



NUSI Sagarika

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*Anchoring Unity
Navigating Progress.*

**(A Quarterly Magazine by
National Union of Seafarers of India)**



NUSI SANKALP

Plant trees. Go green.

NUSI SADA BAHAR (Tree Plantation)
NUSI SANRAKSHAN (Water Conservation)
"PEDH LAGAO - PANI BACHAO"
"PLASTIC HATAO - PARYAVARAN BACHAO"

Say No To Plastic - Littered Plastic Bags May Lead To Choking Of Drainage System Causing Water Logging On Roads And Rail Tracks Resulting In Disruption Of Transport Services. Under Swayam, Rojgar Yojana, families of seafarers make cotton carry bags and distributed amongst seafarers and their families and shipping fraternity in general.

NUSI SOLAR

Indian Sailors Home Society (ISHS), Mumbai
NUSI Holiday Home & Sanatorium, Lonavala
NUSI Offshore Training Institute (NOTI), Panvel
NUSI Maritime Academy (NMA), Goa
Mohamed Ebrahim Serang Centre, Valsad, NUSI

NUSI SWACH BHARAT ABHIYAN
CONSTRUCTION OF TOILET FACILITIES Pan-INDIA

Message from Editor



Dear Sisters and Brothers,

As we usher in the final quarter of 2024, I want to extend my warmest greetings & heartfelt thanks to each of you. The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) continues to thrive because of your unwavering commitment, solidarity, and hard work. Together, we have navigated through a year filled with both challenges & opportunities, demonstrating the resilience & dedication that define our maritime community.

Current Developments in the Shipping Industry:

The shipping industry has experienced significant events in recent months that have a direct impact on our profession. Let's take a moment to reflect on these key developments.

1. Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024

The Union Cabinet has approved the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 which will replace the existing Merchant Shipping Act 1958.

The government will implement ship ownership, leasing and flagging reforms to improve the share of Indian Shipping Industry and generate more employment. It would make Indian Shipping Atmanirbhar and globally recognized.

2. Environmental Progress and Sustainability:

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) have been actively promoting environmental sustainability within our industry. New regulations aimed at reducing sulfur

emissions and transitioning to low-carbon fuels are being implemented. NUSI fully endorses these initiatives, recognizing that environmental stewardship is crucial for the future of maritime trade. We encourage all members to familiarize themselves with these new standards and integrate sustainable practices into their daily operations.

3. Maritime Security and Geopolitical Issues:

Ongoing geopolitical tensions in areas such as the Middle East and the South China Sea continue to affect global shipping routes. These developments underscore the importance of maritime security and the safety of our seafarers. NUSI is working closely with international bodies and government agencies to ensure that protective measures are in place. We advise all members to stay alert and adhere to established safety protocols when operating in sensitive regions.

4. Technological Innovation and Training:

The rapid advancement of technology in our industry-ranging from automation to digital navigation systems is transforming the way we operate. While these technologies offer increased efficiency and safety, they also require us to adapt and acquire new skills. NUSI is committed to providing access to training programs and educational resources that will equip our members with the necessary expertise to thrive in this evolving landscape.

5. Well-Being and Crew Welfare:

The physical and mental well-being of seafarers remains a top priority. Extended time at sea and the pressures of the job can take a significant toll. NUSI has successfully advocated for improved on-board living conditions, better access to medical care, and enhanced communication facilities to stay connected with loved ones. We continue to push for policies that support the health and happiness of our members.

6. Economic Trends and Employment:

While global trade is showing signs of recovery,

the economic landscape remains uncertain due to factors like fluctuating fuel prices and supply chain disruptions. NUSI is vigilant in monitoring these trends to protect our members' employment opportunities and fair compensation. We are engaged in ongoing dialogues with industry stakeholders to ensure that our seafarers receive the recognition and remuneration they deserve.

7. Regulatory Changes and Compliance:

Recent updates to international maritime laws, including amendments to the Standards of Training, Certification, and Watch keeping (STCW), have introduced new compliance requirements. NUSI is dedicated to keeping our members informed about these changes and assisting with the necessary certifications and documentation to remain compliant and competitive in the global market.

As we conclude this year, it's important to acknowledge the collective efforts that have brought us here. The strength of NUSI lies in the unity and active participation of its members. I encourage each of you to stay engaged, share your insights, and contribute to our common goals. Your voice is essential in shaping the future of our union and the industry at large.

In the months ahead, let us continue to support one another, embrace the opportunities that arise, and face challenges with courage and determination. Together, we can ensure a prosperous and sustainable future for all seafarers.

Smooth seas and safe voyages to all,

As we close the chapter on another inspiring year, wishing you and your families all a Happy New Year and a prosperous 2025 filled with new opportunities and success

Milind Kandalgaonkar

General Secretary cum Treasurer

National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI)

PMO's Approve's Rs 25,000 Crore Maritime Fund: A Game-Changer for India's Shipping Industry



New Delhi, Thursday, 14 Nov 2024 - In a landmark effort to redefine India's maritime landscape, the Indian government is poised to launch a Rs 25,000 crore Maritime Development Fund (MDF). Backed by the Prime Minister's Office, this initiative seeks to transform India's maritime sector by investing heavily in indigenous shipbuilding, expanding port infrastructure, and promoting blue-water capabilities. By supporting the Make-in-India mission, the MDF aims to propel India from a modest player to a major force in the global maritime arena, challenging established giants like China, South Korea, and Japan. This ambitious fund not only promises to reduce India's dependence on foreign vessels but also to generate significant employment, stimulate economic growth, and strengthen the nation's strategic positioning on the world stage. However, with these sweeping goals

come complex challenges that will test India's ability to balance rapid development with long-term sustainability and resilience.

The Maritime Development Fund will likely be structured as a corporate entity, with the government holding a minimum 26% stake while the majority will be offered to multilateral financial institutions and global funds. With Rs 25,000 crore spread over seven years, the MDF aims to fund long-term loans of up to 25 years, perfectly aligned with the average 30-year lifespan of maritime vessels. This fund is being positioned to be to maritime what the National Bank for Financing Infrastructure and Development (NaBFID) is to broader infrastructure. In practice, it will offer diverse financial assistance options-ranging from debt and equity to viability gap funding (VGF) and buyer credit.

India's current fleet consists of 1,526 vessels with a gross tonnage (GT) of 14 million, but the aging nature of this fleet signals an urgent need for renewal, as 44% of these vessels are over 20 years old. By injecting fresh capital and support into the sector, the MDF could become a lifeline for modernizing India's aging fleet and reducing the country's dependence on foreign ships.

The Advantages: A Win for Indigenous Manufacturing and Employment

The MDF is designed to go beyond merely funding infrastructure-it is set to redefine India's maritime future in more ways than one.

1. Bolstering Domestic Shipbuilding: India currently holds less than 1% of the global shipbuilding market. The MDF aims to elevate this figure to 5% by nurturing local shipbuilders and incentivizing the construction of a diverse range of vessels, from cargo ships to cruise liners. Reducing India's reliance on foreign-built ships could save billions annually, creating a self-sustained ecosystem that will drive long-term growth.

2. Expanding Employment Opportunities: India's maritime sector employs a vast number of people, from seafarers to port workers. With the boost in indigenous shipbuilding and expansion of port capacity, new jobs will be created both directly and indirectly, positively impacting communities along India's coastline.

3. Encouraging Cruise and Coastal Tourism: By supporting coastal shipping and cruise tourism, the MDF aims to make Indian shores more attractive to tourists, with the potential to unlock substantial revenue and offer job creation in allied sectors like hospitality, retail, and services.

4. Tax Incentives and Global Partnerships: Tax breaks similar to those in Norway, South Korea, and Japan are expected to attract both domestic and foreign investment into India's maritime sector, potentially encouraging global players to establish ship-leasing and management operations in India.

5. Reducing Foreign Expenditure: India currently spends around \$75 billion each year on leasing foreign ships, holding only 2% of the world's total tonnage. By developing a homegrown fleet, this recurring expenditure can be redirected into building India's own capacity and infrastructure.

The Challenges: Overcoming Structural and Financial Hurdles

Despite the ambitious targets, the Maritime Development Fund faces a few notable challenges

that must be addressed if India's maritime aspirations are to materialize.

1. Capital Intensive Requirements: Shipbuilding and port infrastructure projects are notoriously capital-intensive, with long gestation periods. Even with the MDF's support, these projects could require additional financing, especially if interest rates rise or global economic conditions change.

2. Skill Gaps in the Workforce: The maritime industry requires highly skilled labor and advanced engineering expertise, which India will need to develop or import in the initial stages. Developing these skills domestically will be crucial, yet it requires both time and investment.

3. Environmental Impact: The expansion of shipbuilding and port infrastructure carries an environmental cost. Protecting India's coastal ecosystems and managing pollution risks associated with increased maritime activity will be critical, especially in densely populated coastal regions.

4. Competition with Established Players: India will be entering an industry dominated by global powerhouses like China, South Korea, and Japan, which benefit from advanced technology and massive economies of scale. Competing with these nations will require India to innovate and potentially collaborate with international players.

5. Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Bottlenecks: Developing inland waterways and expanding port capacities will likely involve public-private partnerships. Managing these partnerships effectively, including safeguarding investor interests while maintaining public accountability, will be vital to avoid administrative delays and ensure the success of these projects.

What Lies Ahead

India's Maritime Development Fund holds immense promise and embodies a vision of a stronger, more self-reliant maritime sector. With the potential to reshape India's economy, create jobs, and fortify national security, the MDF could bring unprecedented change to India's coastline and beyond. However, the journey will require careful planning, efficient execution, and strong government support to truly make waves.

For the Indian people, the maritime sector represents not just industry but history, resilience, and a step toward a powerful future on the global stage. As India steps into a new era of maritime growth, the hope is that this initiative will be a game-changer, building not only ships but also new dreams for generations to come.

The Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Launches 'Cruise Bharat Mission,' to Double Cruise Calls and Passengers within Five years



The Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Shri Sarbananda Sonowal, launched the 'Cruise Bharat Mission' from the Mumbai port. Aimed at boosting the tremendous potential of cruise tourism in the country, the programme by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways aims to propel country's cruise tourism industry by doubling cruise passenger traffic within five years; i.e. by 2029, said Shri Sarbananda Sonowal. The Union Minister of State, MoPSW, Shri Shantanu Thakur also joined Sonowal at this historic occasion.

Shri Sarbananda Sonowal launched the mission from onboard cruise ship 'Empress' here today. The initiative aims to excel India's vision to become a global hub for cruise tourism and promote the country as the leading global cruise destination. The Cruise India Mission will be implemented in three phases, beginning from 1 October 2024 up to 31 March 2029. The Phase 1 (01.10.2024-30.09.2025) will focus on conducting studies, master planning, and forming cruise alliances with neighbouring countries. It will also modernise existing cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations to enhance the potential of cruise circuits. The Phase 2 (01.10.2025-31.03.2027) will concentrate on developing new cruise terminals,

marinas, and destinations to activate high-potential cruise locations and circuits. Phase 3 (01.04.2027 - 31.03.2029) will focus on integrating all cruise circuits across the Indian Subcontinent, marking the maturity of the cruise ecosystem while continuing the development of cruise terminals, marinas, and destinations.

Key performance targets across the phases include increasing sea cruise passengers from 0.5 million in Phase 1 to 1 million by Phase 3, with corresponding increases in sea cruise calls from 125 to 500. River cruise passengers will grow from 0.5 million in Phase 1 to 1.5 million by Phase 3. The number of international cruise terminals will expand from 2 in Phase 1 to 10 by Phase 3, while river cruise terminals will increase from 50 to 100. Similarly, marinas will grow from 1 to 5, and employment generated will rise from 0.1 million to 0.4 million by the final phase.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal said, "The 'Cruise Bharat Mission' is a watershed moment in the revamp of the cruise sector of India. Under the visionary leadership of Honourable Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the government is committed to harness the tremendous potential of Blue



Economy of India. Cruise, with its tremendous potential in our country, has remained unexplored for long. With this visionary mission, it is aimed at transforming our maritime landscape and harness the potential of India's vast coastline and waterways through cruise tourism. Based on critical pillars of infrastructure development, amp up cruise experience for tourists and sustainability of resources, the three phased mission will develop world class infrastructure and enable growth of cruise tourism and maritime trade."

