

# THE NAUTICAL TELEGRAM

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER

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DIRECTORATE OF SHIPPING SERVICES  
ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ADMINISTRATION  
SRI VIJAYA PURAM





CAR NICOBAR BREAKWATER





# ANCHORED IN SERVICE, SAILING TO EXCELLENCE

## VISION

To provide safe, reliable, and efficient maritime transportation that fosters economic growth and enhances connectivity between the Andaman & Nicobar Islands and the mainland. We strive to develop sustainable and modern infrastructure, ensuring environmental protection and operational excellence. Through innovation, safety, and capacity building, we aim to support the region's development and contribute to the well-being of its people.



A black and white photograph of the Steamship Maharaja, a large steamship with two masts and a single funnel, sailing on the water. The ship is viewed from a side-on perspective, moving towards the right.

STEAM SHIP MAHARAJA

## SAILING THROUGH TIME: THE LEGACY OF SHIPPING IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

The Marine Dockyard, established in 1893 under the Marine & Shipping Department, laid the foundation for formal shipping services in these islands. In 1989, the creation of the Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) brought a more structured approach to fleet management and operations.

For Islanders, DSS vessels are more than transport—they are part of their heritage. Ships like SS Maharaja, known for comfort, and MV Harshavardhan, valued for efficiency, hold a special place in their memories. Over the years, as older ships retired and modern vessels took their place, DSS has remained committed to maintaining and expanding maritime infrastructure to meet the growing needs of the region. While technology evolves, the legacy of these ships lives on, reflecting the deep connection between the Islands, their people, and the sea.



MV HARSHAVARDHAN





## SHIPPING: THE LIFELINE OF ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS

The Andaman & Nicobar Islands, isolated in the Bay of Bengal, rely heavily on maritime transport for people and essential goods like food, medicine, and construction materials. For the Islands, shipping is more than just a mode of transport—it is the backbone of daily life. Spread across vast distances and separated by the sea, ships are the primary link for transporting passengers, food, fuel, construction materials, and other essential goods that sustain livelihoods in these Islands.

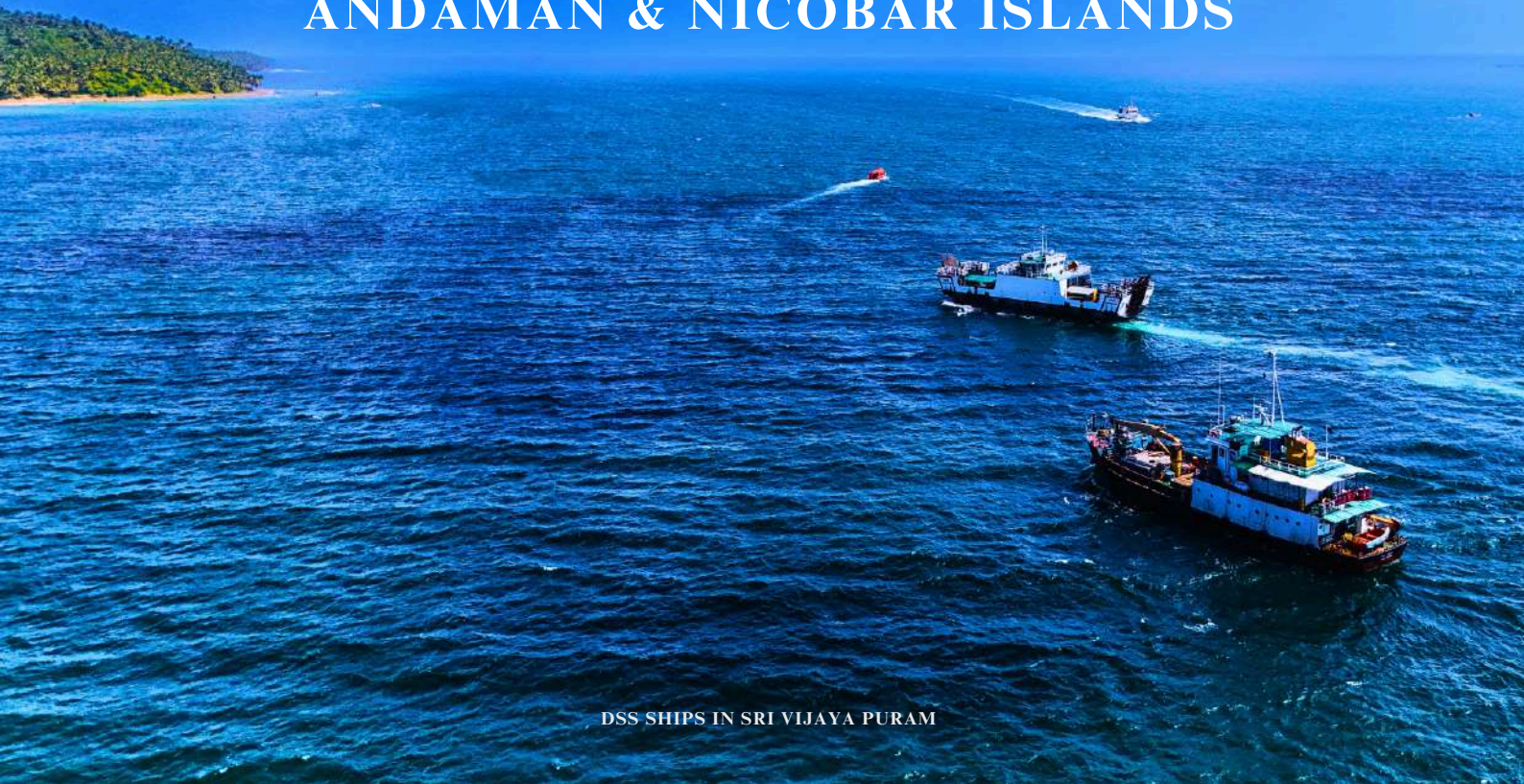
The Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) plays a crucial role in connecting remote islands with Port Blair and the Indian mainland, operating a fleet of passenger ferries, cargo ships, and vehicle carriers. The planned introduction of new ferries, cargo vessels, and inter-island passenger ships will further enhance mobility and ensure faster, more reliable services for islanders.

