



Jalvahak Scheme

Source: [PIB](#)

Recently, the **Union Minister for Ports, Shipping & Waterways** launched the 'Jalvahak' scheme to promote [inland waterways](#) and cargo movement.

- **Objective:** It aims to unlock the trade potential of inland waterways, **reduce logistics costs**, and **alleviate congestion in road and rail networks**.
 - It incentivises long-haul cargo movement on [National Waterways \(NW\) 1 \(Ganga\), 2 \(Brahmaputra\)](#), and **16 (Barak)**.
- **Incentives:**
 - Provides **reimbursements up to 35%** of operating expenses for cargo movement on **NW 1, 2 and 16** via the [Indo-Bangladesh Protocol Route](#).
 - It encourages **hiring of vessels owned by private operators**, promoting competition and efficiency.
- **Economic and Environmental Impact:**
 - It aims to shift **800 million tonne-kilometres of cargo by 2027**.
 - The target is to increase cargo movement via waterways from 132.89 million tonnes (2023-24) to **200 million tonnes by 2030**, and **500 million tonnes by 2047**, supporting the [Blue Economy](#) and [Atma Nirbhar Bharat](#) initiatives.
- **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI):**
 - It was established in **1986** to regulate and develop inland waterways.
 - India has **14,500 km** of navigable waterways, including rivers, canals, and backwaters.
 - Under the [National Waterways Act, 2016](#), 111 waterways (5 existing and 106 new) have been declared as [NWs](#).

Read More: [India's Inland Water Transport](#)

PDF Reference URL: <https://www.drishtiias.com/printpdf/jalvahak-scheme>