

# Licence Must for Foreign Vessels Engaged in Coastal Shipping

## NEW DELHI:

Foreign vessels engaged in coastal shipping in the country may need to obtain a licence, besides fully or partially building ships in the country. The shipping ministry on Thursday issued the draft Coastal Shipping Bill, 2020, proposing changes to encourage domestic participation in the sector.

The Bill proposes making it mandatory for all foreign vessels to obtain a licence from the Director General of Shipping to engage in coastal shipping in India. The criteria for grant of the licence may include the availability of Indian vessels, the compliance record of the foreign vessel and other factors that the Director General may decide. — **Our Bureau**