

# Bill Summary

## The National Waterways Bill, 2015

- The National Waterways Bill, 2015 was introduced in Lok Sabha on May 5, 2015 by the Minister of Road Transport and Highways and Shipping, Mr. Nitin Gadkari.
- Under Entry 24 of the Union List of the Seventh Schedule of the Constitution, the central government can make laws on shipping and navigation on inland waterways which are classified as national waterways by Parliament by law.
- The Bill identifies 101 waterways as national waterways, in addition to the five existing national waterways. The Bill also specifies the extent of development to be undertaken on each waterway.
- The Bill repeals the five Acts that had declared the existing national waterways. These five national waterways will be covered under the proposed Bill.
- The Statement of Objects and Reasons of the Bill states that while inland waterways is recognised as a fuel efficient, cost effective and environment friendly mode of transport, it has received lesser investment as compared to roads and railways. Since inland waterways is lagging behind other modes of transport, the central government has evolved a policy for integrated development of inland waterways.

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