

FRAGRANCE

A NEWSLETTER FROM
SWAYAM MARITIME ACADEMY

&

ITS ONLINE WINGS

WWW.WRITERSADDA.COM & WWW.SHIPPINGTUTORIALS.COM

JULY-AUG EDITION



Dear Friends,

Glad to present one more edition of fragrance. we have included a poem on “dreams”, a letter to monsoon , a thought provoking poem on “life and reality” , excerpts of a face to face interview with booker award winner ms. arundhati roy with our writer friend vijaya banu , a thought provoking write up on risk assessment and an article on OIL SPILL FROM MSC CHITRA AFTER COLLISION & GROUNDING.

“Swayam maritime academy” has completed just one year, this month. It has received lots of attention and pampering from almost all the leading shipping companies. In our journey your faith on us gives us enormous strength to grow and impart quality maritime training to our indian seafarers. In this one year we have installed two simulators, Transas Ntpro 4000 and IMC BTM simulators, We have 46 value added courses to offer and about 15 courses are running very successfully. We are dreaming to run a Framo course of 3 days duration including workshop, in near future. We have now fully AC classrooms, a guesthouse ,and 3 websites to our credit.

“writer’s adda” has also completed one year on this July. Now we have 335 members in www.writersadda.com. immensely talented writers , present in our website writer’s Adda ,are making this site a nice meeting and unique place for wannabe writers. In twitter we have now 73 followers, which shows, we are getting popular day by day.

We would like to hear a word from you. So don’’t forget to give your valuable feedback. Our e-mail id is www.swayammaritime@gmail.com & www.writersadda@gmail.com

Visit our sites

www.SwayamMaritimeAcademy.com

www.WritersAdda.com

www.shippingtutorials.com

Hope this edition will succeed in holding your imagination and wish to see your articles, blogs in the pages of writersadda.com as well as in this Newsletter “Fragrance” itself.

Thanks & Regards

Swayamprava

DREAMS...
BY
SWAYAMPRAVA

Dreams...

Sometimes take you to ecstasy
Make you feel so special
Making life a worthy saga
Blossom everyday with new dreams to add on

Dreams...

Take you to new heights to scale the sky
Defying gravity, gliding in the cloud nine
You just keep on thanking your destiny
For making your life worth of millions

Dreams...

Stay as long as you see them in closed eyes
Simmer in its sweet sensation
Forgetting your world
You run after it like a passionate lover

Dreams...

So ethereal in nature!
They won't come to your grip
Instead they create such a big vacuum
That nothing can pacify you anymore

Dreams...

Like a mirage it will always stay in the horizon
You just run to catch through out your life
Until you drop dead between the sand of dunes
In that hot dessert called reality

A LETTER TO MONSOON

BY

NIRANJAN NAYAK

Dear,

On getting the news of your benign advent, my heart leaped with joy. I lay down on my bed with my ears attuned to hear the tinkling of your anklets and jingling of your bangles. For a while I kept all my unhappiness and gloom suspended to create within me a perfect mood to welcome you like the crazy maenads, celebrating the ritual of ultimate ecstasy. From a distance, my eager ears could hear the rhythmic chanting of your palanquin bearers as they brought you nearer and still nearer to my modest cottage. I could hear that intoxicatingly sweet smell emanating from your body and see a part of the dark veil covering this harsh blue sky. I missed a heartbeat. In a state of frenzy I ran out of my house to inform the trees, the tiny plants, the humming insects, the lovely birds and the desperate men and animals about your arrival. Even the tears you shed while bidding adieu to your parental home for a while drenched my shoulders and soaked my heart.

