

## **Maritime Employability Summit 2024**

## organized by

## **Centre for Maritime Economy**

Centre for Maritime Economy, GMU organized Maritime Employability Summit 2024 on 19<sup>th</sup> October,2024 for providing a platform for deliberations, discussions and future research on enhancing employability for the students. Summit's theme, "Not just a job or employment; how to build career in maritime sector?" was discussed with following broad agenda:

- a. Shift the focus away from "hunting jobs" to "preparing for career"
- b. Becoming more methodical and adopting a structured approach to career
- c. Understanding Maritime sector its challenges and future prospects
- d. Preparing for the future

The summit, dedicated to shaping the future of maritime professionals, brought together key industry leaders, educators, and students to engage in insightful discussions and explore future trends within the sector.

**Registrar of GMU, Dr. Chirag Patel** discussed about the expanding maritime industry and the role **of Universities in** facilitating this growth. He highlighted how GMU is helping students tap into the ever-evolving job market.

Head of the Centre and Director, SMM Dr. Dharmesh Raval discussed on the them of the summit and discussed about Employability as overall professional performance of a candidate which is based on right attitude and skills set, with qualification taken for granted. He emphasized on how employability is most important and why students should prepare for being employable rather than just seek for jobs. He also highlighted the challenges faced by students with regards to employability.

**Prof. Tanuja Kaushik, Dean of Academic Affairs** gave a special address and highlighted the importance of preparing for the future. She described maritime sector as full of opportunities and how GMU is supporting and guiding student to build a great career in maritime sector.

MES 2024 gave platform to students to present their view and opinion about employability, career challenges and road ahead. **Raj Patil**, **Devanshu Rana** (School of Maritime Management, GMU), and **Devyani Mishra** (School of Maritime Law, Policy and Administration, GMU), discussed how they are positioning themselves within the maritime sector and the opportunities they foresee in their future endeavours.

The summit also featured an inspiring Panel Discussion on "Bridging the Gap between Education and Employment in the Maritime Sector," with esteemed experts:

- Prof. G. Raghuram, Professor Emeritus, Gujarat Maritime University
- Shri Mukesh Parikh, Adjunct Professor, Gujarat Maritime University
- Dr. Dharmesh Raval, Director SMM, Gujarat Maritime University

The panellists discussed strategies for aligning education with industry needs, focusing on the importance of skills development and collaboration between educational institutions and employers to ensure maritime graduates are industry-ready.

A standout moment of the event was a powerful session by **Ms. Manisha Thaker**, one of the first woman entrepreneurs in the maritime sector. She shared her inspiring journey, recounting the challenges she faced milestones she has achieved. Despite the obstacles, Ms. Thaker succeeded in breaking barriers, ultimately achieving her goals. In her talk, she also discussed how aspiring entrepreneurs can start their own businesses, the companies they can approach for job opportunities, and how students can engage with organizations like the **International Maritime Organization (IMO)** and other global maritime bodies to carve out a successful career path.

Online address of Captain Gaurav Rana, Sea & Beyond was a highlighting feature, as he shared various career opportunities for the students of MBA and LLM in maritime sector. He also guided students to prepare during their academic term and what industry expects from fresh and experienced aspirants.

The summit successfully brought together diverse perspectives, showcasing the importance of education, skill-building, and entrepreneurial spirit in shaping the future of maritime employment.

Maritime Employability Summit helped connect thought processes and helped bridge the gap between industry and academia.















