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April 17, 2023  
Mumbai

India has a population of 1.5 billion people and about 65% are poverty. We spent a second day in Mumbai but I did not want to go through all the security checks again so I stayed on the ship. I was so tired after the trip to the Taj Mahal I spent the day resting.

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April 18, 2023  
At Sea

We will continue sailing in the Arabian Sea with the west course to Salalah. The distance between Mumbai and Salalah is 1092 nautical miles and our cruising speed is about 18 knots. Spice Trade

Not gold and not oil. The incentive to find the sea route to India was spices. When the Portuguese Vasco da Game discovered the sea route in 1498, it was an important milestone in the history of globalization. They wanted direct access to pepper, but also to the spices nutmeg, cloves or cinnamon, which in the Middle Ages were much more than condiments. They were a status symbol, signifying wealth and power. Merchants used spices as cash, perter was weighed in gold. The high price had its reasons. spices came from far away in India. A region which at the time was only vaguely localized geographically in Southeast Asia. The spices were initially transported overland.

The only alternative was to open up the sea route to India. A competition broke out, especially between the Spanish an Portuguese crowns, which the Spaniards lost when they sought India in the west with Columbus.

The first shipload of spices that da Game brought back to Lisbon is said to have been worth 60 times as much as the entire two-year expedition had cost. Annual "Indian Armadas" followed. The first predecessors of today's container ships sailed the world's oceans from Europe, around Africa to India and back.

Today was a sea day and a rest day for me.

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April 19, 2023  
At Sea

We continued sailing in the Arabian Sea heading west to the port of Salalah, Oman. Oman, officially the Sultanate of Oman, is a country located in Western Asia. It is situated on the south-eastern coast of the Arabian Peninsula, and spans the mouth of the Persian Gulf.

Today was a sea day and another rest day.