



Guiding Spirit to Shipping Industry

Sagar Sandesh

Maritime Tabloid English Weekly E-Paper

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COVID-19: Maritime Education & Training for Indian Seafarers presently under Disarray



Capt. Ajay Achuthan: Managing Director- Synergistic Solutions; Extra Master, MBA

NEW DELHI
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DGS approved Maritime Education and training is presently under a disarray. None of the DGS approved courses, are allowed to be conducted and a Risk management has not been put in place. The DGS approved courses designed as per IMO STCW, Conducted, assessed and being certified can be classed under

a) Pre Sea Classroom or Practical's or Modular,

b) Post Sea competency or Modular

Whilst DGS approval stops the progress of these courses, what's surprising is that except for a few companies, all value added courses had also come to a stop. This will further complicate the sign off of seafarers as their relieving seafarers may not have the adequate certification valid in able to relieve them.

The only programs which seem to be running effectively and efficiently are the value added programs which are not in the mandated domain, especially the programs in the knowledge and behavioural domains. One Such Program is the Extra Masters Program conducted by Synergistic Solutions which has been conducted since March 2019 and running seamlessly even during COVID lockdown. The syllabus is designed by the NT Circular 1 of 2019 and finally examined by DGS.

This comparison itself should send a strong message to authorities.

We have hence tried to identify a process by which academies can run the DGS approved courses seamlessly and define a way as to how the balance activities required by the STCW/ DGS requirements may be met by examining the COVID effect under following:

1. Identifying factors that classify this as a Black swan event.
2. Why is Resilience Missing in out MET?
3. It's a Volatile, Uncertain, Complex and ambiguous (VUCA) world. Are we prepared?
4. Carrying out a Risk Management for DGS approved courses

We can represent the way ahead with role and responsibilities of Stake holders from Approvers of MET, Seafarers, MTIs, On Board Master/ Chief Engineers CTOs of Ship Managers- DGS/MMD Assessing Authorities. A table for same has been created and is available with Synergistic Solutions on request

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DIVIDED WE STAND, UNITED WE FALL

- 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)

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Voice of Indian Shipping since 2012

Gradual Resumption of Select Passenger Services by Indian Railways



Indian Railways shall start more special services on new routes, based on the available coaches after reserving 20,000 coaches for COVID-19 care centres and for the operation of up to 300 trains everyday as "Shramik Special" for stranded migrants.

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Indian Railways plans to gradually restart passenger train operations from 12th May, 2020, initially with 15 pairs of trains (30 return journeys). These trains will be run as special trains from New Delhi Station connecting Dibrugarh, Agartala, Howrah, Patna, Bilaspur, Ranchi, Bhubaneswar, Secunderabad, Bengaluru, Chennai, Thiruvananthapuram, Madgaon, Mumbai Central, Ahmedabad and Jammu Tawi.

More spl services on new routes

Thereafter, Indian Railways shall start more special services on new routes, based on the available coaches after reserving 20,000 coaches for COVID-19 care centres and adequate number of coaches being reserved to enable

operation of up to 300 trains everyday as "Shramik Special" for stranded migrants.

Booking starts at 4 pm on 11 May on IRCTC website; no counter tickets

Booking for reservation in these trains will start at 4 pm on 11th May and will be available only on the IRCTC website (<https://www.irctc.co.in/>). Ticket booking counters at the railway stations shall remain closed and no counter tickets (including platform tickets) shall be issued. Only passengers with valid confirmed tickets will be allowed to enter the railway stations. It will be mandatory for the passengers to wear face cover and undergo screening at departure and only asymptomatic passengers will be allowed to board the train. Further details including train schedule will be issued separately in due course.

COVID-19: Maritime Education

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At Synergistic solutions we look at COVID as an Opportunity rather than discomfort or Survival. This is done proactively by carrying out effective Risk Management. We only conduct value added programs as shown in our website www.synergisticsolutions.co. These are either self-designed or designed specifically for a company.

