



IRCLASS
Indian Register of Shipping

Indian Register of Shipping

Five Decade Journey of Excellence

1975-2025



જલમેવ યસ્ય બલમેવ તસ્ય

Jalamev Yasya Balamev Tasya

One who controls the seas is all powerful



Introduction

This coffee table book is a celebration of the Indian Register of Shipping's illustrious journey over the past 50 years. From its humble beginnings to becoming a global player in the maritime industry, this publication chronicles the organisation's unwavering commitment to excellence, innovation, and service.

Through a blend of captivating visuals and compelling narratives, this book reflects on the milestones, achievements, and transformative moments that have defined our legacy. It honours the visionaries, stakeholders, and dedicated professionals who have shaped our path and contributed to our success.

As we turn the pages of this book, we invite you to join us in reflecting on our past, celebrating our present, and envisioning an inspiring future for the Indian Register of Shipping.





Indian Maritime Heritage

India's maritime history predates birth of most civilizations with the earliest maritime evidence dating back to around 4500 years.

The word "**Navigation**" is derived from the Sanskrit word "**NAVGATH**".

The world's first tidal dock is believed to have been built at Lothal around 2400 BC during the Harappan civilization, near the present day Mangrol harbour on the Gujarat coast. The brick basin was approx. 718 feet long, 121 feet wide and 15 feet deep.

Pioneers of Indian Shipping

Two early pioneers who put up a stiff fight against foreign shipping monopolies in Indian trades.



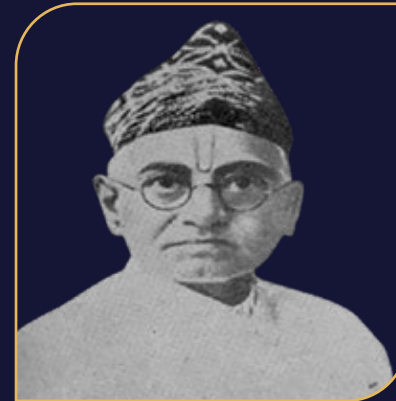
J. N. Tata

(1839-1904)
Tata Line



**V. O. Chidambaram
Pillai**

(1872-1936)
Swadeshi Shipping Co.



**Narottam
Morarjee**

(1877-1929)
Scindia Steam Navigation Co.



**Walchand
Hirachand**

(1882-1953)
Scindia Steam Navigation Co.

The courage, enterprise and vision of these two were responsible for the establishment and growth of the first large Indian steamship company, with the development and fortunes of which the progress of modern Indian shipping is closely linked.

The First International Voyage

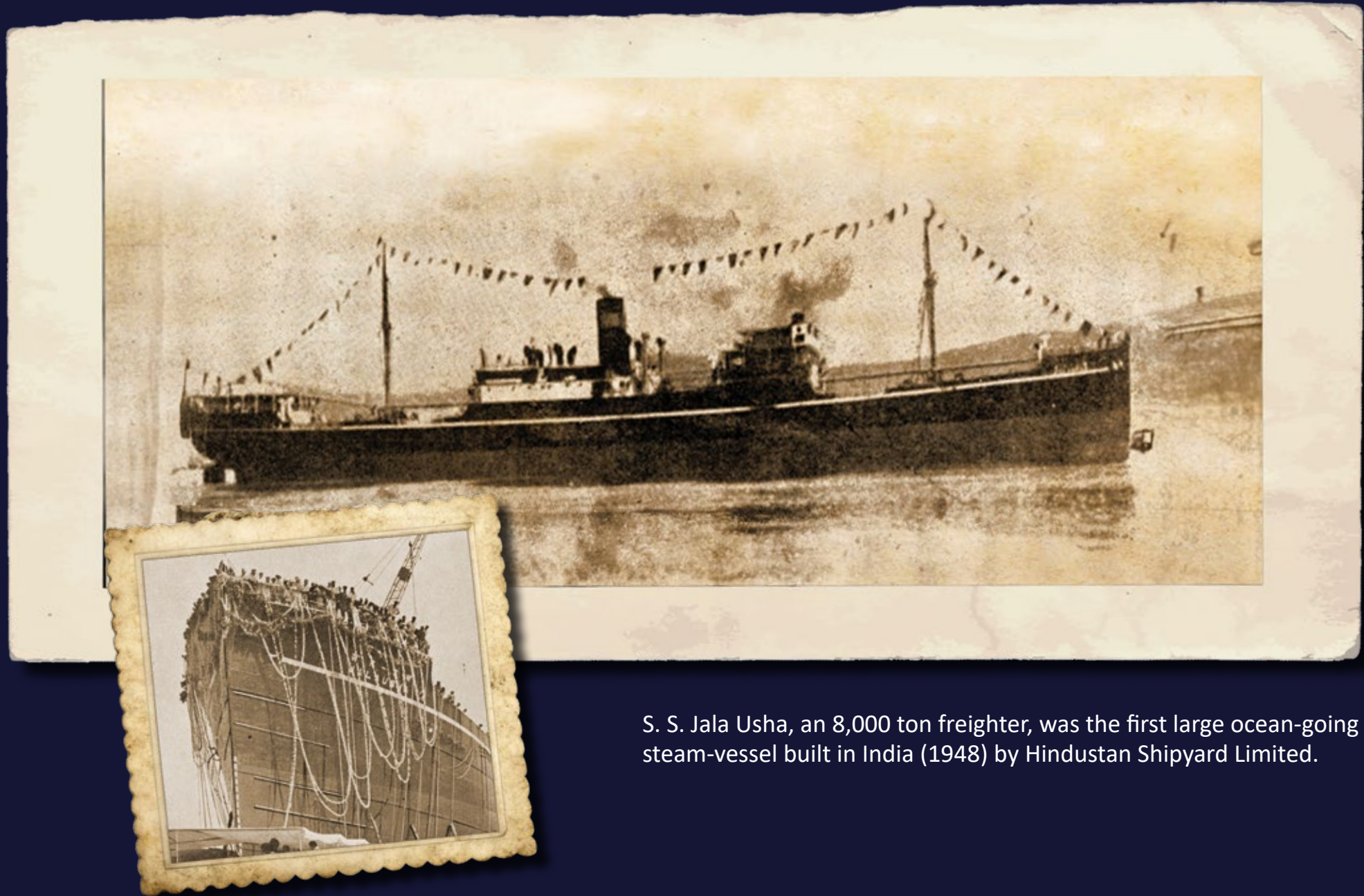


National Maritime Day is celebrated on the 5th of April, every year, to commemorate this important milestone in the maritime history of India.

On the 5th of April, 1919, S. S. Loyalty, an Indian ship, owned by the Scindia Steam Navigation Company, embarked upon its maiden voyage from Ballard Pier Station, Mumbai Port to London.

Thus began India's tryst with modern merchant shipping. For the first time, Indians got an opportunity to travel on their own national ship, a proud and memorable event for the country.

First Ocean Going Vessel Built in India



S. S. Jala Usha, an 8,000 ton freighter, was the first large ocean-going steam-vessel built in India (1948) by Hindustan Shipyard Limited.

