

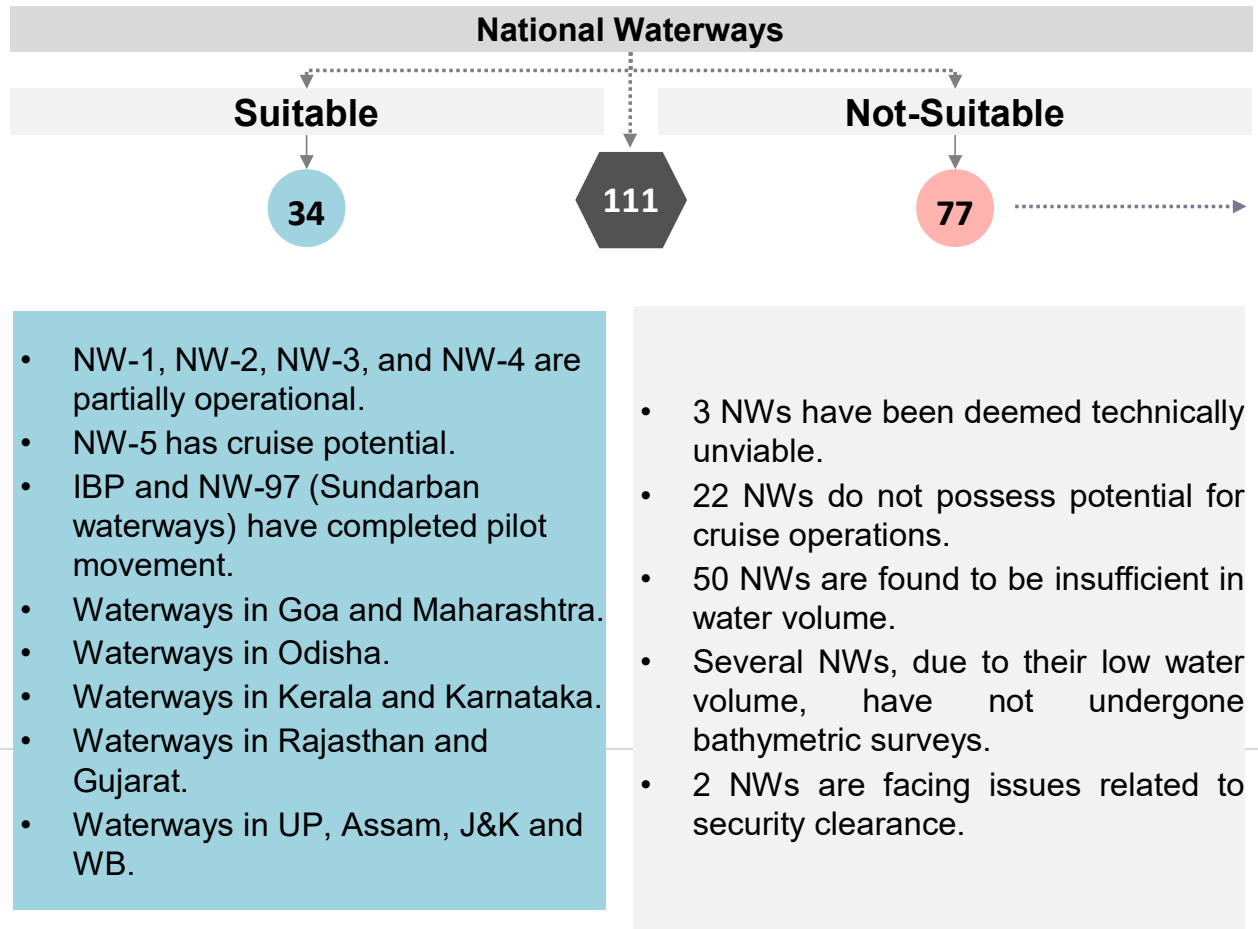
Consultancy Services for Preparation of an Action Plan and Road Map for Development of River Cruise in India

Consultant: M/s WAPCOS Limited

Consultancy Fees: Rs. 98 Lakhs plus GST
Period: February 2020 to November 2022

Inland Waterway Authority of India
13th April 2024

Recommendations



Reasons for Not suitability:

53 Unavailability of water

- Curvy and rocky river terrain
- Narrow river channel
- Presence of 6 dams in entire stretch of NW without any navigational lock
- Cost of dredging of channel for class I waterways is very high as per FSR & DPR

22 No cruise Tourism Potential

- No prominent tourist locations in the hinterland of NWs
- Very close proximity to established NWs

02 No Security Clearance

- Permission not given to undertake feasibility studies in the waterways
- National security issue due to close proximity of waterway with neighbouring country Pakistan

