

PRIDE AND FUTURE OF THE SEA

The passing out Atlas batch of ARI deck cadets reinstated the joy of learning and adventure that is alive in the Indian youth

By Uttara J Malhotra

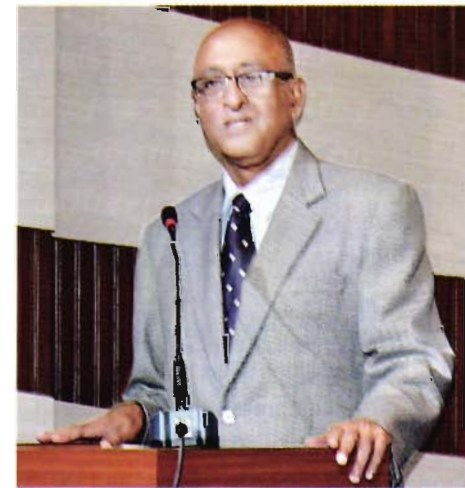
'Graduation ceremony' – is also known as 'commencement exercise' because it is just the beginning and not the end. 21st June 2018, witnessed the culmination of a year long voyage of the hard work, commitment and ardour of the young, spirited cadets of the 'ATLAS' batch.



Keeping the tradition of passing out ceremony alive, the newer 'Atlas' batch was full of beans, enthusiasm and energy to prove their mettle and commitment to their profession. Showing that with each year, generation is becoming more and more vibrant and focused, Naomi

Rewari, founder Director of Applied Research International (ARI) said, "The pride and the future of the sea lies in the hands of these young brave hearts' hands and soul. We have done what we could to the best of our ability. Rest their will and commitment will determine."

The programme was organized in the PHD Chamber of Commerce, New Delhi. The theme of the evening was 'Merchant Navy-DISCOVERING NEW HORIZONS'. With much prudence, this theme was selected with the sole aim of igniting pride in our profession, i.e. Mercantile Marine. The fact that seafarers make the world work is often taken for granted but the insights and the experiences shared in the evening, reminded and reaffirmed the importance of the seafarer's community and the realization that the modern world would collapse without this profession. The celebration was dedicated to International Seafarer's Day which was to be held on 25th June.



The programme was presided over by Chief Guest Capt. A. Mahapatra, Ex. Director, MSC, IMO.



The evening was bestowed with the presence of Mrs Amarjeet Rewari, Chairperson ARI, proud parents and the esteemed representatives of various shipping companies including Capt. K. V. Pradhan (Elite Mariners), Capt. Anshul Rajvanshi & Capt. Nalwa (SYNERGY), Mr. Tushar Sharma and Capt. Vichitra from Fleet Management Limited, Mr. Madan Yadav (MTM), Ms. Poonam Nagpal

(MSC), and Mr. Ajay Yadav (SELANDIA).

With a view to reinforce the hands on training imparted to the cadets, they are required to make a project towards the end of the course. After months of hard work and zeal, the cadets displayed their creative projects at the venue and an interactive question answer session was carried out with the guests.



Upon the arrival of guests they were welcomed by a video presentation based on "Life at ARI" in which Cadet Om Parkash and Cadet Archit Rajvanshi had poignantly captured the various aspects of training via their lenses and made a pioneering piece of work.

Cadet Prithwish welcomed everyone with an eloquent speech and the ceremony began with the invocation of God Krishna by Bhamini Sharma, daughter of Mr. Tushar Sharma, Elegant Marine Services.

Cadets began the program by familiarizing audience with their innovative take on 'training at ARI'. A summary of different areas which have strengthened the foundation of the course were highlighted through the use of one word- "TRAINING: WHERE LEARNING IS A JOY". Each letter of the word was expanded to represent one key area that holds a significant place in a mariner's life.

On the cultural front, the audience was awestruck by various performances. A medley of songs paying an ode to the blissful life and unity of mankind along with a captivating and melodious instrumental at the end left everyone enthralled.

