

“The Caribou Bride has set Sails”

‘Experiencing something good makes oneself happy, but sharing those moments makes oneself happier.’

These joyous and gratifying moments in our life started the day we all joined our good vessel M.V. Federal Caribou. We all were the first team of officers and crew members to be on this ship as this vessel was in a process of yard delivery . No one knew anyone but we all started bonding the first day we were on board. It’s not been long when we celebrated delivery ceremony of the ship at Oshima Shipyard, Japan.

Though the temperature was freezing cold everyone was thrilled for this moment. We all started our day with the Ganesh Pooja (prayer) which was held on the bridge, engine room and forecastle deck. As tradition goes a raw coconut was delivered to the Ocean Gods ! Then started the celebration and the photo sessions. Everyone became busy taking the pics of themselves and the ship and sharing them with their family and friends. A bottle of champagne was opened by the master & C/E to celebrate this moment and everything was captured by everyone on their cell phones.



Later the awaited delegates from the shipyard joined us in this celebration. Some good words were shared among everyone and best wishes were conveyed to all.



The bell was rung by the second officer for expressing that the vessel was ready for its maiden voyage.



Tough we sailed out on our first voyage, the celebrations weren't over yet. Once again everyone got together to celebrate Republic Day. The Vessel was alongside in Korea and it was snowing and temperatures minus 13 degrees , that day but it didn't stop anyone. Everyone was present at the bridge and patriotic songs were being played. Then came the proud moment of hoisting the Indian flag. The flag was hoisted by the Captain Dharam Prakash and cadet together and all the crew stood to sing the national anthem.

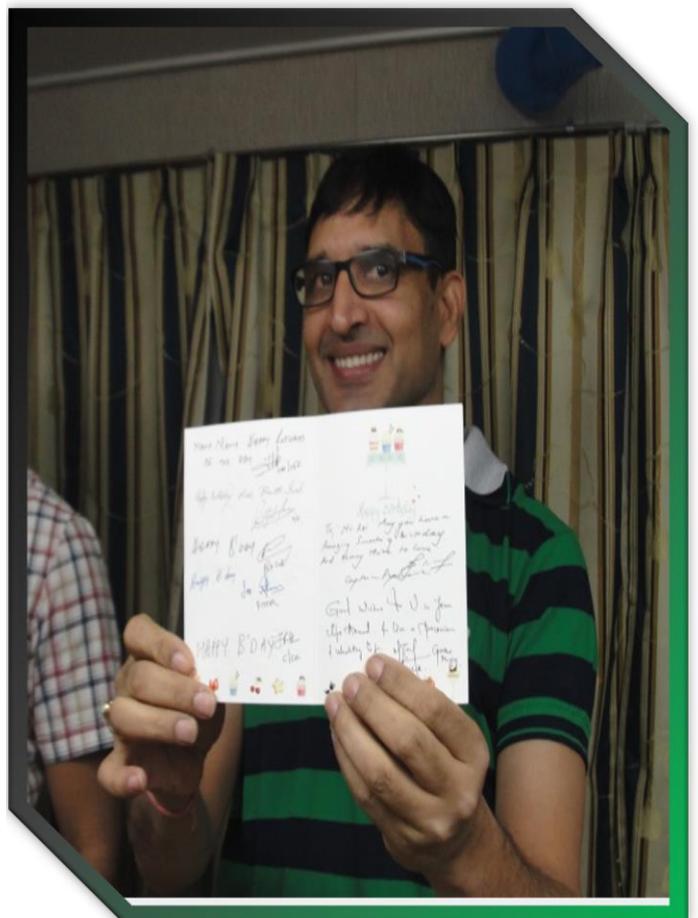




Then there was a cake cutting ceremony and a movie was screened after that. It was one of the best republic celebration most of us ever had on board. Every one was filled with the feeling of patriotism and there were talks about our rich history and culture.

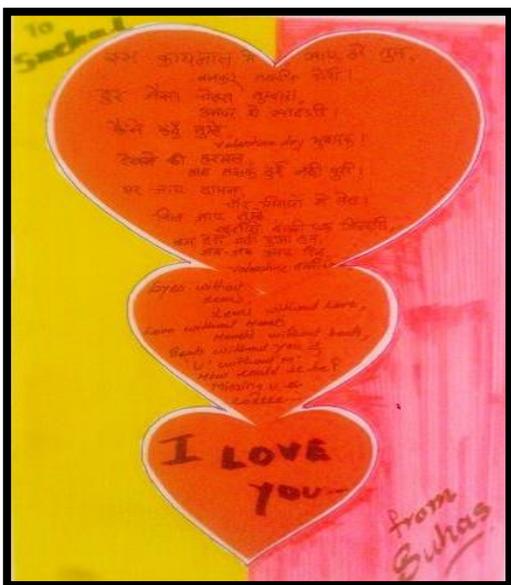
'The celebration... you cannot practice it or anything. It's a moment when the excitement of your goal make you react to the moment'

Hey and how can one forget about all the Birthday celebrations. They are always full of blasts. Music, dance, screaming and shouting and the mouth-watering food. Since we sailed out we have had many birthday parties. First it was Masters n then of E/O, MSMN, Cdt, C/O's son and there are many more to come.



Then came the Valentine's Day. You can say that love was actually in the air. We had a heart making competition. Everyone made hearts for their loved ones and they were displayed in alleyway to be Judged by C/E Nazim . Also Valentine's Day celebrations were glorified by Federal Caribou Master Chef competition. Everyone showed their talent of cooking and the competition was going head to head. The food was enjoyed by all and at last the prizes were distributed. Team "Punjabi Tadka" won the cooking competition and at last the day was spent worth enjoying.

Season one of Federal Caribou Master Chef was so successful that we had to arrange Season two on ship crew's demand. And the result was same- A day full of excitement and celebration. I bet everyone taste buds loved it. Vessel does have talent I should say.



Recreational games are continuously held in the accommodation so that all can have a get together and enjoy themselves. A week long Rolling Housie game was held twice. Everyone would wait every day for the same to start.

Then there was once game of horse racing held in the evening. A healthy betting game was executed with everyone winning something at the end of the day.



But these all games and competitions were like adverts of the biggest and toughest competitions which was about to be held- **The Federal Caribou Olympiad 2016**. The arena which was the hatch top of No.6 hatch was decorated to its best with flags and games posters. Music was being played from the bridge wings. Exteriors of accommodation were decorated too.



Teams were divided into two each with 10 members- Team **Caribou Warriors** and Team **Caribou Thrashers**.



‘Enthusiasm is excitement with inspiration, motivation and a pinch of creativity’

On Sunday Afternoon , The games started around 15.30 and all the teams were ready with their strategies to win the games. The first game to be played was tug of war. Now this was the game in which both teams had their chance to show which team was more powerful and dominant. The game was tough and Caribou crushers won all 3 sets of the game. Now everyone's hands were paining and there were still games which were to be performed. Jokes were made among members and were sometimes thrown to the opponent team.

After a small refreshment break both the team moved towards the second game. Tail the donkey.



This game was full of fun. Everyone was making fun of each other and were laughing o loud .



Few other games also took place in this tournament, some testing the strength of individuals and some testing the strategies. Though the competition was tough but at last Team Caribou Warriors won by a marginal difference of points. At the end of the day everyone was tired from head to toe so all of us knocked off with a huge smiles on our faces and with these cheerful memories to remember forever.







As said by someone “Ships are not run by Nuts and Bolts but by MEN”

***It has been a great pride for me to sail on the vessel M.V.Federal Caribou –
And some of the Old forgotten seafaring moments have come true.***

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