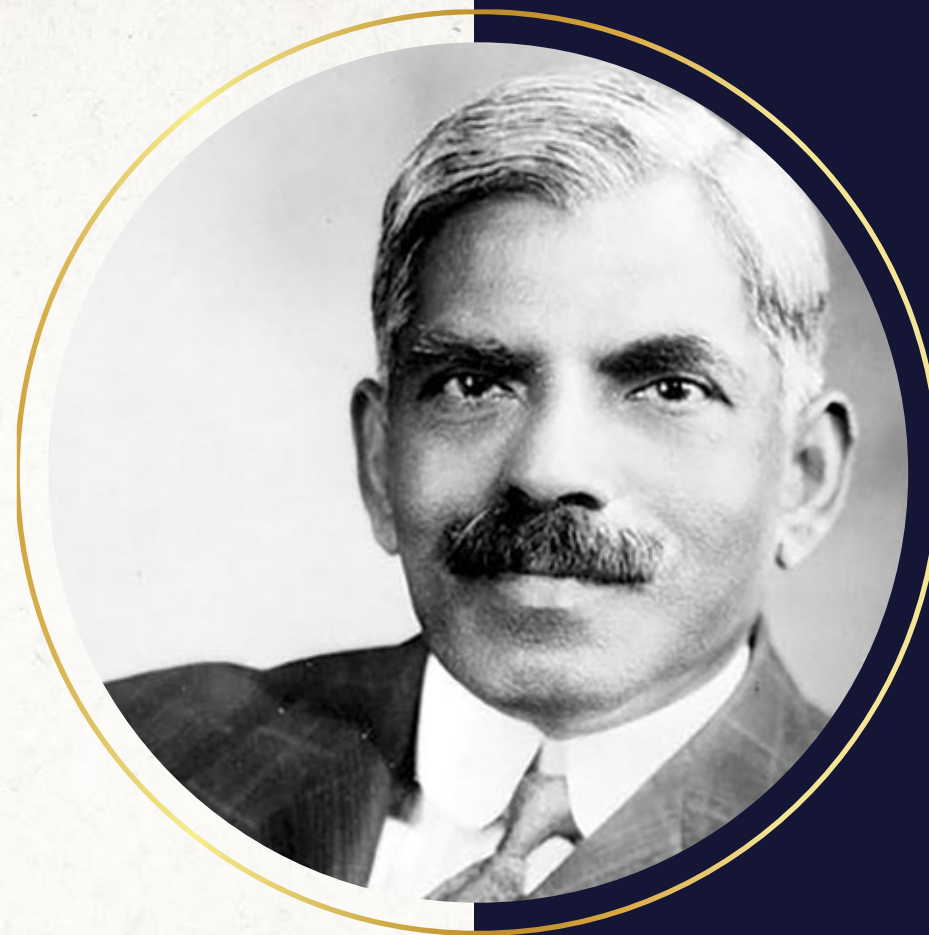
Making of Indian Register of Shipping

Steering Committee recommends formation of IRS

Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar attended a meeting at Cairo in May 1967, on Afro-Asian Cooperation in Shipping and on his return apprised the Government about the developments and the need for setting up of a National Classification Society.

This was followed by a meeting in Delhi convened by the Ministry of Shipping & Transport on 29th May, 1967, under the Chairmanship of Mr. K. C. Madappa, Joint Secretary, where Mr. H. M. Desai of Indian National Steamship Owners Association, Mr. C. P. Srivastava of Shipping Corporation of India, Mr. Govind H. Seth, Capt. G. S. Singh and Mr. B. K. Gupta of Directorate General of Shipping and Mr. B. B. Lal of Ministry of Shipping & Transport recommended to constitute a Steering Committee for the same.

The Steering Committee was subsequently constituted on 20th June, 1967, where representatives from different sectors of shipping industry were identified and guidelines formulated.



Sir Ramaswami Mudaliar

Promoters Committee

In the middle of 1974, a Promoters Committee with Mr. M. G. Pimputkar, the then Secretary of the Ministry of Shipping & Transport as Chairman and Capt. J. C. Anand, Chairman, INSA and Chief Executive, India Steamship as Vice Chairman along with representatives of ship owners, ship builders, insurers and the Government was formed to cover the groundwork for the formation of the Indian Classification Society.



Members

Mr. M. G. Pimputkar
Chairman

Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Transport and Secretary Planning commission (upto Nov 1974)

Capt. J. C. Anand
Vice Chairman

Chief Executive, Steamships and Chairman, INSA

Mr. M. Ramakrishnayya
Member

Secretary, Ministry of Shipping and Transport

Mr. K. N. G. Menon
Member

Executive Director, Shipping Corporation of India

Mr. S. V. Bhawe
Vice Chairman

Director General of Shipping

Mr. S. K. Desai

Member
MD, General Insurance Corporation of India

Mr. A. Rajgopalan
Member

Chairman, General Insurance Corporation of India

Mr. T. M. Gokuldas
Member

Chief Executive, Scindia Steam Nav. Co.

Capt. P. S. Vanchiswar
Member

Nautical Advisor to Govt. of India

Capt. R. D. Kohli
Member

Executive Director, Shipping Corporation of India

Mr. K. K. Banerjee
Member

Chief Designer (Projects), Hindustan Shipyard Ltd.

Mr. D. C. Ahir
Member

Under Secretary to the Govt. of India, Ministry of Shipping and Transport

Mr. D. N. Phull
Secretary

Incorporation of IRS

Indian Register of Shipping was
Incorporated on 25th March 1975.



Inauguration of Indian Register of Shipping

IRS was inaugurated by Shri. H. M. Trivedi, the Union Minister of
State for Shipping & Transport on April 4, 1975.



First Vessels Taken into Class

Trio of Indian Prestige, Indian Prosperity and Indian Progress were amongst the first vessels taken into class.

First Classed Vessel

1975

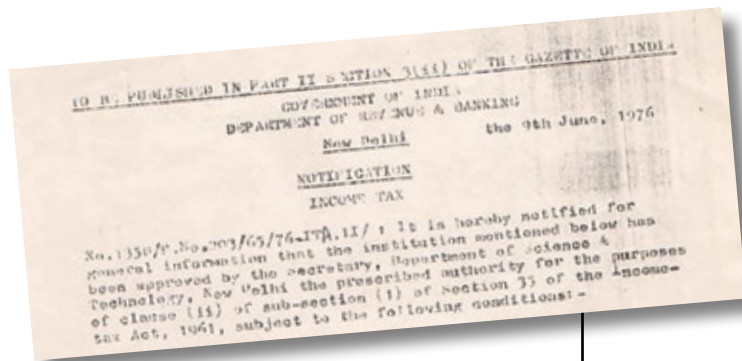


1976

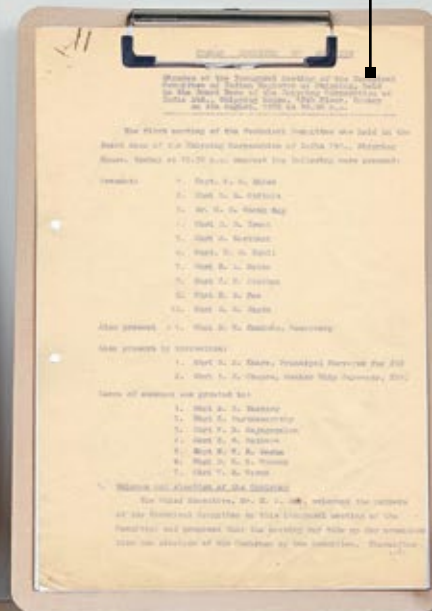
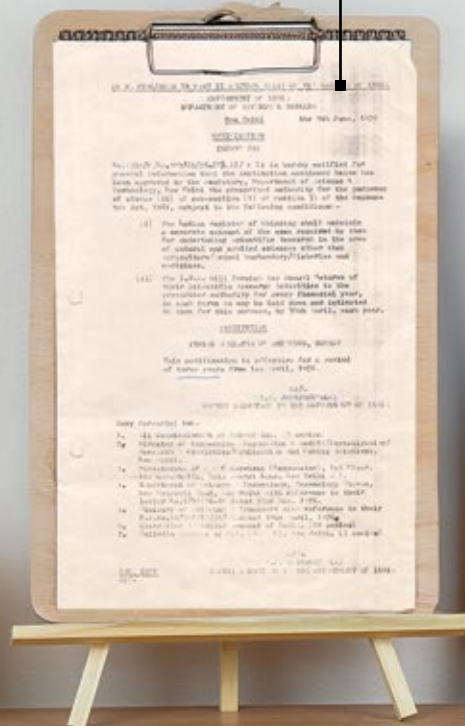
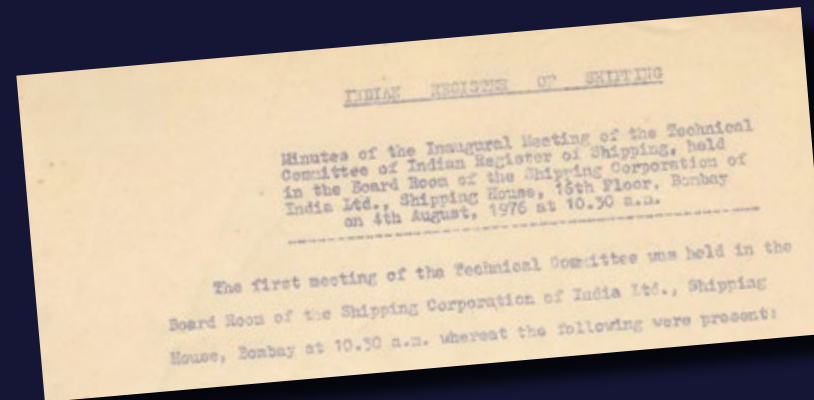


