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SeaGull is Published by

The Indian Maritime Foundation : 1/402, Gera Gardens,
Koregaon Road, Pune- 411001.

Tel. : 91-20-26132316.

Designed & Printed by - www.ornateindia.co.in

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Editorial

This is the centenary year of the First World War. Seagull will continue to publish stories and articles covering the great war during this centenary year. Our interest in WWI stems from the fact that India was deeply involved in this war. India contributed more soldiers than Australia, New Zealand and South Africa combined. More than 100,000 Indian soldiers were killed or wounded in this war. Indian troops won about 13,000 gallantry medals, including an astonishing 11 Victoria Cross Honours. These little known facts are extracted from the article, '13 Things You Didn't Know about India's Contribution to WW I', which we are publishing in this issue of SeaGull.

IMF's Delhi seminar on 'Ensuring Secure Seas for a Resurgent Nation' was a grand success and was attended by eminent serving and retired personnel including the former Chief of Naval Staff Admiral VS Shekhawat and Dr Manoj Joshi, India's foremost strategy expert.

The events organized by IMF in Pune during the last quarter were the Annual Wreath Laying Ceremony at Seafarers Memorial and release of SeaGull 80th issue. An exhibition of seascapes by the Society of Marine Artists (a wing of IMF) was held in Pune and was well attended by the general public.

As reported earlier, IMF has launched an initiative to give a fellowship grant to selected research scholars for conducting research on a maritime related subject. The First scholar has already received the grant and has commenced his project. IMF is now in the process of selecting the second scholar.

The future of Mumbai's dying docks and the adjacent areas owned by Mumbai/Bombay Port Trust is a subject dear to the heart of not only the residents of Mumbai but to all seafarers who were connected with Mumbai harbour in one way or another. We fervently hope that the Vision Document prepared by APLI Mumbai will become a reality some day.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 'Make in India' push is beginning to have a noticeable impact on shipping, especially the shipbuilding sector. Following the undocking of the first of the Scorpene submarines, the Mazagon Docks is set to build five more of the Scorpene series in collaboration with DCNS of France. It is expected that the other shipyards, both in private and public sector, will also get a significant boost. There are reports that UK is considering building its warships in India with one of the private Indian shipyards.

The cover page of the SeaGull shows the Offshore Patrol Vessel *Barracuda* built for the Mauritian Coast Guard by the Garden Reach Shipbuilders & Engineers, Kolkata. The vessel was recently commissioned by the Prime Minister Narendra Modi during his visit to Mauritius. This was a landmark event that augurs well for the future of the Indian shipbuilding yards.

We take this opportunity to pay our tribute to Air Chief marshal H Moolgavkar who passed away recently in

NOTICE BOARD

- 27 May 15 : 4th India Shipbuilding Executive Summit, New Delhi.
Jointly sponsored by Siemens PLM Software India, IMF, ASNE and ABS.
- 21 Jun 15 : International Seafarers Day. Joint event with CMMI and IME, Oasis Hotel, Pune.
- 01 Aug 15 : Seagull 82nd Issue.
- 01 Nov 15 : Seagull 83rd Issue
- 05 Nov 15 : IMF's Annual Seminar on "Indigenisation in the Maritime Domain and Implementing the Challenges of 'Make in India' ", Central Park Hotel, Pune
- 15 Nov 15 : Remembrance Day, Wreath Laying Ceremony, Bund Garden, Pune
- 22 Nov 15 : Junior SIMA Painting Competition, Empress Garden, Pune.
- 20 Dec 15 : IMF's 22nd Anniversary Lecture and Dinner, Central Park Hotel, Pune.

Letters to the Editor

Concordia Verdict and ISM

Sir,

The Italian court's verdict of 16 years in jail for Francesco Schettino, the captain of the *Costa Concordia*, was sad day for IMO and the worldwide shipping community.

According to the Italian court officials, Captain Schettino was convicted of the manslaughter of 32 passengers and crew by causing the capsizing and shipwreck and abandoning the ship while many of the 4200 passengers and crew were still on board.

The sentence is in strong contrast to a similar case in the UK after the capsizing of the *Herald of Free Enterprise* in Zeebrugge in 1987, where 193 lives were lost. In this case, too, serious negligence on the part of the crew was identified. But the accident inquiry, led by Mr Justice Sheen, did not stop at identifying the shortcomings of the Master and the crew. The inquiry considered that the company's

shore management was just as blameworthy.

Consequently, no members of the crew were sent to jail, but were suspended from duty for 1-3 years.

The formidable gap between the Italian and British judgment of the captain's responsibilities is an indication that the seamen's unions have a long way to go to protect their members from criminalization of accidents.

It is also an indication that an overhaul of the ISM Code as a whole is overdue.

According to the Code it is the company who is responsible for establishing procedures to ensure safe operations of the vessel. There is now reason to question whether all shipowners are serious in their implementation of the Code's requirements.

Arne Sagen MNI
Sandvika, Norway
Courtesy: Seaways

Obituary - Air Chief Marshal H Moolgavkar



**Remembrance Day (2009) -
 Air Chief Marshal H Moolgavkar with
 Cmde R Vir .**

We are saddened to report the passing away of Air Chief Marshal H Moolgavkar, former Chief of Air Staff in April 2015. He was 95. ACM Moolgavkar was a World War 2 veteran and an ace pilot of the IAF, having flown a record 67 types of aircraft ranging from Tiger Moths and Hurricanes to MIG 21 and Sukhoi 22s. He was a recipient of the Maha Vir Chakra during the Kashmir operations in 1948. After retiring in 1978 he came to live in Pune.

ACM Moolgavkar was appreciative of the work the IMF was doing in raising maritime awareness and he honored us with his presence unfailingly at most of the Foundation's events at Pune, especially at our annual Remembrance Day ceremony and at our seminars. We often went to him for guidance and advice which he gave happily and not without infusing pride and enthusiasm in us. He became one of us and we miss him for his friendly, polite, and charming demeanor, whenever he was with us. May God rest his soul in peace.

Cmde R Vir,
President IMF