



August 15th 2010

It is 63 years since the unforgettable words of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru;

"Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny and now the time comes when we shall redeem our pledge... At the stroke of the midnight hour, when the world sleeps, India will awake to life and freedom."



Six decades after her independence from the British rule, India has emerged as power to reckon with. We have achieved this without letting go our principles of Freedom, Human rights, our rich heritage and our diversity. Pegged at a 9.5% growth rate in 2010 by the IMF, the country continues to make enormous strides in all fields, whether it is the popularization of Bollywood movies and songs, or the acquisition of large companies and brands or charitable work around the globe. India will also host the commonwealth games on October 3rd, 2010.

AIA (Association of Indians in America) has organized an event to celebrate these achievements on **August 15th** at the **Broward Center for Performing Arts** (Fort Lauderdale). The celebration will start at noon and finish at 3:00 pm. There will be stage performances and food & beverage will be provided by local Indian Restaurants. Henna, Churiyawala, Bindi stalls will be set up at the venue.

SCOF Update

A new executive committee has been formed. The following office bearers were elected by a ballot.

President	Jotinder Rana
Vice President	Nitin Vaidya
Secretary	Manohar Mahajan
Treasurer	Tarakeshwar Singh



The new executive committee at their first meeting

In addition to these the following members will serve on the executive committee:

Kersi Engineer
Neeraj Thapar
Rohit Puri
Vinod Gulati
Atul Pachori

We look forward to working with all of you and serving the Indian Maritime community.

The Executive Committee



STCW 2010

The Conference of Parties to the International Convention on Standards of Training, Certification and Watchkeeping for Seafarers (STCW) 1978 was held from 21st to 25th June, 2010 in Manila with the object to consider amendments the Annex to the 1978 STCW Convention and the STCW Code. The Indian delegation to the conference was represented by Mr. Rajeev Gupta – Joint Secretary Ministry of Shipping Mr. Dilip Mehrotra – Dy. Chief Surveyor DGS Capt. J. S. Uppal – Dy. Nautical Adviser, DGS Mr. Rajeev Nayyer – Essar Shipping Capt. M. C. Yadav – Director of Education & Training FOSMA

The amendments have been adopted and expected to come into force on 1st January 2012. However existing seafarers will be required to comply with the STCW amendments by 1st January 2017. The amendments commonly referred to as the “**Manila Amendments**” were adopted on June 25, 2010 and signed by 82 member states. June 25th was declared as the “**International Day of the Seafarer**” by IMO.

It is not possible to discuss the entire scope of these amendments however some of the main issues the amendments address are as follows:

- o Security Training
- o Special training for seafarers in the offshore industry (DP Systems)
- o Training for ice navigation and navigation in polar areas.
- o Training & certification of electro technical officers
- o Engine room resource management
- o Distance learning or “e-learning”
- o Polyvalent certification
- o Promote the participation of women in the maritime industry
- o Attracting and retaining seafarers
- o Rest hours; fatigue

GULF OIL SPILL SKIMMING OPERATIONS

Submitted by Neeraj Thapar

Resolve Marine Group, the Fort Lauderdale-based marine salvage and firefighting company has deployed its fleet of vessels to serve the pollution prevention and oil skimming operations in the Gulf of Mexico. Resolve has been operating out of its Theodore, Alabama port since the explosion on the Deepwater Horizon oil rig on April 20, 2010.



Resolve Marine Group was initially deployed to support the firefighting effort on the Deepwater Horizon rig and has since deployed more than 50 vessels and floating assets in support of the oil spill skimming and clean-up activities, as a subcontractor to BP. Resolve’s primary focus has been the initial logistical planning for the skimming operations, the containment, management and removal of surface crude oil, and the prevention of oil reaching beaches and infiltrating wetland areas on the Gulf coast in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and Florida.

Resolve crews have been engaged in a variety of operations including: deployment of vessels, laying boom, positioning skimming equipment in specific spill locations, transporting collected crude oil to BP facilities, and decontaminating vessels employed in the spill areas prior to their return to protected ports and harbors. More than 100 Resolve personnel and subcontractors have been working 24 hours a day, 7 days a week on the clean-up.

Resolve Marine Group’s fleet of more than 50 floating assets comprise tug boats and crane barges

that are supporting clean-up operations throughout the Gulf oil spill area. Resolve has deployed more than 100,000 feet of boom to date as part of the spill containment effort. Resolves barges are equipped with skimming equipment operated by NRC, an Oil Spill Response Contractor to BP. The oil is being skimmed and collected in tanks onboard the barges and transported to BP facilities for decanting and processing.



Resolve Pioneer laying the boom in the Gulf

Resolve Marine Group is an industry leading marine salvage and emergency response company offering comprehensive marine firefighting, lightering, and wreck removal services as well as marine emergency response training and reefing services worldwide.

Neeraj Thapar is the Director for Technical support for Resolve Marine. He serves on the executive committee of SCOF and resides in Miami with his wife Deepali.

The Indian Port Community System (PCS)

The Indian Port Community System is designed to link through the internet all port users operating at various major ports. The project is in the final stages of completion. Once completed port users all over the country can exchange data electronically and seamlessly into a global transportation network that links all shipments from cargo origin to destination.

The Indian Ports Association (IPA) is implementing this Port Community System (PCS) which will be commissioned before the end of this year. So

far all concerned users have been linked including Exporters, Importers, Freight Forwarders, Shipping lines, shipping agents, Stevedores, Transport operators, Banks, Ports, Terminal Operators and Customs. In this port community system all documents can be filed on-line simultaneously and get processed swiftly with the port giving the berthing details, the customs processing and giving clearance to the relevant goods and payment too being made on-line. Port users can operate from anywhere without having to go to each of the operator's offices.

In many ports and regions across the globe, Port Community Systems have evolved over a period of time and have proved that significant gains could be made by sharing data with the Port Community. As the technology progressed and e-commerce became a global business enabler, these systems were upgraded to permit members to transact their business, avail of services and track their cargo status easily and quickly in a single and integrated platform.

Irika Shipping to Pay \$4M Penalty for Violating Maritime Pollution Law

Irika Shipping S.A. has agreed to pay a \$4 million penalty for violating the Act to Prevent Pollution from Ships and obstruction of justice, reports the U.S. Department of Justice. The ship management corporation registered in Panama and doing business in Greece also agreed to be placed on probation for a maximum period of five years, and be subject to the terms of an Enhanced Environmental Compliance Program. The company is accused of illegally dumping waste oil and bilge waste and concealing deliberate vessel pollution from the M/V Iorana, a Greek flagged cargo ship that made port calls in Baltimore, Md.; Tacoma, Wash., and New Orleans, La.

The Samunder Club of Florida is a not for profit organization formed to recognize and support the important contributions made by Indian mariner to the maritime industry. The annual membership charges are \$ 100.00. We request you all to renew your membership for 2010-11. For those who are not yet members please join us in our efforts to support the community of Indian mariners.

For further information please contact samunderclubflorida@gmail.com