First Single Class Vessel
Dredge V

Approved as Scientific Research Organization - October 1975



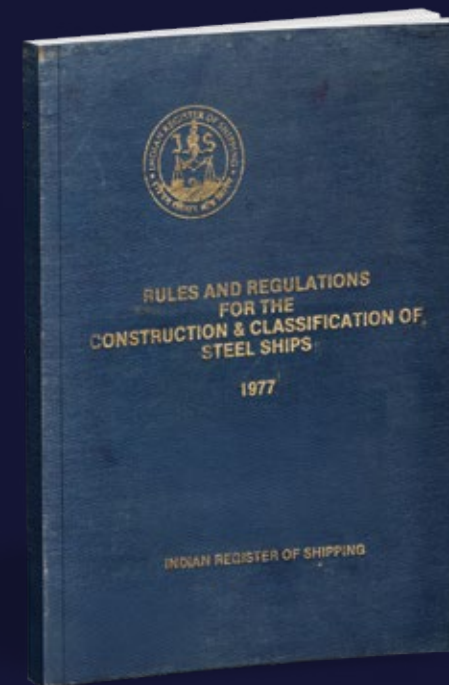
First Technical Committee Meeting Held at Shipping Corporation of India - 1976



The First Register Book – 1976



The First Rule Book – Rules and Regulations for Construction and Classification of Steel Ships – 1977



First Three Chief Executives of IRS



Mr. H. S. Rao
(1975-1980)

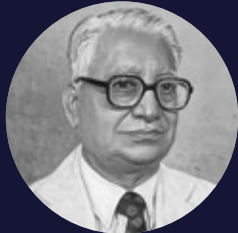


Mr. S. R. Khare
(1981-1990)



Mr. H. K. Taneja
(1990-1994)

Our Chairmen at the helm



Mr. M. Ramakrishnaiyya
(1975-1977)



Capt. J. C. Anand
(1978-1986)



Mr. K. M. Sheth
(1986-1990)



Mr. Ashok Goenka
(1990-1991)



Dr. C. P. Srivastava
(1991-1994)



Capt. P. P. Radhakrishnan
(1995)



Capt. J. C. Anand
(1996-2012)



Mr. Arun Sharma
(2012-Present)

Dual Class Agreements



IRS / American Bureau of Shipping
5th July, 1975



IRS / Det Norske Veritas
5th July, 1975



IRS / Lloyd's Register
4th September, 1975



IRS / Bureau Veritas
27th July, 1983



IRS / Nippon Kaiji Kyokai
2nd November, 1984



IRS / Korean Register
15th November, 2008

The agreements provided for survey of vessels classed dually with each Society on reciprocal basis.

Authorisation from Government of India for Undertaking International Loadline Surveys and for Other Statutory Surveys – 1977



Capt. J. C. Anand at the helm

**Capt. J. C. Anand
took over as Chairman
in March 1978**



First Owned Office

Maker Tower F, Cuffe Parade
March 1981



Geographical Expansion – Late 1970's and 1980's

Offices set up in Kolkatta, Chennai, Visakhapatnam, Kochi, Goa, Kandla, Pune and Delhi.



Era of Computerisation

Efforts to develop computer programs for structural analysis of hulls commenced as early as 1975-76 with IRS being registered as a user of an advanced computer facility at Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Mumbai.

Networking Era - 1991

Standalone PCs to Local Area Network



First Computer
- 1983
- HP 9845B

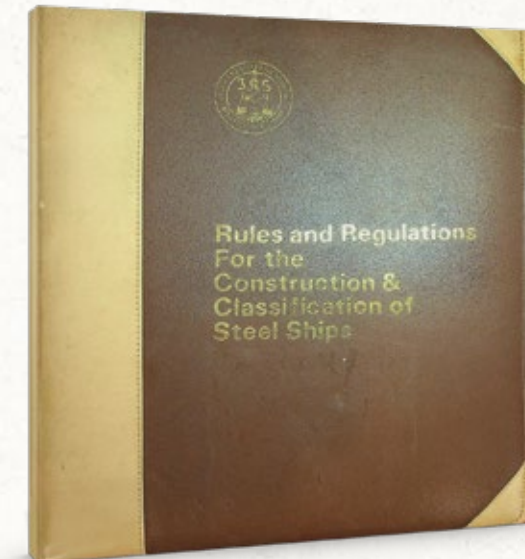


A worker in a white protective suit and helmet is operating industrial machinery. The worker is wearing a white hard hat with a blue logo and the number '123'. The suit has a circular logo on the back. The worker is standing next to a large, grey, industrial machine with various pipes and valves. The background shows a white wall with pipes and a black cable tray.

Entry into Offshore Sector - 1982



Comprehensive Update of Rule Book - 1988



Associate Membership of IACS - 1991



Dr. C. P. Srivastava, Chairman IRS announcing the Associate Membership of IACS

IACS
INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES

USSR REGISTER OF SHIPPING

HEAD OFFICE
R. Dornayevskiy
191000, Leningrad
Telephone 272 46 76
Cable: Leningrad Register
Telex: 170280 USSRSU
Telex: 24 41387

Ref: 013-0.2-2171a 1991 1
Our No. _____
Rev. No. _____

Mr. H.K. Taneja
Chief Executive
Indian Register of Shipping
78 Maker Towers "F" (7th Floor)
Cuffe Parade
Bombay - 400005
India

Subject: Application by Indian Register
of Shipping for Associate status
in IACS

Dear Mr. Taneja,

Thank you for your letter of 12th November providing
updated data and statistics on Indian Register of Shipping
(IRS) for the information of the IACS Council.

During its extraordinary meeting on 2nd/3rd December,
1991, the IACS Council gave further consideration to the
application by IRS for Associate status in IACS.

It gives me great pleasure to advise you that the
Council agreed that IRS be granted Associate status and
that this will be effective from 1st December 1991.

Detailed information concerning IACS Charter, Proce-
dures etc. will be forwarded in due course.

As you are aware, the IACS Council is presently im-
plementing changes aimed at increasing the effectiveness

IACS INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
CLASSIFICATION SOCIETIES

2

of IACS and promoting the maintenance of uniformly high
standards within IACS. As part of these changes, the Coun-
cil has been revising the conditions for Member status.
Once the current changes are implemented it is the Council's
intention to reconsider the conditions for Associate status.

Yours sincerely,
R.A. Belik
R.A. Belik
Chairman of IACS Council

c.c.: Sir Roderick MacLeod, Vice-Chairman of
IACS Council
IACS Council Members
IACS Associates
Mr. A. Wigg, IACS London

Publication of First Issue of Touch of Class - 1991



Foundation Stone For IRS Head Office

The foundation stone for IRS' Head Office cum R&D Centre at Powai was unveiled by the Hon'ble Minister of State for Surface Transport, Shri Jagdish Tytler on 6th April 1992.



