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# A Rising Need To Guard Against Trials By Social Media

- Kamal Chadha

It is with growing alarm and frustration that many have watched a company that has the honour of having bagged over many years, several awards of the highest repute in the shipping industry, being maligned blatantly and without let on social media.

The company I am referring to is a leading entity of the global shipping industry, one that employs as well as trains seafarers in the thousands, is a veteran of an industry that transports over 90% of goods around the world, and has a global presence with offices in several international capitals.

The perpetrators of this 'trial on social media' are the relatives, friends or sympathizers of a seafarer who died aboard a ship, and who appear to be not entirely satisfied with the company's enquiry into the death of the said seafarer.

The malicious video doing the rounds on social media however, would to most of us appear obviously concocted, with totally dubious captions, and unrelated imagery. But a large segment of people might be easily misled by its content and for a variety of reasons fall prey to the falsehood therein.



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The attempt is quite apparently to besmirch the reputation of a company with whom the perpetrator has reason to be dissatisfied in some manner. But the

manner in which social media is being used in this case, to put up baseless allegations and thereby bring pressure on the company to make concessions of some sort, can

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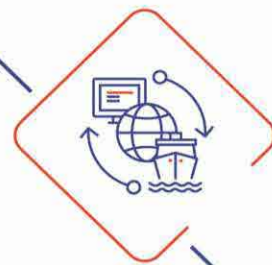
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# The Marex International Maritime Women-Empowerment Conference & Awards 2023

Gender Equality in Maritime: How to Scale up the Pace of Change

Thursday, 18th May 2023 | Mumbai, India



## International Day for Women in Maritime

The UN International Maritime Organization adopted in 2021 a resolution to designate May 18th as International Day for Women in Maritime. The move is in tandem with IMO's commitment to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (to achieve gender equality and empower all women & girls) and support work to address the current gender imbalance in maritime.

The day of observance celebrates women in the industry and is intended to promote the recruitment, retention, and sustained employment of women in the maritime sector, and raise the profile of women in the field. 2023 will be the 2nd celebration of this important day.

## Goals

- To raise awareness of the importance of Gender Equality, in line with the UN SDGs
- To encourage discussions for Gender Equality in the maritime space, along with the threats to Gender Equality
- To Increase and speed up efforts to achieve Gender Equality
- To facilitate sharing of success stories of women in the marine sector
- The event is a tribute to the vibrant women workforce of the maritime industry, and a recognition of the contributions of women in the ports, logistics, shipbuilding, shipping, ship management, ship manning, seafaring, unions, education & training, legal, shipping commerce, national Coast Guards, Navies, fishing, shipbuilding, maritime media and ship demolition domains, across the globe.

## Highlights

- ✦ Thoughtfully curated expert sessions and panel discussions
- ✦ Gathering of women from across the maritime sectors
- ✦ Women of prominence present themselves on the ramp - 'Walk of Success'
- ✦ Awards & Recognitions

## Marex Media

"Marex Media is pleased to organise and host this specially curated Conference & Awards ceremony for the 2nd time. This event brings industry leaders, especially women, on a platform that enables them to share their thoughts on hastening the pace of change for women in the industry.



**Capt Karmal Chadha**  
Managing Director

The awards ceremony will recognize women achievers who have made an exceptional mark and also paved a way for more women to join the industry. This year's celebration includes a ramp presentation of successful maritime women, titled: 'Walk of Success.'"

