



Melody of Patriotism at Sea



On the morning of January 26th, aboard the mighty *MV Darya Rama*, the ocean breeze carried not just the scent of salt and steel, but also a sense of reverence and national pride. It was Republic Day, and although we were miles away from Indian shores, the spirit of our nation was alive and beating on the deck of our ship.

As a Deck Cadet, still early in my seafaring journey, I had never imagined that a simple flute could become the centerpiece of such a profound experience. The idea to play the National Anthem came from my Chief Officer, whose encouragement gave me the courage to express my patriotism through music. It was his belief in me that transformed a quiet morning at sea into a memory I will cherish forever.

With the tricolor fluttering proudly in the wind and the crew assembled in respectful silence, I took my place on deck and lifted my flute. The first notes of Jana Gana Mana

flowed gently into the open sky, echoing across the endless waters. In that moment, we were not just sailors navigating international waters, we were proud Indians honoring our country in our own way.

There was something truly powerful about hearing our national anthem played live on a flute, surrounded by shipmates who stood with pride and respect. The sea may have separated us from our homeland, but the music united us in spirit.

Playing the National Anthem on Republic Day aboard *Darya Rama* was not just a performance; it was a tribute. A tribute to the country that shaped us, the people who inspire us, and the journey that continues to call us back to sea.

- Adarsh Pathak

Deck Cadet, *Darya Rama*



Journey as a Trainee Marine Engineer at Chellship: Growth, and Global Horizons

Choosing a career in the Merchant Navy was not just about earning a living—it was about chasing a dream. That dream took shape the day I came onboard as a Trainee Marine Engineer. The anticipation, excitement, and nervousness I felt while stepping aboard my first vessel are emotions I'll never forget. What followed has been nothing short of transformative—a journey marked by learning, challenges, and discovery.

Life Below Deck: A Classroom of Steel and Steam

The engine room, often described as the heart of the ship, was where my training truly began. Surrounded by roaring generators, labyrinths of pipes, and enormous machines, I quickly realized that this environment demanded sharp focus, discipline, and a willingness to learn every single day.

Initially, everything seemed overwhelming. But what made the difference was the incredible support of my seniors. They welcomed me with patience and guided me through the complexities of ship operations. From overhauling pumps to operating auxiliary engines and purifiers, I was encouraged to get hands-on and absorb every bit of knowledge possible. They never hesitated to answer my questions—no matter how basic—and they shared not just technical know-how, but stories from their own early days, which made the learning experience richer and fulfilling.

Their encouraging and helpful nature played a huge role in building my confidence. They made sure I was involved in real-time tasks, corrected my mistakes constructively, and celebrated small wins with me. This positive learning environment made the engine room more than a workspace—it became a place of mentorship and growth.

The Merchant Navy: A Profession with Purpose

Over time, I began to understand that the Merchant Navy is far more than a profession—it's a discipline, a lifestyle, and a global responsibility. Being at sea teaches resilience. Every day brings a new challenge—weather, schedules, maintenance, emergencies—and it's in facing these that one develops not just technical skills, but also character.

There's something humbling about being surrounded by the vastness of the ocean. It instills in you a sense of responsibility—not just toward your duties, but toward your fellow seafarers and the ship itself. The role we play in



powering global trade, often behind the scenes, is essential and deeply rewarding.

First Shore Leave: To Tokyo, An unforgettable experience

After weeks of hard work at sea, my first shore leave in Tokyo, Japan, was a dream come true. The contrast between ship life and city life was fascinating. Tokyo was a sensory delight—from the bustling lights of Shibuya to the peaceful pathways of Meiji Shrine, it felt like stepping into another world.

One of the highlights of that day was visiting the iconic Tokyo Tower. Standing beneath its towering structure, I was struck by the perfect blend of tradition and modernity that defines Japan. The panoramic view of the city from the top was breathtaking and gave me a moment of reflection and gratitude for the life I was living.

I also savored authentic Japanese sushi, explored local markets. That day ashore reminded me why I chose this path—the opportunity to explore the world, learn new cultures, and experience life from a completely unique perspective.

I owe much of my positive experience to Chellship, a company that genuinely prioritizes its crew's training, well-being, and professional growth. From day one, I felt supported and valued. The structured training, approachable officers, and clear safety protocols all contributed to an environment where I could learn and grow with confidence.

