1 1		AIDS TO NAVIGATION ACT	
		A	
		BILL	
		To consolidate and amend the law relating to regulation of coastal shipping, to promote coasting trade and encourage	
		domestic participation therein, and to ensure that India is equipped with a coastal fleet, owned and operated by the citizens of	
		India, for its national security and commercial needs.	
		WHEREAS it is necessary to consolidate and amend the regulatory framework for coasting trade and other activities in	
		coastal waters of India in line with global best practices;	
		WHEREAS it is necessary to have a regulatory framework that promotes competition in coasting trade; encourages the	
		participation of Indian citizens and ensures efficient movement of passengers and cargo between Indian ports;	
		WHEREAS it is necessary to have a regulatory framework that enables India to create shipping transportation networks that	
		integrate and leverage the national waterway networks and the Indian Ocean Region, including the Arabian Sea and the Bay	
		of Bengal for greater economic growth;	
		WHEREAS it is necessary to have a regulatory framework that enables the adoption of technological innovations in coastal	
		WHEREAS it is necessary to promote competition in the coastal maritime transport sector resulting in lower production	
		costs and efficiency in the manufacturing sector;	
		WHEREAS there is a need to encourage participation of Indian vessels in coasting trade, and increase availability of an	
		equipped coastal fleet ensuring better connectivity;	
		WHEREAS it is necessary in the interest of national security to create a framework that enhances the participation of Indian	
		vessels in coastal shipping.	
		BE it enacted by Parliament in the Seventieth Year of the Republic of India as follows:	
	SECTION HEADING	PROVISION	COMMENTS
	SECTION HEADING	PROVISION CHAPTER I PRELIMINARY	COMMENTS
	SECTION HEADING		COMMENTS
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	1	(5) "prescribed" means prescribed by rules made under this Act;	
		(6) "Principal officer" means any officer designated by the Central Government or the Director-General, in respect of the	
		matter to which the reference is made in the provision of this Act;;	
		(7) "Register of Coastal Shipping" or "Register" means the register maintained by the Director General under section 9 of	
		this Act; and	
		(8) "vessel" includes every description of water craft used or capable of being used in the marine environment, such as ship,	
		boat, sailing vessel, fishing vessel, submersible, semi-submersible, hydrofoils, non-displacement crafts, amphibious crafts,	
		wing-in-ground crafts, pleasure crafts, barges, lighters, Mobile Offshore Drilling Units, Mobile Offshore Units, or of any other	
		(9) Words and expressions used but not defined in this Act and defined in the Indian Merchant Shipping Act 1958 (Act No.	
		44 of 1958) shall have the same meanings respectively assigned to them in that Act.	
		CHAPTER II PROHIBITION AND LICENCING	
		(1) No vessel, other than a vessel registered under Part V of the Merchant Shipping Act of 1958 (Act 44 of 1958) shall	
		engage in coasting trade, or the exploration, exploitation, or research, in the coastal waters of India, except under a licence	
		granted by the Director-General under this Chapter.	
	Power to Designate General aids	Provided that the Director- General may grant permission to a vessel registered under the Inland Vessels Act, 1917 (Act No.	
3.	to navigation	1 of 1917) to engage in coasting trade of India, to such extent and subject to such conditions, as may be specified.	
	to narigation		
		(2) Any person who engages another person to carry goods or passengers, or perform any other service to which sub-	
		section (1) applies, shall take reasonable precautions to ensure that such other person is not in violation of sub-section (1).	
	Grant of Licence.	(1) A licence may be granted under this section to any vessel not registered under the Merchant Shipping Act 1958 (Act 44	
		of 1958) for engaging in coasting trade, or exploration, exploitation, or research, in the coastal waters of India.	
4.		(2) The Central Government shall prescribe such classes or categories of licence to be granted under sub-section (1) as it	
		may deem fit.	
		(1) A licence granted under sub-section (1) of Section 4, shall be in such form and shall be valid for such period as may be	
		prescribed, and shall be subject to such conditions as may be prescribed.	
		(2) Notwithstanding the generality of sub-section (1), the conditions that may be prescribed under sub-section (1) may	
		include the following:	
		(a) Citizenship requirements of the crew;	
		(b) Build requirements of the vessel; or	
		(c) Such other requirement as the Director General considers necessary.	
