

MONTHLY UPDATES ON NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS OF INDIA

UPDATE- 18
October 2021

This update covers the following:

- [Cargo Terminal, Tourist Jetty and Riverfront Development in Dibrugarh, Assam on the Brahmaputra River](#)
- [Targets and Plans for Inland Waterways in the newly inaugurated 'Gati Shakti - National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity'](#)
- [IIT Kharagpur to prepare model for Modern Pontoon bridges to come up on the waterways of Bihar](#)

1. Cargo Terminal, Tourist Jetty and Riverfront Development in Dibrugarh, Assam on the Brahmaputra River.

On 24th October 2021, the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbanand Sonowal visited the proposed site near Bogibeel in Dibrugarh where a cargo terminal, tourist jetty and riverfront development is proposed on the river Brahmaputra. On this occasion, Shri Sarbanand Sonowal announced that, ""The opportunities provided by PM Shri Narendra Modi in developing the NW 2(Brahmaputra) and NW 16(Barak) is leveraging our connectivity with Bangladesh and giving us the route to reach markets of the world. We are hence establishing MMLPs and developing river ports in various part of Assam. In Dibrugarh, a port for cargo and passengers will be built." He further mentioned that, "the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, the Inland Water Transport Department of Assam Government and North East Frontier Railway are working together to develop the area near the Bogibeel Bridge."



Source: PIB Delhi release, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, 24th October 2021

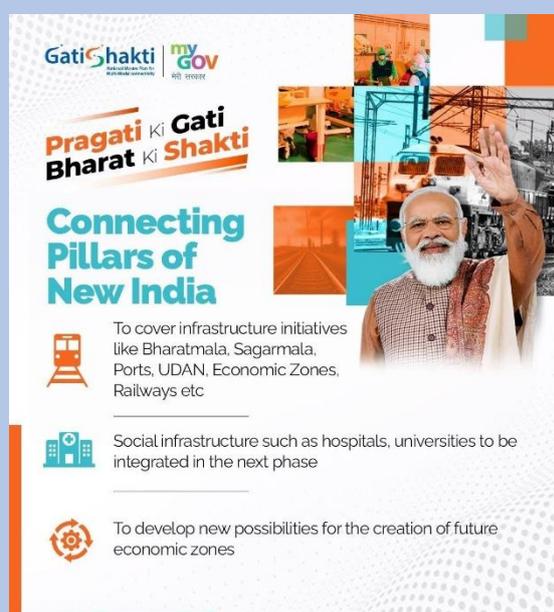
<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1766131>

2. Targets and Plans for Inland Waterways in the newly inaugurated 'Gati Shakti -National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity'

On 13th October 2021, Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi launched the Gati-shakti National Master Plan for Multi-modal Connectivity. According to a [PIB release](#), Gati Shakti is a digital platform which brings sixteen Ministries together for integrated planning and coordinated implementation of infrastructure connectivity projects. The PIB release further notes that, "It will incorporate the infrastructure schemes of various Ministries and State Governments like Bharatmala, Sagarmala, inland waterways, dry/land ports, UDAN etc. Economic Zones like textile clusters, pharmaceutical clusters, defence corridors, electronic parks, industrial corridors, fishing clusters, agri zones will be covered to improve connectivity & make Indian businesses more competitive. "

See more about the Gati Shakti Plan here -

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1763307>



(Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1763638>)

The PIB release further states that specific targets are slated for the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, specifically regarding National Waterways which include -

- 1) Cargo movement for all National Waterways will be 95 MMT by 2024-25 from 74 MMT in 2020
- 2) Cargo movement to be increased from 9 MMT in 2020 to 29 MMT by 2024-25

A Giant Stride in India's
\$5 Trillion Economy Goal

Gati Shakti National Master Plan

Multimodal Connectivity
Infrastructure to various
Economic Zones



Targets upto 2024-25 for Ministry of
Shipping



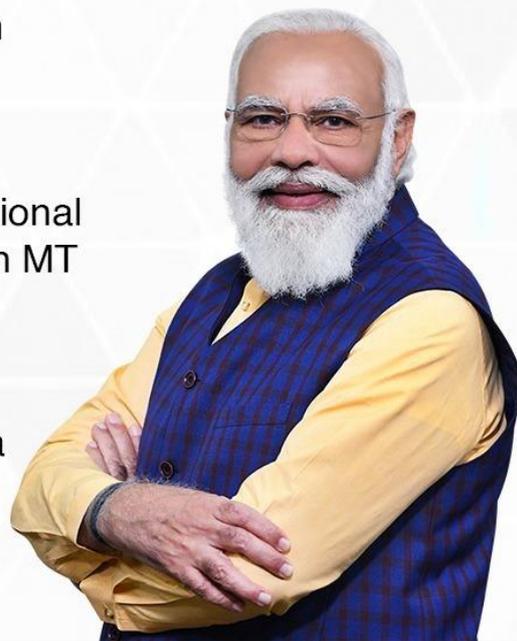
Increase in Cargo capacity at the
Ports to 1,759 MMTPA from
1,282 MMTPA in 2020



Cargo movement on all National
Waterways will be 95 million MT
from 74 million MT in 2020



Cargo movement on Ganga
to be increased from 9 to
29 million MT



(Source: <https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1763638>)

Comparing the current cargo movement and targeted cargo movement in 2024-25 under the Gati Shakti National Master Plan as mentioned above, it can be seen that most of the increase in the cargo movement is proposed to be driven and concentrated on the National Waterway-1 on the river Ganga.

3. IIT Kharagpur to prepare model for Modern Pontoon bridges to come up on the waterways of Bihar

According to a [news report](#), a model of modern pontoon bridges is to be prepared by IIT Kharagpur in order to ensure smooth navigation on the waterways of Bihar. The news reports further states that the trial of these modern pontoon bridges shall commence within the next six months. Further, Jayant Singh, Chairman (in-charge) of the Inland Waterways Authority of India states in this news report that 25 terminals shall be constructed at various places along the waterways of Bihar to ensure navigational facilities are available for country boats. Read more - <https://www.jagran.com/bihar/patna-city-iit-kharagpur-will-prepare-hi-tech-pontoon-bridge-for-bihar-river-port-will-soon-be-built-in-chhapra-on-ganga-22075319.html>

Pontoon bridges in Bihar on the Ganga waterway were in news earlier as the factors responsible for increasing travel time for barges. “The number of pipa bridges across the river Ganga have become a significant hurdle disrupting the smooth sailing of the vessel.” Source: https://www.newsclick.in/bihar-vessel-5-day-reach-patna-varanasi-casts-doubts-water-transport-project?fbclid=IwAR1WHGAKy8l1BsfMWDGMeH0NQWVhU40i7Y9Wq12Sn5w_vzHTBA29BgTuIKQ

Opening and closing of pontoon bridges for vessels to sail in the rivers of Bihar is also reported in many news reports for causing traffic congestion for vehicles using the bridge for crossing the river; many accidents are also reported on the Pontoon bridges. One of the examples can be read here - <https://www.jagran.com/bihar/patna-city-pipa-pul-built-on-river-ganga-suddenly-opened-to-sail-ships-in-vaishali-21394870.html>