

### OFFICE MEMORANDUM

During the monsoons, the Brahmaputra, Barack and its tributaries often experiences extensive flooding, causing disruptions in the regular movement of inland vessels and posing risks to their safety. To ensure the safety of inland vessels during floods, the following steps can be taken:

**Monitor flood warnings:** Vessel operators should stay updated on flood warnings issued by the Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) and the Central Water Commission (CWC) to anticipate potential risks.

**Collaborate with local authorities:** Inland vessel operators should maintain close communication with the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), Directorate of Inland Water Transport, Assam (DIWT) local port authorities, and relevant organizations to receive updated information on river navigability and be informed of any temporary restrictions.

**Implement safety measures:** The measures such as maintaining a proper lookout, understanding the impact of currents, adjusting routes or schedules, and being prepared for emergencies, are especially relevant when navigating the Brahmaputra, Barack and its tributaries during floods.

**River Information Systems (RIS):** RIS is a technology that provides real-time information on water levels, hazards, and navigability of rivers. Utilizing this system can help inland vessel operators navigate the Brahmaputra, Barack and its tributaries safely during floods.

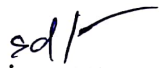
**Use of suitable vessels:** Depending on the intensity of floods, it may be necessary to use vessels better equipped to handle the challenging conditions, such as flat-bottomed or shallow-draft vessels that can navigate better in shallow water and rapidly changing riverbeds.

**Local knowledge and experience:** Engaging experienced pilots and crew members who are familiar with the Brahmaputra, Barack and its tributaries specific characteristics, such as its sandbars, channels, and currents, can greatly enhance the safety of inland vessels during floods.

**Coordinate with other vessels:** Sharing information regarding hazardous conditions, such as debris or submerged obstacles, with other vessels in the area can help create a collective awareness of risks and contribute to safer navigation for all.

**Reserve Buoyancy:** Ensuring that vessels keep reserve buoyancy by loading less than the load line, particularly during floods, is essential to minimize the risk of capsizing or grounding due to manoeuvrability.

By adopting these measures, the safety of inland vessel movement in the Brahmaputra, Barack and its tributaries during floods can be significantly improved, minimizing the risk to the vessel, passengers, crew, and cargo.


  
Chairperson  
Assam IWT Regulatory Authority  
Ulubari, Guwahati-7

Memo No. RA/AIWT/4/2019/498-4

Date 22/5/2023

Copy to:

1. PS to Minister, Transport Department, Government of Assam Dispur, for information.
2. The Secretary, to the Government of Assam, Transport Department, Dispur Guwahati-6, for information.
3. The State Project Director, AIWTD Society, Ulubari, Guwahati-7, for information and necessary action.
4. The Director, IWT, Assam, Ulubari, Guwahati-7, for information and necessary action. He shall ensure wide publicity.
5. ALL DC's, for information and necessary action.
6. ALL Superintendents of Police, for information and necessary action.
7. All the Chief Executive Officer of Zilla Parishads, for information and necessary action.
8. The Principal Secretaries of all autonomous District Councils for information and necessary action.

  
Chairperson  
Assam IWT Regulatory Authority  
Ulubari, Guwahati-7