But dear me, what happened to you on the midway. The news of your irritatingly sluggish approach has left me devastated. I have no oil left in my lamp to keep it burning till the end of this long night. Nor do I have much patience in my heart to endure the pang of this unexpected delay. Forget about me dear, your favourite floras and faunas have started withering in your absence. Wave your magic wand to bring back life within the dead and hope within the hopeless. Ask your palanquin bearer to hurry up and do me and my parched earth a great favour by bringing an end to this painful waiting. Unfurl your dark veil once again, and inundate my soul with those silvery drops of happiness. Instill life within the lifeless and inculcate faith within all those faithless braggarts who tinker with your sanctity with their stupidity interpreted as knowledge by a section of our insensitive brethren. Forgive them and wash their sins off with your love, compassion and grace. But last but not the least; please do not forget my humble cottage and your ardent lover, sitting within keeping the window of his heart open.

Love to love you

Me and my loneliness

Honey Moon

By
Vikram Sharma

Being married for more than a decade we decided to get some time off from our busy routine ... so as soon as my son and my wife Anjali's summer vacations started, we got our son admitted to GoBanana Club for the summer camp..... and both of us planned a small trip to hills, visiting all the places we had visited about a decade ago during our "Just Married" time.

We started off from Chandigarh early in the morning at 4:00 am from Chandigarh to Shimla. Starting early had a great advantage... it helps to avoid the traffic jams that occurs frequently at townships like Kalka-Parwanoo on the National Highway to Shimla. In just two and half hours we were at Shimla covering the first 110 k.m. of our journey in which about 90 km were hilly drive. The road after Kalka is full of twists and turns and winds on the Kasauli hills. Kasauli is an important Air Force base which played a crucial role in 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan. Though Kasauli is on the side route , about 15 km away from the National Highway road that goes to Shimla. Near Dharampur, there is a diversion to go to Kasauli. We decided to avoid Kasauli and had for Shimla straight....



The straight strip you see in the pic above is the aerodrome near Shimla. Pic taken from Shogi, a small village about 15 km before Shimla Being a devoted Hanuman Bhagat , our first stop was at Sankat Mochan Mandir which is at TaraDevi, just 5-6 kilometers before Shimla. After the Darshan, we reached the out skirts of Shimla and took the Fagli by-pass to avoid the traffic at Shimla. Just after crossing Balueganj, we took the Fagli-Tutikandi road and reached Sanjauli, avoiding the busy Cart-Road and hectic bus-stand of Shimla, thereby saving our precious morning hours as sun rise of Kufri hills is one of the best sites which I would have not missed at any cost. Soon we crossed Fagoo and reached Kufri... the lush green valley with huge and thick forests of pine and devdaar welcomed us... the breeze was still virgin and carried the musky fragrance of pine glades...

We stopped for tea and snacks as after Kufri there is no quality-restaurant till Narkanda which is about 65 kilometers from Shimla and was about 55 k.m. from Kufri. The road is well maintained and is quite wide and efforts of H.P. to keep it free from land slides is quite appreciable. We gained height as we climbed to Theog and here we had a great view of wide Valley. Due to clouds and clouds engulfing the hills the visibility was quite dim, still the feel of clouds was enough to ignite romanticism in our hearts....

Soon the ascent increased and the coolness of air turned in to cold winds... that too on the morning hours of 27th May when Chandigarh experienced a temperature of 38 degrees Celsius.

From Narkanda again we took the road to Rampur Bushahr which was about 65 k.m. from Narkanda... a continuous descent And now we had to unwind the hills and lose the height we had gained. We could see the Himalayan terrain still clad with snow and the white hill peaks glistened in the morning Sun... the horizon painted with the vivid colors The binoculars gave us the feel of touching the snow... and yeah the Himalayan birds were too beautiful to be described in words...

The road from Narkanda to Rampur is covered with deep forests and on the pag-dandies, the small kachha paths on hills, we could see Pahari ladies in their traditional dress, wearing Razeita and Dhatoo (Long Skirt and cloth on head) with a Quilta (bamboo basket) on their backs. Water, vegetables, fruits and even kids are carried in a Quilta. Most of them carried water from the springs and Baoowdies (small out-lets of water in hills)...

