

## **PRESS NOTE**

Noida: 6<sup>th</sup> Mar, 2013

In a function held at the Head Quarters of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) at Noida today, Dr. Vishwapati Trivedi, IAS, Chairman released the Electronic Navigation Charts (ENCs) in IHO, S- 57 format and a real time navigation software namely 'Inland Waterways Navigation (IWN) Software' for Sagar- Farakka stretch (560 km) of National Waterway- 1 (the Ganga- Bhagirathi- Hooghly River system). These products have been developed as per International Standards by the consultant M/s IIC Technologies Limited, Hyderabad. While releasing these products Dr. Trivedi said that the "real time navigation technique" will surely enhance the safety, security and productivity of inland vessel operations in the Hooghly- Bhagirathi- Farakka feeder canal sector of NW- 1, in particular for the 3 MMTPA of imported coal transportation project between Sandhead (Bay of Bengal) and Farakka NTPC Power Plant by M/s JINDAL ITF Ltd.. Any vessel fitted with a computer/ laptop, digital echo sounder and a GPS/ DGPS receiver along with the preloaded ENCs and the IWN Software will facilitate real time navigation. Dr. Trivedi congratulated the Hydrographic Staff on this first of its kind achievement in India & encouraged them to work towards backend data integration & minimal human interface aspects. He further stated that time has come that IWAI should take the lead in harmonization of Inland Waterways in the country and to extend technology expertise to the State Governments. Keeping view of the motto "no compromise on safety of IWT vessels" IWAI will produce ENCs for other stretches of National Waterways in a phased manner and also implement the ambitious project of River Information Services (RIS) system for the above sector.