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## Editorial

As we approach the beginning of the festive season, we wish our readers a happy Diwali and a happy Christmas.

The International Coastal Clean up in September / October was carried out with great enthusiasm and meticulous planning in Pune and other cleanup sites in India.

An IMF seminar on 'Security Management of India's Seaborne Traffic and Offshore Installations' was held on 25 September 2014 and received a very good response.

The Navy has always been regarded as the Senior Service in Britain. By contrast, in India we have traditionally looked up to the Army as the Senior Service, or perhaps the only service until the beginning of WW II. But with the information that has come to light, the debate about the 'seniority' of the services is sure to take an interesting twist. Mr John Long has written an article about the Memorial in Alrewas, Staffordshire, UK, where there are two separate memorial plates – one for the Indian Army and the other for the Royal Indian Navy, (Why was the army not called the Royal Indian Army, one wonders). The Army plaque covers the period 1746 to 1857 (The Honourable East India Company) and 1857 to 1947 (The Crown). The Navy plaque covers an unbroken period from 1612 to 1947.

Incredible as it may sound, the Navy appears to have a seniority of 134 years over the Army.

The date of birth of the Indian Marine (also known as the Hon East India Company's Marine) is generally accepted as 5th September 1612, when a squadron of British ships arrived off Surat.

We are looking forward to an interesting exchange of views on this subject.

Some good news - The International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), has announced that the total Green House Gas emissions from global maritime transport are estimated to have been over 20% lower in 2012 than in 2007.

The global shipping industry, which transports by sea around 90% of all world trade, is thought to have produced only about 2.2% of the world's total GHG emissions during 2012 compared to 2.8% in 2007.

This is the centenary year of the WWI. To mark the occasion, the IMF arranged a screening of the movie *All Quiet on the Western Front* at the Boat club in Pune. We are also giving more coverage to the two world wars, (and consequently slightly more weightage to the 'Defence' section) in this issue to remember and honour the brave soldiers of both sides who fought in these wars.

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### NOTICE BOARD

- 09 Nov 14** : Remembrance Day . Wreath Laying Ceremony at Bund Garden, Pune.  
Chief Guest Capt S Krshnamurthi, Former President, The Nautical Institute, London
- 23 Nov 14** : Junior SIMA 'On the Spot' Seascapes Competition, Empress Garden, Pune
- 21 Dec14** : IMF's 21st Anniversary. Lecture and Dinner, Central Park Hotel, Pune.  
Chief Guest and Speaker Dr Murad Lala, Everest Summiteer (2013).
- End Dec 14** : Inauguration of IMF's Museum and Library by Mr Lal Chellaram at  
Deccan College, Pune. Lunch at Hotel Pancharatna.
- First Week of  
Feb 2015** : Formal Release of 80th Issue of Seagull

## Letters to the Editor

### Sailing between Karachi to Bombay

Sir,

The above article in the Aug-Oct '14 edition of Seagull, by Ajmal Kamal, was interesting and well-written. Perhaps Mr Kamal should be persuaded to next put his imagined voyage from Karachi-Dwarka to Cox's Bazaar to paper; that would be good to read, too, allowing members and other readers to share their own dreams, or input other delectable details, to add and make it even more colourful!

Sad, it seemed, that the article ended a bit abruptly, with his friend's letter alerting him about the last voyage of the 'Dwarka'.

Sincerely,

**Satish Hardas,**

**Pune**

### Is the Tide Turning?

Sir,

When I received my copy of the 78th issue of SeaGull I checked to see whether my letter titled 'Do Indians Not Care?' had been published. It had. And next to this letter on the same page was another letter from a Capt. Vincent Howard. This seemed to reinforce what I had said in my letter that it was mainly foreign readers who wrote letters. Then I looked at the previous page of the magazine and found that there were 4 letters, three of which were from Indians. And what interesting letters they were. Hence out of 6 letters in this issue there were 4 from Indians and it seems I had already been proved wrong. I was quite delighted.

So is the tide turning and are Indians beginning to write letters too, or is this just a flash in the pan? As the wise one says 'Only time will tell'.

**Regards,**

**Commander Sati Taneja**

**Pune**

### Convoy Light

Sir,

Once again, many thanks for the Seagull which I much enjoyed. Your generosity merits my singing for my supper but I doubt that my performance would provide a reward; quite the reverse. However, I do have a signal story that might be useful to fill a small blank space in a future edition of the magazine. Most of the best stories were already given in Jackie Broom's book "Make a Signal" but this is post-Broom and may amuse.

"In 1969 a young Captain went to join his frigate in the Far East and was soon involved in a major fleet exercise led by the Commander-in Chief. At one point, all ships were ordered to be completely darkened and to use only short range radar. Now, British ships have a small light fitted into the stern, known as a "Convoy Light", so that in conditions of radio/radar silence there would still remain some small indicator to avoid collisions. Unfortunately, this had been left on in the newly-joined Captain's ship. The C-in-C, checking his Fleet through binoculars, noticed the light and sent a signal saying "There is a bloody great light shining out of your backside!" Quick as a flash, the reply came "Could it be the sun, Sir?"

**Vincent Howard**

**Barton Stacy, Winchester, UK**

### Obituary –

Dr Shanti Patel

Eminent freedom-fighter, veteran trade unionist and former parliamentarian Shanti Patel died in Mumbai recently. He was 93. He is survived by his son Yatin and daughters Mrinal and Minal. Patel was associated with the shipping industry for over six decades and was a trustee of Mumbai Port Trust for 62 years. He served as the President of National Union of Seafarers of India (NUSI) for over 40 years till his death and also as the Mayor of Mumbai in 1970-71. During his stewardship of NUSI, Patel championed the cause of workers and sailors movement nationally and internationally, especially the seafarers.

*Courtesy: IANS and Zee News*