



भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
पर्यावरण और जलमार्ग मंत्रालय /  
MINISTRY OF PORTS, SHIPPING AND WATERWAYS  
नौवहन महानिदेशालय, मुंबई  
DIRECTORATE GENERAL OF SHIPPING, MUMBAI

F.No.: 23-POL/11/2025-CREW-DGS (C. No. 37808 )

Date: 11.12.2025

### DGS Circular 55 of 2025

#### Seafarers Advisory on Avoiding Fraud, Cheating & Unauthorized Recruitment during Employment

The Directorate General of Shipping (DGS), Government of India, has noted with serious concern the increasing number of complaints received from seafarers who have been cheated, misled, or financially exploited by unauthorized recruitment and placement agents under the pretext of offering jobs on foreign-flagged vessels.

2. Common issues reported include:
  - 2.1. Lack of support during accidents, injuries, medical emergencies, or stranding.
  - 2.2. No intervention in wage or compensation disputes.
  - 2.3. Avoidance of responsibility in case of demise of the seafarer, including failure to arrange mortal remains or compensation.
  - 2.4. Jurisdictional limitations for DGS in cases involving unauthorized channels.
  - 2.5. Sea service obtained through unregistered agents is invalid and cannot be uploaded in the DGS e-governance system.
3. Seafarers are strongly advised to avoid unauthorized agencies and ensure placement only through registered RPSL companies listed on [www.dgshipping.gov.in](http://www.dgshipping.gov.in). Additional precautions must be taken to avoid impersonation of registered RPSLs and to regularly check Master Checker for sea service updates.
4. Seafarers and their parents are advised to exercise utmost caution and verify the real-time status of any Recruitment and Placement Services Licence (RPSL) company before initiating any form of interaction. The Directorate General of Shipping has made available a live and continuously updated system on its website, displaying whether an RPSL is valid, invalid, or temporarily blocked. It is essential that seafarers engage only with Valid RPSL companies. No interaction, submission of documents, acceptance of employment offers, or financial transaction should be carried out with Invalid or Temporarily Blocked RPSL companies, as doing so exposes seafarers to substantial risks and leaves them without regulatory protection.

..2/-

Detailed verification steps are provided in **Annex I** and must be followed before proceeding with any employment-related activities.

5. All seafarers joining a vessel are further required to carry a printed Form-1/1A/1B issued exclusively by a Valid RPSL company. This Form-1 must be genuine, accurate, and system-generated, as immigration authorities will accept only duly issued and verifiable documents. Any altered, handwritten, or unofficially issued Form-1 will be rejected at the airport.

6. In addition, the Protector General of Emigrants (PGoE) has linked the Emigrant Application Reference Number (ARN) with the seafarer's passport number, and immigration authorities now verify this linkage live at the point of departure. Any mismatch, inconsistency, or fraudulent ARN will result in the seafarer being off-loaded and may also invite legal action. Therefore, seafarers must ensure that their Form-1/1A/1B is issued correctly and that the ARN is valid and accurately reflects their passport details. (Detailed verification steps are provided in **Annex II**).

7. Seafarers are strongly cautioned against engaging with unauthorized or unregistered intermediaries. They must refrain from paying money for job placement, handing over their passport or CDC to unknown individuals, or accepting employment offers through WhatsApp, social media platforms, or other informal channels. Travelling without proper documentation or relying on unauthorized agencies increases the likelihood of exploitation, non-payment of wages, abandonment abroad, and severe immigration violations.

8. To safeguard themselves, seafarers must independently verify the RPSL status online, confirm the authenticity of Form-1/1A/1B, ensure correct emigrant reference number (ARN) passport linkage, retain copies of all employment documents, and promptly report any suspicious activity to the Directorate General of Shipping or local police authorities. Failure to follow these precautions and engaging through unauthorized channels may lead to serious consequences, including being off-loaded at the airport, denial of compensation or insurance benefits, invalidation of sea service records in the DGS e-governance system, lack of legal recourse in disputes, blacklisting, and potential criminal proceedings.

9. Accordingly, all maritime stakeholders, especially maritime training institutes, approved recruitment and placement agencies, seafarers' unions, shipping companies, and ship owners' associations—are advised to widely disseminate this information and ensure strict compliance with the updated procedures so as to prevent seafarers from falling prey to unethical practices.

10. For any support, clarification, or to report fraudulent recruitment activities, seafarers may contact the Directorate General of Shipping at [support.dgs@gov.in](mailto:support.dgs@gov.in) and [crews-dgs@gov.in](mailto:crews-dgs@gov.in), or through the official phone/WhatsApp numbers +91 90040 48406 and +91 86575 49760.

This issues with the approval of the Director General of Shipping & Additional Secretary to the Government of India.



