

Callidus News

ADVOCATES, CONSULTANTS & NOTARY

DUBAI | SINGAPORE | DELHI | MUMBAI | KOLKATA | CHENNAI | COCHIN info@calliduscmc.com

Branches

Dubai

Business Avenue Building
Office # 713
Port Saeed Road, P.O. Box # 90992
Dubai, UAE, Tel : +97142956664
Fax : +97142956099

Singapore

20 Maxwell Road
#04-02 D, Maxwell House
Singapore - 069113
Tel: +65 6221 4090

Delhi

D 1st 145 Basement (Rear)
Lajpat Nagar R 1
New Delhi - 110 024
Tel: +91 11 4132 1037

Mumbai

8-B, Dariya Building
2nd Floor, In between
American Dry Fruits & Zara
Dr. D.N.Road, Fort, Mumbai 400 001
Tel: 022-22853371

Chennai

Old No. 123, New No.255,
3rd Floor, Hussiana Manzil,
Ankapanaiken Street,
Parrys, Chennai - 600 001
Tel: +91 98 40 844463

Cochin

Near St. Joseph's High School
Chittoor Road, Cochin - 12,
India
Tel : +91 484 4010566
Fax : +91 484 2391895
office@callidusindia.com

Message from Managing Partner



Adv. Joy Thattil Ittoop

As we enter 2021, it's good to look ahead and think what the New Year may unveil for each one of us. 2020 turned out to be the most challenging and difficult year that we have ever come across. Even as the world faced the Covid 19 pandemic and navigated through various challenges, we as a team have given our 100 per cent to deliver our best services to all our clients. The experience that we have received from 2020 gives us an immense confidence that Callidus team will continue to go from strength to strength and work together at any given scenario. We are extremely pleased to have had a good run this year, in spite of the massive recession, lockdown and work from home. I completely owe and attribute this success to all of you, as it would have been impossible without your continuous support and confidence upon us on this journey. I extend my gratitude to each and every one who has been a part of our Callidus Newsletters. I appreciate the time you have spent to give us your valuable comments and acclaim our work. I wish you and your families' joy, warm memories and peace and I take this opportunity to wish you all a very Happy New Year filled with success, happiness and good health.



2020 A YEAR OF CHANGE AND CHALLENGE

No one in their wildest dreams imagined at the end of 2019, what the onrushing train of 2020 would bring. 2020 was always touted to be known as one of the important years with some great historic changes expected to take place all across

the globe but with the natural disasters, the pandemic, the worldwide lockdown, massive recession; the Geospatial World called this year as the "worst year ever seen".

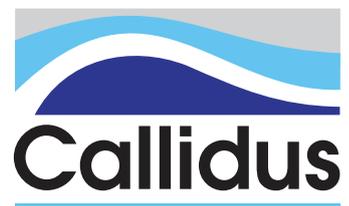
The big hope was that 2020 would be THE year for profitability and sustainability.



THOUGHT
for
the MONTH

Life consists of two days,
one for you one against you.
So when it's for you don't be
proud or reckless, and when
it's against you be patient,
for both days are test for
you

- HAZRAT ALI IBN
ABU



But in a matter of weeks, it had to be put on a back-burner as survival became the top priority. A United Nations progress report published in December 2020 indicated that none of the international Sustainable Development Goals for 2020 were achieved. The entire year of 2020 passed by the COVID-19 pandemic which has led to global social and economic disruption, mass cancellations and postponements of events, worldwide lockdowns and the largest economic recession since the World War 2.

But before we bid goodbye to this unprecedented year, it is essential to make sense of the developments which tested the world and its people. We started the year worrying about the possibility of World War III and ended up facing bigger troubles. A look back on the year that passed by like a gush of winds, below is the list of all the major events that we've endured this year.

1. AUSTRALIA BUSHFIRES AND WESTCOAST WILDFIRES

It began in September 2019 and continued to blaze in to the New Year as well. It was also called the "Black Summer" as it killed as many as 500 million animals, burned 47 million acres, displaced thousands of people and killed at least 34 people. The Royal Australian Navy (RAN) and the Royal Australian Air Force (RAAF) were deployed to New South Wales to assist mass evacuation efforts.

Deadly wildfires erupted from California to Washington State, burning millions of acres and displacing hundreds of thousands of people since mid-August.

2. HARRY AND MEGHAN QUIT (MEGXIT)

On 8th January 2020, Prince Harry, Duke of Sussex, and Meghan, Duchess of Sussex, made an announcement

on their social media handle of their intention to "step back as 'senior' members of the Royal Family". Megxit came to signify the break by the couple from the British royal family and its former protocol and their plans for independence under their new brand, then tentatively named Sussex Royal.