Beyond logistics, shipping drives economic growth by supporting trade, tourism, and local industries. Local traders, and entrepreneurs rely on shipping services to transport goods, and access markets. Tourists, too, depend on ferries to explore the islands, making shipping an integral part of the region's tourism economy.

Whether it is delivering fresh produce to markets, transporting students and workers, or enabling businesses to thrive, shipping remains the lifeline that keeps the Andaman & Nicobar Islands connected and moving forward



# MOBILITY AND CONNECTIVITY IN ANDAMAN & NICOBAR ISLANDS



DSS SHIPS IN SRI VIJAYA PURAM

The Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) is at the heart of mobility and connectivity in the Andaman & Nicobar Islands, ensuring the seamless movement of passengers and cargo across the vast archipelago. With long distances separating the islands, shipping is the primary link for trade, travel, and essential supplies.

To address growing demand and fleet challenges, the Administration is expanding its maritime network through a combination of vessel acquisition and chartering. The plan includes chartering 2 x 300-passenger inter-island vessels and acquiring 4 x 200 MT cargo vessels, and 2 x 350 MT water barges. These are primarily aimed at enhancing inter-island travel and strengthening supply chain. Additionally, chartering proposals for various smaller passenger ferries are in line, aimed at improving frequency and efficiency in key routes.

These chartering and acquisition initiatives will ensure improved services, reduce travel time, and enhance maritime resilience, securing a more efficient and future-ready transport network for the islands.



The Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) manages a fleet of 62 ships, boats, and crafts, providing essential services to 29 of the 36 inhabited islands, ensuring reliable connectivity and access to remote areas across all sectors.

## Mainland-Island Sector

- Routes:
- Sri Vijaya Puram - Kolkata
- Sri Vijaya Puram - Chennai
- Sri Vijaya Puram - Visakhapatnam



### TRAFFIC DATA

- MV Swaraj Dweep: Inducted in 1999, Passenger Capacity: 1200, Cargo Capacity: 1500 MT
- Status: Non-operational, under APS repairs, docked at Kolkata

Month	No.of Voyages	Passenger traffic	Cargo (in MT)
Dec 2024	2	460	4.016
Jan 2025	3	929	155.565
Feb 2025	1	279	5.0

- Vessels MV Campbell Bay, Sindhu & Nalanda are also deployed in the Mainland Island Sector as and when required





NALANDA

# INTER-ISLAND SECTOR

(06 Ships):- Providing connectivity between Sri Vijaya Puram and the Southern Group of Islands i.e. Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teresa, Katchal, Nancowrie & Campbell Bay. To provide last mile connectivity in Nancowry group of Islands and Little Nicobar Group of Islands. 02 Nos Foreshore vessels each stationed at Kamorta & Campbell bay will provide link sailing connectivity for passengers arriving Ex Vijaya Puram as under:

**Nancowry:** Every Wednesday & Thursday (from Nancowry to Katchal, Teresa & Chowra)

Every month 1st & 3rd Saturday (from Nancowry to Katchal, Teresa, Chowra & Car Nicobar)

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**Campbell Bay: 2 – 3 Trips in a month – Campbell Bay to Afra Bay, Pulobha, PuloPatia, PuloPanja, Makachuwa.**

Vessel	Induction	Capacity	Cargo (in MT)
MV Campbell Bay	2012	500	-
MV Sindhu	2021	500	150
MV Nalanda	2022	500	150
MV Sentinel	1983	300	200
MV Kalighat	2004	400	100
MV Bharat Seema	2017	380	100

