

PASSENGER TRAFFIC ON NATIONAL WATERWAYS

प्रविष्टि तिथि: 13 DEC 2025 5:44PM by PIB Delhi

The total passenger traffic recorded on National Waterways (NWs) in India was

1.61 Cr. in 2023- 24 and 7.64 Cr in 2024-25.

The cargo movement recorded in NWs and revenue earned during last five years by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) by way of interest on short term deposits, sale of tender forms, over dimension cargo/general cargo movement, berthing/pilotage charges etc. are given below:

Year	Cargo movement (in million tons)	Revenue Earned (INR in Lakhs)
2020-21	83.61	1950.05
2021-22	108.79	1182.34
2022-23	126.15	1397.04
2023-24	133.03	1988.29
2024-25	145.84	2533.90

The National Waterways (Construction of Jetties/Terminals) Regulations, 2025 allows private sector participation in development of jetties/terminals along NWs and promoting infrastructure growth through non-governmental investment. A dedicated online portal named “Jalsamriddhi” has been put in place, where stakeholders can apply for “No Objection Certificate” (NOC) for construction of terminals on or along NWs by private agencies, enabling faster infrastructure expansion without Government funding.

The details of state-wise operational NWs are given in **Annexure-1**.

IWAI has identified and conducted survey of the following 5 river cruise tourism circuits on NW-64 (River Mahanadi)

- (i) Subarnameru(Subranpur)-Shiva Mandir (Bargarh)
- ii. Singanatha Temple(Cuttack)- Badamba (Cuttack)
- (iii) Bankimacharchiga(Cuttack)- Trutladevi Temple

To promote inland water transport sector, Jalvahak scheme has been launched by the Government. The main features of the scheme are as under:

It has a provision of Rs. 95.42 Cr for a period of 3 years from FY 2024-25 to FY 2026-27.

Provide financial incentives directly to the cargo owners to the extent of 35% of the total actual operating expenditure incurred on waterways journey.

Launch of Scheduled Services by Inland and Coastal Shipping Limited (ICSL) for promotion of IWT, by providing funds to ICSL for the IWT vessel operated by ICSL on (i) Kolkata-Patna/Varanasi route (ii) Kolkata-Guwahati – via IBP route and (iii) Kolkata – Karimganj/Badarpur via IBP route.

Scheme is applicable on NW-1, NW-2 and NW-16 only for long haul movement of greater than 200 Kms.

For safety of navigation, protection of life and cargo and prevention of pollution caused by use of navigation of inland vessels, a Legal & Regulatory Framework on NWs has been provided in the Inland Vessels Act, 2021 which is a unified national regulatory framework for inland vessels plying in inland waters of India. Further, navigational safety and relevant assistance is provided to vessels with navigational marks. River Pilots are provided on the cargo vessels for safe navigation.

Annexure-1

Operational National Waterways as on 30.11.2025

S.No.	NW No.	Limits of NW	State
1	NW-1	Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly River System (Haldia-Allahabad)	U. P., Bihar, Jharkhand & W. Bengal
2	NW-2	Brahmaputra River (Dhubri- Sadiya)	Assam
3	NW-3	West Coast Canal	Kerala
4	NW-4	Krishna Godavari River Systems	Andhra Pradesh
5	NW-5	East Coast Canal And Matai River/Brahmani-Kharsua-Dhamra Rivers/Mahanadi Delta Rivers	Odisha

6	NW-8	Alappuzha-Changanassery Canal	Kerala
7	NW-9	Alappuzha-Kottayam – Athirampuzha Canal	Kerala
8	NW-14	Baitarni River	Odisha
9	NW-16	Barak River	Assam
10	NW-23	Budha Balanga	Odisha
11	NW-31	Dhansiri/Chathe	Assam
12	NW-44	Ichamati River	W. Bengal
13	NW-48	Jawai-Luni-Rann Of Kutch River	Gujarat
14	NW-53	(Kalyan-Thane-Mumbai Waterway, Vasai Creek And Ulhas River)	Maharashtra
15	NW-64	Mahanadi River	Odisha
16	NW-86	Rupnarayan River	W. Bengal
17	NW-94	Sone River	Bihar

18	NW-97	Sunderbans Waterway	W. Bengal
19	NW-10	Amba River	Maharashtra
20	NW-83	Rajpuri Creek	Maharashtra

21	NW-85	Revadanda Creek-Kundalika River System	Maharashtra
22	NW-91	Shastri River - Jaigad Creek System	Maharashtra
23	NW-68	Mandovi River	Goa
24	NW-111	Zuari River	Goa
25	NW-73	Narmada River	Gujarat
26	NW-100	Tapi River	Gujarat
27	NW-27	Cumberjua River	Goa
28	NW-47	Jalangi River	West Bengal
29	NW-87	Sabarmati River	Gujarat
30	NW-57	Kopili River	Assam
31	NW-110	Yamuna River	UP
32	NW-40	Ghaghra River	UP

This information was given by the Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal Ji, in a written reply to the Lok Sabha.

PN/IY

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