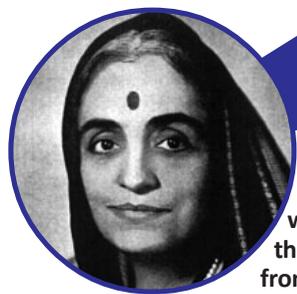




Prof. K. R. Bhandarkar presenting a book to Sumatiben Morarji. The first lady to Indian Shipping - from BSN Archives

BSN salutes Women of Maritime Industry on **WOMEN'S DAY**

On the Women's Day Bhandarkar Shipping News would like to highlight and recognize the contribution of women to the maritime industry. We have chosen a few women who have made name for themselves in different segments of maritime and logistics industry and successfully overcome the challenges. In creating this compilation BSN has drawn from various online sources hence if there is any factual discrepancy please accept our apologies and take it in the spirit of Women's Day.



The Woman Pioneer of India's Shipping Industry **Smt. Sumati Morarjee Scindia Steam**

One of the prominent names among women in maritime industry was Smt. Sumati Morarjee who built the Scindia Steam Navigation Company from humble beginnings parlaying a few vessels in the company and gradually developing it, till she assumed full charge of the company by 1946, managing over six thousand people. She did this at a time when hardly any women ventured in business.

She was already on the board of directors, and her expertise in the shipping trade, developed over many years. Due to her amazing feat, she was also elected the president of Indian National Steamship Owners' Association in 1956 and next two years and again in 1965. It was under her supervision that the company rose to fleet of 43 shipping vessels totalling 552,000 tonnes of dead weight.

A woman of international repute she was elected as vice-president of the World Shipping Federation, London, in 1970. She served as the chairperson of the Narottam Morarjee Institute of Shipping. In 1971 she was awarded Padma Vibhushan the second highest civilian award of the Republic of India preceded only by Bharat Ratna.

"It is not purely for business motives that we today concentrate on shipping. We want our people to travel abroad and the foreigners to see our ancient land. It has been the Indian tradition to export the best to foreign countries. We did business in merchandise for centuries, but our most precious cargo has been ideas of universal brotherhood and deep spirituality. . . . Our tradition of such transcendent goodwill to all has continued throughout." - Sumati Morarjee



H.K. Joshi : Trained Global act local

Mrs. H.K. Joshi took over as Director (Finance) of the Shipping Corporation of India Ltd. on 5th February, 2015. Prior to assuming charge of the office of Director (Finance) in SCI, Mrs. Joshi was General Manager (F&A) in Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd., Mumbai in the Offshore Engineering Services wherein the large Mega Offshore Construction Projects are handled. She has a shade over three decades of rich and diversified experience with ONGC which includes almost two decades with ONGC Videsh Limited (OVL - overseas arm of

Mrs. Anna Malhotra
 First woman IAS officer who became the Chairperson of JNPT



Another woman we highlight here is associated with the launch of India's premier port JNPT. Mrs. Anna Malhotra, [M.A. Hons.], now retired, is the first lady who entered the Indian Administrative Service (I.A.S.) in 1951 and had held various positions in the Government of India, including that of Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture and Education and Chairperson of the Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, the high-tech port of India based in Mumbai. She belonged to the Tamil Nadu cadre.

Anna Malhotra, had to start project for JNPT from scratch in what was then marshy, salt pan land. It also meant starting early from the RBI Governor's residence on Carmichael Road in South Bombay to catch a boat at 7 am from the Gateway to set out for Nhava Sheva, then just a deserted cluster of villages.

The Archaeology Department objected, saying that explosions being carried out in Nhava Sheva during construction would impact the Elephanta Caves. When it obtained a stay on the construction, Anna Malhotra got a prominent environmentalist to visit India and say in his assessment report that controlled explosions would not affect the Elephanta sculptures.

Anna Malhotra was awarded the Padma Bhushan.

