



MERCHANT NAVY COMMEMORATIVE THEME PROJECT (MNCTP)



NEWS RELEASE

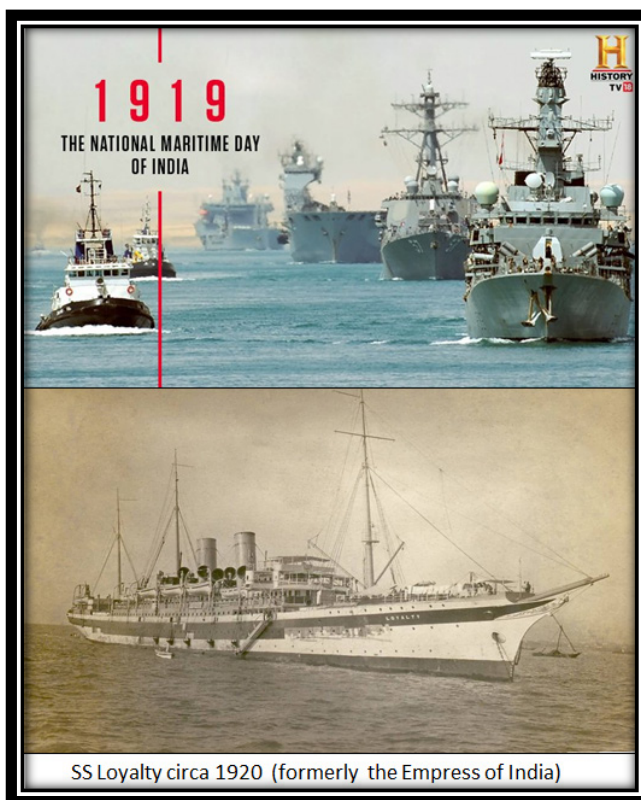
TODAY IS
NATIONAL MARITIME DAY
IN INDIA

APRIL 5, 2022

OTTAWA, TODAY– Mr. Stéphane Ouellette, President and Chief Executive Officer, Merchant Navy Commemorative Theme Project (MNCTP), observed National Maritime Day in India.

National Maritime Day in India is celebrated every April 5 to promote safe and environmentally sound intercontinental commerce. This day also focuses on defending and preserving the maritime zone of India.

The first Indian National Maritime Day was celebrated on April 5, 1964. This was to mark the maiden voyage of the merchant vessel *S.S. Loyalty* that sailed from Mumbai to London, on April 5, 1919. The *S.S. Loyalty* was the first ship of The Scindia Steam Navigation Company Ltd, and the first Indian flagged merchant vessel to journey to the United Kingdom. The *S.S. Loyalty* paved the way for the creation of the Indian national shipping company named The Shipping Corporation of India.



The *S.S. Loyalty*, formerly the *Empress of India*, was built by Naval Construction & Armament Co. at Barrow, England. She was launched on August 30, 1890, by Lady Louisa Caroline Egerton. The 5,905-ton vessel had a length of 455.6 feet, her beam was 51.2 feet, and she had an average speed of 16-knots. The ship was designed to provide accommodation for 770 passengers. On August 17, 1903, the *Empress of India* collided with and sank the Chinese cruiser *Huang Tai*. The vessel was reported sold on December 19, 1914, and was re-fitted as a hospital ship for Indian troops. On January 19, 1915, the ship was renamed the *S.S. Loyalty*. In February 1923, the ship was sold for scrapping at Bombay.

In the modern era, the Indian shipping industry plays an important role in its economy, whereas nearly 90% of the country's international trade is conducted by sea. India has approximately 1,071 ships, with 722 coastal, and 349 overseas ships.

Quote

“Shipping is paramount to international security and defence, and to the global economy. This special day aims to engage and build an understanding of the system of human relationships that bind shipping, ports, and global society into a cohesive whole. Fostering partnership building opportunities among nations, ports, seafarers, and ship operators is critical to successfully maintaining and enhancing the safety, security, and efficiency of the maritime transportation system.”

– Stéphane Ouellette, President and CEO, MNCTP

Associated Links

- [National Maritime Day: 58th edition to highlight India's growth in the maritime domain; Know more | The Financial Express | April 4, 2021](#)
- [India Observes National Maritime Day | weeklyvoice.com – South Asia | April 10, 2020](#)
- [S.S. Loyalty - The Story of India's First Swadeshi Ship](#)
- [Marine History of India](#)
- [A Message of Gratitude to the Republic of India on their National Maritime Day | MNCTP | April 5, 2016](#)
- [A Message of Gratitude to the People of the United States of America on their National Maritime Day | MNCTP | May 22, 2016](#)
- [Official United Nations Observance Day of the Seafarer | MNCTP | June 25, 2016](#)
- [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\) World Maritime Day | MNCTP | September 29, 2016](#)
- [Admiral \(Ret'd\) Nirmal Verma, former High Commissioner of India to Canada, and former Chief of the Naval Staff – Response to Merchant Navy Day \(Ottawa\) Invitation Letter | August 16, 2013](#)
- [Allied Merchant Navy Website – India Landing Page](#)

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