

## From the Editor's Desk

Seeing things through an open vision, in a broader perspective angle, with a clear mind, will yield better results. However hard the life at sea is, one should learn to be a real sailor when opted for it, adaptable to situations prevalent, live with unity and work as a team. Try to be cheerful and get along with others, within the limited manpower onboard for the contracted period. Accomplish the set of operations dutifully, efficiently, committed for smooth functioning and better turnaround of the vessel, while living with limitations and constraints out at sea, which boosts seafarers image.

**Discipline** needs to be the watchword, particularly while working with limitations and constraints in Materials, Machine, Men, varying sea/climatic conditions. Exhibit a good image of the nation to which you belong, at foreign port of entry. Discipline in the workplace was a sine qua non for the efficient working of any organization/set-up, which is an established truth. "Obedience" to authority in a workplace is not slavery, a commitment in accomplishing the goal/objective. It is not violative of one's natural rights. Harassment, bullying, victimizing, humiliating any individual onboard needs to be seriously viewed by any good ship management company, which is essential for the prosperity and well-being of the organization and as well as that of the employees onboard as a whole. (Captain, Officers and crew).

My valued readers are aware that there is unrest onboard owing to the continuing egoistic style of functioning by Captain, which the new breed of qualified hands cannot digest. The need for a justified action without bias and prejudice. Discrimination, Victimisation, neglect to basic needs of floating officers and crew (ratings) by the Senior Officers onboard (i.e. Captain/Chief Engineer/ Chief Officer/2<sup>nd</sup> Engineer,) leading to disharmony be avoided. Consequently fabricating allegations with malafide intentions against any officer or crew by the Shipping, Manning Company needs to be seriously viewed by the maritime administrations, instead encouraging them. It is imperative for the shipping/manning company to keep all floating staff onboard to their best of morale, live in harmony to meet emergent needs efficiently out at sea. Viewing the sorry state of affairs, reforms are needed to the established principles of policy and procedures, meeting to the changing times. Enforcement mechanism that is non-discretionary, transparent, simple and effective.

The need for a self-regulatory mechanism by the ship's captain, unlike those days, "My ship my order", "I am the King of this floating island" etc. All these egoistic expressions of the past, by unqualified merchant navy captains need to vanish, owing to the happenings of unrest out at sea, i.e. Captain of the ship found missing onboard, found dead in mysterious conditions and of late a Ship's Captain murdered onboard (Philippino captain of a 100,000 tonner). It is strongly believed, all this owing to the attitude of the swollen headed ship's captain who generally feels that they are not an employee, unlike other employed officers and crew, being the owner's representative as per M.S. Act to take decisions out at sea (which came into being those days, when communication to interact with the owners/corporate office of the relevant shipping company ashore was very poor).

Such a situation, exploited by Captain in command making good for their own selfish gain "making hay when the sun shines". Such abuse of power, being the cause for their egoistic, inhuman attitudes towards ship's crew, owing also to their poor academic and social backing as well. Technology has brought the world closer, also raised India's equity on the global radar. World Economies slowly taking recognition of the fact that India, taken giant strides in the field of IT, science and technology.

One can pause and think, how many of the Engine room crew, could turn out to be Chief/Marine Engineer, though in the olden days qualified Graduate Engineers sailed. Diploma engineers worked as 'Fitters' (PO's) with bare minimum prospects of promotion. MMD surveyors administered their office to their whims and fancies. Electrical Officer designate (wireman promote) had not to qualify even with an I.T.I. of the electrical trade, no hassles with MMD, enjoying full-fledged officer status onboard. In the state owned S.C.I. they even enjoyed senior officer status, to carry their family onboard during sailing. No one raised a finger at MMD, to point out this lacuna, other than the Mechanics Association formed in Port Blair, under Presidentship of Shri.M.R. Bhaktha, M. P., which was turned a deaf ear till date. While on the other hand, the utility hands of the Deck with their poor academic and social background had more opportunities to even turn-out as Captains, by merely passing exam. of set papers, which was the sorry state of affairs.