		(3) The Director-General shall, for the grant of a licence under section 4, take into consideration the following conditions:	
		(a) whether the applicant has previously held a licence that was cancelled;	
		(b) whether the applicant has been in violation of any provisions of this Act prior to or during the period of pendency of	
5.	Conditions for grant of licence	his application;	
		(c) availability of vessels on the route;	
		(d) licences granted for the same route;	
		(e) safety and security concerns;	
		(f) National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan under section 8;	
		(g) Cost efficiency of transport;	
		(b) the objects of this Act;	
		 (i) validity of the certificates of the vessel and crew; 	
		 (i) validity of the certificate of insurance of the vessel; and (j) validity of the certificate of insurance of the vessel; and 	
		(k) any other matter that the Director-General considers necessary.	

6. Applic	cation for licence.	The application for the licence shall be made in such form and manner as may be prescribed.	
7	nsion, revocation, or fication of licence.	 The Director-General may, at any time if the circumstances of the case so require, suspend, revoke or modify a licence granted under section 4. No licence shall be suspended, revoked or modified under sub-section (1) unless the person concerned has been given a reasonable opportunity of making a representation against such revocation or modification, as the case may be. A person to whom a license has been granted under Section 4 may make an application to modify the particulars of the licence to the Director General, in such form and manner as may be prescribed. When a licence granted under section 4 ceases to be valid, the person to whom it was granted shall, without unreasonable delay, return it or cause it to be returned to the Director-General. 	
8. Repor	ting requirements	 All vessels, including vessels registered under the Merchant Shipping Act 1958, participating in the coasting trade in India shall report to the Director General, in the prescribed form and manner, the following: (a) The port or ports which it will visit in the course of its voyage; (b) goods or passengers carried by such vessel and the ports or places where such goods or passengers will be dropped (c) such other information that the Director General may deem fit. 	
g	nal Coastal and Inland ing Strategic Plan.	 The Central Government shall develop a National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan, within two years from the date of commencement of this Act and shall update the same on an annual basis. The National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan shall include the following: An assessment of the condition of coastal shipping routes in India, including routes occupied by inland waterways; An assessment of the operational improvements required in coastal shipping, including by way of integration with inland waterway routes, in order to make coastal maritime transport a cost efficient mode of transportation for goods and Long term forecasts of traffic on coastal shipping and inland waterways networks; Identification of best practices for improving the performance of coastal shipping, including the synergy presented by inland waterway routes and other modes of transportation; Identification of new routes for coastal shipping and integration thereof with inland waterways and existing coastal shipping and integration thereof with inland waterways and existing coastal shipping in coasting trade of India; and An other matter as may be prescribed. In formulation of the plan under sub-section (1), the Central Government shall consult a committee comprising of the following members: Director General of Shipping; Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India; Crepresentatives of Major Ports set up under the Major Port Trusts Act 1963 (Act No. 38 of 1963); Representatives of site Maritime Boards; and such other persons as the Central Government may deem fit. The National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strategic Plan shall be made publically available. The National Coastal and Inland Shipping Strateg	

10.	National Register of Coastal Shipping.	 (2) Without prejudice to the generality of sub-section (1), the National Register of Coastal Shipping shall include the following information: (a) Licencees under section 4; (b) Terms and conditions of each licence granted under section 4; (c) Applications for licences under section 6; (d) Routes and voyages in the coasting trade of India; (e) Requirement for applicants for grant of licences under section 4; (f) Expired and cancelled licences under section 7; (g) Information required under section 8; (h) Such other information as the Director General may deem fit. (3) The Register under sub-section (1) shall be publically accessible. 			
11.	No port clearance until licence is produced.				
12.	Power to Exclude. Notwithstanding anything else contained in this Act or any other law for the time being in force, the Central Government, or the Director-General may, if they are of the opinion that it is in public interest or expedient to do so, exclude any class of vessels, carriage of any class of goods or passengers by any class of vessels, or the performance of any services by any class of vessels, from the application of all or any provisions of this Act, for such period of time as deemed fit.				