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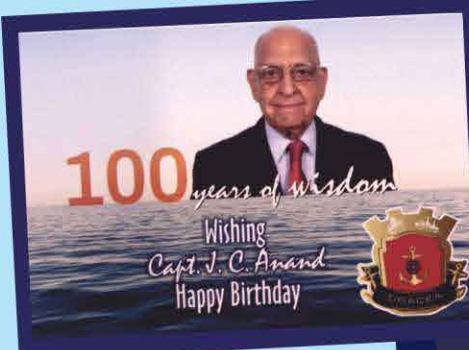
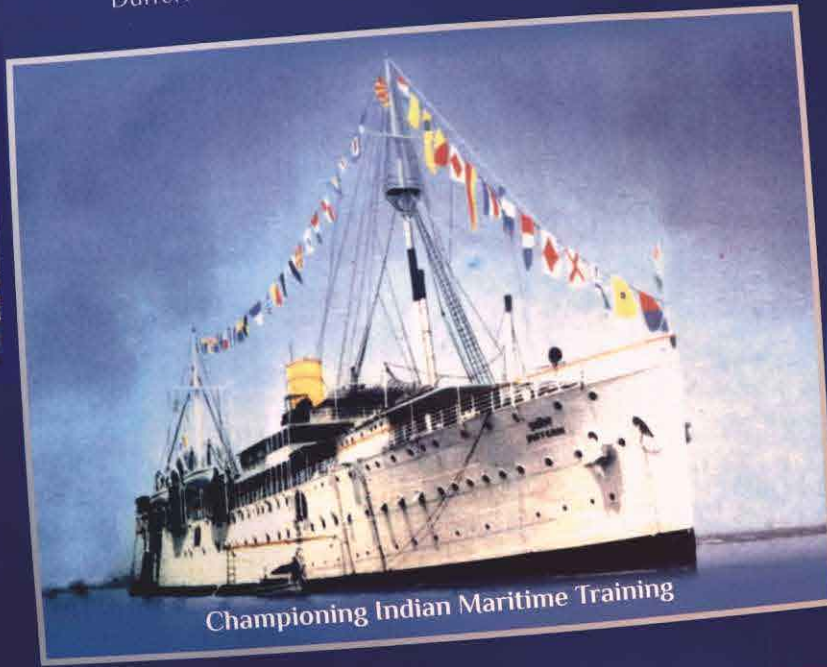
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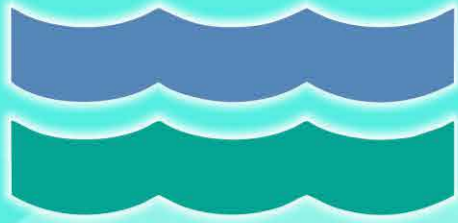
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lead to perhaps not only wrecking the careers of people of high standing, but also pile disrepute on the entire shipping industry, and not to mention, bring grief to the seafarers who were onboard the ship when the incident occurred.

The Indian seafaring industry is a well-established one, with over 250,000 active seafarers, and all set to double these numbers by 2025. More than 200 companies employ merchant navy seafarers from India who work aboard ships and in company offices at very lucrative earnings that allow for a fairly upmarket lifestyle. It is a profession that makes Indians and India proud to be part of, and fetches huge monetary benefits to the nation's economy.

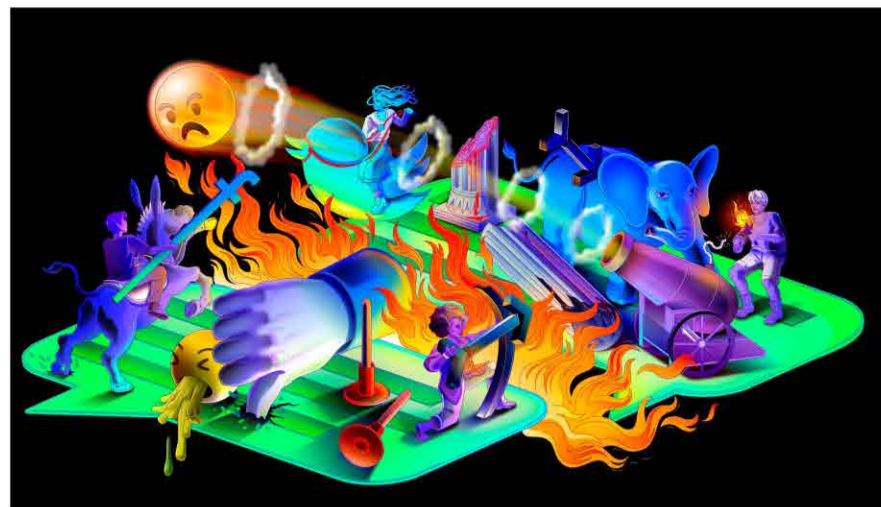
The seafaring (or shipmanning) industry functions under a plethora of local, national and international laws, rules & regulations. In fact many feel that it is probably the most regulated industry in the world.

Despite the robust regulatory frameworks in place however, incidents involving seafarers,

unfortunately, may happen on board. Loss of life or serious injury to a loved one is hard on the family. However, resorting to social media to settle scores, and cast aspersions on organizations and their employees, does not do justice to the reputation of thousands of seafarers who man the ships, and their employers. The seafaring profession is amongst the most noble and deserves to be treated with greater dignity, fairness and respect.

However, reputation assaults on social media are too easy, can be effortlessly carried out as an alternative to fair and lawful means, and can embarrass extensively the victims who may have little or no recourse to their defence on social mediums. Moreover, the very nature of the worldwide web allows perpetrators of wrong doing on social mediums to carry on with their assaults without fear of legal reprisals.

The tools available today to create content and broadcast it on social media are so deadly efficient, that



it's becoming harder and harder to figure out what is real and what is fake. It behoves us all, therefore, to filter all social media messages through our intelligence & knowledge before giving in to the temptation of clicking 'Forward'. After all, it is not only the reputations of individuals, but also of companies that provide livelihood to thousands, and an entire industry, that are at stake.