Mahua Sarkar Management wizard of Shipping Industry



Mahua Sarkar, (IRS) is Deputy Director General of Shipping at Directorate General of Shipping, Govt. of India. For past 5 years she has been involved in Policy making, Administration, Financial Advisor to the DG Shipping, Human Resource Management, Development of Skilled Manpower, Head of Maritime Training. Her strong points include Team Management, Program Management, Policy Analysis, Management Consulting, Risk Management, Business Strategy, Strategic Planning, Research and Education.

ONGC) which looks after the international business acquisitions of ONGC wherein she was actively associated with the path breaking international transactions which led the company (OVL) to turnaround.

She is also a life member of the Institute of Public Administration, Delhi. She had been deputed to Dallas (USA) for four weeks for financial training and has undergone Advanced Global Leadership Program conducted by SCOPE and IIM Kolkata, with overseas exposure in Europe.



Neera Saggi The first elected woman president of BCCI, in its span of 178 years

Neera Saggi who is currently Independent Director on Company Boards has 34 years experience, both of the government and private sector in leadership and entrepreneur positions.

Regarding maritime industry she has extensive experience in infrastructure space especially Ports, Special Economic Zones and public utilities. She belongs to Indian Administrative Services (IAS) and has served in various capacities, both in Government of India and State of West Bengal. Before taking voluntary retirement in 2008, she has handled various important assignments including Secretary to Governor of West Bengal, Deputy Chairperson - Jawaharlal Nehru Port Trust, Chairman cum Managing Director - Hindustan Diamond Company Pvt. Ltd. and Development Commissioner - SEZ, Ministry of Commerce, Govt. of India. Mrs. Saggi has been closely associated with evolving the policy framework of the National Special Economic Zones Act, 2005 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry.

She has been involved in policy formulation and implementation at State and Central Governments. Her vast experience spreads across multiple sectors and with different stakeholders including government, private, NGO, multilateral agencies, Consulates, Chambers of Business and Commerce. What's more in June 2013 she became the first woman to be elected President of Bombay Chamber of Commerce and Industry (BCCI), a 178 years old Chamber.



Dr. Sujata Naik-Tolani : Woman of Many Hats

A multifaceted personality Dr. (Mrs) Sujata A. Naik - Tolani, wears many hats. She gainfully applies her vast experience in disparate fields to maritime industry. For instance recently speaking to a group of seafarers she drew parallel between junior medical doctors and seafarers saying medical doctors have to practice under senior doctors before they independently start practicing medicine similarly she said there is a need for those who have acquired certificates to work under the guidance of seniors.

A Pulmonary Critical Care Specialist, Dr. Sujata A. Naik has served as Director of the medical Intensive Care Unit at Brooklyn Hospital Center in USA.

Dr. Naik has wide knowledge and acumen. She is Chairperson of Tolani Bulk Carriers Ltd. She serves as a Director on the Board of other companies in Tolani Group.

Tolani Bulk Carriers Ltd. was incorporated in 1991 and is based in Mumbai, India. Tolani Bulk Carriers Ltd. operates as a subsidiary of Tolani Shipping Company Limited. She is also Chairperson, Tolani Maritime Institute. She also Board member of Shipowners' Association INSA.

Indian Coast Guard women enter war zone

The lead pilot, Deputy Commandant Poonam Saini and co-pilot Assistant Commandant Avantika Suryawanshi and observer Assistant Commandant Nidhi Shukla.



The ICG has been allowing women pilots and observers on their Dorniers even as the senior sea-going service, the navy, has not allowed them beyond observers in the same planes.

The Indian Coast Guard sent an all-women maritime patrol plane crew for the aerial surveillance of the sensitive Indo-Pak maritime boundary line on Monday. The aircraft is in Porbandar, Gujarat. The crew consisted of: the lead pilot, Deputy Commandant Poonam Saini and co-pilot Assistant Commandant Avantika Suryawanshi and observer Assistant Commandant Nidhi Shukla.

