



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

Sagar Sandesh

Maritime Tabloid English Weekly E-Paper

In association with R L Institute of Nautical Sciences, Madurai, Tamil Nadu. | RNI No. TNENG/2012/41759 | Wednesday, April 29, 2020 | Voyage 9 Wave 13

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Capt Rajesh Tandon- Ex Chairman, IMEC & Director, FOSMA speaks for Seafarers Medical Protection under COVID-19 restrictions



Capt Rajesh Tandon: Seafarers are key workers and without their professional services and commitment, citizens of the world would be much worse off

NEW DELHI
Sagar Sandesh News Service

The COVID pandemic has brought about an unprecedented calamity to the entire world. It has changed the way we work and live in an effort to deal with the disease and minimize the casualties. The seafarers however, continue to support the Maritime Trade by keep ships moving and delivering essential goods and other cargoes to the global community.

IMEC as a member of the Joint Negotiating Group (JNG) has been closely working with the ITF and jointly engaging with other industry bodies to find ways to facilitate crew changes which have all but been stopped over the last 2 months. Seafarers who have completed

their contracts need to return home to be with their families and those ashore need to return to work. JNG and ITF continue their efforts with the several international agencies in an effort to facilitate crew changes in a safe manner.

Seafarers also need to receive support and medical protection as they continue to provide this yeoman service to the community, and the JNG & ITF have issued a joint statement urging the global community to RESPECT SEAFARER'S RIGHT TO EMERGENCY MEDICAL TREATMENT ASHORE, as they continue to serve the trade.

Joint statement from the Joint Negotiating Group (JNG) and the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF)

The International Labour Organization (ILO) Maritime Labour Convention 2006 (MLC) is clear – a seafarer, while working on board, has the right to adequate health protection and access to prompt and adequate medical care including essential dental care. This must be as comparable as possible to medical care which is generally available to workers ashore and include the right to be allowed to visit a qualified medical

doctor or dentist without delay in ports of call.

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has also issued a Preliminary List of Recommendations to Governments and National Authorities on the Facilitation of Maritime Trade during the Covid-19 pandemic which requests governments and national authorities to:

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**Let us face CORONA with confidence
To kill with courage**

- Avoid gathering in public places
- Don't go out unless absolutely essential
- Don't hesitate to wash your hands with soap repeatedly
- Eat healthy foods
- Isolate yourselves; Honour social distance
- Be alert, awake to chase and kill the deadly virus Covid -19 (Corona)

Always in service to our motherland and maritime industry

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Voice of Indian Shipping since 2012

About Six lakhs Malayalis expected to arrive from the Gulf countries once international flights resume



Kerala government expects around 6 lakh expatriates to return to the state once the lockdown restrictions are lifted

TIRUVANANTHAPURAM
Sagar Sandesh News Bureau

Once the lock down is lifted and international flights resumes, the tiny state of Kerala is expected to witness tidal wave of around Six lakhs expatriates from various Gulf countries says reports in the state media.

About 20 million Keralites live in Gulf countries and their domination is mostly in UAE. When state was first in the country to have corona virus case in March this year, a large proportion of the cases were those who returned from Gulf countries.

The state government expects around 6 lakh expatriates to return to the state once the lockdown restrictions are lifted.

Govt worked out detailed guidelines for expatriates returning to the state

The government in association with and NGO has

worked out detailed guidelines for expatriates returning to the state. The government is also planning to bring in a protocol for passengers going abroad from Kerala.

As per preliminary assessment by the government, up to 5.50 lakh Keralites could return to the state over a period of a couple of months, once international airlines operate in full swing.

A high level has been constituted by the government to implement the guidelines.

On a day, not more than 8,000 people may come to Kerala; quarantine facilities arranged

On a given day, not more than 8,000 people may come to Kerala. The state government has already made arrangements, including quarantine facilities," said the spokesperson of the NGO.