(Capt. PC Meena)

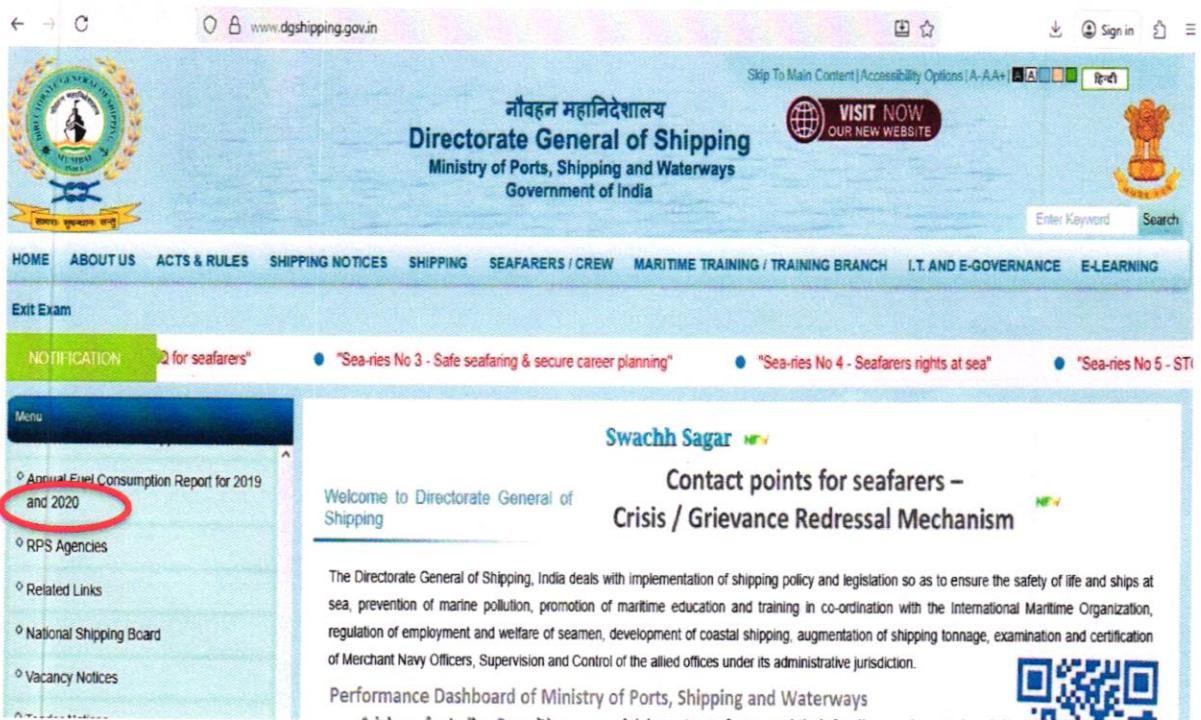
Deputy Director General of Shipping (Crew)

## Annex - I

### Procedure to Verify RPSL Status

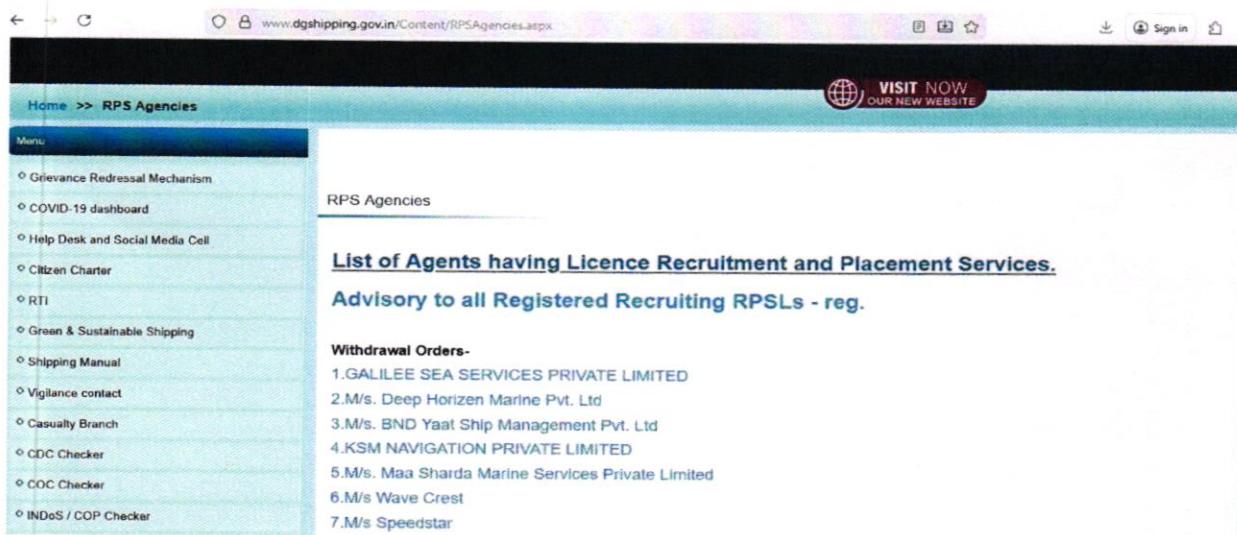
1. Visit <https://www.dgshipping.gov.in>