Routes Identified for River Cruise Tourism on NWs

S.No	National Waterway	Type	Proposed Routes
LUXURY RIVER CRUISE			
1	NW 1	12 Nights / 13 Days	Kolkata - Varanasi
2	NW 2	10 Nights / 11 Days	Dhubri - Dibrugarh
3	NW 3	Nights / 11 Days	10 Kottappuram - Kollam
4	NW 97	4 Nights / 5 Days	Namkhana - Bhagabatpur - Sajnekhali - Hemnagar
6	NW 73*	5 Nights / 6 Days	Upstream SSD - Barwani
7	IBP	11 Nights / 12 Days	Kolkata - Dhaka
BUDGET RIVER CRUISE			
8	NW 4	2 Nights / 3 Days	Srisailam - Nagarjun Dam
9	NW 5	2 Nights / 3 Days	Bhitarkarnika - Hukitola - Paradeep
10	NW 8	1 Night / 2 Days	Alappuzha - Changanessary
11	NW 9	1 Night / 2 Days	Alappuzha - Kodimatha
12	NW 16	3 Nights / 4 Days	Lakhipur - Badarpur - Karimganj
13	NW 25	1 Night / 2 Days	Morjim - Colvale Dhargal Bridge
14	NW 43 & 74	1 Night / 2 Days	Ashok Nagar - Thumbe Village
15	NW 51	1 Night / 2 Days	Beechanahalli - Beeramballi
16	NW 52	1 Night / 2 Days	Karwar Port - Virje near Kadra Dam
17	NW 71	1 Night / 2 Days	Britona Jetty - Aldona Jetty
18	NW 90	1 Night / 2 Days	Honnabar Port - Gersoppa
19	NW 100	1 Night	Dumas - Old Surat Castle

Routes Identified for River Cruise Tourism on NWs (Cont.)

S.No	National Waterway	Type	Proposed Routes
20	NW 111	1 Night / 2 Days	Cortalim – Rassaim – Raia – Sanvordem
LOCAL FERRY CRUISE			
21	NW 1	Day Cruise	Engineering College - Digha Bridge
22	NW 4	Day Cruise	Polavaram - Pochavaram
23	NW 4	Day Cruise	Srisailam - Akkamahadevi Caves
24	NW 14	Day Cruise	Aradi - Nalitpatia - Khola
25	NW 24	Day Cruise	Kota Barrage - Jawahar Sagar Dam
26	NW 40	Day Cruise	Naya Ghat - Guptar Ghat
27	NW 42	Day Cruise	Pucca Bridge - Gomti Barrage
28	NW 47	Day Cruise	Mayapur - Kadamtala Ghat
29	NW 49	Day Cruise	Zero Bridge - Chattabal Weir
30	NW 53	Day Cruise	Gaimukh - Panju Island
31	NW 60	Day Cruise	Mukutmanipur- Banpukuria
32	NW 73	Floating Restaurant	Statue of Unity
33	NW 83	Day Cruise	Murud - Janjira - Padmagurg
34	NW 84	Day Cruise	Near Atal Setu - Ranjit Sagar Dam
35	NW 87	Day Cruise	Gandhi Bridge, Ahmedabad - Nehru Bridge, Ahmedabad
36	NW 89	Floating Restaurant	Harihareshwar
37	NW 110	Day Cruise	Vishram Ghat, Mathura - Keshi Ghat, Mathura
38	Chilika Lake	Day Cruise	Barkul - Kalijai - Nalaban - Nairi - Satapada

Infrastructure Issues & Challenges

TERMINAL INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

- No dedicated cruise terminals.
- Lack of civic amenities along the terminals.
- Inadequate Electricity Connections
- **Bunkering/Fueling Facility** at prominent terminal locations.
- Need of **Ship Repair Facility** at prominent Terminals in the stretch of waterways
- **Lack of adequate connectivity to the terminals**

WATERWAY INFRASTRUCTURE ISSUES

- Lack of available LAD
- Pontoon Bridge
- Shifting of River Channel/ Siltation

Regulation Issues

- Synergy amongst various Central and State Departments
- Permissions for **Liquor license**
- On Indo-Bangla Protocol Route, there is a need to simplify following activities.
 - Security issues
 - Immigration/ Customs
- Difficulties in procuring loans for construction of vessels

Initiatives taken by IWAI towards developing river tourism



Maintaining Fairway, Providing **navigational aids** and **carrying out dredging**.



Construction of **vessel berthing**, facilities at multiple points along the waterways



Placing sign boards with QR code at various tourist locations of NW1, IBP and NW2 providing information on important tourist sites



Additional routes and circuits have been proposed to be developed for river cruises by 2047.

Conclusion

River Cruise tourism at nascent stage with present annual traffic less than 5,000 passenger for Multiday cruises

River Cruise tourism has found acceptability with state governments and stakeholders. States like UP, Assam, Kerala, MP, Gujrat, Orissa, Andhra Pradesh and Bihar have shown interest.

Several routes and terminals have been identified for development after extensive market research and stakeholders consultation.

Stakeholders unanimously expect IWAI to facilitate round the year navigation along with terminal infrastructure for berthing/alighting of River Cruises.

IWAI's role limited to Fairway maintenance, land side infrastructure development and policy support

Way Forward

- Synergize all stakeholders (IWAI, Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Home Affairs, State governments, river cruise operators etc.) to make joint strategy for development of river cruise tourism
- Identification & Development of infrastructure at untapped tourism location
- Encourage investment
- Construct basic terminal infrastructure i.e jetty, gangway, approach road etc.
- Provide adequate depth throughout the identified national waterways
- Make river cruise terminals into destinations. Associate with operators for promotional activities.
- Streamlining of procedures for IBP route by MHA / Immigration and Customs
- Involve local coastal communities and enhance their skills to contribute to river tourism. For example – Local boat operator, local hoteliers, local tourist guides etc.
- Cruise vessel building infrastructure inline with international standards

Thank You