Leading industry bodies MASSA & FOSMA, whose member-lines provide employment to over 70% of the Indian seafarers serving in the global arena, have expressed

serious concern and anguish at such irresponsible attacks in the social media.

They are of the opinion that such attacks only serve to drive a negative and adverse perception of the industry, and cause damage to the reputation of about 250,000 Indian seafarers who make an honest living and keep the global supply chains running.

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# Emerging Changes & Challenges Discussed at NMD Seminar

**A**s part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations of the Indian Maritime world, a hybrid seminar was conducted in Mumbai, titled “New India - New Tonnage”, the latter 'new' pertaining to the challenges of the new emissions reduction regulations, emergent fuels, and digitalization.

Held at the premises of the Indian Register of Shipping on the 3rd of April, it formed a discussion segment of the National Maritime Week, which had begun last week with the Merchant Navy flag-pinning ceremony at the Raj Bhavan in Mumbai. Governor of Maharashtra, Shri Ramesh Bais accepted the honours.

Speaking at the seminar, the Session Chair, Mr. Ajith Sukumaran, Chief Surveyor cum Additional Director General of Shipping, spoke of the challenges faced by Indian shipping. He said, “If we are to get the government to take up fleet expansion under the Indian flag as a priority we must approach them repeatedly, not just once a year on a celebratory day.

“Continuous hammering of our agenda is the way to do it. Piece meal projections and engaging the government in minor matters must be avoided.”

He also suggested that changes occurring in the emission reductions and new fuels must be taken up with alacrity. He said,



“I am not in favour of a lackadaisical approach, as these are times when opportunities are presenting themselves. We must seize them before others do, or we are once again left 2 steps behind. Let us be the first movers in all these emerging areas.”

Excellent presentations were made by Mr. Sunayan Sanatani of Gesco, Mr. Nikhil Raj of SCI, and Mr. Suhas Vhanmane of IRS.

The sessions were moderated by Capt MP Bhasin, Secretary General of CMMI; and Mr. Sanjeev V Mehra, Secretary General of IMEI.

Mr. Anil Devli, CEO of INSA spoke of the many difficulties faced by Indian shipowners in growing their fleets, and the difficult Indian tax regime that leaves them a very uneven playing field when it comes to competing with foreign tonnage. After years of apathy by the ministries and no viable solutions forthcoming in this context, the industry appears to have resigned itself to a state of near stagnancy for the foreseeable future.

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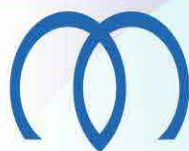
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# ZiffyHealth aims to deliver healthcare at Mid-Ocean

I am not sure whether to call it a nightmare or a horrific reality that I went through when I was the chief officer on V/I, M.T. Nord Sea, while it was navigating in the Australian East Coast and bound to Port Kembla.

At approximately 2 am, my cabin telephone suddenly rang for nearly 3 times and on the other side was a faint voice, seeking immediate help. As soon as I came to my senses I realized that it was my Captain. I rushed to his cabin and found that he was rolling all over on the floor while holding the left side of his chest very firmly.



He said that he was suffering from acute chest pain and needed immediate medical help. A spine-chilling feeling spread across my body as it dawned upon me that we, the seafarers, are medically vulnerable while in the deep sea. Immediately, I contacted MRCC and sought medical assistance. But the situation kept on worsening. After 3 hours of discussions and continual monitoring of the medical situation by HO, we decided to divert the ship to the nearest coastline for helicopter evacuation. Being the Chief Officer, I took over the command of the ship and remained in touch with the shore management team for further guidance and assistance.

The ship was more than 200 miles from the nearest coastline. Hence, we kept on proceeding ahead with max possible RPM. Luckily, after 5-6 hours of off-course steaming, the situation improved and as per HO instruction we managed to sign off the Master upon arrival to the 1st port of call.

That day, I decided to make seafarers medically safe as deep within the ocean as the shore. After a couple of years, I quit sailing, cleared my GMAT, and studied at Thunderbird School of Business Management, USA (No.1 in International Business Management) and at IIM Rohtak



to equip myself with the requisite skills to excel in the global business marketplace. Furthermore, I built a well-rounded team of 5 co-founders, possessing complementing skillsets and armed with education from premier institutes, i.e. IIT and IIM etc.

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the patient and can deep dive into health analytics. This diagnosis of the ailment and the treatment has become far more effective. The treatment result is close to 95% in comparison with conventional physical consultation. We have more than 200 Kiosks running on the ground, which have served more than 1,67,000 people in the last 18 months.



Now, the time has come to roll it out on all ships and achieve a sense of accomplishment by making our all fellow seafarers as medically safe as they are at home.

