



Multi-Modal Logistics Park in Varanasi

Why in News?

An **Memorandum of Understanding (MoU)** was signed between [National Highways Logistics Management Limited \(NHLML\)](#) and [Inland Waterways Authority of India \(IWAI\)](#) to develop a state-of-the-art **Multi-Modal Logistics Park (MMLP) at Varanasi**

Key Points

- **About MMLP:**
 - **Objective:**
 - It aims to **strengthen the supply chain by seamless freight movement through road, rail and water routes**, reducing costs and increasing business efficiency.
 - **Significance and Impact:**
 - **Spread over 150 acres**, the park will have **direct connectivity to NH7 and Eastern Dedicated Freight Corridor (EDFC)**, making freight transportation smooth and affordable.
 - **Connectivity with National Waterway-1 (NW-1) will facilitate cargo transportation through waterways**, thereby **reducing transportation costs**.
 - The construction of this logistics park **will attract significant investments**, which will give a boost to the economy of Uttar Pradesh.
 - **Traders, industries and MSMEs will benefit at local and national level**, leading to increased production and exports.
 - This project **will generate direct and indirect employment opportunities at the local level**.
 - **The logistics sector will be modernized**, which will pave the way for developing such centres in other cities in the future.
 - It will act as a model under [the Gati Shakti scheme](#) and multi-modal connectivity, promoting such projects in other states as well.

Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)

- IWAI is a **statutory body under the Ministry of Shipping**.
- It **develops and maintains inland water transport infrastructure on national waterways** through grants received from the Ministry of Shipping.
- The Authority has its **head office at Noida (Uttar Pradesh)** with **regional offices** at Patna, Kolkata, Guwahati and Kochi and sub-offices at Prayagraj (formerly Allahabad), Varanasi, Bhagalpur, Rakka and Kollam.

Prime Minister's Gati Shakti scheme

- **Objective:** To **ensure integrated planning and implementation of basic infrastructure projects** over the next four years with a focus on accelerating work on the ground, reducing costs and creating employment.

- The Gati Shakti plan subsumes the Rs 110 lakh crore '[National Infrastructure Pipeline](#)' **launched in the year 2019** .
- Apart from cutting logistics costs, the **scheme aims to increase cargo handling capacity and reduce turnaround time at ports to boost trade**.
 - It also **aims to build 11 industrial corridors and two new defence corridors** (one in Tamil Nadu and the other in Uttar Pradesh). Under this, 4G connectivity will be expanded to all villages.
 - Also, a plan is being made to add 17,000 km of capacity to the gas pipeline network.
- **Integrated Approach:** It entails **bringing together 16 ministries** dealing with infrastructure.
- **Gati Shakti Digital Platform:** It involves **creation of an umbrella platform through which basic infrastructure projects can be created and implemented** effectively through real-time coordination between various ministries/departments.

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