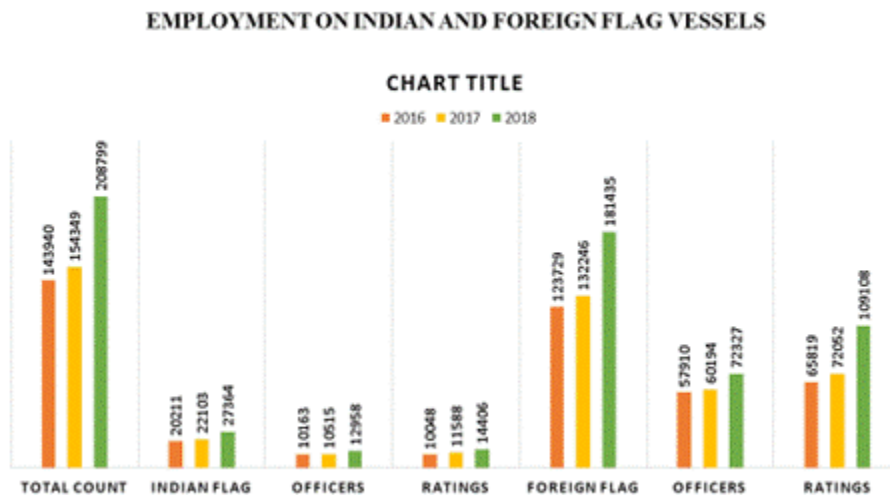


Employment of Indian seafarers grows by an unprecedented 35 percent this year.

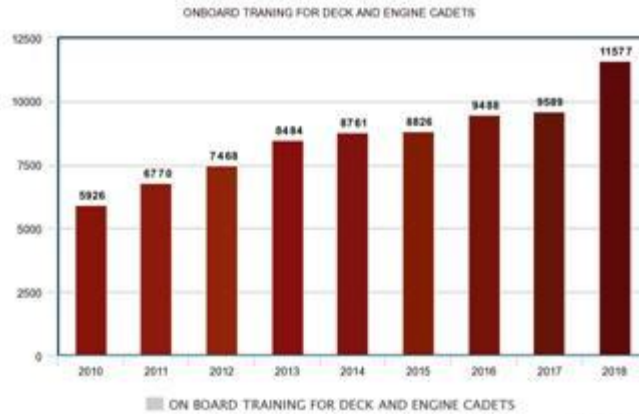
The number of students placed for on-board training also rose by 37 percent

The shipping sector has witnessed an unprecedented growth of 35 per cent in the number of Indian seafarers employed on Indian or foreign flag vessels this year. The figure rose from 154349 in 2017 to 208799 in 2018. Along with this, the number of students placed for on-board training also increased from 14307 last year to 19545 this year, showing a jump of nearly 37 per cent.

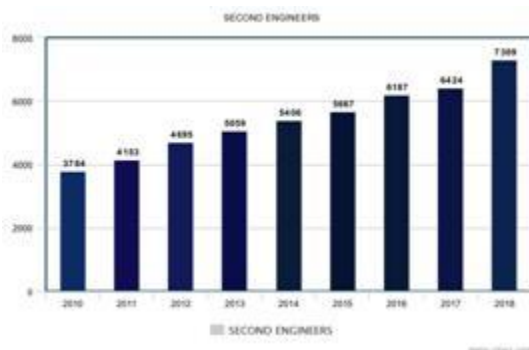
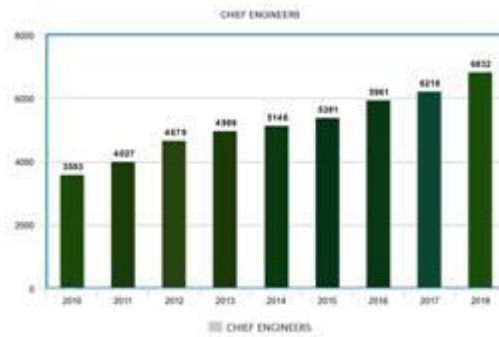
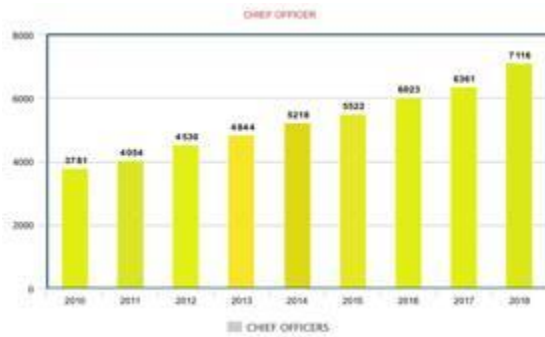


