

User Charges

Section 17(1) of IWAI Act, 1985 mandates levy and collection of fees and charges by IWAI for use of the national waterways for the purposes of shipping, navigation, infrastructural facilities among others.

IWAI shall levy a consolidated fee from 2010-11 from River Cruise operators for providing aforementioned services. Details of the fee to be levied will be decided after consultations with all stakeholders.

Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)

IWAI has, so far, signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with M/s Pandaw Cruises India Pvt. Ltd. on 30th April, 2009 and with Banaras House Private Ltd. on 12th June, 2009 for promotion of river tourism through river cruising M/s Pandaw Cruises India Pvt. Ltd. has already commenced River Cruise service between Kolkata and Varanasi.

M/s Banaras House Pvt. Ltd. intends to start their operations between Varanasi and Allahabad by hovercraft shortly.

IWAI is ready to enter into MoU with other River Cruise operators and detailed Guidelines in this regard will be issued shortly.

Future Trends

River Cruise on Ganga and Brahmaputra is still in its infancy. There is huge untapped potential as there are few rivers in the world which can match the sights on view on Ganga and Brahmaputra! So is the case with West Coast Canal in Kerala. They have the potential to be developed into Great River Cruises of the world matching and then surpassing those on offer on River Nile, Egypt, River Yangtse, China, River Amazon, Brazil, River Rhine, Germany, River Danube, Europe, River Volga, Russia and River Irrawaddy, Burma.

If tourists can see the sights of both Ganga and Brahmaputra on one river cruise, then that would be the perfect icing on the cake. That eventuality can materialize only when Protocol on Inland Water Transit and Trade between India and Bangladesh is extended to cover long distance River Cruise and the validity of the Protocol is extended for a longer period. At present, the Indo-Bangladesh Protocol is extended for two years at a time and is currently valid till March 2011.



Partners in Development

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is committed to provide all facilities and support to promote safe and timely movement of River Cruise Vessels on the National Waterways and Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route.



It will be the constant endeavour of IWAI to work in close cooperation with all stakeholders such as the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India, Tourism Departments of State Governments, River Cruise Operators among others to ensure that tourists undertaking river cruise on Ganga, Brahmaputra and West Coast Canal go back with happy memories and have a pleasant experience in term of infrastructure on the river. It should be a joint endeavour of all stakeholders to ensure that river cruises on Ganga and Brahmaputra get included in the list of most popular and spectacular river cruises of the world.

Partners in Development of River Cruises



VIVADA
INLAND WATERWAYS LIMITED

Ref : VIWL/IWA/IS/738

Date : 10th February 2010

The Chairman,
Inland Waterways Authority of India,
A-13, Sector-1,
NOIDA – 201301.

Sir,

At the outset of this letter We convey our sincere thanks to you as well as to the officers & staff of I.W.A.I. for putting their best efforts in providing necessary infrastructure such as night navigation, piloting etc. for safe sailing of our cruise and other vessels.

However, we would like to mention that the tourists from Europe and United States are very much satisfied with the facilities available in our vessel and liked interiors, cuisine and services but they are very critical and expressed their dissatisfaction over the poor infrastructural facilities of this beautiful river at NW 1 as well as at Sunderban.

So, in this regard it is worthwhile to mention that much more improvement of the facilities in the form laying of pontoon jetties at Chandannagar, Bandel, Pallassey etc in NW-1 and at Bally island, Chottamollakhal at Sunderban area along with the passengers' waiting room, beautification of the terminal area are needed to be done as compared to the standard of the western countries. Similarly, for the cargo movement strengthening of terminals with necessary infrastructure for efficient loading/unloading at the shortest possible time should also be arranged.

In addition, the whole river stretches of declared National Waterways should be divided into small stretches along with necessary infrastructure like dredger, tug etc. for attending the vessels moving in the particular stretch on emergency. We are sure that over a period of time these facilities will be made available to all the vessels operators and suitable charges for utilization of the facilities once fully created, can also be levied in consultation with the operators.

We once again assure you our best co-operation in your endeavor for making declared National Waterways fully navigable along with the infrastructure so that the same can be compared with the waterways of the western countries.

Thanking you,
Yours faithfully,
For Vivada Inland Waterways Limited

S. Rakshit
Director

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5 February 2010

The Chairman,
IWA,
A-13, Sec-1,
Noida, U.P.

Dear Sir,

In 2003 Assam Bengal Navigation pioneered 'long distance river cruise in India, with our vessel MV Charaidew on National Waterways 2. For this innovative effort we received the National Tourism Award from the Ministry of Tourism, Government of India.

Since 2006 we have been sailing every year between Kolkata and Farakka with our vessel MV Sukapha on the River Hugli. All this could not have been achieved without the support that we received from your office, particularly the offices in Guwahati and Kolkata.

With our experience of over 7 years in National Waterways 2 and more than 3 years in National Waterways 1 we can safely say that the services provided by IWA on both the national waterways has been excellent and it has been of great benefit to us.

You will be pleased to know that from October 2010 till end March 2011 we plan to sail regularly between Kolkata and Patna on the Ganges and also to the Sunderbans in West Bengal. We look forward to your continued support and co-operation.

Yours sincerely,

Ashish Phookan
MANAGING DIRECTOR