M.V. OEL COLOMBO, first vessel to bunker at Magampura Port.

Plaque Presentation ceremony of the vessel M.V. OEL Dubai.

Transworld Group at Europe Break Bulk 2014 Expo in Antwerp, Belgium.

Mr. Ramesh S. Ramakrishnan has been chosen and felicitated as “The Forbes Top Indian Leader In The Arab World 2014” award at a VIP Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony held on 13th May 2014 in Dubai.
Dear Readers,

We trust you all enjoyed reading the last issue of Transview for the month of March 2014.

Two quarters of the year 2014 (Jan to June) passed by and too many things are happening around us in the shipping industry. In India, No other budget since Independence has had so much to talk about the Shipping & Marine sectors. The budget apparently detailing the ways of improving Mainline shipping, 16 new ports to boost coastal shipping trade, port privatisation to get push from Union Govt, Green channel clearance for coastal cargo soon, shipbuilding, maritime training and port development etc., demonstrating that maritime is a priority for the new government.

The industry giants are seriously evaluating ways to improve the efficiency through better utilisation of vessel capacity and economies of scale. Once the arch rivals in the global arena are now becoming business partners and are discussing specifics of Vessel Sharing Agreement (VSA) and Slot Purchase Agreements (SPA) which the shipping industry has never seen before. It clearly indicates that organizations worldwide are increasingly focussing on efficiency and better utilisation of available resources to drive growth and innovation. For the most part, this might be a good news: the influence of synergies might create the services, the technology, the pricing and environments better, both for the end user and the bottom line of the service provider.

At Transworld Group, we have been continuously improving to meet the challenges and our Transworld Team is always geared to march in company’s strategic direction. To add the most value to our Transworld family, we have brought in structured KRAs for assessing performance and on the process of implementing a system to identify and reward the effective and efficient team members within business units, Centralised Business Development drive besides increasing our vessel capacity by the addition of a 34890 DWT, 2760 TEU capacity Container Vessel M. V. OEL Dubai to our fleet, as a part of our ongoing commitment for providing the highest level of services to the valued customers.

Recalling editorial of our Transview Dec 2013 issue, at Transworld, we would like to acknowledge and recognise every member of the Transworld Group family as a significant contributor towards achieving our goals and success.

Happy reading and from the editorial team at Transview we wish all our Transworld family members the very best!

Best Regards,
B. Mannan

Editorial Team :
Ritesh S. Ramakrishnan, Mannan, Sanjit Roy & Amit Powar

All emails for Transview to be sent to: transview@transworld.com

The Forbes Top Indian Leader In The Arab World 2014

Mr. Ramesh S. Ramakrishnan has been chosen and felicitated as “The Forbes Top Indian Leader In The Arab World 2014” award at a VIP Gala Dinner and Awards Ceremony held on 13th May 2014 in Dubai.

This recognition by Forbes Middle East is an award to our Chairman to recognize his achievements and more importantly his commitment to the Middle East Region’s development through the businesses he leads. The Top Indian Leaders list is compiled by Forbes after extensive and detailed research into Indian business people residing or operating a business in the Middle East region.

This is truly an honour for our Chairman and for all of us in Transworld Group.

Once again our hearty congratulations to our Chairman and we wish him continued success in the years to come.
Orient Express Lines first customer to take Bunkers at Magampura Port

Transworld Group Company, Orient Express Lines became the first customer to take bunkers at the newly opened Bunker facility at the Magampura Port when their vessel the MV OEL COLOMBO was supplied with a quantity of fuel oil at a colorful ceremony.

At the auspicious time His Excellency President Mahinda Rajapakse inaugurated the facility with the initial quantity of fuel oil being pumped onto the vessel OEL COLOMBO which was berthed alongside. A multi religious ceremony took place simultaneously to invoke blessings on the newly opened facility.

