

**F.No. IWT-11011/95/2022-IWT**  
**Government of India**  
**Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways**  
**(IWT Division)**

Transport Bhawan  
1, Parliament Street  
New Delhi – 110 001  
Date: 10<sup>th</sup> July, 2026

To,

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2. Transport Commissioner, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh,  
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4. Transport Secretary, Govt. of Meghalaya,  
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5. Transport Secretary, Govt. of Mizoram,  
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6. Transport Commissioner & Secretary, Govt. of Nagaland,  
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7. Transport Secretary, Govt. of Sikkim, Yatayat Bhawan,  
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8. Transport Secretary, Govt. of Tripura,  
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**Sub: Revised Guidelines for Central Sector Scheme for development of Inland Water Transport in NER States (Including Sikkim).**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter of even number dated 07.08.2023 vide which the revised Guidelines for implementation of the Central Sector Scheme for Development of Inland Water Transport (IWT) in North Eastern Region (NER) States including Sikkim were circulated.

2. The Scheme has been reviewed by this Ministry with a view to further strengthening the implementation of IWT projects in the North Eastern Region and addressing the requirements of the State Governments relating to maintenance and development of navigable waterways.

3. Accordingly, with the approval of the Competent Authority, the Guidelines of the aforesaid Scheme have been further revised. The revised Guidelines, inter alia, provide provision for the procurement of small-capacity dredgers as an eligible component under the Scheme.

4. The revised guidelines of the scheme have also been aligned with the latest guidelines dated 09.03.2022 issued by the Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance, regarding the Flow of Funds under the Central Sector Scheme. The revised Guidelines shall come into force with immediate effect and shall be applicable to all project proposals submitted henceforth under the Scheme.

5. All the NER States are requested to formulate new projects henceforth strictly in terms of the revised guidelines.

Encls: As Above.

Yours faithfully,

*Uttam*  
10/7/2026

(Uttam Kumar Mishra)

Under Secretary to the Government of India

Telephone No: 011- 23357558

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Copy to :

1. Chairman, IWAI, A-13, Sector 1, Noida, Uttar Pradesh -201301

Copy for information to:-

1. Secretary, Department of Expenditure, Kartavya Bhawan - I, New Delhi - 110001
2. Chief Executive Officer, NITI Aayog, Sansad Marg, New Delhi -110001

## Revised Guidelines

### **GUIDELINES FOR CENTRAL SECTOR (CS) SCHEME FOR INLAND WATER TRANSPORT (IWT) SECTOR FOR THE NORTH EASTERN STATES INCLUDING SIKKIM**

1. The Government has been making constant efforts in developing the Inland Water Transport (IWT) sector. Several policy decisions have also been taken to encourage this mode. The Government has been equally keen to develop IWT facilities in the States. The Government has revised the existing Central Sector Scheme for the development of Inland Water Transport in North Eastern States including Sikkim. The features of the revised scheme and the guidelines for consideration of proposals in respect of scheme are given below. These will come into force on the date of release.

#### **2. OBJECTIVE**

- 2.1 The objective of the scheme is to encourage the State Government of North Eastern States namely – Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Sikkim, Tripura for taking up various projects for development of Inland Water Transport in North Eastern Region.

#### **3. SCHEME**

- 3.1 Following activities of IWT development will qualify for getting assistance under the scheme:-
  - i) **Survey/Studies:** Conducting hydrographic surveys, techno-economic feasibility studies, preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR)/ Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA), Environment Management Plan (EMP) reports etc for the development of IWT in the NER States.
  - ii) **Waterway Development:** Waterway development including excavation, bandalling, dredging, river training works for navigation etc.
  - iii) **Navigation Aids:** Provision of day & night navigational aids.
  - iv) **Terminals Facilities:** Setting up and development of terminal facilities for passenger and cargo handling including handling equipments but (excluding cost of land).
  - v) **Procurement of Vessels/Ferries/Dredgers:**
    - a) Small capacity passenger vessels/ferries with a cost up to ₹5 crore.
    - b) Small capacity dredgers with a ceiling cost upto ₹15 crore or actual project cost, whichever is lower. However, if the actual cost of the procured dredger is high, a

3-member committee may consider relaxation of the aforesaid ceiling on a case-to-case basis, subject to detailed justification and availability of funds.

Note:

- The committee may be constituted under the Chairmanship of Wing Head of IWT with Director (IFW), MoPSW, and Member (Technical), IWAI as members.
  - The ownership of the dredger shall, at all times, remain vested with IWAI and shall not be transferred to the concerned State Government under any circumstances.
  - The dredger shall be procured by IWAI through transparent competitive open bidding in accordance with extant Government procurement rules, technical specifications, and applicable statutory requirements.
  - IWAI may transfer the dredger to State Government in NER through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) for its operation and maintenance. The concerned State Government will be responsible for operation, deployment, maintenance, insurance, manpower, fuel, repairs, dry docking, statutory compliances, and all recurring expenditure related to the dredger from its own budgetary resources.
  - The dredger procured under the Scheme shall not be transferred, leased, sold, mortgaged, or otherwise disposed of without prior approval of the Ministry/IWAI.
  - The concerned State Government utilising the dredger shall furnish yearly operational, maintenance & repair, deployment, and performance reports, including details of downtime, dry docking, insurance and statutory compliances, to CNA/IWAI in such format as may be prescribed.
  - In case of non-utilisation, misuse, prolonged idling or violation of prescribed conditions, IWAI may take back possession of the dredger and provide the same to any other NER States, as and when required, with the prior approval of the Ministry.
- vi) **Capacity Building:** Skill development/Training of the employees of Inland Transport Department of NER States by undertaking courses/workshops in the relevant fields of Inland Water Transport.
- vii) Supervision and consultancy for taking up and monitoring of above activities can form part of the projects if specifically approved by the Central Government.