The mission aims to continuously work towards the development of world-class infrastructure and destinations while leveraging technology to provide a seamless experience for embarkation, disembarkation, and destination visits. It will promote the cultural, historical, and natural circuits of the Indian Subcontinent, ensuring inclusive and equitable growth for all stakeholders, including ports, cruise lines, vessel operators, tour operators, service providers, and local communities. Additionally, the mission will enable the responsible involvement of all regulatory agencies such as Customs, Immigration, CISF, State Tourism Departments, State Maritime Agencies, District Administrations, and local police.

"Under the visionary leadership of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, the government has been taking measures that witnessed a remarkable increase of 400% passenger footfall in cruise since 2014. The 'Cruise Bharat Mission' will further build on this as it aims to double volume of cruise calls from 254 in 2024 to 500 by 2030 and 1,100 by 2047. We are expecting rise in passengers from 4.6 lakh in 2024 to 5 million by 2047. The mission also aims to create 4 lakhs employment in the cruise sector during this period," added Sarbananda Sonowal. The Cruise India Mission targets three key cruise segments. First, the Ocean & Harbour Cruise segment encompasses ocean cruises, including deep-sea and coastal cruises, along with harbour-based yachting and sailing cruises. Second, the River & Inland Cruise segment focuses on river and inland cruises on canals, backwaters, creeks, and lakes. Lastly, the Island Cruise segment highlights inter-island cruises,

lighthouse tours, live-aboard experiences, expedition cruises, and boutique cruises to lesser-known destinations.

Speaking on the occasion, the Union Minister of State, MoPSW, Shri Shantanu Thakur said, "Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji, this mission reflects the commitment of the Government to transform India into a world class hub for cruise tourism. This mission aims at creating sustainable and vibrant ecosystem which will be beneficial for cruise operators, tourists and communities. This visionary mission will power India's maritime sector which will open new vistas in tourism and harnessing the Blue Economy."

The mission has identified key initiatives across five strategic pillars. The Sustainable Infrastructure & Capital pillar addresses infrastructure gaps, focusing on developing world-class terminals, marinas, water aerodromes, and heliports, alongside digitalisation (e.g., facial recognition) and decarbonisation (e.g., shore power). It includes creating a National Cruise Infrastructure Masterplan 2047, setting up a cruise-focused SPV under Indian Ports Association (IPA), and establishing a cruise development fund. The Operations Including Technology Enabled pillar aims to streamline operations, ensuring smooth embarkation, disembarkation, and destination visits with a focus on digital solutions such as e-clearance systems and e-visa facilities.

The Cruise Promotion & Circuit Integration pillar focuses on international marketing and investment promotion, including linking cruise circuits, hosting events like the "Cruise India Summit," and forming alliances with neighbouring countries. The Regulatory, Fiscal & Financial Policy pillar is centred on creating tailored fiscal and financial policies, with a focus on tax scenarios, cruise regulations, and the launch of a National Cruise Tourism Policy. Lastly, the Capacity Building and Economic Research pillar emphasizes skill development, creating a Centre of Excellence for cruise-related economic research, and formulating National Occupational Standards to promote youth employment in the cruise industry.

The Cruise Bharat Mission will not only elevate India's cruise tourism sector but also create lasting opportunities for generations to come.

The event saw participation from key leaders across the cruise industry namely Rahul Narvekar, Speaker of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly; Maharashtra; T.K. Ramchandran, Secretary of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India; and Jurgen Bailom, CEO of Cordelia Cruises, including other dignitaries, government officials and stakeholders.

Building a Stronger Maritime India: Minister Sarbananda Sonowal Unveils Rs 187 Crore Projects at Chennai and Kamarajar Ports



In a historic stride for India's maritime future, Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, inaugurated four major infrastructure projects worth Rs 187 crore at the bustling Chennai and Kamarajar Ports. These projects, designed to boost efficiency, capacity, and sustainability, represent a profound commitment to enhancing India's maritime trade routes, which have connected us to the world for centuries. Each project is a step toward an India that stands tall on the global stage-where ships don't just carry goods but dreams, aspirations, and stories of countless Indians.

A New Chapter for Chennai Port

Chennai Port, a vital gateway to global markets, is set to experience an expansion that will not only benefit businesses but also support livelihoods and local economies. The first key initiative - a Rs 73.91 crore construction of four expansive EXIM godowns and surrounding concrete roads-is a testament to the growing demands and dynamism of India's trade. These godowns will securely house imports and exports, ensuring faster turnaround times and safer storage for cargo. With each ship that docks, each container that's lifted, Chennai Port will handle goods and resources vital to people, families, and businesses across India.

Alongside the godowns, a new 300-meter coastal road, built for Rs 4 crore, now connects key areas within the port, allowing trucks and trailers to move quickly and efficiently, unburdened by the congestion of the past. This road may seem like a simple strip of concrete, but to the port workers, drivers, and shipping companies it means precious time saved, more livelihoods supported, and new opportunities on the horizon.

Rail Connectivity and Green Initiatives at Kamarajar Port

Kamarajar Port, renowned for handling some of the largest bulk cargo shipments in the country, has always been a hub of relentless activity. With the doubling of the Southern Railway line, a project valued at Rs 88.91 crore, the port's ability to handle up to 44 daily rakes will transform bulk cargo movement, supporting India's demand for coal and other essential goods. This railway

expansion isn't just a matter of numbers; it represents the movement of India's lifeblood resources, carrying the energy and materials that fuel cities and towns across the nation.

Additionally, in a bold stride toward sustainability, Kamarajar Port has introduced a shore power facility at Coal Berths 1 and 2. This facility, costing Rs 20.51 crore, offers a new kind of energy-clean, green, and earth-friendly. As ships dock and switch from onboard generators to this sustainable power source, they significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, contributing to a cleaner, healthier future. For every ship that reduces its carbon footprint, Kamarajar Port is not just serving India's economy but honoring its commitment to the planet.

Empowering a Future of Sustainable Progress

These developments are part of a much larger vision. Minister Sonowal's efforts reflect a deep-seated belief in India's potential as a maritime powerhouse. The projects at Chennai and Kamarajar Ports are just the beginning; they're foundational blocks in India's journey to becoming a global leader in sustainable trade practices. With reduced cargo handling times, improved logistics, and greener operations, these ports will not only be efficient but symbols of hope and resilience in an ever-changing world.

With the inauguration of these Rs 187 crore infrastructure projects at Chennai and Kamarajar Ports marks a significant leap forward in strengthening India's maritime capabilities. With enhanced capacity, improved efficiency, and a firm commitment to sustainability, these developments will not only bolster the nation's trade infrastructure but also pave the way for a greener, more resilient future. As these ports continue to grow and evolve, they will play a pivotal role in India's economic transformation, driving prosperity, creating jobs, and ensuring that the country remains at the forefront of global trade. This momentous step is a reminder that the growth of our ports is the growth of our nation, and the seas that connect us to the world are the lifelines of India's future.

Indian Government's Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024: A New Era for the Shipping Industry



Mumbai, November 7, 2024 - The Indian government has long worked towards fostering international trade and boosting the growth of Indian industries, and its efforts have always had a positive ripple effect on the shipping sector. With global trade expanding and India striving for greater economic influence, the country's maritime industry has never been more pivotal. Recent moves by the government indicate a renewed focus on this sector, aiming to increase India's shipping tonnage and enhance its role in international commerce.

On November 7, 2024, the Union Cabinet approved the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024, a landmark reform aimed at transforming India's maritime landscape. The bill seeks to modernize and expand the eligibility criteria for ship ownership and registration, paving the way for more ships to be registered under the Indian flag and helping India claim a larger share of the global shipping market.

One of the key highlights of the new bill is the flexibility it introduces in terms of ownership. Under the existing Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, only ships wholly owned by Indian citizens or companies could be registered under the Indian flag. The new bill, however, expands this definition to include vessels that are "substantially owned" by Indian entities, Non-Resident Indians (NRIs), Overseas Citizens of India (OCIs), and even Limited Liability Partnerships (LLPs). This change is expected to open up greater opportunities for foreign and domestic investments in India's shipping industry.

Another significant reform is the allowance for Bareboat Charter-Cum-Demise (BBCD) vessels to be registered under the Indian flag even before the final payment is made. BBCD is a popular financing model for ship acquisition, where the purchaser pays a fraction of the vessel's price upfront and settles the remaining amount over a period of three to five years. Under current regulations, a ship can only be registered under the Indian flag after the last installment is paid. The new bill will enable ships acquired through BBCD agreements to fly the

Indian flag as soon as they are chartered, offering greater flexibility for ship owners and faster integration into the Indian maritime fleet.

These reforms are more than just regulatory changes-they represent a commitment to strengthening India's shipping industry, making it more competitive on the global stage. As more vessels fly the Indian flag, India will not only increase its shipping tonnage but also attract new investments into the sector, creating more job opportunities and improving the overall business environment for the industry.

At the heart of these changes lies a deep recognition of the contributions of Indian seafarers, whose hard work and dedication keep the global supply chain moving. With more ships being registered under the Indian flag, there will be an increase in employment opportunities for Indian sailors and other maritime professionals. The reforms signal a new era of prosperity for seafarers, offering them better job security and improved working conditions, which in turn will contribute to the overall development of the maritime sector.

The government's proactive approach to reforming the shipping industry shows a clear commitment to tapping into the immense potential of India's maritime capabilities. These changes align with the country's broader goals of expanding trade, improving investment prospects, and providing better livelihoods for those working in the maritime industry.

The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024 is not just a legal reform-it is a vision for the future of Indian shipping, one that positions India as a global maritime leader while ensuring the well-being of its seafarers. As India continues to prioritize its maritime ambitions, it is clear that the government's efforts will drive meaningful change, benefiting not only the shipping industry but the lives of those who make it all possible.

With this reform, India is set to embark on a new chapter in its shipping history, one that promises greater opportunity, increased prosperity, and a more vibrant maritime industry for the future.

India Readies a Sea Change in Domestic and Global Shipping with Key Bills



India is poised to make significant waves in the global and domestic maritime sectors with the introduction of two transformative legislations: the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024, and the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024. These bills, slated for discussion during the Winter Session of Parliament, aim to position India as a maritime powerhouse by addressing critical gaps in the sector while promoting sustainability and efficiency.

With its expansive 7,500-kilometre coastline, India has immense potential to become a global leader in coastal and international shipping. However, the country's current modal share of coastal shipping stands at a mere 6%, significantly lagging behind maritime giants such as Japan, the European Union, and China, where coastal shipping plays a much larger role in the transportation ecosystem.

Recognizing this disparity, the government is set to introduce the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, designed to foster domestic trade and streamline commercial operations along India's coasts. By doing so, the bill aims to not only decongest land-based trade routes but also address rising pollution levels and reduce logistics costs—key pain points in India's trade infrastructure.

The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024, on the other hand, takes a global perspective. It seeks to align India's maritime regulations with international standards and obligations under various conventions. This move is critical for bolstering the competitiveness of Indian-flagged vessels and ensuring seamless integration with the global shipping ecosystem.

Despite its strategic advantages and vibrant trade history, India has lacked focused legislation to comprehensively promote coastal trade. "Our modal share of coastal shipping is meagre compared to other maritime nations. This has implications for increased congestion and pollution on land-based routes, as well as higher

logistical costs," a senior government official remarked.

By addressing these challenges, the new bills promise to unlock the latent potential of India's maritime sector, creating a more sustainable and efficient logistics framework.

India's maritime sector can draw valuable lessons from countries like China, where the share of coastal shipping is seven times that of India. Similarly, Japan and the European Union have leveraged their coastal networks to foster economic growth, reduce environmental impact, and enhance trade connectivity.

The proposed legislations aim to emulate these successful models, encouraging investments in coastal shipping infrastructure, promoting skill development in the maritime workforce, and enhancing technological adoption to modernize the sector.

As India works towards becoming a \$5 trillion economy, enhancing the efficiency and sustainability of its shipping and logistics sectors is crucial. The Merchant Shipping Bill and Coastal Shipping Bill are timely interventions, addressing both domestic and global imperatives.

By reducing the compliance burden for Indian-flagged ships and incentivizing coastal trade, these bills signal a shift towards a more robust, competitive, and environmentally sustainable maritime ecosystem. This transformation is expected to not only reduce dependency on road and rail networks but also position India as a key player in the global maritime arena.

The Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024, and Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, are set to chart a new course for India's maritime ambitions. By fostering a culture of innovation, investment, and international collaboration, these landmark legislations have the potential to transform India into a global maritime hub, driving economic growth and sustainability for decades to come.