#### Advisory on avoiding



The screenshot shows the official website of the Directorate General of Shipping, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Government of India. The header features the Indian National Emblem and the text 'नौवन महानिदेशालय' (Navy Board of Commissioners). The main menu includes links for HOME, ABOUT US, ACTS & RULES, SHIPPING NOTICES, SHIPPING, SEAFARERS / CREW, MARITIME TRAINING / TRAINING BRANCH, I.T. AND E-GOVERNANCE, and E-LEARNING. A 'NOTIFICATION' section highlights '2 for seafarers' and 'Sea-ries No 3 - Safe seafaring & secure career planning', 'Sea-ries No 4 - Seafarers rights at sea', and 'Sea-ries No 5 - STI'. The 'Swachh Sagar' section features a QR code. The left sidebar, which is circled in red, contains links for 'Annual Fuel Consumption Report for 2019 and 2020', 'RPS Agencies', 'Related Links', 'National Shipping Board', 'Vacancy Notices', and 'Grievance Redressal Mechanism'.

2. Navigate to Menu → RPS Agencies



The screenshot shows the 'RPS Agencies' page. The left sidebar lists various links including 'Grievance Redressal Mechanism', 'COVID-19 dashboard', 'Help Desk and Social Media Cell', 'Citizen Charter', 'RTI', 'Green & Sustainable Shipping', 'Shipping Manual', 'Vigilance contact', 'Casualty Branch', 'CDC Checker', 'COC Checker', and 'INDoS / COP Checker'. The main content area displays a list titled 'List of Agents having Licence Recruitment and Placement Services.' and an 'Advisory to all Registered Recruiting RPSLs - reg.'. Below this, a section titled 'Withdrawal Orders-' lists 7 companies: 1. GALILEE SEA SERVICES PRIVATE LIMITED, 2. M/s. Deep Horizon Marine Pvt. Ltd, 3. M/s. BND Yaal Ship Management Pvt. Ltd, 4. KSM NAVIGATION PRIVATE LIMITED, 5. M/s. Maa Sharda Marine Services Private Limited, 6. M/s Wave Crest, and 7. M/s Speedstar.

3. Click on List of Agents having License recruitment and placement services

← → C Not Secure http://220.156.189.33/esamudraUI/rpslSummaryList.do?method=summaryDetailsOfRPSL 90% Sign in Home

Welcome Guest! (4/10/2025 1:16 P.M.)

DG Shipping Directorate General of Shipping, Mumbai

Valid RPSL List Invalid RPSL List Temporary Blocked RPSL List

Valid RPSL List

Show 10 entries Search

Sr No	Name	License No	Issue Date	Expiry Date	Address	District	City	State	Phone	Fax	Email
1	APOLLO CREW MANAGEMENT INDIA PRIVATE LTD.	RPSL-CHN-003	23/12/2021	23/12/2026	34/698, Karuvell RoadPalanivattomCochin - 682025	ERNAKULAM	COCHIN	KERALA	2339584	2339584	crevmanagement.india@apolloa

