

NATIONAL MARITIME DAY CELEBRATED ON 5TH APRIL, 2023

The Institution of Engineers India, Punjab and Chandigarh State Centre under the Aegis of MRDB IEI jointly with Chandigarh Chapter of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India) and Merchant Navy Officers Association celebrated a **NATIONAL MARITIME DAY on April 5, 2023** in Hybrid Mode.

To commemorate this day, a joint seminar was organised which was attended by the members of both institutions.

Prof. (Dr.) T.S. Kamal FIE, Former Vice-President IEI was the Chief Guest and Er. Rakesh Mittal, Chief Engineer (Marine), Founding Member and Ex. President MNOA Chandigarh was the Guest of Honour.

Dr. Labh Singh FIE, Chairman IEI Punjab & Chandigarh State Centre welcomed the dignitaries on Dias and other participants.

Er. Arun Kumar Agarwal FIE, FIMarE, Chairman, IME(I) Chandigarh Chapter, Convener, gave introductory speech and describes importance to celebrate Maritime Day.

Mr. Ajit Singh Mehndiratta, Former President of the Merchant Navy Officers Association delivered the keynote Address and spoke about the importance of this day. He gave a history lesson about the **S.S. Loyalty**, detailing how it was the first ship to fly the Indian flag to leave the port of Bombay and head for London on this specific day.

He shared knowledge about the initial launching of this vessel in 1890, and how this ship was offered to serve as a hospital ship during the First World War. Acquisition of the vessel by Scindia

Steam Navigation Company and the problems faced during the voyage, pre-departure, and after making port in London. The controversy by the Britishers over the maiden voyage of the first Indian flag vessel to London in 1919 till the scrapping of the vessel in 1923.

Mr. Rakesh Mittal (Guest of Honour) spoke about the importance of the Maritime Industry around the globe. He discussed statistics on the cargo being carried by ships and the percentage of the world's cargo being carried by Indian ships. He also discussed the total tonnage of the Indian fleet. Moreover, he familiarized the members with the demand of Indian seafarers across the world that is known for their skills, hard work and dedication.

Chief Guest Prof. (Dr.) T.S. Kamal FIE appreciated the initiative taken by both teams and inspired them to continue supporting each other in the future. He also discussed some of the facts about engineering and its role in today's world.

Cdr. B M Bhandarkar, Chairman, Marine Engineering Division Board IEI also attended the event ONLINE and address the members present with their views.

Mr. Arun Agarwal thanked the members of the Institution of Engineers (India), Punjab & Chandigarh State Centre for their cooperation by celebrating the event in a befitting manner.

Mr. Swinder Singh- Honorary Secretary IEI Punjab & Chandigarh State Centre delivered a vote of thanks to the participants.



