

## Seminar on “India’s Role in MSC: Ensuring Safer & Sustainable Shipping”

On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024, a significant seminar titled “India’s Role in MSC: Ensuring Safer & Sustainable Shipping” was held at the IRS Auditorium in Powai, Mumbai. The event was organised by the Directorate General of Shipping in partnership with the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS), The Company of Master Mariners of India (CMMI), The Institution of Naval Architects (India) (INA), and The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) IME(I). The seminar was organized to address the critical aspects of maritime security and sustainability. The event brought together key stakeholders from the maritime industry to discuss and deliberate on the latest developments, challenges and solutions in maritime safety and security, post MSC 108.

The seminar was graced by the virtual presence of **Shri. Shyam Jagannathan, IAS**, Director General of Shipping, who served as the Chief Guest. Despite joining online, his involvement was crucial, highlighting the importance of this event in shaping India’s maritime future. The ceremony also welcomed a distinguished array of dignitaries including **Shri. Ajithkumar Sukumaran**, Chief Surveyor, DG Shipping; **Shri. Pradeep Sudhakar**, Chief Ship Surveyor (I/C), DG Shipping; **Shri. K. M. Rao**, Principal Officer, MMD, Chennai; **Shri. P.K. Mishra**, Managing Director of the Indian Register of Shipping; **Shri. Rajeev Nayyer**, President of the Institute of Marine Engineers (India); **Capt. M.P. Bhasin**, Chairman of The Company of Master Mariners of India; and **Shri. J. Dasgupta**, President of the Institution of Naval Architects.

The seminar began with an opening address by **Shri David Birwadkar**, Chairman of the IME(I) Mumbai Branch. His brief introduction set the stage for the event, followed by a traditional lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries, symbolising the illumination of knowledge and the collaborative spirit of the seminar.

**Shri. Shyam Jagannathan** delivered the inaugural address online, offering a succinct overview of the seminar’s focus and its significance in the context of global maritime safety and sustainability initiatives. This was followed by a keynote address from **Shri. Ajithkumar Sukumaran**, who provided a comprehensive analysis of the seminar’s themes, underscoring their relevance to the industry and highlighting the imperative for continuous improvement and adaptation in maritime practices.

**Shri P.K. Mishra** then took the floor, delivering a short but impactful speech that reinforced the critical nature of the topics at hand. **Shri K.M. Rao** further set the tone for the seminar by elaborating on the key areas of discussion,

emphasising the importance of integrating innovative solutions and best practices into maritime operations.

The seminar featured a series of insightful presentations:

1. **Cdr. Sandeep Kumar (IRS), Mr. Jatesh Chandra and Mr. Anish S (CSL), and Capt. S. Kishore (CMMI)** addressed the topic of “Maritime Autonomous Surface Ships (MASS) – Present & Future.” Their presentation explored the current advancements in autonomous shipping technologies and their potential future impact on the maritime industry.
2. **Capt. Anish Joseph**, Deputy Nautical Advisor, DG Shipping, presented on “Role of MSC in Maritime Security and Anti-Piracy/Armed Robbery.” This session provided valuable insights into how the Maritime Safety Committee (MSC) is pivotal in addressing maritime security challenges, including piracy and armed robbery.
3. **Shri. Sunil Kumar**, Honorary General Secretary, and **Shri. Rajeev Nayyer**, (IME(I)) discussed “Alternate Fuels and Operational Safety.” Their presentation highlighted the growing importance of alternative fuels in reducing maritime emissions and enhancing operational safety.
4. **Shri. Srinivas R (IRS) and Capt. Viraf Chichgar**, (CMMI) tackled the topic of “Cybersecurity Regulations and Practical Solutions.” They offered a detailed examination of the regulatory landscape for cybersecurity in the maritime sector and practical measures for safeguarding digital infrastructure.

The seminar concluded with a summary and closing remarks by **Shri. Nebu Oommen**, Ship Surveyor-cum-DDG(Tech), DG Shipping, also highlighted Directorate General of Shipping’s proposal to establish a state-of-the-art technical portal aimed at revolutionizing the Indian shipbuilding and repair industry. This initiative seeks to create a central hub for information, resources, collaboration and innovation. **Capt. Vivek Bhandarkar**, Secretary General of CMMI, delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all speakers, participants, and attendees for their contributions and engagement.

This seminar was a testament to India’s ongoing commitment to advancing maritime safety and sustainability. By bringing together key stakeholders and facilitating robust discussions, the event reinforced the collective effort required to address the evolving challenges of the maritime industry and to ensure a safer and more sustainable future for shipping.

# Glimpses of the Seminar





