



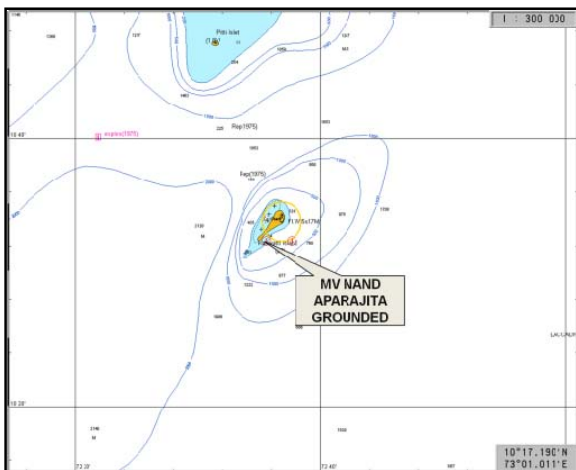
# भारतीय नौसेना

Press Release – 20 Aug 10

## ASSISTANCE RENDERED BY INDIAN NAVY TO THE GROUNDED SHIP MV NAND APARAJITA OFF KAVARATTI

On 15 Aug 10, MV Nand Aparajita (a General Cargo Vessel) of Essar Shipping, ran aground off Kavaratti in the Union Territory of Lakshadweep & Minicoy due to rough weather and dragging of anchor. The vessel is carrying a cargo of 1300 tons of cement & steel and had 20 tons of fuel onboard. All twelve crew members of the merchant vessel are safe.

The Indian Navy received the request from the Union Territory Administration to assist in de-fuelling MV Nand Aparajita. Breakers in the vicinity of the grounded vessel were precluding positioning of a fuel barge alongside the ship for de-fuelling. Accordingly, de-fuelling was planned through connecting hoses into Syntex tanks on the shore. Since appropriate hoses were not available at Kavaratti, the Indian Navy air lifted 250 meters of 1 ½ inch fuel hose with connector couplings from Kochi to Agatti through an Indian Coast Guard Dornier.



The Indian Navy is providing technical advice, Gemini craft and transport along with adequate personnel to assist in de-fuelling the merchant ship. De-fuelling of MV Nand Aparajita was completed on 19 Aug 10 and the fuel held onboard has been transferred on to Syntex tanks ashore. There is hence no risk of oil spillage or damage to ecology due to the accident.

The plan ahead is to salvage the merchant ship safely wherein all tanks would be de-ballast to minimum, cargo discharged to the island and the vessel pulled back in favourable tide. While temporary repairs would be undertaken at Kavaratti, permanent repairs are envisaged to be completed at Kochi