSA logo is the text 'IMEI Webinar on Covid-19 and its impact on Shipping', the date 'April 25, 2020', and the name 'ANIL DEVLJI' with a superscript 'b' as 'CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, INDIAN NATIONAL SHIPOWNER'S ASSOCIATION'.

the critical part of the Supply Chain, emphasized on an outbreak management plan and welfare initiatives by ship managers for the behind the scene Corona-warriors, the Seafarers. Talking about crew change, repatriation and woes of seafarers in this Pandemic, Mr. Pradhan highlighted that 'the human element at sea is of paramount importance'. Stressing on the need for hub ports / green lanes for the seafarers he urged for facilitation of global movement of Indian seafarers to prevent the loss of jobs. Taking cue from PM Modi's interpretation of Vowels he stated that each of these six magic words were applicable to the shipping industry which is bearish in the short-term, will be bullish in the long-term.

Mr. S.M. Rai moderated both Panel Discussions which saw intense deliberations on points raised by the Speakers. The issues that were deliberated ranged from role and contribution of IME(I) and other professional bodies in these challenging times, possibilities that have opened up in training and research, issues faced in the offshore sector in times of COVID-19, technical adaptability of the maritime fraternity, repatriation of Indian crew from foreign lands, impending de-congestion of ports/ cargo movement, e-training, etc. The Panellists comprised industry stalwarts like Mrs. H. K. Joshi the CMD of SCI, Dr. (Mrs.) Sujata Naik the Chairperson of Tolani Shipping Company Limited, Mr. Amar Singh Thakur the General Secretary of MUI, Mr. Sanjeev S Vakil the CEO of HIMT, Mr. Rajeev Nayyar the CEO of Essar Oil Field Services and last but not the least, the President of IME(I), Mr. Uday Purohit. Dr. Malini Shankar ex-DG Shipping and the Chairperson of NSB who was amongst the other dignitaries present, also shared her views on the crisis, the technology and future of the maritime industry.



Technical control, conceptualisation and streaming of this maiden Webinar was executed with finesse at the back-end by Cmde Bhupesh Tater the Hon. Secretary of the Branch, Mr. Sanjeev Mehra and Mr. David Birwadkar who tirelessly assisted in coordinating the entire process from registrations, presentations, feedback survey and digital auditing till uploading the proceedings on the Branch's You Tube channel. The Vote of Thanks was delivered by Mr. Bryan D'Sa the Hon. Treasurer of IME(I), Mumbai Branch, who thanked one and all associated with the Webinar. Proceedings were closed by singing of the National Anthem.