It is a smart and enviable lead taken by the youngest among the four services under the Ministry of Defence (MoD) - the Indian Coast Guard (ICG).

To begin with, at the peak of tension over ten terrorists sneaking into Gujarat, on Monday evening, the ICG undertook aerial surveillance of the sensitive Indo-Pak maritime boundary line using an all-women crew consisting of a pilot, co-pilot and an observer. Securing special access, this journalist travelled with the crew, which scanned the seas for signs of intrusion and maintained a strict vigil over the north Arabian Sea.

Taking a cue from the Centre's initiative to empower women by expanding their scope and representation in the armed forces, the ICG in the last few days has attempted the unthinkable, even as the older services, the Army, Navy and Air Force, mull over reforms.

Radhika Menon : First Woman Captain of India



Merchant navy is an industry dominated by men however, Radhika Menon broke into this exclusive preserve of men to become the first woman Radio officer and later a women captain paving way for many more women to follow in her footsteps. There are about fifty women working in the Indian merchant navy itself now.

It has been seen that women in spite of being good with the job, usually quit the job mainly because they need to take care of their families. Being in the merchant navy involves staying away from family for months leaving behind family members, particularly difficult thing for a woman. **Radhika Menon has proved herself in the job of a captain. She accepts the fact that when a woman does the job of a man she has to ensure that she does the job better than man. She believes women have to be strong and they must ensure that they do the job well.**

Being the master of a ship is a challenging job but she feels that it has nothing to do with gender. Even women can be good in Navy if given an opportunity. All that one requires is to do the job well. This is something that any woman can do.

Radhika menon was in school when she had decided that she does not want to live an ordinary life or to do a regular job. She had just completed her twelfth class exam and she got into the Indian Navy. She was recruited as trainee radio officer. This was in the year 1991. She was responsible to look at the communication system of the ship. She was the first radio officer in the country.

Gradually she cleared exams and rapidly rose in the hierarchy. In the year 2010 she cleared the exam of master's certificate. After clearing the exam became a certified master and took charge of the MT Suvarna Swarajya. Radhika menon admits that being a woman captain of a ship is not easy. Mainly because it is a job, that only men have been doing. However, slowly the crew members realised that she is good with her job and they accept the fact that even a woman can be a master.



Nafisa Moloobhoy : Custodian of Standards

Director of A. S. Moloobhoy Pvt. Ltd. (formerly A. S. Moloobhoy & Sons), which has a 111 year legacy. She looks at herself and the current directors as custodians and standard bearers.

In this 2nd century innings, our focus is to create a professional team of visionaries who dare to dream - that a small firm can make a BIG difference to the maritime industry in the Indian Sub-continent, says Mrs. Nafeesa A. Moloobho.

Their mission is to build on a track record of over a century of reliability and strive to remain ahead in their area of activity by offering its customers true value addition. Both in terms of product performance and service capability. Concerned about the employees welfare the company aims to improve the quality of their life by providing a congenial work environment which enhances employee contribution concurrently giving a sense of accomplishment. With a heavy stress on Quality it has a Policy that is aimed at achieving customer satisfaction within the framework of applicable Standards / Regulations and industry norms / contractual guidelines, with innovative methods to catalyze performance and improve the effectiveness of our Quality Management System.



Sharmila Amin : Customer is at the Helm

Sharmila Amin is Managing Director, Bertling Logistics India, which was founded way back in June 1865 initially as a ship owning and operating company in Luebeck (Germany). From this simple beginning, Bertling has grown into a global company.

