

MONTHLY UPDATES ON NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS OF INDIA

UPDATE-10
June 2019

This update covers the following:

- [Dredging, construction of terminals started for NW-40 on river Ghaghara](#)
- [Work on Thane Waterways \(NW-53\) likely to begin in next three months](#)
- [Indo-Nepal amendment to include waterways in Trade and Transit Treaty soon](#)
- [DP world to provide assistance for NW-3, Kerala](#)
- [Minister of State for Shipping inspects Yamuna Water Taxi Project](#)

1. Dredging, construction of terminals started for NW-40 on river Ghaghara

The waterway from Manjhighat at Ganga-Ghaghra river confluence to Faizabad/Ayodhya along the Ghaghra River for a length of 354 km was declared as National Waterway-40 in 2016, as a part of Government's push to develop inland waterways sector in the country. The Detailed Project Report on the development of NW-40 envisages terminal at five locations – Ayodhya, Mahirpur (Tanda/Kalwari), Dohrighat, Tortipar and Manjhighat.

According to the news reports, dredging has been initiated for developing the navigation channel. A terminal is also being constructed at the Gupatarghat in Ayodhya. Read more at <https://www.amarujala.com/uttar-pradesh/basti/155967327714-basti-news135#>



Frightened Villagers from Gaighat village, Ghanghata tehsil watching the increased water level of Ghaghara river (Source: [Amar Ujala](#))

See [Update-2](#) for more background on National Waterway-40.

2. Work on Thane Waterway (NW-53) likely to begin in three months

According to the [news reports](#), Centre has approved the plan prepared by Thane Municipal Corporation for the waterway project connecting Thane-Navi Mumbai-Mumbai (National Waterway-53).

“The first phase of this project will connect Vasai-Thane-Kalyan, while the second phase will connect Thane to Navi Mumbai and Mumbai. The Detailed Project Report (DPR) for the first phase was approved last year.

“Environmental activists expressed concern over the destruction of ecology around waterbodies and said it could cause flooding.”

<https://www.hindustantimes.com/mumbai-news/minister-promises-push-for-vasai-thane-kalyan-waterway-project-may-begin-in-three-months/story-16SNloflE3NLOD21BzgiJ.html>

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/mumbai/centre-clears-waterway-project-linking-mumbai-to-thane-navi-mumbai/articleshow/69984180.cms>



Electric pole in the middle of Ulhas river, Chainage 41.43 km on the proposed National Waterway-53. (Source: Feasibility Report for NW-53, IWAI (2016) obtained by Manthan through RTI)

This project has received the approval of the Centre on the claims that waterway project will help in reducing the traffic congestion and hence reduce the stress on the environment. However, the project has the potential to adversely affect the existing ecology since Sanjay Gandhi National Park, Thane Creek Wildlife Sanctuary and Tungreshwar Wildlife Sanctuary, the ecosensitive zones declared by MoEF&CC are within 10 km radius from the proposed project sites. The proposed traffic of vessels can be a potential disturbance to the existing biodiversity found in these eco-sensitive zones.

Moreover, dredging will be carried out to ensure the facility is available all the time at all tidal conditions. The approximate quantity of dredging is 2 million m³. Noise generated from dredging activity will be potentially dangerous for the aquatic species. Excavation of the dredged material from the waterbodies will also affect the aquatic habitats.

Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change granted the Terms of Reference for the preparation of Environment Impact Assessment Report with specific and general conditions on 14th June 2018.

3. Indo-Nepal amendment to include waterways in Trade and Transit Treaty soon

“The Indo-Nepal Treaty of Trade and Transit will be amended soon to include waterways as a mode of cargo transport to enhance connectivity between the two countries. According to

Pravir Pandey, Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India, currently the Indo-Nepal treaty of 1991 only allows movement of cargo by road and rail between the two countries. The routes identified are Kolkata-Sahebganj by waterway and then to Nepal's Biratnagar by road; Kolkata-Kalughat near Patna by waterway (NW-1 on Ganga) and then to Birgunj by road; and Kolkata-Varanasi by waterway and then to either Nepalganj or Mahendra Nagar by road.”

Joint statements were also released to use National inland waterways - Gandak (NW-37) and Kosi (NW-58) for providing connectivity to Nepal. See [Update-7](#), [Update-1](#) for more on Indo-Nepal Waterways.

Read more at <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/india-nepal-to-amend-trade-treaty/article27689428.ece>
https://www.business-standard.com/article/pti-stories/nepal-keen-on-exploring-gandak-river-route-for-trade-official-119060701048_1.html
<https://www.manthan-india.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Kosi-and-Gandak-Report-min.pdf>

4. DP world to provide assistance for NW-3, Kerala

“The Kerala government has set up a secretary-level committee headed by Chief Secretary Tom Jose to look into partnering with leading port terminal operator DP World for developmental activities in the State. The move comes after DP World evinced interest to lend a helping hand to make the 633-km West Coast Canal (WCC) from Kovalam to Kasaragod navigable by May 2020 on national waterways specifications and development of minor ports for throwing open the water mode of transport.”

Read more at <https://www.thehindu.com/news/national/kerala/tie-up-with-dp-world-in-the-offing/article27585137.ece>

5. Minister of State for Shipping inspects Yamuna Water Taxi Project

“The Yamuna Water Taxi Project has been conceived as an integrated development project combining several functions like terminal development and vessels operation. The project covers a total length of 16 km and comprises five locations on the banks of River Yamuna in Delhi, including Fatepur Jat, Tronica City, Jagatpur, Sonia Vihar and Wazirabad. It is proposed to be developed in two phases – Phase I: Sonia Vihar to Tronica City and Phase II: Wazirabad to Sonia Vihar and Tronica City to Fatehpur Jat.

“The Minister of State (I/C) for Shipping Shri Mansukh Mandaviya inspected the Sonia Vihar site of the proposed Yamuna Water Taxi Project of Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) in New Delhi. Speaking at the project site Shri Mandaviya said that the Yamuna Water Taxi Project will be a new means of urban transportation. It will not only give a boost to tourism but will also help reduce traffic congestion in the city.”

Read more at <http://pib.nic.in/newsite/PrintRelease.aspx?relid=190788>

Delhi is struggling to manage its urban transportation. If the Yamuna Water Taxi project is planned to give a boost to tourism, it is not clear how the problem of traffic congestion would be addressed through this project. This is because the boost to tourism would mean more people travelling in Delhi.

The Water Taxi will provide an alternative mode of transport for the 16km stretch but to reach the stretch, the traffic load will further fall on the roads connecting to the terminals. Moreover, the terminals are being planned on the floodplains of the river Yamuna. This will further aggravate the stress on the river Yamuna. To read more, See [Update - 8](#).



(Minister of State for Shipping, Shri Mansukh Mandaviya inspecting the Sonia Vihar site for Yamuna Water Taxi. Source: PTI)