3. COVID 19 PANDEMIC

As mentioned earlier this year has to be credited to the virus as it has ruled the roost and shaken up the entire world. It is an on-going pandemic of coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) caused by severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2. The virus was first identified in December 2019 in Wuhan, China. The World Health Organization declared the outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern in January 2020 and a pandemic in March 2020.

As of 27 December 2020, more than 80.3 million cases have been confirmed, with more than 1.75 million deaths attributed to COVID-19. The world woke up to a "new normal" with various preventive measures including social distancing, wearing face masks in public, ventilation and air-filtering, hand washing, covering one's mouth when sneezing or coughing, disinfecting surfaces, and monitoring and self-isolation for people exposed or symptomatic. The Coronavirus disease has impacted every segment of life like commercial establishment, education, economy, religion, transport, tourism, employment, entertainment, food security, sports, etc. The outbreak has become a major destabilizing threat to the global economy. Economist intelligence unit has forecast that markets will remain volatile until a clearer image emerges on the potential outcomes.

4. IMPEACHMENT OF PRESIDENT DONALD TRUMP

Donald Trump became the third President in American history to be impeached on with a majority of Representatives voting in favour of the two articles of impeachment



drawn up by House Democrats. The former President was accused of abuse of power and obstruction of Congress, both connected with the Ukraine scandal. He was ultimately acquitted by the Senate on February 5.

5. BREXIT

After years of negotiations and drama, Brexit finally happened on January 31. The United Kingdom officially left the European Union but braced itself for yet more negotiations in the years to come. To date, the UK is the first and only country formally to leave the EU, after 47 years of membership within the bloc, after having first joined its predecessor, the European Communities (EC), on 1 January 1973.

6. VIOLENCE IN DELHI OVER CITIZENSHIP AMENDMENT ACT

India's Citizenship Amendment Act (CAA), which was passed in late 2019, would allow people of certain religions from neighboring countries to become Indian citizens. However, Muslims were exempted from this, leading many to protest it for being "anti-Muslim." Between February 22 and February 27, protests over the CAA led to communal violence in northeast Delhi, wherein mobs attacked Muslim neighbourhoods in a frenzied state. At least 53 people died in the violence.

7. BEIRUT EXPLOSION

On 4 August 2020, a large amount of ammonium nitrate stored at the port of the city of Beirut, the capital of Lebanon, exploded, causing at least 204 deaths, 6,500 injuries, and US\$15 billion in property damage, and leaving an estimated 300,000 people homeless. A cargo of 2,750 tonnes of the substance had been stored in a warehouse without proper safety measures for the past six years, the explosion was preceded by a fire in the same warehouse, but as of November 2020, the exact cause of the detonation is still under investigation.

8. BLACK LIVES MATTER PROTEST

The police-involved killings of George Floyd, Ahmaud Arbery and Breonna

Taylor this year sparked a wave of peaceful — and sometimes violent — demonstrations and riots across the world to demand an end to police brutality and racial injustice. African American George Floyd died on May 25 when a white policeman kneeled on his neck for more than eight minutes. Hundreds of people gathered outside the White House to protest against the police.

9. 46TH PRESIDENT ELECTED IN USA

Joe Biden became the 46th president of the United States on Nov. 7, defeating President Trump with a critical assist from his birth state, Pennsylvania, which delivered the votes to propel him to victory and end one of the most contentious elections in recent memory. Ms. Kamala Harris is the First female, the highest-ranking lady elected official in U.S. history, the first African American and the first Asian American Vice President.

10. KARACHI AND KERALA PLANE CRASH

In May, a Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) plane carrying 99 people aboard crashed into a densely populated residential area near Jinnah International Airport in Karachi. The crash killed 97 people while two passengers miraculously survived it.

On the 7th August, a repartition flight had crash landed at Calicut International Airport due to heavy rains and ended up skidding off the end of the tabletop runway killing 19 passengers and both pilots.

11. DEMISE OF POPULAR AND FAMOUS PERSONALITIES

Apart from the millions of people who lost their lives due to Covid-19 and other natural disasters all across the world, 2020 is that year where many known faces breathed their last including Kobe Bryant, Maradona, SP Balasubraminam, Rishi Kapoor, Chadwick Boseman, Sugunthakumari, Irrfan Khan, Ruth Bader Ginsburg, Pranab Mukherjee, Sushanth Singh

Rajput and many more personalities.