Soon after President Mahinda Rajapakse inaugurated the facility, Mr. Ritesh Ramakrishnan, Director of Orient Express Lines handed over the cheque to the President of Sri Lanka being the payment for the inaugural supply of bunkers to the MV OEL COLOMBO.

Hon. Rohitha Abeygunawardena - Project Minister for Highways Ports and Shipping, Dr Priyath Wickrema and Mr. Marius Gomez - Vice President, Orient Express Lines, were also present.

It was only in January this year that the owners of the vessel named her as “OEL COLOMBO” when they decided to dedicate this vessel to Sri Lanka considering that they have been serving the Sri Lankan trade for well over 20 years.

Orient Express Lines is one of the premier feeder operators in the region and belongs to the prestigious Transworld Group of Companies based in Dubai.

Today Orient Express Lines have services covering Cochin, Chennai, Tuticorin, Male, Chittagong and the Gulf Ports over Colombo.
Plaque Presentation ceremony of the vessel M.V. OEL Dubai on her Maiden Voyage to Jebel Ali Port.

Name: OEL DUBAI  
IMO: 9128192  
MMSI: 351551000  
Type: CONTAINER SHIP  
Gross Tonnage: 31730 t  
Summer DWT: 34894 t  
Build: 1997  
Flag: PANAMA  
Call Sign: 3END6  
Length x Breadth: 192.64m x 32.25m  
Reefer-300 points

On 1st July, 2014 it was a jubilant day for Transworld Business Units at Dubai to have celebrations for the maiden voyage of M.V. OEL Dubai into Jebel Ali Port. Transworld's new addition, M.V. OEL Dubai with Panama Flag is a 34890 DWT, 2760 TEU capacity Container Vessel is by far the largest tonnage in our Transworld’s Fleet.

Transworld Team under the command of our Managing Director Mr. L.B Culas visited the Jebel Ali port and went onboard the vessel to commemorate the prestigious occasion of her maiden call to Jebel Ali port. The Port authorities provided a warm welcome to Transworld Team and informed that they were very happy to receive Transworld Group vessel on her maiden voyage.

DP World presented the plaque to the master of M.V. OEL Dubai, Capt. Umesh Kumar in the presence of Transworld Team. It was a proud and emotional moment for the Master as he has been serving Transworld Group for more than two decades. Traditional Pooja was conducted onboard the vessel and the crew happily hosted Transworld team with specially prepared snacks. The Transworld port visit also gave the opportunity to provide training for the management trainees from BITS Pilani University, Dubai who served their internship with Transworld Group. While the Transworld team was happily returning back, they also witnessed Transworld’s another vessel M. V. OEL India, mooring at nearby berth… A Jubilant day it was.
Albatross Forwarding Conference held in Mumbai

On March 27, 2014, all the branch representatives and the Mumbai sales team with Albatross Management are seen in the photo.

Women’s day celebration

All the ladies from Albatross Mumbai enjoyed lunch on the eve of Women’s day.
Transworld Group at Europe Break Bulk 2014 Expo in Antwerp, Belgium

- Contributed by Mannan

Break Bulk Europe Expo is one of the largest exhibitions & educational forums in the Break Bulk, Heavy Lift Projects Cargo world, addressing the needs of traditional Break Bulk and project logistics professionals. For several years, Antwerp has been hosting the European edition of the well known Break Bulk exhibition in the world.

This year, Transworld Group participated in Break Bulk Europe Expo 2014 as an exhibitor and presented our services as a regional Break Bulk and Heavy lift Project Cargo carrier and vessel operator. With over 6500 participants of project cargo related industry professionals from over 100 countries, showcasing in about 300 booths, the exhibition gives both global and local Break Bulk operators the opportunity to network and catch up with current trends, while also providing a platform to meet the needs of logistics professionals in Break Bulk and project cargo.

Transworld Group’s participation in Break Bulk Europe 2014, held in Antwerp from 12th to 15th May, was a huge success as our strategic approach to meet our clients, carrier principals and business partners at a global event was accomplished and we presented our new corporate identity as a Break bulk and Heavy Lift carrier and vessel operator in the global market.

