



IEI Celebrates

National Maritime Day 2024

Theme: Sustainable Shipping : Opportunities and Challenges

05th April is celebrated every year in India as National Maritime Day to commemorate the maiden voyage of the first Indian owned commercial vessel SS Loyalty that set sail from Bombay (Mumbai) to London, on 05th April 1919. 'National Maritime Day commemorates our nation's entry into the international mercantile shipping community in 1919. A brief account of the Day, as celebrated at various State/Local Centres of The Institution of Engineers (India), are reported hereunder.

STATE CENTRES

Maharashtra

On 05 April 2024, Maharashtra State Centre, IEI observed National Maritime Day 2024 through online mode. Er Anand Wamanrao Jawanjil, Chairman, Maharashtra State Centre, IEI welcomed the participants and delivered the introductory speech. Speaker of the event, Mr P Lakshman, Senior Vice President, Rochem SEPARATION System delivered lecture on challenges and sustainability in maritime industry. He focussed on the challenges faced by maritime industry including air pollution and underwater noise, artificial intelligence (AI) and the internet of things (IoT), geo-political tensions and over-regulations, ocean freight rates and newbuild prices, piracy, crew shortages, cyber security vulnerabilities, sustainability, etc. At the end, Er Milind Lakshmikant Patil, Honorary Secretary, Maharashtra State Centre, IEI proposed the vote of thanks.

Punjab & Chandigarh

On 05 April 2024, Punjab & Chandigarh State Centre, IEI in association with Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Chandigarh Chapter observed National Maritime Day 2024 at Chandigarh. Dr Labh Singh Bhari, Chairman, Punjab & Chandigarh State Centre, IEI welcomed the dignitaries and guests and highlighted the challenges faced by shipping industry. Hon'ble Chief Guest, Commodore R K Dass, VSM, Retired Indian Navy explained the Indian Navy's role in securing our coastal boundaries, protecting the merchant fleet from pirates and terrorist group in the red sea area. Er Arun Agarwal, Chairman, Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Chandigarh Chapter highlighted the importance of proper training to accept the challenges faced by Indian Navy. Keynote Speakers of the event were Er Ajit Singh Mehndiratta, former President, Merchant Navy Officers Association [MNOA], Chandigarh and Er Nityanand Bhardwaj, Managing Director, Renit Power Private Limited. Er Ajit Mehndiratta spoke about the history of National Maritime Day and discussed about the challenges faced by the shipping industry and the opportunities thereon. Er Bhardwaj discussed about the changes in shipping that has come from opposed piston to propulsion power systems. The event witnessed the august presence of Prof (Dr) T S Kamal, Former Vice President, IEI and Er Sukhvir Singh Mundi, Vice President, IEI. At the end, Er Swinder Singh, Honorary Secretary, Punjab & Chandigarh State Centre, IEI proposed the vote of thanks.

Tamilnadu

Tamilnadu State Centre, IEI observed National Maritime Day 2024 through virtual platform on 11 May 2024. At the outset, Dr V Karthikeyan, Chairman, Tamilnadu State Centre, IEI welcomed the gathering and Er R Muthusamy, Committee Member, Tamilnadu State Centre, IEI introduced the Chief Guest of the event, Dr (Captain) Suresh Bhardwaj, Resident Director & Principal, MASSA Maritime Academy, Chennai. Dr Bhardwaj focused on the present scenario about decarbonisation of shipping and spoke about regulations from key bodies like IMO and EU are taking steps in driving industry stakeholder to implement plans in the coming decades. He emphasized that challenges faced by maritime industry are multifaceted and addressing them for the well being and effectiveness of our experienced seafarers is an essential requirement. At the end, Er Gokul D, Honorary Secretary, Tamilnadu State Centre, IEI proposed the vote of thanks.

Telangana

On 05 April 2024, Telangana State Centre, IEI observed National Maritime Day 2024 through online mode. Dr G Venkata Subbaiah, Chairman, Telangana State Centre, IEI welcomed the gathering and presided over the function. Keynote Speaker of the event, Er N V Ramana, Director, Neptunus Ship Builders and Recyclers Private Limited and Director, Marine Car Parks, delivered lecture on theme 'Sustainable Shipping: Opportunities and Challenges'.

Tripura

On 05 April 2024, Tripura State Centre, IEI observed National Maritime Day 2024 through online mode and organized a webinar on the theme. Dr Subhadeep Bhattacharjee, Chairman, Tripura State Centre, IEI welcomed the Special Speakers of the event, Er Gautam Sen, Former Director, Marine Department, Kolkata Port Trust & Chairman, Marine Engineering Division, West Bengal State Centre, IEI and Er V Ramkumar, Head of Engineering, Hoon Maritime Institute, Kolkata. Er Sen explained the significance of National Maritime Day and its historical importance. He also highlighted the future of Indian Shipping industries. Er Ramkumar discussed the technological aspects for development of Indian maritime industries in India's economic growth and highlighted the sacrifice of seafarers not only to run the trade but also to take part in national security. At the end, Dr Mrinal Kanti Deb Barma, Honorary Secretary, Tripura State Centre, IEI proposed the vote of thanks.

