

'CM has asked Authority to analyse data'

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The Authority is being envisaged as a nodal authority which will coordinate with the Indian Inland Waterways Authority. It will regulate all activities related to inland waterway transport and tourism. The authority will also ensure compliance with environmental and safety laws related to water transportation, and conduct hydrographic surveys and inspections for the development and better utilisation of waterways.

"The CM has said that the Authority should study and analyse data related to inland waterway traffic. Scientific research should be conducted on inland water transportation, tourism, shipping, and navigation activities. Technical training for stakeholders and officials involved in inland water transportation will also be provided," said an official. The transport minister will be appointed the ex-officio chairperson of the UP Inland Waterway Authority. An expert with extensive experience in the field of water transportation will be appointed the deputy chairperson. The transport commissioner will be appointed the CEO of the Authority. Its other members will include officials from the departments of finance, culture, irrigation and forestry.

Yogi said that illegal mining and unauthorised settlements in the catchment areas of rivers should be strictly prohibited. The government will have to increase vigilance in this regard, he said, adding that channelisation and desilting of rivers should be carried out routinely.