SEAFARERS' UNITY DAY 2026 – CELEBRATING SOLIDARITY, HONOURING OUR SEAFARERS AND STRENGTHENING OUR COMMITMENT TO THEIR WELFARE

UNITY IS OUR STRENGTH – SEAFARERS ARE OUR PRIDE!

National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) celebrated Seafarers' Unity Day on 6th November 2026 at the Indian Sailors' Home Society (ISHS), Mumbai, with immense pride, enthusiasm and solidarity.

The occasion was not merely a celebration but a powerful reaffirmation of NUSI unwavering commitment to protecting the rights, dignity, safety, welfare and future of Indian seafarers and their families.

6th November holds special significance in the history of NUSI. It is recognised as a paid holiday under all NUSI Agreements covering seafarers serving on Indian and foreign-flag vessels. This important achievement reflects the strength of collective bargaining and the recognition of the invaluable contributions made by seafarers to the maritime industry and the global economy.

Every seafarer who leaves behind loved ones to serve at sea deserves respect, recognition, protection and dignity. Seafarers' Unity Day is dedicated to these unsung heroes whose hard work, courage and sacrifices keep international trade moving.

DISTINGUISHED DIGNITARIES GRACE THE OCCASION

The celebration was honoured by the gracious presence of Shri Ravish Kumar Singh, IRTS, Deputy Chairperson, Mumbai Port Authority, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India, as the Chief Guest.





The distinguished Guests of Honour included:

- Capt. Nitin Mukesh, Deputy Nautical Adviser-cum-Senior Deputy Director General (Technical), DGMA.
- Capt. Bipin Kumar, Nautical Surveyor-cum-Deputy Director General (Technical)/DDG, CREW, DGMA.
- Shri Mugilrajan Devarajan, Engineer & Ship Surveyor-cum-Deputy Director General (Technical), DGMA.

The occasion also brought together members of the NUSI Advisory Forum, representatives of maritime organisations, shipping industry leaders, NUSI office-bearers, seafarers and their families.

The dignitaries paid solemn homage to departed seafarers through a wreath-laying ceremony at the Seafarers' War Memorial.

A two-minute silence was also observed in memory of seafarers who lost their lives during the recent conflicts in the Strait of Hormuz and the Persian Gulf.

Their sacrifices remind us that no commercial interest should ever take precedence over the safety and lives of seafarers.

NUSI CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO SEAFARERS' WELFARE

In his welcome address, Shri Milind Kandalgaonkar, General Secretary-cum-Treasurer, NUSI, emphasised that the strength of the maritime industry rests upon the dedication, professionalism and sacrifices of its seafarers.



He reiterated that NUSI responsibility extends far beyond collective bargaining and wage negotiations. It encompasses the complete welfare of seafarers and their families, including healthcare, education, mental well-being, financial security, career advancement and social protection.

He warmly welcomed the Chief Guest, Shri Ravish Kumar Singh, and appreciated his distinguished administrative experience, including his contributions to Indian Railways and Jawaharlal Nehru Port Authority.

He also placed on record NUSI appreciation for Shri Shyam Jagannathan, IAS, Director General of Maritime Administration, for his progressive leadership and continued efforts towards maritime safety, digitalisation, training, career development and seafarers' welfare.

Special appreciation was expressed for the initiatives undertaken by DGMA to assist and repatriate Indian seafarers affected by the recent Gulf crisis.

The importance of the NUSI Advisory Forum was also highlighted, particularly its contribution towards strengthening cooperation between NUSI, maritime employers, training institutions and industry stakeholders.

Looking towards the future, NUSI emphasised the need to prepare Indian seafarers for emerging opportunities in artificial intelligence, automation, digital technologies, green shipping and alternative fuels.

Our objective is clear: Indian seafarers must not only remain globally competitive but also become leaders in the maritime industry of tomorrow.

CHIEF GUEST APPRECIATES NUSI WELFARE INITIATIVES

Chief Guest Shri Ravish Kumar Singh congratulated NUSI and the entire seafaring community on the occasion.

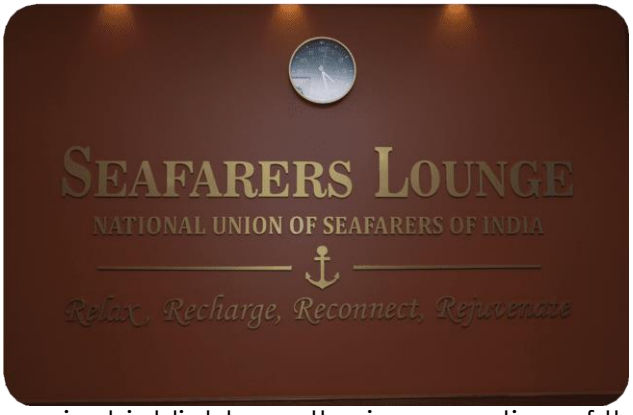
He appreciated the wide range of welfare initiatives undertaken by NUSI, particularly those focusing on healthcare, family welfare, skill development, work-life balance and improved facilities for seafarers.

