DGS Order No. 05 of 2020

Sub: Instructions on dealing with Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19)

Maritime Training Institutes:
1. The Directorate General of Shipping vide DGS Order 02 of 2020 dated 16/03/2020 had issued “Instructions on dealing with Novel coronavirus (COVID-19). As per the said Order, all the basic courses, modular courses including simulator courses and competency / preparatory courses were suspended. The MTIs conducting the pre-sea maritime courses were allowed to continue the pre-sea courses subject to taking precautionary measures.

2. Taking cognizance of the gravity of the situation worldwide, it has been decided to suspend all the pre-sea courses also till further orders. Thus, conduct of all maritime courses shall remain suspended and MTIs shall remain closed till further orders.

Seafarers:
3. Further, instructions in relation to shore leaves of seafarers and seafarers who have travelled abroad were also issued. In view of the rapid spread of Novel coronavirus COVID-19, the process of sign off and repatriation of seafarers has affected world over due to travel restrictions imposed by various countries in the world. In India, the operation of international flights has been prohibited. Restriction on domestic travel has also been imposed, as a precautionary measure in the country.

4. Under these circumstances it may not be possible for the seafarers who have completed their contact, to travel to India or to move to their destinations within India.

5. It is, therefore, advised that Indian seafarers working either on Indian or foreign ships, not to sign off and be repatriated from their ships except in an utmost emergent situation, as they are likely to face serious challenges in international and domestic travel, till further orders.
6. This order has been issued in public interest and shall come into force with immediate effect.

(Amitabh Kumar)
Director General of Shipping & Addl. Secretary to the GoI

1. All Stakeholders through DGS website.
2. All Maritime Training Institutes
3. All Indian seafarers.
4. Seafarer Unions.
5. INSA & ICCSA, Mumbai.