South Asia's largest maritime thought leadership forum - Sagarmanthan 2024: Future of the Maritime Sector





The maritime world turned its spotlight to India on November 18, 2024, as Sagarmanthan – The Great Oceans Dialogue, South Asia’s largest maritime thought leadership forum, launched its inaugural edition. Organized by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW), Government of India, in association with the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), this groundbreaking event is a first-of-its-kind platform aimed at shaping the future of the global maritime industry.

This two-day forum, held in the heart of India, has brought together over 160 participants from 60 countries. With global leaders, policymakers, business magnates, and experts in attendance, Sagarmanthan aims to steer meaningful discussions on pressing maritime issues, paving the way for sustainable, innovative, and efficient practices.

Sagarmanthan has set itself apart as a truly global event. Its participant list features luminaries such as Christos Stylianides, Greece’s Minister of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy; Amzath Ahmed, Minister of State for Fisheries and Ocean Resources, Maldives; John Kayode Fayemi, Pioneer President of the Forum of Regions of Africa, Nigeria; and Harry Theoharis, Member of Parliament, Greece. The dialogue also includes representatives from countries such as Norway, Brazil, South Korea, Australia, and the USA, demonstrating the forum’s commitment to fostering international cooperation on maritime challenges.

The event addresses some of the most critical topics shaping the maritime sector: the blue economy, trade connectivity, critical minerals, and labour standards. Prominent speakers such as Rizwan Soomar, CEO & Managing Director of DP World, and Sanjeev Sanyal, member of India’s Prime Minister’s Economic Advisory Council, are spearheading discussions on trade and

India’s evolving maritime leadership. Adding to the dialogue, Signe Brudeset, Director General at Norway’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, is sharing insights on sustainable maritime policies and partnerships.

Moderated by Samir Saran, President of ORF, the forum has also seen active participation from India’s Union Minister of Ports, Shipping & Waterways, Sarbananda Sonowal, and Union Minister of State, Shantanu Thakur. Their involvement underscores India’s determination to position itself as a global maritime leader. Through Sagarmanthan, India is showcasing its ambition to reshape the maritime landscape by addressing global challenges, enhancing its port and shipping infrastructure, and driving innovation in logistics and sustainability.

With representatives from countries across five continents, Sagarmanthan has become a melting pot of ideas. From discussions on diversified supply chains and critical minerals to training standards and international partnerships, the forum is creating a roadmap for a resilient maritime sector. As the waves of conversation flow across the event, Sagarmanthan is proving to be more than just a conference—it is a catalyst for actionable change. By fostering collaboration, innovation, and knowledge-sharing, this forum is paving the way for a sustainable maritime future, where oceans are not just economic resources but shared responsibilities.

The inaugural edition of Sagarmanthan is a testament to the power of dialogue and cooperation. As the event concludes, it leaves behind a legacy of ideas, partnerships, and commitments that will shape the maritime industry for years to come. India, with its rich maritime history and dynamic ambitions, has successfully anchored itself as a leader in global maritime thought leadership. Sagarmanthan 2024 is not just an event; it is the beginning of a new era in maritime excellence.

India Charts a New Course: Shipping Legislation Set to Transform Maritime Sector

A wave of change is upon India’s maritime industry! This winter, Parliament is set to pass two landmark bills – the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024, and the Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024 – promising a brighter future for Indian seafarers and the nation’s maritime ambitions.

Merchant Shipping Bill 2024: Empowering Seafarers, Strengthening the Flag

This bill isn’t just a minor update; it’s a complete overhaul of the outdated 1958 Act, drawing inspiration from leading maritime nations like the US, UK, and Singapore. Here’s what it means for you:

- **Better Working Conditions:** The bill prioritizes seafarer welfare with provisions for improved working conditions, robust repatriation mechanisms for abandoned crews, and swift deployment of replacements. This commitment to your well-being strengthens India’s position in the global maritime landscape.
- **Expanding Opportunities:** By simplifying ship registration and ownership rules, the bill aims to increase the number of Indian-flagged vessels. This translates to more jobs and greater opportunities for Indian seafarers.
- **Reduced Red Tape:** No more unnecessary hurdles! The bill streamlines business operations, doing away with general trading licenses for Indian vessels and allowing registration without needing to visit Indian ports. This reduces operational costs and boosts efficiency.
- **Safety First:** A new statutory framework for maritime emergency response empowers authorities to take decisive action against unsafe vessels and respond effectively to incidents like oil spills. This focus on safety and environmental protection benefits everyone at sea.

Coastal Shipping Bill 2024: Unlocking India’s Blue Economy

India’s vast coastline holds immense potential for economic growth and trade. The Coastal Shipping Bill aims to unlock this potential by promoting coastal shipping as a viable alternative to congested roads and railways.

- **Greener Shipping:** Coastal shipping is inherently more environmentally friendly than land-based transport. This bill encourages its growth, reducing our carbon footprint and contributing to a sustainable future.
- **Boosting Local Economies:** By exempting trading licenses for Indian vessels in coastal trade, the bill encourages domestic shipping, creating jobs and stimulating local economies along the coast.
- **Integrated Waterways:** The bill promotes seamless integration of coastal and inland waterways, enabling efficient movement of goods across the country.
- **Strategic Growth:** A National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan will ensure a data-driven approach to the sector’s development, maximizing its potential for economic growth.

A Rising Tide Lifts All Boats

These two bills mark a significant step forward for India’s maritime sector. By promoting growth, prioritizing seafarer welfare, and embracing sustainable practices, India is charting a course towards becoming a global maritime leader. This is an exciting time to be an Indian seafarer, and these reforms promise a brighter future for all.

Maritime Heroes: Exceptional Bravery at Sea Honored by the IMO



The International Maritime Organization (IMO) celebrated extraordinary acts of courage at sea during the prestigious 2024 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea. The ceremony, held in London following the Maritime Safety Committee's (MSC 109) opening session, recognized individuals and crews who displayed unparalleled valor in life-threatening situations.

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez commended the honorees, stating, "It is truly an honor to recognize these heroic individuals, who took it upon themselves to act in the face of extreme danger at sea to save lives. Their bravery is an inspiration for all of us."

Captain Avhilash Rawat and the crew of the Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker Marlin Luanda were awarded for their fearless actions during a harrowing attack by

Iranian-backed Houthis in January 2024. While carrying over 84,000 tons of naphtha, the vessel was struck by an uncrewed aerial device, igniting a massive fire in its cargo tanks.

Faced with flames towering over five meters above deck and the destruction of critical lifeboats, Captain Rawat and his team launched a relentless firefighting effort. Braving potential subsequent attacks, the crew deployed foam monitors and seawater to combat the blaze. Their determination was bolstered by international naval forces, including French, U.S., and Indian vessels, which helped extinguish the fire after 24 grueling hours.

Speaking at the ceremony, Captain Rawat emphasized the teamwork and resilience that defined their survival. "I want to take this opportunity to thank my entire



crew for their exceptional courage, professionalism, and unwavering dedication. Together, we overcame challenges that seemed insurmountable," he said.

Captain Jorge Fernando Galaviz Fuentes and the crew of the Mexican tugboat Pemex Maya were recognized for their life-saving actions during Hurricane Otis, a Category 5 storm that devastated Mexico's Pacific coast. Battling 185 mph winds and pitch-black conditions, the crew executed daring rescue maneuvers, saving six lives from four different shipwrecks.

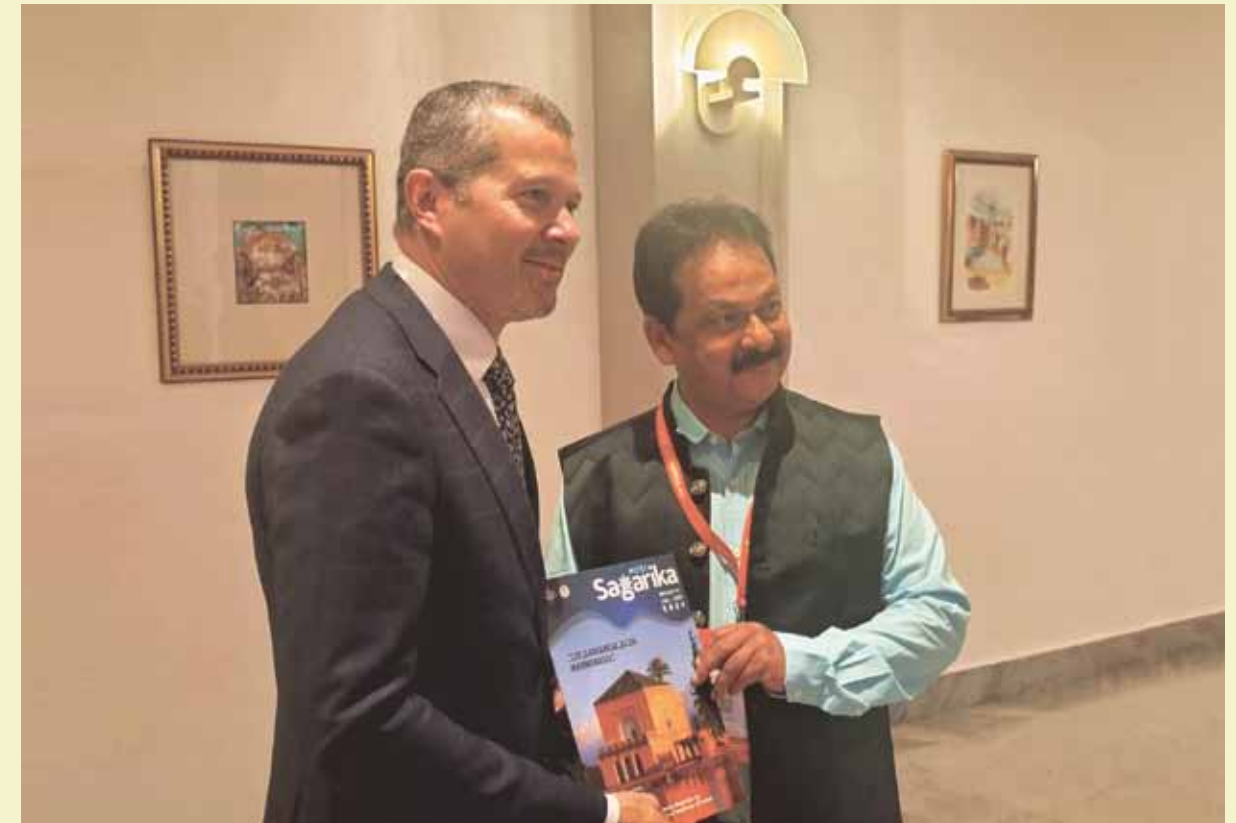
Their precise and courageous efforts in treacherous waters showcased a level of professionalism and bravery that inspired awe.

In addition to the main awards, numerous maritime professionals were honored with Certificates and Letters of Commendation for their selfless service. These included:

- Captain Jérôme Noël Mougoula Saguiliba and Lieutenant Crépin Manfoumbi Mengara, who saved 150 passengers from the sunken ferry Esther Miracle off Gabon.
- Captain Brijesh Nambiar and the crew of INS Visakhapatnam of the Indian Navy, for their vital firefighting assistance aboard the Marlin Luanda.
- U.S. Coast Guard personnel for their courage in towing vessels during cyclones and rescuing individuals trapped by the Lahaina wildfires.

The IMO Awards not only honor individual bravery but also shine a spotlight on the resilience and camaraderie that define maritime professionals. As global challenges at sea persist, these stories of heroism remind us of the enduring spirit of those who safeguard lives and vessels amid peril.

ITF MARRAKECH POLICY ON MINIMUM CONDITIONS ON MERCHANT SHIPS



“NUSI General Secretary-cum-Treasurer, Mr. Milind Kandalgaonkar with IMO Secretary General, Mr. Arsenio Dominguez”)

The ‘Marrakech Policy’, adopted at the International Transport Workers’ Federation’s (ITF) 46th Congress in Marrakech, Morocco, in October 2024, now forms the governing framework for the global union’s campaigning work on Flags of Convenience (FOC).

The policy is the culmination of five years’ work by union representatives from ITF maritime affiliates to examine, plan and develop a new strategy in line with the shifting reality faced by seafarers since 2010 – when the preceding Mexico City Policy was adopted at the ITF’s 42nd Congress in Mexico City.

