

MONTHLY UPDATES ON NATIONAL INLAND WATERWAYS OF INDIA

UPDATE- 19
November 2021

This update covers the following:

- [Water Hyacinth takes over Seaplane Sites at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. Shipping Ministry states Sabarmati-Statue of Unity services stopped from April 2021; push for new water aerodromes continues](#)
- [Ganga Waterway's Multi-modal terminals at Varanasi and Sahibganj fail to attract bidders yet again](#)
- [Indian Waterways growing at unmatched speed says Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways; 25 Waterways found viable out of 111 National Waterways according to MoPSW](#)

1. Water Hyacinth takes over Seaplane Sites at Sabarmati Riverfront in Ahmedabad. Shipping Ministry states Sabarmati-Statue of Unity services stopped from April 2021; push for new water aerodromes continues

Gujarat Samachar, Ahmedabad edition dated 25th November 2021 featured sites of Sabarmati riverfront where seaplane services and boat services started in October 2020; water on these sites was covered with Water Hyacinth. The Seaplane services between Sabarmati Riverfront and Statue of Unity, Kevadia were inaugurated in October 2020 in Gujarat. These services have been suspended five times since their inauguration due to various reasons with services being stopped from 11th April 2021.

“Under Regional Connectivity scheme (RCS)- UDAN(Ude Desh Ka Aam Nagrik), the seaplane service between Sabarmati River Front & Statue of Unity, commenced on 31st October ,2020. Later, the same was stopped by the selected Airline Operator(SAO) from 11th April, 2021 due to operational reasons. Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA) has taken up the matter with the concerned stakeholders for making seaplane operations viable. MoCA has also signed an MoU with M/o Ports, Shipping & Waterways (MoPSW) for development of Seaplane services.”

(Rajya Sabha, Unstarred Question No -312 answered on 30.11. 2021 – [‘Seaplane Facility at Sabarmati River’](#))

After the inaugurated services suspended several times in the first year of their inauguration, the MoCA is now working with various stakeholders to make the seaplane services viable – which in some ways point that the services were not viable from the start. Even while experiencing many obstacles with its first hasty experiment of seaplane services, the Shipping Ministry in response to the earlier mentioned response in the Rajya Sabha also stated that 14 water aerodrome projects

have been identified in the states of Gujarat, Assam, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep Islands under UDAN Scheme.

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1776425>

ગુજરાત સમાચાર



અમદાવાદ શહેરમાં તંત્ર દ્વારા નવા નજરાણા ઊભા કરવામાં આવી રહ્યા છે પણ જે જગ્યા લોકો માટે બનાવવામાં આવી છે તેને તંત્ર દ્વારા તેની જાળવણી કરવામાં આવતી નથી. શહેરમાં સૌ પ્રથમ ઝિપ લાઈન સરદાર બ્રિજ પાસે ઊભી કરવામાં આવી ત્યાર બાદ નદીમાં બોર્ટિંગ શરૂ કરવામાં આવ્યું ત્યાર બાદ એસીવાળી કુઝ બોટ લાવવામાં આવી અને ત્યાર બાદ સી-પ્લેન આ બધી જ વસ્તુઓ હાલ બંધ છે અને તસવીરમાં જોઈ શકાય છે તેમ સી-પ્લેનના લેન્ડિંગ પાથ તથા વોટર એરોડ્રામની જેટ્ટી પાસે કુમ્ભ વેલનો જમાવડો થઈ ગયો છે. એક સેવા સચવાતી નથી ત્યાં અધુરામાં પુરું તંત્ર દ્વારા બે સી-પ્લેન લાવવાની રજૂઆત સરકારને કરવામાં આવી છે. અત્યારે સાબરમતી નદીની હાલત જોતા એવું લાગે છે કે તેમાં બોટ પણ ચાલી શકે તેમ નથી ત્યાં સી-પ્લેન સેવા ફરી શરૂ કરવાની તંત્ર દ્વારા ફક્ત વાતો કરવામાં આવી રહી છે.

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(Gujarat Samachar, 25.11.2021)

Seaplanes are specially being pushed by the Gujarat Government even when the services have clearly been more in the news for their suspension. “Despite Gujarat’s first seaplane services between Ahmedabad and Kevadia remaining suspended for the past six months, the state government has sought financial aid to operate two seaplanes and have also started survey of six spots where future seaplane services could be operated.”

