

Govt to expand water transport network

LUCKNOW : The state government is all set to expand water transport facilities across Uttar Pradesh. UP has the largest navigable stretch of the river Ganga, extending from Bijnor to Ballia, thereby making it ideally suited for water transport. Along with this, the state holds immense potential for inland waterway development due to its perennial Himalayan rivers such as the Ganga, Yamuna and Saryu.

In the first phase, National Waterway-1 spans nearly 1,100

kilometres and links Prayagraj, Varanasi, and Ghazipur to Haldia Port in West Bengal.

Supporting infrastructure such as the Multi-Modal Terminal in Varanasi and floating terminals at Ramnagar, Ghazipur and Prayagraj are already operational, said the state government on Tuesday.

To facilitate uninterrupted cargo movement, the central government has recently approved the construction of lifting bridges over the Ganga in Ghazipur, Ballia and Varanasi,

added the government.

These bridges lift vertically to allow ships to pass and return to their original position afterward, ensuring smooth transportation without delays. As inland navigation expands, the number of such bridges will also increase. Similar lifting bridges are planned on the Yamuna, Gomti, Saryu, Betwa, Varuna and Rapti rivers in the next phase. The Yogi government has already committed to integrating these rivers into the water transport network. **HTC**