The Marrakech Policy, adopted by the Joint Seafarers’ and Dockers’ conference, sets out the minimum conditions the ITF and its affiliated unions will accept on FOC merchant ships. In doing so, it incorporates the new understanding of the critical importance of global supply chains that emerged out of the Covid-19 pandemic, as well as the central role for shipping and seafarers in combatting climate change through a just transition.

The Marrakech Policy will now form the baseline for the ITF’s Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBA), which

set the wages and working conditions for crews on FOC vessels, irrespective of nationality.

The Marrakesh Policy is a set of minimum standards for the working conditions and rights of international seafarers. It was adopted by the International Transport Workers’ Federation (ITF) at its 46th Congress in Marrakech, Morocco. The policy is the basis for the ITF’s Collective Bargaining Agreements (CBAs) for crews on Flags of Convenience (FOC) vessels.

The Marrakesh Policy includes the following considerations:

Global supply chains: The policy recognizes the importance of global supply chains, which became more apparent during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Climate change: The policy acknowledges the role of shipping and seafarers in addressing climate change.

Seafarers’ rights: The policy aims to improve the rights and working conditions of seafarers. The ITF’s FOC campaign has been successful in persuading ship owners to enter into collective bargaining agreements.

Seafarers Unity Day 2024: Celebrating the Spirit of Seafaring



Theme: Seafarers – Moving the World

The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) proudly celebrated the Seafarers Unity Day on November 6, 2024, at the Indian Sailors Home Society (ISHS) in Mumbai. This annual event, a tribute to the unwavering dedication and contributions of seafarers worldwide, was marked by grandeur and unity, with the theme “Seafarers: Moving the World” at its core.

The celebration witnessed an extraordinary gathering of over 1,000 seafarers, maritime professionals, and their families. It also reached a wider audience through live telecasts across India and aboard ships globally. Notably, November 6 is a paid holiday for all seafarers covered under the NUSI Agreement, working on both Indian and foreign-flagged vessels.

Honoring Maritime Excellence

The event was graced by distinguished guests, including:

- Chief Guest: Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra, General Secretary of the All India Railwaymen’s Federation (AIRF)
- Guest of Honour: Shri Mahendra Gharat, President of the New Maritime & General Kamgar Sanghatana (NMGKS)

Advocate Premanand Salgaonkar, President of NUSI, presided over the celebrations, extending his best wishes to seafarers and emphasizing the importance of unity and skill development in a rapidly evolving maritime industry.

Empowering Through Initiatives

Shri Milind Kandalgaonkar, General Secretary-cum-Treasurer of NUSI, highlighted the union’s welfare initiatives for seafarers and their families. The event also featured the launch of the NUSI SAMVAD PRASAARAN WhatsApp channel by Chief Guest Shri Shiva Gopal Mishra. This platform aims to keep seafarers informed about industry updates and developments, ensuring they remain prepared for future challenges.

Acknowledging Contributions and Unity

In his address, Shri Mishra underscored the power of unity among seafarers in tackling challenges and assured the audience that a railway ticket quota for seafarers’ transit during sign-on and sign-off periods would soon be implemented.

Guest of Honour Shri Mahendra Gharat delivered a compelling speech about the vital role of unions in protecting workers’ rights, resonating deeply with the audience.

Maritime Thought Leadership

Prominent industry leaders shared their insights on the theme “Seafarers: Moving the World,” including:

- Shri Anil Devli, CEO, Indian National Ship Owners Association (INSA)
- Capt. S. M. Halbe, CEO, Maritime Association of Shipowners Shipmanagers and Agents (MASSA)
- Capt. R. Y. Barve, Director, Foreign Owners Representatives & Ship Managers Association (FOSMA)
- Shri Rakesh Singh, Secretary, ICC Shipping Association (ICCSA)

Their valuable contributions enhanced the knowledge and perspective of attendees, making the event a learning platform for all.

Recognizing Academic Excellence

The event celebrated the achievements of young scholars under the NUSI Scholar Scheme, awarding children of NUSI members for their outstanding performance in the 10th Standard examinations. The recipients were awarded two-year fixed deposits ranging from ₹25,000 to ₹70,000.

Introducing the “NUSI Excellence Award”

For the first time, NUSI honored maritime stalwarts with the NUSI Excellence Award for their outstanding contributions to maritime training and development:

- Capt. Mahesh C. Yadav, Director of Marine Education & Training, FOSMA
- Capt. K. N. Deboo, Director & Principal, Anglo Eastern Maritime Training Centre
- Shri David Birwadkar, Vice President (Head-Fleet Management), Great Eastern Shipping Pvt. Ltd.

A Memorable Celebration

The Seafarers Unity Day 2024 concluded with a vote of thanks by NUSI Organizer Bro. Elvis Rodrigues. The celebrations underscored NUSI’s commitment to supporting seafarers and their families through skill enhancement, medical assistance, education, and welfare initiatives.

Seafarers and maritime enthusiasts can revisit the celebrations through:

NUSI Facebook and NUSI YouTube Channel.

Stay updated on maritime developments by following “NUSI Samvad Prasaaran” (NUSI WhatsApp Channel).

JAI HIND | JAI NAVIK | JAI NUSI



Empowering Seafarers: NUSI's Achievement in Norwegian Agreements



The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) has once again proven its dedication to the welfare of Indian seafarers by achieving groundbreaking improvements under the NUSI Norwegian agreements. The revised terms, effective from January 1, 2025, to December 31, 2026, ensure better wages, enhanced benefits, and progressive working conditions for seafarers serving on Norwegian-flagged ships.

The new agreement highlights NUSI relentless efforts to elevate seafarers' standards of living and working. Among the key features are:

1. Increased Wages and Benefits

- **Wage Hike:** A 3.75% rise in basic wages in 2025 and an additional 2% in 2026, benefiting all ranks.
- **Related Benefits:** This increase extends to associated entitlements, including leave and overtime, ensuring a comprehensive financial boost.

2. Enhanced Compensation Policies

- **Death Compensation:** Increased to USD 111,000, with additional child support of USD 20,400 per child (up to a maximum of three children).
- **Disability Compensation:** Raised to USD 108,300, providing greater financial security to injured seafarers.

3. Special Allowances

- **Tanker Bonus:** Increased to reflect the added risks of tanker operations.
- **Provident Fund & Gratuity:** Improved contributions ensure long-term savings and retirement benefits.

For the first time, the agreement incorporates the principles of the ILO Convention on Violence and Harassment, 2019 (No. 190), reinforcing equality and a harassment-free workplace. A major step forward is the introduction of maternity benefits, granting seafarers:

- 100 days of basic pay during maternity leave.
- The difference between basic and contractual pay for the agreed contract period.

These advancements make the maritime profession more inclusive and supportive for women.

NUSI has prioritized career advancement for Ratings holding Certificates of Competency (COC) as Officers. By covering the costs of training and skill enhancement for these Ratings, NUSI ensures their upward mobility and stronger representation in higher ranks.

Acknowledging the occupational risks faced by seafarers, ship-owners have pledged to consult the Norwegian P&I Club to streamline claims processes for those exposed to hazardous substances onboard.

These monumental achievements reflect the power of unity. NUSI dedication and the unwavering support of its members have led to these historic milestones, further strengthening the bond between the union and its seafarers.

As NUSI celebrates this victory, it is already setting its sights on new initiatives to uplift the maritime workforce. The union remains steadfast in its mission to provide unmatched support, better working conditions, and brighter opportunities for Indian seafarers.

NUSI Secures Major Victory for Indian Cruise Seafarers with New Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA)



Thousands to Benefit from Improved Wages and Conditions in the Cruise Sector

In a momentous achievement for Indian seafarers, the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) has successfully negotiated a new Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) with Fleet Maritime Services International Ltd. This landmark agreement promises significant benefits for Indian seafarers employed on cruise ships operated by Carnival Support Services India Private Limited.

The new CBA marks a turning point for seafarers in the cruise industry, bringing much-needed improvements to wages, working conditions, and welfare. NUSI tireless efforts and collective bargaining have resulted in the following key provisions:

- **Significant Wage Increase:** The agreement guarantees up to a 27% increase in base wages, ensuring that Indian seafarers are compensated more fairly for their expertise and dedication to the maritime industry. This wage hike reflects the crucial role these seafarers play in ensuring the smooth operation of cruise vessels globally.
- **Enhanced Overtime Benefits:** Recognizing the demanding nature of life at sea, the CBA introduces improved overtime rates and working conditions. This ensures that Indian seafarers receive fair compensation for the extra hours they put in while working on cruise ships.
- **Increased Death and Disability Compensation:** The agreement brings substantial increases to death and disability compensation, offering crucial financial security for seafarers and their families during times of tragedy or injury. This is a vital step toward

safeguarding the well-being of Indian seafarers who often face risky working conditions while serving aboard cruise ships.

- **Welfare Activities Endorsement:** In addition to wage increases, the ship owners have committed to actively promoting NUSI's welfare activities. This endorsement highlights the union's dedication to supporting seafarers' well-being beyond just their pay and working hours.

Mr. Milind Kandalgaonkar, General Secretary and Treasurer of NUSI, expressed pride in the achievement: "This agreement is a testament to the power of collective bargaining and NUSI unwavering commitment to protecting and enhancing the rights and welfare of Indian seafarers. We are proud to have secured these significant improvements for our members working in the cruise sector."

The CBA sets a new standard for Indian seafarers employed on cruise ships, ensuring better working conditions, fair wages, and improved welfare. It underscores the crucial role of unions in achieving positive change for workers in the maritime industry. This success serves as an inspiration to seafarers worldwide, emphasizing the importance of unity and solidarity in securing fair treatment and better working conditions.

NUSI remains committed to continuing its work on behalf of Indian seafarers, advocating for their rights, welfare, and recognition in the global maritime industry. The victory achieved with this new CBA marks just the beginning of NUSI ongoing efforts to uplift the lives of seafarers and secure their future.

Exciting News! Refurbished Canteen Now Open at ISHS



The Indian Sailors Home Society (ISHS) has opened its newly renovated canteen, an exciting update for the seafaring community. This modern facility was officially inaugurated on November 21, 2024, by Shri Milind Kandalgaonkar, Deputy Chairman of ISHS and General Secretary-cum-Treasurer of the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI). The canteen provides affordable and high-quality meals to seafarers under the NUSI Food Subsidy Scheme.

The upgraded canteen is more than just a place to eat—it's a welcoming space to relax and connect. With a fresh new design, the dining area now has comfortable seating and a wider menu offering both Indian and continental dishes. Open every day from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM, it is convenient and easy for seafarers to use.

This canteen shows ISHS dedication to the well-being of seafarers. It offers a cozy and friendly environment where they can enjoy delicious meals, take a break, or spend time with fellow seafarers.

The renovation was made possible through the hard work and vision of ISHS committee members, with strong support from NUSI. Their teamwork reflects their shared goal of making life better for seafarers, giving them a space that feels like home even when they are far from their families.

Seafarers are welcome to visit the new canteen, enjoy its warm atmosphere, and tell their fellow seafarers about it.

NUSI team make an appearance at SOS Mumbai 2024: A Unified Effort for Seafarer Mental Wellness Seminar



The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) was humbled to participate in the prestigious SOS Mumbai 2024 Gala Celebration, held on November 29, 2024, at Mumbai, India. This event, organized by the Singapore Organisation of Seamen (SOS), focused on the crucial topic of mental wellness for seafarers, an area that NUSI recognizes as essential to the overall well-being of the maritime workforce.

The NUSI leadership team, including General Secretary-cum-Treasurer Mr. Milind Kandalgaonkar, Vice President Louis Somir Gomes, Assistant General Secretary Sunil V. Nair, Organising Secretary Suresh P. Solanki, and Assistant Secretary Maksood Khan, was honored to attend the event and show solidarity with SOS and its members. The event began with a seminar on mental wellness, providing valuable resources aimed at supporting the mental health of seafarers. This was followed by a Gala Night, which brought together industry leaders and maritime professionals to celebrate the resilience and dedication of seafarers worldwide.

NUSI's participation in this event underscores our commitment to the holistic welfare of seafarers, which extends beyond physical health and safety to include

mental well-being. We strongly believe that the mental health of seafarers is just as critical as their physical health, and the SOS Mumbai 2024 Gala served as an important platform for discussing and promoting initiatives that support both aspects.

Throughout the event, NUSI representatives had the opportunity to engage with industry leaders and strengthen the bonds of solidarity with SOS and other maritime organizations. These conversations reaffirmed NUSI's commitment to advancing the welfare of seafarers, particularly through initiatives such as mental wellness programs, training opportunities, and continuous advocacy for better working conditions.