#### TRAFFIC DATA

Month	No. of voyage	Passanger Traffic	Cargo (in MT)
Dec 2024	45	15068	719.785
Jan 2025	43	15268	1006.998
Feb 2025	46	13922	887.9



# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR SIX MONTHS

## INTER ISLAND SECTOR

### 1. Route: Sri Vijaya Puram to Little Andaman (Weekly 03 trips)

SL No.	Name of the Vessel	Day & Time of Sailing	From	To	Day & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	MV Campbell Bay/	Tuesday 0800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	Tuesday 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
2	MV Nalanda/ MV Sindhu/	Friday 2100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	Saturday 1000 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram
3	MV Sentinel	Sunday 0800 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Little Andaman	Sunday 2100 Hrs	Little Andaman	Sri Vijaya Puram

### 2.Route: Sri Vijaya Puram to Car Nicobar via Little Andaman (2 to 3 trips in a month)

SL No.	Name of the Vessel	Departure Time	From	To	Departure Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	MV Sentinel/	0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Car Nicobar via Little Andaman	(Next Day) 1600 Hrs	Car Nicobar	Sri Vijaya Puram via Little Andaman
2	MV Nalanda/ MV Sindhu/	1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Car Nicobar via Little Andaman	(Next Day) 1300 Hrs	Car Nicobar	Sri Vijaya Puram via Little Andaman



### 3.Route: Sri Vijaya Puram - Nancowry via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa & Katchal. (SOP) – (Monthly 2 trips)

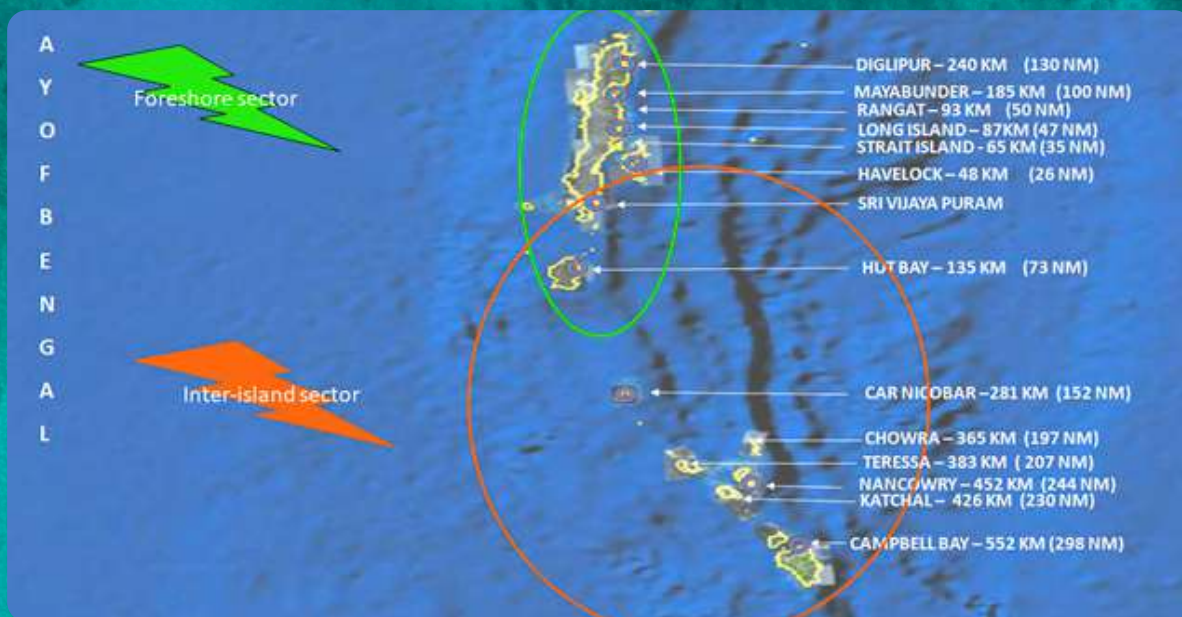
SL No.	Name of the Vessel	Day & Time of Sailing	From	To	Day & Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	MV Sentinel	2nd& 4th Thursday 0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Nancowry via Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa & Katchal	Next Sunday 0500 Hrs	Nancowry	Sri Vijaya Puram via Katchal, Teressa, Chowra, Car Nicobar & Little Andaman

### 4.Route: Sri Vijaya Puram - Campbell Bay via Nancowry (SOP - Every Tuesday)

SL No.	Name of the Vessel	Departure Time	From	To	Departure Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	MV Sentinel/	0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Car Nicobar via Little Andaman	(Next Day) 1600 Hrs	Car Nicobar	Sri Vijaya Puram via Little Andaman
2	MV Nalanda/ MV Sindhu/	1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Car Nicobar via Little Andaman	(Next Day) 1300 Hrs	Car Nicobar	Sri Vijaya Puram via Little Andaman



# FORESHORE SECTOR



(17 ships):

Providing connectivity between Sri Vijaya Puram and the close by Andaman group of Islands i.e, Shaheed Dweep, Swaraj Dweep, Long Island, Strait Island, Rangat, Mayabunder and Diglipur.

