



INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY

CHENNAI

(A Central University under the Ministry of Shipping)

First Convocation

22nd February 2014

WELCOME ADDRESS & REPORT

by

K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty

Vice Chancellor



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By the Vice Chancellor

Good afternoon, and a warm welcome to everyone to the First Convocation of the Indian Maritime University, Chennai. We have on the dais today one of the finest assemblages of dignitaries who are a source of inspiration to all of us.

The son of a freedom fighter; 5-time Member of Rajya Sabha and 2-time Member of Lok Sabha; a man who has served with distinction as Commerce Minister, Foreign Minister, Defence Minister and Finance Minister of India; winner of the Best Parliamentarian award in 1997, Best Administrator Award in 2011, Padma Vibhushan in 2008; and currently, the President of India - Shri Pranab Mukherjee, has rendered exemplary

service to the nation in a career spanning over 5 decades. It is our proud privilege to have such a distinguished personality, who is also the Visitor of the Indian Maritime University, grace our First Convocation as the Chief Guest. Sir, on behalf of the University, I extend a hearty welcome to you and I thank you for consenting to deliver the Convocation Address.

We have another luminary in our midst: a 4-time MLC, 2-time MLA, 1-time MP; a man who has served as Cabinet Minister for Education, Health, Transportation, Electricity, Home, and Finance of the Government of Andhra Pradesh and who holds the record for having presented the State Budget 16 times; a former Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh; and currently, the Governor of Tamil Nadu Shri K. Rosiah. Sir, we are privileged to have you as the Guest of Honour at our Convocation, and I extend a warm welcome to you.

The famous son of a famous father and a very popular political leader of Tamil Nadu, Shri G.K. Vasan has rendered exemplary service as Union Minister of Shipping, and has been a pillar of support to the Indian Maritime University. Sir, I have great pleasure in welcoming you to the First Convocation of our University and I thank you for consenting to deliver the Special Address.

One of India's most distinguished technocrats, former Chairman and CEO of BHEL; former Chairman and CEO of Maruti

Udyog Ltd; former Chairman and CEO of Steel Authority of India Ltd; winner of the Padma Vibhushan; Shri V. Krishnamurthy is the Chancellor of the Indian Maritime University and will preside over this Convocation. Sir, I extend a very hearty welcome to you.

I extend a warm welcome to all the candidates who will be receiving their degrees today in-person, and I am sure that throughout your career you will hold aloft the flag of your alma mater and make it proud.

I also extend a hearty welcome to all the distinguished guests who are assembled here, to the members of the Print and Electronic media, and to the faculty, staff and students of Indian Maritime University.

I will now proceed to read out the Report of the Indian Maritime University for the period 2008-13.

Even though India has a rich maritime history dating back to the Indus Valley civilisation, and is blessed with a long coastline of more than 7,500 kilometres, only about 10% of our sea trade is carried by ships with Indian flag, and our share of global seafarers is only around 6%. If India is to emerge a major economic power in the future, it would require a substantial step-up in the outturn of quality maritime personnel and addition to our ship-building capacity.

The Indian Maritime University was established in November 2008 as a Central University under the Ministry of Shipping, Government of India, with Chennai as headquarters. It was set up as a teaching and affiliating university to facilitate and promote maritime studies, training, research and extension with focus on emerging areas of studies like oceanography, maritime history, maritime laws, maritime security, search and rescue, transportation of dangerous cargo, environmental studies and other related fields, and to achieve excellence in these areas.

There were six renowned legacy teaching-cum-research institutes under the Ministry of Shipping, and these were subsumed under the Indian Maritime University in November 2008. The 3 institutes in Mumbai, namely, the *Training Ship Chanakya*, the *Lal Bahadur Shastri College of Advanced Maritime Studies & Research*, and the *Marine Engineering Research Institute* became the Mumbai campus of the Indian Maritime University. The 2 institutes in Kolkata, namely, the *Marine Engineering Research Institute* and the *Indian Institute of Port Management* became the Kolkata campus of the University. The *National Ship Design and Research Centre* in Visakhapatnam and the *National Maritime Academy* in Chennai became the Visakhapatnam and Chennai campuses respectively of the University. Post-November 2008, 3 new

Campuses were set up - in Kochi in 2009, Kandla in 2011 and Karaikal in 2014.

The six legacy institutes were offering a number of Courses including Diploma/B.Sc in Nautical Science, B.Sc (Maritime Science), B.Tech (Marine Engineering), P.G Diploma in Marine Engineering, among others. Post-November 2008, the University has started a number of new Courses including B.Sc (Ship Building and Repair), MBA in Port and Shipping Management, MBA in International Transportation and Logistics, LLM in Maritime Laws, B.Tech and M.Tech in Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering, M.Tech in Dredging and Harbour Engineering, and Ph.D (only in Visakhapatnam campus). We realise that we have still a long way to go. We shall focus on establishing newer, need-based PG Courses, and in making all our campuses centres for doing research leading to Ph.D. We will lay stress on integrating theory with practice, and on providing maritime education, training and consultancy based on local and global business needs.

We have 36 affiliated colleges which offer one or more of the following Courses, namely, Diploma/B.Sc in Nautical Science, B.Sc (Ship Building & Repair), B.Tech (Marine Engineering) and P.G Diploma in Marine Engineering. We hope that their tribe will increase, and that they will offer more need-based Courses in future.

We regret the delay in holding our first Convocation. Today, 1339 candidates, from the 2009-10 batches onwards, who have passed all their examinations before the 31st October 2013, will be awarded UG Degrees, PG Degrees and PG Diplomas. The campus-wise break-up of candidates is as follows: Mumbai - 630, Chennai - 229, Kolkata - 173, Visakhapatnam - 68, and Kochi - 95, while 144 candidates are from the affiliated colleges. The School-wise break-up is as follows: School of Marine Engineering - 619, School of Maritime Management - 309, School of Nautical Sciences - 302, School of Naval Architecture and Ocean Engineering -99, and School of Maritime Laws - 10.

I would like to place on record my thanks to the Union Ministry of Shipping which has supported the Indian Maritime University at every step, including a capital grant of Rs.275 crores. I would also like to thank the Directorate General of Shipping and the various Port Trusts for their continued support. The University has faced several teething troubles but I am confident that we will make up for lost time and go from strength to strength and become a Centre of Excellence in about ten years' time. I would like to conclude my welcome address on this optimistic note, and once again extend a hearty welcome to all of you to our First Convocation. Thank you.

K. Ashok Vardhan Shetty,