Soon we reached SSB (Sashaster Sena Bal) camp and the site was quite beautiful... small small military cottages and buildings on the slope , well maintained by the military. And at that point we had the first view of the river Sutlez.... Which looked like an innocent hill stream from the height. In a fast pace we dropped from heights to lower altitude and Sutlez river turned into a mighty roaring one. Kingal, Duttanagar, Sainz, Nogali... so many villages/townships with typically built houses formed a unique sight. But as we went closer to Rampur Bushahr, the next main town on our route, the houses style turned modern and we missed the Himachali type of construction at Rampur Bushahr.



At the entrance of Rampur we again bowed before Hanuman ji (pic below)

The temple is just above the Sutlez River on the road side.

Threading our way through the market of Rampur Bushahr we saw the wooden palace of Raja Veer Bhadra (ex Chief Minister of H.P.) descendent of royal family of former Bushahr Estate. We saw the palace which is adjacent to bus stand of Rampur from out-side. The beautiful work on wood was quit evident but photography was not allowed nor anyone was allowed to enter as royal family still resides in there.....

On the way we saw the famous Nathpa Jhakri Dam. After travelling about 25 km we reached Juri and Sutlez sai bye-bye to us and we turned upwards on the hill to reach Sarahan. We could just reach out and pluck apples on the way as apple, plum, apricot orchards were on the

road sides.... (but beware of dogs too as they are the main guards of the orchards... and take care monkeys can also rob your mobiles, goggles etc...) See the pic below... my wife shows the evidence of her "theft"....

We stayed at the Jeewan Jyoti Hotel, where all facilities were available from parking space to great food , from modern amenities to cable channels... with good rooms which had big widows to allow us to see the beautiful Shri Khand hills, the Valley of Bushahr region, th high hills and the Sutlez river... which looked like a small serpent now.....

In the evening we went to Bheema Kali Temple.... Since no camera



was allowed inside, so we took pics from outer Sides...

Shri Bhima Kali Temple is a temple at Sarahan in Himachal Pradesh in India, dedicated to the mother goddess



Bhimakali, presiding deity of the rulers of former Bushahr state. The temple is situated about 180 km from Shimla and is one of 51 Shakti Peethass. The town Sarahan is known as the gate way of Kinnaur. Sarahan is identified with the then Sonitpur mentioned in Puranas.

As per the Bengali tourists we came to know the history of the temple as , the manifestation of the goddess is

reported to the Daksha-Yajna incident when the ear of the Sati fell at this place and became a place of worship



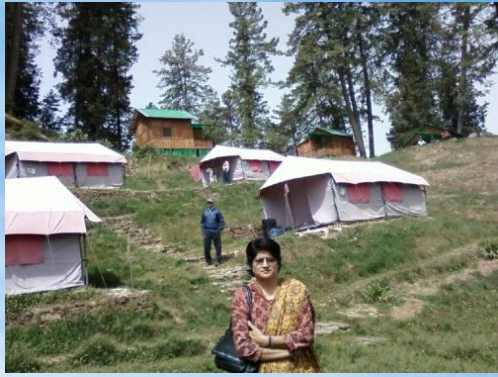
as a Pitha - Sthan. Presently in the form of a virgin the icon of this eternal goddess is consecrated at the top storey of the new building. Below that storey the goddess as Parvati, the daughter of Himalaya is enshrined as a divine consort of Lord Siva.

The temple complex has another three temples dedicated to Lord Raghunathji, Narsinghji and Patal Bhairva Ji (Lankra Veer) - the guardian deity. The local

Pahari priest told us that human sacrifice was prevalent in the temple which is now replaced by a sacrifice of a he-goat. The Lankra Veer is the main WAZIR (Prime minister type) of the Temple. An important deota often has another deota as its wazir and the wazir occupies a small temple adjoining the main one or his image is placed near the door. Thus Maheshra of Shingra is wazir to the temple of Bhima Kali at Sarahan. Unusual architecture and wealth of wood carvings, Shri Bhima Kali Temple at Sarahan is the major monument that is duplicated nowhere else in the erstwhile hill states.