Under Construction – Head Office



Head Office – Powai - Inaugurated in 1994

Indian Register Quality Systems Becomes the First Body in Asia to Receive Accreditation from Raad voor Accreditatie (RvA) (Formerly Raad voor De Certificate) - 1993

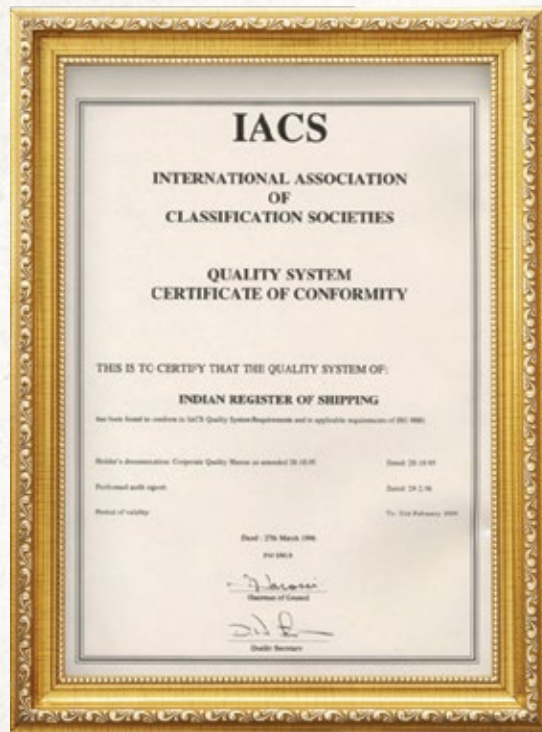


First ISO 9001 Certificate - Kirloskar Pneumatic Company Ltd, Pune

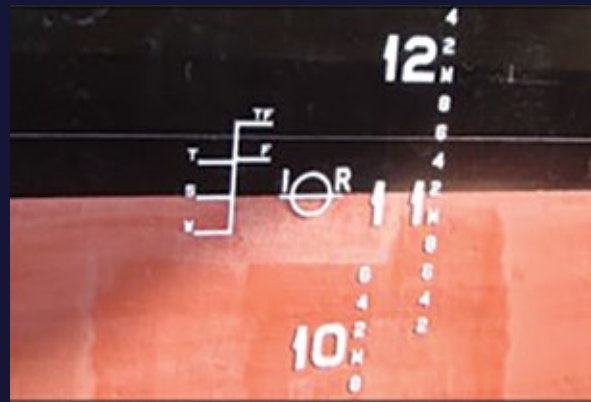


Mr. Ratan Tata receives
the QMS Certificate
from Dr. C. P. Srivastava,
then IRS Chairman

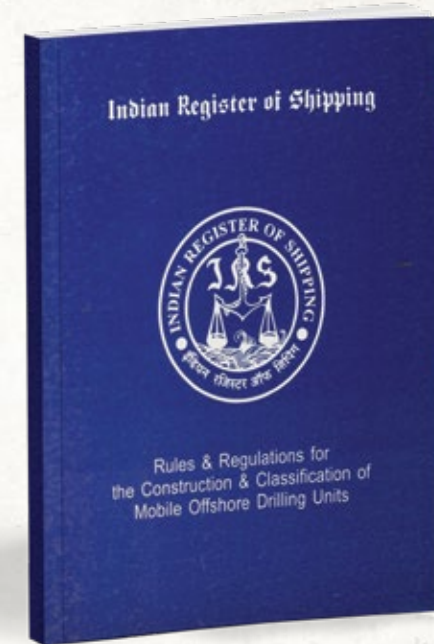
IACS QSCS - 1996



Sole Authorisation by the Indian Flag for Assigning Load Line & Sole Class Society to Carry Out ISM Audits - 1997



First MODU Rules Published - 1999



International Offices

Colombo, Sri Lanka - 1998



Dubai, UAE - 2000



Piraeus, Greece - 2009

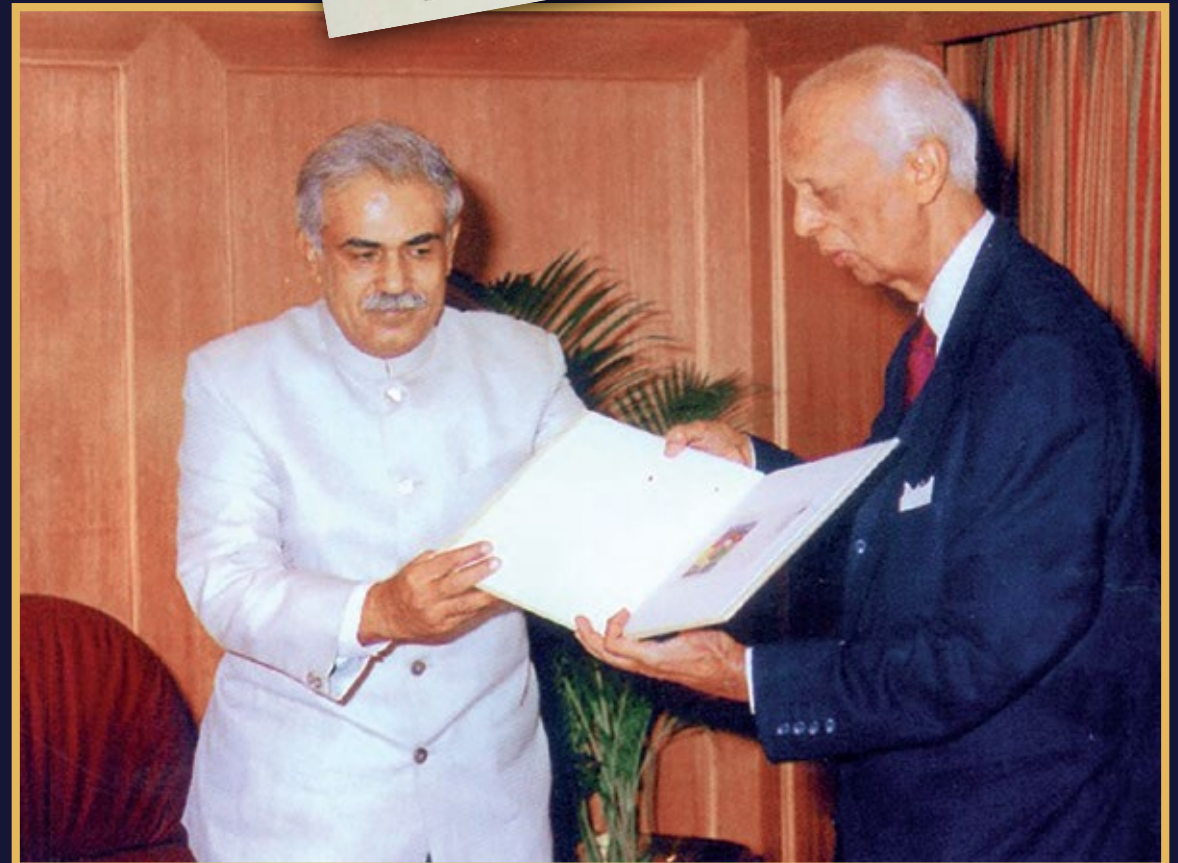
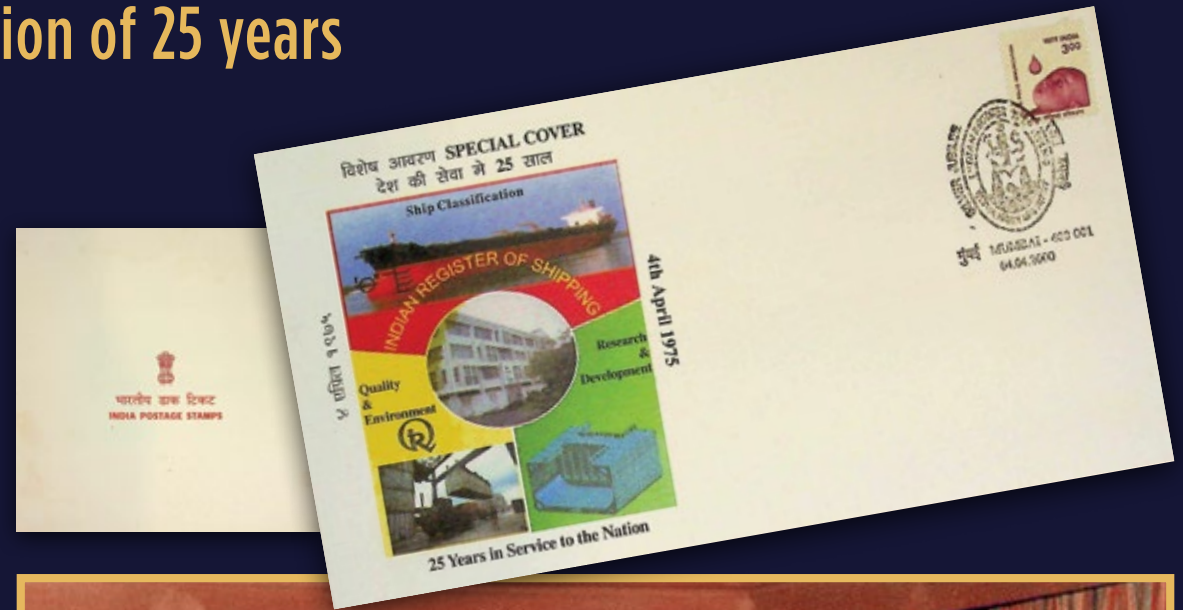


Publication of Special Cover on IRS completion of 25 years

IRS completed 25 eventful years on April 4, 2000.