Transworld Projects team from Dubai and USA offices attended the Break Bulk Expo at Antwerp and exhibited our Break Bulk, Project cargo services with various presentation materials which attracted the interest of varied clients who have project cargo freight activities and delivery requirements into and from the Gulf region, Indian markets and USA.

At Break Bulk Europe 2014, Transworld noticeably took the attention of various global carriers and logistics companies and few of them discussed business association and co-operation with Transworld Group of companies in the regions where we have our primary business activities. The
event has also given the opportunity to understand about the latest industry trends and to develop or strengthen our relationships with the leading specialized carriers, project freight forwarders, ports/terminals, packers and equipment companies that have the expertise to handle oversized, heavy cargoes and also the recently developed unique cargo handling techniques.

The business associates and the globally renowned carrier principals with whom Transworld Group holds a long standing and trusted business relationship, have appreciated our Management for the successful and strategic positioning of the Transworld Group brand in a global market as a Break Bulk and Project Cargo Carriers which is a successful transformation from the traditional identity of being reputed and pioneer container carriers for which the Transworld Group is globally known for.

The comments from one of the guests that we hosted at our booth at Antwerp, Belgium are as following.

Transworld took the perfect decision to be at Break Bulk Expo Antwerp, there are a lot of changes in the business trends and in particular for the Break Bulk.

It was for me a great pleasure to meet your project team; I hope that our discussion was fruitful for both of you and that we can start business. As we could observe during this exhibition, it is one of the biggest in the world, and the famous big players were present, so I hope you got good contacts.

As a consultant - expert and with eye for details, may I suggest some comments regarding your participation.

I can understand that it was the first time, but as the name of ‘Transworld’ is very well known, and the group of companies is very important...

- Mr. Claude C. Lurkin
Consultant & Transport Logistics Advisor, Belgium
Chit-Chat with
Mr. C M Muraleedharan
General Manager, Kandla

My journey as a proud member of Transworld Group family is on verge of adding one more milestone, as this year will be marked as 23 years of my long & glorious association with this prestigious organization. Walking down the memory lane I recollect the moment in year 1992 when I joined a Transworld Group division, World Wide Cargo Care Pvt. Ltd at Kandla.

It is indeed extremely difficult to express in words the sheer joy that I have experienced over the years whilst working in the various divisions & branches of such a vibrant and dynamic organization.

As an expression of encouragement, confidence & trust, management provides me with an opportunity to work in various divisions & branches across India starting from World-wide Cargo Care, Orient Express Lines Ltd, NLS Agency (India) Pvt Ltd, Relay Shipping Agency Ltd. and today it gives me immense pleasure to express that I am heading one of the largest & renowned business verticals - coastal domestic Multimodal division under the able guidance & encouragement of Mr. Varadarajan. My 22 years experience with this group has made me confident to take any challenging position where I can use my extensive knowledge to help in achieving the management goals.

Memories in Transworld are in abundant to name a few:-

- In 2009 I had the privilege to receive the long service award for completing 15 years of service with Transworld Group.
- Opportunity to lead coastal business division in SRSL.
- Representing SRS & receiving winner award for coastal container operator of year in presence of our Chairman.

It is significant to note the way Transworld Group has evolved itself as technology driven organisation. With latest emerging technologies today’s workplace is completely different from what it used to be in early 90s.

I am a firm believer that irrespective of age & experience, learning & gaining knowledge are everlasting processes and we should keep ourselves open to all knowledge & learning centres.

I am actively participating in the social works and actively involved/representing the trade in the various associations such as steamship agents association, Gujarat Kerala Samajam etc.

My interests are in reading, travelling, interact with people, music & watching movies.

I maintain a balance life with work, family, friends & colleagues.