SINCE no authentic story was heard by us from people and guides there I collected the authentic data from net as per the details given below.....

Dedicated to the mother goddess Bhimakali presiding deity of the Rulers of former Bushahr Sate, situated at 2150 mtrs MSL this magnificent temple is about 180 kms. from Shimla. With its capital at Shonitpur this former princely state was extended up to entire area of Kinnaur where for sometimes Lord Shiva disguised himself as Kirat. Today, the then Shonitpur is known as Sarahan. Banasur, the ardent devotee of Lord Siva, eldest among the one hundred sons of great oblativ demon King Bali and the great grandson of Visnu votary Prahlad, during the Puranic age was the ruler of this princely state. Due to Usha-Anirudh affairs Lord Krishna fought here with him and in this battle Lord Siva stood against the former. The legend goes that head of the defeatd king Banasur was buried in front of the entry gate now marked as a raised platform to the first courtyard. Reaching a few steps up from the road to this paved courtyard pilgrims enter into a different world. After Banasur,



Pradyuman the incarnation of cupid and the son of Lord Krishna became the Ruler of this Kingdom. Since then this Kingdom was governed uninterruptedly by the descendants of this dynasty till the end of the princely states in independent India .In the State capital this ruling family got constructed a splendid temple palace complex and recognised mother goddess Bhimakali as the presiding deity of the ruling house We attended the aarti in the evening . There is a bird sanctuary at Sarahan , but is closed from April to July due to mating season for birds At the foot of the sanctuary there is a temple of Shri Ram And on the way we could

get glimpse of another Palace, mainly made with wood but were sad to see that modern maintenance had diluted the authentic ancient art A small stadium and heli-pad was also atop a small hill. Night was quite cold as the wind howled thru the green valleys and orchards... the clinging of Tibetan musical instruments could be heard at a distance . The architecture of the temple was unique and very different from rest of the temples of Himachal. The Pagoda style with Himachali artistic wood work... Inside temple the stairs were too small and of low height ...(see the bumps I had on my head...) Behind is the top of temple, see the metal (said to be silver and gold) at roof top. My wife was reprimanded to click the pic and our mobile was almost snatched away... Also see the water tanks... water is precious here. On the way ITBP camps and regimental building and training grounds give a beautiful view Next Morning we headed for Sarahan to Sangla, First we came back to Juri from where we travelled to Karcham , a Tehsil in Kinnaur and then diverted our way with the river Baspa and saw the huge machines of JP group building another dam there... the road that diverted to Sangla was quite narrow and at turns we had to reverse back t give way to vehicles. It was about 70 km drive from Juri to Sangla which took about three hours... thanks to dare devil roads which had deep gorges... if you drive just see ahead not o sides else you might feel dizzy Sangla is a beautiful valley with flowers. From Sangla we went to Chitkul as snow had started to fall. But the murky sky made it impossible for my mobile to click pics any further. We stayed at tents, though Banjara camps offered a night for Rs 4000 while Kinner tents charged about Rs 800 per night.

Next morning we headed back to Shimla with a long stop over at Narkanda again.... Since driving was tough so we decided to stay at Shimla again and this time we again went to Jakhu Temple at Shimla, Krida Devi and Tara Devi temple

Next day we were again back to Chandigarh....

Distance Chart :

Chandigarh to Kalka = 25 km , straight plain road.

Kalka to Shimla = 100 km , hilly but excellently maintained wide road

Shimla to Narkanda = 65 km with hilly road, with each curve you gain height

Narkanda to Rampur = 65 km with each curve you loose height

Rampur to Juri = 25 km , again you start the ascent

Juri to Sarahan = 17 km, you gain tremendous height again

Sarahan to Sangla (with back journey thru Juri) = 90 km , feel like gliding over hills and you learn what tough driving means. Make sure to get your car serviced after you return safely to you home.... I mean it.