To commemorate its silver jubilee, the Indian Postal Department released a Special Cover on the occasion.

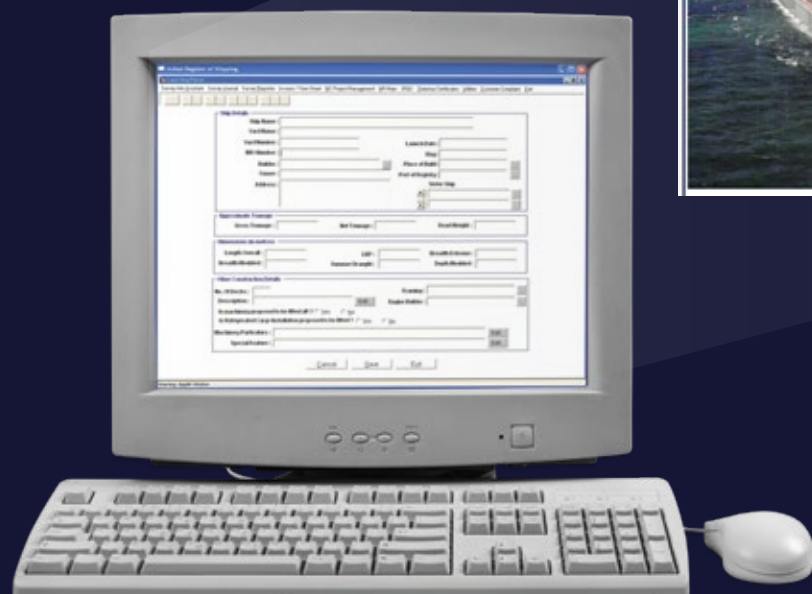
25
YEARS
ANNIVERSARY
CELEBRATION



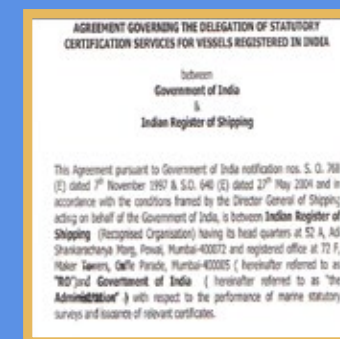
ISO 9001 Certificate Goa Shipyard Ltd – 2001



Launch of Online Reporting System – 2004



Authorisation as Sole RSO by Indian Flag Administration – 2002



As the sole Recognised Security Organisation (RSO), IRS was authorised by Indian Government to undertake port facility security assessment and by Indian flag administration to conduct ISPS Code audits onboard Indian flagged ships 2003.



Recognition from IUA - 2000

IRS becomes the first Associate member of IACS to be recognized by International Underwriting Association (IUA) under the Institute Classification Clause (ICC), by virtue of which ships classed with IRS will not attract any extra insurance.

RO Authorisations

Panama - 2005



Liberia - 2009



Marshall Islands - 2011



Bahamas - 2015



Malta - 2017



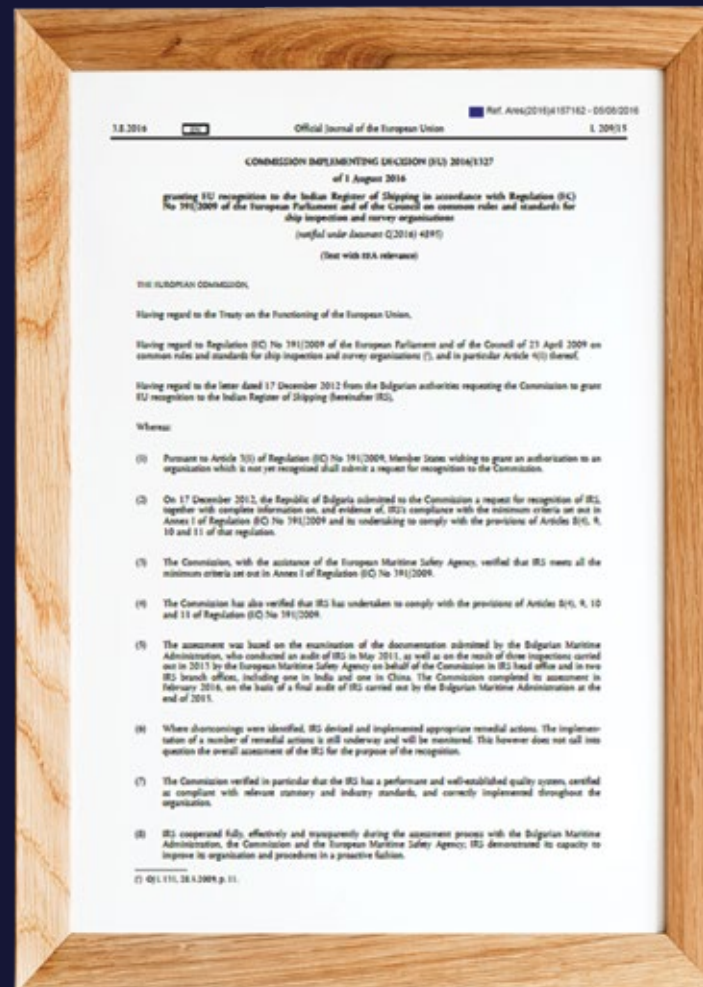
Netherlands - 2018



Cyprus - 2019



European Union Recognition - 2016



US Coast Guard Recognition - 2020



IACS Full Membership - 2010

IRS achieved one of its most cherished objectives when it achieved member status in IACS by being admitted as full member by IACS Council at its meeting in June 2010. This was a major achievement for IRS and one of great significance for the entire Indian Maritime fraternity.