2020 has been a roller coaster ride with the above events out of which some remain realities today, but others feel like such a lifetime ago, it's hard to imagine that we had to deal with them in just the last 12 months. Though the year's biggest events are mostly a series of depressing news, that doesn't mean its all doom and gloom. Below is the list of the good part of 2020:

1. Nature has completely healed while Human Activity was zero.
2. After a dramatic postponement, the highly anticipated SpaceX Crew Dragon launch finally happened on May 30.
3. We have all learnt and accepted the new normal thus proving the fact that humans can adapt to any environment.
4. In order to curb any further damage due to Covid 19, many Countries have done their best to create a safe and effective vaccine using their own resources.
5. Though COVID 19 had primarily harmed senior citizens , there was a 103 year old grandmother who had beat the virus.
6. Wild Animals Occupied the Streets when human movement had reduced.
7. Parasite became the first foreign film to win at the Oscars.
8. Work from home has benefitted companies by saving commuting time, increasing productivity, and creating a better work-life balance.
9. Humanity became the need of the hour and that was the best realization of 2020.

2020 has been one of most tiring years that anybody has witnessed in our very comfortable lives. But in the midst of the tragedies there was courage, there was grace, there was sacrifice, there was hope—there were people who faced the worst rising up to be their very best. Few will recall the year just ending with anything close to fondness. But it will surely be recalled with no small measure of pride.

OVERVIEW AND ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S MERCHANT SHIPPING BILL, 2020



The Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has issued a draft of the Merchant Shipping Bill, 2020, in accordance with International Maritime Organization Conventions, to which India is a party. The Bill has been drafted with the primary aim of promoting the growth of Indian shipping industry by incorporating the best practices adopted by other developed countries like the US, Japan, UK, Singapore and Australia.

The Bill aims to repeal and replace the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958 and the Coasting Vessels Act, 1838 by introducing the following aspects:

- 1 To improve welfare of Indian seafarers on abandoned vessels and safety of such vessels, the Bill has provisions for repatriation of abandoned seafarers have been enhanced, in line with the Maritime Labor Convention regulations.
- 2 To promote ease of doing business, the Bill does away with requirement of general trading license for Indian vessels.
- 3 It also enables electronic means of registration, and grants statutory recognition to electronic agreements, records, and log-books, in addition to electronic licenses, certificates and payments, stated the release.
- 4 The Bill has clauses to increase India's tonnage and to make the vessel a tradeable asset.
- 5 To promote India as a bankable shipping jurisdiction and avoid situations leading to wreck, the proposed Bill seeks to introduce for the first-time statutory framework for regulating maritime emergency response against maritime incidents
- 6 To make India an active enforcement jurisdiction, the Bill incorporates powers of the Director-General to take action against vessels that are unsafe, and pose a threat to safety of life at sea and environment
- 7 The Bill also encourages active enforcement of pollution prevention standards. Among others, the main significance of the bill will be increased opportunities for investment as it provides greater push to a self-reliant domestic investment climate in the maritime industry.

Provisions regulating the maritime education, training, certification and the recruitment and placement of seafarers will improve the quality and quantity of Indian seafarers and boost employment opportunity for them in the national and international market.

If approved, it will definitely show the priority of the government of India to replace all ancient colonial laws with modern and contemporary International laws with active participation of people to enhance transparency in the governance and shall definitely generate sweeping waves in the maritime sector moving India towards a fully developed maritime economy.



HOT TIPS

20 TIPS TO KICK START THE NEW YEAR POSITIVELY



1. Accept all the lessons both good and bad learnt from 2020 gracefully.
2. Learn to forgive mistakes and clear the clutter.
3. Expand your thinking with new experiences.
4. Remember those people who had helped you and your family during your hard times.
5. Look forward to each day and savour each moment.
6. Health and Fitness should be your priority.
7. Travel but remember the new normal from 2020 to stay safe.
8. Quit worrying about trying to please everyone.
9. Set up a financial goal and invest your money wisely.
10. Pamper yourself with a new makeover.
11. Make a bucket list of adventurous things for the whole year.
12. Start saving.
13. Mental health needs to be valued too. Seek help if needed.
14. Re-organize your home.
15. Believe in Love as it does make the world go round.
16. List your top goals for this year and post them where you can see them.
17. Schedule family time.
18. Build new contacts and refresh your network.
19. Meet or keep in touch with your friends regularly.
20. Pray Every day and have gratitude.

Address: Near St. Joseph's High School, Chittoor Road, Cochin- 12, India, T: +91 484 4010566, F: +91 484 2391895, office@callidusindia.com

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