My wife Sreelatha is a perfect house maker, her dedication & commitment in upbringing & grooming our two children Amritha 14 Years & Nithya 10 years provides me more time to focus on my workplace activities & organisational tasks.

My wife Sreelatha, daughters Amritha & Nithya would like to take this opportunity to express their heartfelt appreciation for the support, guidance and encouragement that the management has given me over the years and wishing all the very best for Transworld Group for continued happiness, success and growth in the future and to see Transworld Group in such a strong and premier position right on top with best in the business and it reflects the indomitable spirit of TRANSWORLD GROUP.

Our Most Valuable Resources - Our People
World Environment Day
5th June 2014

- Contributed by Sharath Shankar
  (Son of Shankarnarayanan)

World Environment Day is a yearly event held to raise global awareness of the need to take positive environmental action.

World Environment Day (WED) is the United Nations’ principal vehicle for encouraging worldwide awareness and action for the environment. Over the years it has grown to be a broad, global platform for public outreach that is widely celebrated by stakeholders in over 100 countries. It also serves as the ‘people’s day’ for doing something positive for the environment, galvanizing individual actions into a collective power that generates an exponential positive impact on the planet.

In support of the UN designation of 2014 as the International Year of Small Island Developing States (SIDS), WED this year will adopt SIDS in the broader context of climate change as its theme. Our objectives are to help build momentum towards the Third International Conference on SIDS in September and encourage a greater understanding of the importance of SIDS and of the urgency to help protect the islands in the face of growing risks and vulnerabilities, particularly as a result of climate change. We believe WED will be an excellent opportunity to raise a call for solidarity with the islands.

Even though the United Nations pick a specific host city every year, people around the world still celebrate World Environment Day in their hometowns with parades, concerts, clean up and recycling initiatives, tree planting groups and all kinds of green action initiatives that are meant to promote and inspire people in every community to work towards maintaining our beautiful planet and battling pollution.

How will you make your voice heard this year for the environment? The call this year is to recognize that we all face the same challenges and are connected and united by our common goal of a sustainable and prosperous life for all on this planet. The call is to raise our voice in solidarity with one another, particularly with the citizens of the small island states. Whether it is to organize clean up campaigns, food waste reduction initiatives, walk-to-work days, plastic bans, art exhibits, tree-planting drives, concerts, dance recitals, recycling drives, social media campaigns and different contests - every action counts. When multiplied by a global chorus, our individual voices and actions become exponential in its impact.
To achieve the greatest success, you have to embrace the prospect of failure.

The sweetest victory is the one that’s most difficult. The one that requires you to reach down deep inside, to fight with everything you’ve got, to be willing to leave everything out there on the battlefield—without knowing, until that do-or-die moment, if your heroic effort will be enough.

Society doesn’t reward defeat, and you won’t find many failures documented in history books. The exceptions are those failures that become steppingstones to later success. Such is the case with Thomas Edison, whose most memorable invention was the light bulb, which purportedly took him 1,000 tries before he developed a successful prototype. “How did it feel to fail 1,000 times?” a reporter asked. “I didn’t fail 1,000 times,” Edison responded. “The light bulb was an invention with 1,000 steps.”

Unlike Edison, many of us avoid the prospect of failure. In fact, we’re so focused on not failing that we don’t aim for success, settling instead for a life of mediocrity. When we do make missteps, we gloss over them, selectively editing out the miscalculations or mistakes in our life’s résumé.

“Failure is not an option,” NASA flight controller Jerry C. Bostick reportedly stated during the mission to bring the damaged Apollo 13 back to Earth, and that phrase has been etched into the collective memory ever since.

“To many in our success-driven society, failure isn’t just considered a non-option—it’s deemed a deficiency,” says Kathryn Schulz, author of Being Wrong: Adventures in the Margin of Error. “Of all the things we are wrong about, this idea of error might well top the list,” Schulz says. “It is our meta-mistake: We are wrong about what it means to be wrong. Far from being a sign of intellectual inferiority, the capacity to err is crucial to human cognition.”