Ms. Sharmila Amin, Managing Director, Bertling Logistics India Pvt. Ltd., sharing her insights, in an exclusive interview to BSN said the infrastructure in this country has not expanded as has the demand and the increasing dimensions of Project Cargo. Her message to the aspiring young women wanting to join logistics is "It is a sector full of opportunities; the path has been set by many of us early professionals in the business for all women to now enter and take advantage of the opportunities that are in front of all of us. Go full steam ahead in this sector, as it won't stop you from your achieving your dreams." It is a sector full of opportunities; the path has been set by many of us early professionals in the business for all women to now enter and take advantage of the opportunities that are in front of all of us. Go full steam ahead in this sector, as it won't stop you from your achieving your dreams. I would like to invite more young women to this industry to challenge themselves to change this industry."



Shantha Martin : A staunch believer of Capability over Gender

Shantha Martin is a regional CEO for NVOCC vertical to all Allcargo logistics Ltd (India/EUC line NV (Global) leading the India Sub continent and middle East and responsible for 23others in 8 countries. She has been

with Allcargo logistics since 2003. The Company is an integrated logistics multinational, headquartered in India. Its services comprises global multimodal transport operations (NVOCC,LCL,FCL), pan India CSF/ICD operations, Project and Engineering Solutions.

BSN tried to get the profile of Ms. Shantha Martin who has been an important part of the team Allcargo Logistics. Ms. Shantha Martin came off as a highly knowledgeable, professional, yet humble person who is a staunch believer in gender neutrality - one who measures person's worth only in terms of capability regardless of gender.

Revealing her secret for relaxing in the face of demanding job responsibility she said "The best relaxation I draw is by being with my family, especially when my work requires me to travel on a frequent basis. My little daughter is my greatest stress buster, apart from this I read, watch movies, listen to music, and paint whenever time permits. My greatest source of energy has been my family. I have derived great encouragement and support from them especially my parents. My spouse also inspires me especially when I get some insightful inputs from him with respect to my work challenges. My daughter too recharges me through her energy, creativity and playfulness."



Inderjit Sahi

Inderjit Sahi is the CFO of Sitara Shipping Ltd a leading NVOCC having over 40 yrs experience is handling the company finances & also the Branch offices are under her aegis.

Sumeet Sahi



She is the First lady to be on the extended board of AMTOI. Is on its extended board for the the 2nd term.

She is active in the NVOCC business, ship chartering & now the CFS wing of Sitara.

Woman Professionals in Maritime Industry



Ms Rita Guha: Neo Logistics, Ms Hetal Philips: Seatech, Nafeesa Moolobhoy: A.S Moolobhoy & Sons, Sandhya Pillai: Marine Lawyer, Shobha Rane Map Logistics: (Chennai), Sumiit Sharma:Elketrans: Delhi, Mercator Ltd:Loretta Fernandes, Lords Freight:Monica Golap, Gopi SriPriya:Transy Shipping Pvt Ltd, Namrata Joshi:NYK Ship Management, Jhanvi Mehta :MSC India, Ronak Shaikh:Rapharo Consultants: (Gujarat), Nikita Rajiv: Sr Officer: DP World, K.Usha Srinivas: Chennai: Chairperson Shri Chakra maritime College, Ekta Chakraborty:APM Terminals, Priyanka Purohit: DP World

Audrey Dolhen : The Game Changer for CMA CGM on the foreign turf



In a male dominated industry, coming to a foreign country Ms. Audrey Dolhen who is Managing Director CMA CGM India since August 2015 has demonstrated her capabilities by successfully leading the growth of the company in India.

Ms. Audrey Dolhen joined the Group in 2006 and has been evolving in CMA CGM India since 2011. CMA CGM, founded and led by Jacques R. Saadé, is a leading worldwide container shipping group and has a turnover of 15.7 billion USD in 2015. Operating a fleet of 471 vessels, the Group serves more than 420 ports around the world. With a presence in 160 countries, through its 765 agencies network, the Group employs 22,000 people worldwide, including 2,400 in its headquarter in Marseilles.

Through her experience, she has developed a strong expertise of the shipping industry and the Indian market. She is pursuing the Group's development on the strategic Indian subcontinent.

CMA CGM has been committed to professional equality for years and implements its commitment through several actions such as: the Group's recruitment, promotion and training policy, and its contribution to promote a healthy work-life balance.