Then there was a dance performance which had a mix of three different dance forms beautifully presented by cadets. It sent an energetic vibes across the auditorium and was enjoyed by one and all.

Another performance was a fun-filled magic show executed by Cadet Subin S. From calling the chief guest as a volunteer to performing spellbinding tricks he entertained everyone with his charm.

The next performance was a dance drama called "The division Bell" based on the theme of drug addiction. Having lost the power of reasoning due to drug addiction, youngsters fail to understand that drugs are not a solution to problems but another far more serious problem by itself. The aim of the dance drama was to make each and every audience member understand that



taking drugs may make one feel like one has moved entirely into a new world of fantasies but this euphoria does not last for long. Only the devastation lingers.

The superb portrayal of the fight against drugs and helpless state of being addicted to a substance was very impactful which provided the audience mental stimulus for thinking and food for thought.

The cadets were awarded course completion certificates by the

respective company representatives. The meritorious cadets were also felicitated with special achievement awards and trophies presented by Guest of Honour- Capt. Mahapatra. Capt. Mahapatra, in his speech, congratulated everyone for choosing a wonderful career. He encouraged the young budding talents to strive for excellence and never to stop learning. Justifying the theme of the evening, he emphasized how proud we must be for being a member of the seafaring community.



Speaking to the young and talented lot, Captain Mahapatra urged the parents to “let your boys do their duty and respect the serious responsibility they are shouldering for their country.” He also stressed on the fact that all new mariners must consider themselves as the ambassador of their country and they feel proud of the fact that without them, the economy of the nation would come to a stop. So they must take their role in the trade movement very seriously and be proud of their profession.

A special award for displaying love and passion for learning in the memory of Late Capt. S.S.S. Rewari was won by Cadet Lokesh Kumar Verma of XT Shipping. This award entitles the winner full fee relaxation at ARI for all his future courses that are required to progress in his career path.

Speaking on the occasion Divyam Gupta from Lucknow expressed how “not being glued to the social media and phone has helped us bond better and enjoy each other’s company. The course has indeed made learning a joy and I want to continue to do this for the rest of my life- I am looking forward to doing something different from the rest of my family of engineers and doctors.” Added in Mohit Ajay Joshi from Pune, “I totally love the fact that no two days are the same and I have saved myself from the monotony of a 9-5 job. There is learning, adventure, sense of pride and joy in being responsible for your country, in a very different way. What better career than to be on the seas as a mariner!” Mohit bagged the Best Sports person

Award while Divyam also didn’t go empty handed.

Also present on the occasion was Captain Anshul Rajvanshi from Synergy Maritime, suggested the young seafarers use the four zero policy always onboard. He referred to zero oil pollution, zero contingency onboard, zero accidental damage to cargo and zero harm to self and rest on board.

All the other senior representatives from the shipping fraternity urged the young seafarers to love their environment and time on sea. They encouraged working in team spirit and considering their fellow crew as family. This could easily be seen in the unity and commitment amongst the Atlas pass outs: whether it was the song medley, or the skit on fighting the evil of drug abuse or the soulful interesting dance that mixed the traditional and modern seamlessly.

Endings are inevitable. But so are beginnings. The program ended with a thank you speech by Cadet Arnav Kalia. In his speech he expressed his gratitude to everyone for joining the celebration and making it a memorable experience.

He recounted moments of pride, joy, disappointments and learning shared by all the cadets during their tenure at ARI. He emphasized on sharing positive energy and encouragement as one moves ahead in life. He



motivated everyone to pledge to improve their mistakes and seek to better oneself at every step.

With this, the program ended and a vote of thanks was extended to all for their co-operation. Parents, guests, the seafaring community, everyone was invited for the momentous cake-cutting ceremony.

It is true, we are proud of many things in life, but nothing beats being a parent, a teacher and a mentor.

“With the passing generations, the passion and desire for creative and challenging pursuits are on the rise. Career in maritime services is therefore attracting the youth a lot more.”