SOMETIMES...

BY

VIJAYA BHANU



Sometimes...time seems to have stopped
You feel as if you tend to chase every
second

Try to dig...but the memories say "touch
me not"

Don't know to where...but your shadow
too disappears...informing not!

A seedling of a reflection....sowed in
brain...

Struggles lot to escape from an un built
wall

An explosion somewhere inside the heart
Doesn't let your being sit calm!

Don't know what...don't know why...

An emotion sways all the nerves in pain

Don't know from when it starts its hush

The ocean's wave stamps the sand heaps of
your feelings!

Don't know what happens...

Time turns its flight towards you

Don't know what happens to the planets of
the body

There starts a beautiful song of rotation

Wearing the shining wings, those seconds
you chased....start chasing you

Rock stone time turns into the song of a
waterfall

The light of your individuality glimmers...

Thousand petal opportunity stands at your
feet!

It doesn't happen sometimes when you
want to walk with a sword on the time's
edge

Breeze takes you high in its own palanquin
sometimes....

Though you see the ladder in front,
sometimes the legs won't support

Sometimes the sky you want to
reach....falls in your hands magically!





MEETING ARUNDHATI ROY

BY

VIJAYA BHANU

Social responsibility is my motto. Self confidence is my strength. I believe in my decisions and taking risk. I can't ever have a boss. I endure difficulties and fight courageously." Listen to these words and look into her beautiful and expressive eyes...you are sure to change your life style. She inculcates self confidence into your life. She has something in her words...an attractive tone and an innovative thinking. An inspiring writer and a great social activist...Arundhati Roy has many things to share in the meeting conducted by EMESCO and Prajaswamika Rachayitrula Vedika in union. Just to turn your thoughts and opinions into an altogether different way...she speaks out in her own way...knowing sternly...that you are going to change!

I had to rush into any train I could get on Saturday night (10th July 2010) when I got the message that I am invited for a meeting with Arundhati Roy in Hyderabad. Luckily a friend of mine was going to Warangal that night and I shared his seat during the journey. It was worth sitting on the berth all the night to see the illuminating face and to hear the enthralling speech of her. All was really worth. I felt mesmerized even by the tasteless veg biryani, the Stewart of the train pantry car handed over to me. I endured the paining legs thinking of how she would have gone through the long forests in dandakaranya few months back....result of which she wrote "walking with the comrades."

When I got a little time of about 20 minutes to stand with her and have a bit of chat, I never thought that those 20 minutes were going to change me to the core. My one and only ambition in life toppled down to replace her words on the best chart of my mind. Jajula gowri akka (writer of the well known book mannu buvva) was introducing herself to Arundhati and I was looking at her face to read her response. She shared a few glances at me for a while and asked Gowri akka, "What does she do?" pointing at me. Knowing that I write poetry in English, she nodded her head and smiled in grace. Then we started our conversation. Not so long but worth sharing our feelings. Gowri akka was talking about "The God of small things" it was when I said "we all came to know about you with the publishing of that book, you getting a booker prize and denying the prize money." She smiled and said in a low but firm voice, "that is not a serious thing for me now." This single sentence squirmed my mind and made me go deep to find out what she actually meant through her words and speech. I asked then, "I have read in some news paper or a blog that you are going to operate a blog on internet to share your feelings. Is it true?" she smiled again and with a cool look she replied, "No! I am not going to share my feelings through the blog. I don't believe in saying what I feel and what I meant always to people. They should know me by my deeds not words." I loved that. She shared her information and gave us her email id. Few more questions raised from other writers present there and she was busy answering them with the same cool smile. I kept observing how a social activist and a great writer could handle people and their enthusiasm towards her.

In the evening of 11th July 2010, she arrived early to the meeting venue," EMESCO Sahitya Nilayam, Domalguda, Hyderabad. The meeting was on the topic, "**The problems of women in present day society and the role of women writers in this context.**" Every writer who attended this meeting went out with a new wave of activeness in her brain.