West Bengal

On 06 April 2024, West Bengal State Centre, IEI, in association with the Institute of Marine Engineers (India), Kolkata Branch observed National Maritime Day 2024 at Kolkata. Prof (Dr) Raju Basak, Chairman, West Bengal State Centre, IEI delivered the welcome address. Er Gautam Sen, Former Director, Marine Department, Kolkata Port Trust and Chairman, IMEI, Kolkata Branch in his address explained the history and significance of the day. He shared his lucid view of modern shipping in India and the historical role of Bengal in the growth of shipping in the country. Rear Admiral (Dr) P J Rangachari, Former Director, Indian Maritime University, Kolkata Campus graced the occasion as Chief Guest. He highlighted the contribution of Indian Navy towards strengthening India's role in the world maritime scenario. Er Sadhan Kumar Sarkar, Former Director (I/C), Marine Engineering and Research Institute, Kolkata delivered lecture on 'Combating Green House Gas Emission: Most Difficult Challenge for Indian Shipping'. He explained the three term strategy of IMO towards reducing carbon emission by 70% in 2050. Prof Soumitra Neogi, Professor of Practice (SMET), Indian Maritime University, Kolkata Campus highlighted that apart from emission, there are other factors that concern the sustainability of shipping industry like human factor, where seafarers need to be continuously trained to keep up with the rapid changes in technology in the shipping industry. At the end, Er Anirban Datta, Honorary Secretary, West Bengal State Centre, IEI proposed the vote of thanks and thanked the dignitaries, participants and expressed that this discussion would promote the understanding of the current issues and contribute to the growth of Indian shipping in the coming years.

LOCAL CENTRES

Coimbatore

On 05 April 2024, Coimbatore Local Centre, IEI, in association with Coimbatore Marine College, Coimbatore observed National Maritime Day 2024 at Coimbatore and organized a technical lecture on the theme 'Sustainable Shipping: Opportunities and Challenges'. Prof (Dr) Krishnamoorthi J, Chairman, Coimbatore Local Centre, IEI welcomed the guest speakers and the participants. Guest Speakers of the event was Er Kaushik Das Gupta, Principal, Coimbatore Marine College, Coimbatore and Capt Balagopal Sunil, Head of the Department, Department of Nautical Science, Coimbatore Marine College, Coimbatore. Mr Das Gupta discussed about applications of Artificial Intelligence in shipping industry including automation of cargo handling and management, optimization of routes and logistics and predictive maintenance of ships. He discussed the importance of AI in optimizing fleet operations to improve the efficiency of shipping routes and shared the vital role of maritime industry like supply chain management, risk management autonomous shipping, etc. Capt Sunil discussed various challenges faced by the mariners in shipping industry and the disruptive changes happening in the maritime sector. He further explained the impact of de-carbonization and digitalization in shipping industry and suggested important skills required for future sea farers to overcome the barriers in this sector. At the end, Prof (Dr) Madhan Mohan Gopalsamy, Honorary Secretary, Coimbatore Local Centre, IEI proposed the vote of thanks.

Kanyakumari

On 05 April 2024, Kanyakumari Local Centre, IEI observed National Maritime Day 2024 through online mode. Prof (Dr) Marsaline Beno M, Honorary Secretary, Kanyakumari Local Centre, IEI welcomed all the attendees and explained the theme 'Sustainable Shipping: Opportunities and Challenges'. Keynote Speaker of the event, Er A Vickramoorthy, Assistant Professor, Department of Marine Engineering, NI College, Kumaracoil highlighted the promising opportunities and the challenges in sustainable shipping, that lie ahead. He navigated through the intricate landscape of maritime sustainability, elucidating key strategies and technological advancements in shaping the industry's trajectory and his presentation fostered a deeper interconnection between environmental conservation, economic viability and technological innovation within the maritime sector. His deliberation covered in the area of alternative fuels and emission reduction measures to digitalization and regulatory frameworks. Er P Gopal, on behalf of Kanyakumari Local Centre, IEI while delivering the vote of thanks underscored the importance of collaborative efforts in addressing the challenges facing the maritime industry and emphasizing the pivotal role of knowledge exchange and collective action.