Chellship focus on developing young marine engineers is truly commendable. They don't just prepare you for the job—they prepare you for a successful and fulfilling career at sea.

Fair winds and following seas!

Abhishek Kumar
TME, Darya Satya



THEN vs NOW – Seafaring Through the Years

I began my seafaring journey in 2007 as a young deck cadet with Chellaram Shipping-wide-eyed, eager, and with a head full of dreams. Looking back over these years, the changes in our industry have been nothing short of transformative. From paper charts to ECDIS, from long gaps between messages/emails to instant video calls with family, the contrast between then and now is profound.

Navigation: From Traditional to Technological

When I started, plotting on paper charts and taking celestial fixes were routine as those were old Master's favorite. We treated the sextant like a badge of honor. Today, GPS and ECDIS have taken center stage. Navigation is more precise and efficient, but also more dependent on electronic and digital systems. While we used to look out of the bridge window to "feel" the ship, now we often look at monitors.

Communication: The End of Isolation

In 2007, sending an email home was a luxury, and phone calls were rare and expensive. Our connection to family was measured in weeks. Now, with onboard internet and Starlink connectivity, staying in touch is easier than ever. While this has improved morale, it has also added a new kind of stress-trying to stay connected to both ship and shore life.

Workload: More Digital, Less Physical

Earlier, we spent most of our time maintaining the vessel, chipping rust, and keeping watch. Now, alongside that, we juggle audits, electronic checklists, and endless reports. The job has shifted from being mostly physical to a balance of hands-on work and digital management.

Life Onboard: Then, a Family-Now, a Team

In the early days, we celebrated festivals, played games, and truly lived like a small floating family. These days, smaller crews and shorter contracts mean bonding takes more effort. That said, professionalism has increased, and crews today are more diverse, inclusive, and safety-focused.

Seafaring has evolved in almost every possible way. We've moved from the stars to satellites, from paper to digital dashboards. Yet, at the heart of it all, the spirit of the seafarer remains unchanged-resilient, adaptable, and proud.

I'm grateful to Chellaram Shipping for being the foundation of my journey, and I look forward to what the future holds as we sail through the ever-changing tides of this profession.

Manpreet Singh

Second Officer, *Darya Shanti*



Safe passage amid Israel-Iran conflict & Navigating Without Modern Aids

In June 2025, the crew faced an extraordinary test of skill, resilience and teamwork while navigating through the volatile Persian Gulf and Strait of Hormuz. Confronted with GPS spoofing, electronic interference and the looming threat of regional conflict. A thorough pre-voyage briefing was conducted apprising all hands of potential hazards, including GPS spoofing, AIS disruptions and the risk of hostile actions. Upon departing Mesaieed, bridge team encountered immediate challenges. GPS spoofing rendered satellite navigation unreliable with position fixes unavailable for extended periods. The outbound pilot, navigating without GPS for the first time also found it challenging but reliable radar systems accurately detected channel buoys aiding safe channel navigation. Throughout the coastal passage, navigation remained challenging. Most bridge equipment including the echo sounder, steering console, ECDIS and AIS triggered incessant alarms due to the loss of GPS signals. One crew member was tasked with silencing these alarms to maintain focus on the bridge. The team employed traditional chartwork with one ECDIS operating in Dead reckoning mode plotting positions every 10 minutes while another used radar bearings and ranges to fix positions when landmarks like oil platforms or coastlines were visible.

The absence of GPS data heightened collision risks exacerbated by radar interference, false AIS targets and offset coastlines. Continuous guidance from the company kept the team informed and on course.

The transit was not only a navigational challenge but also a mental one. Through meticulous planning, traditional seamanship and teamwork, Vessel safely reached Fujairah. This rare experience imparted invaluable knowledge and highlighted the enduring value of traditional seamanship: "When technology falters, the spirit of seamanship steers us true."

Bridge Team,
M.V. Darya Ganga



Healthy Lifestyle On Board

Ever wondered what would happen if you just stop taking care of your health? Like suppose you just stop working out or stop doing any physical exercise? What If you just start gaining weight all of a sudden? In my opinion, you should not find out. Better work out instead, especially when you're onboard.