The way she speaks about the problem is entirely different. Before speaking about the problem, she speaks about herself. She says what she things, what she does. In little words she enables

others to know how her thoughts transform into actions. Smiling always. She tips off the sleeping thoughts and deeds with her words and asks them to wake up for a purposeful life and deed.

“Never think that you are a victim. This is the thought which strengthens the enemy and gives him happiness. We you think you are not a victim and tend to fight with the problem, your enemies will be afraid and will get fantasized by you. This is feminism in my view.” Said Arundhati Roy.

“Many people think that they are victims though there is no reason or problem. Few people never think they are victims and keep fighting with the problems. There lie the difference between a strong and a weak person.” Said she aiming at the substandard thinking of many people.

“I have seen professional feminists who organize themselves into NGO’s. They never fight against the construction of dams, mining or displacements, though they know that women are the mostly suffered group in these circumstances. They are indifferent in these aspects, may be it was Bastar or Narmada valley.” She said about the professional NGO’s.

“We should be self sustained and self earning so as to live a life of our own. I never had a boss since childhood. I endure difficulties and stand against them. I never took anyone’s help when I was studying Architecture in Delhi. I worked to pay my fees. I didn’t see my father in my childhood and my mom always said, don’t marry. Though for the sake of doing something against my mom’s wish, I married few times.” Arundhati described her personal life.

“Being a victim is in mind set. We have to change this. We have to come out of this mindset. Change the discourse and even if you are fighting, it is better to be a fighter rather than being a victim. Refuse to be a victim. “Fantastic tradition of resistance is in your inheritance. Don’t forget that. “She tried to inculcate fighting for a cause in the writers.

“I am a badmash kind human being. I like asking for what I want and like to provoke and make people think about what I said. I don’t go for things which are bore some. Do things which give excitement.” She told how she acts to get what she wants.

“Don’t try to be a complaint book. Endure the hardships. I am not a prescriptive writer. I don’t want to say this should be like this and that should be like that. I write only when I can’t keep silent without writing. I write because I have to write.” She told why she writes.

The question are went very interestingly as she answered the questions of women writers and others who attended the meeting.

Q1. K.Saraswati (documentary film maker): what is your opinion on women reservation bill?

Ans:”I don’t say that women should not ask for reservation. The Bill runs the risk of being taken over by the upper castes or the Hindu majority. In my latest book `Listening to Grasshoppers’, I was critical of parliamentary democracy. It’s hollowed out,” she said.

Q2: K.Vijaya Bhanu (teacher and freelancer) : what are the suggestions you give to women writers so that they can raise social awareness and endorse social responsibility to lay women? ,

Ans: “After long conversations with adivasis, women activists and women in political

parties what I understood was that there was no magic wand to change things. So, you keep writing what you feel and write when you feel that you can't keep silent. See that your work reaches the laywomen change will come."

Q3: Kuppili Padma (story and novel writer): why construction of dams going on despite protests against them?

Ans: "I had a devastating and precious understanding of politics when I came to know about the destruction caused by dams. When dams are being decommissioned across the world, the Indian government is constructing dams. They know the damage they are doing but keep lying and repeat it,"

Can you fire bullets on a river which can flood your house and leave you homeless? You know it's wrong to build dams displacing human beings. But still they do it. Read the novel "Collapse" written by "Jaried Diamond." People in the Easter Island know that they survive by palm trees only but due to a tradition that they should cut a palm tree when someone in their community dies, they cut down palm trees one by one until they destroy themselves.

Q4: Subhashini (story writer and assistant professor): now day's youngsters are not aware of social issues. What is your opinion on this aspect?

Ans: everything is commercialized now a days. We can say that Edward Burnace is the father of this commercialization. Youth are crazy about commercial ads and other commercial products. They need a direction and need to know what reality is.

Q5: Vanamala (retired economics lecturer): can anybody expect such a level of success when someone is stuck in a structure?