When we take a closer look at the great thinkers throughout history, a willingness to take on failure isn’t a new or extraordinary thought at all. From the likes of Augustine, Darwin and Freud to the business mavericks and sports legends of today, failure is as powerful a tool as any in reaching great success.

“Failure and defeat are life’s greatest teachers [but] sadly, most people, and particularly conservative corporate cultures, don’t want to go there,” says Ralph Heath, managing partner of Synergy Leadership Group and author of Celebrating Failure: The Power of Taking Risks, Making Mistakes and Thinking Big. “Instead they choose to play it safe, to fly below the radar, repeating the same safe choices over and over again. They operate under the belief that if they make no waves, they attract no attention; no one will yell at them for failing because they generally never attempt anything great at which they could possibly fail (or succeed).”

However, in today’s post-recession economy, some employers are no longer shying away from failure—they’re embracing it. According to a recent article in BusinessWeek, many companies are deliberately seeking out those with track records reflecting both failure and success, believing that those who have been in the trenches, survived battle and come out on the other side have irreplaceable experience and perseverance. They’re veterans of failure.

The prevailing school of thought in progressive companies—such as Intuit, General Electric, Corning and Virgin Atlantic—is that great success depends on great risk, and failure is simply a common byproduct. Executives of such organizations don’t mourn their mistakes but instead parlay them into future gains.

“The quickest road to success is to possess an attitude toward failure of ‘no fear,’” says Heath. “To do their work well, to be successful and to keep their companies competitive, leaders and workers on the front lines need to deliver risky, edgy, breakthrough ideas, plans, presentations, advice, technology, products, leadership, bills and more. And they have to deliver all this fearlessly—without any fear whatsoever of failure, rejection or punishment.”

We at OEL FZCO decide on a GOAL for the year, to help us remain focussed to achieve our objectives. For 2014, the goal is: ‘Do not fear failure’.

I thought it would be appropriate to elaborate on our reason to embrace failure to achieve success, and the following article by Pauline Estrem explains it all.

**Why Failure Is Good for Success**

- Contributed by Capt. Leslie Reis

We at OEL FZCO decide on a GOAL for the year, to help us remain focussed to achieve our objectives. For 2014, the goal is: ‘Do not fear failure’.

I thought it would be appropriate to elaborate on our reason to embrace failure to achieve success, and the following article by Pauline Estrem explains it all.
Reaching Your Potential

The same holds true for personal quests, whether in overcoming some specific challenge or reaching your full potential in all aspects of life. To achieve your personal best, to reach unparalleled heights, to make the impossible possible, you can’t fear failure, you must think big, and you have to push yourself.

When we think of people with this mindset, we imagine the daredevils, the pioneers, the inventors, the explorers: They embrace failure as a necessary step to unprecedented success.

But you don’t have to walk a tightrope, climb Mount Everest or cure polio to employ this mindset in your own life. When the rewards of success are great, embracing possible failure is key to taking on a variety of challenges, whether you’re reinventing yourself by starting a new business or allowing yourself to trust another person to build a deeper relationship.

“To achieve any worthy goal, you must take risks,” says writer and speaker John C. Maxwell. Of course, the risks you take should be calculated; you shouldn’t fly blindly into the night and simply hope for the best. Achieving the goal or at least waging a heroic effort requires preparation, practice and some awareness of your skills and talents.

Easing Into a Fearless Mindset

“One of the biggest secrets to success is operating inside your strength zone but outside of your comfort zone,” Heath says. Although you might fail incredibly, you might succeed incredibly—and that’s why incredible risk and courage are requisite. Either way, you’ll learn more than ever about your strengths, talents and resolve, and you’ll strengthen your will for the next challenge.

If this sounds like dangerous territory, it can be. But there are ways to ease into this fearless mindset. The first is to consciously maintain a positive attitude so that, no matter what you encounter, you’ll be able to see the lessons of the experience and continue to push forward.