Madurai

On 05 April 2024, Madurai Local Centre, IEI observed National Maritime Day 2024 in Madurai and a seminar was organised on the theme 'Sustainable Shipping: Opportunities and Challenges'. Prof (Dr) P Udhaya Kumar, Chairman, Madurai Local Centre, IEI welcomed all. Er A T Baskar, Honorary Secretary, Madurai Local Centre, IEI introduced the Chief Guest of the event, Er M Muthu Kumar, Marine Chief Engineer, Merchant Ships, Former Dean, Tamilnadu Maritime Academy, Tuticorin, Ship in Charge & Senior Faculty, R L Institute of Nautical Sciences, Madurai. During deliberation, it was mentioned that the day is celebrated to honour the brave men who spend months at sea and contributing significantly to India's global trade and commerce. Also the significance of India's maritime aspirations in the context of its economic growth is highlighted and the need for technological changes to reduce pollution had been emphasized. At the end, Er A T Baskar proposed the vote of thanks.

Neyveli

Neyveli Local Centre, IEI observed National Maritime Day 2024 on 10 April 2024 at Neyveli. Er Appavu Eraniyan, Honorary Secretary, Neyveli

Local Centre, IEI welcomed the Chief Guest and Keynote Speaker Dr P Anantharman, Dean/Faculty of Marine Sciences, Annamalai University, Chidambaram and other participants. Er A Sekar, Chief General Manager (Retd), NLC India Limited and Council Member, ELDB, IEI presided over the function and highlighted the symbiotic relationship between the Navy and Merchant Marine. Dr Anantharaman in his Keynote address explained India's historical dominance in shipping and seaborne trade and emphasized the pivotal role of seafarers. The Keynote speaker stressed the need on biogeochemistry water sampling on research vessels, which is instrumental in advancing marine science, supporting sustainable practices and strengthening national research capabilities.

North Bengal

On 05 April 2024, North Bengal Local Centre, IEI observed National Maritime Day 2024 in Jalpaiguri. A seminar was organised on the theme 'Sustainable Shipping: Opportunities and Challenges'. Er Shrayasi Datta, Honorary Secretary, North Bengal Local Centre, IEI explained about the theme and explained sustainable or green shipping as logistics and transport operations that strives to limit the company's Green House Gas (GHG) emissions. Er G Bairagi, Member, North Bengal Local Centre, IEI stated that shipping industry is responsible for 3% of the world's total CO₂ emissions and 940 million tonnes annually. He opined that if no significant action is taken by the shipping industry then the global CO₂ emissions will increase upto 17% by 2050. At the end, Er Shrayasi Datta proposed the vote of thanks.

Palghat

On 05 April 2024, Palghat Local Centre, IEI observed National Maritime Day 2024 at Palakkad. Er Rajesh Menon B, Honorary Secretary, Palghat Local Centre, IEI welcomed all the members. Er A V Rajappan, Chairman, Palghat Local Centre, IEI presided over and explained the theme. Guest Speaker of the event, Er T B Ramakumar, Retired Chief Marine Engineer and Past Chairman, Palghat Local Centre, IEI delivered lecture on the theme and advocated that transport of cargo by sea is cheaper, least polluting, most efficient with timely delivery, fuel efficient and economically sustainable. He stressed on more application of environment friendly sustainable shipping and the cost effective technologies for running the ship engines.

Trichur

On 08 April 2024, Trichur Local Centre, IEI, jointly with Kochi, Kollam and Kozhikode Local Centres observed National Maritime Day 2024 through virtual mode. Er Velayudhan Nair G, Chairman, Kochi Local Centre, IEI delivered the welcome address. Dr Gireesan P, Chairman, Kozhikode Local Centre, IEI introduced the Chief Guest of the event, Er Duggirala Rajasekhar, Chairman, Marine Engineering Division Board, IEI. Dr Rajasekhar delivered lecture on 'Navigating the Future: Safety First' and stressed on cyber attack, navigation safety issues, marine environmental issues, trade and commerce aspects, attaining sustainability through marine traffic and case studies of recent marine accidents. At the end, Er Thomas John V, Chairman, Trichur Local Centre, IEI proposed the vote of thanks.

Varanasi

On 05 April 2024, Varanasi Local Centre, IEI, in association with Government Girls Polytechnic, Sunderpur, Varanasi observed National Maritime Day 2024 at Varanasi. Prof (Dr) Birendra Nath Rai, Chairman, Varanasi Local Centre, IEI welcomed the Invited Speaker, Er K N Singh, CEO, Northstar Academy, Varanasi. Er Singh mentioned that The day was celebrated to encourage and familiarize the young students about the marine activities and the genesis of the celebration was explained along with the importance of marine transportation for the development of trade, overall growth of GDP and employment opportunities to young students. The speaker in his address detailed about different modes of sea transportation including bulk trade, containerization, offshore drilling rigs and platforms etc. Er Santosh Kumar, Past Honorary Secretary, Varanasi Local Centre, IEI conducted the proceedings. At the end, Er Rahul Mourya, Honorary Secretary, Varanasi Local Centre, IEI proposed the vote of thanks.