

Contribution of IN Veterans of Pune

2020

1. The activities of Pune IN Veterans during the year 2020 are enumerated in the succeeding paragraphs.

NFPC Get-together at NDA on 19 Jan 2020

2 The year started with a lunch for the veterans hosted by Rear Admiral SK Grewal ,NM,VSM , Deputy Commandant NDA at his residence Torna on 19 Jan 2020. The lunch was attended by a large number of Veterans and spouses.



Release of 100th Issue of SEAGULL

3. With a humble beginning in 1994 the IMF's quarterly journal Seagull reached an important milestone with the release of 100th issue on 12 Feb 20 in a ceremony at a hotel in Pune. The Editor Veteran Cdr Mukund Yeolekar paid tribute to the President Emeritus IMF Cmde Rajan Vir, Mentors, former Editors, Joint and Associate Editors for their painstaking efforts, commitment and diligence in making the journal popular among readers. He thanked the many contributors of interesting articles and also the designers/printers for the splendid work they put in for making the journal. The Editor also brought out the new features that were included in Seagull in recent years. He added that Seagull covered not only topics on Merchant shipping and Navy, but also on Marine Environment, Climate change, Underwater Domain Awareness, besides Maritime History. Cmde Rajan Vir and Capt Anand Dixit who was the Editor for many years recalled the initial years of struggle and success saga of Seagull.



Wreath Laying ceremony- Seafarers' Memorial

4. IMF Council Members laid a wreath at Seafarers' Memorial at Pune on 20 Feb 2020. The Seafarers' Memorial is an anchor of old Naval frigate *INS Kistna*, dedicated to sailors of merchant and naval fleets, fishermen and other seafarers who lost their lives at sea. The Naval Prayer was solemnly recited and IMF President Capt Anand Dixit, Cmde Rajan Vir, President Emeritus, Cmde Malhotra President NFPC and other Council Members placed

a wreath at the memorial. One minute silence was observed in honour of the martyrs.



Function at Mumbai to honour Cmde Rajan Vir.

5. Few like minded veterans from Pune hosted a luncheon on 27 Feb 20 at Royal Bombay Yacht Club in Mumbai in honour of sponsors and to thank them for their contribution. Director General of Shipping Mr Amitabh Kumar (IRS) and the Chief of Staff, Western Naval Command, V Adm RK Pandit graced the occasion. Among the guests were senior executives / heads of shipping companies, ship management companies, senior personalities representing various shipping interests and council members of IMF.
6. Cmde Rajan Vir, Founder President of IMF and now President Emeritus was also felicitated for his splendid contribution to the maritime world. Shri Naphade former Nautical Adviser to Gol lauded the work done by Cmde Vir in starting the journal Seagull, setting up the Seafarers' Memorial and Maritime Museum in Pune, besides conducting Seminars and conferences on Maritime issues for the last two decades. Mr Amitabh Kumar and V Adm Pandit jointly presented a plaque to Cmde Vir.



Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA)

7. The UDA Framework as proposed by the Maritime Research Centre (MRC), Pune has deep relevance to the ongoing geopolitics and strategic developments in the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). The ongoing Maritime Domain Awareness (MDA) effort by the Indian Navy, will get strengthened with the UDA framework and will bring far greater effectiveness in managing the security threat in the IOR given the disruptive presence of the state and non-state actors. Dr(Veteran Cdr) Arnab Das, Founder & Director MRC conducted a number of seminars on the issue. It is noteworthy that MRC's efforts on UDA framework have been recognized by the authorities including Shipping Ministry, Ministry of Defence, Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry of Earth Sciences and others.



Internship of BITS Pilani Students

8. The MRC under Cdr (Dr) Arnab Das has been undertaking the Practice School (PS1) internship program for the third year students of the BITS Pilani enrolled in all three campuses (Pilani, Hyderabad and Goa). Every year 10 to 15 students used to join us for their PS1, for a duration of eight weeks. This year due to the pandemic, the physical attachment was not possible, so MRC organized a six week online version, where 29 students from different disciplines in Science and Technology, from three campuses, joined on 18 May. Each participant took up an individual project relevant to the Underwater Domain Awareness (UDA) framework. The projects address the requirements of the four stakeholders of the UDA framework, namely the security apparatus, the blue economic entities, the environmental regulators & the disaster management authorities and the science & technology providers.

9. The final project presentation for the interns were held on 25 & 26 Jun 20 in four groups. Each group was reviewed by a distinguished panel of four experts from the relevant domain, including Amb Rajender Abhyankar, Vice Admiral DSP Varma, Vice Admiral AR Karve, Cmde Rajan Vir, Cmde Ajay Chitnis, Cmde Pawan Malhotra, Cmde JJ Verma, Cmde N Kapur, Brig M Mendonca, Capt AC Dixit, Capt S Subhedar, Capt Sunand Kanetkar, Cdr MN Yeolekar, Shri Praful Talera, Shri Sunil M Shastri and Shri Abhay Shah. The evaluators unanimously agreed that the quality of the work and the ideas pursued were of very high level.



IMF's New Maritime Museum

10. Indian Maritime Foundation's Maritime Museum & Library, a brain child of Cmde Rajan Vir, the Founder President of IMF, came into being on 22 December 2012 at Deccan College, Pune. However, in 2019 the Deccan College needed the Museum premises for its own use and was unable to renew the MOU for a further period. When it became clear that a new place had to be found, a frantic search for an alternative space began. That was when Mr Mukesh Malhotra, Managing Director of Weikfield Products Pvt Ltd,

came to the rescue. He was able to secure a suitable place for the Maritime Museum & Library at Anantrao Pawar College of Engineering and Research (APCOER) within the Shahu College Campus near Parvati, Pune. Following the signing of MOU with the College authorities, the shifting of the Museum began in the first week of December 2019. All artifacts and exhibits were safely moved to the new location and in less than a month IMF had a new Museum & Library in the APCOER. Mrs Pramila Gaikwad, General Secretary of *Akhil Bharatiya Maratha Shikshan Parishad* and the Principal of APCOER Dr Sunil Bhimrao Thakare gave their whole hearted support and patronage for the Museum.



Lectures to MA II Year Students of SP University Pune

11. Council Members of IMF conducted lectures on Oceans & Marine Environment and Maritime Security for fourth semester MA students during Aug 19 to March 20 as being done every year. Cmde Rajan Vir, Capt Anand Dixit, Cmde Ajay Chitnis and Cdr MN Yeolekar gave lectures on the above topics.



12. In addition NFPC would like to place on record the following:

- a. Contributions of Veteran Cdr RW Pathank in helping a few veterans & Vir Naris with their pension related issues ,
- b. Contributions of Veteran Cmde A Chitnis, SC,NM in association with Rotary Club in various social fields
- c. Team NFPC helping vir naris during lockdown and whenever need arises.
- d. Veterans of NFPC spearheading River Banks Cleanup.

13. it may please be noted that Pune is experiencing maximum numbers of Covid cases therefore AGM is being planned in October or November as soon as the situation improves .