Acknowledging the courage and sacrifices of Indian seafarers, especially during international conflicts, he expressed confidence in India's growing contribution to the global maritime workforce and its potential to become the world's leading seafaring nation.

He also appreciated the newly developed Seafarers' Lounge and reaffirmed his support for initiatives promoting seafarers' welfare and strengthening cooperation with Mumbai Port Authority.

THREE IMPORTANT WELFARE INITIATIVES MARK SEAFARERS' UNITY DAY 2026

1. INAUGURATION OF THE NUSI SEAFARERS' LOUNGE AT ISHS





A major highlight was the inauguration of the exclusive Seafarers' Lounge at the Indian Sailors' Home Society, Mumbai, by Chief Guest Shri Ravish Kumar Singh.

The Lounge has been developed to provide seafarers with a comfortable, welcoming and relaxing environment during their stay at ISHS.

The facility includes workstations, massage chairs, karaoke facilities, free Wi-Fi and recreational amenities.





This initiative recognises that seafarers deserve not only professional support but also opportunities for relaxation, recreation and social interaction.

The dignitaries also visited the ISHS facilities and were briefed on various welfare initiatives, including NUSI Solar, medical clinic services, counselling support, NUSI Swasth (Yoga) and the NUSI Gym.

2. LAUNCH OF NUSI SATHI CHATBOT – DIGITAL ASSISTANCE FOR SEAFARERS





Another important milestone was the launch of the NUSI SATHI Chatbot by Capt. Nitin Mukesh.

This digital initiative is designed to make information regarding NUSI welfare schemes, training opportunities and assistance services more accessible to seafarers and their families.

Through this initiative, NUSI aims to strengthen communication, simplify access to information and improve awareness of available benefits.

Our message is simple: No eligible seafarer or family member should miss a welfare benefit merely because of a lack of information.

3. LAUNCH OF AMBULANCE SERVICES IN COLLABORATION WITH ZENZO





Recognising the importance of timely medical assistance, NUSI launched its ambulance service initiative in collaboration with Zenzo Ambulance Services.

The initiative is aimed at strengthening access to emergency ambulance support for seafarers and their families across India.

This represents another significant step towards expanding NUSI's healthcare support network and addressing the medical needs of the seafaring community.

NUSI will continue working towards making essential healthcare assistance more accessible to seafarers and their loved ones.

NUSI SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS – INVESTING IN THE FUTURE OF SEAFARERS' CHILDREN

One of the most heartwarming moments of the celebration was the recognition of academic excellence among the children of seafarers.

A special video presentation showcased the achievements of the scholarship recipients, followed by the announcement of five deserving awardees.

The NUSI Scholarship Award recipients were:

1. First Award – Master Rishi Aditya Jogi, son of Shri Dalayya Jogi, Messman.
2. Second Award – Miss Juana Akattar, daughter of Shri Alphonse Akattar Jeikar Akattar, Chief Cook.
3. Third Award – Miss Shysta Chauhan, daughter of Shri Sulesh Kumar Chauhan, Fitter.
4. Fourth Award – Miss Bindu Gandupalli, daughter of Shri Durwasulu Gandupalli, Pumpman.
5. Fifth Award – Master Arkan Ayyaz Patankar, son of Shri Ayyaz Abbas Patankar, Messman.

NUSI congratulates all the scholarship recipients and their proud families.

The education of a seafarer's child is not merely a family achievement; it is an investment in the future of our maritime community and our nation.

NUSI remains committed to encouraging educational excellence and creating opportunities for the next generation.

DGMA PRESENTATIONS – IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR EVERY INDIAN SEAFARER

A particularly valuable feature of the programme was the series of informative presentations delivered by senior DGMA officials.

SEAFARERS' WELFARE FUND SOCIETY (SWFS) – KNOW YOUR WELFARE BENEFITS

Capt. Nitin Mukesh delivered an informative presentation titled "Seafarers'Welfare Fund Society – Ensuring Welfare, Dignity & Support for Indian Seafarers."





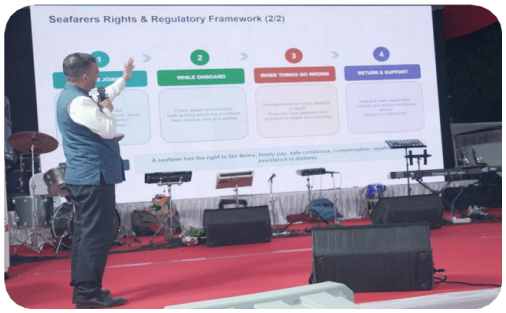
The presentation explained various SWFS welfare schemes and financial assistance programmes covering medical support, insurance, education, family welfare, emergency assistance and retirement benefits.

