

## **Water resource development: Waterways Plan**

Welcome students.

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### **Learning Outcomes**

At the end of this module, you will be able to understand the importance of Inland waterways for the country of India. Also, you will be able to understand the plan of inland waterways proposed and implemented by the Government of Goa. .

### **Introduction**

Inland waterways means any navigable river or a canal which can be used for transportation. When it comes to India, we have many perennial rivers which can be used for navigation. Water transport is the cheapest mode of transportation compared to other means. It can be used for transporting the bulky goods over long distances. When it comes to India, the inland waterways in India are managed by the Inland Waterways Authority of India. Till 2016 we had five major national waterways which are shown in the map. But in 2016, under the National Waterway Act, additional 106 National waterways were proposed. Which will take the total navigable inland waterways to 20,000 kilometers.

The main aim of waterways plan is:

- To increase the share of national waterways in our country. As the utilization of inland waterway in India is quite less compared to the other foreign countries.
- Second one was to reduce the cost of transportation as water transport is the cheapest mode of transportation compared to other means.
- And the third one was to lower the carbon footprint because the majority of the traffic in India or the majority of the people in India mostly use either roadways or railways for traveling. But these railways and roadways are heavily dependent on fossil fuels which leads to the emission of carbon.

### **Five major National Waterways of India:**

#### **1. National Waterway 1**

This waterway starts from Allahabad and ends at Haldia in West Bengal. It passes through the four states of India i.e. Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Jharkhand and West Bengal. It was declared as the waterway in 1986. It runs along Ganga, Bhagirathi and the Hooghly river system. And the total length of this national waterway is 1620 kilometers. This makes it the longest waterway in India. It is mainly used by the cargo as well as the passenger vessels.

#### **2. National Waterway 2**

It starts at Sadiya and ends at Dhubri in the state of Assam. It was declared as the waterway in 1988. It runs along the Brahmaputra River for nearly 891 kilometers. This waterway is playing a very important role in the state of Assam as it is mainly used by the vessels of the Government of Assam, Border Security Force, Tourist organisations and some other private operators.

### **3. National waterway 3**

It starts from Kollam and ends at Kottapuram in the state of Kerala. It was declared as the waterway in 1993. It runs on the West Coast canal and is also a part of the Champakara and Udyogamandal canal having a length of 205 kilometers. The main use of this national waterway is; it connects the industrial centers of Kochi to Kochi Port.

### **4. National waterway 4**

This waterway starts at Kakinada and ends at Puducherry, passing through the states of Telangana, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, and the Union Territory of Puducherry. It was declared as the waterway in 2008, having a length of 1078 kilometers. It runs on the four canals and even on the parts of Godavari and river Krishna. This waterway is currently under development. Under the National Waterway Act in 2016, the length of this national water has been increased by connecting it to Godavari River and the Krishna River.

### **5. National Waterway 5**

This starts at Talcher and ends at Dhamra, passing through the two states of India that is Orissa and West Bengal. It was declared as the waterway in 2008, having a length of 588 kilometers. It runs on the East Coast canal, Matai river and also on the Mahanadi River. This waterway is mainly used by the cargoes for transporting coal, fertilizers, cement and iron.

### **Conclusion**

Inland transport in India is underutilized. The 106 newly declared national waterways which were declared in 2016 will contribute greatly to the country's development. The techno-economic feasibility studies for those national waterways have already begun. If this plan is implemented properly, it will be very beneficial for India.