

भारत सरकार/ GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
पत्तन,पोत परिवहन और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय /
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS
नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F. N.20-12/1/2020-TRG-DGS (Comp. No. 3732)

Dated: 01.12.2025

ORDER

1. Whereas, the Directorate General of Shipping (hereinafter referred to as “the Directorate”) is vested with statutory authority under the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, as amended and the MS (STCW) Rules, 2014, as amended, to approve and regulate Maritime Training Institutes (MTIs) and to ensure that the training, certification and watchkeeping standards for seafarers in India are maintained in continuous compliance with national regulations and India’s obligations under the STCW Convention, 1978 as amended, and ensuring that standards of maritime education are maintained at the highest level, so as to safeguard the interest of candidates undergoing maritime training, promote India’s global reputation in maritime manpower supply, preserve safety of life and property at sea, ensuring safe navigation and to adopt the best practices to preserve marine environment.

2. Whereas, Sri Nandhanam College of Engineering and Technology (hereinafter referred to as “SN CET” or “the MTI”), bearing MTI ID 414046, located at Nandhanam Nagar, Molagarampatti, Tirupattur District, Tamil Nadu – 635602, operating under Sri Nandhanam Educational and Social Welfare Trust represented by its Chairman Shri PMN Mohan Krishnaa, was initially granted approval by the Directorate on 01.01.2018 to conduct the GP Rating Course for one batch per year, with an intake of 40 candidates, subject to satisfactory and absolute compliance with the mandatory conditions including construction of a swimming pool, obtaining approval for five STCW basic modular courses and compliance with the MS STCW Rules, applicable DGS Orders, Training Circulars, and guidelines governing maritime training; and whereas several subsequent approvals/extensions were issued during 2019–2021 with the same mandatory conditions reiterated each time.

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3. Whereas, the Directorate issued Approval No. TR/A/02/2022 dated 01.06.2022 mandating that the MTI shall construct a swimming pool within its premises on or before 31.05.2025, pursuant to the MTI's own undertaking dated 12.05.2022, and specifically reiterating that compliance with this infrastructural requirement was indispensable for continued approval; and whereas this condition remains wholly unfulfilled by the MTI, even as on the date of this order.

4. Whereas, the requirement to construct a swimming pool within the MTI premises has been repeatedly upheld by the Hon'ble High Court of Madras in multiple proceedings initiated by the MTI, including W.P. Nos. 35003 and 35005 of 2019. Further, the Hon'ble High Court, in W.P. No. 22444 of 2024 (order dated 13.08.2024), again directed the MTI to construct a swimming pool with 18 feet depth on or before May 2025, and subsequently, in W.M.P. No. 7440 of 2025, by order dated 13.03.2025, rejected the MTI's request for an extension of three years, thereby reaffirming that the timelines mandated by the statutory authority for swimming pool construction cannot be diluted; which have not been complied with by the MTI. Accordingly, the MTI's continuous and intentional failure to construct the swimming pool stands judicially established and pronounced as a sustained and material non-compliance or violation.

5. Whereas, the cumulative effect of the above judicial proceedings clearly establishes that the MTI has, over several years, (i) repeatedly failed to construct the swimming pool despite its own undertakings; (ii) made false assurances before the Court and the Directorate; (iii) repeatedly sought dilution or postponement of mandatory Directorate's requirements; and (iv) continued to admit students and seek approvals without satisfying this fundamental infrastructure requirement essential for safety and STCW compliance, and that the Hon'ble High Court has consistently upheld the Directorate's mandate and rejected all attempts by the MTI to avoid compliance.

6. Whereas, inspections visits, correspondence with the MTI revealed deficiencies both major and minor in nature; and also the MTI did not undergo the mandatory Comprehensive Inspection Programme (CIP) since 2019, in violation of Directorate's [DGS] Orders numbered, 25 of 2013, 23 of 2014 and 04 of 2016.

7. Whereas, despite repeated directions, opportunities of fair hearing and opportunities to rectify the non-conformities and violations, the MTI had been conducting *unauthorized* GP Rating batches in **2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024**, without the prerequisite approval from the Directorate, and admitted students


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without ensuring compliance with DGS Orders and STCW requirements; and whereas the issue of unauthorized batches, manipulation of student data, and associated violations were subject to judicial scrutiny in several writ petitions before the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, including W.P. No. 23712 of 2021, WMP No. 9846 of 2022, W.P. No. 16109 of 2024, WMP No. 17639 of 2024, W.A. No. 2113 of 2024, W.P. No. 22444 of 2024 and W.P. No. 23104 of 2024.

8. Whereas, pursuant to directions issued by the Hon'ble High Court in the above matters, the Directorate reviewed the MTI's submissions, afforded an opportunity of personal hearing on 08.08.2024, and thereafter issued a **Speaking Order dated 14.08.2024**, wherein the Directorate rejected Application No. 100592, declared the July–December 2024 GP Rating batch unauthorized, directed the MTI to withdraw the unauthorized batch and refund the fees collected from the students, and reiterated that retrospective approvals were impermissible in law.

9. Whereas, subsequently, the Hon'ble High Court of Madras, vide **judgment dated 22.11.2024** in **W.P. Nos. 23104 and 24879 of 2024**, categorically recorded factual findings that SNCET had conducted unauthorized batches, failed to comply with statutory conditions, admitted students without Directorate's approval, sought retrospective approvals contrary to Directorate's administrative and the applicable statutory framework, and repeatedly failed to submit required statutory documents demonstrating compliance and rectification of the violations and nonconformities, and the Hon'ble Court had time and again upheld the position of the Directorate.