The collaboration between NUSI and SOS will continue to play a vital role in addressing the challenges faced by seafarers and ensuring that their welfare - both physical and mental - is prioritized.

We look forward to continuing our partnership with SOS and other maritime organizations as we work together to improve the lives and well-being of seafarers, who are the backbone of the global maritime industry.

Rescue and Repatriation Efforts for MV ISA STAR Crew Members



The safe return of the crew members of the MV ISA STAR to Mumbai on December 25, 2024, marks a poignant and historic moment for the maritime community. The crew, including 15 Indian nationals, had endured two life-threatening incidents in the Red Sea, and their successful repatriation is a testament to the power of international cooperation and the tireless efforts of the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI), alongside other global organizations committed to the welfare of seafarers.

The crew members on board the MV ISA STAR included 2nd Officer Mrinmoy Bhardwaj, Pumpman Sonu Kumar Rai, AB Sukhadev Singh, Oiler Anurag Tyagi, Oiler Malike Gopal, and 15 other dedicated maritime workers. These individuals, along with the rest of the crew, faced extreme challenges while working in one of the world's most perilous maritime regions.

On November 5, 2024, the MV ISA STAR was struck by a devastating explosion in its engine room while navigating the volatile waters near Yemen. The explosion left the crew stranded in perilous conditions, requiring immediate action to ensure their safety. The European Union's Aspides naval mission responded quickly, rescuing all 20 crew members. While the crew was safe, they faced additional challenges, including the loss of crucial identification and documentation, such as passports and Continuous Discharge Certificates (CDC), which complicated their repatriation.

Under the leadership of General Secretary Milind Kandalgaonkar, NUSI played a critical role in addressing the diplomatic and logistical challenges that arose from the incident. NUSI worked closely with the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF) and other key stakeholders to ensure that the crew's paperwork was swiftly processed, enabling their return home. The efforts of former Member of Parliament, Mr. Husain Dalwai, as well as the support from India's Ministry of External Affairs and the Indian Embassy in Djibouti, were vital in facilitating the repatriation process.

As if the crew's ordeal wasn't enough, the MV ISA STAR was again targeted on December 5, 2024, when it was struck by a missile in the Red Sea. This attack underscored the growing risks faced by seafarers in conflict-prone regions. Despite these threats, the crew remained resilient, and their safety continued to be the

primary focus of international organizations, including NUSI and the ITF.

After weeks of uncertainty, the MV ISA STAR crew was finally reunited with their families in Mumbai on December 25, 2024. The emotional homecoming was a powerful reminder of the sacrifices made by seafarers and their families. As the crew disembarked and embraced their loved ones, the significance of their safe return resonated deeply within the maritime community, underscoring the importance of solidarity and collaboration in ensuring the welfare of seafarers worldwide.

The safe return of the crew also highlights the crucial role that unions like NUSI play in protecting the rights and safety of seafarers. NUSI's unwavering commitment to advocating for Indian seafarers, both during times of crisis and in their daily work, is central to the union's mission. As General Secretary Milind Kandalgaonkar emphasized, the success of the repatriation was only possible through the collective effort of all parties involved, reinforcing the need for continued international cooperation to protect seafarers and safeguard their welfare.

This incident serves as a stark reminder of the increasing dangers faced by seafarers, particularly in conflict zones such as the Red Sea. The missile attack on the MV ISA STAR calls for enhanced security measures to protect commercial shipping routes and ensure the safety of maritime workers. NUSI remains dedicated to advocating for stronger protection protocols and greater international collaboration to address the growing risks in these regions.

Ultimately, the safe return of the MV ISA STAR crew is a victory for the maritime community as a whole. It serves as a powerful example of what can be achieved when unions, governments, and international organizations unite to safeguard the rights and well-being of seafarers. NUSI will continue to lead the charge in advocating for better security, safety, and support for seafarers, ensuring that their welfare is always prioritized. The challenges faced by the MV ISA STAR crew remind us of the inherent risks of working at sea, but also of the strength and solidarity that exists within the global maritime community.

Fleet Management Company visited Valsad along with NUSI Valsad Branch representatives for Crew Recruitment Drive on 23rd Nov, 2024.



NUSI Team Continued Commitment to Seafarers Welfare: A Visit to Andaman



The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) reaffirmed its unwavering commitment to the welfare of seafarers during a recent visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. The trip was marked by a series of impactful engagements aimed at enhancing seafarer support and strengthening relationships with key maritime stakeholders.

The visit commenced with a warm reception at NUSI Branch Office, where key members, including NUSI Organiser, Mr. Anilkumar K. V., Branch Representative Mr. Dharvinder and Executive Member Mr. Sukesh, facilitated productive discussions with local activists. These meetings highlighted ongoing welfare efforts and explored avenues for expanded support in the region.

A pivotal moment was the meeting with Mr. BC Sirkar, Deputy Director of Shipping Services (DSS), Andaman Administration. Accompanied by NUSI Organiser, Mr. Anilkumar K. V., Mr. Dharvinder and Mr. Sukesh, NUSI team discussed strategies to enhance shipping services while ensuring seafarers' welfare remained a top priority. Further strengthening ties, NUSI also visited Shri Pravesh Ranjan Jha, Director of Shipping Services, and Capt. Pramod Kumar, Harbour Master at Port Blair, to explore collaborative opportunities.

Additionally, the team visited MV Campbell Bay, a passenger ship docked at Port Blair. They briefed seafarers onboard about the significance of trade union membership and the various welfare activities led by NUSI, encouraging active participation in these initiatives.

NUSI organized a Welfare Scheme Awareness Briefing and interaction session at the DSS Port Blair Branch Office. This initiative aimed to educate seafarers about various welfare schemes while encouraging active participation in NUSI programs. The session empowered seafarers with valuable knowledge about the benefits and support systems available.

Demonstrating deep compassion, NUSI representatives, including NUSI Organiser, Mr. Anilkumar K. V., Mr. Dharvinder and Mr. Sukesh, visited seafarers undergoing medical treatment in local hospitals. They offered emotional support and ensured the seafarers were aware of welfare provisions designed to assist them during difficult times.

The team also met with the families of late seafarers Ahmed Ali and Tintus Barla, offering heartfelt condolences and reinforcing the union's ongoing commitment to their well-being through welfare activities.

A highlight of the visit was the ship tour aboard MV Pilomillow, where NUSI representatives interacted with crew members and gained first-hand insights into their working conditions. The team also visited MV Campbell Bay, where they briefed seafarers about the importance of trade union membership and NUSI welfare initiatives.

As part of this visit, NUSI also met with Shri Pravesh Ranjan Jha, Director of Shipping Services, Andaman and Nicobar Administration, and Capt. Pramod Kumar, Harbour Master at Port Blair, to strengthen maritime ties. Additionally, the team visited MV Campbell Bay, a passenger ship at Port Blair, where they briefed seafarers about the importance of trade union membership and highlighted NUSI welfare activities, encouraging greater participation.

NUSI recent visit to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands underscored its steadfast dedication to improving the lives of seafarers. Through constructive dialogues with maritime authorities, welfare awareness programs, and personal interactions with seafarers and their families, NUSI continues to lead efforts that ensure a brighter, more secure future for the seafaring community.



A seafarers and families get-together was held in Tuticorin, Tamil Nadu, where NUSI welfare initiatives were highlighted, and a football league was organized at Punnakayal to promote healthy sports among seafarers.



The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) recently organized a special get-together for seafarers and their families in Tuticorin. The event was graced by Shri S. Kalaikovan, Assistant Secretary and Chennai Branch Representative, along with Shri Rexon, the Tuticorin branch Representative. Families from Kayalpattinam and Punnakayal participated in the gathering, held under the guidance of General Secretary-cum-Treasurer Shri Milind Kandalgaonkar and Assistant General Secretary-cum-Branch Coordinator Shri Sunil Nair.

During the meeting, several important issues were discussed, and the NUSI team informed the seafarers about the various welfare and Training initiatives available to them. These efforts were highly appreciated by the families, who expressed their gratitude for the support and guidance provided by the NUSI.

One of the highlights of the event was the annual football league organized by the NUSI Head Office

to encourage physical fitness and team spirit among seafarers. League matches, successfully conducted at Punnakayal every year, saw Shri S. Kalaikovan present shields and mementos to the winning teams, creating a joyful and proud moment for everyone present.

The event was a grand and memorable occasion, filled with laughter and a strong sense of community. The seafarers and their families enjoyed the event and appreciated NUSI's continued efforts to improve their lives. Events like these strengthen the bond between NUSI and the seafaring community, demonstrating that they are always supported and valued.

NUSI Maritime Academy had the pleasure of hosting Capt. Anish Joseph



Deputy Nautical Advisor-cum-Senior Deputy Director General of Shipping (Technical / Maritime Security) and delegates of Department for Transport, UK

Mr. Simon Corkill,

Ms. Paula Jones and

Ms. Karen Sawyer

The purpose of the visit was to enhance maritime security collaboration between the two governments and showcase strong maritime education capabilities of DGS approved MTIs.

We had a short presentation outlining the conceptualization of the Institute and the various courses/ facilities offered.

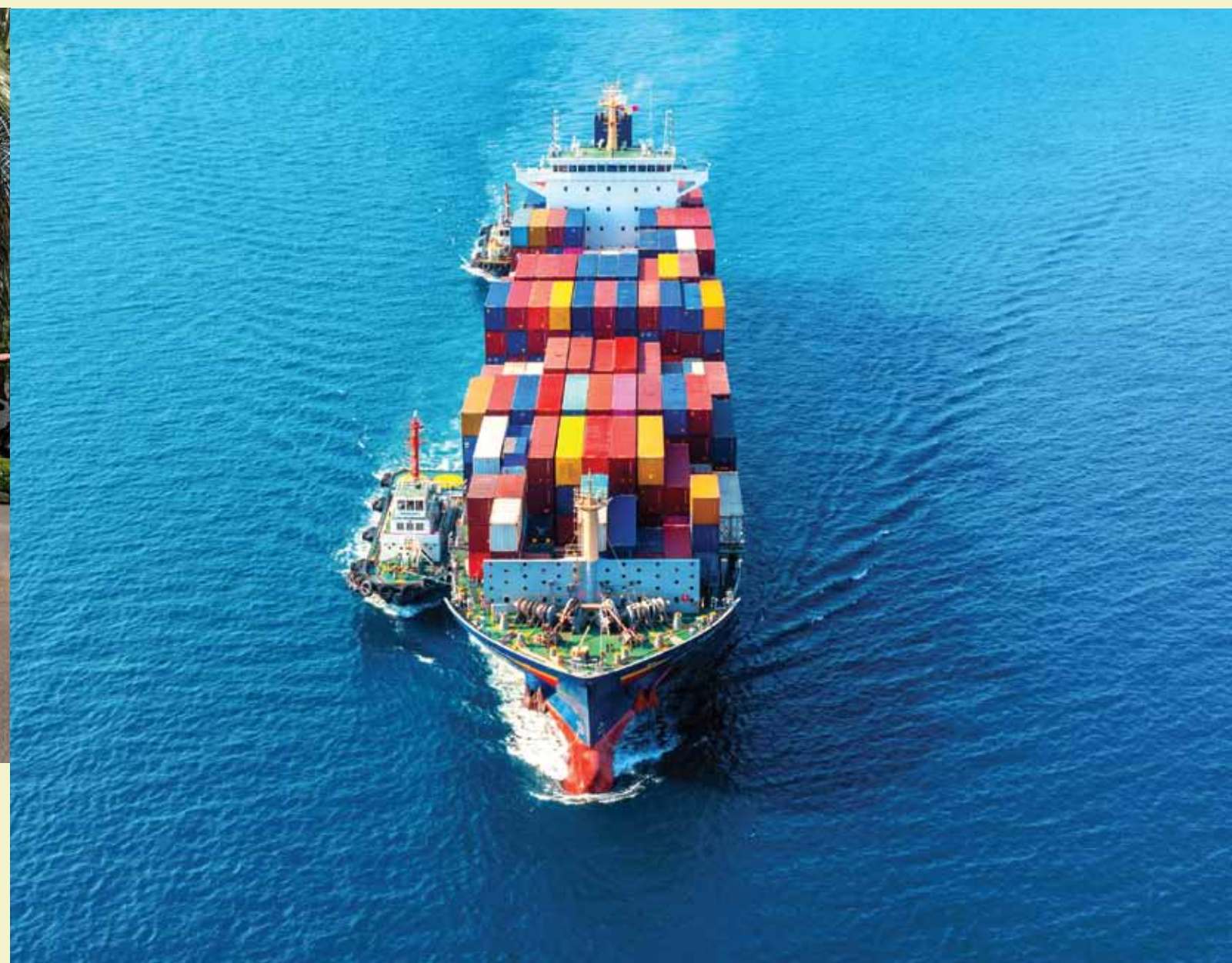
This was followed by a walk around of the facilities where the delegates got a firsthand view of the various practical hands-on training carried out.

