

# World Seafarers Day Celebration – IMEI Pune Branch



The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) Pune Branch celebrated World Seafarers Day on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2024. Over 100 seafarers gathered at PYC Gymkhana for a special programme, which included a talk show, pottery workshop, and musical event. The theme for the talk show was "Navigating the Future: Safety First!"

**Capt. (Dr.) Ashutosh Apandkar**, Principal of Training Ship Rahaman, India, delivered the keynote address, while **Capt. Indranath Banerjee**, Principal of Tolani Maritime Institute, gave the welcome address.

Ex-Chief Engineer **Mr. Sanjeev Ogale**, Chairman of IME(I) Pune, **Capt. Shrirang Gokhale**, Chairman of CMMI, **Capt. Anand Dixit**, Chairman of the Indian Maritime Foundation, and **Capt. Sudhir Subhedar**, former President of Indian Coastal Operators and former member of CMMI, were among the dignitaries present.

In his speech, Capt. (Dr.) Apandkar highlighted the integration of women into the shipping industry, emphasising efforts to ensure their safety and competence on board. He noted that TS Rahaman aims to prepare women for global challenges, with positive feedback from

shipping companies. He also praised Pune's contributions to the industry, with its four maritime institutes gaining recognition.

Bhagyashree Ogale, a Pune-based first engineer, shared her experiences, stating, "Challenges are part of the journey, but quitting is never an option. Gaining confidence and becoming an asset to the organization is key. Women need to believe in their ability to make decisions and solve problems."

Mr. Sanjeev Ogale, addressed parents' concerns about safety, security, and quality of life on board.

Capt. Dixit emphasised the importance of seafarers' wellbeing and the mental health issues they face.

Pune boasts a strong seafaring community with three associations and four training institutes, supporting over 5,000 seafarers, 1,000 of whom are actively on board. The program was well-received and appreciated by all attendees.