Exercise plays a vital role in our day-to-day life. People have the tendency to procrastinate things and they follow the same thing when it comes to exercise. We may not be realizing this right now but sooner or later; we may have to face certain consequence. We may feel exhausted, tired, unhappy or some kind of unjustified pain in the body. These are the symptoms of an unhealthy human being and it needs to be worked on.

Healthy is defined by two things;

1. Healthy Diet
2. Exercise

These two are the key to a healthy lifestyle onboard and needs to be followed in coordination. People should start exercising, even if they can't fit it in their busy schedule. One thing which is for certain when you're onboard is that your rest hours will not be affected and so, you can take some time out for exercising. You can start doing cardio or in my opinion, start lifting weights. Trust me, it will all be worth it when you'll see your fist view popping out of your forearms. And I'm not saying that we have to become Arnold, we just have to maintain a good & healthy physique. The moment you start doing exercise, you'll start to feel good about yourself. You will feel confident, and of course, the uniform fits better. But one important thing to be kept in mind is your Diet.

Any exercise is incomplete without a good diet. It won't matter if you have spent hours in the gym, burning plenty of calories but then not having a proper meal afterwards. A ship needs its bunker. Just like that, you need to have a good diet



plan. For starters, you can avoid eating oily food. That's the first step towards a healthy diet. I know it may be difficult to meet your protein intake, but we have to adapt accordingly. A human body needs the same amount of protein as your body weight, just for maintenance. It needs twice the amount of body weight for muscle building. Especially vegetarians may have to

experience the maximum difficulties while meeting their protein needs to which they can switch to Plant Protein, If they're not confident about Whey Proteins. Also, know your food. Have the knowledge of what you're eating. Know the calories and nutritional information. You must know how much is your protein & calorie intake. Always remember this, you become what you eat. You can either look good or look like a potato. Choice is yours.

And last but not least, just like our physical health, our mental health is also important. We may sometimes feel down or depressed, anxious, sad and what not, which is not wrong. People have the tendency to feel such emotions but not talking to someone about them would be wrong. Mental health should also be our priority as it will affect your day-to-day activities. Working onboard requires utmost attention and you cannot be attentive if you're not mentally healthy. You never know what kind of environment you may have to face onboard, but this doesn't define how will you react to it. Mental health is linked to your exercise as well. Like I mentioned earlier, you feel confident when you do exercise and when you feel confident, you'll automatically feel happy which will result in a healthy mindset.

Healthy lifestyle doesn't require dedication, it requires discipline and discipline is the key.

Tushar Singh
Cadet, Darya Neeti



Embarking on my first sail as a sailor's wife

Embarking on my first sail as a sailor's wife was a mix of excitement and nerves!

Despite of the bustling activity on board, me and my 2.5 years old daughter we welcomed with smiles and genuine introductions which made us feel "home" away from our home!

Ships mess room had become a lively spot of sharing different cultures, ideas, experiences, fun and laughter creating an atmosphere of camaraderie!

Our 2.5 years old daughter had developed a sweet bond with the crew as she was pampered and taken extreme care.

The cook was extremely talented and along with him the messman made sure me and my daughter were comfortable in every way.

We were served various cuisines which my daughter enjoyed daily while watching her favorite shows on the tv in messroom.

We were lucky to have experienced Saturday night barbeque session on board which was lifetime of an experience.

We had fun, sang, danced along, played games shared experiences.

Every Sunday was biryani special which we used to eagerly wait for!

Me and my husband also had our "Bollywood moment " photoshoot on a Sunday which was my on my bucket list.

The captain was extremely helpful ,calm and made sure me and my daughter were comfortable, we knew we were in safe hands !



I am extremely thankful to Chellship to having allowed family on board and giving us an opportunity to spend our family time together while my husband works!

We would cherish these moments forever.

Looking forward to more such sails together.

Dr. Gauri Apte

Wife of Chief Officer Manoj Kawade
Darya Preeti

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SOLUTION

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6	1	3	7	5	9	8	2	4
4	8	7	6	3	2	9	5	1
8	2	6	3	7	4	1	9	5
5	1	9	2	8	6	4	7	3
7	4	3	5	1	9	6	2	8
2	6	5	4	3	8	7	1	9
3	9	1	7	4	2	5	8	6
1	7	8	9	6	2	3	4	5

A father, were you at the birth of your children, how did you feel when you saw your child?

