

INTRODUCTION

The Shipping Service is playing a crucial role in the transportation sector of Andaman and Nicobar Islands. Since the geographic location of Andaman and Nicobar Islands is around 1200KM away from Mainland, and due to the scattered location of the islands in the archipelago, the maritime transportation forms the lifeline for the Islanders. The Directorate of Shipping Services under Andaman and Nicobar Administration is the main stakeholder and responsible for major shipping service in between mainland Island and also in between scattered islands of Andaman and Nicobar. At present the Directorate of Shipping Services is providing shipping services to 29 of the 37 inhabited Island. The Directorate of Shipping Service owns a fleet strength of around 83 vessels of various types and capacity for movement of cargo and passengers. The fleet includes passenger vessels, cargo vessels, vehicle ferry vessels, harbour ferry vessels, utility launches, oil tankers and water barges, touring vessels, tug vessels, mooring vessels and landing rafts.