Director of IWAI will sign an MoU in the approved format as per Annexure-D. There will be two original copies of the MoU with one being kept by the Director of IWAI and the other by the Operator. The MoU, read together with the Guidelines, will guide the actions of both the Operator and IWAI in respect of movement of ODC as per agreed Movement Schedule.

11 Territorial Jurisdiction

11.1 The jurisdiction of IWAI Field Directors shall be as follows for the purpose of movement of ODC:

(1) **Director, IWAI, Kolkata:** Haldia to Rajmahal (including crossing of Farakka lock gate) in NW-1. Competent Authority for operation of Indo-Bangladesh Protocol on transit and trade by IWT mode.

(2) **Director, IWAI, Patna:** Upstream of Rajmahal to Allahabad in NW-1

(3) **Director, IWAI, Guwahati:** From Bangladesh border near Dhubri to Sadiya in NW-2

(4) **Director, IWAI, Kochi:** NW-3

11.2 For the purpose of coordinating and monitoring the movement of ODC as per the agreed Movement Schedule, a 'Nodal Officer' (not below the rank of Assistant Director or its equivalent) shall be notified by the Director and his name, address, mobile number will be made available to the Operator and the Vessel Master within a week of receiving a request in the format prescribed at Annexure-A. Likewise, the Nodal Officer will have the name, address and mobile number of the Operator and the Vessel Master so that they remain continuously in touch as long as the vessel carrying ODC is moving in the stretch of NW under the charge of the Nodal Officer.

11.3 The stretches for which a 'Nodal Officer' will be designated by the Director are as under:

**NW-1:** Haldia to Katwa; Katwa to Rajmahal; Rajmahal to Munger; Munger to Patna; Patna to Ghazipur; Ghazipur to Chunar and Chunar to Allahabad

**NW-2:** Dhubri to Pandu; Pandu to Neamati; Neamati to Sadiya

**NW-3:** Entire stretch

### Duties of Nodal Officer

11.4 The Nodal Officer shall be responsible for ensuring that the 'requisite' LAD is available in the entire stretch under his jurisdiction. Towards that end, he will ensure optimal utilization of CSD/HSD, bandalling etc. so that the requisite LAD is available to ensure safe, smooth and timely passage of ODC vessel as per the agreed Movement Schedule. It will be the responsibility of Director to provide full support to the Nodal Officer in this regard.

11.5 The Nodal Officer is required to monitor the LAD on a daily basis in the river stretch under his charge. In critical period, he is authorized to increase the frequency of channel survey.
11.6 The Nodal Officer will also be authorized to decide the place, length and time of starting the bandalling process with a view to improving the LAD in an identified 'critical' stretch provided it is within the approved budgetary and length limits. In case, the budget and the approved Plan is getting exceeded, it will be the duty of the Nodal Officer to obtain the approval of the Director before executing the scheme. It shall be the duty of the Director to take and convey his decision to the Nodal Officer in case of a proposal received by him within 36 hours.

11.7 The Vessel Master will be fully briefed by the Nodal Officer regarding the 'navigation challenges'. This may involve giving a set of instructions Do's and Don'ts prepared in the regional language apart from navigation charts and/or any other relevant document relating to safe navigation.

11.8 Providing experienced River Pilots at the pre-determined time and place to guide the vessel safely through the river stretch, on its onward as well as return journey on the river, will also be a prime duty of the Nodal Officer. These are essential for safe navigation of vessels on National Waterways. The Nodal Officer will also take steps to train suitable River Pilots and keep them ready for undertaking trips on vessels plying on the National Waterways.

11.9 The Nodal Officer will be responsible for ensuring that the day navigational marks provided in the stretch of the NW are in place. Likewise, responsibility for maintaining Night navigation facilities such as 2 NM lights mounted on country boats, shore beacons having 5 NM lights located in his area will be of the Nodal Officer. Deficiency, if any, shall be immediately rectified.

11.10 Opening of pontoons bridges erected at various locations in NW-1 will be arranged by the Nodal Officer. He will take advance action in consultation with Master of vessel for opening of such pontoon bridges within two hours of vessel reaching the spot in working hours.

11.11 The Nodal Officer will continuously monitor the passage of the vessel in his stretch of the river. He will ensure that all services promised by IWAI in the MoU are provided to the Operator / Vessel Master and there is no 'delay' on account of deficiency in service by IWAI.

11.12 In order to enable the Nodal Officer to effectively monitor ODC movement and discharge his duties, it is also necessary to establish a good communication network on the river stretch. Fortunately, almost the entire river stretch is under mobile network coverage. Hence, it has been decided that to begin with a sum of Rs.1500/- per month would be provided to the Nodal Officer to meet the itemized telephony & internet bill pertaining to him and his subordinate staff deployed in the field.

**Delegation of Powers**

11.14 In order to satisfactorily carry out the aforesaid duties, the following financial and administrative powers are delegated to the Nodal Officer with immediate effect.

- Power to hire a vehicle for undertaking official work for a period of maximum ten days in a month after following due procedure in this regard.