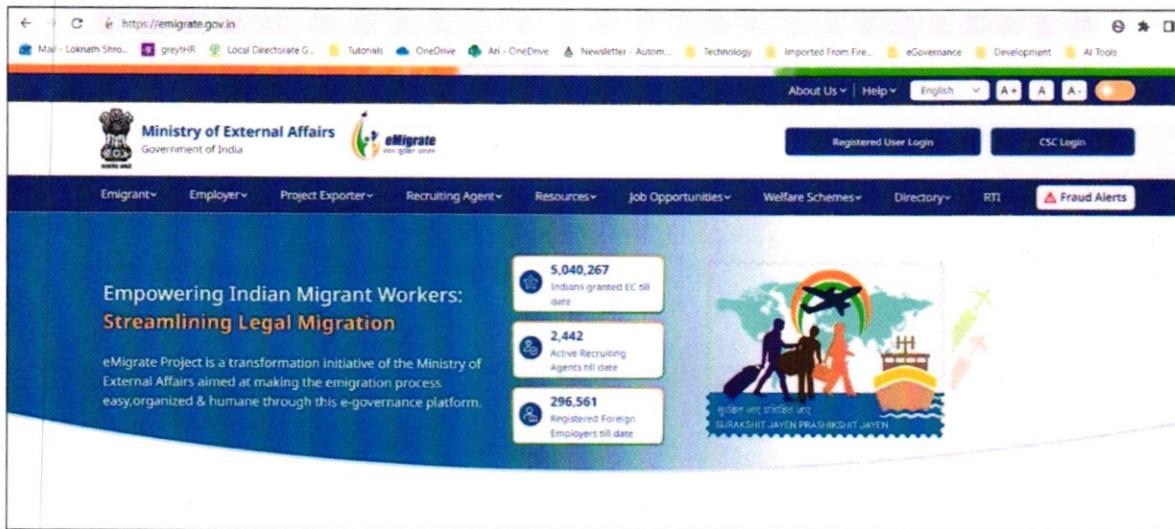
4. Click through valid RPSL List, Invalid Rpsl list and Temporary blocked RPSL Lis and view live status (Valid/Invalid/Blocked)

## Annex – II

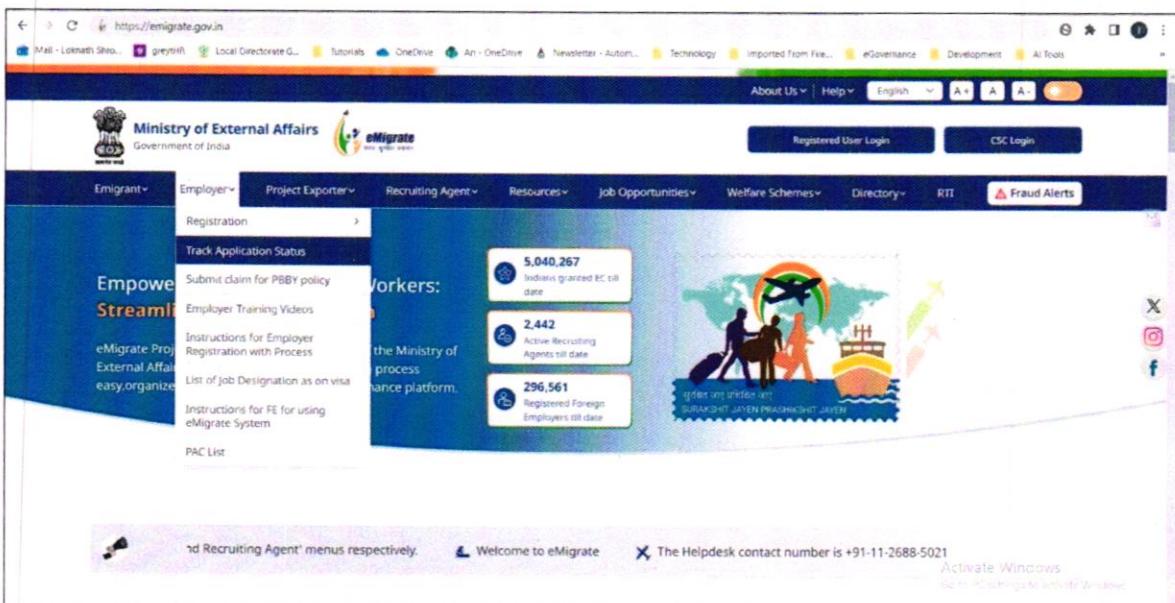
### Procedure to Verify Emigrant ARN Linked with Passport

#### Instructions to check the status of the Application Reference Number (eMigrate Reference Number)

Step 1: Go to <https://emigrate.gov.in>



Step 2: Navigate to Employer -> Track Application Status.



Step 3: Enter Application Reference Number (eMigrate Reference Number), Captcha and click the button 'Validate' to check the status.



The screenshot shows the eMigrate website interface. At the top, there is a navigation bar with links for 'About Us', 'Help', 'English', and accessibility options (A+, A-, A). The logo of the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, and the eMigrate logo are visible. Below the navigation bar, there is a horizontal menu with links for 'Emigrant', 'Employer', 'Project Exporter', 'Recruiting Agent', 'Resources', 'Job Opportunities', 'Welfare Schemes', 'Directory', 'RTI', and 'Fraud Alerts'. A 'Track Application Status' button is highlighted in blue. The main content area has a light blue background and contains a form for tracking an application. The form includes a label 'Application Reference Number\*' with a red asterisk, a text input field 'Application Reference Number', a 'Captcha\*' label with a red asterisk, a CAPTCHA image showing 'Bx 4n', and a text input field 'Enter Captcha'. Below the form are two buttons: 'Reset' and 'Validate'.