**Vessels: A fleet of 17 ships with varying capacities**

SL NO.	Details of the vessels	Inducted in the year
1	MV Rangat(100 Pax Capacity)	2001
2	MV Shompen (24 Pax Capacity)	2001
3	MV Kamorta(75 Pax Capacity & 50 MT Cargo)	2002
4	MV Baratang(100 Pax Capacity)	2002
5	MV Onge (75 Pax Capacity & 50 MT Cargo)	2002
6	MV Pilomillow(75 Pax Capacity & 50 MT Cargo)	2002
7	MV Katchal(75 Pax Capacity & 50 MT Cargo)	2003
8	MV Chouldari(100 Pax Capacity)	2003
9	MV Long Island (75 Pax Capacity & 50 MT Cargo)	2003
10	MV Wandoor(100 Pax Capacity)	2004
11	MV Jolly Buoy (100 Pax Capacity)	2004
12	MV Strait Island (100 Pax Capacity)	2005
13	MV Hut Bay (100 Pax Capacity)	2005
14	MV Bambooka(150 Pax Capacity)	2009
15	MV North Passage (150 Pax Capacity)	2009
16	MV Rani Laxmi(100 Pax Capacity)	2009
17	MV Rani Changa(100 Pax Capacity)	2010



## TRAFFIC DATA

Month	No. of Voyage	Passenger Traffic	Cargo (in MT)
Dec 2024	406	36164	243.572
Jan 2025	451	35516	221.606
Feb 2025	382	30160	204.229



# TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR SIX MONTHS

## FORESHORE SECTOR:

### 1. Route: Sri Vijaya Puram - Diglipur via Mayabunder (Weekly 02-03 trips)

SL NO.	Name of the Vessel	Departure Time	From	To	Departure Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	Speed Boat	0600 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	(Next day) 0600 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder
2	MV Nalanda/ MV Sindhu/ MV Sentinel	2100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Diglipur via Mayabunder	(Next day) 1400 Hrs	Diglipur	Sri Vijaya Puram via Mayabunder

### 2.Route: Sri Vijaya Puram - Shaheed Dweep - Sri Vijaya Puram (Daily 01 trip)

SL NO.	Name of the Vessel	Departure Time	From	To	Departure Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	Speed Boat	0630 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	0845 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram

### 3.Route: Sri Vijaya Puram - Shaheed Dweep - Sri Vijaya Puram (Daily 01 trip)

SL NO.	Name of the Vessel	Departure Time	From	To	Departure Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	Speed Boat	0630 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	0845 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram



**4.Route: Sri Vijaya Puram - Shaheed Dweep - Swaraj Dweep – Sri Vijaya Puram (Daily 01 trip)**

SL NO.	Name of the Vessel	Departure Time	From	To	Departure Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	Speed Boat	1100 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Shaheed Dweep	15.02.2025 1300 Hrs	Shaheed Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram via Swaraj Dweep