Owing to the fast changing times, its high time the Shipping/Management companies realize, to prepare the new breed of qualified Captain's mental frame-work, tune-up their mindset on ship's operational management for a congenial living atmosphere, for all onboard the vessel, to avoid any untoward incidents, thus keeping up the good image of their shipping company and as well as the nation, to which they belong. The emerging need is for an industrialized outlook in the Shipping Industry, rather than the old sailors adventurous outlook of the past, adapting trial and error methods. Advent of Computers/ Internet age enables one with the basic studies with initiative to interact quickly, on any topic or subject, (which is now very well exposed into Frankenstein proportions) thereby enrich their knowledge. Consequently one can now sit and pause to widen their thoughts into their own horizon of thinking and progress, in their line of interest. Those who had a quest for learning and kept to the times, are only competent for induction into academic institutions of learning and teaching and not those with the ornamental title holders qualified through set papers. This answers the short sighted and lop sided thought of a senior master mariner of the department, expressed on the new breed of qualified hands out at sea, said with fancy degrees.

Media needs to come out plain without any cosmetics on them, nor any interference to the freedom of the press. Privacy and Press deserves protection while "Privacy is good and the Free Press better" which is known to the enlightened, for early corrective actions, instead of allowing bad situation to grow/aggravate. Safety & Health of seafarers to be never compromised. Suppression to exposure of crimes, occurring out at sea, needs to be seriously viewed, with greater sense of humanity and commitment of responsibility, by the national and international maritime administration.

