

## National Waterway No. 1 (NW- 1) : Ganga - Bhagirathi - Hooghly river system from Allahabad to Haldia (1620 kms)

Ganga (NW-1) connects the hinterland of Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal.

Maintenance of a navigable fairway with channel width ranging from 30-45 metres and depth of 2 metres or more is a major challenge considering the heavy silt load of the river and its propensity to change course and break up into multiple channels in the plains of Uttar Pradesh and Bihar. While LAD of 2 m or more between Haldia to Varanasi is easily available during the wet season from June to November with peak flow usually in the month of August, IWAI has been using low cost eco-friendly technique of bandalling along with dredging through deployment of Dredgers to obtain the requisite LAD in the Ganga during the low - flow dry season from January to May.



### Facilities for safe 24x7 navigation

IWAI is also regularly issuing fortnightly river notices for the entire stretch of NW-1 (monthly during the flood season). 24 hour Night navigation facilities are in place upto Farakka and this is to be extended upto Varanasi by March 2010. A new DGPS station has been commissioned at Bhagalpur in August 2009 and three more DGPS stations at Katwa, Patna and Varanasi are expected to be commissioned by December, 2010. Once they are commissioned, all navigational aids necessary for safe navigation would be in place on NW-1. These facilities would considerably reduce the turn around time for vessels.

### Terminal Facilities

A modern fixed terminal has come up at Gaighat, Patna where bunkering facilities are also available. Fixed terminals are in place at Pakur and Farakka and two more terminals are under construction- one at Garden Reach Jetty II in Kolkata and the other at Varanasi. Floating pontoon jetties are available at Bhagalpur, Shantipur, Katwa, Hazardwari, Rajmahal (Manglaghat), Bateshwarsthan, Munger, Semariaghat and Buxar among others. These are already being utilized by River Cruise Operators.

