

## First one day workshop - TechSurge (MTSIS Event)

MTS India Section organized a one day workshop 'TechSurge', at the Hotel Westin Chennai, Velachery Main Road, Chennai on 30th June 2016. On 29th June 2016 the Marine Technology Society-India Section had a short Society Internal meeting.

Dr.R.Venkatesan, Chairman MTS India Section welcomed the Chief Guest Rear Admiral Alok Batnagar, Indian Navy and participants. Many eminent speakers Inspector General Rajan Bargotra, Indian Coast Guard, Dr.Shailesh Nayak, Former Secretary MoES, Ms.Donna Kocak MTS President – Elect, USA, Mr.Matthew Maher, Inmarsat Global Government, UK, Mr.Alfred Kotouczek-Zeise, Weatherdock AG, Germany, Dr.Sylendra Babu IPS, Additional Director General of Police of the Coastal Security Group, Tamilnadu and Prof.Dr.Rao Tatavarti, CASTLE delivered lectures on the present technologies available and also about the futuristic technology on underwater search.

There were a total of 165 selected participants of 40 organisations comprising of Government agencies, all the maritime security agencies viz, the Indian Navy, The Indian Coast Guard and the Coastal Security Group, Airlines, Airport Authority of India, National Institute of Ocean Technology and other scientific institutions, educational Institutions and private industry both from India and abroad were well represented.

It was heartening to see the active participation of students who also participated enthusiastically in the project cum poster competition on SAR. Total of 18 students in 9 groups put up novel suggestions to promote SAR readiness.

Three prizes were announced for the best entries by students and MTS India section Techsurge Student Poster awards were presented. Another highlight of Struggle and Survival at Sea Award by India MTS Section presented to five fishermen who survived at sea for 7 days. Indomer Coastal Hydraulics Pvt Ltd responded spontaneously to sponsor a boat to these affected fishermen and Elektronik lab would provide safety gadgets for this boat. This is well received by local press. Panel discussion by experts brought out status of SAR and recommendations are presented here. Overall feedback from participants showed fullest praise and satisfaction on the content and outcome of Techsurge.

The Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, IG Rajan Bargotra distributed prizes to the students for their innovative ideas on Search and Rescue at Sea followed by distribution of mementos to Chairman, Co-Chairman, speakers and sponsors.

The MTS India section acknowledges MTS for the support.



Figure 1: Students receiving Best Poster Award

### **MTS INDIA Section Recognizes Survivors during TechSurge on Search and Rescue at Sea**

During the Search and Rescue at Sea TechSurge, Dr. Shylendra Babu, Additional Director General of Police, Coastal Security Group (CSG), highlighted the progress of CSG initiatives since 1994 and discussed measures to augment force levels and impart better training. Using case study examples he explained how the effectiveness of CSG can be further enhanced. The heart rendering narration of how five fishermen survived seven days at sea after their boat capsized emphasized the point that a lot more needs to be done by maritime safety agencies and fishermen to enhance safety at sea. The survivors were brought in front of the audience and were presented a “Struggle and Survival at Sea” Award. An appeal was also made to the audience for donations to help the fishermen acquire new boats. Dr. Chandramohan, CMD, Indomer Coastal Hydraulics PVT Ltd., quickly offered to assist in purchasing a new boat and his kind gesture was applauded by all participants.



Figure 2: Fishermen receiving “Struggle and Survival at Sea” Award

MTS President-Elect Donna Kocak, IG Rajan Bargotra, Dr. Shylendra Babu presenting three of the five fisherman rescued with an award