I was in the room, right next to the doctor, watching the delivery and also, reassuring my wife, holding her hand- sorry didn't get this Opportunity, its seafarer thing! The next shift, a doctor comes in and gives us the usual happy talk. "We'll see in a few hours." We asked her attention and ask pointedly: "Exactly what are you going to do, and exactly when? Or are you just beating up my wife until she agrees to a C-section?"

She nodded. He said, "suit up." We went to the OR. She was scared near tears. The doc whipped out a light saber and whoosh! the belly was wide open, and out popped a giant turkey-looking like bunch of organs, and he said to her, "Are you ready? We're gonna start now." She said, "OK. I'm ready." After a couple of minutes the Doctor declared a beautiful Baby girl! Turns out, it was just a little air got caught in her chest when they rammed the turkey all the way up to her lungs.

She was a doctor, and had delivered 150 babies herself. So she knew all the possible problems. She was scared.

Then, the baby was too big. The doctor struggled with giant forceps to squeeze the baby's head down to size. My wife suddenly ripped open from front to back. Blood was all over the floor.

The moment I saw the head crown, and knowing the umbilical was squeezed, I worried the baby might not get oxygen for a minute or so. I was scared, but could do nothing. Worst feeling in the world.



Once the baby emerged, I now had TWO lives in possible danger, and had to be in two places at once! Dread. Anxiety.

All went well after that. My wife told me later that without modern techniques, both mother and baby would have died, and the baby was 4.1 kgs

When the baby was home, I couldn't turn off my face from her watching her crib, listening for breathing. I felt an overwhelming sense of responsibility for a new life.

The love was/is still overwhelming and can't be described. We named her SAHASRA SANVI !!!!!

V. Rakesh kumar
2nd Officer, Darya Krishna



List of promotions in the fleet



To the rank of Chief Officer

Mr. Saket Kumar, on board *Darya Ganga*
Mr. Ram Kumar Singh, on board *Darya Koshi*
Mr. H. Sandhu, on board *Darya Kaveri*

To the rank of Second Officer

Mr. Ajay Bisht, on board *Darya Preeti*
Mr. Anshul Janam, Singh on board *Darya Mira*
Mr. Navpuneet Singh, on board *Darya Neeti*
Mr. Karlton Orcajo, on board *Darya Satya*
Mr. Karthik Soman, on board *Darya Vidya*

To the rank of Third Officer

Mr. Mithun Gopinath, on board *Darya Rapti*
Mr. Anandha Raju, on board *Darya Krishna*

To the rank of Chief Engineer

Mr. Phyo Aung, on board *Darya Preeti*
Mr. Daniel Dsouza, on board *Darya Tapti*

To the rank of Second Engineer

Mr. Xavier Fernandes, on board *Darya Ganga*
Mr. Pranjal Raut, on board *Darya Heera*
Mr. Manan Kalla, on board *Darya Lachmi*
Mr. Subodh Jadhav, on board *Darya Vidya*

To the rank of Third Engineer

Mr. Ajith Vijayan, on board *Darya Sindhu*
Mr. Ritesh Srivastava, on board *Darya Preeti*
Mr. Amit Roy on board, *Darya Vidya*

To the rank of Fourth Engineer

Mr. A. Mehrotra, on board *Darya Kaveri*
Mr. Madhav Jha, on board *Darya Ganga*
Mr. Anuj Prakash, on board *Darya Shanti*
Mr. Keval Wadhel, on board *Darya Neeti*
Mr. Uddheshya Gupta, on board *Darya Jiya*

To the rank of Bosun

Mr. Nishanth Rosary, on board *Darya Mahi*
Mr. M.S. Chinthu, on board *Darya Diya*
Mr. Saurabh Shukla, on board *Darya Shanti*
Mr. Pazhaniraj P., on board *Darya Lachmi*

To the rank of AB

Mr. Harshkumar Tandel, on board *Darya Satya*
Mr. Arjun Gupta, on board *Darya Rashmi*