<https://indianexpress.com/article/cities/ahmedabad/gujarat-govt-surveys-six-sites-seeks-aid-for-2-seaplanes-7638143/>

Seaplanes are not only pushed without any evidence of them being a viable model of transport, but norms around their environmental regulations are also diluted. Read about the environmental governance for seaplane infrastructure here - <https://article-14.com/post/the-prime-minister-likes-seaplanes-environmental-laws-are-being-swept-aside-for-them-616e55db6862c>

2. Ganga Waterway's Multi-modal terminals at Varanasi and Sahibganj fail to attract bidders yet again

“India’s waterways development agency will issue fresh tenders on a new model for privatising the multi modal river terminals at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Sahibganj in Jharkhand after an earlier attempt failed to attract bidders.

“Multi-modal terminals at Varanasi and Sahibganj were built by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) as part of the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JVMP), the 1,390-km long Varanasi to Haldia stretch along river Ganga, with a \$375 million loan from the World Bank.

“ “Private entities are showing interest for the terminals but nobody is willing to put in money. We are looking to change the model based on feedback from the bidders,” a government sources said.”

<https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/tender-to-privatise-varanasi-and-sahibganj-multi-modal-river-terminals-flops-yet-again/article37696971.ece>

In June 2021, it was reported that, tenders for these projects were scrapped due to single bids.

“India’s waterways development agency has re-invited bids for privatising the multi modal river terminals at Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Sahibganj in Jharkhand after scrapping earlier tenders that received single bids.”

Read more - <https://www.thehindubusinessline.com/economy/logistics/iwai-floats-fresh-tenders-for-privatising-multi-modal-terminals-at-varanasi-sahibganj/article35056842.ece>

3. Indian Waterways growing at unmatched speed says Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways; 25 Waterways found viable out of 111 National Waterways according to MoPSW

“Union Minister of State for Ports, Shipping and Waterways Shri Shantanu Thakur inaugurated/launched a number of projects at the Haldia Dock Complex of Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port, Kolkata today (21st November 2021.) Speaking on the occasion, Shri Thakur said, Indian waterway systems are expanding at such a fast pace that no other country can match our speed. He added that the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways is committed to implement the development vision of the Prime Minister, and that today’s visit of the Haldia Dock is a step in the direction of PM’s vision of development for all.”

<https://pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=1773854>

On 30th November 2021, the Shipping Ministry in response to a [starred question in the Rajya Sabha](#) stated that out of 111 National Waterways, only 25 are found viable for cargo/passenger movement. See screenshot below for the list of these 25 National Waterways.

**LIST OF 25 NATIONAL WATERWAYS FEASIBLE FOR CARGO/ PASSENGER
MOVEMENT**

Sl. No.	National Waterway No.	Details of Waterways	STATES	Status
1	National Waterway 1	Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (Haldia - Allahabad)	Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand & West Bengal	Development taken up with Assistance from World Bank Jal Marg Vikas Project
2	National Waterway 2	Brahmaputra River (Dhubri - Sadiya)	Assam	Development taken up as per approved SFC for FY 20-21 to 2024-25
3	National Waterway 16	Barak River	Assam	
4	National Waterway 3	West Coast Canal (Kottapuram - Kollam), Champakara and Udyogmandal Canals	Kerala	
5	National Waterway 4	Krishna River (Vijayawada – Muktyala)	Andhra Pradesh	Mostly Operational Waterways and development and maintenance work taken up.
6	National Waterway 5	Dhamra-Paradip via Mangalagadi to Pankopal	Odisha	
7	National Waterway 8	Alappuzha- Changanassery Canal	Kerala	
8	National Waterway 9	Alappuzha-Kottayam – Athirampuzha Canal	Kerala Alternate route: 11.5km	
9	National Waterway 27	Cumberjua River	Goa	
10	National Waterway 68	Mandovi River	Goa	
11	National Waterway 86	Rupnarayan River	West Bengal	
12	National Waterway 97	Sunderbans Waterway	West Bengal	
13	National Waterway 111	Zuari River	Goa	
14	National Waterway 10	Amba River	Maharashtra	
15	National Waterway 40	Ghagra River	Bihar	
16	National Waterway 44	Ichamati River	West Bengal	
17	National Waterway 52	Kali River	Karnataka	
18	National Waterway 57	Kopili River	Assam	
19	National Waterway 25	Chapora River	Goa	
20	National Waterway 37	Gandak River	Bihar	
21	National Waterway 28	Dabhol Creek Vasisti River	Maharashtra	Substantial cargo

(Rajya Sabha, Starred Question No -27 answered on 30.11.2021, ‘Status of Implementation of the National Waterways Act 2016)

It is interesting to note that in the August 2021, the Shipping Ministry has provided a similar list with 23 National Waterways instead of the latest 25 NWs which are found viable for cargo /passenger movement; Ghagara and Gandak Waterways were not part of this list in August 2021 (See Rajya Sabha, Starred Question -143 answered on 02.08.2021, ‘Development of Waterways’)