

# Anglo-Eastern Maritime Academy commissions biogas plant



Shipping, on 9 June. The event coincided with the prize distribution ceremony for the graduate mechanical engineers of the fifth batch. Anglo-Eastern Maritime Academy trains 40 students in each batch of graduate mechanical engineers who undergo eight months of marine engineering bridging course prior to joining merchant navy as trainee marine engineer. The batches commence in February, June and October of every year.

Dr SP Kale, senior scientist at Bhabha Atomic Research Centre who designed the plant, was the guest of honour at the function attended by the top officials and faculty of AEMA. Dr. Agnihotri, in his inaugural speech, stressed the importance of implementing MARPOL rating for areas other than the traditional ones. The hostel and kitchen of maritime institutes, for instance, must be subjected to MARPOL rating. He also laid emphasis on the behavioural aspects of the cadets and engineers who pass out from institutes to become officers in the merchant navy.

Dr. Agnihotri said it is not enough to just pay lip service to the cause of environment. He suggested that one

Anglo-Eastern Maritime Academy (AEMA) has commissioned a biogas plant in its sprawling campus in Karjat near Mumbai. This is the first time in the country that a maritime educational institute has taken such

an epoch-making environment initiative as setting up a waste-to-energy unit. The Nisargruna Biogas Plant, as it is called, was inaugurated by Dr SB Agnihotri, Director General of



Dr SP Agnihotri DGS

Dr Sharad Kale Sr Scientist BARC

Capt. Pradeep Chawla MD Anglo Eastern

Captain KN Deboo Director AEMTC

Capt. Pawan Gupta Principal AEMA

can set an example by planting a tree while celebrating one's birthday, and caressing it for the rest of one's life.

Dr. Kale, in his keynote address earlier, reminisced how his teacher gave him a sapling and asked him to plant it on his first day in the school. He was to look after the tree for his remaining years in the school. Dr. Kale said, amid applause, that the gigantic full-grown tree will compensate for the fresh air he breathes every day.

He made a presentation on recycling waste and recapitulated how he set up a desiccator, a sealed enclosure containing a money plant and a fixed quantity of moisture, ten years ago which still exists. He said there is nothing called waste in the world; everything is a resource. Dr. Kale called upon the young students to be responsible towards the environment while carrying on their duty.

Pradeep Chawla, director, quality assurance and training, asked the

graduate engineers whether they think they are engineers at heart. The other dignitaries who graced the occasion included Capt KN Deboo, director and principal, Anglo-Eastern Maritime Training Centre, Pawan Gupta, principal, Anglo-Eastern Maritime Academy, Mr. Mahesh Subramanian, Vice Principal - AEMA and Birender Verma, administrator superintendent, Anglo-Eastern Maritime Academy.

After the inauguration of the plant, Dr. Kale, under whose leadership it was patented, demonstrated its functioning to the gathering that comprised guests as well as members of the press. Dr. Agnihotri, who earlier worked in the renewable energy department as a civil servant, displayed his grasp of the energy plant by explaining various issues involved.

Earlier, prizes for the best students were distributed at the function, held in the auditorium, by Dr. Agnihotri, who also

inspected the hostel block. The first phase of development of the 20-acre plot, situated at the foothill of Sahyadri mountains, entails the facility to accommodate around 360 students.

It also includes an academic block, administrative block, a multipurpose hall, mess and dining hall, faculty residences, club house, gymnasium, basket ball and volley ball courts, swimming pool and a huge manmade lake for boating activities. The Academy, which commenced operations in mid-2009, guarantees on-board training slots to all the students on successful passing of the pre-sea course and subsequent employment on one of its ships. At the end of the day's programme, chief guests interacted with the prize-winning students and the faculty while being treated to a sumptuous lunch prepared by the hostel chef.

