At an extremely expansive location with the Ganga river as a backdrop, Shri Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of India inaugurated India’s second riverine multi-modal terminal at Sahibganj in Jharkhand on September 12, 2019. The inauguration of the state-of-the-art terminal reinforces the government’s focus to extensively optimise and promote river transportation to reduce the country’s logistics costs.

Constructed in less than two years at a cost of Rs. 290 Cr in Phase I, this second of the three multi-modal terminals has been built on the NW-1 under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP) in record time.
The inauguration of this terminal came on the heels of the Varanasi multimodal terminal inaugurated in November 2018. The cargo handling capacity of the sahibganj terminal is about 30 lakh tonnes every year.

The opening of the Sahibganj multi-modal terminal will ease Indo-Nepal cargo connectivity through NW 1while aiding the industrialization of Jharkhand and adjoining Bihar. Additionally, the convergence of road-rail-river transport at Sahibganj through the new multi-modal terminal will connect this part of the hinterland to Kolkata, Haldia and further to the Bay of Bengal. It will also ensure connectivity to the North-Eastern states through Bangladesh via the river-sea route.

In terms of trade, the route will facilitate transportation of coal from the local mines in the Rajmahal area to various thermal power plants located along NW 1, thus, reducing truck and rail movement for transportation of cargo. Other commodities expected to be transported through the terminal include stone chips, fertilisers, cement and sugar. Roughly 600 people in the region are expected to be directly employed through the terminal while employing nearly 3000 people indirectly.

The current capacity of the terminal is expected to grow to 5.5 MMTPA after capacity expansion in Phase II by the PPP model. Around 335 acres of land has been designated for the construction of a freight village, contiguous to the terminal.