13.	Power to give Direction.	 The Director-General may, if he is satisfied that it is in public interest or is in the interest of Indian shipping to do so, direct any vessel engaging in coasting trade of India , with respect to any matter, including the following :— the ports or places, whether in or outside India, to which, and the routes by which, the vessel shall proceed for any particular purpose; the diversion of any vessel from one route to another for any particular purpose; the classes of passengers or cargo which may be carried in the vessel; the order of priority in which passengers or cargo may be taken on or put off the vessel at any port or place, whether in or outside India; The Director-General may, by notice, require,—			
		 (1) The Central Government may, by an order in writing, specify that the provisions of this section shall apply to measures taken by any other country for regulating the terms and conditions upon which goods or passengers may be carried by sea, which constitutes an infringement of the jurisdiction of India, in so far as they apply,— (a) to things done or, to be done outside the territorial jurisdiction of that country ; and (b) by persons carrying on lawful business in India. 			

14.	Powers of Central Government to protect interests of Indian shipping	 (2) Where an order issued under sub-section (1) is in force, every person who is subject to such measures taken by another country, shall inform the Central Government of any requirement or prohibition imposed or threatened to be imposed on him pursuant to such measures. <i>Explanation:</i> "requirement" in sub-section (2) above may include any requirement to submit any contract or other document for approval thereunder. (3) Where any information under sub-section (2) is received from any person or there are grounds to believe that such information is likely to be received, the Central Government may, by an order in writing, give to such person directions prohibiting compliance with any such measures as it considers necessary. (4) The Central Government may, by an order in writing, prohibit or restrict any person from complying with the requirement to produce any commercial document or information compiled from commercial documents, to a court of 	
		another country, if it appears to the Central Government that such document is not within the territorial jurisdiction of that	
	1	country, and constitutes or may constitute an infringement of the jurisdiction of India. CHAPTER III OFFENCES AND PENALTIES	
15.	General Provision for punishment	(1) Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act or fails to comply with any provision, any direction under this Act or any condition of license provided thereof, which it was his duty to comply with, shall be guilty of an offence, and chargeable with such penalty as specified in Schedule I.	
		(2) Any person who contravenes any provision of this Act or fails to comply with any provision thereof, in respect of which no penalty is specially provided in Schedule I, shall be punishable with fine which may extend to one lakh rupees.	
16.	Punishment for illegally detaining person	When any vessel, after detention or after service on the master for any notice of, or order for detention under section 10, proceeds to sea before it is released by the Director General, or principal officer, as the case may be, with any person authorised under this Act to detain the vessel on board, the owner, master or agent of such vessel shall be guilty of an offence under this act and shall be punishable in accordance with Schedule I.	
17.	Place of trial and jurisdiction of court.	Any person committing any offence under this Act or any rules made thereunder, may be tried for such offence before any place in which he may be found, or in any Court which the Central Government may, by notification, direct in this behalf, or in any Court in which he might be tried in any other law for time being in force.	
18.	Special provision regarding punishment.	Notwithstanding anything contained in section 29 of the Code of Criminal Procedure, 1973 (Act No. 2 of 1974), it shall be lawful for a Metropolitan Magistrate or a Judicial Magistrate of the first class to pass any sentence provided under this Act on any person convicted of an offence under this Act	
19.	Offences by Companies.	 If the person committing an offence under this Act is a company, every person who, at the time the offence was committed, was in charge of, and was responsible to, the company for the conduct of its business, as well as the company, shall be deemed to be guilty of the offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly: Provided that nothing in this sub-section shall render any such person liable to any punishment provided in this Act, if he proves that the offence was committed without his knowledge or that he exercised all due diligence to prevent the Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-section (1), where an offence under this Act has been committed by a company, and it is proved that the offence was committed with the consent or connivance of, or is attributable to any neglect on the part of any director, manager, secretary, or any other officer of the company, such director, manager, secretary, or other officer shall also be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished <i>Explanation.</i> — For the purposes of this section,— (a) "company" includes a co-operative society, a firm or other association of individuals; and (b) "director" in relation to a firm means a partner in the firm. 	

20. Power to enforce detention of vessel.		Where under this Act a vessel is authorised or ordered to be detained, any commissioned officer of the Indian Navy or Indian Coast Guard or any port officer, pilot, harbour master, conservator of port or customs collector, or any other person authorised under this Act, may detain the vessel under instruction of the principal officer.	