Expansion of Head Office Building - 2011

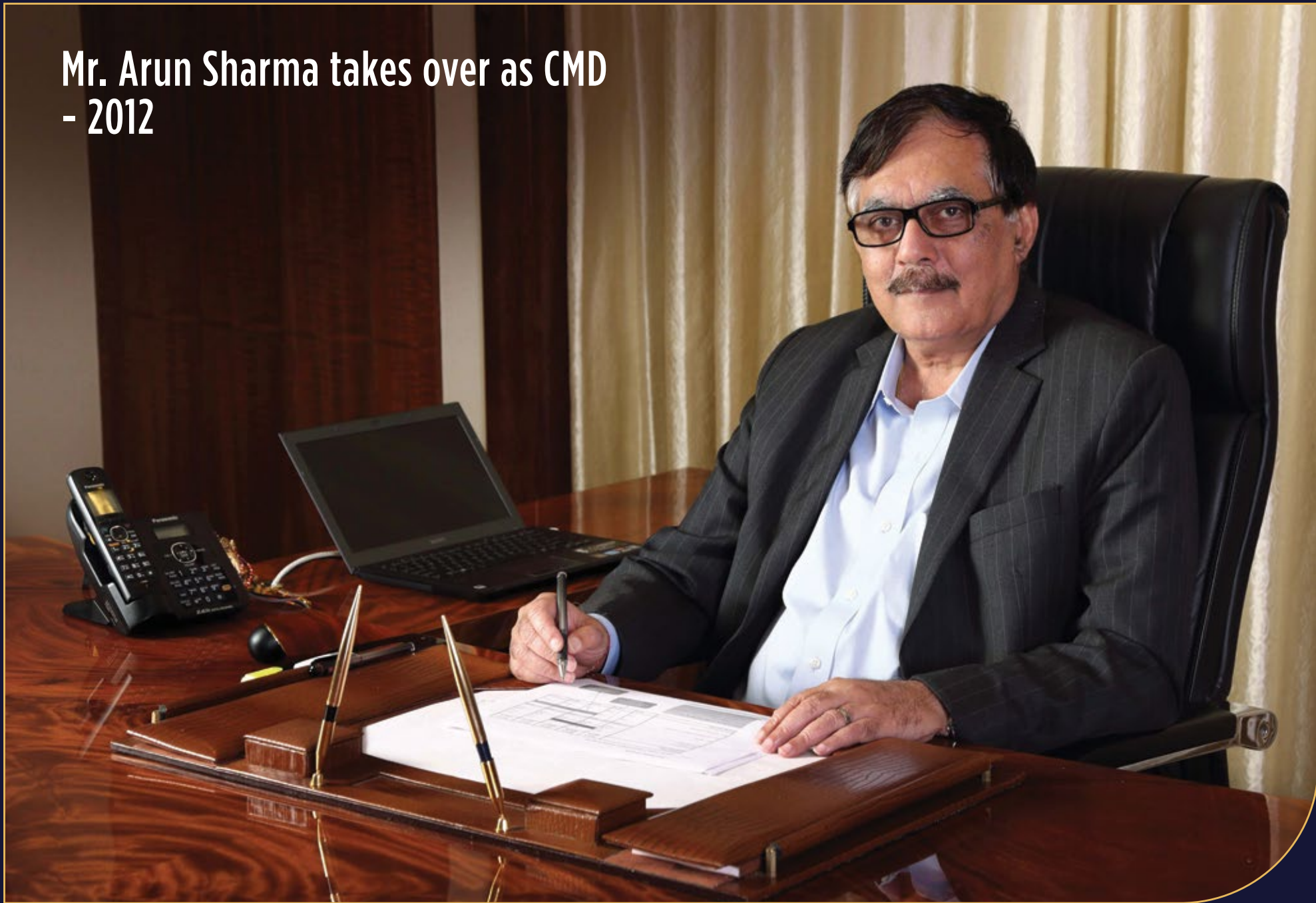


Establishment of ISSPL - 2014

IRClass Systems & Solutions Pvt Ltd. was established to carve out non-maritime business activities.



**Mr. Arun Sharma takes over as CMD
- 2012**



Advisory Committees - 2015



UAE Advisory Committee



Singapore Advisory Committee



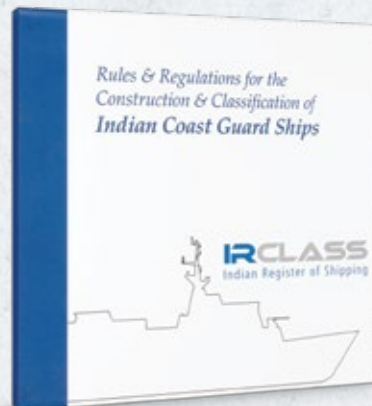
India Advisory Committee

Release of Naval Rules for Non-Combatant Ships - 2007

The first set of rules applicable for noncombatant ships was released in November 2007 by then Chief of Naval Staff, Admiral Sureesh Mehta, PVSM, AVSM, ADC.



Rules for Indian Coast Guard Ships – 2008



A set of rules applicable to Indian Coast Guard ships was also published, adapted from the Rules for Non-Combatant Naval Ships.

Rules for Coast Guard Ships - 2015

Revised Rules and Regulations for Construction and Classification of Indian Coast Guard Ships, developed by the Indian Register of Shipping (IRS) were formally released by the Director General Indian Coast Guard, Vice Admiral HCS Bisht AVSM on 28th December 2015.



Naval Combatant Rules - 2015

Rules and Regulations for Construction and Classification of Indian Naval Combatant Ships, developed by IRS were formally released by then Chief of the Naval Staff, Admiral R. K. Dhowan, PVSM, AVSM, YSM, ADC on 09 June 2015.



Updated Rules Released by Hon'ble Raksha Rajya Mantri (MoS for Defence) Shri. Ajay Bhatt, in presence of The Chief of Defence Staff, Chief of the Naval Staff, Commanders-in-Chief, Principal Staff Officers, Senior Commanders, during Naval Commanders' Conference Sep 2023.

COP 21 Paris Summit - 2015

IRS represented the voice of Indian maritime sector at COP21 and backed India's efforts to cut emissions. Mr. Arun Sharma spoke at the impressive India Pavilion on the topic 'GHG Emissions from Indian Shipping – Impact and Mitigating Measures'.



Mr. Arun Sharma meets IMO Secretary General, Mr. Kitack Lim - 2019



CEMS - 2017



Centre of Excellence in Maritime and Shipbuilding (CEMS) was launched in association with Ministry of Shipping and Siemens.



Chairman of IACS

July 2019 – June 2020



IACS International Association of Classification Societies



Chairman of ACS - 2017 & 2024



2017



2024



Awards and Accolades

Indian Register of Shipping has been honoured with numerous prestigious awards, including major accolades such as Highly Commended Classification Society of the Year, Best Employer Brand, and several awards for Classification Society of the Year.



