

**Andaman and Nicobar Administration
Directorate of IP&T
Information & Publicity Division**

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Press Release

CS launches linking of STARS with CSCs

Lauds Shipping Services Deptt for this remarkable development

Port Blair, July 25: In an initiative to facilitate seafarer of both mainland and inter Islands bound ships/boats, especially the rural populace, and as part of 'Digital India' programme, the Directorate of Shipping Services is in the process of linking Common Services Centres (CSCs) with Ship tickets Advanced Reservation System (STARS). As part of the initiative, five such centres have been linked with STARS at Sippighat, Bathu Basti, Ferrargunj, Dairy Farm and Bambooflat in the first phase. At a function held at Sippighat Panchayat here today, the Chief Secretary, A&N Administration, Shri Anindo Majumdar launched the linking of STARS with the CSC Sippighat as the chief guest. The Chief Secretary click started a mouse to launch the STARS services. The Adhyaksha Zila Parishad South Andaman, Shri Jaydev Kumar Dey and the Chairperson PBMC, Shri B Eswar Rao were also present on the occasion.

The chief guest, while addressing the gathering, informed that linking STARS with CSC is a remarkable development in the ship ticket reservation, which were manually done earlier and then transformed into computerized ticket counter in 2007. With the launching of the system in the CSC, people of the nearby areas will no longer have to visit the STARS at the Directorate of Shipping Services for reservation of tickets as they can contact the nearest CSC and book their tickets, he said and compliment the Directorate of Shipping Services for the initiative.

Stating that shipping is the lifeline of these Islands, the Chief Secretary said that the Administration is making all efforts in improving the services, especially for the Nicobar group of Islands, which solely depend on shipping services and the Administration is striving to provide better shipping service facility to those Islands. He also remarked that the connectivity problem will be solved once the undersea Optical Fiber Cable work is completed. In the meantime, internal arrangements have been made with BSNL for the success of these initiatives, he said.

Speaking on the occasion, the Commissioner cum Secretary (Shipping), Shri Sanjeev Khirwar informed that the objectives of linking STARS with CSC is to increase the number of counters to facilitate

passengers. The five CSCs are being linked in the first phase and by September this year, the linking of other CSCs will be completed, he said.

In his welcome address, the Pradhan Sippighat Gram Panchayat, Shri Vincent R Walter expressed gratitude to the Administration for making available the ship ticket reservation facility at Sippighat CSC. He also highlighted some grievances pertaining to the Panchayat for redressal.

The function concluded with the vote of thanks, proposed by Capt. Rajender Kumar, Director (DSS).