What is critical here is that the only course which has run

continuously and seamlessly during the lockdown period is the Extra Masters course and some free courses and counselling offered on video conferencing and webinars. Records of conduct, attendance of Faculty and Participants, learning of students in class and through assignments, and our internal assessment in each subject area are available. The most important data is the co-relationship between our

final assessment of student's performance and the MMD results. There is a near perfect match

(The author wishes to acknowledge Professor of Strategy Hiten Muchhala at SP Jain School of Global Management from whose presentation the Author draws inspiration to this article. Any queries may be directed to synergisticsolutionstm@gmail.com)

Sanjay Bhatia conducts 'Meditation with Yogic Transmission,' for IME(I), Mumbai Branch in stressed time of Pandemic



Shri Bhatia recommended that in addition to practicing this at home even after the Lockdown restrictions are lifted, this meditation technique could be used at workplaces to attain a balanced and unified approach at work

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The lockdown restrictions, social distancing norms, Work From Home and stressed economy in trying times of COVID-19 have left many stressed in their homes with mariners being no exception. To overcome the induced stress and anxiety amongst the Seafarers and their families, the Mumbai Branch of The Institute of Marine Engineers (India) (IME(I)) organised a Webinar on 'Meditation with Yogic Transmission,' conducted by Shri Sanjay Bhatia, IAS the Chairman of Mumbai Port Trust on 2nd May specifically for its Members, Associates and fellow Mariners.

Shri Sanjay Bhatia practicing meditation from past two decades

President of IME(I) Mr. Uday Purohit introduced Shri Sanjay Bhatia, IAS who incidentally is a Mechanical Engineer has been practicing meditation from past two decades. Apart from being the Chairman of MbPT, Shri Bhatia is also the Chairman of Indian Ports Association and has held number of important portfolios

ranging from CIDCO, Airport Metro and is the man behind development of cruise tourism in India apart from being decorated with many distinguished awards, many of them achieved with the help of Meditation.

Sanjay Bhatia stressed on Heartfulness Meditation'

Shri Sanjay Bhatia began with stressing upon the importance of meditation especially the 'Heartfulness Meditation' and stated that he would demonstrate the techniques in a short and tailored session for the participants to develop upon subsequently. He commenced by sharing his experience of how he came across this specific technique years ago when he came in contact with a Superintendent of Police who introduced him to the book titled Secret and the technique of Meditation.

Yogic Transmission is a special feature of Heartfulness Meditation

Shri Bhatia brought out that Yogic Transmission is a special feature of Heartfulness Meditation that allows a preceptor (Trainer) to direct the flow of divine energy, which is the essence of Meditation, into a Seeker's heart. "Observe the divinity inside your heart in the form of light", he added. Shri Bhatia explained that initially one needs a Trainer to guide the Seeker and at it may take anywhere from three sitting to some considerable time to attain maximum experience. "This technique is extremely beneficial for the youngsters of present generation, who have a high IQ but low EQ," he added.

Meditation technique could be used at workplace

Shri Bhatia recommended that in addition to practicing this at home even after the Lockdown restrictions are lifted, this meditation technique could be used at workplaces to attain a balanced and unified approach at work that would improve the efficiency and integrity of that organisation. He added that this should be constantly practiced, to enhance life attributes, concentration, and personality.

The 30 minute demonstration and practical session supplemented with verbal guidance saw the participants experience tranquility and feel lighter subsequently.

This period of deep rumination was followed by Mr. David Birwadkar - Head of Training Sub-Committee reflecting on the demonstration and getting queries of the enthusiastic participants clarified from Mr Bhatia.

This was the 2nd Webinar by IME(I)

This was the 2nd Webinar by IME(I) with the proceedings commenced by Shri S.M. Rai and the Vote of Thanks being extended by Mr. Chitta Dash - Fellow of IME(I). Mr Dash acknowledged one and all associated with the implementation of the successful interaction especially Mr. Sanjeev Mehra, Mr. T.S. Girish and Mr. Bhupesh Tater for the excellent arrangements behind the scene. Lastly, as suggested by Shri Sanjay Bhatia, the link (<https://heartfulness.org/in/heartsapp/>) to the 'HeartsApp' available in the app stores was shared for those enthusiasts who seek guidance on meditation. Mr. Chitta Dash also announced that the IME(I), Mumbai Branch is working on its next Webinar that would be held within a fortnight.

www.portport.in
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In association with R.I. Institute of Nautical Sciences, Madurai, Tamil Nadu.

Mumbai Office

217, Secands Road, Unique Industrial Estate, off Veer Savarkar Marg, Bombay Dyeing Compound, Prabhadevi, Mumbai - 400025
Ph: 022 - 24211583 / 24210193. Fax: 022 - 2421 2149

Chennai Office

No.6, Ground Floor, Nungambakkam First Lane (Opp. Regional Office, Indian Oil Corporation), Nungambakkam High Road, Chennai - 600 034
Ph: 044-42664408 / Mob: +91 72000 84866

Admin. Office

21 "LAKSHMI", Sathya Sai Nagar, Madurai-625 003. Ph : 0452 437 8300 / +91 72000 84864

EDITOR & PUBLISHER : **Dr R Lakshmi**
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