Classification Society of the Year
2023 & 2024

Best Employer Brand
2021

Best Inspection
Agency of the Year
2015

Classification Society of the Year
2015, 2018 & 2019

Highly Commended
Classification
Society of the Year
2014

India's Highest Maritime Honour

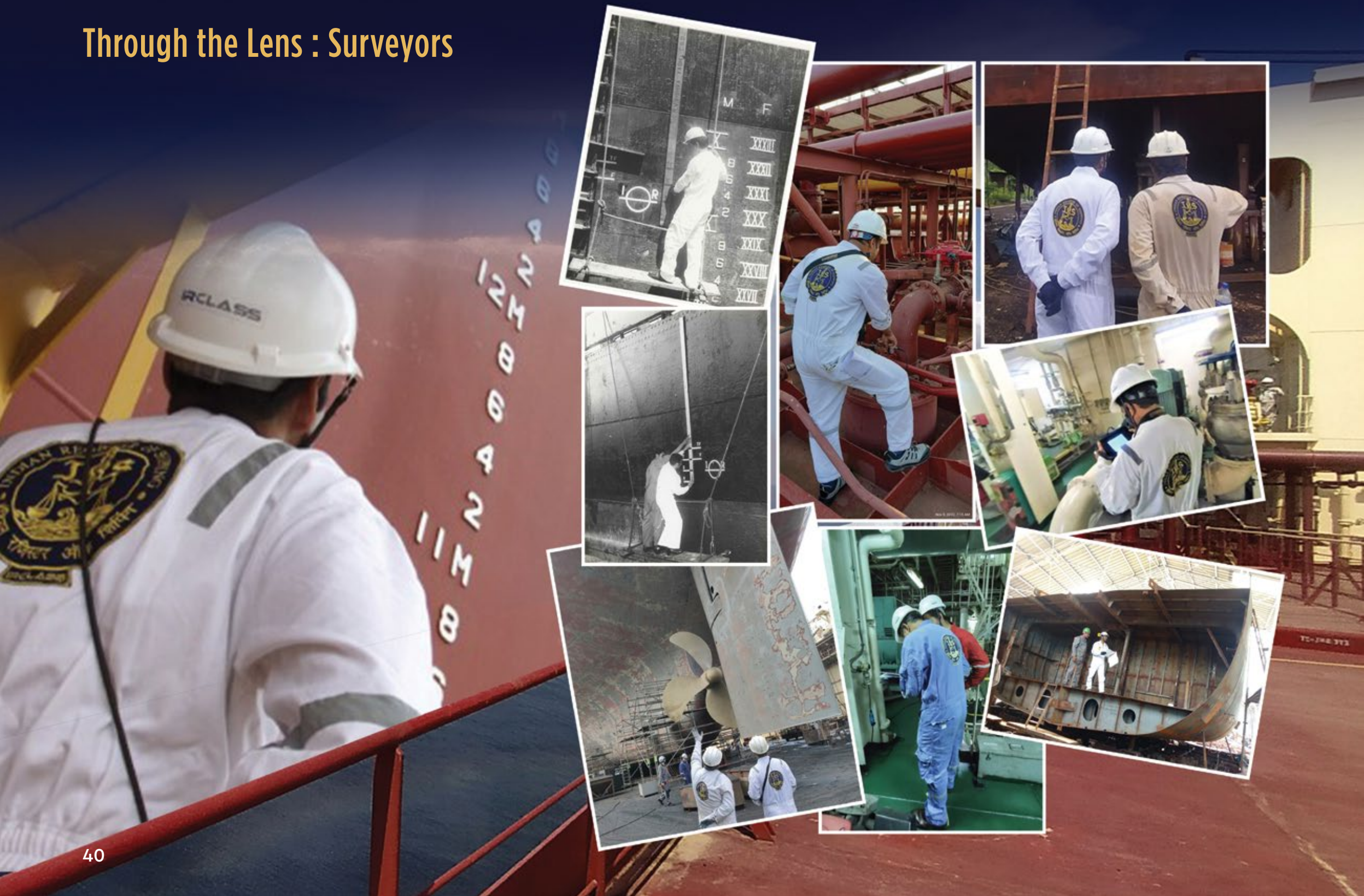
Varuna Award

Mr. Arun Sharma - 2021



Capt. J. C. Anand - 1996

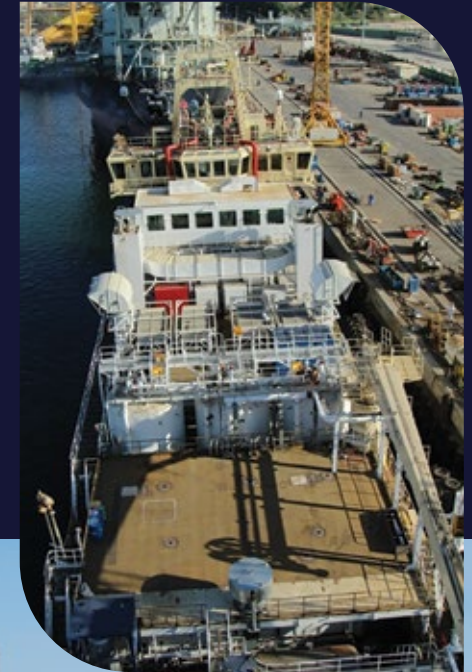
Through the Lens : Surveyors



Vessels Conversion Projects



Offshore Supply Vessel
to Well Stimulation Vessel



Ro-Ro to Livestock Carrier



Atmanirbhar Bharat Initiatives

Defence



Inland Vessels



Alternative Fuels Projects

Hydrogen Powered Fuel Cell Ferry



Solar-Electric Ferry



New Generation Electric Ferry



Hybrid Catamaran Ferry





**R&D
Rule Development**



Plan Approval Centre



Education & Training



Ships & Technical Services

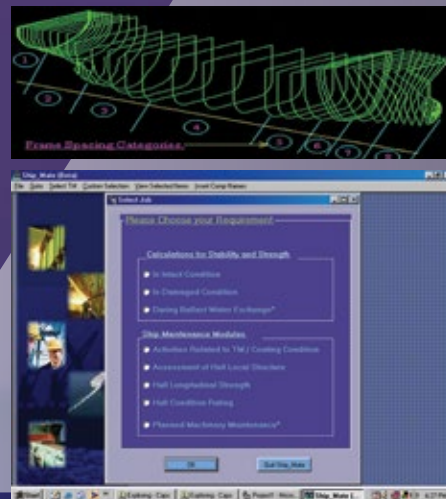
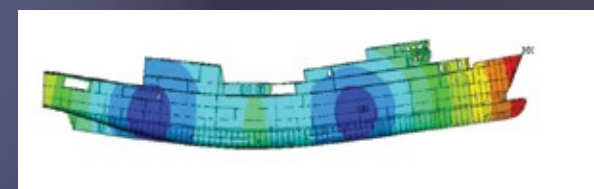
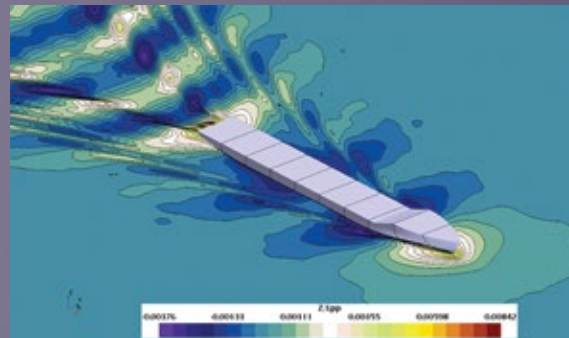
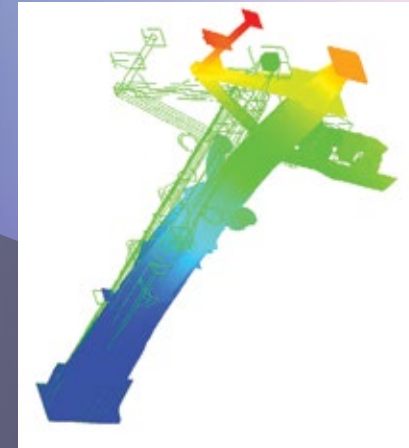
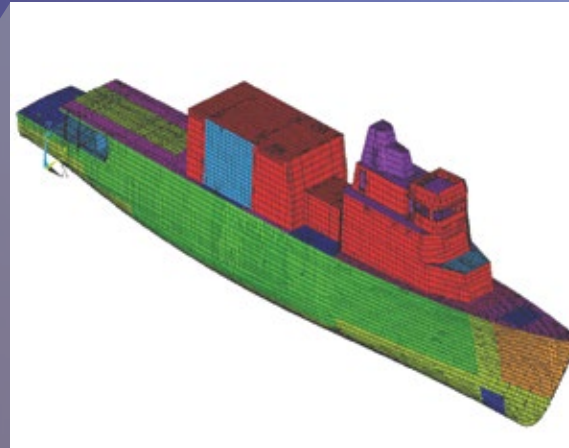


Research and Development

Sea Trade Award received
for 'Ship Mate' Software
– 2004



Technical Studies



Rule Development

As a leading Classification Society, we continuously refine our Rules, Classification Notes and Guidelines to ensure that ships and offshore structures operate with safety, and environmental responsibility.

Our focus:

- Improving safety
- Encouraging sustainable development
- Ensuring global compliance

These Rules, Classification Notes and Guidelines establish a reliable compliance framework that drives continuous improvement across the maritime industry.



Rules Developed

- Seagoing Ships - Main Rules
- Inland Waterways Ships
- Mobile Offshore Drilling Units
- High Speed & Light Crafts
- Naval Non-Combatant Ships
- Coast Guard Non-Combatant Ships
- Naval Combatant Ships



Plan Approval Centre

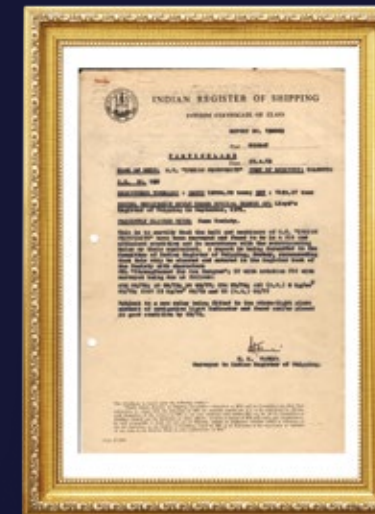
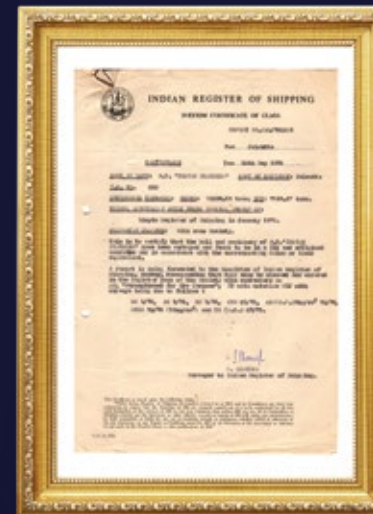
IRS Team meticulously working with ship plans towards approval. From hand-drawn blueprints to digital schematics, the images highlight the evolution of the plan approval process while honouring the precision and expertise that has remained constant.