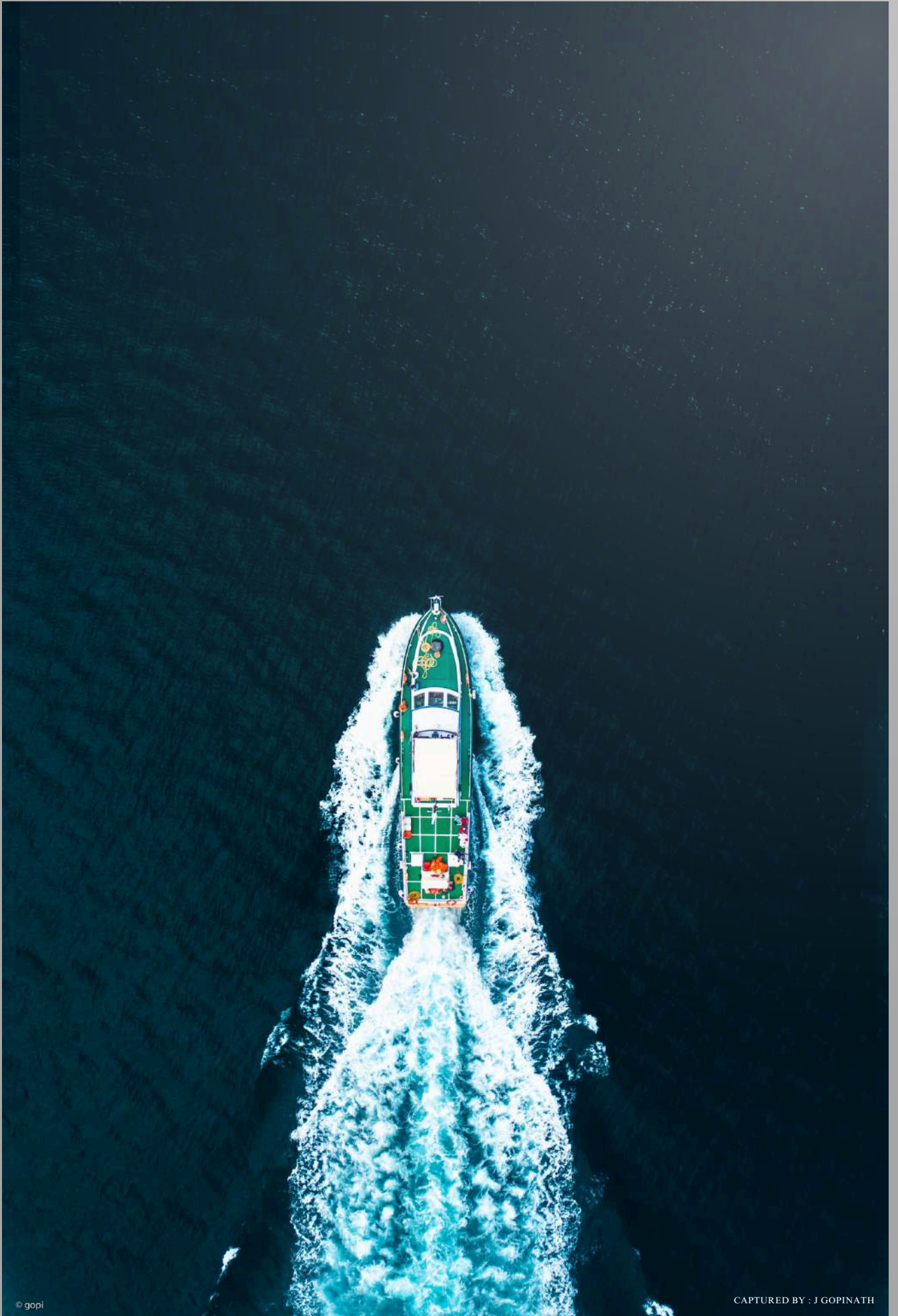
**5.Route: Sri Vijaya Puram - Swaraj Dweep - Shaheed Dweep – Sri Vijaya Puram (Daily 01 trip)**

SL NO.	Name of the Vessel	Departure Time	From	To	Departure Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	Speed Boat	1130 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep	1400 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram via Shaheed Dweep

**6. Route: Sri Vijaya Puram - Shaheed Dweep - Swaraj Dweep – Shaheed Dweep – Sri Vijaya Puram (Daily 01 trip)**

SL NO.	Name of the Vessel	Departure Time	From	To	Departure Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	Speed Boat	1430 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Swaraj Dweep via Shaheed Dweep	0500 Hrs	Swaraj Dweep	Sri Vijaya Puram via Shaheed Dweep







# DIRECTORATE OF SHIPPING SERVICES

## 7.Route: Sri Vijaya Puram - Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island (Daily 01 trip)

SL NO.	Name of the vessel	Departure Time	From	To	Departure Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	Speed Boat	0600 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island	1200 Hrs	Rangat	Sri Vijaya Puram via Long Island & Swaraj Dweep

## 8.Route: Shaheed Dweep - Rangat via Swaraj Dweep & Long Island (Weekly 02 trips every Wednesday & Saturday)

SL NO.	Name of the vessel	Departure Time	From	To	Departure Time of Return Sailing	From	To
1	Speed Boat	0700 Hrs	Sri Vijaya Puram	Rangat via Shaheed Dweep, Swaraj Dweep, Strait Island, Kadamtala & Long Island	(Next day) 0700 Hrs	Rangat	Sri Vijaya Puram via Long Island, Kadamtala, Strait Island, Swaraj Dweep, Shaheed Dweep





# HARBOUR SECTOR

(36 VESSELS)



These vessels include passenger ferries, vehicle ferries, tugs, barges and other small utility crafts providing services within the various harbours of the Andaman & Nicobar Islands i.e. (Sri Vijaya Puram, Diglipur, Long Island, Nancowry & Baratang)