After building a good appetite the delegates were treated to a sumptuous lunch, courtesy of the Catering trainees ably supported by their Instructors.

All in all, the visit had a successful outcome with the delegates gaining a firsthand appreciation of the rigour of a seafarers training.



To Be or Not to Be: The Quandary of Indian Flag Ships



The age-old question of “to be or not to be” has haunted both Indian policymakers and the maritime industry regarding the growth of Indian flag ships. It may sound strange, but the debate continues about whether it is in the nation’s best interest to have its own robust shipping tonnage or if the country would be better off without it.

Sanjeev Sanyal, Member of the Prime Minister’s Advisory Council, while speaking at the inaugural ‘Sagarmanthan - The Great Oceans Dialogue,’ emphasized the crucial role of the maritime

space for our economic survival. He called for a complete rethink in our approach to ships and shipping infrastructure, advocating for transformative investments in our maritime resources and capabilities.

K. Rajaraman, Chairman of IFSCA, who bears the major responsibility for transforming investment in Indian flag ships, expressed a different view. He stated that India should look beyond the flag of the ship, suggesting that utilizing foreign flag ships can also be a viable option. These contrary views reflect the varied and often conflicting interests of ship

owners, cargo owners, ship charterers, and shipping finance and leasing companies. These conflicting voices and resultant policy indecision cause Indian shipping to take one step forward and two steps back.

The reasons for this dilemma are clear. Indian shipping is plagued by numerous challenges, each seemingly more insurmountable than the other. These include a lack of capital, high cost of capital, short loan tenures, the requirement to provide collateral security for loans instead of accepting ships as security, and a lack of understanding about restructuring loan requirements due to the industry's cyclical nature. Additionally, there is built-in inequity in taxation laws that often favor foreign flag vessels over Indian vessels, even in Indian waters. Problems such as timely repatriation of funds for ship acquisition, stringent regulatory requirements by maritime administration, the burden of training Indian seafarers, and higher port charges make Indian ships less cost-effective and less competitive than ships from countries where capital is easily available, or tax havens with relaxed regulatory standards.

In an era of quick fixes, 'giving up' seems a sensible solution when ships from other flags can be easily available at a cheaper cost, as opposed to tackling the multiple problems faced by Indian ships. From time to time, especially when the going is good, charterers and exporters demand easy access to foreign flag ships. However, when the demand for ships surpasses supply and chartering costs escalate, the same exporters are the first to advocate protectionism and promotion of Indian flag ships.

Policy makers should remember an important lesson from recent history. To control the Indian economy, the British destroyed Indian manufacturing and took full control over imports and exports via sea routes. Conversely, Japan, Korea, and China have secured and maintained control over manufacturing by promoting their domestic and international shipping and securing their supply lines.

A country with a population exceeding 1.45 billion, which depends largely on shipping for its energy needs and aspires to be a developed nation by 2047, cannot

afford to take the easy option of 'doing nothing.' This approach could lead to massive economic and financial costs, strategic vulnerability, power imbalance, and job losses.

During COVID, the Indian EXIM trade realized the importance of having its own container ships. In their absence, foreign shipping lines routinely skipped Indian ports, prioritizing costly electronic goods from other countries over perishable Indian agricultural exports and profitable routes over essential Indo-African routes for Indian exporters.

The government has been vocal about the importance of shipping. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman has discussed the growth of shipping in her budget speeches. Subsidy schemes for carrying government cargo and ongoing shipbuilding subsidies have been announced, but these measures are half-baked and do not sufficiently address the shipping industry's problems. These measures have not spurred ship ownership, a prerequisite for a self-reliant and resurgent India.

A comprehensive scheme addressing the non-availability of capital, high cost of capital, short loan tenures, inflexibility in restructuring loans, and discriminatory taxation for Indian ships needs to be rolled out. The proposed Maritime Development Fund in Maritime India Vision 2030 appears to be a step in the right direction.

Additionally, any industry competing internationally cannot afford a tax regime where Indian ship-owners must deduct thirty percent tax from their seafarers' salary while foreign ships in Indian waters do not. Nor can it afford to impose a five percent duty on vessel imports for Indian ship-owners, while foreign flag ships operate without such taxes.

Solving these discriminatory tax issues would provide significant cost advantages to Indian ship-owners, making them competitive internationally.

We do not need to look beyond the Indian flag. Instead, we need to closely examine the issues faced by Indian flag ships and resolve them to achieve the targets set for 2030 and 2047.

"Seafarer Salaries Surge, Yet Mental Health and Welfare Needs Persist: NUSI Leads the Charge for Better Support"



Life on board ships is not for the faint of heart. Seafarers face an array of challenges, from navigating treacherous seas to enduring extreme weather, particularly during the colder months. While the living conditions on ships have steadily improved over the years, seafarers still face cramped cabins that prioritize function over luxury. These spaces, though compact, are designed to meet basic needs and ensure safety, reflecting the industry's ongoing commitment to enhancing their quality of life. Yet, despite these improvements, the daily life of a seafarer remains physically demanding, mentally taxing, and emotionally isolating.

The sacrifices made by seafarers are immense. They spend long months away from their families, driven by the need to provide a better future for their loved ones. Their desire to secure a stable income and offer financial support keeps them going, even when the distance from home takes an emotional toll. This dedication to family and responsibility makes seafarers invaluable—not just to their families but to the global economy. Their resilience, often unseen and unacknowledged, powers the world's shipping industry, helping goods reach every corner of the globe.

According to a recent survey by Danica Crewing Specialists, salaries for skilled crew members have increased, primarily due to a shortage of qualified seafarers. This rise in wages is a step in the right direction, but it highlights a greater issue that is often overlooked—seafarers' mental health. The survey revealed that 14% of seafarers reported feeling depressed during their last contract, an increase from 11% in the previous year. This shift underscores the urgency of addressing mental health challenges in the maritime industry. Although more seafarers are seeking mental health support, only 65% found the help they received effective, down from 75% the year before. Clearly, the need for accessible and reliable mental health resources is greater than ever.

For over 125 years, the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) has been at the forefront of championing the rights of seafarers. Through tireless advocacy, NUSI has worked to improve the working conditions of Indian

mariners, ensuring fair wages, safer work environments, and essential support services. NUSI commitment extends beyond pay and working conditions—it understands that seafarers' emotional and mental well-being are just as crucial.

In response to the growing mental health concerns, NUSI launched the "NUSI SAHARA" helpline in 2017, a free 24/7 psychological counseling service for seafarers and their families. This lifeline provides one-on-one, confidential counseling for mariners of any rank, helping them cope with the unique stresses of life at sea. NUSI SAHARA has become an invaluable resource, offering immediate support to those struggling with loneliness, anxiety, and the pressures of their demanding jobs. Every month, several sessions are conducted, ensuring continuous support. Each call serves as a reminder that behind the long hours and grueling work, there is a human being in need of understanding, support, and compassion.

NUSI work is a testament to the power of advocacy and support. By urging the maritime industry to prioritize the fair treatment, timely pay, and overall welfare of seafarers, NUSI is helping drive positive change. It is calling for an industry-wide shift, one that recognizes the profound impact of seafarers' well-being on the sustainability of global shipping. In a world where seafarers often go unnoticed, NUSI unwavering commitment ensures their voices are heard and their sacrifices are honored.

In conclusion, the life of a seafarer is one of sacrifice, resilience, and dedication. Yet, the emotional and mental toll of life at sea cannot be ignored. Through the support of NUSI and initiatives like the "NUSI SAHARA" helpline, seafarers are no longer alone in facing these challenges. The journey toward better welfare and mental health resources is just beginning, but with organizations like NUSI leading the way, seafarers can look forward to a brighter, more supportive future.

For assistance, seafarers can reach the helpline at 1800 102 5110. For more details, visit NUSI website at <https://www.nusi.org.in/>.

NUSI SAHARA Webinars / Workshops Feedback



Life at sea is marked by sacrifice, resilience, and dedication, but it also comes with emotional and mental challenges. To support seafarers, NUSI has launched initiatives like the “NUSI SAHARA” helpline, offering guidance and assistance. With such efforts, the journey toward better welfare and mental health for seafarers is gaining momentum. For help, call 1800 102 5110 or visit nusi.org.in.



Capt. Deepak Correa
Chief Operating Officer
Fleet Management Limited

“Service to Mankind is Service to God” - this golden proverb holds true for NUSI. I salute their initiatives in combating mental stresses of seafarers. Their engagement models, problem solving methodology, and overall subject - matter expertise is commendable. I am sure their consistent interactions with seafarers at Fleet will go a long way in alleviating wellbeing and other work-related issues. Thank you Riaana and team.”

BORN OUT OF NECESSITY: NUSI WhatsApp Channel Revolutionizes Seafarer Communication

In today’s digitally connected world, the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) has taken a groundbreaking step by launching its official WhatsApp Channel - NUSI SAMVAD PRASAARAN. This platform is designed to address seafarers’ pressing need for real-time updates and essential information.

The channel ensures instant updates, broadcasting important announcements, industry news, and event notifications directly to subscribers’ phones. This allows seafarers to stay informed, regardless of their location.

Its focus on seafarer-centric information includes welfare updates, job alerts, training programs, and health advisories. This targeted content ensures that seafarers receive relevant and timely updates tailored to their unique needs.

Enhanced engagement features enable two-way communication, allowing seafarers to provide feedback, raise concerns, and interact with key organizations. This

creates a supportive community where seafarers feel heard and valued.

Recognizing the diverse linguistic backgrounds of its members, the channel supports multiple languages, ensuring accessibility and comprehension for seafarers from various regions.

How to Subscribe:

1. Scan the QR code using Google Scanner or a QR scanner app from the Play Store.
2. Click “Open” to access the WhatsApp channel.
3. Tap “Follow” (top right) to join and stay updated.

Looking Ahead:

NUSI WhatsApp Channel goes beyond being a communication tool - it is a vital lifeline connecting seafarers to essential services and a global support network. This initiative highlights NUSI commitment to leveraging technology for the welfare of its members, ensuring no seafarer is left behind.



NUSI Offshore Training Institute (NOTI): Shaping the Future of Maritime and Offshore Training in India



NUSI Offshore Training Institute (NOTI), located amidst the tranquil foothills of Raigad near Mumbai, is setting new standards for maritime, offshore o roach that combines technical expertise, practical skills, and global best practices, NOTI offers a unique training experience to meet the evolving needs of the sector. Spread over 8 acres, the institute is equipped with state-of-the-art infrastructure, including modern classrooms, advanced simulation technology, and hands-on training facilities, ensuring an immersive learning environment for participants.

NOTI commitment to inclusivity is reflected in its range of training programs developed in collaboration with the ISF Group. These programs are designed to address various facets of offshore operations, including dynamic positioning, anchor handling, crane operations, and emergency response. The institute's emphasis on real-world experiences ensures that participants gain practical skills alongside theoretical knowledge. As part of its continuous efforts to improve training standards, NOTI is also working towards introducing OPITO-certified programs and advanced simulator setups for even more immersive training experiences.

In addition to its technical training programs, NOTI is closely aligned with NUSI Saksham, an initiative aimed at empowering Indian seafarers with free and subsidised training. Supported by the NUSI-ITF Trust and other

welfare organizations, NUSI Saksham offers a range of skill-enhancing courses at no cost or discounted rates. The courses are designed to provide seafarers with the knowledge and expertise required to excel in offshore and maritime roles. Some of the free courses available include basic welding certification, pumpman skills enhancement, lathe and welding operations, and deck and engine rating skills training. These programs cover essential aspects of offshore operations such as steering, crane handling, maintenance, corrosion control, and hydraulic pump management.

Furthermore, NUSI Saksham offers discounted courses for advanced skills training, including anchor handling, dynamic positioning, offshore rigging, advanced welding, major emergency management, and helideck operations. These courses are tailored to meet the needs of offshore professionals and are designed to ensure they remain competitive in the ever-evolving maritime industry.

