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India – An Emerging Citadel for Higher Education in Maritime Studies

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Lady in a **Hurry**

Nafeesa Moloobhoy speaks to Sadanand Subramanian about her expectations from the maritime administration as a modern day maritime entrepreneur

She is the managing partner of an over hundred years old maritime organisation that supplies latest equipment and machinery for the upkeep and enhancement of speed and efficiency of vessels. And like the performance of the high tech equipment she deals in, her workplace, her staff, and she herself zooms at a mechanical pace. No wonder she feels that the people in the maritime administration needs to pick up more speed and expects them to become on par with the entrepreneurs of her time if not ahead of them.

According to Nafeesa Moloobhoy, the industry has always been ahead of the maritime administration. "We know what is going on around the world and about the latest developments in the maritime field." She insists it should have been the other way around. A.S. Moloobhoy has recently installed a state of the art Immersion Suit Testing bench imported from Netherlands, Denmark. "I am very proud that it is the best in the industry internationally because whether we go to Netherlands or India, the same test bench is being used," says Nafeesa Moloobhoy with full of enthusiasm. She however rues the fact that she cannot start the marketing of Immersion Suit Testing services with full vigour unless DG Shipping inspects it, approves it and provides the necessary clearances. She says with a bit of frustration mixed with determination, "when I go to the DG Shipping to get the necessary approval to get the suit testing approved, they are not aware of it, they haven't studied

the rules pertaining to this." She informs that the file eventually seems to be moving and believes that the administration is considering handing her an appropriate approval.

Moloobhoy admits though that the present state of affairs at the administration is a far cry from the past. She recalls the times when she was made to sit for hours outside until an officer would condescend to check her file. With a sincere beam on her face she says, "Today I am happy that things are more transparent. When you send a letter, they send a reply reasonably more promptly." She quickly adds that there are still vast areas of improvement. "If DG Shipping could be more quick, comes out with clear cut rules and regulations, unambiguous rules and regulations, crisp replies, it would help so much."

A.S. Moloobhoy and Sons has built up a formidable reputation as one of the leading ship equipment dealers in India and is raring to make a mark as an important global equipment player. Housed under a heritage structure, the company is fast acquiring a post modern look. Nafeesa Moloobhoy wants to transform the ancient organisation with the right kind of facelift, frills, and the facilities to match with the best available anywhere. She has set up a punishing schedule to complete her dream tasks.

The company is planning a state of the art training centre for the installation, maintenance, and services of different ship equipment and innovations of their global OEMs. The training centre Moloobhoy informs would induct qualified young graduates from various parts of the country. She says, "This would start a revolution, the training centre would make our youngsters employable as skilled engineers and technicians in different



parts of the world in a matter of months." She plans to have her senior executives trained abroad and in the relevant cases, in affiliation, the OEMs would send across their engineers and executives to train and oversee the programs. Nafeesa Moloobhoy says that this dream of hers would only be fulfilled when the powers that be in the customs and maritime administrations expedite the inspection of the premises and provides a clearance to let her start renovation and developing work. The place earmarked for the training centre has been a custom bonded warehouse that is currently lying idle.


Forever innovative, Nafeesa Moloobhoy wants to be the first in Asia to operate a wholly environmental friendly way of disposing pyrotechnic wastes far away from human habitat in line with the most advanced manner done globally. She has all but achieved the goal but for the fact that her application to the maritime regulator is yet to meet with a favourable action. She has set up a disposal facility at a location at far away Wada fulfilling global criteria prescribed in this regard. She is looking forward to the administration appreciating her efforts to lead the industry users to dispose of pyrotechnic wastes the right way so that it does minimum damage to the environment. She informs that users currently adopt a simple disposal method, "either they are floated in the sea or are resold via the ship chandlers." Not one to despair easily, her tone is somewhat resolute when she says that she has waited patiently for over six months for some kind of acknowledgement from DG Shipping. She is optimistically hoping for the administration to soon come up with a set of standards for the disposal of pyrotechnics, draws up an appropriate policy, and guides the industry to adhere to them. When this happens it would be easy for her to approach the industry to make use of the facility made available by her.

Nafeesa Moloobhoy prides in the fact that she has worked her way up the ladder to be known as the lady spearheading one of the most promising maritime equipment supplies companies in the world. Adil Moloobhoy as Managing

Director and Nafeesa Moloobhoy as Managing Partner of this company provide a gamut of maritime services to shipowners, shipyards, and the industry in general with a handful of carefully picked up senior management team with vast experience. The day to day executions are carried out by energetic young professionals, educated and trained in the different skills they practice.

Practising what she preaches, inside her territory everyone seems to be efficient. One can find courteous and smiling young executives busy carrying out their chores and when you meet them you are greeted with a pleasant and business like way and with all promptness they lead you to the person you have come to see. The entire place is buzzing with activity and if one has been there before would easily spot the modernity and comforts the place has recently acquired in the midst of old world charm. Following in her footsteps, Ghazalah Moloobhoy, the young foreign educated daughter of Nafeesa Moloobhoy informs, "we are moving very fast, the entire place will be done up, complete with a green area, and a relaxation area by year end." ■

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