



## JALVAHAK SCHEME: SCHEMES

**NEWS:** Sonowal unveils 'Jalvahak' scheme to boost cargo movement via inland waterways

### WHAT'S IN THE NEWS?

The Jalvahak Scheme promotes cargo movement via inland waterways (National Waterways 1, 2, and 16) by offering 35% reimbursement on operating expenses, reducing reliance on road and rail transport. It aims to boost cost-effective, eco-friendly trade routes with scheduled services on key waterways.

### Jalvahak Scheme: An Initiative for Inland Waterway Transport

#### Objective of the Scheme

- The Jalvahak Scheme was launched to encourage cargo movement via India's inland waterways, particularly National Waterways 1 (NW-1), 2 (NW-2), and 16 (NW-16).
- It aims to decongest heavily utilized road and rail networks while promoting a more economical, eco-friendly, and efficient mode of transportation.

#### Features and Incentives

- **Financial Support:** Provides up to 35% reimbursement of operating expenses to cargo vessel operators.
- **Duration:** The scheme is valid for an initial period of three years.
- **Eligibility:** Available for businesses using government-owned or operated vessels, enhancing operational prospects.

#### Operational Routes

- The scheme establishes fixed, scheduled sailing services for cargo vessels.
- Notable routes include:
  - **NW-1:** Kolkata-Patna-Varanasi-Patna-Kolkata.
  - **NW-2:** Kolkata-Pandu-Guwahati route.

#### Significance of the Scheme

- **Economic Benefits:** Waterways are more cost-effective for cargo transport compared to roads and railways.
- **Environmental Advantages:** Inland waterway transport reduces carbon emissions, contributing to ecological sustainability.



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- **Trade Promotion:** Encourages industries to explore inland water routes, fostering regional and national trade.

## Challenges and Way Forward

- **Infrastructure Gaps:** Ensuring adequate port facilities and vessel availability is critical for long-term success.
- **Awareness:** Businesses must be informed about the economic and logistical benefits of using waterways.
- **Sustainability:** Continuous financial incentives and monitoring are necessary to maintain momentum in shifting cargo movement from land to water.

**Source:** <https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/kolkata/sonowal-unveils-jalvahak-scheme-to-boost-cargo-movement-via-inland-waterways/article68988261.ece>