To the rank of OS

Mr. Abhishek Rao, on board *Darya Nitya*
Mr. Ajay Sandeep Singh, on board *Darya Sindhu*
Mr. Yash Tandel, on board *Darya Mahi*

To the rank of Oiler

Mr. R. Pakala, on board *Darya Rapti*
Mr. Avanish Kumar, on board *Darya Tapti*
Mr. Milton Milban, on board *Darya Krishna*

The Ocean Within

An Autobiographical Reflection by Vishal

Before joining the ship, I was just a young man with a dream and a deep fear of the very thing I was drawn to the sea. After completing my pre-sea training, I struggled to find my first ship. Each day felt like an uphill battle. I worked relentlessly not just to build a better life for my family, but to face and eventually overcome my greatest fear: the vast, unpredictable ocean.

Then one day, opportunity knocked. I received a call for an interview and I got selected. I couldn't believe it. After finishing all the necessary formalities, I finally stepped onboard my first ship. It felt unreal-surreal and silent, almost as if the ocean itself was welcoming me. That moment is etched in my memory forever.

At first, the vastness of the sea was intimidating. I felt small and uncertain. But slowly, I began to find rhythm in the waves. I grew familiar with the ship, bonded with my crewmates, and embraced the quiet thrill of learning something new every day. Each sunrise taught me something about the world. Each sunset taught me something about myself.

With time, I discovered the quiet beauty of solitude. The sea, once a source of anxiety, became my closest companion whispering truths only a sailor could hear. My journey had begun not just across oceans, but deep into the

heart of who I was.

I started finding peace even in the chaos amidst roaring engines, endless checklists, and long night watches under starlit skies. While many saw it as routine, I found meaning and purpose. The sea stopped being a threat. It became a mentor, teaching me patience, resilience, and strength.

Every challenge rough weather, exhaustion, isolation shaped me. I came to understand that real growth doesn't come from comfort. It comes from stepping into discomfort with courage. Yes, there were times I missed home deeply, but I never forgot why I started: to turn fear into fuel, and dreams into direction.

With each passing voyage, I grew not just as a sailor, but as a man with a story worth telling. I had set out to simply survive the sea, but somewhere along the way, I began to thrive in it. And now, for every young dreamer staring at a distant horizon, I offer this truth from my own journey:

"You are stronger than your fears. Keep sailing."



Vishal Priyadarshi

Trainee Seaman, *Darya Tapti*



Life Onboard: My Journey as a Cadet

As I stand on the deck of our vessel, gazing out at the endless expanse of ocean, I am reminded of this incredible journey that has brought me to this moment. As a cadet onboard, I have had the privilege of learning from experienced officers, navigating the challenges of life at sea, and developing the skills and knowledge necessary to succeed in the maritime industry. From the moment I stepped foot on the ship, I knew that this journey would be a challenging yet rewarding one.

As a cadet, my duties were varied and demanding. I was responsible for assisting the senior officers with navigation, communication and safety protocols. I also played a key role in maintaining the ship's deck and ensuring that all equipment was in good order.

One of the most significant challenges I faced was adapting to the ship's unique culture and hierarchy. However, with the time and effort, I was able to build strong relationships with my colleagues and superiors, which proved invaluable in my learning and development.

As I progressed in my training, I began to focus on preparing myself for the next rank. I recognized that this would require a significant increase in responsibility and expertise, and so I dedicated myself to intense study and

practice.

I made sure to follow the instructions of my senior officers carefully, applying safe working practices in my duty. I also took advantage of every opportunity to learn from my colleagues, asking questions and seeking feedback to improve my performance.

Of course, my time onboard was not without its challenges. I faced many obstacles, from navigating various challenges encountered daily onboard to dealing with the physical and mental demands of life at sea. However, with perseverance and determination, I was able to overcome these challenges and emerge stronger and more confident. I learned the importance of teamwork and communication, and I developed a deeper appreciation for the skills and expertise of my colleagues.

As I look back on my experience onboard, I am filled with a sense of pride and accomplishment. I have gained invaluable skills and knowledge, and I have developed the confidence and competence to take on new challenges of my next rank, armed with knowledge, skills and experience gained during my time at sea.



Arjun K. B.