Ans: even I was stuck in a structure. I ran away from home when I was 16 and worked to pay for my fees. I sold cakes on beach. I would just suggest that break the structures. End up speaking from the heart of the crowd. We have something to do about it.

Vanamala continued the question.

What would you do if you don't have any option other than a single way you are given?

Ans: everybody finds a way. If there is no way or option there wont' be any feminist on the earth.

Q6: Jwalitha (poetess): what is your opinion on violent love and the way out from this problem? What is your opinion on individualities?

Ans: there can't be two opinions on this context. All of this is just because of craziness in the society.

Each identity struggle should be viewed differently. There should be a particularity to discuss on this topic. This is a complex issue.

Q7: kuppili padma (story and novel writer): you wrote about a girl kamala watching ambush videos- in your article "walking with the comrades." Would you like to comment on that?

Ans: trying to put things in context, I never enjoy violence. I liked the courage of that girl.

Kuppili padma continued her question.

What would you do if you are attacked?

Ans: you get sharpen when you are attacked. I write only because I have to write. When parliament was attacked, I thought I shouldn't write but I had to write otherwise I wouldn't be able to live with myself.

Q8: Sandhya (progressive organization for women): what do you have to say about the situation in central India? This is a treasure hunt. How can we focus on the green hunt issue?

Ans: this is one of the instruments of war. I am being tried to portray as a moron. This is much more than just mining. It's on our part to stop the operation.

Q9: Dr.Chari: I did PhD on your book "God of small things" I found this to be my luck to speak to you on this occasion. Do you identify yourself with anyone of the characters in God of small things?

Ans: there am me in bits of every character, even bad ones. Sometimes I think I am two persons.

Q10: sakshi correspondent: what do you have to comment on honor killings in northern India?

Ans: these are extremely political issues which affect women.

Q11: Acharya katyayani vidmahe (writer and professor): so many deaths are caused due to polluted arrack. Still there are tenders invited for that and for my wonder I see that women are posting tenders. What would you say about this?

Ans: dumping liquor, growing opium are worse strategies. People should act quickly. It's in your history to agitate against liquor. Just do it again. My question is....one day if the government says that it will legalize prostitution as it gains more revenue....what will you do?

Open ended and thought provoking answers and her way of expression lifted everyone from their levels. This was an awesome meeting.

Aharya Katyayani Vidmahe presided the meeting and Ghantasala Nirmala was the translator for Arundhati Roy.

There was a photo session after the meeting and Arundhati Roy mingled with everyone so nicely. Though my return journey was not certain as I had no reservation to get back, I was happy that I could meet someone very influential.

By the way, I didn't tell you all what my prime ambition was, which she changed. I wanted to win The Man Booker prize in my life time. She changed that by saying "that is not a serious thing for me now." Life is not all about self achievement but it's about working for the benefit of the society. I realize this aspect to the core now!

RISK ASSESSMENT AND AFTERTHOUGHTS

BY
SWAYAMPRAVA

Recently we are doing a new course in our Academy Called “Risk Assessment”. As per the new regulation all the seafarer has to do a risk assessment and planning, before proceeding to do a job on board. It can be routine work, non-routine or critical jobs and precautions i.e. , control measures i.e. administrative control, Personal protective equipments (PPE) etc, Safe operating procedures etc . Previously they were doing this job but now they are quantifying it finding the numbers, like what is your risk assessment ? And the answer can be either 6 or 4 or 1, depending on the way you have assessed its severity (consequence) and probability (likelihood).

Risk assessment is a proactive step in a risk management process. In this method, for every operation has to go through a few assessment processes. The activities like they have to first identify the hazard related to a particular work, they are planning do on board. Once they identify the hazard, they prepare for the measures to control the risk. Once they applied that control measures, the hazard level may come down but in spite of that few areas can't be avoided like, health, hazard, safety, environment, property loss etc. So by this Risk assessment they have to determine the quantitative or qualitative value of risk related to a concrete situation and a recognized threat (also called hazard). Quantitative risk assessment requires calculations of two components of risk, the magnitude of the potential loss or the severity, and the probability that the loss will occur. As per the probability or magnitude of Risk and its severity they have to get a number multiplying both. They have been provided with their companies risk matrix to get the number.