Dr. Chandran Peechulli

YOU MUST ACCEPT THE TRUTH FROM WHATEVER SOURCE IT COMES – MOSES BEN

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## BREAKING NEWS AROUND

- Shippers blast TSA warning
- Stellar year for Regional Container Lines
- Teekay boosted to record levels by spot market highs
- Transocean secures Shell offshore contracts
- Australia orders examination of coal port congestion
- Carriers plan Asian reefer rate increase
- Cheniere takes control of Corpus Christi LNG project
- Cosco Shipping revenues soar after fleet expansion
- Crewman injured after Spirit III fire
- Last-ditch attempt to amend criminalisation law
- SembCorp Marine bags ConocoPhillips FPSO contract
- Death sentence passed on leader of Limburg terror team
- Dibden Bay costs hit ABP profits
- Dry bulk boom drives Cosco Corp
- Ferry traffic disrupted at Calais after ramp collapses
- Fog blamed for high-speed ferry crash in Hong Kong
- Indonesia to unveil tender bid for Jakarta port
- IRI continues Asian expansion with Tokyo move
- Mitsubishi cuts profit forecast on steel supply worries
- Royal Caribbean debt rating gets Moody's upgrade
- Shippers blast TSA warning
- Singapore plans tax break for bunker suppliers
- Stellar year for Regional Container Lines
- Australia eyes direct Java service
- Barber warns of major manning shortage
- BP looks for 50% rise, in Trinidad & Tobago energy prodn.
- Brazilian boost to Australian iron ore negotiations.
- Bumper month for Chinese ports.
- Daewoo to build Nigeria FPSO for ChevronTexaco
- Fivefold profits rise puts wind in Noble Group sails
- Frontline pierces \$1bn mark
- JCE contract brings Keppel's 2005 order haul to \$453m
- Jinhui bags handymax bulkers from Allied Maritime
- Fog closes Bosphorus and Istanbul airport
- French court rejects Navibulgar pollution appeal
- Frontline and BP end VLCC agreement
- Future looks bright for Hardy syndicate
- Golar buys back Nkr4m worth of shares
- Gujarat Adani Ports to launch shipyard
- Handelsbanken offloads Finnlines stake
- IHI Marine opens new office in China
- Iraq to resume pumping northern oil this week
- Jet lag cited in Tauranga Chief grounding
- KBC raises CMB price target after vessel sales
- Kogas signs LNG supply deal with Shell
- Leif Höegh and Tractebel combine in US LNG venture
- Lloyds Register EMEA awards first ISPOcode certificate
- Normandie Express utilises Admiral routefinder
- Wärtsilä extends range of marine reduction gears
- Andrew Weir Shipping announces new bunkering service in South Atlantic
- Telenor Satellite Services acquires Neratek
- Atlas VTS for new Chinese ferry link
- SeaDigital announces OneCard changes
- Purse seiner takes first SP90 sonar on Norwegian vessel
- Atlas sounders for leading port authorities
- L27/38 medium-speed engines chosen for REPASA tugs
- Ship Propulsion Market 2005
- MaxSea's new website up and running
- Wallenius/Wilhelmsen projects boost
- First Kongsberg AutoChief C20 passes sea trials
- Leading flag state approval for Videotel's Ship Security Officer course
- Mexican dockers meet with IDC officials
- Mexico considers third LNG terminal
- MISC shares soar on fresh container sale reports
- NCL sailing towards listing
- NOL shares soar to new high
- NWS to book \$230m profit on port sale stake to PSA
- Odjell to raise \$47m from bond issue
- Oil producers need \$34bn of project finance
- OMI breaks earnings record
- OOIL subsidiary gets green light for Vancouver terminal
- OSG hit with rating downgrade
- Panama finalises \$500m Manzanillo terminal
- PPL wins \$119m jack-up contract for Sinvest
- Record results for Knightsbridge
- SembCorp Marine chief dies aged 58
- SembCorp Marine posts 21% rise in annual profit
- Shantou gets Shenzhen feeder link boost
- Shell begins share buy-back scheme
- Shipping business lifts Groupe Bourbon results
- Singapore extends tax break for shipowners
- Six crew missing after vessel sinks off Faroe Islands
- Slick from tanker collision threatens Egyptian coast
- Spain puts Izar workforce restructuring bill at \$600m
- Teekay shuns dividend brigade
- Two crew missing after vessel sinks off Turkey
- Venezuela oil spill 'under control' says PDVSA
- Australian pilots fear Torres Strait IMO delay
- Carlyle Group targets UK naval yard acquisition
- Jinhui profits bonanza lights fire under share price
- Golar sees opportunities in weak LNG spot market
- Golden Ocean makes impressive results debut
- NOL boss puts faith in containership futures market
- Pacific Basin quadruples 2004 net profit
- Profits rise promises Deutsche Post dividend boost
- Singapore and Indonesia seek resolution to maritime boundary disputes
- Star Cruises and Genting tie up for casino cruise terminal
- Tanjung Pelepas eyes slice of Singapore bunkering business
- Titan to fund expansion with \$400m bond issue
- Californian ports struggle to make efficiency gains stick
- China Shipping Development unveils \$500m warchest
- Frangou ties up \$600m Navios buy
- Noble goes on the road to market 10-year bond
- Novorossiisk closed again by storms
- Pirates return to terrorise Malacca Strait
- Primorsk expansion lifts Transneft crude exports
- RasGas signs long term supply deal with Distrigas
- APM Terminals makes repairs to Los Angeles cranes
- Clean Air Act bites at Los Angeles ports
- Contract renewals season heralds mixed messages for shippers
- Greek seafarers back at work
- Hanjin Heavy secures double order firsts
- Hyundai Heavy bags Middle Eastern orders
- Hyundai Mipo bags more Rickmers custom
- IMO seeks framework for joint Malacca terror patrols
- Indian exporters eye iron ore dividend
- Malaysia and Indonesia play gunboat diplomacy over Sulawesi oil rights
- MOL shifts its bonds from balance sheet
- Nordic American raises \$170m from share placement
- Opec warns of '\$80 a barrel' oil price spike
- Peru LNG signs supply agreement with upstream consortium
- Profits rise sees Royal P&O Nedlloyd 'deliver on its promises'
- Upbeat Japan steel mills lift profit estimates
- US and Russia 'must collaborate' on Barents Sea exploration
- Exmar and Bergesen ink LPG orders at Korean yards
- Aviation boosts Swire Pacific profits
- Singapore and US sign 'dirty bomb' monitoring deal