

Ministry of Shipping 08-October, 2018 18:10 IST

**Shri Nitin Gadkari to lay the foundation stone for development of Ghagra river as National Waterway in Uttar Pradesh tomorrow**

**IWAI begins development works Phase 1**

Union Minister for Shipping, Road Transport & Highways and Water Resources, River Development & Ganga Rejuvenation Shri Nitin Gadkari will lay the foundation stone for the development work of Ghagra river as National Waterway (NW)-40 tomorrow at Basti in Uttar Pradesh, under the Sagarmala Programme of Ministry of Shipping.

The waterway from Manjhighat at Ganga-Gaghra river confluence to Faizabad/Ayodhya along Gaghra River for a length of 354 km was declared as NW-40 during the year 2016, as part of Government's renewed push to develop inland waterways sector in the country. Together with NW-1 (on river Ganga), NW-40 will be provide to be a major transport modal choice for cargo and passenger movement. The Detailed Project Report on the development of NW-40 envisages terminal at five locations – Ayodhya, Mahirpur (Tanda/Kalwari), Dohrighat, Tortipar and Manjhighat.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), under Ministry of Shipping has already initiated work in Phase –I with project cost of Rs. 11.6 Cr and has constructed the floating terminal at Tanda/Kalwari to facilitate cargo & passenger movement on River Ghagra & River Ganga. Under Phase 1, the draft of 2 metre and width of 45 metre will be constructed in addition to floating terminals through Pontoon-Gangway at two locations- Tanda/Kalwari and Manjhighat.

The DPR on NW-40 projects movement of various categories of cargo, namely, agricultural products (rice, wheat, pulses, sugar, livestock), industrials products, coal (for Tanda power plant), coarse sand, bricks, paper products, leather and other general goods etc. through inland vessel capacity up to 1000 tonne. The first phase works are scheduled to be completed by 2019-20. This waterway is being classified as class-III waterway which envisages movement of up to 1000 ton capacity vessels. Besides cargo and passenger movement, NW-40 will provide a connectivity to tourist and pilgrimage places along river Gaghra and Ganga.

Other projects under IWAI in Uttar Pradesh include, Freight Village & Logistics Hub and Multimodal terminal at Varanasi under the Jal Marg Vikas Project. The terminal is being constructed at a cost of ₹169.70 cr with a capacity of 1.26 MTPA. The terminal is likely to be inaugurated in the month of November, 2018. The terminal will boost trade via waterways with reduced logistics costs. Better connectivity to coastal regions and neighbouring countries like Nepal, Bangladesh & North eastern states through Indo-Bangladesh Protocol route will help MSMEs to expand trade & commerce and also provide optimal multi modal mix.

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(Release ID :184032)