The number of seafarers employed on Indian flag vessels increased from 22,103 last year to 27,364 this year, while the employment figures on foreign vessels went up from 60,194 to 72,327 during the same period. The total number of Officers employed increased from 60,194 in 2017 to 72,327 in 2018 while the number of Ratings during the period also increased from 72,052 to 109,108. The number of Indian seafarers had earlier gone up from 103,835 in 2013 to 126,945 in 2015.

This phenomenal growth in the number of Indian seafarers has been possible due to a series of measures taken by the Government in the last four years to improve the standards of maritime training, increase on-board training opportunities, improve the examination and certification system and facilitate ease of doing business.



The training curriculum for the officers and the ratings were revised in 2016 not only to meet the global standards but also to meet the expectations of the foreign employers. To regulate the training institutes working in private sector, a system of ‘Comprehensive Inspection Programme’ (CIP) was designed to assess the quality of the institute on various parameters such as infrastructure, quality of students’ intake, quality of faculty, pedagogy, performance in examination, on-board training and placement of students. An e-learning module was prepared to standardize the course material of these institutes, and provided free of cost to all Indian seafarers to allow them to upgrade their knowledge and skills before appearing for the examination. To ensure increase in the supply side, a 15-year-old ban on setting up of new training institutes or increasing the capacity of the existing training institutes was lifted with certain conditions.



While India has created a large capacity in imparting class room training for Merchant Navy, there has been a major constraint in providing on-board ship training for the students enrolled for class room training.

BREAKUP OF ONBOARD TRAINING			
SL NO	RANK DESCRIPTION	2017	2018
1	DECK CADET(NAUTICAL)	5469	5895
2	ENGINE CADET(ENGINEERING)	4120	5682
3	TRAINEE DECK RATINGS	2440	4560
4	TRANIEE SALOON RATINGS	1044	1273
5	TRAINEE ENGINE RATINGS	1234	2135
	TOTAL	14307	19545

A policy shift was made by holding the training institutes responsible for on-board ship training of the students also and not only for the class room training. To release more on-board ship training slots, it was decided to allow on-board training of officers and ratings on tugs and offshore vessels also. These two initiatives have opened additional berth for nearly 4000 trainees.

Growth in Supply of Indian Seafarer						
RANK	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
NATUICAL OFFICERS	26742	28805	30520	33346	34417	40897
NATUICAL RATINGS	36910	44548	49144	56916	63520	97703
ENGINEERING OFFICERS	26995	28968	31377	35230	36760	44388

ENGINEERING RATINGS	13188	14769	15904	18448	19652	25811
TOTAL OFFICERS	53737	57773	61897	68576	71177	85285
TOTAL RATINGS	50098	59317	65048	75364	83172	123514
TOTAL	103835	117090	126945	143940	154349	208799

Major regulatory relaxation was brought for obtaining Indian Continuous Discharge Certificate (CDC) which is a pre-requisite for employment on vessels. A new liberalized CDC regime was introduced in 2017 which allowed 10th pass Indian citizens who had completed a 14-day basic maritime course to obtain Indian CDC. Earlier, they were required to complete at least 6 months training for obtaining CDC. Many seafarers having past experience in sailing have succeeded in procuring Indian CDC. More than 70,000 CDCs have been issued under new rules in the year 2018-19 itself.

NP/MS/MS

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