

# A MARITIME GEM UNVEILED !!

## Tolani Maritime Institute's New Campus Officially Opened Near Pune

Shouts of Hip-Hip-Hurrah rent the silence of the surrounding acres of herons, hills and rivers, as the huge plaque of Tolani Maritime Institute was unveiled at Talegaon near Pune in western Maharashtra, marking the official opening of what promises to be India's maritime gem of the future.

The pushing of the electronic button by the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Shipping, Mr. MP Pinto that set off the unveiling device, was the culmination of a dream of Dr. NP Tolani who has been the relentless force behind this mammoth maritime training project.

A near-lifelike mock ship, whose chief purpose is to facilitate more realistic fire-fighting training, was decked out with flags for the occasion, and colorful pennants fluttered in the brisk breeze from poles marking the length and breadth of the campus grounds. The spray from the fountains cooled the surroundings somewhat providing relief from the mid-April heat to the huge gathering, who, despite it, were there to herald the official opening of this maritime training institute on a hot Sunday afternoon on the 8th of April.

A veritable who's who of the shipping industry seemed to have descended at this otherwise quiet little village of Induri a

couple of miles off the main Mumbai-Pune macadamized artery. The guest-list that was headed by Mr. & Mrs. MP Pinto, included Capt. JC Anand, Mr. DT Joseph, Dr. S Venkateswaran of BITS - Pilani, Mr. BK Saha, Mr. Dinesh Afzalpurkar, Mr. BK Biswas, Capt. MM Saggi, along with various representatives of classification societies, Indian & foreign Shipping & Ship Management Companies, as well as Maritime Training Institutions.

Remarkably the whole Tolani clan including children, relatives and family were present in strength to support this vision turned to reality by Dr. Nandlal Prabhdas Tolani, the founder and Chairman of the Tolani Group of Companies, whose perseverance over the years never wavered despite the horrendous accident he suffered a few months ago. Rohet Tolani, the Vice Chairman of the Tolani Group of Shipping Companies, wiped a way a tear as he spoke emotionally of his father's boundless energy and unflagging spirit that brought about the creation of this maritime institute.

The Tolani Maritime Institute or TMI, offers a 4-year marine engineering degree programme to over 120 students, selected on an all-India basis every year. No less than 7 girls are already studying here and the college policy of encouraging



Clock wise from Top Left -  
The Glass & Concrete Campus Hostel  
The Chief Guest surveys the Band  
Mr. Rohet Tolani receiving Mrs. & Mr. MP Pinto  
A Veritable who's who in the audience

girls through discounts on college fees is bound to attract more of the fairer sex to the seafaring industry. The Bachelor of Science degree bestowed on the successful final-year candidates will carry the name and recognition of the Birla Institute of Technology & Science, Pilani. The engineering as well as other adjunct courses are fully approved by the Directorate General of Shipping. ISO-9002 accreditation is by Indian Register Quality Systems.

The two most striking features of the TMI campus are the over 100 acres of land it occupies, and the pollution-free near-pristine surroundings it is located in. In fact we were driven to ask the inevitable question-- how did the students traverse between one building and the other? Turns out they have to be driven by bus twice a day! The immense size of the campus leaves it open for tremendous future expansion, perhaps even a maritime university.

Mr. BK Saxena, the Principal of TMI was at pains to point out the efforts made by the founders as well as the students in keeping this area as free of pollution as they found it originally. The campus's own power plant incorporates a non polluting coal-fired Thermax boiler and steam turbine. Moreover, the principal credited the students for having made, through their own initiative and verve, paper bags- tested to 3 kilos- for use on the premises.

The superb faculty here boasts Mr. Ravi Budhraj, Mr. BK Saxena, Capt RK Razdan, Mr. NK Joshi, Mr. N Junnarkar, Mr. A Desai, Mr. PA Gulawani, Dr. AK Sen, Mr. EA Fernandez, Mr. R Kapila, Mr. CM Bhatia, Mr. S Krishnan, Mr. PV Jagtap, Mr. V Nandpurkar, Mr. A Sharma, Ms. A Deshpande, Mr. SK Mangain, Mrs. L Fernandez, Mr. KA Mehendale, Mr. DC Dhankar, Mr. BB Bhadre and Mr. SS Shinde.

The land looks rocky and in the summer a hot breeze, occasionally laced with the aroma of chocolate from the

nearby factory, blows across the wide open terrain. But other months here, a mere 160 kms from Mumbai and 40 from the hill-resort of Lonavala, will be quite pleasant. As yet the trees and greenery haven't come in to full bloom but once they do the campus will feel, and look, glorious indeed.

It might not be Cornell University where the panglossian Dr. Tolani did his doctorate in 1963, but TMI sure will be hard to beat amongst maritime training institutes in India.

-Seasmart



From Top -  
The bedecked TMI campus, Dr. NP Tolani in Inset  
Principal Mr. Saxena in Inset, Attentive cadets  
The Chief Guest cuts the inaugural ribbon  
Mr. MP Pinto presses a switch to unveil the giant TMI Plaque in the background

**TOLANI MARITIME INSTITUTE**

*Facilities*

- Spacious Class rooms
- Fully computerized library with over 2500 titles, and growing
- Computer lab
- Engineering Labs
- Drawing halls
- Coal-fired Boiler & Steam Turbine power-plant
- 2 New Diesel Engines and 3 old ones for maintenance work
- Chiller Plant
- Control Air compressors
- Fresh water supply by hydrophore
- Sewage treatment plant
- Vermiculture centre
- Tennis, Basket ball & volleyball courts
- Facilities for football, cricket and indoor games
- Swimming pool
- Badminton & Squash courts
- In-house medical clinic
- 270 double seater rooms
- TV lounge, reading room with computers
- Cafeteria, tailor, barber, cooperative store