

India's First Riverine Lighthouses in NW-2

Prelims: Current events of national and international importance | Government policies and interventions

Why in News?

Recently, Union Minister of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (MoPSW), Sarbananda Sonowal laid the foundation stones for four river lighthouses along the banks of the Brahmaputra River.

- **Aim** - To modernise inland navigation infrastructure across India's river systems.
- **Location** - Along the Brahmaputra River in Assam.
- **Implemented by** - Directorate General of Lighthouses and Lightships (DGLL).
- Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
- **Under the** - Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

The river Brahmaputra flows down the centre of the Assam Valley. It receives a number of tributaries like Subansiri, Jia Bharali, Dihing, Burhi Dihing, Disang, Dhansiri and Kopili.

- **Will be constructed in** -
 - Pandu (Kamrup Metro district)
 - Bogibeel (Dibrugarh district)
 - Silghat (Nagaon district)
 - Biswanath Ghat (Biswanath district)
- **Connectivity** - These locations ***lie along National Waterway-2 (NW-2) in the Brahmaputra***, an important inland cargo and passenger route.

NW-2 forms the longest navigable inland waterway stretch in India, passing through the heart of Northeast India.

- **Technical Features - Height** - Around 20 metres
- Solar-powered operation.
- **Geographical range** - 14 nautical miles
- **Luminous range** - 8-10 nautical miles
- Designed to assist vessels navigating the river and support night navigation.
- **Timeline** - Expected to be completed within 24 months after the award of contracts.
- **Need - *Cargo movement on NW-2 recorded a 53% surge*** during FY 2024-25, according to the Inland Waterways Authority of India.
 - It is increasingly used to transport tea, coal and fertilisers in Assam and the Northeast.
- The lighthouses will ***enable round-the-clock safe navigation*** and strengthen the logistics ecosystem of Northeast India.
- Address a key limitation of river transport — restricted night navigation — through visual navigation aids and weather observation sensors.

National Waterway-2 (NW-2)

- Located on the Brahmaputra River.
- **Declared in** - 1988.
- **Length** - 891 km.
- **Stretch** - From Dhubri to Sadiya.
 - North End - Sadiya
 - South End - Bangladesh Border
- **Owner** - Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI).
- **Operator** - Central Inland Water Transport Corporation (CIWTC).

References

1. [PIB | India's First Riverine Lighthouses](#)
2. [DH | India's First Riverine Lighthouses](#)