21.	Power to amend schedule	The Central Government shall have the power to amend Schedules under this Act through a notification in the Official Gazette.	
22.	Notice to be given to consular representative of proceedings taken in respect of foreign vessel.	If any vessel other than an Indian vessel is detained under this Act, or if any proceeding is taken under this Act against the master, owner or agent of any such vessel, notice, in such form and manner as may be notified in the Official Gazette shall forthwith be served on the consular officer of the country in which the vessel is registered, at or nearest to the port where the vessel is for the time being, and such notice shall specify the grounds on which the vessel has been detained or the proceedings have been taken.	
23.	Service of Documents.	 Where, for the purpose of this Act, any document is to be served on any person, that document may be served,— (a) in any case by delivering a copy thereof personally to the person to be served, or by leaving the same at his last place of abode, or by post; (b) if the document is to be served on the master of a vessel, where there is one, or a person belonging to a vessel, by leaving the same for him on board that vessel, with the person being or appearing to be in command or charge of the vessel; and 	
		(c) if the document is to be served on the master of a vessel where there is no master and the vessel is in India, on the owner of the vessel, or, if such owner is not in India, in some agent of the owner residing in India, or, where no such agent is known or can be found, by serving a copy thereof to the master of the vessel or by affixing at a suitable place on the bridge.	
		CHAPTER IV – RULES	
24.	Power to make rules.	 (1) The Central Government may make rules to carry out the provisions of this Act. (2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the foregoing power, such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:— (a) The different classes of licences to be granted under section 4; (b) The form of licence and the period of validity of such licence under section 4; (c) Conditions to be imposed on licences granted under section 4; (d) the form and manner of application under section 6; (e) the form and manner of application for modification of license under section 7; (f) form and manner of information to be reported to the Director General under section 8; (g) Procedure for meetings of the Committee under sub-section (3) of section 9; (h) the form and manner of maintenance, as well particulars to be maintained in the National Register of Licenses under (i) any other matter which is required to be or may be prescribed. 	
		(1) The Central Government may, by general or special order, direct that any power, authority, or jurisdiction, exercisable by	
25.	Power to Delegate	 it under or in relation to any provisions of this Act, may be exercisable also by the Director-General or such other officer specified in the order, in such manner and subject to such conditions, as may be specified. (2) The Director-General may, with the previous approval of the Central Government, by general or special order, direct that any power or authority conferred upon or delegated to, and any duty imposed upon him by or under this Act may be exercised or discharged also by such officer or authority as specified in the order, subject to such conditions as may be 	

		(1) Notwithstanding anything else contained in this Act, every person shall, in the discharge of his functions and duties	
26.	Power to issue directions by the Central Government.	under this Act, be bound by such directions on questions of policy as the Central Government may give to it in writing from	
		(2) The decision of the Central Government whether a question is one of policy or not shall be final.	
		(1) If any difficulty arises in giving effect to the provisions of this Act, the Central Government may, by order, published in	
		the Official Gazette, make such provisions not inconsistent with the provisions of this Act as may be necessary or expedient	
		for removing the difficulty:	
27.	Power to remove difficulties.	Provided that no such order shall be made under this section after the expiry of three years from the commencement of this	
		(2) Every order made under this section shall be laid, as soon as may be after it is made, before each House of Parliament.	
	Durch stilling of Astisus to how in	No suit, prosecution or other proceedings shall lie against the Central Government, the Director General under this Act or	
28.	Protection of Action taken in	any officer or employee thereof, for anything done or in good faith purporting to be done under this Act or the rules or	
	good faith.	regulations made thereunder.	
		(1) Part XIV of the Merchant Shipping Act 1958 (Act No. 44 of 1958), excluding Sections 406 and 411, is hereby repealed.	