I am thrilled to share that with ZiffyHealth's 3-way video consulting, you can choose the doctor of your choice and connect with your family member for consulting. You can assist your family in conversations with doctors, monitor diagnostic reports and even medication. In other words, you can proudly say: **Door Hai Lekin Majboor Nahi!**



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# Solutions Offered to Contemporaneous Issues in Seafaring

- Delphine Estibeiro

**A**s part of the 60th National Maritime Day (NMD) celebrations, the NMD committee rightly selected the theme for their non-technical seminar – Contemporaneous Issues in Seafaring, which is indeed the need of the hour.

The seminar was held on 04th April at Maritime Training Institute (MTI), Powai in Mumbai. The cadets and distinguished guests attentively took heed to the eloquent presenters.

Appreciating the cadets for their mind-blowing performance at the recently concluded Maritime Awareness Walk, the Session Chair - Capt BK Tyagi, CMD, The Shipping Corporation of India Limited stated that today's topic is very relevant. He said, "Today, shipping is facing many challenges; mental health is one of the major concerns. We have to work focus on providing timely relief to our seafarers."

On fraudulent cases, Capt LK Panda, Former Nautical Advisor, Directorate General of Shipping emphasised, "There are many seafarers who get duped due to fraudulent agents. To avoid such incidents, the Directorate General of Shipping has uploaded an updated list of recognised RPSL companies and maritime training institutes on their website. Visit it and educate yourself before applying for a job."

Capt Tushar Pradhan, General Secretary, The Maritime Union of India (MUI) advised the pre-sea cadets, "Be strong emotionally. Listen to your seniors, they will guide you throughout your tour of duty."

"Lastly, please do not leave at an early stage of your career, become



a Master or Chief Engineer. As you mature over the years, you are in a better position to choose an upward progression in your career."

On mental health, Dr Deepti Mankad, said, "Mental health is no longer considered a taboo. We are seeing many companies investing in seafarers' mental health and wellness."

She urged the cadets to reach out to their budding seafarers, seniors or family members when they are facing any issues.

Speaking on Self-care and intervention, Paulomi Sudhir of NIMHANS is of the opinion that one should follow everyday mindfulness, which will be of great help to our wellbeing.

On Gender Diversity and Inclusiveness, Dr Prasad Shetty of 3Cubes Medicare articulated that gender sensitization is gradually progressing, where people are becoming more aware of gender equality and the need to eliminate gender discrimination.

Mr Ashish Sinha, IRS, Deputy Director General of Shipping and Ms Sonali Banjeree, Surveyor, Indian Register Shipping moderated the panel discussion.



The summation of the panel discussion spotlighted reaching out to seniors onboard if the seafarers faced any floundering. And also advised the cadets to be cautious of fraudulent agents and companies while applying for a job.

*Marex Media*



# 'Amrit Kaal' to open new boundaries that will lead to building Aatmanirbhar Bharat

- Delphine Estibeiro



'Amrit Kaal in Shipping' will open new boundaries to lead the building of Aatmanirbhar Bharat," said Mr Shantanu Thakur, Honourable Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India. He was talking at the Grand Finale of the 60th National Maritime Day celebration on 05th April at the scenic Domestic Cruise Terminal, Mumbai.

He further elaborated that Amrit Kaal's vision is to create opportunities with focus on youth, growth and job creation, and a stable macro-economic environment.



Mr SM Rai



Mr Rajiv Jalota



Mr Mark Harbers



Mr Shantanu Thakur





He spoke of the seven priorities, namely inclusive development, reaching the last mile, infrastructure and investment, unleashing the potential, green growth, youth power and financial progress that will make India rise as a shipping power globally.

In his address, Mr Rajiv Jalota, Director General of Shipping, and Chairman, Mumbai Port Authority, mentioned that there are various green initiatives taken up by the Indian Government to make India Aatmanirbhar.

The Chief Guest, Mr Mark Harbers, Honourable Minister for Infrastructure and Water Management, Kingdom of the Netherlands, articulated the need for sustainability in shipping and was impressed with India for its consistent efforts in boosting sustainable shipping.

“Let’s chart a course for successful maritime between the two nations,” concluded Mr Harbers.

Dr Pandurang Raut, Deputy Director General of Shipping and Member Secretary, NMDC (Central) Committee delivered the vote of thanks.

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- 3rd Rank** The Great Eastern Institutes of Marine Studies, Lonavla, District Pune, Maharashtra

**Category : Post-sea training institutes conducting Competency Courses.**

- 1st Rank** Hindustan Institute of Marine Training (HIMT), Kilpauk, Tamilnadu
- 2nd Rank** Mumbai Maritime Training Institute
- 3rd Rank** MASSA Maritime Academy, Navi Mumbai

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- Category: Shipboard berth between 1 to 500**
- 1st Rank** OSM Fleet Management (India) Pvt. Ltd
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