RIS is a combination of tracking and meteorological equipment with specialized software designed to optimize traffic and transport processes in inland navigation.

Purpose
The system enables swift electronic data transfer between mobile vessels and shore (base stations) through advance and real-time exchange.

Technology used:
- River Information Services (RIS) are combination of sensors like: Automatic Identification System (AIS), Radar, Meteorological and Hydrological equipment and Software information technology.
- It also provides virtual navigational aids to guide the vessel during navigation.
- As RIS ensures safety of vessels in navigation, as per the Inland Vessel Act, it will be the responsibility of the states to direct all the vessels to be equipped with RIS compatible equipment.

Features:
- RIS enables safe and efficient inland water transport by minimizing the following risks:-
  - Ship- to - Ship collisions
  - Ship - Bridge collisions
  - Groundings
- It provides virtual navigational aids to guide the vessel during navigation.
- As RIS ensures safety of vessels in navigation, as per the Inland Vessel Act, it will be the responsibility of the states to direct all the vessels to be equipped with RIS compatible equipment.

Phases in river information system:
- First phase of river information system is between Haldia- Farakka.
- Second phase of river information system (RIS) between Farakka and Patna.
- Third phase of river information system stretches between Patna-Varanasi.

National waterways:
- Out of the existing five National Waterways, NW-1, 2 and 3 have been developed with targeted depth, navigational aids and terminal facilities with storage and mechanized handling facilities.
- NW-4 and NW-5 have been opened operational facilities on them.
- "Jal Marg Vikas" project for capacity augmentation of NW-1 between Haldia and Allahabad (1620 km), has been initiated with assistance from the World Bank. The project, inter-alia envisages three multi-modal terminals with rail and road connectivity at Varanasi, Sahebganj and Haldia.