10. Whereas, vide DGS letter dated 14.11.2024, the Directorate recorded that the MTI had failed to remit the mandatory **1% annual fee** in accordance with DGS Order 05 of 2016, DGS Order 07 of 2016, Training Manual [DGS Circular no. 31 of 2021] and Training Circular 9 of 2013, and that the payment belatedly made on 14.10.2024 did not cure the continuing violation; and whereas subsequent email reminders dated 16.07.2025 and 17.07.2025 called upon the MTI to furnish proof of payment of 1% fees for 2021–22 and 2022–23, and noted that payment for 2024–25 remained pending, but the MTI failed to submit the proof of payment.

11. Whereas, vide Order dated 10.06.2025, the Directorate directed the MTI to (i) withdraw the unauthorized GP Rating batches (ii) refund all fees collected from the students enrolled in those unauthorized batches, and (iii) furnish proof thereof within the prescribed time of 15 days; and whereas the MTI did not comply with any part of this Order.

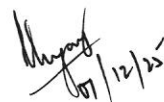
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12. Whereas, in view of continuing serious and major non-compliances, the Directorate issued a **Show Cause Notice dated 13.10.2025**, setting out violations of Sections 7, 78, 87, 88, 98, 456, 457 and 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958, Rule 75 of the MS (STCW) Rules, 2014, and various applicable DGS Orders and Training Circulars, and calling upon the MTI to show cause why approvals should not be withdrawn; and whereas the MTI's reply dated 25.10.2025 and other representations were examined in detail.

13. Whereas, after a detailed scrutiny of the MTI's reply and supplementary representations, it was recorded that the MTI had not addressed the substantive issues raised in the Show Cause Notice, and that although the reply was submitted within the prescribed time, it was defensive, argumentative in nature, and devoid of factual or documentary evidence of compliance; and it is further noted that each of the allegations recorded in the SCN including (i) non-construction of the swimming pool, (ii) conduct of unauthorized batches during 2021–2024, (iii) non-refund of fees to students, (iv) non-payment of 1% annual fee for multiple years, (v) non-conduct of mandatory CIP since 2019, and (vi) continued existence of major infrastructural, and statutory deficiencies remained unrebutted by proof, and that the MTI relied solely on unsupported assertions, general arguments, and references to pending representations rather than furnishing any evidence of actual compliance; and therefore concluded that the MTI's reply was unsatisfactory, failed to discharge the burden cast upon the MTI under the SCN.

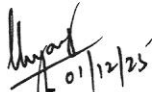
14. Having considered the entire material on record, including the MTI's reply, past and continuing violations, judicial findings, inspection records, statutory provisions, Directorate's Orders, Training Circulars, and having found that the MTI has consistently failed to comply with conditions set forth in the Approval No. TR/A/02/2022 dated 01.06.2022, statutory and regulatory requirements, conducted unauthorized batches over multiple years, failed to refund fees collected from students, failed to remit mandatory 1% annual fees, failed to develop required infrastructure including the swimming pool within the approved premises, failed to undergo the mandatory CIP, and has demonstrated persistent disregard for the regulatory framework governing maritime training, thereby adversely affecting student welfare and undermining national maritime training standards, the Directorate is satisfied that continuation of approvals is not in the interest of maritime training standards, safety, or administration.

15. Therefore, in exercise of powers vested under Sections 7, 78, 87, 88, 98, 456, 457 and 458 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 read with Rule 75 of the

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MS (STCW) Rules, 2014 and the applicable DGS Orders and Circulars and in accordance with the due procedure established under law, the competent and statutory authority, hereby orders as follows:

- (i) **All existing approvals granted to Sri Nandhanam College of Engineering and Technology (MTI No. 414046) for all DGS-approved courses, including GP Rating, ETO, BST, STSDSD and any other course, are hereby withdrawn/cancelled with immediate effect.**
- (ii) **The presently ongoing CCMC batch shall continue to remain validly approved only until the date of its course completion and exit examinations, after which the approval shall stand ceased automatically, without any further orders.**
- (iii) The MTI, its Trust and management are **hereby debarred for a period of five (05) years** from conducting any business with the Directorate, submitting any application seeking approval, renewal, expansion, revival or revalidation for any maritime training course.
- (iv) The MTI shall **immediately refund** all fees collected from candidates enrolled in the unauthorized GP Rating batches of 2021, 2022, 2023 and 2024, and shall furnish individual proof of refund to the Directorate.
- (v) The MTI shall remit all pending **1% annual fees** for relevant years along with **penal interest @18% per month** as per DGS Orders 05/2016 and 07/2016.
- (vi) The MTI's access to the DGS e-Governance portal shall be **blocked forthwith**, and all batch uploads, certificate processes and related functionalities shall remain disabled.
- (vii) The MTI shall furnish complete student lists, contact details and records for all candidates admitted from 2021-2024 to enable the Directorate to take necessary student protection measures.
- (viii) The Directorate reserves the right to initiate further civil, administrative or criminal proceedings as warranted under applicable law.
- (ix) This Order shall come into force with immediate effect.


(Shyam Jagannathan)
Director General of Shipping

To,
Shri PMN Mohan Krishnaa, Chairman,
Sri Nandhanam College of Engineering and Technology (MTI No.414046),
Sri Nandhanam Maritime Academy, Nandhanam Nagar, Molagarampatti,
Tirupattur Taluk, Tirupattur,
Tamil Nadu - 635 602.

Copy to:

1. The Secretary to the Govt. of India, the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, GoI, New Delhi.
2. Principal Officer, Mercantile Marine Department, Anchore Gate building, 2nd Floor, P.B.No. 5004, Rajaji Salai, Chennai-600 001.
3. The Board of Examinations for Seafarers Trust, 1007 & 1008, 10th Floor, NMS Titanium, Plot No.74, Sector-15, CBD Belapur, Navi Mumbai - 400 614.
4. E-Governance Branch to display on DGS website.