



Sagar Sandesh

Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

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EZAME Celebrates Annual Cultural Program



whereby following were present as "Guests of Honour":
 Shri Prabir Kumar Gangopadhyay, Director (P&A), SCI;
 Capt. Abhijit Ghosh, Director (Marine), Mr. Shyama Prasad Mukherjee, Kolkata Port Trust and Shri Amar Singh

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Eastern Zonal Association of Marine Engineers (EZAME) was established in 1998 and having member strength of over 200 is always a forerunner in terms of organising charity and relief. Not deterred with the pandemic and prolonged periods of complete and partial lockdown, EZAME have managed to contribute Rs 2.22 lacs for West Bengal Chief Minister's Corona Relief Fund and also Rs 1.75 lacs to Bharat Sevasram Sangha for

Umphun Cyclone Relief. In addition, EZAME have organised two covid-19 vaccination camps (1st & 2nd dose) in collaboration with hospital. EZAME have taken up few projects for the benefit of their members and their families, notably group medical/ health insurance cover.

To commemorate the 24th year of their existence, Annual Cultural program was held on 30th April, 2022 evening at Gyan Mancha auditorium, Kolkata,

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EZAME Celebrates Annual Cultural..... FROM PAGE : 1

Thakur, General Secretary, MUI.

Chief guest of the evening **Mr. Janab Firhad Hakim, Mayor of Kolkata & Minister in charge of Transport, Municipal affairs & Housing, Government of West Bengal**, could not be present as he had urgent and pressing commitments.

Shri Saumitra Ghosh, President of the Eastern Zonal Association of Marine Engineers (EZAME), in his key note address, welcomed all the guests of honour, surveyors from maritime administration, members from the institute of marine engineers, Kolkata chapter, faculty and engine cadets from marine engineering and research institute, Kolkata and present 300 guests for attending the association's 24th annual day celebration and prize distribution ceremony.

While addressing the audience, the **Shri P.K.Gangopadhyay, who is a key observer of Eastern Zonal Association of Marine Engineer's activities**, spoke about the SCI's stake in inland & coastal shipping. Inland & coastal shipping ltd (ICSL), SCI's wholly owned subsidiary is headquartered in SCI's Kolkata office. It was incorporated in 2016 after Maritime India summit for undertaking/providing transport services through inland waterways, coastal shipping and end to end logistics.

ICSL and IWAI (Inland Waterways Authority of India) signed a historic memorandum of understanding on 22nd Jan'21 for operations and management of three IWAI cargo vessels and already some vessels are plying in national waterways NW-2.

ICSL is in the process of establishing scheduled liner services in national waterways NW-1 (Haldia/Kolkata to Varanasi). One vessel successfully completed voyage from Kolkata to Patna with containerized cargo. Subsequently, ICSL intends to connect inland waterways with coastal shipping. All these services through the rivers would not only be economical, but also reduce carbon footprint.

Capt Abhijit Ghosh, in his speech highlighted the important role of mariners in shipping in moving very essential logistics when the whole world is in disarray due to pandemic. Mariners served beyond the end of their original contracts and unable to be repatriated due to air travel restrictions. He also elaborated the major and difficult role of the Kolkata Port Trust towards

maintaining national waterways navigable.

Shri Amar Singh Thakur in his speech highlighted the role of the Maritime Union of India. He emphasised that MUI always give top priority to seafarers' issues. According to merit it's taken up with relevant authorities, which include ship owners, ship managers, government of India, overseas unions, consulates, embassies, Directorate General of Shipping, GOI. As a general secretary, he ensures that all welfare facilities are accessible to officers and their families, be it holiday homes, financial assistance related or towards medical expenses, injury and unfortunate demise. He has established a women's wing to ensure that wives of officers too are part of the merchant shipping family. It functions as a platform for spouses of male seafarers when they

are away or at home with their families.

Towards **EZAME's award ceremony**, mementos and prizes were distributed to 66 building fund (2012) donors in gratitude. Also awards were distributed to **3 members for their outstanding work**.

Post awards ceremony, it was followed by a much-awaited cultural program whereby audience was captivated and entertained by the performance of noted saxophonist **Shri Sanjoy Naskar and his band**. It was followed by beautiful rendition by **Ms Preeti Basu and Shri Gurjeet Singh** accompanied by their Jhankar Band. **Ms. Tamali Ghosh** was the event anchor.

Thunder shower during the show brought much needed relief of the sweltering heat wave and turned it into more awesome and memorable night. Full event also broadcasted live by "Samay Kolkata" TV Channel.



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