

Emerging Opportunity in Coastal Trans-Shipments and Inland Water Ways Shipment in India

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Abstracts

The Union Budget FY15 has been engaging for the infrastructure segment. The budget is perceived not only as directional, but also as a starting point for the critical infrastructure segments such as: Reality, Water & Irrigation, Roads & Highways and Ports. The budget gives a clear message that the incumbent government realizes the need for holistic measures to revive, de-bottle neck and promote the transportation infrastructure in India.

India's hinterland is mainly serviced by Railways and Roads & Highways since long. All the same, a majority of import & export takes place via ports spread along the India coastline. However, the prospects of hinterland movement via inland water-ways and coastal trans-shipment has long being neglected by the change agents at the centres and also at state level. The mounting stress on railway and road as the only preferred (read available) is a positive sign for the growth and development of inland waterways in the feasible routes and promoting coastal trans-shipment across the nation. The recent budget very well resonate with these prospects.

Transcripts of the announcements made by the Finance Minister:

“Sixteen new port projects are proposed to be awarded this year with a focus on port connectivity”

“Development of inland waterways can improve vastly the capacity for the transportation of goods and so a project on the river Ganga called 'Jal Marg Vikas' (National Waterways-I) will be developed between Allahabad and Haldia to cover a distance of 1,620 km. This would enable commercial navigation of at least 1,500 tonne vessels”

All the same, the government intends to develop 12 dry ports in order to accelerate connectivity for boosting exports, decongesting infrastructure at major terminals and also de-centralizing the statutory formalities, by creating revenue ports.

Infrainsights through its report, “Emerging Opportunity in Coastal Trans-Shipments and Inland Water Ways Shipment in India” unlocks this untapped and under-explored potential in the country. The objective of the report is to highlight the potential business opportunities, infrastructure gaps and way-forward for industries, EPC companies, vessel & barge manufacturing companies, logistics companies, project developers, bankers, investors, etc. Infrainsights strongly feels that the waterways potential needs to be tapped in the right direction and a successful model needs to be developed which can be replicated in the rest of the country.

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