Deck Cadet, *Darya Mira*



MAGELLAN-THE STRAIT OF FJORDS

I was standing on the bridge of *Darya Krishna*, looking out over the breathtaking southern Chilean coasts, just two months after being promoted to Third Mate. We had left Puerto Montt, Chile, and were getting ready to traverse the Strait of Magellan, one of the most beautiful yet difficult sea routes in the world. Due to adverse weather forecasts that predicted 4 to 5 m south westerly swells and a westerly wind



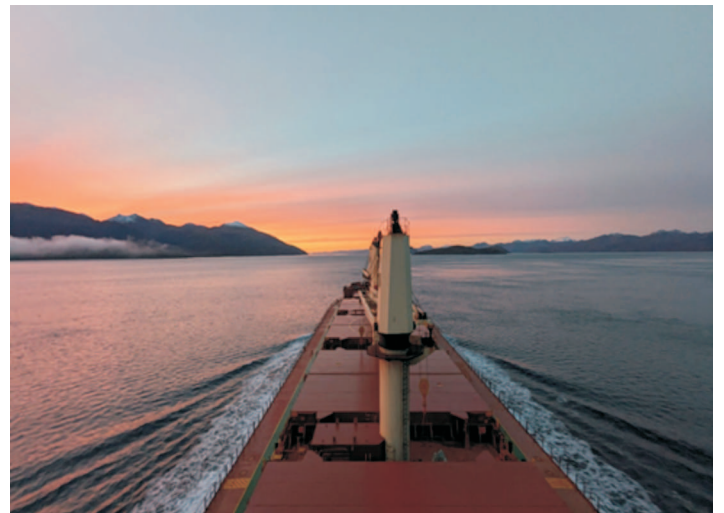
that could reach force 6 in the open ocean, the Master, Capt. Linn Moe Myint, decided to steer the ship through inside passage, a network of sheltered channels, rather than the typical Pacific route. It was a wise choice that culminated in a memorable and educational experience.

Shortly after leaving Puerto Montt, we received new weather predictions showing concerning sea conditions along the Pacific coast, with expected south westerly swells of 4 to 5 meters and westerly winds gusting up to force 6 in the open ocean. The Master decided on the inside route for the comfort and safety of the crew and vessel, which would through various canals such as Canal Picton, Passo Picton, Canal Smyth, and Passo Victoria before leading us into the western entrance of the Strait of Magellan.

The change in plan meant tighter navigation, more bridge manning, engine room manned throughout the passage and absolute vigilance but also calmer seas and far less vessel motion. For me, as a new officer of the watch, it also meant front-row experience in real-world passage planning and adapting to dynamic situations. To guide us through these narrow passages, we embarked two experienced Chilean pilots: Captain Eugenio Celedón and Captain Andrés Bustos. Capt. Celedón & Capt. Andrés joined during the Picton-Smyth segment, expertly navigating the dense, twisting waterways with steady

command. Later, Capt. Andrés took over for the transit through the Strait of Magellan and out towards the Atlantic. Their deep understanding of local currents, tides, and terrain was crucial especially as we maneuvered through sections like Paso Inglés and Angostura White, where margins for error are slim and tidal flows can turn quickly. Their professionalism and calm guidance offered the entire bridge team both confidence and a chance to learn from true experts.

With cliffs rising dramatically on either side, constant course alterations, and the echo sounder in use, this was not a time for complacency. The beauty of the landscape snow-capped peaks, windswept cliffs stood in contrast to the mental focus required from every officer. It was exhausting and exhilarating all at once. By the time we exited into the Atlantic near Cabo Vírgenes, the Strait had earned my full respect. It wasn't just a route it was a test of preparation, coordination, and adaptability. This experience taught me what no textbook or simulator could: how to balance safety with efficiency, how to respond when the sea throws you a



curveball, and how every officer's input contributes to the bigger picture. As we continue toward Campana, Argentina, I'm reminded why we choose this profession. Not for routine sailing, but for passages like this where judgment, teamwork, and seamanship truly matter. The Strait of Magellan and Chile's inside route have given me an unforgettable lesson at the very start of my officer career. And for that, I am grateful.

ANANDHU RAJU
3rd Officer, *Darya Krishna*



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