**HARBOUR SECTOR ROUTES SRI VIJAYA PURAM**



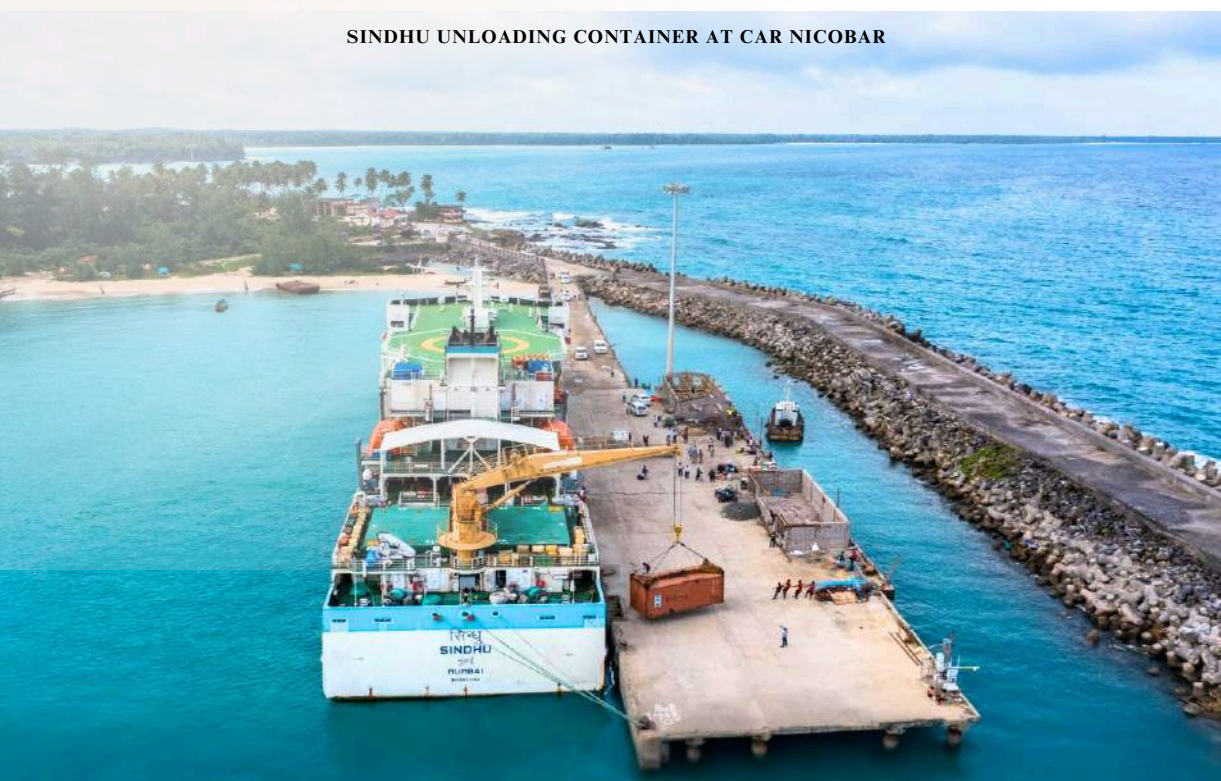
### Traffic Data

Month	No. of Voyage	Passenger Traffic	Cargo (in MT)
Dec 2024	7722	440491	-
Jan 2025	7717	449741	-
Feb 2025	7077	396056	-

## CARGO SERVICE (02 SHIPS)

MV Chuglam, which was inducted into cargo service in 2006 with a capacity of 400 MT, and MV Badam, with a 100 MT capacity since 1992, have been critical for cargo transport across several islands, including Sri Vijaya Puram, Little Andaman, Car Nicobar, Chowra, Teressa, Katchal, Nancowrie, and Campbell Bay. MV Chuglam is likely to join services after survey and certification. In addition to these vessels, passenger vessels Sindhu and Nalanda also transport cargo in containers to the Southern Group of Islands. These services are vital for ensuring the regular supply of goods to remote areas.