Heath recommends studying the failures and subsequent reactions of successful people and, within a business context, repeating such histories for others. “Reward them and applaud their efforts in front of the entire organization so everyone understands it is OK to fail.

Loving a Sailor

- Contributed by Capt. Rakesh Raje

Loving a Sailor is not always gay,
Loving him truly is a high price to pay.
Its being alone with nothing to hold,
its being young but feeling so old,
Its having him whisper his love for you,
it's whispering back you love him two.
There comes a kiss and a promise of more
as his ship slowly glides away from the shore.
Reluctantly, painfully, letting him go,
while you’re dying inside for wanting him so.
Watching him leave with eyes full of tears,
standing alone with your hopes, dreams and fears.
Its sending a letter with the stamp upside down
to your far-away love in a far-away town.
Its going to church to kneel and to pray,
and really meaning the things that you say.
Being in love will foster your dreams
of that far-away sailor your mind fairly beams.
Days go by, no mail for a spell,
you wait for some words to hear that he’s well.
Then a letter arrives and you’re given in,
to open his letter and smile with a grin.
Yes, he is well and misses you so,
and is filled with the love you want to know.
Weeks are like months and months are like years,
you wait for the day when you’ll have no more fears.
Days go by slowly, how many have passed?
Then suddenly you realize its here at last!
Yes, loving a sailor brings bitterness and fears,
loneliness and sadness and despondent years.
Loving a Sailor isn’t much fun
but its worth the price when the battle is won.
And remember he’s thinking of you every day,
he’s sad and he’s lonely while so far away.
So love him and miss him and hold your head high,
Be strong and have faith, wipe that tear from your eye.
Your man’s a seafarer, like that old ancient trader,
It’s a high price you pay for loving a Sailor.

written by
Captain ‘O.W.’ Wright, USN
USS Theodore Roosevelt · Desert Storm
Our perception of reality is constructed based on past cognitive experiences. Our mind finds solution to present day problems based on such experiences. It is constantly screening for dangers and threat, as a natural survival instinct. This leads our mind on a constant negative mode. Therefore, no matter what evidence is there before us, our mind convinces us into believing what it has learnt from past negative experiences.

Anger is defined as a strong feeling of annoyance, displeasure or hostility. It is a natural and protective emotion, where our body reacts to a threat of what we perceive as unfair. Anger may be due to fatigue, stress or irritation. We are more likely to be irriated if our basic needs of food, shelter and sleep are not met. We feel irritated by other people’s beliefs, opinions and actions, which are contradictory from that of ours. Anger is also a reaction to frustration and criticism and this is not necessarily a bad or inappropriate reaction. An instinctive way to express anger is to respond aggressively, to fight and to defend against the threat.

Behavior is a way we express our anger, and behavior can be modified. When we are angry, our body reacts with physiological and biological changes. We look and sound angry. Our face may turn red. Our blood pressure and heart rate raises, and our muscles tighten. Our adrenaline levels go up. Our voice raises, we slam doors and may stomp away. These bodily effects are to motivate us to take charge.

The three main approaches are expressing, suppressing, and calming. We cannot verbally or physically abuse every person or object that irritates or annoys us. Society, norms and common sense place limits on how far our anger can take us. Expressing our anger in an assertive, not aggressive way is the healthiest way to express anger. Being assertive doesn’t mean being pushy or demanding. It means being respectful of yourself and others. To do this, you have to learn how to be clear and articulate your needs and how to get them met, without hurting others. If your needs are not met, you need to accept them gracefully.

When anger is suppressed, it becomes rage- an unnatural emotion. Mismanaged anger is counter-productive. It can lead to aggression instead of assertions, thus leading to poor decisions and problem solving skills. Anger can affect our ability to communicate effectively, making us say or do irrational things. Being unreasonable or irrational can lead others around us to feel threatened, resentful or angry themselves causing further barriers to effective communication.