He also highlighted welfare infrastructure projects, 24×7 counselling services, the PRANAAM Seafarers' Facilitation Counter at Mumbai Airport and the proposed educational support scheme for children of deceased seafarers.

The session reinforced the importance of creating awareness and encouraging eligible seafarers and their families to utilise the available welfare benefits.

SEAFARERS' RIGHTS, SAFETY AND PROTECTION

Capt. Bipin Kumar delivered a presentation on Seafarers' Unity Day, focusing on the rights, safety, welfare and regulatory protection of Indian seafarers.





He highlighted major challenges such as abandonment, fraudulent recruitment, wage disputes and documentation-related difficulties.

The presentation also covered DGMA initiatives aimed at strengthening regulatory compliance, monitoring recruitment agencies, improving grievance redressal and enhancing transparency in the crewing ecosystem.

Important initiatives included the 24×7 e-Navik grievance redressal mechanism, digital transformation, the proposed Seafarer Tracking Dashboard and measures promoting greater participation of women in the maritime sector.

RATINGS TO OFFICERS – OPENING NEW CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Shri Mugilrajan Devarajan delivered an encouraging presentation titled "Rating to Officer: Opening the Ladder for India's Seafarers."





The presentation highlighted opportunities for ratings serving in Deck, Engine and Electrical departments to progress towards officer-level positions.

He explained the relevant eligibility requirements, sea service, training, competency examinations and certification pathways, including:

- Deck Rating to Navigational Watchkeeping Officer/Second Mate.
- Engine Rating to Marine Engineer Officer Class IV.
- Electrical Rating to Electro-Technical Officer (ETO).

He also highlighted recent regulatory provisions facilitating career advancement and dual certification, together with the importance of maintaining proper training records.

NUSI strongly believes that career advancement should be an opportunity available to every eligible and deserving rating who aspires to become an officer.

We remain committed to supporting initiatives that promote skill enhancement, professional development and upward career mobility.

NUSI ADVISORY FORUM – STRENGTHENING INDUSTRY COOPERATION





Members of the NUSI Advisory Forum and representatives of maritime organisations shared valuable perspectives on seafarers' welfare, safety and professional development.

Capt. S. M. Halbe, CEO, MASSA, appreciated NUSI welfare initiatives and the informative presentations delivered by DGMA officials. He emphasised the importance of awareness and encouraged seafarers to make full use of available welfare facilities.

Capt. Vaibhav Dalvi, Secretariat, INSA, highlighted the responsibility of every Indian seafarer to uphold the country's maritime reputation through professionalism, discipline and safe working practices. He emphasised continuous skill development, technological adaptability and greater participation of women in shipping.

Capt. Tushar Pradhan, CEO, IMC, encouraged seafarers to utilise the available welfare initiatives and career advancement opportunities. He stressed the importance of continuous learning and cautioned against distractions, particularly mobile phone usage during onboard operations, which could compromise safety.

NUSI appreciates the valuable participation and constructive contributions of maritime industry representatives towards strengthening the welfare and professional future of Indian seafarers.

A CELEBRATION OF UNITY, RESPECT AND SOLIDARITY

The celebrations began with a musical performance, followed by a warm welcome to the distinguished guests.

The formal programme commenced with the playing of the Hindi NUSI Anthem, reflecting the pride, unity and collective strength of the seafaring community.

The programme concluded with a Vote of Thanks proposed by Bro. Alkesh Patil, who expressed gratitude to the Chief Guest, Guests of Honour, Advisory Forum members, maritime organisations, seafarers, their families, NUSI office-bearers, staff and everyone who contributed to the success of the celebration.

OUR MESSAGE TO EVERY INDIAN SEAFARER

Brothers and Sisters,

Seafarers' Unity Day reminds us that the progress of the maritime industry must always go hand in hand with the welfare and dignity of those who serve at sea.

Behind every successful voyage is a dedicated seafarer. Behind every seafarer is a family whose sacrifices, patience and support deserve equal recognition.

For NUSI, welfare is not confined to wages and employment agreements. It includes healthcare when a seafarer falls ill, assistance when a family faces hardship, educational opportunities for children, protection during emergencies and the assurance that no seafarer will be left without support when it is most needed

The launch of the Seafarers' Lounge, NUSI SATHI Chatbot and ambulance service initiative demonstrates our continuing determination to translate this commitment into meaningful action.

As the maritime industry moves towards new technologies, greener fuels and greater digitalisation, NUSI will continue advocating for better employment opportunities, stronger social security, safer working conditions and improved career prospects for Indian seafarers.

Our unity is our greatest strength. Our seafarers are our greatest responsibility. Their welfare is our highest priority.

Let us continue to stand together, support one another and build a stronger future for the Indian seafaring community.

A STRONG SEAFARER MEANS A STRONG MARITIME INDUSTRY – AND A STRONGER INDIA!

WATCH THE SEAFARERS' UNITY DAY 2026 CELEBRATIONS

The programme and related updates can be accessed through NUSI official social media platforms:











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