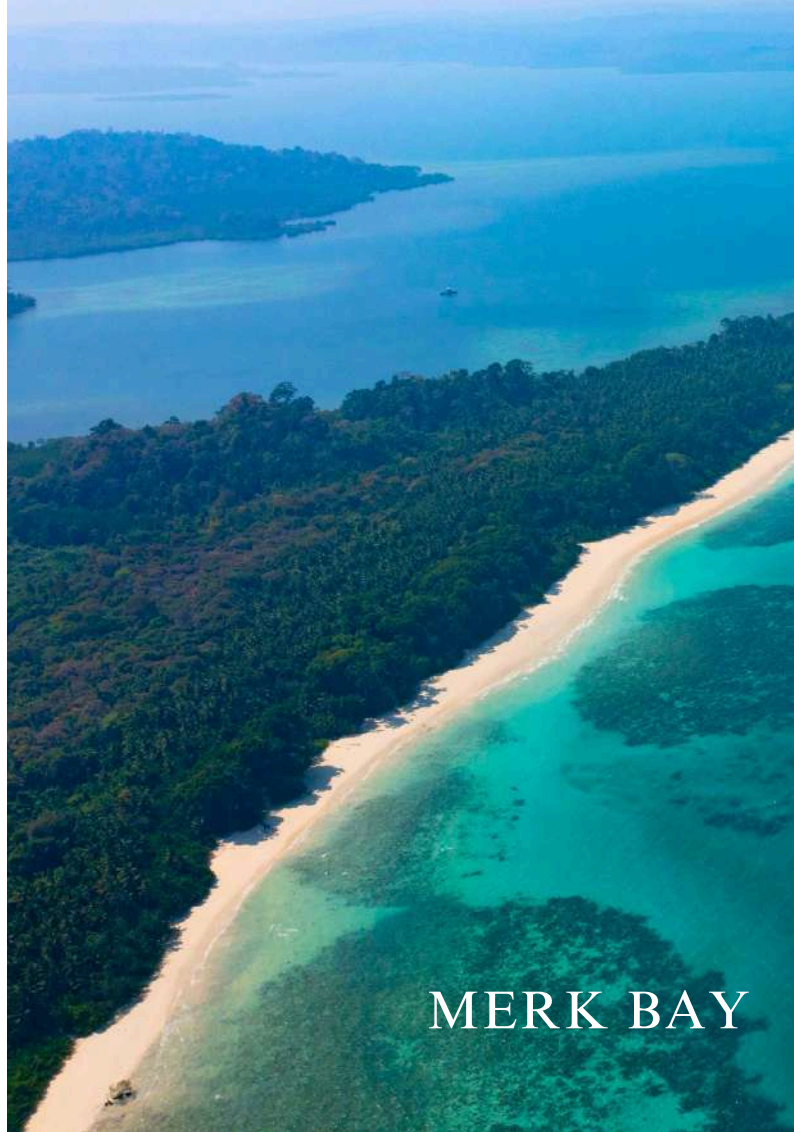
SINDHU UNLOADING CONTAINER AT CAR NICOBAR







LALAJI BAY



MERK BAY

## **SAILING AHEAD: DSS'S KEY INITIATIVES DRIVING CONNECTIVITY AND GROWTH**

### **DAILY SERVICES TO LONG ISLAND AS KEY DESTINATION TO ENHANCE TOURISM**

The Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) has launched new routes and commenced daily operations connecting Sri Vijaya Puram, Swaraj Dweep, Long Island, and Rangat. Long Island, which has remained largely unexplored by tourists, has now been added as a key destination to improve connectivity. Popular spots like Lalaji Bay Beach and Mark Bay are expected to attract visitors with their pristine beauty and tranquil surroundings. This initiative aims to boost tourism by making Long Island more accessible to travellers seeking unspoiled natural landscapes. The new routes will not only enhance travel options for locals but also foster economic growth through increased tourism. DSS's efforts are set to strengthen the region's tourism potential, promote sustainable travel, and create new opportunities for both residents and tourists.





## HOSPITAL SHIP MV SHOMPEN, STRENGTHENING HEALTHCARE ACCESS IN THE ISLANDS

On 20th September 2024, Chief Secretary Shri Keshav Chandra, IAS, re-dedicated MV Shompen as a Hospital Ship, marking a moment of hope and compassion for the people of the region. This vessel has carried 246 passengers, including patients, their attendants, and medical staff, offering vital healthcare services to those in need. On 28th January 2025, acting as a lifeline it evacuated five critically ill patients from Mayabunder to Sri Vijaya Puram, embodying the spirit of care and urgency. This re-dedication not only ensures better healthcare access for remote island communities but also serves as a symbol of the DSS's unwavering commitment to the well-being of every individual in the Islands.



## DSS AND INDIAN NAVY TEAM UP TO RESOLVE NANCOWRY'S FERRY CRISIS AND RESTORE CONNECTIVITY

The non-operational status of MV Galathia in Nancowry caused severe inconvenience to daily commuters, as only MV Barren remained in service for the entire Nancowry group of islands. With transportation services disrupted, an urgent need arose to restore connectivity. In response, the Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS), in close coordination with the Indian Navy, took swift action to address the situation. As an immediate solution, the Indian Navy towed MV Lawrence from Sri Vijaya Puram to Nancowry, ensuring that passenger ferry services could continue without major disruptions. This proactive step provided much-needed relief to the island's commuters. Following this, the DSS team worked diligently to prepare MV Galathia for a single voyage from Nancowry to Sri Vijaya Puram for essential repairs. In a remarkable display of interdepartmental coordination, the DSS and Indian Navy successfully towed the vessel, ensuring its restoration at the earliest. This entire operation demonstrated the efficiency and teamwork between various agencies, highlighting their commitment to maintaining uninterrupted maritime services. The successful collaboration between DSS and the Indian Navy played a crucial role in minimizing disruptions, restoring connectivity, and ensuring the welfare of the local population.






An aerial photograph showing two large ships, possibly fishing vessels, positioned side-by-side in a long, narrow dry dock. The ships are painted in green and white. The dock is surrounded by concrete walls and various industrial equipment, including cranes and lifting mechanisms. The water in the dock is a deep green color.