While processing information, we mainly use the Cortex or the strategy part of the brain. If the information is emotionally charged like that of anger, then Amygdala, our emotional part of the brain overrides the Cortex. We then go into action without much regard for the consequences. The first thought that comes to our mind, triggered by similar past negative experiences prevents a better solution being found. This is called the Einstellung Effect. We need to learn to consciously break the pattern with awareness.

It takes an average of 20 minutes for an angry person to calm down, to move information from emotional to rational part of the brain. Focus on the way our body reacts when we begin to feel angry. This deliberate knowledge actually helps in reducing the intensity of anger. Count slowly to 10. This gives time for our brain to transfer information to the Cortex. Harsh words spoken in the moment of heat can only lead to regret. Once we are calm, taking a few moments to gather our thoughts before we speak helps. Physical activity can help reduce stress that can cause us to become angry. Going for a brisk walk helps. Take timeout. Take deep breaths. A few moments in a quite place helps. We must use our senses. Listening to music, cooking, walking in a beach helps. Let our mind travel to a favorite place like our childhood home or our favorite rose garden. We can avoid criticizing and blame game. We must be respectful and specific. Forgiveness is a powerful tool. It is unrealistic to expect everyone to behave exactly as we want at all times.

While we cannot control another person’s anger, we can control how we respond to it. We can set clear boundaries about what we will and will not tolerate. Wait for a time when both are calm to talk to our loved one about the anger problem. Move away from the situation if our loved one does not calm down.

Anger can be suppressed. This happens when we hold in our anger, stop thinking about it, and focus on something positive. The danger in this type of response is our anger can turn inwards, causing hypertension, high blood pressure or even depression. Unexpressed
anger can create passive-aggressive behavior. This is expressed by getting back at people without telling them why, instead of confronting them head-on. We can even become cynical and hostile. People who are constantly putting others down, criticizing everything, and making cynical comments have not learned how to constructively express their anger.

Finally, we can calm down inside. This means not just controlling our outward behavior, but also controlling our internal responses, taking steps to lower our heart rate, calm ourselves down, and let the feelings subside.

Reference:
http://dspace.brunel.ac.uk/bitstream/2438/2276/1/Einstellung-Cognition.pdf;
http://www.cse.nd.edu/~skuntz/FoodForThought/FiveEmotions.txt;

Monsoon in Mumbai

- Contributed by Ronald Lobo

Monsoon brings a welcome break to the busy city of Mumbai. As the rain clouds recoil from the Western Ghats and break open on a bustling city. Mumbai breathes, it drops its guard, opens its windows, walks out to the Marine drive and welcomes the gushing sea and hazy drizzle. It showers the pavements, by lanes and suburbs. It polishes the train lines and bathes the Iron bogies. It adds a touch of romance to the boulevard at Nariman point. It puts rainbows in the form of umbrellas on the streets. The peanut seller and the bhajiya stalls up their business as Mumbai welcomes the rain with a sigh of relief.

Our Taxi’s the premier padmini’s get held up in water logged areas and then have to be pushed out to safety, children wade through the water and float their paper boats in the water streams. Most of the Mumbaikars wish that rains gods to pour down from Friday night when we head into the week end and expect the down pour to subside on Monday mornings before we all resume our long journeys to our work places.

The Mumbai monsoon is an experience, but monsoon weather is often unpredictable. What begins as a mild shower can suddenly turn into a heavy shower and the city will be deluged with water, tide can be strong enough to pull persons into the sea especially those roaming near the sea and Mumbai’s life line the suburban trains service also come to a halt whereby thousand of office goers are stranded at railway stations but during such worse weather a hot chai and home made bhajias complete the monsoon experience.
Have a good day. In our day to day life, we make comments on individuals, incidents, in short – on various matters. Often there can be the feasibility that we may make comments without realizing the facts thereby reducing our opinions to prejudices or even to the extent of gossips spoiling relations and reputation. Let us analyse this issue in detail and see how to deal with it properly so as to improve our opinions, views and relations.

