



# भारतीय अन्तर्देशीय जलमार्ग प्राधिकरण INLAND WATERWAYS AUTHORITY OF INDIA



(Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Govt. of India)

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## Press Note

Under the visionary leadership of Hon'ble Prime Minister and able guidance of Hon'ble Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) is taking several steps to promote Cargo Transportation using Waterways, which is considered as safe, cheap & environment friendly mode of transportation as compared to Rail/Road. As a result, the Cargo Transportation through Waterways has reached 133 million tonnes during 2023-24 as compared to 18 million tonnes a decade ago.

The IWAI, in continuation of its efforts to promote National Waterways, took several landmark decisions during its Board Meeting held on 19.07.2024, which shall have a long-lasting impact on Inland Water Transport (IWT) Sector in the country.

To give further boost to IWT, IWAI approved Draft Regulations for providing "No Objection Certificate" (NOC) for development of "Inland Waterways Terminal" on or along National Waterways. This will enable development of network of IWT Terminals for commercial use with the participation of private sector, public sector entities and enhance the modal share of cargo transportation through waterways in the overall transport chain.

IWAI approved the action plan for Dredging in the North Eastern Region (NER) to provide seamless movement of Cargo/Passenger Vessels in NW-2 (Brahmaputra) from Dhubri to Dibrugarh, NW-16 (Barak), NW-37 (Dhansiri) & NW-57 (Kopili) in NER through Dredging/Bandalling. This will provide seamless connectivity to NER from Varanasi on NW-1 to Kolkata/Haldia to NW-2 & NW-16 through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route.

IWAI approved the proposal of development of Fairway near berthing area and excess channel of Haldia Multi-Modal Terminal through Shyama Prasad Mookerjee Port Authority, Kolkata. This will enhance the trade potential in the region, especially EXIM Trade with Bangladesh.

IWAI also decided to procure 5 Amphibian Dredgers to provide requisite depth near the 60 Community Jetties developed along NW-1 (Ganges) in the States of UP, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal. These jetties will be utilised by the local communities for their day-to-day movement along with movement of their cargo to nearby markets.

The proposal to engage Indian Port Rail & Ropeway Corporation Ltd. (IPRCL) for providing Rail connectivity to Multi-Modal Terminal at Varanasi, Sahibganj & Haldia was also approved. This will ensure modal shift of cargo 'to IWT and full utilisation of these Terminals.

In accordance with the commitment of the Government to reduce carbon footprints, first Hydrogen Fuel Vessel has been introduced in Varanasi. IWAI is in the process to procure more such vessels. To generate and provide green fuel to these vessels, it was decided to engage Sagarmala Development Co. Ltd., a PSU under MoPSW, to set up a Hydrogen Plant, Storage & Dispensation facility at MMT, Varanasi.

With the enhancement of NWs from existing 5 to 111 in Yr 2016, there was a long-felt requirement to re-structure IWAI in keeping with the operational requirements. The Board decided to engage National Institute for Smart Government for re-structuring of IWAI. This shall augment the operational efficiency and Human Resource capabilities of IWAI to undertake necessary developmental projects along all National Waterways.