The state Public Works Department has already made facilities for 1.15 lakh beds since those who come from the Gulf countries need to be quarantined for a minimum period of 15 days.

In addition, hospitals and hotels have been identified by the government to keep them under home quarantine. Many hotels have come out with packages for those who wish to stay there.

Capt Rajesh Tandon- Ex Chairman

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1. Consider temporarily restricting shipboard personnel to the ship while in port (except or until the situation permits otherwise) unless disembarking as part of a crew change or to receive emergency medical attention not available on board the ship.

2. Provide seafarers access to emergency medical treatment ashore in the event of medical emergencies.

Seafarers are being forgotten

As world leaders scramble to put in place measures to reduce the spread of Covid-19 and ensure adequate medical treatment is available to their citizens, seafarers are being forgotten despite the crucial role they play in securing delivery of necessary goods including the medical equipment and medication that governments need to combat the effects of the virus.

Unfortunately many seafarers denied necessary emergency medical care unrelated to Covid-19 due to national or local restrictions

Every day, an increasing number of seafarers are agreeing to have their employment

contracts extended past the expiration date after having spent between 6 to 10 months on board. To add insult to injury unfortunately many seafarers are being denied necessary emergency medical care unrelated to Covid-19 due to national or local restrictions. Some of the medical issues have been minor, while other cases have been serious and potentially life threatening requiring immediate medical attention.

For immediate medical evacuation for a seafarer, port authorities refused; allowed only after strong intervention by the ITF

One case involved a seafarer who suddenly had an overwhelming, sharp pain in his left eye which progressively got worse to the point that he was sensitive to light. The vessel consulted an ophthalmologist who had concerns for the seafarer's sight and recommended immediate medical evacuation for appropriate treatment. Unfortunately, the local Indonesian port authorities refused the seafarer to be disembarked despite the efforts made by the port agent, the P&I Club and the embassy. After strong intervention by the ITF

affiliate in Indonesia, Kesatuan Pelaut Indonesia (KPI), the port authorities in Morowali, Indonesia, finally agreed for the seafarer to disembark and receive medical care.

These are just some of the cases that have been reported. There are more examples of seafarers being denied their legal right to medical treatment. Governments cannot use the current coronavirus to refuse seafarers' human rights as enshrined in international and national legislation.

Medical care, a fundamental human right that cannot be set aside because of the pandemic

The maritime social partners, the JNG and the ITF, urgently call on governments to step up and respect seafarers' right to medical care and treatment. This is not just necessary for world trade to keep moving and essential goods to keep being transported to those who need it, but it is a fundamental human right that cannot be set aside because of the pandemic. Seafarers are key workers and without their professional services and commitment, citizens of the world would be much worse off.

IMEI, Chennai Branch - First Online Technical Seminar



IMEI, Chennai Branch Conducted First Online Technical Seminar on 16th April 2020, 1600hrs and it was attended by over 300 participants

NEW DELHI
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IMEI, Chennai Branch Conducted First Online Technical Seminar on 16th April 2020, 1600hrs.

The First Online Technical Seminar by IMEI Chennai was attended by over 300 participants. The Seminar commenced with an introduction to the concept and ground rules by Mr. Sanjeev S. Vakil, Hon Secretary, IMEI, Chennai.

It was followed by a Welcome Address by Mr. Anil Kumar, Chairman, IMEI Chennai. The speakers were

introduced by Mr. S. Ramesh, EC Member and Mr. Muthusamy, EC Member.

The following topics were presented:

1. "Network Control in Maritime industry" by Mr. V.R. Venkatesan, Director, HIMT.

2. "3D Printing In Maritime Industry" by Mr. A.M. Ramakrishnan, Faculty, CMC.

The informative seminar had a Q&A session and it was moderated by Mr. Suresh Shenoi, Treasurer, IMEI. An online feedback about the session was conducted wherein various Marine Engineers and Deck Officers of the shipping fraternity participated.

The Vote of thanks was given by Mr. Jaykumar, Vice chairman, IMEI.



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