## MODERNIZATION PLAN FOR MARINE DOCKYARD SET TO BOOST A&N ISLANDS' MARITIME GROWTH

A 30 year long term agreement has been executed between Cochin Shipyard Ltd (CSL) and the Andaman and Nicobar Administration to develop a comprehensive ship repair ecosystem in the region. CSL will also assist in the augmentation and modernization of existing facilities and focus on skill development in collaboration with the Administration and local technical institutions. CSL has submitted the final Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the modernization of the Marine Dockyard, with an estimated cost of Rs. 404 Crore. This project will now be proposed for execution under the Government of India's SAGARMALA Scheme. The initiative aims to enhance the region's maritime infrastructure by upgrading facilities and improving maintenance and repair services for larger vessels. This modernization will not only boost the local economy but also strengthen the maritime capabilities of the islands. Through this collaboration, CSL and the Administration are working together to support sustainable growth and improve the region's ship repair capabilities.







# **15<sup>th</sup> National Voters' Day Celebrated with Enthusiasm at DSS, Emphasizing the Power of Electoral Participation**

On January 25, 2025, National Voters' Day was celebrated with enthusiasm in the Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS), highlighting the importance of electoral participation. As part of the event, the youngest and oldest voters onboard the ferry were felicitated, symbolizing the significance of voting across generations. Passengers were sensitized about their fundamental right to vote and its role in strengthening democracy. Awareness messages were shared, encouraging citizens to actively participate in the electoral process. The initiative aimed to instill a sense of responsibility among travelers, emphasizing that every vote counts. The event served as a reminder of the power of democracy and the collective role of citizens in shaping the nation's future.



# 15TH NATIONAL VOTERS DAY CELEBRATION



DEPUTY DIRECTOR AND TEAM DSS WITH THE PASSENGERS





BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF WB PANIGHAT PROVIDING WATER TO MV NARCONDAM



## A GLIMPSE INTO ISLAND CONNECTIVITY: SINDHU VESSEL MODEL WELCOMES TOURISTS AT VEER SAVARKAR INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT



A scale model of the latest vessel, Sindhu, has been displayed in the arrival area of Veer Savarkar Airport to spark interest in maritime and shipping among tourists arriving at Sri Vijaya Puram. The initiative aims to introduce visitors to the region's maritime services and inspire curiosity about the vital role of shipping in island connectivity. The model acts as an engaging visual display, highlighting the significance of vessels like Sindhu in improving transportation. Through this exhibit, the Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) seeks to raise awareness and foster a deeper appreciation for the region's maritime infrastructure.



DETAILED SCALE MODEL OF LATEST VESSEL, SINDHU



## SAFETY FIRST: LIFE JACKET AND EMERGENCY PROCEDURE DEMONSTRATIONS ONBOARD

The Directorate of Shipping Services (DSS) has been conducting comprehensive safety briefings for passengers onboard vessels to ensure their preparedness during travel. These briefings cover various safety aspects, including emergency evacuation procedures, life jacket donning techniques, and general onboard safety measures. DSS personnel demonstrate the correct steps for wearing life jackets and explain other critical safety protocols to sensitize passengers. The goal is to make travelers aware of the necessary actions to take in case of an emergency. Regular safety briefings help instill a sense of responsibility and preparedness among passengers. By focusing on these essential safety practices, DSS aims to provide a secure and informed travel experience. These efforts reflect DSS's commitment to maintaining high standards of passenger safety and awareness.





## MV BARREN GETS A FRESH LOOK FOR REPUBLIC DAY, WITH SPECIAL RECOGNITION FOR DSS TEAM

MV Barren, stationed at Nancowry in the Southern Group of Islands, was in an aesthetically worn-out condition. In preparation for the 76th Republic Day Celebrations, the vessel underwent a much-needed facelift, receiving a fresh coat of paint and repairs to restore its overall appearance. The vessel was meticulously readied in time for the event, looking clean and well-maintained for the occasion. The effort to enhance the vessel's look not only improved its aesthetics but also boosted the morale of the community. In recognition of this dedication, the Assistant Commissioner, Nancowry, awarded a commendation to Shri Abdul Nisar, Engine Driver of DSS. This gesture highlighted the commitment of the DSS team in ensuring the smooth operation of maritime services. The restored MV Barren is now better equipped to serve the island's transportation needs.





An aerial photograph of a large ship, likely a ferry or cargo vessel, sailing on a vast, dark blue ocean. The ship is white with a blue stripe and a green deck. It has a yellow helipad on its deck. The ship is moving towards the horizon, leaving a white wake behind it. The sky is filled with large, white, fluffy clouds, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright, shimmering reflection on the water's surface. The overall mood is serene and expansive.

**SEAMLESS SEAS, RELIABLE JOURNEYS**

CAPTURED BY : J GOPINATH





भारत सीमा  
BHARAT SEEMA





## **YOUR LIFELINE ACCROSS THE ISLANDS**

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