Together, NOTI and NUSI Saksham are transforming the landscape of offshore training in India. With their world-class training facilities, experienced faculty, and focus on practical skill development, they are empowering seafarers and paving the way for safer, more efficient operations in the maritime industry. Through their continued efforts, they are helping to create a brighter, more sustainable future for offshore professionals.

FOSMA and NUSI Join Hands to Create a Cadre of Marine Fitters and Pumpmen



Mumbai, 18 December 2024—The Foreign Owners and Ship Managers Association (FOSMA) and the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) have come together to address a critical need in the maritime industry: the creation of a skilled cadre of marine fitters and pumpmen. This groundbreaking initiative, launched collaboratively, aims to establish a formal system for developing these professionals and meeting the growing demand in the sector.

The training will be conducted through two key verticals of NUSI: the NUSI Maritime Academy (NMA) in Goa and the NUSI Offshore Training Institute (NOTI) in Panvel, ensuring a robust and practical training program.

A Unified Vision for Workforce Development

FOSMA and NUSI, both key stakeholders in the maritime industry, have jointly designed the program to provide structured, high-quality training. This collaboration reflects a shared commitment to addressing industry demands and creating sustainable career pathways for seafarers.

Key Features of the Training Program

The initiative follows a carefully structured pathway, blending theoretical knowledge, practical exposure, and advanced skill development:

1. Initial Training (8 Weeks at NOTI):

Candidates who successfully complete the six-month GP

Rating program at NMA will undergo an additional eight weeks of specialized training at NOTI, Panvel, focusing on the foundational skills required for marine fitter and pumpman roles.

2. Onboard Training (9 Months):

Trainees will gain hands-on experience aboard ships, alternating between engine room and deck roles. This phase ensures comprehensive real-world exposure.

3. Advanced Training (4 Weeks at NOTI):

Upon completing onboard training, candidates will return to NOTI for a four-week advanced module, designed to refine and enhance their specialized skills.

Support from the Maritime Administration

The Director General of Shipping has extended full support to the program, committing to issue circulars to formalize the training framework to secure certification under provisions of STCW Chp VII/2.

Merit-Based Selection and Enhanced Curriculum

• Selection Process:

The incumbents will be selected from candidates undergoing 6 months pre sea GP Ratings Training at NUSI Maritime Academy Goa, upon successful completion.

• Curriculum Enhancements:

The curriculum incorporates maritime English and technical terminology, equipping trainees with the communication skills essential for global operations.

Collaboration Driving Industry Change

FOSMA and NUSI's joint efforts have ensured that the program is well-aligned with industry needs. By leveraging the training expertise of NUSI's verticals NMA in Goa and NOTI in Panvel—this initiative provides trainees with a structured, practical approach to skill development.

A Transformational Step for the Maritime Industry

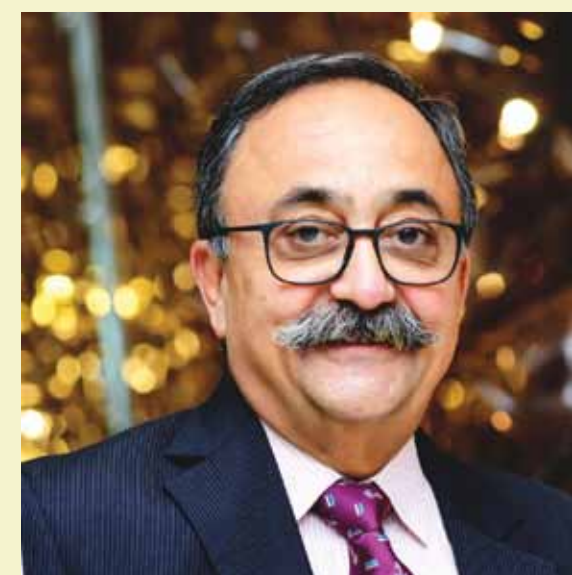
The commitment of FOSMA and NUSI, combined with the active participation of member shipping lines and the support of the Director General of Shipping, ensures the program's success and its positive impact on the maritime workforce.

Selected Trainees are assured on-board placement on FOSMA member ships upon successful completion of their training at NMA & NOTI. Costs incurred for the 2 segments of the programme at NOTI will be borne by NUSI & FOSMA.



**Comment from Mr Milind Kandalgaonkar,
General Secretary-cum-Treasurer, National
Union of Seafarers of India.**

This initiative not only demonstrates the strength of collective efforts in shaping a brighter future for our trainees but also guarantees employment opportunities through this collaboration. .



**Comment from Capt (Dr) Rajesh Tandon,
CEO FOSMA:**

This program represents a unified vision by FOSMA and NUSI to formalize the development of marine fitters and pumpmen, addressing a longstanding gap in the industry. The collaborative framework not only meets current workforce challenges but also lays the foundation for long-term social partnership.

From Advocacy to Academia: My Pursuit of International Maritime Law at IMLI



As a young lawyer in Mumbai, I was fortunate enough to have worked for seafarers' cause from the beginning of my career which gave me a modest insight on the intricacies of international maritime law. The entire idea about maritime transport system, has always intrigued me and developed curiosity in me from the early days of my law practice. In my own professional and limited capacity, I have worked for seafarers' trade unions in India such as National Union of Seafarers of India, on a wide range of issues including maritime law. It is this keenness in the subject that has now led me to one of the most premiere and reputed institutes in the world to study LL.M. in International Maritime Law i.e., at International Maritime Organization (IMO) International Maritime Law Institute (IMLI) based in Malta. The ITF Seafarers' Trust was generous enough to support my studies and stay at IMO IMLI for which I will be always obliged.

IMLI was established in Malta in 1988 under an agreement entered between IMO and the Government of Malta. The mission of IMLI is to enhance capacity-building in all IMO Member States thereby contributing towards the fulfilment of the goals of IMO to ensure safe, secure, clean and sustainable shipping. As of 2024, there are a total of 176 Member States and 3 Associate Members of IMO. The IMO is catalyst to more than 50 international conventions and agreements for a wide spectrum issues and aspects on international maritime law. Therefore, being a part of IMLI is a unique and enriching experience for someone who wishes to be a part of this global machinery which is constantly striving towards development and upholding the rule of international maritime law.

At IMLI, we have professors and lecturers who are experts in different aspects of international maritime law. The professors and lecturers regularly represent IMLI in various international domain. Apart from the expertise of IMLI's in-house lecturers and professors who constantly strive

to impart education to students coming from numerous countries with various backgrounds, there is also an impressive cadre of eminent visiting lecturers who are judges at ITLOS, ICJ, industry leaders, CEOs, authors, lawyers, heads and legal heads of various maritime bodies and representatives of UN organizations. On a regularly basis, IMO officials visit IMLI for providing us a first-hand insight and experience on the working of various committees of IMO. Therefore, we are given flavours from a wide spectrum within the maritime industry and different perspectives are being provided to us for our overall development and widening our understanding on the subject of international maritime law with both from the academic and practitioners' perspectives.

As far as IMLI's infrastructure is concerned, the students have been given an access to IMLI's vast library which has a sizeable collection of commentaries, books, law reporters, journals, articles, etc., Further, we also have been provided with access to prestigious online platforms. IMLI has provided us with a single-occupancy rooms for our accommodation wherein all the basic and essential facilities including but not limited to internet facilities have been provided. The lecture room at IMLI is equipped with hi-tech audio-visual system, both for the lecturers and students and the infrastructural environment resonates an interactive platform which is akin to the IMO conference hall.

The study course is intensive which has a mix bag of dissertations, assignments, presentations and written exams. Apart from the above, one of the distinguishing features at IMLI from rest of the LL.M. courses offered at various universities across the globe is 'the maritime legislation drafting project' wherein the students are required transpose an international convention (which is not yet incorporated and/or implemented by their respective countries) into a domestic legislation. The legislation project empowers and enables students to assist their respective governments in providing expertise in domesticating international obligations stemming from the conventions that they become State Party. This aims to effectively strengthen the rule of uniformity on international maritime law qua State practice. Further, the course also includes a field trip to London wherein the students get to visit major maritime organizations including the IMO itself at the actual meeting of the IMO's Legal Committee.

The total strength of our class is 65 students who come from 39 different countries. Very few courses on international law in the world would have students coming from so many countries which truly reflect IMLI's conscious effort of creating homogeneity in the international maritime domain whilst respecting the world's diversity. The various specialised courses offered at IMO IMLI are exclusive and unique which are designed not only for students' personal and professional growth but they also entail an effective step-in-aid towards harmonization of international maritime law across different jurisdictions.

Article by Adv. Kunal Suresh Gaikwad, Maritime Lawyer

Steering Towards Tomorrow: Fuel and Automation in Shipping



The Shipping industry is on the brink of a significant transformation, driven by the dual forces of sustainable fuel development and automation technologies. As the world moves towards a greener future, the maritime sector is also adapting to meet environmental goals and improve operational efficiency.

The shipping industry, a titan of global trade, is on the cusp of a major transformation. Driven by environmental concerns and technological advancements, the future of maritime transport is set to be greener and increasingly automated. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has set ambitious targets to reduce greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions from Shipping by 50% by 2050 compared to 2008 level.

Fueling Change:

The quest for cleaner fuel alternatives is paramount. While traditional heavy fuel oil dominates, the industry is exploring:

- **Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG):** A transitional fuel offering significant emissions reductions compared to heavy fuel oil.
- **Methanol and Ammonia:** Emerging as promising contenders, with ongoing research into their production and application.
- **Hydrogen:** Considered the ultimate green fuel, though challenges remain in production, storage, and distribution.
- **Biofuels:** Derived from renewable sources, offering a potential pathway towards carbon neutrality.
- **Wind and Solar Power:** Harnessing renewable energy sources for auxiliary power, reducing reliance on fossil fuels.

Automation on the Horizon:

Automation is revolutionizing ship operations, promising

increased efficiency and safety:

- **Autonomous Vessels:** While fully autonomous ships are still in development, significant progress is being made in autonomous navigation and collision avoidance systems.
- **Remote Operations:** Shore-based control centers are increasingly managing ship operations, optimizing routes and reducing human error.
- **Data Analytics and AI:** Real-time data analysis and artificial intelligence are enhancing decision-making, predictive maintenance, and fuel efficiency.

Challenges and Opportunities:

The transition to new fuels and automation presents both challenges and opportunities:

- **Infrastructure Development:** Significant investments are needed in infrastructure to support alternative fuels and digital technologies.
- **Regulatory Frameworks:** Adapting regulations to accommodate new technologies and ensure safety is crucial.
- **Workforce Transformation:** Automation will require reskilling and upskilling the maritime workforce.

The future of shipping is undeniably intertwined with sustainable fuels and automation. By embracing innovation and collaboration, the industry can navigate towards a cleaner, safer, and more efficient future.

The Shipping industry is at a pivotal point, with sustainable fuels and automation technologies paving the way for a more efficient and environmentally friendly future. By embracing these innovations, the Shipping industry can meet its environmental goals and continue to play a vital role in global trade.

As part of the NUSI SANKALP beach cleaning campaign, NUSI-SINDHUDURG seafarers organized a beach cleaning event on October 2nd at Malvan.



Strengthening Community Ties: NUSI Memorable Outreach in the Konkan



The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) carried out a heartwarming well-being programme from December 20 to 22, 2024, across several locations in the scenic Raigad district. The initiative included visits to Toradi Mohalla, Mhasla City, Borli/Shrivardhan, and Mangaon, reflecting NUSI's commitment to connecting with the seafaring community.

Bro. Vishal Gujar, Bro. Vijay Yadav, Bro. Elvis Rodrigues, and Bro. Irfan Chiplunkar led the efforts, organizing vibrant community get-togethers at the Seafarers' Hub while also conducting personal door-to-door visits. These activities aimed to foster a sense of unity, care, and belonging among seafarers and their families.

The programme witnessed enthusiastic participation, with hundreds of seafarers and their loved ones coming together to express their gratitude. The initiative emphasized NUSI dedication to the holistic well-being of its members, addressing their concerns and building stronger ties within the community.

As the programme concluded, seafarers and their families lauded NUSI for its unwavering support and efforts to make a difference. This outreach initiative stands as a testament to NUSI's ongoing mission to empower and uplift the seafaring community, leaving a lasting impact in the Konkan region.

Seafarers Connect Initiative Launches in Chandigarh: A Step Forward for Seafarers Rights & Employment



In a significant development for India's maritime community, the Director General of Shipping, in collaboration with the Maritime Union of India (MUI) and National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI), launched the Seafarers-Connect program at the Tagore Theatre Auditorium in Chandigarh on December 27, 2024.