Anyway, while I saw these people doing risk assessment, I go into an introspective mood. If you see in our day to day life, we always do this risk assessment before doing anything, like driving, meeting with the boss in office, talking to people, investing in something, buying new property and ya... giving birth and rearing up a child...who else can understand, other than a mother, how much risk assessment she has to do keep her child safe and healthy!

Recently one of our close friends lost his 7 years old son. They had arranged a party for him on the occasion of birthday. It was a big hotel near Juhu. The party was on the seventh floor on the terrace. While playing hide and seek this boy went to the edge, where few acrylic sheets were attached to give an illusion of roof. He couldn't differentiate and fell down within no time. Now question is why this hotel fellow made such arrangements where this sort of mishap can happen. If they could have made a little hazard identification process and should have made this risk assessment, then this life could have been saved easily. On the other hand, when parents are arranging parties in such places, isn't it their duty to look thoroughly into the place before taking kids and guests to that place ! Even at our place , if there is kid we do look into very small small things , like where to keep medicines, where to put the combustible substances, how to keep kitchen , kid's friendly, and how to place a kid to avoid any slip or trip...

I can't deny the fact “act of god, natural disaster, diseases are beyond human capacity. In spite of that if in our day to life we can spare some time to identify the hazard and quantify the risk related to it, then we can avert many dangers in life.

OIL SPILL FROM MSC CHITRA, AFTER COLLISION & GROUNDING

BY

CAPT. T.K PANDA

MSC Chitra had a collision with another cargo vessel M.V. Khalijia III on Saturday, August 7, 2010 morning that caused OIL spill from one of these two ships off Mumbai harbour near Prongs reef light house. Both were the Panamanian flag Cargo Ships. A Mumbai city Police lost his life during patrolling. The cop is claimed to have had a fall from a speed boat near MSC Chitra. while patrolling. Many police officials have been appointed for the patrolling near around the spot of collision. The constable who lost his life is Ramesh Tukaram More, 45. It is understood that More fell off the boat after he lost control. The other three constables also could not rescue him as none of them including the victim knew swimming. All the 33 crew members were rescued out of which 2 are Pakistanis.

It is reported that MSC Chitra, a container ship of 2500 TEUS was sailing out from JNPT, Mumbai and was navigating in the fairway and M.V. Khalijia III was coming to inner harbor Mumbai where both the ships collided in the channel. After the collision, MSC Chitra got listed by about 25 deg and later abandoned the ship and all crew were rescued after they got disembarked by pilot ladder including some family and children. Collision & Grounding can happen at sea and oil pollution was the outcome of collision & grounding. MSC Chitra had some dangerous goods containers like phosphine gas (rotten eggs smell) which is creating problems for salvors who are carrying out the salvage operation.

At present still containers are adrift which is a threat to surface navigation. Few containers are close to Uran and are smelling milk and tea. India should be prepared for such eventuality as traffic density increases. Mumbai Vessel Traffic Services (VTS) should warn the vessels for safe navigating in the channel. It seems that oil spill part is taken care of after putting plugs in the fuel tanks. Investigation of the incident is started by D.G. Shipping and we should wait for the outcome. It was reported in the media that steering failure of M.V. Khalijia -III has resulted in to collision as rudder was stuck on one side. Khalijia-III had a collision earlier as well. Khalijia-II suffered damage, but survived. But MSC Chitra will be possibly total loss as she was grounded on rocks off Prongs reef.

I will write another article for those who would like to know where Risk assessments should be carried out apart from collision, grounding, oil pollution, steering failure, Main engine failure, generator failure, Heavy weather etc. Risk Assessments should be carried out for Routine, Non routine, Critical and for Management of change (MOC)

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