



## IMO Honours for Exceptional Bravery at sea

[Source: BS](#)

Captain Avhilash Rawat and his crew from an oil tanker have received the **2024 [International Maritime Organisation \(IMO\) Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea](#)**.

- They were honoured for their "determination and endurance" during a rescue mission in the [Red Sea](#), where they faced a serious fire after their ship was hit by an anti-ship missile believed to be fired by [Iranian-backed Houthi rebels](#).
- The IMO annually invites nominations from member countries to honour seafarers for exceptional bravery at sea who were reviewed by an Assessment Panel of experts.
  - The panel's recommendations were then reviewed by a Panel of Judges chaired by the [Chairperson of the IMO Council](#).
  - The final recommendations led to prestigious recognitions being bestowed on Indian seafarers.
- The annual awards ceremony will be held at **IMO Headquarters in London** on 2nd December 2024 during the **109th session of the Maritime Security Committee**.
- The IMO, a specialised agency of the UN, regulates shipping and prevents marine pollution from ships. It was established in 1948 after a **UN conference in Geneva and officially came into existence in 1958**. It has 175 Member States, three Associate Members, India became a member in 1959.
  - The IMO's main role is to create a **fair and effective regulatory framework for the shipping industry** that is universally adopted and implemented. Additionally, IMO celebrates **World Maritime Day every last Thursday of September** to emphasise the importance of shipping and maritime activities.

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**Read more: [Escalating Threat in Red Sea, India Re-elected to International Maritime Organisation Council](#)**

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