#### **4. QUANTUM OF CENTRAL ASSISTANCE:**

100% Grant will be provided by the Central Government for all projects sanctioned under the scheme.

#### **5. PROJECT EXECUTING/NODAL AGENCIES**

- 5.1 Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) will be the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) and Implementation Agency (IA) for implementation of the new projects under the scheme in terms of Ministry's order dated 24.11.2023. However, projects approved prior to 24.11.2023 will continue to be implemented by State Governments or by other Implementing Authority as decided by Central Government from time to time.
- 5.2 All the projects under this scheme will be formulated by the respective state Government through their department responsible for IWT development.

- 5.3 Secretaries of the concerned department of the State will be the Nodal officer of the State for this scheme.
- 5.4 During the implementation of the project, CNA will assist the Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways in monitoring of the progress.

**6. SUBMISSION OF THE PROJECT PROPOSAL BY THE STATE GOVT. UNDER THE SCHEME AND SANCTION THEREOF**

- 6.1 The department of the State which is responsible for development of IWT sector will submit a detailed project proposal/scheme to the Central Govt. addressed to Secretary, Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, Transport Bhawan, 1-Parliament street, New Delhi with a copy to Chairman, Inland Waterways Authority of India, A-13, Sector-1, Noida- UP 201301.
- 6.2 The proposal should be formulated covering all the parameters/issues listed in Annexure-1.
- 6.3 The State Govt. should ensure that the proposal submitted by them conform to Article 243 G of the Constitution of India.
- 6.4 The State Govt. should ensure that after implementation of the project (s), the asset(s) created would be utilized and maintained by them on a long term and in effective manner. This aspect should specifically be addressed and the mythology of utilization of the project (s)/asset (s) be elaborated in the proposal itself in detail.
- 6.5 After necessary examination by IWAI, the project proposal will be sanctioned by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways.

**7. Release of funds to state Govt.**

- 7.1 Central Government will release the funds to IWAI (CNA) in terms of Department of Expenditure, Ministry of Finance's OM No. 1 (18)/PFMS/FCD/2021 dated 09.03.2022 (copy enclosed).
- 7.2 On sanction of a project, an advance up to 20% (maximum) of the cost of the project can be given by the Central Govt. to CNA. CNA will further release the funds to the IA. Release of balance funds would be decided by the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways on case to case basis after analyzing physical & financial progress of the project.
- 7.3 Upon sanction of the project, information will be forwarded to the Central Nodal Agency (CNA) with a copy to State Government by Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways indicating sanctioned cost of the project, proposed release of grant.

- 7.4 The IA will implement the project as per physical and financial phasing of the approved project. In case of time over-run/cost over-run approval of Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways has to be obtained by the State Govt. Through CNA for revised phasing giving all necessary reasons/details.
- 7.5 The respective State Government or Implementing Authority would send regular detailed quarterly progress report to the CNA with a copy endorsed to Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways in prescribed format (annexure-II) indicating the item – wise financial and physical targets and achievements during the quarter.
- 7.6 On receipt of satisfactory progress report for preceding quarter/ period and certificate that fund received as grant up to the previous quarter has been fully utilized by way of actual expenditure/ committed expenditure against work physically done and payment to be released soon, the CNA will consider release of grant for subsequent quarter/period. Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways may seek clarification from CNA for satisfying themselves for release of grants.
- 7.7 Grant by Central Govt. to CNA/State Governments of North Eastern States (including Sikkim), would be approved as per the delegation of powers under Financial Rules of Govt. India.
- 7.8 Payments made under the scheme by Central Govt. will be subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India as also by other means as deemed fit by Govt. of India.
- 7.9 The expenditure incurred by the State Govt. / IA out of the grant received by them from CNA against a project sanctioned under this scheme will be subject to audit by the Comptroller and Auditor General of India as also by other means as deemed fit by Govt. of India.

8 **MONITORING AND REVIEW:**

- 8.1 Each State / IA shall submit a quarterly report in the prescribed format as given at Annexure –II to CNA. This form will be used to review the progress of utilization of funds released with reference to physical progress as also form the basis for further release of funds by CNA.
- 8.2 The annual utilization of the funds shall be submitted by State Governments / IA to CNA to MoPSW on Form GFR-19-A (annexure-III).
- 8.3 CNA shall carry out meetings in every month for monitoring the progress of projects. In addition, they shall inspect the projects sites on half yearly basis and send a report to Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways.

