

MONTHLY UPDATES ON NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS OF INDIA

UPDATE-6
February 2019

This update covers the following:

- [Inland Waterways Authority of India launches portal for real-time information on Least Available Depths of National Waterways](#)
- [Inland Waterways authority of India and Indian Oil Sign MoU on Fuel Needs for National Waterways](#)
- [Sea Plane Services Announced](#)
- [World's largest container shipping firm Maersk completes 1st voyage on Ganga river](#)
- [Budget 2019: Allocation for inland waterways declines despite Centre's push for infrastructure; IWAI seeks funds from market to supplement allocations](#)
- [National Waterway-1 on Ganga circumvented environmental regulations](#)

1. Inland Waterways Authority of India launches portal for real-time information on Least Available Depths of National Waterways.

The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) launched a new portal LADIS – Least Available Depth Information System on 15th February 2019. The portal is available at <http://iwai.nic.in/>. “LADIS has been launched to ensure that real-time data on least available depths is disseminated for ship/barge and cargo owners so that they can undertake transportation on the National Waterways in a more planned way. An assured depth of waterway is required for seamless movement of vessels. Initially LAD information will be available for NW-1, NW-2, Indo-Bagladesh Protocol route and NW-3, along with the date of survey. The facility will be expanded to other NWs also. Details of LAD will be fed into the portal by respective surveyors and regional in-charge deputed with IWAI survey vessels which constantly move on NWs.”

PIB release, Ministry of Shipping, <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188636>

2. Inland Waterways authority of India and Indian Oil Sign MoU on Fuel Needs for National Waterways

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) and Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 26th Feb 2019 for jointly developing infrastructure for fuels, lubricating oil, LPG, Natural Gas and any other related fuel and gas for meeting the requirement of National Waterways.



The MoU will provide for an understanding over general modalities of mutual cooperation leading to addressing futuristic demand of any form of energy for Inland Waterways and associated services. It also covers development of infrastructure for receipt, storage, dispensing and supply of fuels, lubricating oils, Liquefied

1 Officials from IWAI and IOCL during the MoU signing. Source: [IWAI](http://www.iwai.gov.in)

Petroleum Gas (LPG) (for domestic & commercial use), Natural Gas (NG) and any other related fuel and gas. In addition to this the MoU will also cover infrastructure development for setting up Consumer Pump (for supplying fuels to vehicles, locomotives, machinery & equipments etc.) and Retail Outlets (for fuel & gas) at Terminals/ Multimodal terminals. This will further lead to development of business activities along the National Waterways.

IWAI and IOCL have agreed to conduct techno-economic feasibility studies for preparation of detailed land requirement, storage facilities and other supporting infrastructure with details of the cost. These studies will be based on the traffic potential, proximity to the local industries and waterways and its connectivity to rail heads.

PIB release, Ministry of Shipping, <http://pib.nic.in/PressReleaseFramePage.aspx?PRID=1566378>

3. Sea Plane Services Announced

“Under the Regional Connectivity Scheme (RCS) UDAN version 3.0 of Ministry of Civil Aviation, the routes connecting the following six water aerodrome sites have been awarded to start seaplane and helicopter services:-

- i. Guwahati River Front
- ii. Nagarjuna Sagar
- iii. Sabarmati River Front
- iv. Shatrunjay Dam
- v. Statue of Unity (Sardar Sarovar Dam)
- vi. Umrangso Reservoir

So far there is no proposal to start seaplane and helicopter operations on 1680 km. length of Ganga river for passenger transport.”

PIB release, Ministry of Shipping,
<http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188207>

4. World's largest container shipping firm Maersk completes 1st voyage on Ganga river

The World's largest container shipping company Maersk Line moved 16 containers on river Ganga (National Waterway-1) from Varanasi to Kolkata on 12th February 2019. The firm is onboard India's inland waterways for the first time.



Maersk moving containers on river Ganga follows similar movements already done by firms like PepsiCo, Emami Agrotech, IFFCO Fertilizers, Dabur India. With Maersk on board, the cargo from the hinterland will move directly to and from Bangladesh and rest of the world through Bay of Bengal.

2 Maserk containers on NW-1. Source: [Financial Express](#)

PIB release, Ministry of Shipping <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=188352>

5. Budget 2019: Allocation for inland waterways declines despite Centre's push for infrastructure; IWAI seeks funds from market to supplement allocations

"Despite the government stressing on enhancing inland waterways over the next 10 years, allocation for the same was reduced by 15.05 percent in the 2019 Interim Budget.

Funds allocated for inland waterways was at Rs 891.13 crore (revised estimate) in 2018-19, which has been reduced to Rs 757 crore for 2019-20. Budget 2019-20 was also silent on any capital investment in IWAI.

While overall allocation of funds for the Shipping Ministry dipped by two percent, from Rs 1,938.76 crore to Rs 1,902.56 crore, allocation under Sagarmala, the government's flagship port led development programme witnessed a rise in allocation from Rs 381.08 crore to Rs 550 crore. Further, over 400 projects will be implemented under Sagarmala between 2015 and 2035. According to government data, 415 projects will be undertaken out of which 189 will be for port modernisation, 170 for connectivity enhancement, 33 for port-linked industrialisation and 23 will be for coastal community development."

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/budget-2019-allocation-for-inland-waterways-declines-despite-centres-push-for-infrastructure-3474171.html>

"The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has sent a proposal to the finance ministry to be allowed to raise at least Rs 1,000 crore via market to finance waterways' projects. Officials said that projects under inland waterways will peak in two-three years, thus, while the Authority will manage project financing with the allocation this year, it will require more funds from next year onwards.

He said that IWAI will need huge sums of money by 2020-21 owing to various works being undertaken across National Waterways 2, 4 and 16. NW 2 and 16 are in the north-eastern state of Assam. While NW2 is from Dhubri to Sadiya across Brahmaputra, NW 16 is across Barak river. Their length is 891 km and 121 km respectively. NW4 is spanned across three states of Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The length is 1,095 km."

<https://www.moneycontrol.com/news/business/economy/iwai-plans-to-raise-rs-1000-crore-from-market-to-supplement-budgetary-allocation-3503141.html>

Read more at <https://economictimes.indiatimes.com/industry/transportation/shipping/-/transport/investment-in-17-entities-under-shipping-ministry-hiked-to-rs-5778-cr-for-fy20/articleshow/67815855.cms>

6. National Waterway-1 circumvented environmental regulations

The National Waterways Act, 2016 declared 111 rivers as National Inland Waterways. Even as these waterways open up for commercial shipping and navigation, and for interventions like dredging, river training, construction of terminals, and land acquisition, the legally binding regime of environmental clearance is evaded. Read full article at

<https://www.epw.in/journal/2019/8/commentary/circumventing-environmental-regulations.html>

Compiled by Avli Verma, Manthan Adhyayan Kendra