		(2) Notwithstanding the repeal of any enactment by sub-section (1),-	
		(a) any notification, rule, regulation, bye-law, order or exemption issued, made or granted under any enactment hereby	
		repealed shall, until revoked, have effect as if it had been issued, made or granted under the provisions of this Act;	
		(b) any license granted or issued under any enactment hereby repealed shall, until it is revoked or becomes expired, have	
		effect as if it had been issued or granted under the provisions of this Act;	
		(c) any office established or created, officer appointed and anybody elected or constituted under any enactment hereby	
		repealed shall continue and shall be deemed to have been established, created, appointed, elected, or constituted, as the	
		case maybe, under this Act;	
	Repeal and Savings.	(d) any document referring to any enactment hereby repealed shall be construed as referring to this Act or to the provision	
29.		of this Act;	
		(e) any fine levied under any enactment hereby repealed may be recovered as if it had been levied under this Act;	
		(f) any offence committed under any enactment hereby repealed may be prosecuted and punished as if it had been	
		committed under this Act;	
		(g) any proceeding pending before any court under any enactment here by repealed may be tried or disposed of under the	
		corresponding provisions of this Act; (h) the officers existing under the commencement of this Act shall continue as if they have been established under this Act;	
		 (i) any person appointed under or by virtue of any repealed enactment shall be deemed to have been appointed to that 	
		office under or by virtue of this Act;	
		(j) any inspection, investigation or inquiry ordered to be done under the provisions of any repealed enactment shall	
		continue to be proceeded with as if such inspection, investigation or inquiry ordered to be done under the corresponding	
		provisions of this Act.	

	SCHEDULE 1: OFFENCES AND PUNISHMENT						
Serial No	Offence	Section of this Act to which this refers	Penalties (to be described)	By whom the offence triable and penalty imposed	Comments		
(i)	If any person contravenes section 3	3	The master or owner of the ship or in the case of a ship other than an Indian ship the master, agent in India of the owner or the charterer of the ship in respect of which the contravention has taken place shall be liable to pay a fine which may extend to fifteen lakh rupees or four times the value of all fees or commission or payments received by the owner of the vessel for the voyage, whichever is greater, or imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months, or with both and the vessel may also be detained.	Court			
(ii)	If any person to whom a licence under section 4 has been granted fails to comply with the conditions attached to such licence under Section 5	4	Fine which may extend to ten lakh rupees, or two times the value of all fees or commission or payments received by the owner of the vessel for all voyages conducted in contravention, whichever is greater, and the vessel may also be detained.	Principal Officer			
(iii)	If any person who is required to report any information to the Director General under section 8 fails to do so or otherwise intentionally reports misleading or false information.	8	Fine which may extend to one lakh rupees	Principal Officer			
(iv)	If any directions under subsection (1) of section 13 (directions issued by the DG) are not complied with;	13(1)	The master or owner of the ship or in the case of a ship other than an Indian ship the master, agent in India of the owner of the ship in respect of which the contravention has taken place shall be liable to pay a fine which may extend to five lakh rupees or two times the value of all fees or commission or payments received by the owner of the vessel for all voyages conducted in contravention of the direction, whichever is greater, and the vessel may also be detained.	Court			

	If the owner, master or agent on whom a notice has been served under sub- section (2) of section 13 fails to furnish the information required within the time specified or furnishing the information makes any statement which he knows to be false on any material particular	13(2)	The master or owner of the ship or in the case of a ship other than an Indian ship the master, agent in India of the owner of the ship in respect of which the contravention has taken place shall be liable to pay a fine which may extend to fifty thousand rupees or, or imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with both and the vessel may also be detained.		
(1/1)	If the owner, master or agent fails comply with an order of the Central Government	13(3)	The master or owner of the ship or in the case of a ship other than an Indian ship the master, agent in India of the owner of the ship in respect of which the contravention has taken place shall be liable to pay a fine not less than fifteen lakh and the vessel may also be detained.		
(vii)	If any vessel after detention or after service on the master for any notice of, or order for, such detention under this Act proceeds to sea before it is released by any competent authority.	20	The master of the vessel in respect of which the contravention has taken place shall be liable to pay a fine which may extend to fifteen lakh , or imprisonment for a term which may extend to six months or with both and the vessel may also be detained.	Court	
(viii)	When a vessel so proceeding to sea takes to sea, when on board thereof in the execution of his duty any person authorised under this Act to detain or survey the vessel.	16	<i>The owner, master or agent of such vessel</i> in respect of which the contravention has taken place shall be liable to pay a fine which may extend to one lakh rupees, all expenses of, and incidental to, such person being so taken to sea and the vessel may also be detained.	Court	