

Inland Waterways Authority awards Rs.517 crore Haldia multi-modal terminal contract to ITD Cementation

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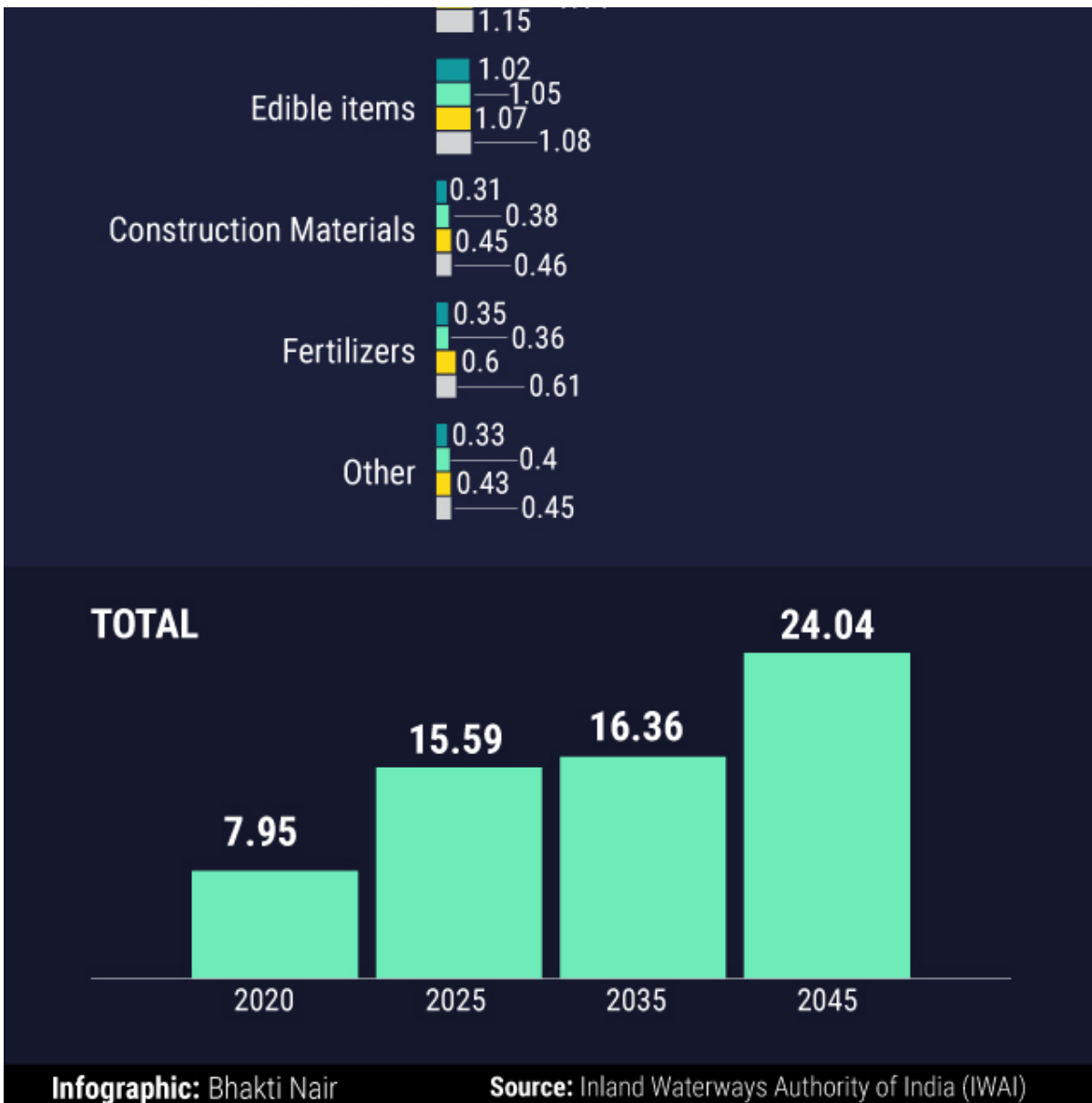
The Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI) has awarded the contract for construction of multi-modal terminal at Haldia in West Bengal at a cost of Rs.517 crore to ITD Cementation India Ltd.

The National Democratic Alliance (NDA) government, under the Jal Marg Vikas Project (JMVP), is developing three multi-modal transport terminals along the National Waterway-1 on river Ganga, including Varanasi in Uttar Pradesh and Sahibganj in Jharkhand.

The multi-modal hub is slated to be completed by August 2019 and IWAI expects 7.95 million tonnes per annum (MTPA) cargo traffic at Haldia terminal by 2020.

“The Rs.517 crore inland water transport terminal at Haldia, with rail and road interconnectivity, is one of the three multi-modal terminals to come up on river Ganga under the JMVP. This is in line with IWAI’s commitment for a time-bound completion of work on National Waterway-1,” IWAI chairman Amitabh Verma said in a press statement on Thursday.





The cargo traffic projection for 2025 is 15.59 MTPA, growing up to 24.04 MTPA by 2045. Given its location, the terminal will be used to transport coal, fly ash, chemicals, petroleum and gas, construction materials, fertilizers and edible items.

An ITD Cementation India Ltd. spokesperson couldn't be immediately contacted.

On 2 December, *InfraCircle* [reported](#) that IWAI had received six bids for Haldia terminal from Larsen and Toubro Ltd (L&T), Reliance Infrastructure Ltd, Simplex Infrastructure Ltd, AFCONS Infrastructure Ltd, ITD Cementation India Ltd and Gammon India Ltd.

"The contract for multi-modal terminals at Varanasi (Rs.170 crore) in Uttar Pradesh and Sahibganj (Rs.280 crore) in Jharkhand were awarded earlier in 2016 and construction work has started at both the locations. In November, IWAI awarded Rs.359 crore contract for construction of a modern navigation lock at Farakka in West Bengal," the statement said.



The government is developing the National Waterway-1 under the Jal Marg Vikas Project, with technical and financial assistance of the World Bank at an estimated cost of Rs.5,369 crore. The project aims to enable commercial navigation of vessels with capacity of 1500-2,000 tonnes.

India has about 14,500km of navigable waterways which comprise of rivers, canals, backwaters and creeks, among others. According to IWAI, about 55 million tonne (MT) of cargo is being moved annually by inland water transport. The government's cargo traffic projection for NW-1 is 21 MT by 2022 and 55 MT by 2025.