Firstly, let us examine why we make unwanted and unreasonable comments. As we all know, we all are subjected to the constraints of life and are hurt in various ways in our day to day life. For example, let us compare how we talk when we are angry/restless with that when we are happy/being serene – see the difference which means our emotions affect our words/expressions – emotions speak rather than the individual, in many occasions. Our comments about the same person/event can be different in these two emotional states.

Since we don’t have the right to judge anyone (so that we shall not be judged), first of all we need to ensure maturity in our emotions, thinking, expressions, cleanliness in heart and mind prior to commenting about others/incidents so that pro rata maturity and better understanding shall be there in our comments as well. Those who point finger at others often forget that three of their own fingers are pointed towards them in this exercise. Let us stretch out the three fingers pointing towards us along with the pointing finger enabling entire hand be stretched on to the person so that it shall become a shakehand with that person whom we intended to accuse, leading to a fruitful and friendly conversation. Our traditional views, cultures, lifestyle etc. also influence our views and comments to a large extent. Holy Bible says - For we all stumble in many ways. If someone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect individual, able to control the entire body as well.

How to deal with gossips/rumours/scandals – suggest following steps:

- Do not keep enemity/grudge towards anyone and do not consider anyone as a competitor / opponent to us/ our interests. Do not carry suspicions/doubting nature – maintain trust and openness always applying wisdom and caution – get it cleared any kind of confusion, at the earliest. Would like to quote a small story – a person walking along a deserted road in foggy weather conditions noticed someone coming against him from a distance. Felt it could be his fierce enemy - on coming closer, began to feel that the stranger cannot be his arch rival, again closer, began to feel the person as someone familiar to him and when he could see him so closely and clearly , could realize that it was his own brother.
- We must be aware of our limitations in thinking, vocabulary used etc. Often what we convey can be different from what we really intended to convey - we may use inappropriate words while commenting and pro-rata lack of understanding can be there from the listener’s end as well. While the listener pass on what he/she has heard to another person, again there can be similar errors resulting in vague or even wrong info being passed on in succession, leading to rumours, gossips and even scandals. Hence apply caution for not being trapped while going for the quote-unquote.
- Do not entertain or pass on gossips - Tell the gossipmonger/accuser to speak in the presence of the person under reference. If repeated, say straightly that you are not interested in such talks / comments. REMEMBER – THOSE WHO GOSSIP TO YOU ABOUT OTHERS, SHALL GOSSIP AGAINST YOU AS WELL, LATER.
- Check/verify the facts behind the statement/s made by someone and go for a genuine and fruitful discussion with him/her so as to reach a clear understanding.
- Forgive the gossipmonger - speak to him/her directly, explaining the facts calmly and trying to clear the misunderstandings if any (winwin approach). If required, have a joint conversation along with the person who has heard and reported the comments/talk. If there is no positive result and if the gossips are repeated, take up strongly with the person, insist to stop spreading scandals/rumours about you and if required involve higher ups as well, for a permanent solution. At any cost, do not be afraid of the gossipmongers.
- View the multiple damages that gossips inflict on the individuals, workstation, families, relations and the society at large, trust this message shall be beneficial to the readers to tackle this issue effectively.

Be Positive – Life Without Prejudices
- Contributed by Xavier Netto
Decline is the result of despair,
Blissful and cheerful live those humans,
Who utilize the food of hopefulness,
Because they do understand that,
Along with ease is difficulty,
Along with difficulty is ease,
Just as there is cool night is scorching desert,
Just as there is tree’s shade in sunshine,
Just as after every sunset as sunrise,
Just as every sea has a shore,
Likewise, of every depression, hope is a support

- Hadeel Mohammed Saeed Ennati
  Saudi Arabia
On this day 25 years ago, 
you departed......
but you never left us.
You continue to guide,
inspire and encourage us every day.