The groundbreaking initiative, spearheaded by Captain Sanjay Parashar, marks a new chapter in addressing the concerns of Indian seafarers. The program aims to create a direct channel of communication between maritime professionals and regulatory authorities, fostering a more responsive and supportive ecosystem for the seafaring community.

During the well-attended event, Deputy Director General of Shipping, Captain Daniel Joseph, made a strong commitment to protecting Indian seafarers' rights. The program provided an unprecedented platform for seafarers to voice their concerns directly to key decision-makers in the industry.

"Protecting the rights of Indian seafarers remains our foremost priority," emphasized Captain Joseph during his address. This sentiment was strongly echoed by representatives from both MUI and NUSI, who reinforced their dedication to safeguarding the interests of maritime professionals.

More than 500 seafarers from Punjab, Himachal Pradesh, Haryana, and the Chandigarh Tricity region were in attendance, the open forum format of the program proved particularly effective, allowing for frank discussions about various challenges faced by seafarers in their professional lives. Maritime unions' representatives engaged actively in these discussions, demonstrating their commitment to addressing these issues through collaborative efforts with regulatory authorities.

This initiative represents a significant step forward in strengthening the support system for Indian seafarers and is expected to serve as a model for future engagement between maritime professionals and industry stakeholders. The success of this inaugural event in Chandigarh sets a promising precedent for similar programs across other maritime hubs in India.

The Seafarers-Connect program exemplifies the industry's evolving approach to addressing seafarer

welfare, combining regulatory oversight with union advocacy to create a more robust support system for maritime professionals. As this initiative continues to develop, it is expected to play a crucial role in enhancing the working conditions and professional experiences of Indian seafarers.

DG Shipping has unveiled numerous exciting initiatives and plans, to cover them on social media to bring these developments to a wider audience.

The agenda was packed with critical topics, including:

- ⚓ Tackling seafarer grievances on-board ships.
- ⚓ Seamlessly managing sign-on/sign-off and sea time data for exams.
- ⚓ Understanding death & disability allowances and distinguishing good companies from bad.
- ⚓ Resolving documentation issues such as CDC, BSID, and e-gov (Form 1) problems.
- ⚓ Empowering women in the Merchant Navy with job opportunities.
- ⚓ Addressing the importance of sponsorships for DNS cadets.
- ⚓ Diving deep into NUSI welfare schemes and SWFS.
- ⚓ Clarifying the Recruitment and Placement e-gov module of DG Shipping.

On 25th December 2024, NUSI Youth Committee representatives, Mr. Vijay Yadav, Mr. Vishal Gujar, and Mr. Prakash Thakur, carried out door-to-door visits to seafarers in Batala City, Kandliya, Naushera, and Dera Village, Amritsar. During these visits, they shared valuable insights about NUSI welfare initiatives to support seafarers and their families.

The collaborative efforts of NUSI and MUI in organizing this event reflect their commitment to enhancing the welfare and protection of Indian seafarers, fostering better working environments, and upholding their dignity at sea. The DG Shipping's participation reinforced the government's dedication to supporting maritime professionals and ensuring that India remains at the forefront of global shipping standards.

NUSI Goa branch has successfully completed the first batch of basic computer training classes for seafarers and their families



The NUSI Vasai branch successfully organized a Health Check-Up Camp, thanks to the dedicated efforts of the NUSI Vasai Women's and Youth Committees. Special thanks to Brother Milind Kandalgaonkar and the NUSI head office team for their invaluable support and guidance in making this event a success.



NUSI Vasai Branch Organizes Exciting Children's Activity Competitions for School



On the occasion of Children's Day on 14th November, the NUSI Vasai Branch organized a series of Children's Activity Competitions for school students. The children of seafarers were eager and enthusiastic participants in a variety of events, such as English handwriting,

fancy dress, drawing, pot painting, Christmas star making, storytelling, clay molding, and Christmas card making. In this event more than 100 families of seafarers nearby Vasai Virar gathered together to showcase their talents and celebrate their community's unique culture

NUSI stands united with women worldwide on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women.



Educating and Inspiring Change: World AIDS Day 2024



On December 1, 2024, the National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) organized an HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme at the Indian Sailors Home Society in Mumbai to mark World AIDS Day. The initiative, led by NUSI Youth Committee, aimed to educate the maritime community, promote prevention strategies, and combat the stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS.

The event featured esteemed chief guests Ms. Kalpana Desai, Ms. Yogini Durafe, Mr. Sudhakar Dhuri, and Dr. Farzana Hansari. Ms. Desai emphasized the importance of open dialogue, while Ms. Durafe highlighted the role of awareness campaigns in fostering acceptance. Mr. Dhuri discussed how seafarers can spread knowledge globally, and

Dr. Hansari shared expert insights on advancements in HIV treatment and the importance of early diagnosis.

Interactive sessions encouraged seafarers to engage in discussions, share experiences, and pledge support for health equity and HIV prevention. Heartfelt stories and expert talks inspired empathy and a collective commitment to reducing HIV transmission.

The programme served as a powerful reminder of the progress possible when communities unite, honoring those lost to AIDS-related illnesses while supporting individuals living with HIV. It reinforced the need for continued awareness, understanding, and action toward a more inclusive and compassionate society.

Checkmate at Sea: NUSI Chess Tournament Celebrates Seafarers' Skills



The National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI), in collaboration with the Indian Sailor Home Society (ISHS), hosted a thrilling Chess Tournament that brought together the finest strategic minds from the seafarers' community. The event celebrated not just the game but also the spirit of unity and camaraderie among participants.

Seafarers, known for navigating the vast oceans with precision and determination, displayed the same qualities on the chessboard. The tournament saw intense matches marked by thoughtful moves, sharp tactics, and remarkable sportsmanship. Each participant brought their best game forward, turning the competition into an exciting and memorable experience.

The tournament concluded with exceptional performances as Rathanson emerged as the winner, Abhishek Kumar secured the runner-up position, and

Jishin claimed third place. While these players excelled, the tournament's real success lay in fostering a sense of belonging and shared passion among the seafarers. The event became a platform for learning, connecting, and encouraging personal development beyond their maritime careers.

NUSI and ISHS expressed their commitment to organizing more such events, recognizing the importance of activities that promote mental agility and social interaction. The Chess Tournament was a perfect reminder that even in a demanding profession like seafaring, there's always room for strategy, competition, and community bonding.

Congratulations to the winners and heartfelt appreciation to all participants for their enthusiasm and sportsmanship. May the spirit of the game continue to inspire our seafarers on land and at sea.

Rangoli creation by Seafarers and their Families at Valsad & Diu on Seafarers' Unity Day



Welfare and Training initiatives for seafarers and family

There are many welfare benefits for seafarers and their family members under the initiatives of National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI), the offices of the Seamen's Provident Fund (SPF) and Seafarers Welfare Fund Society (SWFS). **All benefits are strictly as per guidelines of applicable schemes respectively.** Thousands of our seafarers have benefitted over the years. But some of our seafarers are not even aware of the welfare initiatives. NUSI wants all our seafarers to be aware so that they can get the benefits as per eligibility. You can also send an email to nusi@nusi.org.in or visit our Website: www.nusi.org.in for any further guidance in these matters.

Initiatives of National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI)

For decades, NUSI has negotiated secure terms and conditions on Indian and foreign flagships. NUSI members serving on merchant ships and cruise ships can take the benefit for themselves or their family members which is at the same level for serving, retired or deceased seafarers.


1. **"NUSI SAKSHAM"** - Skill Enhancement initiatives for seafarers for better career prospects. Send an email to nusisaksham@gmail.com
2. **"NUSI SURAKSHA KAVACH"** Life Insurance for seafarers.
3. **"NUSI SAMVAD"** Free Wi-Fi for seafarers in hostel.
4. **"NUSI SUBSIDY SCHEME"** Food Subsidy in hostel.
5. **"NUSI SHIKSHA ABHIYAN"** Education Grant for children of seafarers.
6. **"NUSI SCHOLAR"** Financial assistance for scoring highest marks in SSC.
7. **"NUSI SCHOLARSHIP"** Higher studies grant for children of seafarers after graduation.
8. **"NUSI STRI SIKHSHA ABHIYAN"** Education Grant for wives of seafarers.
9. **"NUSI STRI SHAKTHI SUPPORT"** Financial Support to Women Ratings.
10. **"NUSI SEEKHO - PARDES"** Financial Support to children of seafarers for studies abroad.
11. **"NUSI SUVIDYA"** Financial Support for professional courses.
12. **"NUSI SWAASTH SAHYOG"** Financial Assistance in medical cases for seafarers and their families.
13. **"NUSI SUKHADALAY"** Recreational Holiday Home at Lonavala.
14. **"NUSI SENIOR SEAFARERS"** Home for Senior Seafarers at Lonavala.
15. **"NUSI SILAI CLASSES"** Sewing Classes for family members of seafarers.
16. **"NUSI SAHARA"** A free wellbeing initiative for all ranks of seafarers and their families. Counselling helpline TollFree Number - 1800-102-5110 or Whats app Number – 98339 91880.
17. **"NUSI SAHELI SWAYAM ROZGAR YOJANA"** - Self-help for women in family of seafarers.
18. **"NUSI SALAAH"** - Professional Career Counselling for children and women family members of all ranks of seafarers. Send email to nusi.salaah@gmail.com
19. **"NUSI SKILLS SUPPORT"** - Financial assistance to NUSI members for STCW and skill courses.
20. **"MARITIME ENGLISH MADE EASY (MEME)"** - A self paced online learning program.
21. **"NUSI SAWARI"** - A free of cost bus service for seafarers for visiting shipping company offices etc.
22. All NUSI agreements on Indian and foreign flag vessels have social benefits.

NUSI Union App: Visit Google play store and type NUSI union app

NUSI  : <https://www.facebook.com/nusiindia/>

NUSI  : <https://www.youtube.com/c/NationalUnionofSeafarersofIndia>

 : National Union of Seafarers of India (@NUSIUnion)

 :Nusi_ho

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NUSI Online Membership Payment: <https://memebership.nusi.org.in>

NUSI Mobile App: Visit Google playstore and search for NUSI UNION App

Facebook Page Link: <https://www.facebook.com/nusiindia/>

Youtube Channel link:

<https://www.youtube.com/c/NationalUnionofSeafarersofIndia>

Twitter: @NUSIUnion

Instagram: nusi_ho

NUSI SAHARA

24/7 free of cost Psychological Counselling Helpline telephone service. All ranks of seafarers and their families can call and talk one-to-one or chat to a professional counselor on 1800-102-5110. There is a great benefit for our seafarers and their families who use this counselling facility.

NUSI Branch Office Contact Details

ALANG

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by National Union of Seafarers of India

Overview of Current Skill Development Courses

S.N.	Course Title	Course Details	Offered At
1	Pump man's Skill Enhancement Training	A comprehensive Course covering the entire spectrum of a Pump Man's role onboard tankers and associated skills, including the various workshop skills. ✓ 10 days/70 hours.	NUSI Offshore Training Institute (NOTI)
2	Deck Ratings Skills Training	A comprehensive Course covering the entire spectrum of a Deck Rating's role onboard ships and associated skills, including various deck skills, steering, crane operations, painting, carpentry, safety and environment protection, etc. ✓ 5.5 days/38 hours.	NUSI Offshore Training Institute (NOTI) and Mohamed Ebrahim Serang Centre (MESC)
3	Engine Ratings Skills Training	A comprehensive Course covering the entire spectrum of an Engine Rating's role onboard ships and associated skills, including the various engine room activities, safety, environment protection, workshop skills like welding and lathe operations. ✓ 5.5 days/38 hours.	NUSI Offshore Training Institute (NOTI) and Mohamed Ebrahim Serang Centre (MESC)
4	Lathe and Welding Skills Training	A focused practical program meant for enhancement of a Fitter's skills in welding, gas cutting, lathe operations, etc. ✓ 6 days/42 hours.	NUSI Offshore Training Institute (NOTI), Mohamed Ebrahim Serang Centre (MESC).
5	Ratings Skill Enhancement Program	A comprehensive program for upskilling a newly trained GP rating to make him ready for performance on board ships. ✓ 6 Weeks/42 days	NUSI Offshore Training Institute (NOTI)

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'Samudraseema', 5th Floor, Plot No. 329, TPS III,
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