## **Annexure-I**

### **LIST OF PARAMETERS/ ISSUES TO BE COVERED IN THE PROJECT PROPOSAL/ SCHEME SUBMITTED FOR ASSISTANCE UNDER THE NEW CENTRAL SECTOR (CS) SCHEME FOR DEVELOPMENT OF IWT SECTOR IN NORTH EASTERN STATES**

- I Name and address of the nodal department/ agency in the State Govt. responsible for execution of the scheme (Please indicate telephone, fax, e-mail, name & designation of officer concerned in the Deptt./ Agency and the Ministry of the State Govt.
- II. Name of the project & details of activity.
  - i) Whether the project is one of the priority IWT Projects?
  - ii) Whether techno-economic feasibility study conducted, if so, what was the outcome? (Copy to be enclosed).
- III Detailed project proposal (may be indicated wherever applicable) (supporting documents to be enclosed).
  1. Aim & background of the project
  2. Present and future traffic projections preferably for 20 years
  3. Details of the existing condition of the waterway
  4. Details of IWT facility already available and present IWT movement
  5. Details of the development proposed for achieving the objective/ aim
  6. Detailed cost estimates for the proposed works under the scheme
  7. Comparison of transportation cost with other modes like road/ rail
  8. Financial and economic evaluation of the project with cost benefits analysis/ IRR with supporting details for above calculation.
  9. Justification for the proposal
  10. Implementation schedule of the project proposed
  11. Phasing of expenditure
  12. The methodology/ details of utilization of the project(s)/ asset(s) on a long term basis in effective manner.
  13. Are there any existing schemes with similar objective in the Ministry/ Department or other Central Ministries/ Department and/ or schemes with similar objectives being implemented by the State Governments, if so, details thereof and justification for taking up the new scheme instead of strengthening/ modifying the existing schemes?
  14. Whether the scheme has been approved by Ministry of Ports, Shipping & Waterways/ NITI Aayog. If so, the details thereof.
  15. The reasons for not implementing the scheme under State Plan with earmarked funds.
  16. Role envisaged for local body (Panchayat) in implementation of the scheme/ project.

Signature of authorized person

Name:

Designation:

Deptt./ Organization:

Date:

Telephone:

Fax:

e-mail:

**Annexure-II****PHYSICAL & FINANCIAL PROGRESS OF PROJECT SANTIONED UNDER CENTRAL SECTOR  
SCHEME FOR IWT DEVELOPMENT IN NORTH EASTERN STATES INCLUDING SIKKIM**

Report for the quarter ending.....

|    |                                                                                               |  |
|----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 1. | Name of Project                                                                               |  |
| 2. | Name of State                                                                                 |  |
| 3. | Project Sanctioned vide<br>Ministry of Ports, Shipping &<br>Waterways reference No. &<br>date |  |
| 4. | Sanctioned Cost                                                                               |  |
| 5. | Fund released by the Ministry<br>till date                                                    |  |
| 6. | Financial Progress                                                                            |  |
|    | (a) Balance Funds available<br>at the end of last year                                        |  |
|    | (b) Funds received during<br>the current year                                                 |  |
|    | (c) Financial target as per<br>project (year-wise)                                            |  |
|    | Amount spent (year wise)                                                                      |  |
|    | (e) Financial progress of<br>quarter under report                                             |  |
|    | (f) Cumulative financial<br>progress upto the quarter<br>under report                         |  |
| 7. | Physical Progress                                                                             |  |
|    | (a) Physical target as per<br>project                                                         |  |
|    | (b) Physical progress as on<br>----- (In terms of % as well<br>as broad details of work done) |  |

Signature

Name and Designation of Officer

**GFR 12 – C**  
[(See Rule 239)]

FORM OF UTILIZATION CERTIFICATE (FOR STATE GOVERNMENTS)  
(Where expenditure incurred by Govt. bodies only)

| Sl. No. | Letter No. and Dated | Amount | Certified that out of Rs.....of grants sanctioned during the year.....in favour of .....under the Ministry/ Department Letter No. given in the margin and Rs.....on account of unspent balance of the previous year, a sum of Rs.....has been utilized for the propose of .....for which it was sanctioned and that the balance of Rs.....remaining unutilized of the end of the year has been surrendered to Government (vide No.....dated.....)/ will be adjusted towards the grants payable during the next year..... |
|---------|----------------------|--------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|         | Total                |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|         |                      |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|         |                      |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|         |                      |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |
|         |                      |        |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                          |

2. Certified that I have satisfied myself that the conditions on which the grants-in-aid was sanctioned have been duly fulfilled/ are being fulfilled and that I have exercised the following checks to see that the money was actually utilized for the purpose for which it was sanctioned.

Kinds of checks exercised

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Signature.....

Designation.....

Date.....

PS: The UC shall disclose separately the actual expenditure incurred and loans and advances given to suppliers of stores and assets, to construction agencies and like in accordance with scheme guidelines and in furtherance to the scheme objectives, which do not constitute expenditure at the state. These shall be treated as utilized grants but allowed to be carried forward.