In April 2015, the Group acquired a strategic stake in LCL Logistix, a logistics leader in India, via its subsidiary CMA CGM LOG. In a move to further strengthen its presence in India CMA CGM will launch a new container terminal in Mundra in association with the Adani Group. The Group pursues its development to be a fully integrated operator by using all Group synergy inside and outside the country.



Philu Pereira : First Woman as Custom Broker

My journey as a Custom Broker began 40 years ago with Mathuradas Narandas & Sons. Having recognized my contribution to the growth of the company, I was given an opportunity to appear for the Custom Exam and apply for the Custom Broker License. I was issued the licence in 1989. Today, my company P.V. Agencies Freight Forwarders Pvt.Ltd. is well recognized and respected in the Exim Trade. By the grace of God, and support received from various people over the years, I have grown from strength to strength. Besides having own office in the northern India, we now have a MTO registered freight forwarding Company doing International business alongwith own fleet of container trailer engaged in transportation of containers.

I have wonderful memories to cherish about our entire trade. One thing for sure, is that there is never a dull or monotonous day in our line of work.

Much of my success, I owe to the family for giving me support to be what I am today. I am also proud that my next generation has joined the business with requisite qualifications, not by lineage but by choice.

Jimi John : Woman Pioneer of Maritime law



Independent Lawyer who deals in all aspects of Admiralty & Maritime Laws as well as General Civil Laws. She has a total of 14 years experience in the practice of contentious and non-contentious matters arising out of General & Commercial Laws out of which 10 years have included Admiralty & Maritime Laws.

She started Independently as a Lawyer in Goa since 2008 handling matters in the High Court as well as Lower Courts of



Sanjam Gupta : The Founder President of Wista India

Womens Day is a day when we celebrate what it is to be a woman... And the roles we play-a daughter, a sister, a wife, a mother , a career woman -all with great finesse! I believe behind each successful woman there are other women cheering her to succeed.

Women form almost half of our population but the actual percentage of working women is much lower due to lack of a support to guide her thru the various stages -i.e. motherhood. We need to acknowledge and make an effort to provide them with a support system to enable them to also achieve their career goals.

There are also barriers of perception-especially wrt leadership. Women are as effective leaders as men.Women need to believe in themselves.

Education , mentoring and training are key to women in the maritime sector and Wista hopes to make a difference.

She is the founder of WISTA India. She is also on the WISTA INT'L board ...she is the only Indian woman in 40yrs to be elected on this board. She has assisted wista be launched in neighbouring countries like in Sri Lanka, Malaysia ,Pakistan .

Vinita Venkatesh : Director, Krishnapatnam Port Container Terminal, which is has been growing at a rapid pace.



Women's Day gives us an occasion to celebrate our achievements, to encourage and motivate our lady colleagues in the industry to aspire higher and also, to enjoy the warmth of female bonding !

Sushmita Shukla : Sr. Manager PSA's Chennai International Terminal Pvt. Ltd. : Bonding Stronger



Its a day of recognition of women and expressing solidarity with each other. Every day is our day but this day is carved out for us globally which makes it special. Makes us women bond stronger.

Miriam Mathews : Director GAC India : Celebrating Progress in Mindsets



It goes without saying, that the past few years have seen a lot of changes in the shipping industry, including women taking their place at the helm. Women's day is not just to understand the value of being rational humans who recognize the need for equality everywhere, but also to celebrate the progress in mindsets. We have an umpteen number of

celebratory days, but women's day stands out, simply because it recognizes a need for continued positive change, which starts with our thinking.

Goa in Maritime Laws and other Civil Laws. Since 2004 she practiced under late Shri S. Venkiteswaran Senior Advocate (Bombay), the pioneer in Maritime Law in India and Adv. Mr. V. Subramanian for Admiralty & Maritime Laws upto 2008 before moving to Goa.