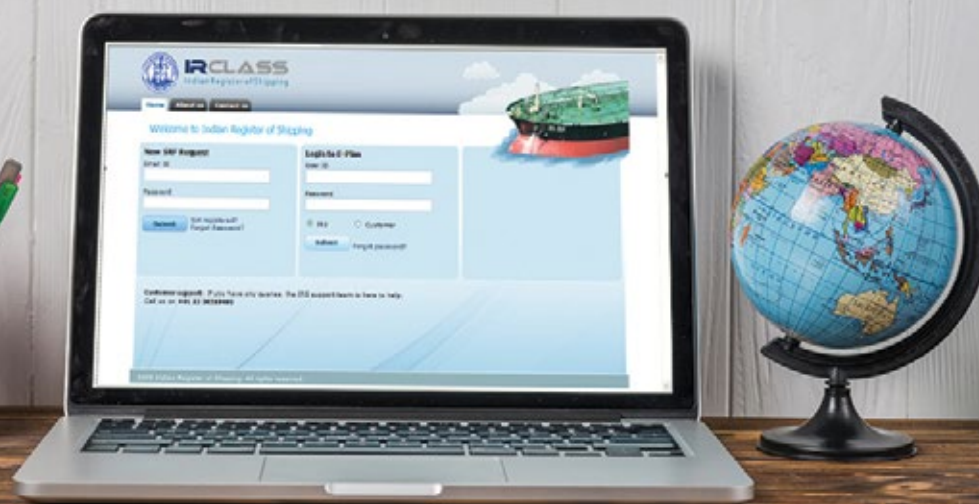
Electronic Plan Approval – 2011


IRS commenced Electronic Plan Appraisal (E-Plan Arena) - which allowed customers to submit and receive plans and documents in electronic format.

Ships & Technical Services Class & Statutory



Electronic Certificates



Special Survey Hull	July, 2020
Continuous Survey Machinery	July, 2020
This certificate is valid till 17/07/2025 (dd/mm/yyyy). The class would be deemed to have been suspended automatically when survey requirements are not complied in accordance with the Rules.	
 For Indian Register of Shipping Digitally Signed By: Vipul Kumar Singhal Location: Mumbai Signing Date: 21-08-2023(dd/mm/yyyy) [Authorized Signatory] Indian Register of Shipping, Mumbai Date of Issue: 21/08/2023	
Official Seal Place of Issue: Mumbai	
For Annual Endorsement, see overleaf	
TID: IRS/2023/69943/230659/19203	

Established in 2014 for
Disseminating Knowledge
and Skill Development in the
Maritime Sector



International Training Courses



Indian Coast Guard Personnel Training



Qatar

Indonesia



Snapshots of Internal Trainings

Induction Training & Refreshers Training for Surveyors



Digital Transformation - 2023

Partnership with Dassault Systemes to leverage virtual twin technology for driving its digital transformation.

IRS & Dassault Systemes exchanged the contract documents in the august presence of Shri. Sarbananda Sonowal, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.



Events, Conferences & Seminars

Glimpses of Events, Conferences & Seminars

Posidonia – 2006



Sea Asia – 2007



INMARCO – 2014



London International Shipping Week (LISW) - 2019



Technical seminar



Round Table



MarinTec China - 2019



Sea Asia Singapore - 2019



Customer Meet - Singapore



Nor Shipping - 2019



Customer Meet - Mumbai



Posidonia - 2019



INMEX - 2019



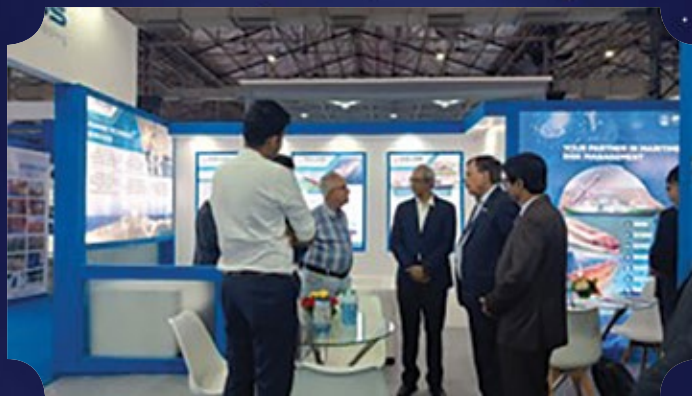
INMARCO - 2022



Waterways Conclave - 2022



INMEX - 2022



GMIS - 2023



Smart Green Maritime INAvation - 2024



Employee Engagement Activities

Annual Day



Independence Day



Women's Day



Navratri



Sports Day



Environmental and Sustainability Initiatives

Sapling Plantation Drive on World Environment Day - 50 Plantations for 50 years - 2024



Community-driven cleanup of Ganesh Ghat at Powai Lake - 2024



**SMALL ACTIONS,
BIG IMPACT.**

Reed Bed Installation



Solar Panels Installation



Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) Initiatives

IRS employees donated one day's salary to the Army Central Welfare Fund to support Kargil War soldiers' families, with IRS matching their contribution.

A cheque was handed over to the then Prime Minister, Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee, in 1999.

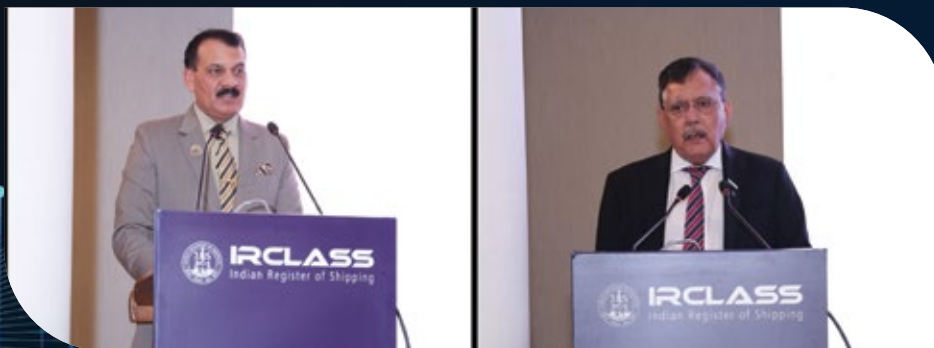


IRS at 50 – Golden Jubilee Celebration Events

Foundation Day – 4th April 2024



New Delhi – August 2024



Visakhapatnam – October 2024





Gratitude to All Who Made It Possible

As we conclude this commemorative journey through the 50 years of Indian Register of Shipping, we extend our heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has been a part of this incredible story. From our founding visionaries to dedicated professionals and trusted partners, each contribution has been instrumental in shaping the legacy of excellence we celebrate today.

This milestone is not just a reflection of our past but a beacon for our future. It reminds us of our responsibility to continue leading with integrity, innovation, and a commitment to the global maritime community.

With this book, we not only honour our rich heritage but also reaffirm our determination to embrace new challenges, set higher benchmarks, and build a future that aligns with our core values. Here's to the next chapter in the enduring journey of the Indian Register of Shipping.

Thank You for being part of our Golden Voyage







IRCLASS
Indian Register of Shipping



Head Office

52A, Adi Shankaracharya Marg, Opp. Powai Lake,
Powai, Mumbai - 400 072. India

Email: ho@irclass.org

Web: www.irclass.org

Tel : +91 22 3051 9400 / +91 22 7119 9400