

'Shhh... Yeh Hamari Zindagi Hai'

We have read in history that seafaring is an adventures life accompanied with opportunities of heroic deeds and a scope to enter into the pages of history with fairytale achievements. Even today, to many, Seafaring is an attractive career due to its adventurous opportunities, scope to visit foreign lands and opportunity to earn a



huge amount of money at a very young age.

But there are many who have a different opinion about this profession today. They no more find taking up a seafaring job is accompanied with the above mentioned attractions.

Justifying their stand, they say that of late, seafaring has started losing its previous charm. Issues like short stays of ships at ports and restrictions imposed on crew members of a foreign ship to see venture into places adjacent to the ports, lucrative shore jobs, increasing piracy attacks at sea, criminalization of Seafarers are only acting to make seafaring a more tasking job. As a result, youths do not feel enthusiastic to take up this career any more. On the other hand, lots of Seafarers are taking up shore jobs to get rid of the risks at sea, which

have only aggravated the already existing manpower crisis in the shipping industry.

As fallout of all these developments, today seafaring is losing its quality. If a few years back, Seafarers were the most spoke-about professionals because of their knowledge, sincerity, humble nature and loyalty to profession, today these qualities among many young Seafarers are rare to find. Youngsters are now giving more importance to making money, rather than emphasizing on a sincere career in this industry. Although a few youngsters still adhere to the ethics and are sincerely trying to do their jobs as honest and dedicated professionals, but slowly and surely many youngsters who are stepping into this profession are totally concentrating on minting the maximum possible money at the shortest time and seek greener pastures elsewhere.

THE MARINE WORLD recently met a young Seafarer from Chandigarh, **Mr Gaurav Sharma** to find out why he chose to join Merchant Navy. Well, a confident, bold and frank Mr Gaurav did not hide his feelings, his desires and what he expects in life. That's not all. He even shared several casual moments of his personal life and had a close tête-à-tête with us along with his love interest **Ms Anokhi Srivastava**, a small screen celebrity, who hails from Mumbai.

Seafaring is a license to money and honey; it helps me have a close glimpse of the foreign babes: Gaurav

Mr Gaurav Sharma, a young guy from Chandigarh, completed his sea assignment as a Second Officer few days back with Executive Shipping. Replying to a TMW query why he selected seafaring as a career, he replied with a chuckle "I love to see new places. Merchant Navy is the best option to roam around various places round the globe. This profession also helps you mint money faster. Last but not least, as a Seafarer there is an opportunity to meet beautiful girls of different countries." (*Oops, then how can the industry get a quality Seafarer!*)

When we asked Mr Gaurav about his favourite pastime at shore, he revealed he enjoys eating 'sarso da saag' and other delicious stuffs specially made by his mom. But he misses all those 'Maa ka haath ka khana' when he is at sea. But he also enjoys a good slumber, roaming around with his friends, especially with his sweetheart.

Speaking about his love interest Ms Anokhi Srivastava

(whom he did not hesitate to mention that he is busy dating her these days) is a TV serial actress based in Chembur (Mumbai), whom he met in a gym in April 2007. He came down to Mumbai on the next day of his arrival at shore after completion of his sea assignment. Needless to say, it was his love which pulled him to Mumbai.

Questioned how they communicate during Mr Gaurav's sailing days, he revealed Anokhi use to call him almost everyday. She teased him saying, "He only gives me miss calls; I always had to call him, whereas he use to call up his other girl friends"!

Replying to our query when he is planning to tie the knot with Anokhi, he replied, "No marriage plans yet. Only Almighty knows when that will happen. But don't worry, we will decide what to do. Because after all - *Yeh hamari zindagi hai.*"

He also let us know that his favourite port is 'Fortaleza' (Brazil) for the semi-clad Brazilian beauties. But realising Anokhi was beside him, he immediately replied JNPT is also one of my favourite ports as Anokhi belongs to Mumbai.

Seafarers are better options: Anokhi Srivastava

We also had a chat with Mr Gaurav's sweetheart **Ms Anokhi Srivastava**, a Mumbai girl, who said she fell in 'love' with him 'at first sight' when she saw him in a gymnasium. *(So, a small screen celebrity is in love with a Seafarer. That sounds romantic and interesting as well. That seems a strong plot for our Bollywood script writers and TV soap opera makers!)*



When we asked why she chose a Seafarer, she replied, "I guess, sea life is very romantic. After marriage, we will be alone there (during his sea assignments). No one will be there to interfere. Moreover, we can roam around different places of the world, which is my passion. I will get a chance to fulfil my dream."

'*Bindiya*' of '*Banoo Mein Teri Dulhan*' (Zee TV show), Anokhi has done her specialization in Business Management and Personal Management. Suddenly she got a chance to work in an advertisement project with Ad Guru Ms Prahlad Kakkar in '*Tulsi Pan Masala*'. Till date, she has been involved with more than 50 ad projects which include major brands like *Dabur Vatica, Savlon, Livon, Bingo Chips*, etc.

Speaking about her career graph on small screen, she said, "I played the role of *Chutki* in *Kahin Kisi Roz* (first show), *Bindiya* in *Dulhan* (in Zee TV), *Shivangi* in *Kahin to Hoga*, *Parmindar* in *Khichdi* (all are Star Plus shows), *Anuradha* in *Mai Aisi Kyun Hoon* (a Sahara TV production). Currently, I am also anchoring '*Sabse Favourite Kaun*' (a Star Plus show). I am fortunate to have worked with renowned directors and creative greats like Mr Aziz Mirza, Mr Pradeep Sakar, Mr Prahlad Kakkar, Priyardarshanjee, Mr John Mathew, and many others."

On being asked if she is serious about tying the wedding knot with Mr Gaurav and if so, when will that happen, she replied with a chuckle, "See, we are very good friends and we like each other. Right now, we are just trying to know each other. We have no plans yet to marry....!"